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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

In charitable work, Ukraine's first lady has allies across the political spectrum

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko has succeeded in mustering support from across Ukraine's political spectrum to achieve her goal of building a \$120 million Children's Hospital of the Future, which will treat the nation's children who suffer the most severe maladies.

The hospital's board of trustees on July 24 elected Party of the Regions National Deputy Tetiana Bakhteyeva as No. 2 to Ms. Yushchenko in leading the largest charity effort in Ukrainian history – one that will create a center to treat rare cancers and birth defects and offer advanced surgeries and perinatology care.

"We are building this hospital for the sickest children of our society, who are now condemned to death," Ms. Yushchenko said. "There is very little that can be done for them in this country. They need to be treated abroad and, unfortunately, the funds aren't available in our country."

In her fund-raising efforts, Ms. Yushchenko secured donations of at least

\$1 million each from several Ukrainian businessmen, all of whom were given representation on the board of trustees headed by the first lady.

Among them are billionaires Victor Pinchuk, Serhii Taruta and Kostiantyn Zhevago (Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc); Donbas businessman Borys Kolesnikov (Party of the Regions); Zaporizhstal partner Eduard Shyfryn; and Canadian James Temerty, chairman of Toronto-based Northland Power Inc.

The biggest contribution was made by Donbas industrial king and Party of the Regions financier Rynat Akhmetov, who gave \$12.8 million on behalf of his foundation, "Rozvytok Ukrayiny" (Ukraine's Development).

Construction will begin in January, and 43 percent of the needed funds have already been raised: \$48 million from a national telethon held on December 17, 2006, and \$4 million since then, said Maryna Antonova, the first lady's spokeswoman.

The Children's Hospital of the Future is the first phase in building an All-Ukrainian Center to Protect Mothers' and

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Parties begin their campaigns for early parliamentary elections

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The 2007 parliamentary campaign officially commenced on August 2, but Ukraine's political machines began churning out advertising and staging campaign events weeks in advance.

Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc leader Yurii Lutsenko has been stumping all across Ukraine, visiting the Rivne, Volyn, Ivano-Frankivsk and Khmelnytskyi oblasts in the last two weeks.

Meanwhile, Yulia Tymoshenko on August 1 unveiled her bloc's "Ukrainian Breakthrough" program, which details 12 critical areas her political force promises to address once in government.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich visited his hometown of Yenakiyev on July 31 to launch his party's campaign; the party also held a music-filled Regions of Ukraine Youth bash in Kyiv the same day.

Constitutional reform, local self-governing, economic performance and social spending are the issues expected to dominate this year's campaign, while anything related to foreign policy is off the table.

In the wake of a spring political crisis that

threatened the country's stability and unity, the campaigns will also avoid the powder-keg issues of official status for the Russian language and government recognition of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

Party of the Regions

Based on its radio and television advertising, the Party of the Regions has chosen to campaign on its record, hoping that enough Ukrainians have experienced the improved wages, pensions and economic conditions during the past year to return its leaders to power. "Ensure Your Future" is the campaign slogan.

The party hasn't pulled any punches in attacking their Orange Revolution opponents. "When the Orangists controlled government, what did they do for us?," intones a stern, frustrated voice against a background of gloomy music. "We had poor relations with Russia, an energy crisis, higher prices for fuel, fewer jobs and higher employment, a chaotic government that couldn't work together."

The Orange leaders are disorganized, disunited and incapable of governing,

(Continued on page 15)

Families bitter about government treatment five years after airshow catastrophe

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

LVIV – When 14-year-old Roman Pudlyk woke up the morning of July 27, 2002, he wasn't planning on being at the Sknyliv air show that day. He was riding his bike when he saw parachutes flying over the field, then pleaded with his mother to get a closer look.

"Dytyno (child), be careful," Halyna Pudlyk told her son.

"Mother, I'll be very careful," were Roman's last words to his mother, hours before he was decapitated by an out-of-control fighter plane that careened into a crowd of spectators and exploded in what became known as the worst air show catastrophe in history.

Ms. Pudlyk was among the scores of mourners who attended a July 27 panakhyda (memorial service) in Lviv commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Sknyliv catastrophe that resulted in 77 deaths and more than 260 injuries.

In what has become an annual ritual, mourners approached the chapel at the Sknyliv airfield one after another, holding flowers and portraits, placing both on the ground and forming a semicircle of portraits of those spirits that once filled their lives, but were now long gone.

Within each black frame was a victim's picture, name and birth date. "Zoriana Kuts, May 20, 1989; Andrii Kuts, July 15, 1992; Dmytro Paraska, May 2, 1998; Serhii Mikhno, November 13, 1968; Hryhorii Kozak, August 12, 1978; Olha Kozak, October 1, 1952 – April 3, 2006..."

The names of all the victims were read by Ukrainian Orthodox Bishop Avgustyn between the panakhyda's

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Relatives and friends of the Sknyliv airshow victims stand behind arranged portraits of the fallen at a July 27 panakhyda commemorating the catastrophe's fifth anniversary.

Zenon Zawada

ANALYSIS

Toxic spill in Ukraine tests government maturity

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Almost 200 people have been hospitalized following a poisonous chemical spill in western Ukraine. A cargo train en route from Kazakhstan to Poland derailed in the Lviv region late on Monday, July 16, and six tanker cars loaded with toxic yellow phosphorus cracked, generating a fierce fire. Fire brigades arrived within a matter of hours, but the government's actions in the aftermath can be described as awkward at best.

Deputy Prime Minister for Security Oleksander Kuzmuk appeared on TV screens across Ukraine comparing the spill to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. Later, however, he backtracked on his words. It took several days for President Viktor Yushchenko to react, and then he and the opposition parties accused the government of a lack of professionalism and of attempting to diminish the scale of the disaster.

The government ruled out terrorism from the start. It is not clear whether the phosphorus spilled as a result of the derailment or whether a fire caused the derailment. Ukrainian Transportation Minister Mykola Rudkovskiy hurried to shift the blame on to Kazakhstan, saying that the railroad was in perfect condition. He banned yellow phosphorus transportation across Ukraine for the period of an investigation.

Yellow phosphorus catches fire if

exposed to air, so it must be kept pressurized at all times, toxicology expert Isaak Trahtenberg told Channel 5. In the human body, it partially transforms into phosphoric acid, affecting the heart, liver, kidneys and the nervous system. If treated properly, however, phosphorus poisoning is rarely fatal.

Near 800 people have been evacuated from nearby villages, and the number of people hospitalized because of exposure to toxic fumes grew from 16 on July 16 to almost 200 by July 21. On its way to Lviv region, the train had reportedly passed through densely populated areas, including Kyiv, so the scale of the disaster could have been larger.

The chief of the Presidential Secretariat, Viktor Baloha, himself a former transport minister, said the ministry had violated regulations requiring such cargoes be transported at night only. First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, however, said the government had coped with the disaster professionally. He said mistakes were made only in work with the mass media, which, he claimed, hyped up the incident.

There are signs, however, that the government is trying to downplay the disaster. This may undermine popular trust, as the mass media, free from government control since the 2004 Orange Revolution, has been covering the disaster and its aftermath in detail, showing its

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A distinct chill settles over U.S.-Russia relations

by Pavel Felgenhauer
Eurasia Daily Monitor

At first, it seemed that the "lobster summit" in Maine between U.S. President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier this month had reversed the ever-widening Russo-Western fray. The two presidents announced further consultations on outstanding issues, including missile defense, and they approved an agreement on nuclear energy cooperation.

Sergei Rogov, director of the Institute of the U.S.A. and Canada in Moscow and a longtime adviser to the Kremlin and Russian military on U.S.-Russian policy issues, expressed his optimism that "a slide into a Cold War confrontation has been averted" (Nezavisimoe Voennoe Obozrenie, July 13).

However, the detente lasted only two weeks. On July 14 Mr. Putin signed a decree to "suspend" Russian participation in the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty of 1990 that regulates the number of warplanes, helicopters, tanks, heavy guns and armored vehicles that can be deployed in Europe (RIA-Novosti, July 14). Mr. Putin had already announced a "moratorium" on Russia's implementation of the CFE in April. However, the CFE does not allow

any temporary suspensions, so a "moratorium" would have been illegal (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, July 11).

After more than two months of interdepartmental deliberation a decision was reached in Moscow to effectively withdraw from the CFE by exercising the national sovereignty clause in the CFE's Article 19, which allows any state to cease participation after notice is given at least 150 days prior to the intended withdrawal.

Of course, officially Moscow has announced a "suspension" of the CFE, not a withdrawal. Still the Russian Foreign Ministry has announced that after the 150 days, beginning on July 14, Moscow will not be bound by any limits on conventional forces, will not provide notification on troop movements, or accept on-site inspection as provided by the CFE, which in effect seems to be a withdrawal from the treaty (RIA-Novosti, July 14).

To make Russia's withdrawal legally perfect, Moscow, as required by Article 19, published a list of "extraordinary events" that had caused the "suspension." In sum, the inventory does not seem to be extremely serious. The main grievance is the NATO members' failure to ratify the adapted version of the CFE. The U.S. plans to deploy missile defenses in Poland and the Czech Republic are not mentioned (RIA-Novosti, July 14).

Under the CFE if one state declares its intention to withdraw, a special conference of all states-parties must be called in 21 days. Many Western observers believe that such a conference or other consultations might produce a solution to

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Correction

Due to a typographical error, the age of the late Dr. Jaroslaw Stachiw (Obituary, July 29) was given as 65 instead of 75 in the headline.

NEWSBRIEFS

Fourth decree on pre-term elections

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on August 1 published on his official website a decree amending his decree of June 5 on scheduling early parliamentary elections for September 30. The decree confirms that early elections will take place on September 30 and specifies that the election campaign will start on August 2. In his current decree Mr. Yushchenko makes a more detailed reference to the constitutional provisions on which he based his decision to call snap elections. Mr. Yushchenko also adds a clarification explaining that the Verkhovna Rada was disbanded "in connection with [its] lack of powers and the impossibility of restoring [them]." In April Mr. Yushchenko set snap elections twice – for May 27 and June 24 – but subsequently canceled those decisions. A third decree scheduling early polls for September 30 was issued on June 5. The ruling coalition, particularly the Communist Party and the Party of the Regions, had urged the president to issue a fourth decree on early elections, arguing that, in accordance with Ukrainian legislation, such elections should be scheduled within the 60 days after the publication of a relevant decree. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Emergency Rada session scheduled

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz has scheduled an emergency parliamentary session for August 7-10, Interfax-Ukraine reported on July 31. The session is expected to cover an extensive agenda, including amendments to the Constitution, bills passed by the Verkhovna Rada after June 5 and laws regulating presidential elections. Mr. Moroz initially planned to convene such a session on July 31, but he changed his mind following a July 30 meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Mr. Yanukovich is the leader of the Party of the Regions, the largest force in the parliamentary majority, which also includes the Communist Party and the Socialist Party. President Viktor Yushchenko and the two opposition parliamentary groups, Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, claim that the Verkhovna Rada ceased to be legitimate in early June, when 169 lawmakers from those groups gave up their parliamentary

seats, bringing the number of deputies in Parliament below the required 300. Mr. Yushchenko refuses to sign any legislation adopted by the Rada after June 5, when he issued a decree scheduling early polls for September 30. Party of the Regions leader Mikhail Chechetov told Interfax-Ukraine on July 28 that his party does not see the need for the session; the party later announced that it would not take part if the Rada session now scheduled for July 7-10. Some observers have now begun saying that the ruling coalition may fall apart. (RFE/RL Newsline, Ukrinform)

PRU appoints campaign chief

KYIV – National Deputy Borys Kolesnikov of the 5th convocation of the Verkhovna Rada has been appointed central campaign chief for the Party of the Regions of Ukraine (PRU), said the deputy chief of the party's parliamentary faction, Vasyl Khara, on July 30. According to information on the party's website, the decision was made at the last meeting of the political council presidium chaired by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. (Ukrinform)

Lutsenko denies allegations

KYIV – Yuri Lutsenko, a leader of the pro-presidential Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense election bloc, has denied allegations in the press that he lobbied the interests of a mobile-telephone operator when he was internal affairs minister in 2006, UNIAN reported on July 26. "This is an absolutely false piece of information, unreliable, subjective and biased as regards the alleged wrongdoings by Lutsenko in the Internal Affairs Ministry," Mr. Lutsenko told journalists in Ternopil on July 26. In an article published on July 25, the Ukrayinska Pravda website charged that in 2006 Mr. Lutsenko ordered Internal Affairs Ministry employees to become mobile-telephone subscribers of the Ukrainian New Telecommunications company, in which his wife, Iryna, works as a financial director. Mr. Lutsenko said he cancelled a formal instruction signed by then-Vice-Minister Oleksander Novikov to choose Ukrainian New Telecommunications as the provider of mobile telephone services for the Internal Affairs Ministry as soon as he

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator (973) 292-9800, ext. 3041
e-mail: ukradmin@att.net
Maria Oscislowski, advertising manager (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
e-mail: adukr@optonline.net
Maryka Pendzola, subscriptions (973) 292-9800, ext. 3042
e-mail: ukrsubscr@att.net



James Temerty, chairman of Toronto-based Northland Power, and First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko.

In charitable work...

(Continued from page 1)

Children's Health, which will occupy 25 acres adjacent to the Feofaniya complex, an elite hospital on Kyiv's outskirts.

The board of trustees held its first meeting on July 24 to elect Ms. Yushchenko and Ms. Bakhteyeva as its head and deputy head, discuss organizational issues and approve a plan for the Children's Hospital of the Future.

The board will also be responsible for monitoring spending and ensuring transparency, Ms. Yushchenko said.

The Victor Pinchuk Foundation agreed to donate \$10 million for the hospital to buy high-quality radiological equipment to treat various cancers.

Linear accelerators are planned for the radiology unit, which will allow for non-surgical treatment of tumors.

Further fund-raising efforts will take place in the United States and Europe to raise the necessary \$68 million in additional funds, Ms. Antonova said, while

another nationwide telethon is planned for Ukraine.

Incidentally, the hospital's \$120 million cost is the amount Ukrainians spend annually on obtaining medical treatment abroad that isn't offered domestically, she said.

The Ukraine 3000 Foundation will select the hospital's equipment provider in January and expects construction will conclude in 2009.

Once completed, the Children's Hospital of the Future will play a central role in enhancing medical treatment offered in hospitals throughout the country, Ms. Yushchenko said. Medical experts will be invited from the U.S. and Canada to teach Ukrainian doctors advanced procedures and surgeries, and use top quality equipment.

On July 27 it was announced that a design was unanimously selected for the children's hospital – a proposal drafted by the architectural firm Building Design Partnership Structure based in Manchester, England. An agreement with the firm is to be signed this month.

New Ukrainian law requires some foreigners to demonstrate means of financial support

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – To deal with the rising flow of migrants, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers on July 11 passed a resolution requiring foreigners from selected countries to prove they are capable of financially supporting themselves while visiting or traveling through the country.

The most common means of proof involves demonstrating to border officials the ability to access funds totaling at least 20 times the monthly minimum living wage, which is about \$2,000 today.

The Ukrainian government is currently drafting the list of countries whose citizens and permanent residents will be subject to the requirement, which won't apply to citizens of the U.S., Canada or the European Union, said Volodymyr Ohryzko, the first vice minister of foreign affairs.

"Its goal is regulating the situation with potential illegal immigrants in Ukraine," Mr. Ohryzko said. "For a certain category of countries that traditionally supply European countries with illegals, an appropriate procedure should be created to avoid such a thing."

The resolution's timing is related to current negotiations between Ukraine and the EU, Mr. Ohryzko said, and is not at

all related to the upcoming September 30 elections, for which thousands of international observers are expected to arrive.

Rather, the Ukrainian government is taking efforts to welcome election observers, he said. "At the president's instructions, the ministry has invited observers from all countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe," he said. "The ministry has also sent invitations to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States."

If the foreigners do not have \$2,000 in cash in their possession, they must produce financial documents demonstrating they could access the funds on Ukrainian territory, the resolution stated. The documents presented could range from monthly bank statements to ATM cards with accompanying receipts.

Ways to avoid the minimum cash requirement include providing proof of a reserved or paid-for residence in Ukraine, a receipt for tourist services or a certified letter from a Ukrainian citizen assuming the foreigner's living costs, among others.

Foreigners failing to meet the requirement may receive a stamp in their passport, "Forbidden entry to Ukraine," followed by the determined period of denial, which can be as long as five years.

Ukrainian Canadian Congress prepares for observer mission

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is preparing to send an observer mission to monitor the early elections to Ukraine's Parliament scheduled for September 30. This will be the third mission that the congress has sponsored as part of its ongoing commitment to promoting the development of a fully democratic Ukrainian society.

Anyone interested in being a volunteer observer is asked to complete the application form on the UCC website (<http://www.ucc.ca/eom/>) by Friday, August 17. Potential observers should also ensure that their passports are valid for six months after their entry into Ukraine.

The size of the mission will be partly determined by the number of volunteers as well as the available resources. Thanks to its previous missions, the UCC can draw upon a wealth of practical experi-

ence; it has a Kyiv office and Ukrainian support staff ready to be deployed. Once again, the congress is appealing to Ukrainian community members to support this worthwhile endeavor by generously donating to the UCC.

Whereas observers are expected to cover their airfare to Ukraine either personally or through organizational sponsorships, internal travel, some meals and accommodation costs incurred performing monitoring duties will be paid for by the UCC from the mission budget.

Although Ukraine has made positive strides toward achieving a more transparent and fair electoral process, according to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, challenges still remain. Since the vote is expected to be hotly contested, extra vig-

(Continued on page 15)

Yushchenko at Boyko, Hutsul festivals

Press Office of Ukraine's President

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko, accompanied by First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, on Saturday, July 28, attended the fourth International Boyko Festival in the village of Yavoriv in the Lviv region.

The next day Mr. Yushchenko and his family attended the closing ceremonies of the 17th International Hutsul Festival in the city of Yaremche (Ivano-Frankivsk region).

Addressing the crowd at the Boyko festival, Mr. Yushchenko described the festival as an event having "national significance, not merely a folklore event." He added, "Each nation caring about its future should follow and preserve its traditions. Our task is to pass on this heritage to our children. This is what makes us a state."

The participants of the festival included more than 10,000 visitors from Canada, the United States, Poland, Great

Britain, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Belarus and Russia. The president praised the Boyko region as a land of "glorious traditions and prominent personalities," among them Hetman Petro Sahaidachny, writer and political activist Ivan Franko and rebel leader Oleksa Dovbush.

President Yushchenko spoke also at the Hutsul Festival, noting, "Today we are all rediscovering our roots, which is immensely important now." He called on Ukrainians to respect their country's traditions.

Mr. Yushchenko also thanked the mayor of Yaremche, which is celebrating its 220th anniversary, for "preserving and renewing" the city, and honored him with a state award.

The Yushchenko family also attended a presentation of Petro Korpaniuk's book "My Native Land," which took place during the Hutsul celebration. Mr. Yushchenko thanked the author for his "wonderful work" and described the book as a "guided tour into our past."

Ukrainian president's daughter attends Plast summer camp



VISTOVA, Ukraine – Sophia Yushchenko, the 8-year-old daughter of President Viktor Yushchenko and Kateryna Yushchenko, makes a paper collage on July 17 while attending a Plast summer camp at the Limnytsia complex in the village of Vistova, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. Sophia has been a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's "novatstvo" (the 7-11 age group) for almost a year.

United Ukrainian American Relief Committee holds 20th general meeting

by Nick Rudnytzky

PHILADELPHIA – The members of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee gathered on June 9 at their headquarters here at 1206 Cottman Ave. for their 20th regular general meeting. The UUARC has been in continued existence for over 60 years as a private, non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of Ukrainians throughout the world.

Over 30 assembled members were called to order by the president of the UUARC, Dr. Larissa Kyj, who asked Father Volodymyr Hanas to lead the gathering in the opening prayer. Afterwards the president read the meeting's agenda, which was unanimously approved. Subsequently Dr. Petro Kluk read the minutes from the previous regular general meeting of the organization that took place in 2004.

Following the report of the verification committee, the president confirmed that, in accordance with the organization's statutes, the proposed changes to the by-laws were sent out to all appropri-

ate parties and thus could be voted upon by the general meeting.

The new by-laws designate the following categories of members: active members, auxiliary members and founding members. There is also the category of honorary members, i.e., those who during their tenure in office have made extraordinary contributions to the development of the UUARC. They have the right to participate in the meetings of the board of directors and executives, as well as in the annual and general meetings of the organization.

The changes to the by-laws were recommended by a special committee headed by Ihor Smolij, with Christina Kulchycky, Chrystia Senyk and Luba Siletsky serving as members, which had studied the matter for over a year. After due discussion, the proposed changes were accepted by the general meeting.

Dr. Larissa Kyj then offered a comprehensive report on the activities of the organization covering the period from June 2004 to June 2007. The highlights of her report included such activities as: "Candle of Hope" – which provides

assistance to sick and infirmed artists; "Adopt a Grandparent Program" – which offers much-needed help to the elderly; "Get to know your Native Land" – which enables many Ukrainian orphans to attend summer camps and get to know their country better. This program affords an opportunity for children in the eastern part of Ukraine to explore the rich vastness of the country and its diverse culture.

Dr. Kyj also reported on the transport of numerous containers to Ukraine, noting those that were expedited by the Emergency Medical Aid for Ukraine Organization (EMAU) and paid for by the UUARC, as well as the organization's cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Department of State. The aid in this area also included the sending of medical journals and textbooks to various institutions and universities throughout Ukraine.

Dr. Kyj's report touched on a number of additional programs and special events, including soup kitchens and wheelchairs for Ukraine, as well as a possible upcoming film about the UUARC.

The treasurer of the UUARC, Danusia Siletsky, reported on the financial status of the organization for the years 2005 and 2006. Her detailed report attested to the solvency of the organization and its ability to continue its charitable and philanthropic activities for the foreseeable future.

Luba Siletsky, chairperson of the Committee on Aid, presented an extensive report on the activities of her committee, which consisted of the following members: Metodij Boretsky, Wolodymyra Kawka, Petro Kosyk, Ivan Kruk, Bohdan Todoriw, Wasyl Selyak and Ms. Senyk.

The head of the UUARC Information Bureau, Mr. Boretsky, offered a survey of his committee's activities, which included organizing six citizenship courses,

computer courses conducted in cooperation with Manor College and the dissemination of information.

Following these and other reports, the Auditing Committee commended the outgoing Board Members for a job well done, which was unanimously accepted by the assembled members of the organization.

The following were elected as UUARC officers: president – Dr. Kyj; vice-presidents – Alexander Lushnycky, Luba Siletsky and Boris Pawluk; secretaries – Ulana Prociuk, Lew Iwaskiw and Osip Roshka; members of the executive board – Mr. Boretsky, Nestor Zarichny, Mr. Kosyk, Ms. Kulchycky, Ihor Kushnir, Daria Laszyn, Roksolana Luciw, Orysia Nowosiwsky, Larissa Patrylak, Mykola Pryszlak, Nicholas Rudnytzky, Wasyl Salak, Ms. Senyk and Martha Jaremovych; Members of the Board of Directors – Ihor Bilynsky, Ivan Burtyk, Yuri Volshyna, Roksolana Horbova, Lida Dliaboha, Maria Duplak, Orisia Kolasy, Lida Melnyk and Teodor Tsaryk; Members of the Auditing Committee – Dr. Kluk, Yuri Nakonechny, Kvitka Semanyshyn, Mr. Smolij, and Volodymyr Ryndych.

The general meeting also elected a slate of honorary members which was headed by Natalia Pazuniak and included such noted senior Ukrainian activists as Ms. Kawka, Ivan Krych, Ivan Skalchuk, Mykhailo Kowalchyn and Stefan Hawrysz.

The 20th regular general meeting of the UUARC came to a close with a heartwarming rendition of the Ukrainian national anthem led by Mr. Kushnir.

The UUARC is registered with USAID and belongs to many national and international relief Organizations. Over the last 60 years it has developed an international network of grass-roots volunteers, which has numbered as many as over 10,000 people in over 20 countries across the globe. For more information go to www.uuarc.org.

"Lemkivska Vatra" in New York state marks 60th anniversary of Akcja Wisla

by Diana Howansky

ELLENVILLE, N.Y. – Since the beginning of 2007, in cities throughout the tri-state area, the Organization for the Defense of Lemko-Western Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian-language-based acronym as OOL) has hosted a series of public events to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Akcja Wisla, the 1947 forced relocation of the Ukrainian minority within Poland. This commemoration culminated at the OOL's annual festival, called the "Lemkivska Vatra," on the weekend of June 29-July 1 at the Ukrainian American Youth Association resort in Ellenville, N.Y.

Andrii Olefirov, a representative of the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York who attended the festival, praised and encouraged OOL's continuing activity. He also expressed optimism regarding the future of Polish-Ukrainian relations, noting that the joint hosting of the European soccer championships in 2012 by the two countries symbolizes a positive shift. It is important to remember the past, but also to look towards the future, the consul said.

The keynote speaker at the festival, Dmytro Trojanovsky, also remarked on recent positive developments between Poland and Ukraine. After outlining the difficult history of Ukrainians in post-

World War II Poland, Mr. Trojanovsky noted the joint agreement on April 27 by presidents Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine and Lech Kaczynski of Poland to remember the victims of Akcja Wisla and to pursue a strategic partnership between their two countries.

As in past years, the Lemkivska Vatra featured a cultural program with musicians and performers presenting traditional regional Lemko songs and dances. Such performers included the singers Pid Oblachkom, the musical group Cheres Ukrainian Folk Orchestra, the dance ensemble Obryi, the Oros sisters duet, and others.

One of the hundreds of festival attendees, Dorothy Doloszycki of Little Falls, N.J., said she had recently visited the Lemko region for the first time. Her father was forcibly relocated from this territory in 1947, but had never returned.

"It was gorgeous. The mountains. The fields are all green," Ms. Doloszycki said. "Honestly, it does make culture more important to me. If I have kids, they're definitely going to go back and see it."

For more information about the Organization for the Defense of Lemko-Western Ukraine, readers may contact Zenon Halkowycz, OOL president, at halkowycz.z@mellon.com.



Andrii Olefirov of Ukraine's Consulate General in New York speaks at the "Lemkivska Vatra" in Ellenville, N.Y.

Delegation from Ukraine visits Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – The Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies, University of Manitoba, on Friday, July 2, facilitated a seminar for a delegation of 22 individuals, consisting of academics and business professionals from the cities of Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Poltava and Chernihiv in Ukraine.

The group, which was visiting the University of Manitoba, included engineers, nuclear physicists, economists, a medical oncologist, ecologists and businesspeople. The team was hosted in Canada by the Canada-Ukraine International Corp. Inc.

The delegation was greeted by the Very Rev. Roman Bozyk, acting principal of St. Andrew's College, and Dr. Denis Hlynka, acting director of the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies. Dr. Hlynka presented the background of the center, its programs and projects.

Dr. Orest Cap and Dr. Roman Yereniuk spoke of their educational and technical projects aimed at linking Canada with

Ukraine and encouraged further cooperative projects with the cities represented, especially Dnipropetrovsk.

Members of the team made short presentations in their fields, including nuclear physics [reclamation of nuclear waste] and green ecology [a project of the oblast of Poltava]. The mutual exchange of ideas, projects and programs solicited an interesting discussion.

Earlier in the day, the team was hosted by the office of International Relations, the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Human Ecology (Department of Textiles and Clothing).

The hosting of the delegation proved to be an excellent exchange of mutual ideas whereby both sides gained further insights on co-operation between Canada and Ukraine. Part of the mandate of the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies is to encourage ties with Ukraine via various programs, such as this seminar for professionals from Ukraine.

Notice to publishers and authors

It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

News items sent without a copy of the new release will not be published.

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Chicago community fund-raiser supports Ukrainian National Information Service

by Volodymyr Pavelchak

CHICAGO – Representatives of numerous Ukrainian community organizations gathered on June 14 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Chicago to attend an annual community meeting/fund-raiser for the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), which represents the interests of the Ukrainian American community in the nation's capital.

Guest speakers included former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst and Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the UCCA. In attendance at the annual event was Bishop Richard Seminack, of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Chicago, as well as several priests from the Greater Chicago area.

In his opening remarks, Nestor Popowych, member of the Chicago Friends of UNIS, expressed his heartfelt thanks to Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union and The Heritage Foundation for their sponsorship of the event, as well as for their generous annual donations to the Ukrainian National Information Service. Mr. Popowych remarked that the leadership of these institutions implements a steady and consistent policy aimed at the development of the Ukrainian American community, improving the lives of its members and enhancing the well-being of every individual.

As is a Chicago tradition, the event featured a cocktail reception and dinner. Following the dinner, Mr. Popowych, as master of ceremonies for the evening, introduced Ambassador Herbst, U.S. envoy to Ukraine during the Orange Revolution, who currently works as the coordinator for reconstruction and stabilization within the U.S. Department of State. In his address, Mr. Herbst described the current political processes taking place in Ukraine and noted that they can trace their roots to the past.

According to the ambassador, "Ukraine benefits from this at the current



Ambassador John Herbst speaks at a Chicago reception marking the 30th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Information Service.

stage in its history because a significant number of Ukrainian politicians continue to adhere to the moral principles and spiritual values" of the past, therefore the ongoing political processes should be viewed through the prism of the above-mentioned.

Although the Ukrainian past has often been very trying, and throughout history the Ukrainian nation has suffered unimaginable oppression and violations, Ukrainians were able to adjust to the realities of life and preserve their identity, spirituality and language, and continued to raise new generations according to the principles of their Christian values, the ambassador noted.

Mr. Herbst stated that "despite the current chaos in Ukrainian politics, Ukraine as a nation continues to grow economically. The 8 percent growth rate of the GDP provides evidence to this effect." It was the envoy's deep conviction that in the next few years Ukraine will become a major participant in the international arena.

Ambassador Herbst also noted that

tolerance to the opinions of others, also a characteristic of the Ukrainian people, allows them to resolve the most difficult, dead-end political situations and provides evidence of the high level of democratization within Ukraine's society. The peaceful resolution of conflict during the presidential elections in November-December 2004 serves as proof of this. Ambassador Herbst expressed his opinion that the irreversible changes taking place within Ukrainian society today will definitely bring about positive results in the near future.

Following a brief question-and-answer session, Mr. Popowych introduced the UCCA President Sawkiw. In his opening remarks Mr. Sawkiw thanked the organizers for their wonderful work in preparing the fund-raising event and the financial sponsors of UNIS, without whose generosity it would be impossible for UNIS to carry out its important work in Washington.

Mr. Sawkiw underscored that the work of UNIS is aimed at helping to stabilize and maintain democratic processes in Ukraine while representing the interests of the Ukrainian American community in the nation's capital. "This is not an easy task," stated the UCCA president, "as one often finds those who have a negative image of Ukraine. Sometimes it takes a great effort to change these stereotypes that have endured for decades. Statements, letters and addresses of the Ukrainian National Information Service to the U.S. government and prominent officials draw attention to the events unfolding in Ukraine and forces

officials to listen to the voice of the Ukrainian American community."

Turning to the topic of the September 30 pre-term parliamentary elections in Ukraine, Mr. Sawkiw stressed that the Ukrainian American community has to play an active role in the preparation process. The UCCA, he said, will once again send a delegation of volunteer election observers and will make an effort to secure a delegation of international observers from the U.S. government.

In conclusion, Mr. Sawkiw noted that during the past 30 years of existence – 15 years during the Cold War and 15 years of Ukraine's independence – the Ukrainian National Information Service has done much to put Ukraine and the Ukrainian American community on the map.

Ukraine's consul general in Chicago, Vasyl Korzachenko, greeted the participants and the organizers of the benefit dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Information Service and noted that the presence of the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, Mr. Herbst, once again confirms the importance of UNIS and its work within the Ukrainian American community.

At the conclusion of the evening, Mr. Popowych once again thanked the participants for their continued support of the Ukrainian National Information Service and reassured all in attendance that UNIS will continue to work for the benefit of Ukraine and the Ukrainian community within the United States.

– Translated by UNIS

Ukrainian World Congress president meets with Evangelical Baptist leaders

CRUM-LYNNE, Pa. – The leadership of Ukrainian Evangelical Baptists outside Ukraine met with Ukrainian World Congress President Askold S. Lozynskij on July 19 at the Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church in Crum-Lynne, Pa.

The following Church leaders were present: the Rev. Dr. John Kovalchuk, president of the All Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Fellowship; the Rev. Avdiy Chripczuk, president of the Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Churches in the United States and pastor of the Church in Levittown, Pa.; the Rev. Anatoly Moshkovsky, coordinator of Ukrainian Baptist Churches in the eastern region of the United States; the Rev. Dmitro Login, pastor of the First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church in Philadelphia; and the Rev. Vasiliy Kravchuk, pastor of the Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church in Crum-Lynne, Pa. The Fellowship represents Ukrainian Baptist Churches in North and South America, Australia and Europe.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish lines of communication and cooperation between the Ukrainian Baptist Church and the UWC. Ukrainian Baptists have been a part of the UWC's Church Council since the UWC was formed in 1967. The current leadership

of the Fellowship represents a new generation and has been significantly reinforced by new immigrants from Ukraine.

The following topics were explored: participation by the Church in the UWC's Church Council and UWC meetings; mutual participation in Church and UWC events; reciprocal assistance in organizational efforts with Ukrainians throughout the world; mutual information through electronic and print communications and publications; assistance in safeguarding human and religious rights in violating countries through international channels; access to Church leadership in Ukraine.

Ukrainian Evangelical Baptists represent a very significant portion of Christian Ukrainians in Ukraine and abroad. There are some 3,000 Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist congregations in Ukraine and several hundred outside Ukraine. Furthermore, there is a long history of ecumenical cooperation between this Church, the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the diaspora.

The principal purpose of the UWC's Church Council, which is open to all traditional Ukrainian Christian Churches, is to foster cooperation among the Churches in order to enable a working relationship among the faithful.

Self Reliance New York donates \$10,000 to support work of UNIS

by Serhiy Zhykharev

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – The board of directors of the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union on July 18 announced a donation of \$10,000 to the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) on the occasion of its 30th anniversary of service to the Ukrainian American community.

In the letter informing UNIS of the donation, Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union President Bohdan Kurchak stated: "Our Board of Directors has long understood the value of UNIS not only as a source of information to Congress and the media, but also in the

advocacy ... on behalf of Ukraine. Congratulations on 30 years of hard work and significant achievements. It is our pleasure to present UNIS with a donation in the amount of \$10,000 in honor of the 30th anniversary, and we wish you continued success in your future endeavors."

UNIS and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) expressed their sincere gratitude for this generous gift. It was noted that this support enables UNIS to better and more effectively represent the interests of the Ukrainian American community in the U.S. Congress, before the presidential administration, as well as in the media and think-tank establishment in Washington.



Bohdan Kurczak (center), president and chief executive officer of Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, presents the credit union's \$10,000 donation for the Ukrainian National Information Service to Tamara Gallo Olexy (right), UCCA executive director, and Liza Szonyi, assistant director.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A broken system

How ominous that the Ozhydiv phosphorous disaster occurred on the heels of the fifth anniversary of a catastrophe that so far has proven much more devastating to the residents of the Lviv region.

On July 22, 2002, pilots Volodymyr Toponar and Yuriy Yegorov lost control of their Su-27 fighter jet while performing stunts as part of the 60th anniversary celebration of 14th Air Division of Ukraine's Military Air Forces. After they ejected to safety, the plane careened into a crowd of spectators and exploded in what became known as the worst air show disaster in history, resulting in 77 deaths and more than 260 injured.

The devastation that the Sknyliv catastrophe wrought upon the people of Lviv is beyond comprehension. Families were destroyed, children were left without parents, and lives were ruined by grief, loss or injury. Those who survived bear physical and psychological scars that may never heal. Besides the more than 260 injured there are at least 70 mentally traumatized, said Stefan Kozak, chair of the Sknyliv Tragedy civic organization. He estimates that close to 600 lives were ruined by the disaster.

The Sknyliv air show catastrophe was a result of the Ukrainian government's failure to shed its Soviet ways and adopt more responsible policies. The air show was moved from its planned location on the field's opposite side to above the crowds in order to impress the assembled military brass, who stood watching from their tribunal, said Serhii Senyk, who worked at Sknyliv at the time as a commercial pilot.

Incredibly Mr. Toponar had only four hours of flight practice that year before climbing into his fighter jet to perform his stunts. His air force superiors turned down his requests for rehearsals because they wanted to conserve jet fuel, court records showed.

As in all spheres of Ukrainian life, justice was not meted out to the fullest extent in the Sknyliv disasters. Pilots Toponar and Yegorov received prison terms of 14 and eight years, respectively, and their superiors Anatolii Tretiakov and Yuriy Yatsiuk, received six- and five-year sentences. As in the prosecution of Heorhii Gongadze's killers, none of the top brass have been punished.

Shockingly, the man in charge the day of the catastrophe, 14th Air Division Commander Serhii Onyschenko, has since been promoted to first assistant commander of Ukraine's Military Air Forces.

Sknyliv victims said they feel abandoned by their own government. They filed a lawsuit in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, accusing the Ukrainian government of violating their rights when awarding \$200,000 to the mostly Israeli victims of the Tu-154 Russian airliner shot down by Ukrainian soldiers in 2001, while giving an average of \$20,000 in compensation for each Sknyliv fatality.

In filing the suit, the Sknyliv victims said they are not so much motivated by money as they are by their quest for justice. They want their tragedy to be given equal treatment, they want the memory of the victims honorably preserved, and they want those responsible to pay the proper debt, whether with money or with their careers.

"We are fighting so this never happens again," Mr. Kozak said. "Currently, air shows are banned in Ukraine, so at least we accomplished that. But still, there is no government program of socially ensuring accident victims."

Unfortunately, the Sknyliv saga reveals just how little progress the Ukrainian government has made in transforming itself from the Soviet model – in which the state had to be preserved at any cost – into a Western society that values the individual human life above all.

Mr. Senyk, who lost his wife and son at Sknyliv, said the Ozhydiv phosphorous disaster demonstrated that nothing has changed in the five years since the catastrophe. "Just as there were rules and procedures for conducting an air show, there were rules for hauling hazardous materials," Mr. Senyk said. "The situations are analogous. The system doesn't work. If it worked, there wouldn't be any Sknylivs or Ozhydivs."

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Turning the pages back...

Last year on August 6, 2006, The Ukrainian Weekly reported that after hours of roundtable talks with Viktor Yanukovich and Oleksander Moroz, President Viktor Yushchenko announced on August 3 his acceptance of the parliamentary majority coalition's nomination of Mr.

Yanukovich, his Orange Revolution adversary, as Ukraine's next prime minister.

It was expected that Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc would unite with the Party of the Regions and the Socialist Party of Ukraine in an attempt to heal a deeply divided nation to form the National Unity Coalition. The new coalition, which never got off the ground, was expected to base its principles on the Universal of National Unity, an eight-page non-binding document that was agreed upon by Messrs. Yushchenko, Yanukovich and Moroz.

While Mr. Yushchenko portrayed the coalition as a political breakthrough, participants of the Orange Revolution viewed it as yet another betrayal, after Mr. Moroz's decision to unite his Socialist Party with the Party of the Regions and the Communist Party of Ukraine.

"Finally the truth has come out that he betrayed the maidan," said Praskovia Koroliuk (a.k.a. Baba Paraska), the passionate 66-year-old who was among the Orange Revolution's heroes.

Yulia Tymoshenko, of the eponymous bloc, was the only faction leader who didn't sign the declaration and referred to it as "an act of political capitulation on behalf of

(Continued on page 21)

NEWS AND VIEWS

Foreign Affairs editor expresses surprise at withdrawal of Russian minister's article

by Heather Maher
RFE/RL Newswire

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has withdrawn an article he wrote for the U.S. journal *Foreign Affairs*, accusing the editors of changing his text. It appears Mr. Lavrov's article was meant to be a response to former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who wrote a piece published in May titled "Containing Russia."

But in a statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry, Mr. Lavrov said his article was subjected to "censorship." *Foreign Affairs* Editor James Hoge said that the decision by Mr. Lavrov was "a complete surprise" and that the magazine, which is considered one of the world's most influential journals on international affairs and foreign policy, went out of its way to accommodate Mr. Lavrov.

Following is RFE/RL's interview with Mr. Hoge.

Foreign Affairs has been in print since 1922, and publishes articles by prominent world leaders in almost every issue. Has anything like this ever happened before?

We've never had anything like this happen. We've printed a number of pieces by Russian officials, including [former Soviet leader Nikita] Khrushchev and Russian citizens. But this is the first time this has happened, either with a Russian contributor or any other contributor.

What is your response to Mr. Lavrov's criticism of how you edited – or as he put it – "censored" his piece?

Well, we have rejected all suggestions of censorship and explained in some detail the process we went through with Minister Lavrov, which is no different from what we do with any other author. And his charges of censorship, which came up after the piece had been accepted and he was prepared to see it published was a total surprise to us and is kind of baffling.

How did Lavrov come to write an essay for *Foreign Affairs* in the first place?

He made an inquiry, would we be interested in a piece? And we said yes we would – on the current trend in Russian foreign policy. He sent it in a piece, we accepted it, but said, as we do to all authors, we're going to give you some editorial suggestions. We edited the piece, sent it back to him, told him to make what changes thought were necessary so that his view was accurately presented. He sent back the text, with some changes here and there. We put them all in the final text.

Then the Russian Embassy in Washington, which was representing his interests, complimented us on the edited version and said they looked forward to seeing it published.

We then pointed out that his title (headline) for the piece, which was "Containing Russia: Back to the future?" was fine but we would also need a sub-head, which is true of all the essays we

Heather Maher is an RFE/RL correspondent based in Washington.

run, to try and help the reader a bit more understand why they should read the piece. And he balked at presenting one. We then said, we really have to have it, all the essays have it, it's really a format formality, you can choose the wording you want, if you want a few suggestions, we'll make them, which we did. And the next thing we know, he just sends us an e-mail withdrawing the piece with no explanation.

What did you think of the piece? Did it contain any surprises?

It didn't contain any surprises but I think, particularly in its edited version, it was a very clear and forceful statement of Russian positions on a number of key issues: energy, U.S. relations, relations with Europe and so on. I thought it was a very adequate kind of statement of why they're behaving the way they are and what it is they expect to get. That's it.

What do you think of the ministry's statement that if the article – as you edited it – were published, it would "aggravate U.S.-Russian relations"?

Well that's nonsense. The piece – you can see because the Russian Embassy thinks it is so aggravating they have put it on the wire [newswires], which we would have done too, but we didn't want to violate his copyright – it's a very tame piece. But if that was his sense, why didn't he say so instead of accepting the publication of it? If he thought that we were distorting his points or leaving some of them out, why didn't he say so instead of just giving us the changes he did, and then accepting the final version for publication? It makes no sense.

So why do you and your editors think he did it?

Well, I don't think I should really be speculating beyond pointing out the editorial process and the erroneous charges that he's made involving that. There is the larger political context, of course, of a much more fractious relationship between the U.S. and Russia, but exactly how that fits in, I don't know.

You said you treated Mr. Lavrov's piece like you do all editorial submissions, but in fact you did make some special efforts for him – such as letting him make changes to the text after your normal copy deadline had passed and delaying your print run.

Yes, we held his piece open [for] some last-minute post-copy deadline changes because of the Putin-Bush meetings in Maine, and we also held it over from our normal deadline to go to the printers to give him more time to come up with wording for a subhead. And I must say that when, instead of that, we got this one line "withdrawal," we were taken by surprise and baffled that such a small item should get in the way of us printing his piece. Then out comes his statement, which in our opinion is erroneous on every single count.

With all the revisions and edits going back and forth, your editors must have had some direct e-mail contact with Minister Lavrov. Have any of them, or you, just reached out in a personal e-mail and put it to him as a

(Continued on page 21)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Too gloomy picture of Ukrainian studies

Dear Editor:

Andrew Sorokowski's fine article on Ukrainian studies paints a rather too gloomy picture (July 15).

It's important to distinguish among three things that Dr. Sorokowski conflates: the condition of academic employment in the United States, the condition of Ukrainian studies, and the condition of individual scholars.

Dr. Sorokowski is right to suggest that getting tenure at U.S. universities has become harder than in the past. But scholars do get it, especially if they are committed to academic careers and are willing to make the requisite personal and professional sacrifices along the way. Should every student aspire to an academic career? Of course not. Should none aspire to one or, alternatively, move to Canada if they do? Of course not.

Dr. Sorokowski's picture of Ukrainian studies is especially in need of revision. The number of specialists on Ukraine or aspects of Ukraine has grown impressively since Ukraine achieved independence. Many are employed in the academic world; many work for the government; many are employed in the private sector. Just look at the number of books and articles and conferences on Ukraine these days, and you'll have to conclude that the field is in fine shape, certainly far better than it was 20 years ago.

Now, Dr. Sorokowski is right to say that it's almost impossible to specialize only in Ukraine. But so what else is new? It's almost impossible to specialize in just any one country – be it Russia, France, Germany and so on. American universities do reward Americanists, but that's hardly surprising.

So what do Ukrainianists generally do? They don't just adopt fashionable theories and approaches, as Dr. Sorokowski suggests. Rather, they broaden their interests and place Ukraine within a larger comparative context – which increases their employability and generally makes for more interesting scholarship as well.

Ukrainian studies is, in a word, in fine shape. Does that mean that all Ukrainianists are doing equally well? Of course not. Some get tenure quickly. Some, such as me, get it late. Some don't get it at all. Some move on to jobs in the government or the private sector. That one scholar wasn't able to stay on at some university is unfortunate – for that scholar and for George Washington University – but it's business as usual in the field. That scholar will move on and adjust, while Ukrainian studies will continue to thrive.

So, should young men and women go north? Only if they like Canada. Aspiring Ukrainian studies experts have many fine reasons to stay south.

Alexander J. Motyl
Newark, N.J.

The letter-writer is professor of political science at Rutgers University - Newark.

Reluctance to change and saving lives

Dear Editor:

The story "CCRF hosts international conference in Kyiv on perinatology" (July 1) is of great interest to me as one who practiced perinatology for nearly 30 years. During my career I have encoun-

tered similar stories.

Professionals are reluctant to change while our babies, the most precious resource, are made to suffer.

For some reason, doctors, especially obstetricians, are notorious when it comes to changing their practice. Blaming each other usually does not help; team effort does. Team effort can save lives and improve the health of all patients, including preemies. I will go a step further and say that in partnering with our patients near-miracles happen.

The vast majority of my obstetrical colleagues assert that prematurity is not preventable and the best one can do is to delay pre-term birth for 48 hours – long enough to administer glucocorticoids to the mother and help the newborn's breathing. That is a myth that I have been disputing for the past 30 years. My own work and that of a few others has demonstrated time and time again that "it can be done" as our beloved President Ronald Reagan once said. I keep saying that "if there is a will, there will be a way." It was President John F. Kennedy who said "before this decade is out we will put a man on the moon," and we did and safely returned him back.

Isn't it a shame that the U.S., with the world's best medical technology and know-how, trails behind some 20 nations in terms of its infant mortality statistics? We can transplant human hearts and lungs, and other organ systems, decode a human genome, and save the smallest and most disadvantaged of babies, yet when it comes to helping a baby survive its first birthday, we fall short.

Take, for example, progesterone, a hormone which among other things can be used in prevention of premature birth when administered to pregnant woman. Current estimates report that billions of dollars can be saved annually, not to mention grief, by preventing a premature baby being born and avoiding such risks as death, blindness, brain damage and a lifelong disability and loss of income. Imagine, how many lives were not saved and how much money has been wasted because of reluctance to change.

Stefan Semchyshyn, M.D., M.B.A.
Jonesborough, Tenn.

We welcome your opinion

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Letters should be typed and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at staff@ukrweekly.com. The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions.

Please note: THE LENGTH OF LETTERS CANNOT EXCEED 500 WORDS.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Duty calls: father and son in Iraq

It's unusual to have a father and son fighting in the American military at the same time but that is exactly what Col. Greg Perchatsch and his son, Pfc. Nicolas Perchatsch, both of Naperville, Ill., will be doing. Father and son are being deployed to Iraq.

Col. Perchatsch will be advising the Iraqi Ministry of Defense in Baghdad. His son will be imbedded with Iraqi troops in the city of Kirkuk. Only 150 miles will separate the two Ukrainian Americans in this, perhaps the most dangerous place in the world.

A graduate of West Point, Col. Perchatsch has a distinguished record in the United States military, holding a wide range of staff and command positions. He was commissioned an officer in 1982 and served the next 14 years on active duty. Nine of those years were spent in infantry units. He rose quickly from rifle platoon leader, to company commander, to assistant brigade operations officer.

A decorated military commander, Col. Perchatsch completed further training at the Army War College, where he was awarded a master's degree in strategic studies. He also attended the General Staff College and Harvard University. He holds a Masters in Business Administration from Indiana University and a Master's Certificate in project management from George Washington University.

After completing Foreign Area Officer training at the Defense Language Institute, Col. Perchatsch was selected to establish the first Security Assistance Office (SAO) in the former Soviet Union. Fluent in Ukrainian and Russian, he served for two years as the chief, SAO Ukraine. He left active duty in 1996.

His first Reserve Component assignment was as an individual mobilization augmentee assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency with duty at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. Later, Col. Perchatsch worked as a program manager for public safety applications at Motorola.

In January 2003 he was called to active duty for Operation Enduring Freedom to conduct post-mobilization training for deploying Reserve and National Guard units.

The colonel's son, Nicholas is a 2006

graduate of Naperville North High School. After enlisting in the U.S. Army, he spent 13 weeks in basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. His dad was the speaker at Nick's graduation. Nick then completed airborne training and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division.

Military tradition runs in the family. Nick's mother, Donna, is a former army medic who met his dad at Fort Benning. Nick's maternal grandfather, Matthew Worner, is a Vietnam veteran.

"It's kind of bittersweet, Nick and his dad are both very close, both being soldiers," Donna Perchatsch told Ravi Baichwal, an ABC News reporter. Father and son hope to meet at Thanksgiving, but that is a worry for mom. "My first thought is don't get in a convoy together. I don't want them traveling together," Ms. Perchatsch told the reporter.

According to the ABC reporter, "Col. Greg Perschatsch is stressing that there is a 1 percent chance of a soldier serving in Iraq being killed in combat."

Speaking to Paige Winfield, staff writer for the Courier News, Col. Perchatsch said that "Donna will probably have the most difficult time during the family's impending separation since she will not be occupied with the challenges of life in Iraq. For us it will be less tough because we will be busy."

Interviewed by Jake Griffin early in July, Ms. Perchatsch believed she would have no problem keeping busy without her husband around. She has two other sons, Mark, who will be starting high school in the fall, and 17-year-old Christopher, who will be a high school senior.

A long-time member of Lt. Ivan Shandor Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) Post 35 in Palatine, Ill., Col. Perchatsch left for Fort Bragg on July 21. Five days later he was in Iraq.

Ukrainian Americans have been serving with distinction in the American military for over a hundred years. All of us should be proud of the sacrifice everyone in the Perchatsch family is making when duty calls. Our prayers and best wishes are with all of them.

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is kuropas@comcast.net.



Col. Greg Perchatsch (right) with his son Pfc. Nicholas Perchatsch.

Need a back issue?

If you'd like to obtain a back issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, send \$2 per copy (first-class postage included) to: Administration, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Cohoes celebrates 100th jubilee



Parish trustees Dr. Andrij Baran (right) and Michael Hawron greet Bishop Paul Chomnycky with the traditional bread and salt.

by Olga Kuchar Anderson

COHOES, N.Y. —Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church marked its 100th anniversary in notable style with a pontifical divine liturgy on June 24 celebrated by the Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, D.D., eparch of Stamford. The church was overflowing with parishioners and fellow worshippers so much so that a remote camera was needed to broadcast the service to a basement area for the overflow crowd.

The solemnity of the occasion, marking the 100 years that Ss. Peter and Paul has served the spiritual needs of the Ukrainian American community in the greater Cohoes area, was enhanced by the participation of dozens of priests and nuns from near and far. Concelebrants included the Very Rev. Canon Vladimir Maruseac,

pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul; the Very Rev. Mitred Ihor Midzak from St. Michael Parish in Hartford, Conn.; and the Very Rev. Archpriest Kiril Angelov from St. Josaphat's Church in Rochester, N.Y. Sister Laura Palka, OSBM, led the choir, and Mykola Drofych served as deacon.

"This Church of Ss. Peter and Paul, mirrors the history of the Church in America," said Bishop Chomnycky in his homily. "It mirrors the history except for one important thing," he added. "No other parish of this size has had the same number of vocations to the priestly and religious life." ... "This is to your credit." "It's a sign of a 'living church'...a 'praying Church,' as vocations are the fruit of prayer."

The liturgy was a solemn yet happy commemoration of the important role that this small but imposing church has had in defining the upstate New York

community in which it was established.

Located in the heart of an industrial region, Cohoes was home to immigrants who settled in the New World seeking personal, political and religious freedom. The first Ukrainian immigrants came to Cohoes during the Industrial Revolution in the late 1800s, when manufacturing and commercial operations started to flourish in the region. Their hard work pushed America forward into a new age at the same time that they struggled to re-establish their beloved Ukrainian cultural and religious heritage in a new land.

Initially without a church building, early parishioners were affiliated with the Latin Rite Diocese of Albany and worshiped in diverse locations. Under the guidance of the Rev. Theodore Dwulit, Ss. Peter and Paul Church grew out of the efforts of these early Ukrainian settlers when they proudly broke ground on their own church in 1907. Here they could hear the word of God in their own language, observe their own rites and rituals, and sing the glorious harmonies of the Ukrainian choral tradition.

In 1940 under the guidance of the Rev. Michael Martinuk, pastor, jurisdiction

was transferred to the Byzantine Rite Diocese in Philadelphia. Later, the parish became part of the Stamford Eparchy when that diocese was formed.

The idea for a parish school took shape in 1943 and the Sisters of St. Basil the Great undertook the task of organizing it. Housed in the converted rectory, its doors opened in 1946 to 10 students and by 1956 the school grew from two grades to a full eight grades with 94 students. The first graduation was held in June 1953 with the Rev. Martinuk presiding.


With this growth, and after several years of fund-raising and diligent effort by church officials and parishioners, the parish went on to build an elementary school that opened in 1960. As a result, countless children passed through the halls of these unassuming schools, absorbing the richness of their past while preparing for a future full of promise.

Some of the best students of the region came from Ss. Peter and Paul. In fact, the parish's own Sister Monica, who was valedictorian of the first graduating class from the new school in 1960, went on to distinguish herself as valedictorian of her high



The entire Ss. Peter and Paul Centennial Jubilee Committee.

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Parishioners with Bishop Paul Chomnycky.

school graduating class at Keveny Academy in 1964 and today is a leading educator.

Lifelong friendships and ties have been formed in the close-knit parish – ties that bind across distance and time and that brought hundreds of people together in celebration on that bright sunny day in June. Sister Laura Palka, who was born and raised in Cohoes, served as honorary chairman of the jubilee and was teacher and principal of Ss. Peter and Paul School at one time. Today she is provincial superior of the Sisters of St. Basil in Foxchase, Pa.

“This is truly a time to be glad, to celebrate and to rejoice,” Sister Laura said during the jubilee banquet. “We all have such wonderful memories in our hearts [from our time at Ss. Peter and Paul.]”

With the formation of a Centennial Committee in November of 2005, plans were put into place for a wide variety of events that started last fall and which will culminate on September 23 with a final gathering at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club in Cohoes. The first event was a kickoff brunch in September 2006 during which parishioners eagerly geared up for the many challenges that come with planning such a momentous occasion.

“It took a lot of people pulling together in the same direction to make this year a success,” said Anna Pawliw Mariani, coordinating chairperson of the committee. “We started the planning over a year and a half ago, meeting every month as a group and working nearly every day as individuals to make certain every detail was in place. In the end, it turned out better than we could have imagined.”

This was followed by not one but three successful “pyrohy” sale fund-raisers where many men, women and children from the parish worked very hard to make and sell thousands of pyrohy, 16,000 to be exact, and raised \$6,500 for the Centennial fund. Many local merchants were instrumental in supporting this effort with contributions of goods and services

that were used in the fund-raiser.

This provided a cushion for the committee to use in planning and executing the most ambitious event of the year: a grand music and dance concert. On Saturday, May 5, at the historic Troy Music Hall, the 50-member all-male Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus from Detroit, along with 30 members of the “Syzykryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from New York City, performed a nearly sold-out concert with over 700 people in the audience.

Lydia Kulbida, who danced in a Ukrainian ensemble while growing up in Watervliet, N.Y. and who is now a news anchor on local television, was mistress of ceremonies for the evening.

“There was not a single person in the audience who wasn’t thrilled with the concert,” said Ms. Mariani. “It was an incredible experience to hear the chorus sing in such a glorious hall. And the dancers were equally thrilling. We are very grateful for the sheer joy that their performances provided and for bringing back a wonderful sense of unity to a large group of people who have not been together for a long time.”

Then came the main event – the pontifical divine liturgy that was celebrated on June 24, and which was followed by a banquet and cultural program. Elizabeth Baran was mistress of ceremonies at the banquet, leading the participants through a wonderful mix of memories, music, blessings and wishes from close friends and national leaders.

Pope Benedict XVI, Patriarch Archbishop Lubomyr Husar from Ukraine, Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, President George W. Bush, Sens. Hillary Clinton and Charles Schumer, and New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer were among the many dignitaries who sent greetings, many of which were read a loud.

In a speech at the banquet, Bishop Basil Losten, who this year is marking his 50th anniversary in the priesthood, reflected on the pastors who have served Ss. Peter and

Paul over the last 100 years. “No greater blessing can come to any parish than good and worthy leaders. This must be a proud moment and great day in heaven for [founding pastor] Rev. Theodore Dwulit,” he noted. He mentioned all pastors by name, bringing appreciative applause from the parishioners.

Reflections by sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great brought tears to many eyes. Sister Monica, who grew up in Cohoes and attended Ss. Peter and Paul Church and school, remembered sitting on the steps of the altar as a young girl. She acknowledged the deep affection and gratitude she felt to her parents and grandparents who “instilled a great love of the church and parish” that she has carried into her adult and religious life.

“This isn’t just a celebration of a building but truly a celebration of a community,” said Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and a native of Cohoes. “The traditions that we brought to this country are really what we are celebrating today.”

The banquet was indeed a family affair, as Nicholas Hebert, the great grandson of a founding parishioner, thrilled participants with songs by Hulak-Artemowsky, Bach, and Mayboroda, a beautifully accompanied by Maria Elmer. A poem written by Ulana

100 years of service

Pastors of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church for last 100 years.

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The Rev. Volodymyr Andrushkiw
The Rev. Vladimir Maruseac



Bishop Paul Chomnycky during the celebration of the pontifical divine liturgy.

Omecinsky, parishioner and former teacher at Ss. Peter and Paul elementary school, was recited by Mrs. Omecinsky, her daughter Halyna Logan, and granddaughter Krystina Logan. Anna Pawliw Mariani, read another poem written for the occasion by Hanna Cherin titled “Ode to Cohosiers” which pulled a very interesting history of the city of Cohoes together with the history of the Ukrainians in Cohoes.

At the end of the banquet attendees received a centennial logo designed by Michael Popowsky, and a beautifully

framed icon of Ss. Peter and Paul, a copy of the original painted by Geraldine Bilinski Tracz, a former parishioner now living in Virginia.

As satisfying as these events have been, there are still some important activities in the works. Mr. Popowsky, Media Production Manager, is putting the finishing touches on a documentary film that will spotlight the history of the church and community. A jubilee book will be published detailing the church history in time for Christmas for all to enjoy and share with their families.

The culminating event will be a champagne brunch which will be held on Sunday, September 23, at 11 a.m. at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club following liturgy at Ss. Peter and Paul. Michael Popowsky’s video “Chronicles of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine and Cohoes” will be shown at this time. Finally, a DVD of the May concert program, produced by Maxwell Anderson, will also be distributed at the brunch. For more information about these final activities call Anna Pawliw Mariani at 518-235-5951.

This beloved church continues to provide comfort, hope and a sense of community to hundreds of Ukrainian immigrants and Ukrainian Americans. In his closing remarks, the Rev. Maruseac, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul, summed up the feelings of everyone involved in this wonderful occasion. “This parish is my home, my house, my life.”



Bishop Paul Chomnycky with concelebrants, guest clergy and altar boys.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

had learned about it from press reports. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Salaries grow by 7.2 percent

KYIV – The average monthly salary increased by 7.2 percent to 1,368 hrv in June as compared to May, the State Statistics Committee reported. The highest salary level was recorded in Kyiv, where the average salary amounted to 2,302 hrv, rising by 8.5 percent compared to May. The average salary grew by 28.6 percent in June as compared to June 2006. (Ukrinform)

Court OKs Rada's dissolution

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada's dissolution has been legally approved by a court decision, said the deputy chief of the Presidential Secretariat, Maryna Stavniyshuk, during a July 26 news briefing. She noted the latest verdicts of the Kyiv Pecherskyi Court on the annulment of the Our Ukraine bloc's election lists. The court has decided in favor of annulling the election lists, which means that the Parliament should be dissolved in view of the insufficient number of national deputies. (Ukrinform)

Petition seeks to ban Rada session

KYIV – The chairman of the political council of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc, Viacheslav Kyrlyenko, said on July 27 that he has petitioned a court to ban Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz and First Vice-Chairman Adam Martyniuk from opening a plenary session of Parliament. He stressed that, from the legal point of view, since June 5 any events in the Parliament cannot be regarded as plenary sessions.

“These can only be rallies of deputies, who spend budgetary funds in vain, Mr. Kyrlyenko commented. (Ukrinform)

Phosphorus train leaves Ukraine

KYIV – A trainload of toxic yellow phosphorus gathered from the scene of a recent train derailment in Lviv Oblast left for Kazakhstan on July 26, accompanied by two fire-fighting trains, Interfax-Ukraine reported, quoting Ukraine's Emergency Situations Ministry. The train derailment on July 16 spilled several tanks of liquid yellow phosphorus, which caught fire, releasing a toxic cloud. More than 100 people, including 20 children, were still hospitalized as of July 26. The cargo, dispatched by Kazakhstan's Kazfosfat company, which makes yellow phosphorus and fertilizers, was headed for Poland. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Funds for liquidation of toxic spill

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has allocated 14.815 million hrv for liquidation of the aftermath of the train accident in the Lviv region that spilled toxic phosphorus, according to Nestor Shufrych, minister for emergency situations. (Ukrinform)

700 M euro allotted for Chernobyl plant

KYIV – Ukraine will receive some 700 million euros from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the sarcophagus construction project at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, as well as for construction of a storage facility for processed nuclear fuel. Nestor Shufrych, minister for emergency situations, told journalists on July 25 that the funding is a result of agreements reached in London between Ukraine and the Assembly of Chernobyl Fund Donors and the Nuclear Safety Account Assembly. Out of the total sum, 490 million euro is needed for the sarcophagus construction, 200 million

euro for storage of processed nuclear fuel of the plant's first, second and third units, 7 million for completing the construction of the plant for processing liquefied radioactive wastes, and 4 million for other projects, the minister said. (Ukrinform)

Harry Potter to be released in October

KYIV – The seventh and final book in the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling translated into Ukrainian will be released in Ukraine in late October by the A-Ba-Ba-Ha-La-Ma-Ha publishing house. The translation is being prepared by Viktor Morozov, Oleksa Nehrebetsky and Ivan Malkovych. The book will be illustrated by Vladyslav Yerko. According to Mr. Malkovych, director of the Ukrainian publisher, Ms. Rowling is completely satisfied with the design of the Ukrainian edition of Harry Potter. He said A-Ba-Ba-Ha-La-Ma-Ha has sold over 700,000 copies of the first six books in the Harry Potter series. (Ukrinform)

President and business sign memorandum

KYIV – As the result of a meeting between the president and representatives of big business, which was held on July 4, a memorandum of cooperation regarding the development of a favorable business environment and securing stable development of the national economy has been signed. The president has sent the document to the Cabinet of Ministers to draft steps for its realization within one month and report back on its implementation. The memorandum stresses the need to unite efforts by the president and business in key directions. In the sphere of taxation, for example, a tax code with a lower tax burden will be adopted (the value-added tax will be reduced to 17 percent), an investment-innovative credit will be introduced, and mechanisms of simplified VAT compensation will be implemented for big exporters and investors who are

conscious taxpayers. The memorandum attaches great significance to energy issues and state regulation of commodity markets, especially pricing, licensing and lessening administrative regulation. (Ukrinform)

Jubilee coin to honor Teliha

KYIV – The National Bank of Ukraine will put into circulation on July 19 a jubilee coin dedicated to Olena Teliha, a Ukrainian nationalist killed by the Nazis at Babyn Yar. The coin is part of the series of “Famous Ukrainians,” the NBU's press service told Ukrinform. The coin will be produced of white copper and weighs 12.8 gm. A total of 35,000 copies of the coin will be minted. The NBU intends to release 23 types of coins in 2007. As of July 16 the NBU has produced over 270 types of jubilee and commemorative coins, one-third of which are gold and silver. (Ukrinform)

Ohryzko: Russian fleet has to leave

KYIV – First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko said on July 24 that Russia's Black Sea Fleet, currently deployed in Crimea, will have to leave after the end of 2017, as established in a 1997 agreement, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Mr. Ohryzko's pronouncement seems to be a response to an interview with former Russian Black Sea Fleet Commander Igor Kasatonov, publicized by Russian media on July 23, in which Mr. Kasatonov predicted that the fleet would remain in Crimea beyond 2017. “I think that Sevastopol will remain the main base of the Black Sea Fleet beyond 2017,” Mr. Kasatonov said. “[The 1997] agreement will be extended or replaced with a new one, one that will be in effect for a longer period. The Black Sea Fleet will be in Sevastopol for as long as Russia needs this.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

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Edited and compiled by Matthew Dubas and Yarema Belej

Chicago's Ephyra - rockin' in the Ukrainian world

Today's Ukrainian music is not what our fathers, or grandfathers, listened to. For music lovers who favor more contemporary Ukrainian-language rock bands, Ephyra, based in Chicago, is a diasporan variety of progressive rock from Ukraine.

Named for the Greek goddess of rivers, Ephyra was formed in 2002 with Mark Krutiak, 24, on lead vocals and guitar, Peter Krutiak, 19, on backup vocals and bass, Paul Swytnyk, 26, on drums and Roman Tykhovskyy, 27, on keyboards. The band continues a legacy of progressive Ukrainian music from Chicago, taking its influences from bands like Promin, Zoria and Veseli Chasy, while at the same time fusing them with other Ukrainian and Eastern European



"Ty Son" album cover

influences.

Ephyra's repertoire contains a strong undercurrent of traditional Ukrainian music throughout each of its original songs, and ranges from calm and romantic to strong and tumultuous.

The band got their start by performing at

functions sponsored by the Chicago branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian American Youth Association and area churches in Chicagoland. This led to other performances at events sponsored by Ukrainian organizations all over North America, including the Ukrainian festival circuit at Toronto's Bloor West Village Festival and the Harborfront Festival, Detroit's Sunflower Festival, Cleveland's Ivana Kupala Fest, Ukrainian Days in Chicago, and at the UAYA resort in Ellenville, N.Y.

"The youth of the Ukrainian community all over has played a large role in our success," said Mark Krutiak. "Our music has the message that we should never forget where we come from and that there are more forms of Ukrainian cultural expression besides traditional ones, including rock music. They relate to this message and they are able to react to it in a positive way," added Mr. Krutiak.

Also of note, Ephyra has performed at Chicago's legendary rock clubs like The Note, Double Door and the Metro. Recently the band advanced to the U.S. National Finals of the Emergenza International Music Festival Competition, which highlights unsigned acts who compete for a chance to perform for over 20,000 people at the finals in Germany and win a fully paid six-week recording session in Europe.

On taking their music to the competitive level, Ephyra said that they wanted to expand their fan base to outside the Ukrainian community, but at each performance they include their Ukrainian songs. "We feel that we not only are promoting ourselves, but Ukraine as well," added Mr. Krutiak.

The band is planning a mini-tour of Ukraine to promote their newest album "Ty Son" (2006), which is a follow-up to



Ephyra: Mark Krutiak, Paul Swytnyk, Roman Tykhovskyy and Peter Krutiak.

their 2004 debut album "Symfonia." Ephyra's "Ty Son" is being promoted in Ukraine under the label "6 Sekund" based out of Kalush, and handles the distribution of Ephyra's music. Recently, the label released two compilations that include Ephyra's songs, which have gotten airplay on Molode Radio (molode.com.ua) and Radio Skrynia (skrynia.com).

Currently the band is in the process of completing a "mash up" (remix) of the song "52 milliony" with the Ukrainian rock group "Mohikeny." The song includes the music of "Ty Son" which speaks of the need for Ukrainian unity, the Ukrainian government's recognition of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), the recognition of the Holodomor, the effects of Chernobyl, the language debate

and the reasons for the decrease in population in Ukraine. Ephyra plans to re-release "Ty Son" as a single, with proceeds going to UPA veterans who receive no medical or monetary benefits from the Ukrainian government.

During the Orange Revolution, Ephyra recorded the song "Tak," which also received airplay on radio stations in Ukraine during that time and on the maidan (Independence Square).

Ephyra's music is available on their website www.ephyraband.com, with individual tracks downloadable for 99 cents. Readers may also send a \$12 certified check by mail to Ephyra, 1224 S. Knight Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068. To listen to sound samples, visit their MySpace page at www.myspace.com/ephyrrock.

Summer shenanigans at the back of Wildwood

Every year during the last weekend of August, there is a special visit from the beach patrol at the back of Wildwood Beach. They greet everyone warmly and express their pleasure to see many of the same faces and a good number of new ones. "We know you guys are here, and we hope that everything goes well again. Have a great time."

And just like that you know summer will soon be over.

The annual "Ukrainian Week" in Wildwood, N.J. – the week before the week leading to Labor Day weekend – is a special time for many to bask in the warm August sun, relax with family and friends, marvel at the boardwalk games and stores, and consume their weight in fresh seafood.

Although the beach stretches for nearly a quarter-mile, for years the young adults of the Ukrainian community in the tri-state (New York-New Jersey-Pennsylvania) area have insisted on occupying the same area on the beach, which happens to be the furthest possible spot from the ocean.

Behind an ever-present volleyball net and the divots of hundreds of previous bocce games the young Ukes run around the back of the beach sharing stories and laughs, and pinning down plans for the evening's festivities.

Some come to the beach early in the day to maximize their time under the

sun, while others stroll in after the high noon sun has passed. But they all stay until the air has cooled and the rest of the beach lays bare of beach-goers.

After dining at one of the many spots peppered throughout Wildwood, the young adults gather at nightclubs, bars or at individual houses to continue the summer fun into the night. Early the next day the same early birds are seen yet again

holding court near the dunes of Wildwood Beach.

The last few years have seen the weekend culminate with a bocce ball tournament on Saturday near this island of 20-something Ukrainians. This is the ultimate game for the back-of-the-beach crowd.

The leisurely game is a competition of teams of two trying to throw their weighted balls closer to a marker ball than the others.

Despite its seeming ease, the game requires a lot of skill and a hard will. The tournament has been immensely competitive the past few years and, as it progresses, the grudges grow and the stakes get higher.

The youths at the back of the beach will always be there, and the group always seems to grow. Their fashions may change, but the spirit of the back of the beach will stay the same.



Ukrainian youths maintain the tradition of congregating near the dunes in Wildwood during "Ukrainian Week."

Soyuzivka hosts Plast's "Tabir Ptashat" day camp



Yuri Ripecykj

The participants and counselors of Week 1 of "Tabir Ptashat" at Soyuzivka.

by Lesia Naumenko

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Ukrainian National Association's estate, Soyuzivka, was once again host to the "Tabir Ptashat" day camp the week of June 24 to July 1. Run by the Plast



Lesia Naumenko

A little chef at work in the "restaurant."

Ukrainian Scouting Organization's "Pershi Stezhi" sorority, this is an introductory camp for Ukrainian-speaking children age 4-6 who intend to join Plast when they turn 7. The camp's organizer and administrator was Neonila Sochan.

This year's camp, run by Lesia Naumenko, was divided into six "royi," or groups, by age. The birds chosen for this year had a water theme: seagulls, pelicans, herons, sandpipers, penguins and flamingos.

Each morning the 52 campers met for "skhodny," or a group meeting with their counselor. They crafted bird hats and learned an "obriad," or a simple song with movements, about their bird. They also discussed such themes as the ocean, bugs, seasons and their specific bird.

Later they had round-robin activities consisting of sports and games, nature knowledge, and songs and music.

After a long afternoon break during which the families could take advantage of Soyuzivka's beautiful surroundings, the children had activities involving the whole camp. An interactive town was set up with six "shops" – a bakery, a restaurant, a veterinarian's office, a florist, a hat shop and a post office – where the children got to use their imaginations to cook, bake, prepare bouquets and actually mail a letter home.

Visits by musician George Hrab and artist Roman Hrab inspired the children to appreciate music and paint murals of

their respective birds. Halyna Shepko of Shawangunk Ridge Farm brought some ducks and chickens for the kids to see.

Thursday was the day of the all-important Olympiad, during which the campers took part in many events, albeit on a rain-soaked terrain. All the children earned gold medals which were awarded during a rousing ceremony. Due to wet conditions the bonfire was held inside the Veselka Hall Thursday evening but the children's spirits were not dampened

as all sang along enthusiastically and enjoyed humorous skits.

Friday brought in the pirates. All the campers received pirate headgear, stickers and stamps, and sent off to play. The playscape was made to look like a pirate ship where serious battles were fought. The hockey rink had many pirate-themed games, and treasures were buried in the sands of the volleyball court. Once the treasures were dug up, the children got to enjoy some treats and listen to a pirate story.

Friday evening after dinner the campers took part in a delightful program on the Veselka patio. Each age group performed a beloved Ukrainian song such as "Liubliu Spivaty" (I Love to Sing), "Muzykanty z Kyieva" (Musicians from Kyiv), and "V Ponedilok Rano" (On Monday Morning), and for the grand finale all campers acted out their bird walks to a twist on the classic song "Wimba-vey" (The Lion Sleeps) beside a lovely ocean panorama.

On Saturday morning the camp came together for one last time. Each group sang its song, a camp photo was taken and official certificates were handed out. Thanks were given to the 16 staff members who contributed to a hugely successful camp.

UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj was present at the ceremonies and spoke briefly, greeting the children, thanking the parents for bringing them to Soyuzivka and inviting all to return next year.

After a final prayer, the little birds were released to their homes, filled with many happy memories.



Lesia Naumenko

The campers enjoy a short hike.



Lesia Naumenko

Children paint the emblems of their groups.



Lesia Naumenko

The herons perform their special song.

Tseep! Tseep! Tseep! – The sounds of “ptashata” at Soyuzivka

by Andrea Porytko Zharovsky

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Sixty-four Ukrainian children standing in a circle, loudly chanting and flapping their “wings.” Sixty-four happy smiling faces making new friends, enjoying their camping experience. Proud parents and grandparents taking photographs and filming the fun, reminiscing with old friends, meeting new friends and singing along with their children while remembering their youth.

This is how the “sokoly,” “orliatka,” “diateli,” “kardynaly,” “sovy” and “kolibri” (falcons, eagles, woodpeckers, cardinals, owls and hummingbirds) spent their week. Their fun-filled days began and ended with an echoing “Tseep! Tseep! Tseep!” (Chirp! Chirp! Chirp!)

This year’s second session of “Tabir Ptashat,” a camp organized yearly by the “Pershi Stezhi” Plast sorority for Ukrainian children between the ages of 4 and 6, was held on July 1-8 at Soyuzivka, under the direction of camp



Khristina Lew

“Tabir Ptashat” Week 2 at Soyuzivka: little campers and their counselors.



Cardinals flap their “wings” during the camp song.

director Ksenia Kozak. The camp administrators were Oresta Fedyniak and Thesesa Ben; the camp organizer was Neonila Sochan.

With a morning session and a late afternoon session, the camp focused on love and respect of nature, the joy of play and life in the mountains. “Ptashata,” or birds (as the campers are known) learned about mountain animals, birds and plants through simple, interesting and fun activities specifically geared toward their age group.

The camp counselors, i.e., parent volunteers, developed a true friendship with their ptashata through games, stories, arts and crafts, activities and song. The chil-

dren were divided into six groups and were named after birds found in the Carpathian Mountains. Each group of children learned about its particular bird, spent time designing colorful, and in some cases, very intricate bird hats and learned a short and lively song, or “obriad,” describing their bird.

Throughout the week, the children also learned about the Carpathian Mountains with a focus on its music and instruments, culture and people, animals and, of course, birds.

The week ended with a “World Mountain Tour” during which the campers toured Soyuzivka. Children “visited” specific spots, which became

continents of the world. They learned about the mountains found there, each specific mountain habitat, and the customs and traditions of the people who live there. Each visit was documented in passports which the campers took home as souvenirs.

A highlight of the week was a presentation of real birds, featuring an owl, a turkey vulture and a falcon. As each live bird was presented to the campers, the trainer gave a brief introduction to the bird’s behavior and its life in the wild. Holding each bird with specially designed gloves, the trainer also explained about the birds’ life in captivity and how they were raised. The birds flapped their wings, made birdcalls and even ate some mice. The children sat mesmerized, and there were many oohs and ahs.

Soyuzivka, meanwhile, entertained the campers’ parents, grandparents and siblings with its gorgeous mountain trails, cascading waterfalls, delicious wild blueberries, stories of bears and snakes, tennis courts, pool and playground. Since most campers and their families stayed on the grounds of Soyuzivka, the camaraderie continued during the day and into the evening at Steak Night, Hutsul Night and Odesa Night. Sports fans bonded at the Tiki Bar while watching the Klitschko fight. The zabava (dance) on Saturday night gave all an opportunity to dance and relax while taking in the romantic view over-

looking the Veselka patio.

Tabir Ptashat counselors also entertained their little guests with Tuesday’s Movie Night featuring Walt Disney’s “Cars,” or “Tachky,” created by Pixar Animation Studio in the United States and translated into Ukrainian by Oleksa Nehrebetsky. Incorporating many of Ukraine’s popular idiomatic expressions, the translation was very effective and funny. The campers laughed out loud while watching the antics of their automobile heroes.

The camp bonfire organized by Tabir Ptashat counselors, originally planned as an outdoor event, was held in the Main House due to inclement weather. Nevertheless, the children sang all of the new Plast songs they had learned during the week.

Parents and children made promises to keep in touch and to meet again next year. Many had said that these friendships were the main reason for coming to Tabir Ptashat in the first place. The opportunity for children to meet fellow Ukrainians from all over the United States and Canada, especially for those who do not live near large Ukrainian communities, was important to most parents. Parents wanted their children to see that there are many families, “just like our family,” that speak Ukrainian, believe in the same principles, foster the same Plast ideals and care about the Ukrainian community.



Counselor Ksenia Salewycz (with guitar) encourages campers to sing during a “bonfire” held in the Main House lobby.



Counselor Yarema Hryciw supervises the eagles during “Circle for Goodnight.”

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A distinct chill...

(Continued from page 2)

salvage the CFE.

However, an extraordinary conference
of the state-parties to the CFE was
already held on June 11-15 in Vienna at
Russia's request, with no results.

Russia has refused to fully withdraw its
forces from Moldova and Georgia under
the Istanbul commitments of 1999 and, in
return, the West refuses to ratify the adapted
CFE (see EDM, July 11). The Russian
troops in the Transdnester part of Moldova
and in Georgia are small in size, but for the
Kremlin this is a point of principle.
Members of the Commonwealth of
Independent States are seen as being in
Moscow's sphere of influence, and the
West must not intrude on where Russia
keeps its soldiers or when Russia with-
draws them.

It will be difficult - if not impossible
- to find a compromise between Russia
and the West before the 150 days expire.
But Western states, including the new
NATO members that border Russia, have
been expressing confidence that the sus-
pension of the CFE would not in itself
cause a major rift that will start a new
Cold War or that Russia is planning to
build up conventional forces in Europe
facilitating an arms race. There will sure-
ly be more mutual suspicion as the CFE
transparency mechanisms fail, but is that
a Cold War?

The Russian Foreign Ministry has
announced that, after the CFE limits are
no longer applicable, "The actual num-
ber of Russian armaments will depend
on the evolution of the military-political
situation" (RIA-Novosti, July 14). The
statement is ambiguous, but has been
seen in the West as reassuring.

The problem is that Russian diplomats
do not command troops and are almost
never notified in time or in detail by
those who do. It is much cheaper to
maintain heavy weapons and troops in
European Russia than east of the Urals in
Siberia and the Far East, where the popu-
lation is scarce and basic infrastructure
almost nonexistent. China is a friend
today, while the West is the main enemy.

After the end of the 150 days, a sub-
stantial movement of troops and heavy
weapons may begin into European
Russia. It could save money and at the
same time send the West a powerful mes-
sage: Russia is back and its strong. This
clearly is a win-win situation.

The CFE is not the only issue that
plagues Russia's relations with the West.
There is the issue of U.S. missile defense
in Europe; Russia's threat to use a veto
in the U.N. Security Council to stop
Kosovo's independence; Russia's arms
sales to Syria and Iran; the Iranian
nuclear issue; and the poisoning of for-
mer Russian intelligence agent
Alexander Litvinenko in London last
year, which has now developed into a
full diplomatic fray with Britain (RIA-
Novosti, July 16, 17).

Any one of these problems would not
herald a new Cold War, but together they
may add up to a confrontation that
resembles those chilly days.

For a quick look
at the top news
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Parties begin...

(Continued from page 1)

while the Party of the Regions is the strong, stable alternative, the voice states.

Despite attempts to recast itself as European-oriented, the Party of the Regions isn't shying away from its close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Unified Russia party.

Party leaders Mykola Azarov and Borys Kolesnikov met with Unified Russia's leadership in Moscow on July 23 to discuss politics, upcoming elections (Russian parliamentary elections are in December) and economic cooperation.

The Regions' youth congress welcomed counterparts from Unified Russia, who are known as "Nashi," to its August 1 bash in Kyiv.

Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc

Constitutional reform was chosen by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc as the theme to launch its campaign, which also asks voters to support a referendum allowing them to indicate whether they favor a presidential republic, a parliamentary one, or the current hybrid.

Other issues include canceling benefits for government officials, eliminating parliamentary deputies' immunity, improving social benefits (particularly for new mothers), and enhancing local government authority at the expense of the Kyiv bureaucracy.

While her counterparts in the Our Ukraine – People's Self Defense bloc have refrained from attacking the Party of the Regions so far, Ms. Tymoshenko isn't holding back. Her bloc finished second in many eastern and southern oblasts, and has hopes of making gains in this year's elections.

"We don't view the Party of the Regions as a political force, but practically a mafia that was inherited from Leonid Kuchma," Ms. Tymoshenko said on August 1. "We will do everything so that people, who unfortunately got confused amidst all their political ads and falsehoods, understand who they're dealing with in the Party of the Regions."

Though Ms. Tymoshenko rarely ran any television political ads in her bloc's 2006 parliamentary campaign, she has chosen to aggressively pursue television, as well as billboards, this time around, keeping justice as the main slogan.

"Through pre-term elections, we forced the government to increase pensions and wages," read one widely distributed billboard, sarcastic in tone. "There is justice. It will triumph."

Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense

Ending deputies' immunity from prosecution is the main campaign issue taken

up by the pro-presidential Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc.

Although such an initiative isn't likely to succeed soon, given that a constitutional majority of 300 parliamentary votes would be needed, it's the type of campaign issue that can mobilize voters, said Pavlo Bulhak, a political expert at the Stratehema Center for Practical Politics in Kyiv.

In uniting with the People's Self-Defense Bloc, Our Ukraine has undergone a facelift compared to its image last year, when it garnered only 14 percent of the vote.

Party outsider and former Socialist Party member Yurii Lutsenko was selected to lead the bloc – likely a decision that Mr. Yushchenko himself influenced, Mr. Bulhak said.

The makeover went even deeper when an August 2 party congress revealed that the electoral list would not include Petro Poroshenko, the wealthy businessman who was repeatedly the center of scandals that ruined the Orange forces' unity.

To ensure the bloc's unity and prevent abandonment (the case with the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs), Our Ukraine's leadership signed an August 2 agreement with nine parties to join the bloc on the condition they fold and merge into a single party after the elections.

The bloc is also employing the president's image in its advertising, given that his public approval ratings rebounded with his handling of the spring political crisis.

"15,000 hryv (\$3,000) for the birth of a second child," read one Lviv billboard, alongside Mr. Yushchenko's image.

Communist Party of Ukraine

The Communist Party of Ukraine isn't dead yet. In fact, many public opinion polls report its popularity has improved since last year's elections.

The key campaign strategy for the Communists is attacking President Yushchenko and presenting themselves as his archrivals.

The Ukrainian president is rabidly unpopular in the southern and eastern Ukrainian oblasts, where support for the Communist Party is strongest. Ukraine's significant elderly population offers the party its largest support, and gray hairs dominated the August 2 congress.

Campaigning under the slogan, "For People Power, Not Dictatorship," Party Chairman Petro Symonenko boasted that the Communists' electoral list would be the only one to truly represent Ukrainian society, to include workers, villagers, scientists, pensioners and even the unemployed.

So far, the Communists haven't used any advertising.

Socialist Party of Ukraine

The Socialist Party of Ukraine lost

most of its popular support after Oleksander Moroz led it in abandoning an Orange coalition to form the Russian-oriented Anti-Crisis Coalition in July 2006.

As a result, virtually no election polls report the Socialists will gain enough votes to qualify for Parliament this time around.

Without a clear campaign strategy, the Socialists spent most of their efforts trying to undermine the September 30 parliamentary elections at any cost. As recently as July 30, Mr. Moroz attempted to call an extraordinary parliamentary session, but he lacked support from the Party of the Regions, which indicated it might consider it next week.

Two days later, Mr. Moroz threatened to withdraw his party from the coalition government – which could cost Mr. Yanukovych the prime ministership – a tactic intended to leverage the Socialist leader's dwindling influence.

Mr. Moroz also said he will support impeachment hearings against President Yushchenko if his party is elected to Parliament.

The Socialists haven't bought any

advertising or even drafted a new campaign slogan. Ironically, the slogan remains. "We Will Build Europe in Ukraine."


Others

Former Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn, leader of the People's Party of Ukraine, refuses to leave Ukrainian politics.

After failing to earn 3 percent of the vote in the March 2006 elections, Mr. Lytvyn has returned to Ukraine's airwaves to cast himself again as a centrist, moderate alternative to the other political forces capable of uniting the country.

Pro-Russian leader Natalia Vitrenko and the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine are also making a bid for the Parliament, after just barely missing the mark in the 2006 elections.

Rejected by the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc, nationalist Oleh Tiahnybok declared that the Svoboda All-Ukrainian Union will compete in the elections as a nationalist alternative to the major parties, which he described as bought and paid for by Ukraine's oligarchic clans.



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Курінний Провід

Ukrainian Canadian...

(Continued from page 3)

ilance will be required to ensure that Ukraine's election laws are not violated by any of the competing parties. The UCC does not endorse individual candidates, political parties or coalitions – its only goal is to help ensure that the decision of Ukrainian voters is made without illegal interference and that the results are respected by electoral authorities.

"Among the many positive effects of electoral missions is that they help to inspire those who go to work as observers, and to reaffirm their appreciation of democratic values. Thus, both Canada and the Ukrainian Canadian community benefit from participation in such missions," noted Jars Balan, the chair of the UCC's Canada-Ukraine Committee.

"Furthermore, besides serving as an

obvious deterrent to cheating, the presence of outside observers can be reassuring to both voters and election officials," Mr. Balan added. "Of course, the involvement of Canadians of Ukrainian descent also demonstrates their solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine as they struggle to shake off the legacy of centuries of authoritarian rule."

Leading the mission will be UCC President Orysia Sushko; the organizational committee is being chaired by Emil Yereniuk of Edmonton, Alberta. The selection of observers will be made in consultation with UCC Provincial Councils and the decisions will be announced by the end of August.

The UCC is urging potential observers to closely follow the situation in Ukraine, as the mission could be cancelled in the event that further political developments result in the September 30 election being rescheduled or indefinitely postponed.

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Families bitter...

(Continued from page 1)

chats and hymns, punctuated by the mourners' sniffles and weeping.

Last year Lviv Mayor Andrii Sadovyi sent his condolences and dispatched an assistant to attend the commemoration. This year, no politicians came.

At the time of the panakhyda, Lviv Oblast State Administration Chair Petro Oliinyk and Oblast Council members were launching the fourth International Boyko Festival, adding insult to injury in the view of Stefan Kozak, chair of the civic organization Sknyliv Tragedy.

He remembered how Viktor Yushchenko attended the panakhyda held in accordance with tradition on the 40th day after the tragedy in 2002. This year, the president attended the Boyko celebration instead.

"Officials only work for political dividends, unfortunately," Mr. Kozak said. "The people are the source of government. This can only mean there's either no people, or no government."

The disinterest on the part of politicians exemplifies the overall indifference, and even subversion, the Ukrainian government has exhibited in dealing with the Sknyliv catastrophe and its aftermath, mourners said.

The military trial, in which the three judges and prosecutor were all Ministry of Defense employees, resulted in four incarcerations.

Pilot Volodymyr Toponar was sentenced to 14 years in prison, while Yurii Yegorov received eight years' punishment. Event organizers Maj. Gen. Anatolii Tretiakov and Lt. Col. Yurii Yatsiuk were sentenced to six and five years incarceration, respectively.

Their commanders walked away from the tragedy without punishment, despite violating safety standards by moving the air show to where the spectators stood, and despite denying Mr. Toponar his request for rehearsals because they didn't want to expend the extra fuel, the court revealed.

"They saved three or five tons of fuel at the expense of 77 lives," said Serhii Senyk, a veteran pilot who lost his wife, Natalia, and son Yaroslav that day. "How is that a savings?"

Sknyliv victims are also disgusted that no one has accepted responsibility for the accident – not the Ukrainian government or the Military Air Forces of Ukraine.

From his prison cell, Mr. Toponar maintained his innocence and even denied catapulting from the aircraft before letting it careen into the crowd.

The Sknyliv Tragedy organization has filed a lawsuit against the Ukrainian gov-

ernment, alleging their human rights were violated when the government awarded \$200,000 to the families of 78 victims who died in an earlier accident when their plane was accidentally shot down by Ukrainian soldiers, while a military court awarded the Sknyliv families an average of \$20,000 compensation for each victim lost in the catastrophe. It awarded even less for those injured, Mr. Kozak added.

A stray surface-to-air test missile destroyed a Sibir Airlines Tu-154 plane on October 4, 2001, as it flew over the Black Sea, killing all passengers and crew aboard, most of whom were Israeli citizens.

In the case of Bohdan Onyschak, who lost four family members in the Sknyliv catastrophe, the court awarded him only \$40,000 – a sum he hasn't yet received.

"It was discrimination in the way the government treated us compared to citizens of other countries," Mr. Kozak said. "The government has no formal or legal method of determining moral damages."

Making matters worse, only 40 percent of the victims have received their due compensation, Mr. Kozak said. The rest continue calling the Ministry of Justice in Kyiv, where for the last two years an anonymous woman curtly informs them in Russian, "The money isn't here yet."

After the panakhyda, the mourners walked for 30 minutes across the Sknyliv airfield to the site of the Su-27's explosion, where a monument has since been erected to honor the fallen.

The Sknyliv Tragedy organization built the monument with \$2 million in donations from throughout the world, Mr. Kozak said.

Its center is a two-foot-high bronze monument, with seven sun rays surrounding seven crying faces swirling in a circle. From there, seven rows of monuments spread out like sunrays, each consisting of 11 black granite gravestones, each marked with a victim's name and year of birth.

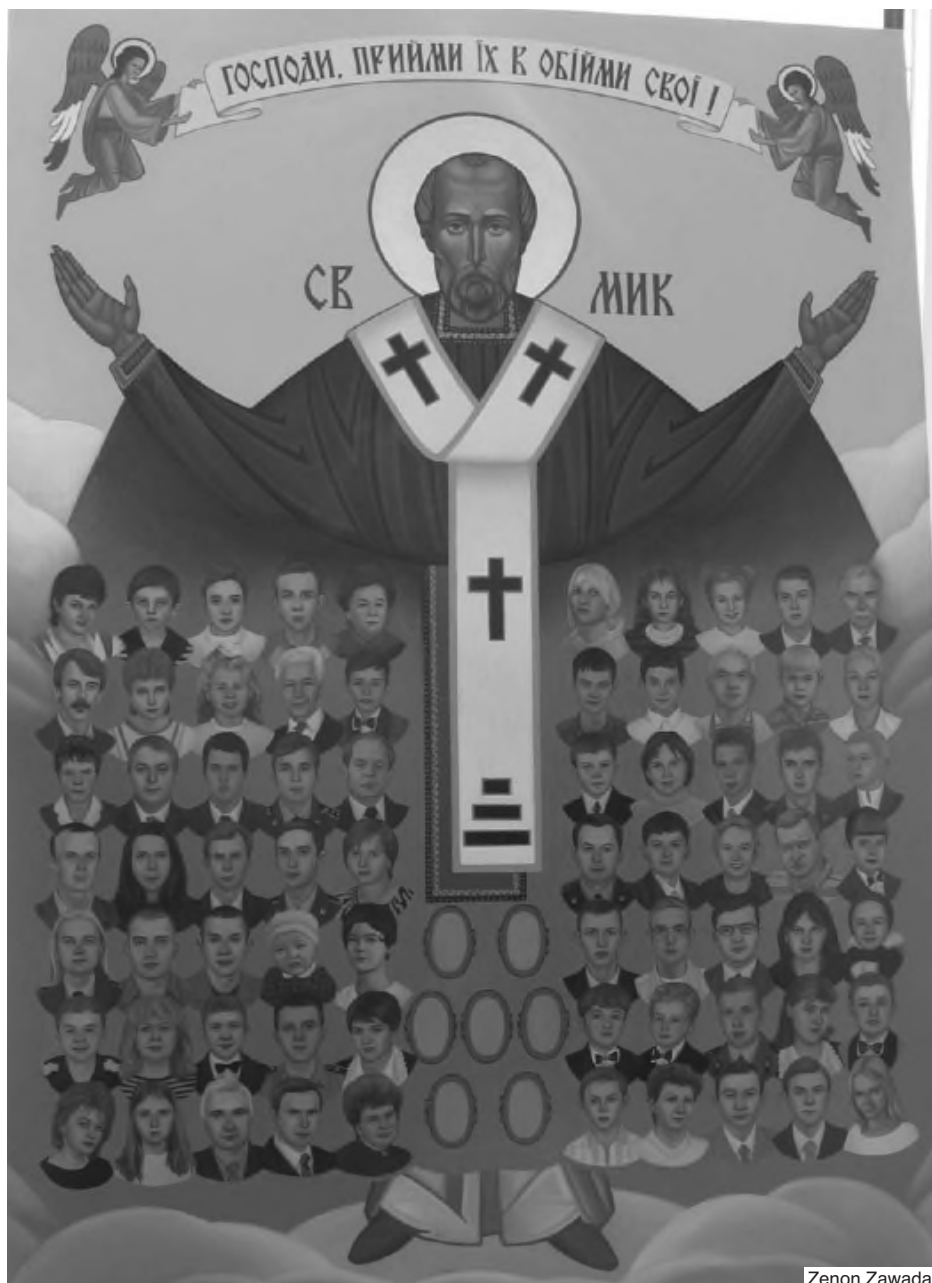
Mourners placed candles and flowers at the monuments, wept and prayed.

Addressing them, the priests told them the tragedy was not God's will, but the fault of human hands that failed to properly guide technology. Furthermore, the government in Kyiv fails to govern properly and people suffer as a result, they said.

"Not only do planes fall, but trains derail," one priest said. "And why does this happen? Ukraine is being built on a poor Soviet foundation."

During the commemoration, 77 white balloons were released into the air to symbolize the 77 souls who left the Earth that day.

The weather on the fifth anniversary



Zenon Zawada

An icon of the 77 victims of the Sknyliv air show painted by Mykola Soltys.

day was exactly the same as it had been the day of the catastrophe – sun-baked heat tempered by breezy winds amidst wispy cirrus clouds, mourners said.

Veteran pilot Serhii Senyk remembered watching through a video camera as the Su-27 surged low above the spectators, rattling their eardrums and bodies. The plane looped into the air and prepared for another descent when it clipped its wing against a birch tree on the horizon.

"I knew that was it," Mr. Senyk said. "I dropped my camera and my first thought was my wife and son."

In the next seconds, the careening plane cartwheeled and clipped four rows of barbed wire fence, dragging them across the field of spectators like a human mower before exploding into

flames.

"This was covered with human meat," Mr. Senyk said, staring at the wide concrete road on the Sknyliv airfield. "It was hell."

He ran to where he left his wife and child, only to see they were gone. He left the Sknyliv airfield that day with his two surviving sons.

In the five years since, Mr. Senyk studied the catastrophe's causes and understands why it happened. No one single person was responsible, Mr. Senyk said. Rather, it was a chain of mistakes beginning with the highest-ranking commander that led to the pilots themselves.

"But there's one question I still can't answer," Mr. Senyk said, as tears rolled down his cheeks. "Why did I take them here that day?"



Halyna Pudlyk holds a framed photograph of her son Roman, who was 14 years old when he died in the Sknyliv air show catastrophe on July 27, 2002.



An Orthodox priest blesses the monument dedicated to the 77 Sknyliv air show victims following a panakhyda commemorating the catastrophe's fifth anniversary.

Irene Zabytko speaks at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago

by Dora Turula

CHICAGO – The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) and the Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago on June 30 co-sponsored “Irene Zabytko: Chornobyl Remembered,” a literary and film presentation with author Irene Zabytko, who is now producing a documentary film.

Luba Markewych, longtime vice-president and current chair of the education committee of the UIMA, greeted the full capacity audience at the institute before introducing the speaker.

Ms. Zabytko began her presentation by acknowledging the public’s support and calling her third appearance at the institute a “homecoming.” Chicago’s Ukrainian Village is Ms. Zabytko’s childhood home, and the UIMA had previously invited her when her highly acclaimed novel about Chornobyl, “The Sky Unwashed,” and her collection of short stories set in the Ukrainian Village sectin of Chicago, “When Luba Leaves Home,” were published in 2000 and 2003, respectively.

Ms. Zabytko discussed her “new and daunting task” – that of producing a documentary chronicling the lives of the real-life people living in the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone, titled “Life in the Dead Zone.” The film is an extension of her novel, which is about the elderly residents, mostly women, who returned to their irradiated village after the explosion at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant on April 26, 1986.

“During my book tour with ‘The Sky Unwashed’ I was always asked by readers if I had ever visited Chornobyl,” Ms. Zabytko said. “I never did. It didn’t occur to me to go there to do research since I was writing fiction. But I am still so fascinated by these women and their collective choice to return there. They are getting older, and are still living in the most contaminated place on the planet, so I wanted to meet them at last and film a documentary about them.”

Ms. Zabytko discussed her recent trip to Ukraine in February. She and director and cinematographer Peter Mychalcewycz first went to the Chornobyl Museum in Kyiv to collect archival footage.

Ms. Zabytko described the exhibits as a moving portrayal of the catastrophic events of the Chornobyl explosion and their aftermath. “It truly brought back that horrific time the people experienced,” she said. “I was especially moved by the liquidators – those young, innocent men who were filmed before going onto the rooftop of the blown reactor to shovel the debris. That is incredibly haunting.”

From Kyiv, Ms. Zabytko and Mr.

Mychalcewycz traveled to Opachychi, one of the villages in the exclusion zone, where they met and filmed two of the residents who graciously allowed them into their homes and spoke about their lives.

Ms. Zabytko then read for the Chicago audience an excerpt from the “The Sky Unwashed,” followed by a brief section from one of the articles she wrote for The Ukrainian Weekly about her trip to Opachychi, where one of the women, Baba Valentyna, was showing her guests the huge flat-screen television set in her bedroom. “But what wasn’t in the article was that Baba Valentyna was channel-surfing until she found one of her favorite soap operas,” Ms. Zabytko said. “And then, after a while, she simply shook her head and told us, ‘oh, what troubles those people have.’”

After their return from Ukraine, Ms. Zabytko and Mr. Mychalcewycz created a promotional DVD about their trip to the zone, which also emphasizes their need for funding to return to the zone and film the women there with a professional film crew. “I knew a movie producer who once told me that the real censorship in filmmaking is financial,” she said. “Without funds to continue, films like the ones about the Chornobyl survivors in the zone will never get made. And the world will forget what happened there and why.”

Another of Ms. Zabytko’s goals is scripting excerpts from “The Sky Unwashed,” which will be filmed at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village near Edmonton, Alberta. These scenes will then be interwoven with the documentary footage from the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone.

Ms. Zabytko spoke of the many financial and personal challenges facing her in creating the documentary before introducing her director and cinematographer, Mr. Mychalcewycz from Key West, Fla., whose grandparents and father lived in the Ukrainian Village for many years before moving to the south.

During the discussion session that followed the presentation, Ms. Zabytko responded to a question about whether she writes about other topics than her Ukrainian roots. “I am the most ironic person to be writing about Ukrainian subjects,” she said noting her lack of Ukrainian language skills. “I wanted to get away from anything Ukrainian. So my first stories were about people named Heather and Skippy who lived in the Hamptons and drank martinis all day – people I knew nothing about really.”

“I didn’t become a real writer until my characters became Ukrainian with names like Pavlo and Luba. Yes, I write about other things, but I always come back to Ukrainians in my work. I can’t help it,” she related.

The evening concluded with a show-



John Olshanskyj

Irene Zabytko (left) and Peter Mychalcewycz meet (from left) Kristina Zalucky, Oryna Hrushetsky-Shiffman and Demetra John.

ing of Mr. Mychalcewycz’s short feature film “Driving Lessons,” about two friends in Castro’s Cuba. It is currently making the film festival rounds.

Audience members were also invited to a book signing with the author, and to view Ms. Markewych’s photographs of the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone displayed on the institute’s walls.

Production of the documentary “Life in the Dead Zone” is expected to take several months followed by a lengthy and expensive post-production phase. Successful and timely completion of the project depends to a great extent on the level of funding generated.

Ms. Zabytko thanked Selfreliance

Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union and the many other donors who have assisted in financing her efforts to date, and appealed to audience members for their contributions, stating that the names of all contributors would be listed on the film credits and given a tax deduction through the Ukrainian Artistic Center, a non-profit 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt organization.

Contributions may be sent to the Ukrainian Artistic Center, 2657 W. Iowa St., First Floor, Chicago, IL 60622-4755 (please note “Chornobyl Film” on checks).

Further information about the film project, including a printable donation form, can be found at www.lifeinthedeadzone.com.

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Penn State University to offer two Ukrainian courses in the fall

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. – The department of Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures at The Pennsylvania State University has announced that two Ukrainian classes will be offered during the fall semester at the University Park campus.

A four-credit beginner-level Ukrainian language course, Ukrainian 001, will be taught by Lviv native and graduate student Olha Tytarenko on a Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday schedule at 2:30-3:20 p.m.

The course can also be made available via video conferencing to other university members of the Council on International Cooperation (CIC), which includes the Big Ten universities and the University of Chicago.

Ms. Tytarenko will also teach a Ukrainian culture class in English

(Ukrainian 100) on a Tuesday-Thursday schedule at 1-2:15 p.m.

Spring semester courses on the schedule include the Ukrainian 002 language class, which will be taught by Larysa Bobrova, visiting professor from Horlivka, Ukraine, and the Ukrainian culture class to be taught by Ms. Tytarenko as an online course.

The courses have been made possible by the generous contribution of the Alex and Helen Woskob Family to the Endowment in Ukrainian Studies at Penn State.

For additional information on Ukrainian course offerings at Penn State readers may contact Dr. Michael M. Naydan, Woskob Family Professor in Ukrainian Studies, by e-mail at mmn3@psu.edu or by phone, 814-865-1675.

HUSI students visit USS Wasp



BOSTON – Students from the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute attended a reception aboard the helicopter carrier USS Wasp on June 30 along with several students from Boston College and Northeastern University's Law School. The ship had just completed a mission to Lebanon, Spain, Iceland and Canada and pulled into the port of Boston to celebrate the Fourth of July before returning to its home port of Norfolk, Va. After the private reception the group of students was given a three-hour tour of the ship with senior officers, touring the hangers, hospital facilities, officers' and crew's quarters, the ready rooms and the bridge. In the photo above (from left) at the captain's chair on the bridge are: the Rev. Robert Haddad, ship's chaplain; Michael Jaskiw, Harvard Junior/HUSI, Cleveland; Amanda Califano, Northeastern University Law School; Peter T. Woloschuk; Mykhailo Pavliuk, HUSI, Chernivtsi, Chernivtsi National University; Serhiy Medynsky, HUSI, Rohatyn, Lviv National Medical University; Ensign Sean Cantwell; Alex Zucco, Boston College; Arsen Parashchak, HUSI, Chicago, De Paul University; Andrew Christo, Boston College; Yuriy Kosmyna, HUSI, Lviv, Ivan Franko National University. Below (from left) in front of the USS Wasp are: Yuri Kosmyna, Mykhailo Pavliuk, Serhiy Medynsky, Michael Jaskiw and Arsen Parashchak.



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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Awarded Fulbright for biological sciences

by Ihor Zachary

PARMA, Ohio – Dr. Michael Kalinski, professor of exercise physiology at the School of Exercise, Leisure and Sport at the College of Education, Health and Human Services of Kent State University in Ohio, has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright award in Biological Sciences for 2007-2008. Fulbright grants are made to U.S. citizens and nationals of other countries for a variety of educational activities, primarily university lecturing, advanced research and graduate study. Kent State University President Lester Lefton recognized Dr. Kalinski's achievement in his inauguration address on April 27 titled "The Relentless Pursuit of Excellence and Ideas." He noted: "Exercise science specialist Dr. Michael Kalinski will work at Asia's largest sports center. ... We will continue to encourage and support such top-flight scholarship."

Dr. Kalinski holds a B.S. in biology from Shevchenko State University in Kyiv, a B.S. in physical education from the Kyiv State Institute of Physical Culture (KIFC) and a Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from the Palladin Research Institute of Biochemistry of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. He has served as a full professor and department chair at KIFC for 19 years, from 1972 until 1990. He has published 11 books and over 65 full text journal articles, and edited three books.

As an expert in exercise biochemistry Dr. Kalinski has been recognized in the U.S. and in Europe. In Ukraine he recently co-authored two textbooks, "Human Biochemistry" and "Medical Biology." In the U.S. a book by Dr. Kalinski was recently published by the leading publisher in the field of sport science.

He has presented his research at the annual meetings of American College of Sport Medicine (ACSM) and has made numerous keynote presentations at international scientific meetings in Europe in 2000-2006. Dr. Kalinski served as a visiting professor in Italy (University of Bologna) and Spain (Alcala de Henares University) during 2006.

A tenured professor of Kent State University (KSU), Dr. Kalinski was distinguished as an ACSM Fellow and is internationally recognized by his appointments to the advisory boards of five research journals in four countries: Journal of Sport and Leisure (Canada), The Brazilian Journal of Kinanthropometry and Human Performance

(Brazil), Medicina Sportiva (Poland), Medical Chemistry (Ukraine) and Ukrainian Biochemical Journal (Ukraine).

Recently Dr. Kalinski was applauded in Muscular Development magazine for his work exposing the secret, state-sponsored development and abuse of doping substances (anabolic steroids and blood doping) in the former Soviet Union.

The prominent American sport physiologists Dr. Professor Tom Fahey stated: "We applaud Dr. Kalinski for his courage and willingness to share his experiences and secret evidence. His unique knowledge is critical to our understanding of history."

Dr. Kalinski's stunning revelations were published in the American journal Perspectives in Biology and Medicine in 2003 and in Deutsche Zeitschrift fur Sportmedizin in 2002 and prompted numerous interviews by U.S., German, Dutch, Swiss and Russian newspapers.

Dr. Kalinski is also active in Ukrainian affairs. He is a member of Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Parma, has lectured on Chernobyl issues at the WCPN Cleveland Public Radio "Ukraine," and sponsored two professors from Ukraine to lecture at KSU and for the Ukrainian community of Greater Cleveland.

Dr. Kalinski has presented numerous papers at scientific conferences in Ukraine, such as the Ukrainian Biochemical Congress and the International Conference in Medical Biochemistry. He is a member of the Ukrainian American Association of University Professors (UAAUP) and Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) in New York.



Dr. Michael Kalinski

Completes doctor of musical arts degree

WOODBIDGE, Conn. – Victor Radoslav Markiw, who is widely known within the Ukrainian community for his brilliant piano performances, completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Connecticut during the spring of 2007.

Mr. Markiw, a resident of Woodbridge, Conn., began his piano studies at age 8 under the tutelage of his father, Bohdan. After an amazingly short period of time, he was performing Haydn's Piano Concerto in D with the Southern Connecticut Symphonic Pops Orchestra.

During his high schools years, however, Mr. Markiw drifted away from his musical studies and soon found himself starring for his high school's football and

baseball teams (captaining both teams) rather than cultivating his pianistic talents.

At age 19, he responded to the siren song of music and left the athletic field to return to his beloved piano and later received his B.M. from the Hartt School of Music in Hartford and his M.F.A. from the State University of New York at Purchase, where he studied piano with Vladimir Feltsman, Volodymyr Vynnytsky and Paul Ostrovsky.

Mr. Markiw's doctoral dissertation topic was the internationally acclaimed Ukrainian composer Myroslav Skoryk (born 1938) and is formally titled "Myroslav Skoryk: Life and Solo Piano Works." While providing insightful biographical material as well as a general overview of Mr. Skoryk's stylistic development, Mr. Markiw's dissertation also presents a chronological analysis of his solo piano works, revealing the compos-



Victor Markiw

er's compositional style, recurring stylistic hallmarks and general maturation. Additionally, the dissertation includes a detailed analysis of the composer's early representative work, the "Burlesque" (1963), focusing on the formal and harmonic practice utilized by Mr. Skoryk.

As a result of the aforementioned dissertation components, Mr. Markiw's paper reveals Mr. Skoryk's ongoing use of two disparate folk traditions: Ukrainian and American, a noteworthy and pleasing discovery for all Ukrainian Americans.

Named high school's athlete of the year

MILLBURN, N.J. – Katria Misilo was one of two students selected recently as Athletes of the Year at Millburn High School. The award was presented on June 20, the day of commencement exercises during which Ms. Misilo graduated from Millburn High.

She and Tim Arnold, who both competed in soccer and lacrosse, were voted by the graduating members of the school's Varsity Club to receive the honor. The two were featured in an article at the top of the front page of the sports section of The Item of Millburn and Short Hills, a local newspaper.

"Winning this award is a great honor and privilege," Ms. Misilo told The Item. "It especially means a lot to me to be selected by my peers."

Her teammates on the lacrosse squad presented Ms. Misilo with a scrapbook they prepared for her.

On the soccer team, Ms. Misilo started the season as a forward and then was moved back to defense, where, according to her coach, "she was absolutely dominant." The head coach of the girls' soccer team, Andy Sones, was quoted in The Item as saying "Throughout her time as a varsity player, Katria has been a player without any ego who came to every game and practice session ready to play, and gave 100 percent in whatever position the team needed her." He added that she is "a strong physical player, an incredible athlete and an immense presence on the field."

Ms. Misilo will continue playing soccer, her first love in sports, at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J., where she will be majoring in business technology.

She is active in Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, having attained the highest rank in "yunatstvo," that of "Plastunka Virlytsia," or Eagle Scout.

This dissertation is the first scholarly English-language document on Mr. Skoryk, one of Ukraine's foremost composers, and, arguably, the most extensive and detailed analytical document ever written about this gifted artist. Mr. Skoryk's significant personal insights, gathered by Mr. Markiw via numerous interviews with the composer and incorporated into the dissertation, further enrich understanding of this unique individual.

In addition to writing a masterful dissertation on Mr. Skoryk, Mr. Markiw has presented several recitals dedicated to his music, including both solo and chamber works. Plans currently in progress include concerts of Skoryk's works, a recording project beginning in winter 2008, lectures and lecture recitals on the solo piano music of Skoryk, and articles on the composer's music.

Mr. Markiw has served on the faculties of the University of Connecticut and the University of New Haven, where he is currently a full-time professor in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. As artistic director for the University of New Haven's "Concerts for All Ages" series, he is responsible for selecting artists as well as participating as a pianist in the musically diverse presentations. Outside the academic sphere, Mr. Markiw has performed nationally and internationally, and on television and radio.

She also serves as a Plast counselor both during the school year with the Newark Plast branch and at summer camps. She is a graduate of the Lesia Ukrainka School of Ukrainian Studies in Morris County, N.J., where she completed her "matura."

She is the daughter of Roksolana and Stephen Misilo of Short Hills, N.J. The Misilos are members of the Ukrainian National Association.



Katria Misilo in action during a soccer match.

"Notes on People" is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian community. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person's UNA branch number (if applicable). Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt.



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UCCA New York to sponsor youth art contest

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America New York Branch, the United Ukrainian American Organizations of New York, is launching a new project for to commemorate the upcoming 75th anniversary of Ukraine's Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933: a national art contest for Ukrainian children and students.

In an effort to educate the youth of the Ukrainian community about the 1932-1933 Ukrainian Genocide, the UCCA New York Branch will conduct an art contest to provide students of various ages with a unique opportunity to

express, through their eyes, a personal perspective and understanding of this tragic chapter in Ukraine's history.

Different themes will be assigned for each age group to ensure that the content is age-appropriate. A wide range of artistic styles in order to allow contestants to express themselves.

A carefully selected panel of judges and experts will critique the contest submissions, and winning projects will be selected. All contestants will have the opportunity to exhibit their work at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City. The UCCA New York Branch will host an opening

reception for the contest participants and their families to allow everyone to see the youth's artwork on display.

Further details of the art contest will be made available in September.

The New York Branch also recently launched commemorative wristbands to raise funds for the building of the Famine-Genocide monument in Washington.

For more information about the United Ukrainian American Organizations of New York, or to inquire about the art contest, readers may contact the president of the UCCA New York Branch, Ivanka Zajac at uccany@ucca.org.

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Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

the Orange camp."

"I can firmly assure you that there is a political force in Ukraine that will take on the responsibility for realizing the principles expounded during all our wonderful events during the presidential campaign," she said. "I want you to have the opportunity to rely on us."

During her comments, Ms. Tymoshenko declared herself the leader of the opposition force in Parliament.

Drawing the ire of Mr. Yushchenko, an argumentative exchange took place between the president and Ms. Tymoshenko, and it was broadcast on live television.

"It's empty politics to beat your chest and speak about love and patriotism for Ukraine and do nothing towards that," Mr. Yushchenko added, commenting on Ms. Tymoshenko's lack of involvement in drafting the declaration.

Ms. Tymoshenko went on to highlight the reasoning behind her opposition to the declaration, citing the rephrasing of the language point from the "single official Ukrainian language" found in the original draft to a compromise that Russian could be used in nebulous "vital needs" situations.

Other points of concern included the NATO membership issue becoming not a priority of the Parliament, but one that the people would decide by national ref-

erendum. The declaration also had a clause that called for Ukraine's integration into the Russia-centered Single Economic Space, rather than urging that the government make strides toward membership in the European Union.

"Unfortunately, the last days have shown that political betrayal is a contagious disease which spreads very quickly from one politician to the next," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "It's unknown exactly how it spreads, but it affects men exclusively. Women don't suffer from this disease."

According to Ivan Lozowy, president of the Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, appointing Mr. Yanukovich as prime minister would enable the Donetsk clan, led by National Deputy Rynat Akhmetov, to control the Ukrainian government, just as they have control over the Donbas region. This will reverse the political gains made by the Orange Revolution, he added.

Fear of Mr. Yanukovich and the Donetsk clan was the fuel that united the people to drive the Orange Revolution, Mr. Lozowy said. "Mr. Yushchenko has canceled out the Orange Revolution to a large extent, and it's sad that he doesn't show any sign of understanding this."

He added, "Yushchenko has committed political suicide by appointing Yanukovich."

Source: "Yushchenko agrees to Yanukovich as prime minister," by Zenon Zawada, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, August 6, 2006.

Foreign Affairs...

(Continued from page 6)

direct question: why have you reacted this way?

No, first of all he has worked through his staff and through the [Russian] Embassy press office, rather than directly. Now, I sent a final e-mail before the withdrawal, saying frankly, "Look, just please, you pick out the wording and it can be very bland if that's a problem, but we are baffled as to why this is creating such an obstacle." And I meant for that to be transmitted to him, but I haven't heard from him personally, no.

In its statement, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Lavrov's essay was meant to be a counterpoint to an essay you published in your April/May issue, by the pro-Western Ukrainian politician Yulia Tymoshenko. Her piece was titled "Containing Russia" and accused Moscow of going back to the days of Soviet expansionism and urged the United States and Europe to respond strongly. Now that Mr. Lavrov's piece has been pulled from your next issue, will you run another article like his?

First, of all that [the fact that Lavrov's essay was a counterpoint to

Tymoshenko] may be the case, but when he asked if we would be interested in the piece, and all during the editing process, he never mentioned the Tymoshenko essay. So his reference to it in his post-withdrawal comments was the first we'd ever heard of it.

Really? So it wasn't commissioned, and he didn't pitch it, as an answer to her piece?

No, I have the original e-mails from his office and they make no reference to it, I have follow-up e-mails through the Russian Embassy and no mention of it whatsoever, [and there's] no mention in the text of his copy.

Any chance Mr. Lavrov's piece might be resurrected and eventually run in Foreign Affairs?

No. It's now out on a number of weblinks and I think that's sufficient and, besides, we can't run it in the magazine, since he didn't ultimately approve it, the copyright remains with him. I also think that would be of no service at this point, as I say, the information in the article is out there for people who are interested. And frankly, I think this unfortunate incident – which reflects something beyond the editing and presentation processes of the magazine – should just be closed at this point.

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Ukrainian Festival to be held Labor Day weekend in San Diego

SAN DIEGO – House of Ukraine Inc., located in Balboa Park, will sponsor its annual Ukrainian Festival during Labor Day weekend, Friday through Sunday, August 31-September 2.

The House of Ukraine is one of 32 nationalities that make up the House of Pacific Relations in Balboa Park. The Ukrainian "khatka" (cottage) has been the focus of the San Diego Ukrainian community since its inception in 1961; the cottage is open to visitors and tourists every Sunday afternoon and serves as an information center about Ukraine and Ukrainians.

The annual festival has brought together Ukrainians and their friends from across the U.S. and western Canada for the past 32 years. Festivities start on Friday with a poolside welcome get-together with festival guest performers from Calgary, Alberta.

The Saturday night concert features the professionally trained dancers of Suzirya Ukrainian Dance Theater and the

Korinnya Ukrainian Folk Ensemble performing folk songs accompanied by traditional instruments. The concert will be start at 7 p.m. at the Kroc Performing Arts Center, 6845 University Ave., San Diego.

Suzirya returns on Sunday to the House of Pacific Relations International Cottages Lawn Stage, located in front of the House of Ukraine in Balboa Park, for a short program of Ukrainian entertainment at 2-3 p.m.

Festivities conclude on Sunday night with a dinner and "zabava" (dance) at 6 p.m. at the Handlery Hotel & Resort in Hotel Circle. This year's dance showcases the Millennia Ukrainian Musical Ensemble from Edmonton Canada who will play traditional and contemporary Ukrainian dance music.

To place an ad in the Saturday night program book, for tickets and information on the House of Ukraine's festival readers may call 619-460-5733, e-mail housandiego@aol.com or visit www.houseofukraine.com.



The Suzirya Dance Theater of Calgary, Alberta.

The Tremont Walk for Chernobyl to benefit programs of CCRDF

by Matthew Zappernick

CLEVELAND – On April 26, 1986, Ukraine and the Earth endured the worst nuclear disaster in history, a disaster which released radioactive fallout many times that of the Hiroshima atomic bomb. More than two decades have passed, and the effects of this disaster have grown at an increased rate.

In fact, hundreds of thousands of people, mostly children, are still suffering from physical and psychological disorders. The U.S. National Academy of Science says the highest incidence of cancer is expected to occur over the next five to 10 years. Therefore, we have yet to determine the overall impact of this disaster is yet to be determined.

The Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, established in 1989, has made over 30 airlifts of food and medical supplies to the area since its inception (www.childrenofchernobyl.org)

The United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio (UZO), www.clevelanduzo.org, has created The Tremont Walk for Chernobyl organization to raise money for the affected children. Funds raised from walker pledges and sponsorships will be donated to the Children of

Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund after expenses of the walk are covered.

This five-kilometer walk will take place on the morning of Saturday, September 29, in Tremont, Ohio, a historic district in the Cleveland area where earlier Ukrainian immigrants had settled and established a Ukrainian community hub.

The walk will commence with a short commemorative church service. All persons, whether or not participating in the walk, are invited to attend this service and view the Chernobyl exhibit at the nearby Ukrainian Museum-Archives adjacent to Lincoln Park in Tremont.

The Tremont Walk for Chernobyl Committee is appealing to the Ukrainian community at large and business entities for financial support, and invites all interested persons to participate. Further details regarding the event, sponsorship, and registration can be obtained from the event's website, www.tremontwalkforchernobyl.org. Online registration and donations are also available.

Questions regarding the walk and donations can also be directed to Matthew Zappernick, chairman of the committee, Zapps@cox.net.

Toxic spill...

(Continued from page 2)

true scale.

It did not escape media attention that Mr. Kuzmuk radically changed the tone of his statements after initially comparing the phosphorus spill to Chernobyl early on July 17. In the afternoon, he announced, "People can breathe safely and confidently in the area, drink water from their wells and harvest their crops," as "the environment in the area is no longer polluted." Newspapers carried a photo of a stern-faced Mr. Kuzmuk eating a cucumber from a local garden.

The Environment Ministry, however, said on July 18 that the phosphorus concentration in the air of at least two nearby villages was 22 times higher than normal. Meteorologists from neighboring Belarus told Segodnya on July 19 that a cloud of toxic fumes was moving toward central Ukraine. The Ukrainian authorities, however, said that no toxic cloud existed and warned against spreading panic.

As more people turned to the hospitals for help, the Health Ministry's press

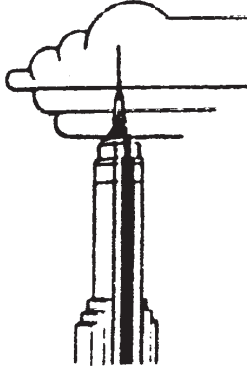
service said that many of these patients actually were suffering from psychological problems, not poisoning. This is not surprising. Ukrainians remember how the Soviet authorities tried to minimize the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, and the need for psychological assistance in the wake of disasters is often ignored in the post-Soviet space.

The investigation into the accident is far from complete, but the opposition Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc fingered the culprit as early as July 17. Members said Transportation Minister Mr. Rudkovskiy was responsible for the derailment and urged his dismissal. Another opposition group, the Ukrainian People's Party, demanded the immediate dismissal of Rudkovskiy and Emergencies Minister Nestor Shufrych.

President Yushchenko also urged Mr. Rudkovskiy's dismissal, and he accused the government of trying to conceal the consequences of the disaster. Mr. Yushchenko waited until July 20 to cut short his summer vacation in the Crimea and paid a brief visit to Lviv region. By then, 184 people had been hospitalized, including several TV journalists who had covered the disaster, firemen and more than 50 children. Speaking in Lviv, Mr. Yushchenko said that he would ask Polish experts for help.

In the meantime, more accidents have been reported on Ukrainian roads. On July 19 a bus crashed in Crimea, killing six people and wounding 46. The bus reportedly was too old to carry passengers safely. On July 21 a rail tank with chlorine derailed in the Kharkiv region, but fortunately there were no casualties. It seems as if dark clouds are gathering over the unlucky Minister Rudkovskiy.

Sources: Interfax-Ukraine, July 17, 18; UNIAN, July 17-20; ITAR-TASS, July 19; Segodnya, July 20; Channel 5, ICTV, July 17-21; Ukrayinska Pravda, July 21.



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OUT AND ABOUT

August 9
Cambridge, MA

Lecture by Mykola Ryabchuk, "Pluralism by Default: Institutional Crisis in Contemporary Ukraine," Harvard University, 617-495-4053

Association, Long Creek Golf Club, 306-537-3500

August 10
Cambridge, MA

Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute closing events evening, featuring presentations and plays by students, Harvard University, 617-495-4053

August 17-19
Lehigh, PA

Ukrainian Festival, Ukrainian Homestead, 215-235-3709 or 610-377-4621

August 10-12
Huntington, OH

Quads volleyball tournament, Ukrainian American Youth Association resort "Khortytsya," 440-476-6714 or bycko@yama.clearlight.com

August 19
Horsham, PA

Ukrainian Folk Festival, Ukrainian American Sports Center - Tryzub, 215-343-5412

August 11
Niagara Falls, ON

Golf Tournament, Ukrainian Golf Association of Canada, John Daly Thundering Waters Golf Club, 877-833-3259

August 11
Jewett, NY

Ihor Sonevtsky memorial concert, The Grazhda - Music and Art Center of Greene County, 518-263-4619

August 15-18
New York

"Ancestral Voices," directed by Nadia Tarnawsky and choreographed by Natalie Kapeluck and Mark Tomasic, Linhart Theater at 440 Studios, 216-269-7228

August 16
Hanover, NJ

Ukrainian Independence Day proclamation, Hanover Township Municipal Building, 973-887-0778

August 16-19
Rochester, NY

Ukrainian Festival, St. Josephat Ukrainian Catholic Church, 585-467-6457

August 17
Avonlea, SK

10th annual Ukrainian Open Golf Tournament, Regina Ukrainian Canadian Professionals and Businesspersons



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MCUA www.rufcu.org 1 877 968 7828

SAVE THE DATES!



The Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation invite you to the following benefit events for the Ukrainian Catholic University:

Sunday, November 4, 2007: **Ukrainian National Home**
140 Second Ave., New York, NY


Sunday, November 11, 2007: **Ukrainian Cultural Center**
2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL

Saturday, November 17, 2007: **Ukrainian American Cultural Center**
60C N. Jefferson Rd., Whippany, NJ

Sunday, November 18, 2007: (In conjunction with the celebration of St. Michael's Day)
Ukrainian Youth Center
301 Palisade Ave., Yonkers, NY

Sunday, November 25, 2007: **Edmonton, Canada**

Sunday, December 2, 2007: **St. Josephat's Banquet Centre**
26440 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI



For more information, please contact Nell at (773) 235-8462 or nell@ucef.org

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

MONDAYS, June 25-August 27, 2007

Steak Night with Soyuzivka House band on the Veselka Patio

WEDNESDAYS, June 27-August 29, 2007

Hutsul Night with Soyuzivka House band on the Vorokhta Lawn

FRIDAYS, June 29-August 31, 2007

Odesa Seafood Night with Soyuzivka House band on the Veselka Patio

SATURDAYS, June 30-September 1, 2007

Ukrainian zabavas (dances) featuring a live Ukrainian band

August 5-18

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky
Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp
Session #2

August 10-12

Miss Soyuzivka Weekend

August 11

Miss Soyuzivka 2008 Contest,
Zabava featuring 'Tempo' 9:30 pm

August 11-18

Club Suzie Q week

August 18

Art Exhibit featuring Kozak
Family paintings, prints and
various artwork, Roma Pryma
Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance
Camp Session #1 Recital,
Zabava featuring 'Fata
Morgana,' 9:30 pm

August 19-23

Discount Days, 25% off all roomrates

August 24

Joseph's Dance Studio Polish
Ballroom Dance Camp Recital

Labor Day Weekend Festivities:

August 31 - Zabava featuring 'Na
Zdorovya,' 9:30 pm

September 1 - Zabava featuring
'Hrim,' 9:30 pm

September 2 - Zabava featuring
'Luna,' 9:30 pm

September 6-9

Reunion - Salzburg Gymnasium

September 10-12

Reunions - Regensburg,
Bertesgaden, Karlsfeld and
Landshut Gymnasiums

September 14-16

UNA General Assembly Meeting
and Bayreuth Gymnasium
Reunion

September 21-23

KLK Weekend - General Meeting
and Banquet

September 25-27

Stamford Clergy Days - Fall Seminar

September 28-30

Plast Sorority - Pershi Stezhi Rada



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, August 9

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute will host a lecture given by Mykola Ryabchuk, research associate at the Ukrainian Center for Cultural Studies in Kyiv and at the University of Alberta. His lecture, "Pluralism by Default: Institutional Crisis in Contemporary Ukraine," will be held in Room S-050 of CGIS Building South at 7-9 p.m. The South Building of the Center for Government and International Studies (CGIS) is located at 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information contact HURI at 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Saturday, August 11

JEWETT, N.Y.: A concert in memory of composer and founder of the Music and Art Center of Greene County Ihor Sonevsky will be performed by Oksana Krovytzka, soprano; Yuri Kharenko, violin; Natalia Khoma, cello; Myroslav Skoryk, piano; and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano. The program will include compositions by Sonevsky and Skoryk. A piano trio by Skoryk dedicated to the memory of Dr. Sonevsky will have its world premiere at this special Music at the Grazhda event. The concert begins at 8 p.m., and admission is \$15 (\$12 for members and seniors, and free for students). For information about performances and the annual art exhibit, and for updates and travel directions, consult the Grazhda website, www.grazhdamusicandart.org, or call 518-989-6479.

Saturday-Sunday, August 18-19

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Illinois Division, presents Ukrainian Festival 2007 at Chicago's Smith Park, 2500 W. Grand Ave. (corner of North Campbell Street) at noon-10 p.m. both days. This is the largest Ukrainian festival in the Midwest; festivities include Ukrainian food, crafts, music, dancing and much more. Pony rides and children's attractions add to the entertainment for the whole family. There will be appearances by performers from Ukraine as well as local talent; dance groups will perform on Sunday afternoon. The cele-

bration of Ukraine's Independence Day will begin on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. For more information contact Pavlo T. Bandriwsky, 773-772-4500.

Sunday, August 19

HORSHAM, Pa.: The 16th annual Ukrainian Folk Festival, celebrating Ukraine's Independence Day, will be held at the Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub (www.tryzub.org), County Line and Lower State roads. The stage show will begin at 1:30 p.m.; headliners are the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (Philadelphia); the Ukrayynski Barvy Orchestra (Kyiv); the Bandurna Rozmova duo of Oleh Sozansky and Taras Lazurkevich (Lviv); and the Svitanya Eastern European Women's Vocal Ensemble (Philadelphia). A dance (zabava) will follow the stage show, at 4:30-9 p.m. with music, from polkas to rock 'n roll, provided by Ukrayynski Barvy. The center's Majors Division Ukrainian Nationals will play an exhibition soccer match against a select opponent. Delicious Ukrainian foods (varenyky, holubtsi, kovbasa), picnic fare, baked goods and cool refreshments will be plentiful. An arts and crafts bazaar and a children's fun area will be open all day. Admission: \$10; children under 13, free; free parking. For further information call 215-343-5412. Proceeds benefit cultural programming and youth soccer.

Friday, August 24

WILDWOOD CREST, N.J.: The Khmelnychenky Plast fraternity is sponsoring an all-ages dance at the Wildwood Crest Pier Recreation Center, across the street from the Pan Am Hotel. Doors open at 7 p.m. with dance music at 7-8 p.m. The "Party Ptashat" kids' dance will be held at 8-9:30 p.m., followed by the teen "Vechirka" beginning at 10 p.m. Live music will be provided by Luna from 8 p.m. to midnight. Teens, bring your iPods! Uke Tube will be there. Admission: kids and students, \$5; adults age 23 and over, \$10. A portion of the proceeds goes toward Plast camps. Donations will be accepted. For information and suggestions contact Adrian Horodecky, adrian@telligys.com, or log on to www.xml.org.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

Listings of no more than 100 words (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent a week prior to desired date of publication to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail preview@ukrweekly.com.

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Notice of Shareholders' Meeting

A general meeting of all shareholders will be held on Sunday, September 30, 2007, at 2 p.m. in the hall at St. Andrew's Center, Easton Ave., South Bound Brook, N.J. Election of officers and future operations of corporation will be decided. All shareholders must pre-register with attorney Peter Piddoubny by August 31, 2007.

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Anton Filimonchuk, President
Oleksij Shevchenko, Secretary