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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Ukrainian Orthodox Church breaks ground for Historical-Educational Complex in N.J.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – The official ground breaking for the proposed Historical and Educational Complex of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. took place here as nearly 100 participants witnessed the occasion on the church grounds adjacent to the Consistory building.

The complex is a multi-purpose facility that will provide space for ongoing education and awareness of the history of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, as well as museum space for over 8,000 invaluable religious and cultural artifacts.

Equally important, there will be a permanent memorial and exhibit dedicated to the Ukraine Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, and space for the recognition of Ukrainian American members of the U.S. armed forces.

The complex's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Archive and Research Center and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Library and Ukrainian Cultural Center will facilitate education and research by clergy and seminarians. The

Visiting Art Exhibit Hall will provide space for traveling art exhibits.

The complex is designed to be an invaluable educational tool and research center for all members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the general public.

Archbishop Antony, president of the Consistory of the UOC-U.S.A., opened the groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, August 6, with a prayer.

The archbishop said: "Today is a significant day in the life of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. After many years of thoughtful planning, we gather here today to break ground for the Ukrainian Educational and Historical Complex. ... a treasury from which the children of this and coming generations can be nurtured at the well-spring of knowledge."

Nadia Mirchuk, president of the United Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhoods of the U.S.A., greeted the gathering with the good news that her organization had already raised \$250,000 and that it will

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## Soyuzivka draws global audience during Labor Day weekend



Yarema Belej

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Travelers from Germany, France, Ireland and Australia (seen above), who participated in Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's International Jamboree held in Canada, took in the must-see spots throughout the Northeast, including New York City, Philadelphia, Wildwood, N.J., and, of course, the Soyuzivka Heritage Center nestled in the Shawangunk Mountains of upstate New York. For the full story on the fun-filled Labor Day weekend at the estate owned by the Ukrainian National Association, see the centerfold on pages 12-13.

## Ukraine bids farewell to Vasyl Kuk, last commander-in-chief of the UPA



Illya M. Labunka

The funeral procession exits St. George Cathedral in Lviv en route to Gen. Vasyl Kuk's native village and final burial place in Krasne, Lviv Oblast.

by Illya M. Labunka

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

LVIV – "His army kept the enemy at bay throughout entire regions, where no German or Soviet dared to take a step," said retired Lt. Cmdr. Yevhen Lupakov, who commanded 42 submarines in the Soviet Black Sea Fleet.

Lt. Cmdr. Lupakov became acquainted with Brig. Gen. Vasyl Kuk and his contributions to Ukrainian statehood only when the Soviet Union fell. "He was the last commander of this great army, but unfortunately I personally realized all of this much too late in my life," he said.

Lt. Cmdr. Lupakov was among thousands of mourners from all walks of life who attended church ceremonies in Kyiv and Lviv honoring the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) Commander-in-Chief Vasyl Kuk, who died at the age of 94 in his Kyiv apartment on September 9.

Embodying the spirit and resilience of the decades-long Ukrainian struggle for liberation, Brig. Gen. Kuk witnessed almost an entire century of Ukraine's tragic 20th century history, including the rise and fall of the Polish, Nazi and Soviet occupations.

He is best known for taking command of the UPA in 1950, when the Soviets had already conquered western Ukraine, and leading the army in the underground until Red Army troops captured him in 1954.

Hundreds of mourners attended a September 10 public viewing at the Teacher's Building, followed by a panakhyda (requiem service) at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral (Kyiv Patriarchate) in Kyiv.

The next day, more than 5,000 Lviv residents prayed at a memorial liturgy held at St. George Ukrainian Catholic

Cathedral, after which an official military escort transferred the UPA commander's remains to village of Krasne, Gen. Kuk's birthplace, for a Ukrainian Catholic burial.

Following Ukraine's independence, many political, civic and military leaders met and interacted with Gen. Kuk, right until the end of his life.

During these years, Gen. Kuk led an active life dedicated to telling the truth about the UPA to a Ukrainian public brainwashed by decades of Communist propaganda into thinking its soldiers fought in cooperation with the Nazis against the people of the USSR.

Gen. Kuk often appeared on television talk shows, gave radio interviews, delivered patriotic speeches on historic state holidays and UPA-related anniversaries, actively participated in conferences and visited universities to engage students.

"He knew UPA recognition will eventually happen and he understood that to a great extent this depends on how well-informed and enlightened the population will be, and how well the people will accept the truth," said Mykola Zhulynskyi, chair of the National Council on Culture and Spirituality.

"Although today is a solemn day, I truly believe that the day will come when Ukraine will finally honor the memory of the UPA soldiers in a dignified manner, because the UPA was an unbroken and invincible fantastically patriotic army," Dr. Zhulynskyi added.

As a result of his zealous activism and astute political awareness, combined with his humble demeanor, Gen. Kuk was revered and held in high regard by both those who knew him well, and those who were not personally acquainted with the

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## ANALYSIS

## Will Ukrainian constitutional change be synchronized with elections?

by **Pavel Korduban**  
*Eurasia Daily Monitor*

Ukraine's most popular opposition politician, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, is pushing for a referendum to change the country's Constitution. She wants the vote to be held simultaneously with the early parliamentary election on September 30. President Viktor Yushchenko also wants a referendum, but he believes it should be held later.

When the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) refused to consider the signatures of Ukrainians that the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) had collected in favor of the referendum, Ms. Tymoshenko appealed in court to overturn the CEC's ruling. She also accused Mr. Yushchenko's team of conspiring against her referendum with the Party of the Regions, which is led by her archrival, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko have been in favor of changing the Constitution ever since the 2004 presidential election that brought Mr. Yushchenko to power. They are against the constitutional amendments adopted by Parliament on December 8, 2004, that shifted the balance of powers in favor of Parliament and weakened the president. Many on the Yushchenko team believe the amendments were designed by Mr. Yushchenko's opponents and were aimed specifically against him. Mr. Yushchenko's party had to accept them in 2004 in return for an additional round of the controversial presidential election, in which Mr. Yushchenko ultimately emerged the winner.

The flaws of the amended Constitution became evident after August 2006, when Mr. Yushchenko grudgingly endorsed Parliament's choice for prime minister,

Mr. Yanukovich, his opponent in the presidential vote.

For the first time under the new Constitution, Ukraine was to be governed by a president and a prime minister from rival camps. Since then, each of the two has been interpreting weak points in the Constitution in his favor and accusing the opponent of violating the Constitution. This was one of the main causes of the political crisis in May 2007 that prompted President Yushchenko to call an early election.

Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko have decided to go further than merely reversing the 2004 constitutional reform. They want an entirely new text of the Constitution to be approved by a referendum in order to transform Ukraine from the current semi-presidential system into a presidential republic. As Ms. Tymoshenko put it in a recent interview with Silski Visti, "The president should simultaneously perform the prime minister's functions, which is the usual way in presidential republics."

Ms. Tymoshenko believes the referendum has to be held on September 30, because she wants to kill two birds with one stone. First, Ms. Tymoshenko's control over the media is very limited, but television carries reports about her referendum campaign almost every day, thereby raising the YTB's profile for the parliamentary election. Second, by telling ordinary Ukrainians that they can change the Constitution by voting in the referendum, Ms. Tymoshenko earns their sympathies, which may lead her to victory in the next presidential campaign.

A recent poll by the All-Ukrainian Sociology Service has revealed that 20 percent of Ukrainians are ready to vote for Ms. Tymoshenko in the presidential elec-

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## OSCE: Politkovskaya case requires vigorous and independent investigation

*Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe*

VIENNA – The representative on Freedom of the Media of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Miklos Haraszti, commended recent reports of progress in the cases of murdered journalists Anna Politkovskaya and Igor Domnikov, but warned that violence against journalists can end only if those ultimately responsible are identified and prosecuted without political interference.

"The welcome announcement in the Politkovskaya case was unfortunately accompanied by unsubstantiated political

allusions, and followed by news of procedural mistakes," said Mr. Haraszti. "The ensuing uncertainty underlines the need for a more vigorous and more independent investigation."

The representative was referring to Chief Prosecutor Yuri Chayka's statement on August 27 about 10 arrests in the assassination of Ms. Politkovskaya, the internationally recognized reporter for the Moscow newspaper Novaya Gazeta whose murder in October 2006 shook the Russian and international communities.

Mr. Haraszti also praised the August 20 verdict of a court in Kazan, convicting five members of a criminal gang for the murder in 2000 of Igor Domnikov, a journalist who also worked for Novaya Gazeta. The head of the criminal group and one member received life sentences, while the remaining three were sentenced to prison terms of up to 25 years.

"This encouraging conviction was the first since 2000 for the contracted murder of a journalist over his or her writing, but the prosecution failed to present the persons who ordered the killing," he said.

Mr. Haraszti added: "After many cases involving the murders of journalists, partial progress in the investigations can not calm society's worries for freedom of speech. Free scrutiny of public issues and uninhibited investigative journalism can only be secured by politically independent and professionally vigorous prosecutorial work."

## Corrections

In last week's editorial, it was reported that Socialist Party of Ukraine Faction Chair Ivan Boky made his derogatory comments about President Viktor Yushchenko on August 4. The correct date is September 4.

Due to a proofreading error, a sentence in Zenon Zawada's "Election Notebook" of September 9 was altered. The sentence should have read: The third candidate on the KUCHMA Electoral Bloc's list is Lev Myrmyskiy, who, according to investigative journalist Volodymyr Arieiev's report last year on his program "Zakryta Zona" is an Israeli citizen.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Holodomor exhibit opens in Israel

KYIV – An exhibition devoted to the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine is opening in Jerusalem, Jewish News reported. The exhibition, which is the first such event in Israel, is the part of the program of the International Charitable Fund of Oleksander Feldman, Ukrainian national deputy of the fifth convocation, president of the Association of National-Cultural Unions of Ukraine and president of the Jewish Foundation of Ukraine. The exhibited documents have been mainly found in the archives of the former KGB. The exposition was arranged by the National Institute of Memory of Ukraine, whose representatives, together with Feldman will present the exhibition in Israel. The head of the Israel-Ukraine parliamentary committee, Knesset Member Michael Nudelman, said he believes that exhibition in Jerusalem will allow thousands of Israelis to learn the truth about the Holodomor and those responsible for it. The exhibition will last for 15 days. Israel's Society of Ukrainians sent a letter of gratitude to Mr. Feldman regarding the exhibit, which is called "Never Consign to Oblivion." The exhibit consists of some 500 documentary artifacts related to Ukraine's famines of 1921-1923, 1932-1933 and 1946-1947, and contemporary works by Ukrainian artists. The aim of the exhibition is to create a chronicle of genocide against the Ukrainian people. The exhibit materials will be presented to the Israel's Holocaust museum, Yad Vashem, and the Society of Ukrainians. (Ukrinform)

### PM hopes for high voter turnout

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said at a meeting with voters in Melitopol, Zaporizhia Oblast, that high turnout in the September 30 pre-term elections will guarantee a victory for his Party of the Regions, UNIAN reported. "We have to take part in the September 30 polls to a man; we have to achieve the highest possible turnout. If we lose, that untalented team will once again come to power and ruin the country's economy," Mr.

Yanukovich said. "I believe that the working people of Ukraine will speak decisively and that September 30 will become the day of the ultimate end of the hopes [of the Orange Revolution parties]. And there will not be Orange lawlessness in the country any longer. Nor will there be the populists who are pulling the country into an abyss," he added. A poll conducted jointly by the Yaremenko Institute of Social Studies and the Social Monitoring Agency on September 6-9 among more than 2,000 respondents found that 88 percent of Ukrainians intend to vote on September 30. (RE/RL Newswire)

### YTB to sue for illegal Rada session

KYIV – The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc is planning to ask the Procurator General's Office to open a criminal case against Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz for "using budget funds to convene the illegal session of the Verkhovna Rada" on September 4, Ukrainian news agencies reported on September 10, quoting Yulia Tymoshenko. Meanwhile, Mr. Moroz is planning to hold another parliamentary sitting next week to discuss a draft budget for 2008, which was approved by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Cabinet of Ministers on September 11. Meeting with representatives of the Socialist International in Kyiv on September 10, Mr. Moroz warned that Ukraine is facing a threat of direct presidential rule or the installation of an authoritarian regime. "This is a very alarming tendency. I would like our colleagues from the Socialist International, who have influence on certain governments, to be aware of this tendency and to explain to national administrations that Ukraine is not as democratic as claimed by certain members of the presidential team," Mr. Moroz was quoted by Interfax-Ukraine as saying. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### PM poised to stay for five years

KYIV – Prime Minister Yanukovich told journalists in Kyiv on September 10 that he wants to stay in his job for five

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### ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

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



## ELECTION NOTEBOOK: Yanukovich expects to remain in office for five years

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich told a September 10 press conference he expects to remain in his post after the elections because the Party of the Regions will form the coalition government again.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense bloc aren’t capable of reviving an Orange coalition, he said. “Let me remind you that President (Viktor) Yushchenko dismissed Yulia Tymoshenko from the prime minister post for incompetence and corruption,” Mr. Yanukovich said.

“That’s why the question of whether voters believe the Orange forces can work together has an exclusively rhetorical character.”

The Party of the Regions is ready to hold coalition-forming negotiations with all the qualifying political forces, but only on a constructive and pragmatic basis to improve the lives of people and the nation’s future, “not the ambitions of individual leaders,” Mr. Yanukovich said.

The party will also do everything to ensure the coalition is formed quickly, he said, and any attempts to drag out the negotiations can be interpreted as a betrayal of national interests.

Mr. Yanukovich said he hopes the next coalition will be in place until the 2011 parliamentary elections. “Undoubtedly, I have a great desire to work as Ukraine’s prime minister not less than five years, in order to implement those plans that exist,” he said.

Virtually all polls expect the Party of the Regions will win the most votes in the September 30 elections. Projections of its vote share range anywhere between 26 percent and 38 percent.

The Party of the Regions won 32 percent of votes in the March 26 parliamentary elections last year.

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Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous political bloc, pledged she will attempt to return the \$24.4 billion in savings lost by Ukrainians during the devastating hyperinflation between 1991 and 1995.

“We understand that this is almost a sensational commitment, but we are undertaking it because, during the last six months, our team conducted analyses and calculations of all the country’s possibilities: sources, where resources can be taken to renew justice for those depositors who lost their savings in Oschadbank,” Ms. Tymoshenko said during a September 8 campaign visit to Kherson pensioners.

The commitment is based on solid economic and financial calculations, she said, which won’t allow for inflation.

“In our country, a government debt before a corporation is somehow considered holy, but not to the people,” Ms. Tymoshenko said.

The former prime minister delivered other sensational promises in Kherson.

Pensioners will receive monthly payments equal to their average wage earned before retiring, “which is a matter of the state’s dignity and honor,” she said.

The Tymoshenko Bloc wants to introduce a mechanism to allow an individual’s pension to accumulate in a personal account, with unused funds up for inheritance.

It’s unacceptable for the government to pay pensions at 40 percent a worker’s average wage, Ms. Tymoshenko said, adding that some Europeans are able to vacation and travel on their pensions.

“It’s not understandable why a person should live three or four times worse than when she worked,” she said.

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KYIV – Two Communist parties are among the 20 political forces competing for the Ukrainian Parliament in the September 30 elections – the Communist Party of Ukraine led by Petro Symonenko and the Communist Party of Ukraine Renewed led by Mykhailo Savenko.

The lesser-known Communist Party Renewed received the first position on the election ballot, resulting from a random selection process conducted by the Central Election Commission on September 3, said Oleksander Chernenko, a spokesman for the Committee of Voters of Ukraine.

The established Communist Party received 13th place on voter ballots.

Political experts widely acknowledge the Communist Party of Ukraine Renewed is a political technology project intended to draw votes away from the real Communist Party in hopes that it won’t achieve the 3 percent of votes necessary to qualify for Parliament.

Several dozen Kyiv college students attended its August 18 congress, indicating the party had significant enough financing to hire them.

Political observers aren’t sure who is funding the decoy Communist party.

In last year’s election, mega-millionaire Vasyl Khmelnytskyi, then allied with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, launched the decoy and provided the financing, said Volodymyr Fesenko, board chairman of the Penta Center for Applied Political Research, which is contracted by major Ukrainian political parties, as well as the Presidential Secretariat.

Mr. Khmelnytskyi is now a candidate with the Party of the Regions, Mr. Fesenko said, but he doesn’t know who is currently financing the Communists Renewed.

In the view of Mykhailo Pohrebynskyi, a Kyiv political insider who advised former President Leonid Kuchma, the decoy party is most likely being financed from within the Presidential Secretariat, but he doesn’t rule out the Party of the Regions as a source.

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Kyiv’s leading environmental activist group is opposing the Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense bloc in the elections after it gave former Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko 13th place on its electoral list.

Mr. Omelchenko was a central figure in the corrupt, authoritarian regime of former President Leonid Kuchma, responsible for distributing many of Kyiv’s parks and open spaces to real estate developers under opaque conditions, said Vitalii Cherniakhovskiy, the main coordinator of the coordinating council of the Forum to Save Kyiv citizen’s campaign.

“No one from Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense will give me a clear answer as to why Mr. Omelchenko is 13th on its list,” he said. “That’s the same Omelchenko who turned Ukraine’s capital into a test site for construction terror.”

The Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense electoral list is full of other builders and developers ruining Kyiv’s open spaces, the Forum alleged (see <http://www.forumspaskiev.org.ua>).

Among them are Volodymyr Poliachenko (32nd place), the president of KyivMiskBud and “main destroyer of green zones and playgrounds,” the forum stated.

People’s Rukh of Ukraine Assistant

Chair Viacheslav Koval is filling Kyiv’s Nebrezh lake for construction by his company, Kontaktbudservis.

“Who will this ‘Self-Defense’ defend?” Mr. Cherniakhovskiy said. “Truly not us, but the interests of their families, ‘kymu’ (parents of godchildren), and ‘liubi druzi’ (beloved friends). They are further building their own, but not ‘our Ukraine.’”

Oleksander Chornovolenko (70th place) owns a wide network of billboards that advertise alcohol and tobacco, also a major concern for Kyiv’s environmentalists.

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More than 100 volunteers have submitted applications with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) to serve as observers for the September 30 parliamentary elections, said Viktoriya Hubska, the Kyiv bureau director.

The UCCA fielded 208 election observers for the March 2006 parliamentary elections, and less volunteered this year because of the unexpected nature of the pre-term elections, she said.

“People couldn’t prepare ahead of time, which they typically do,” Ms. Hubska said. “We had a very short term to work with. Students are studying and people are working.”

## Russia not cooperating in probe into Yushchenko’s dioxin poisoning

RFE/RL Newsline

KYIV – In an interview published in The Times of London on September 11, President Viktor Yushchenko said Russia is refusing to cooperate with the investigation into the plot to poison him with dioxin during the presidential election campaign in 2004.

Mr. Yushchenko said Russia is the only country that has refused to provide Ukrainian investigators with samples of dioxin produced in its laboratories for analysis.

He also revealed that the investigation into his poisoning is almost complete.

“The investigation knows who, when, where, which substance was used. There are three key people who are now in Russia. Ukraine has filed a request with the Russian Procurator General’s Office about returning these people to Ukraine for the investigation. I personally talked to the Russian president about it. Unfortunately,

The UCCA Kyiv bureau is now temporarily located at 2 Independence Square, Room 439, also known as the Labor Union Building. The observer training session is scheduled for September 27 in Kyiv.

To help ensure the transparency and accountability of the elections, the UCCA can accept more observers, most of whom will be dispatched to eastern and southern Ukraine, where the need is greatest, Ms. Hubska said.

Anyone still interested may contact Tamara Olexy Gallo in New York for an application, which must be submitted by September 19.

As of September 11, 786 foreign observers have been officially registered with the Central Election Commission, said Andrii Mahera, the commission’s first assistant chair.

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Three Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc campaign workers were brutally attacked in the Donetsk Oblast town of Zhdanivka on September 1, the Committee of Voters of Ukraine reported.

City Staff Chair Oleksander Sienov and campaign workers Serhii and Alina Arkhynchuk suffered wounds to their faces and bodies.

there is no response to this issue whatsoever from the Russian side,” Mr. Yushchenko was quoted as saying by The Times.

President Yushchenko told journalists in Dnipropetrovsk on September 11 that he will reveal the role of “many politicians” in his 2004 dioxin poisoning after the official investigation is complete, Interfax-Ukraine reported.

“I think you’ll be astonished to learn about the role and mission of many politicians, including Ukrainian ones, in my poisoning,” Mr. Yushchenko said.

Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin said he is surprised at the Ukrainian president’s allegations that Russia is hindering the investigation into his poisoning. He noted that he only learned from the press that Russia apparently has the ability to block the investigation.

“Why should we investigate it? Sort it out yourselves. You’re always looking for someone hindering you,” Mr. Chernomyrdin commented.

## U.S. credit union leaders in Ukraine



KYIV – Ukrainian credit union leaders from the United States were in Ukraine in mid-August to attend a meeting organized by the National Association of Savings and Credit Unions in Ukraine. Above, leaders of the Self Reliance (N.Y.) Federal Credit Union are seen following a roundtable discussion on August 21 with Viacheslav Briukhovetsky, former president of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA), and Ivan Pliusch, secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine. At the NUKMA (from left) are: Jaroslaw Oberyshyn, Orest Glut, Stefan Kaczaraj (who also is president of the Ukrainian National Association), Andrew Juzeniw, Dr. Briukhovetsky, Mr. Pliusch and Bohdan Kekish.



## Governor names Michael Koziupa to N.J. Ethnic Advisory Council

TRENTON, N.J. – Michael Koziupa of Cedar Knolls, N.J., was named by Gov. Jon S. Corzine to the Ethnic Advisory Council. The announcement was released on August 22.

Mr. Koziupa is second vice-president of the Ukrainian National Association and president of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms of Ukraine, as well as a member of the executive board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and vice-president of the UCCA's New Jersey Coordinating Council.

He is an active member of the Ukrainian American community of Morris County, serving on the board of directors of the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, and is a member of the Ukrainian American Youth Association.

Mr. Koziupa is manager of the Parsippany, N.J., branch of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union (SUAFCU), which is headquartered in Chicago. He is also on the New Jersey advisory board of SUAFCU.

Also named on August 22 to the Ethnic Advisory Council were June S. Fischer of Scotch Plains and Diane Schwartz of Colts Neck.

The 45-member Ethnic Advisory Council was established within the Department of State. The council is under the jurisdiction of Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells.

The council makes recommendations to the governor regarding issues related



Michael Koziupa

to ethnic studies and programs offered in public schools, colleges and the state universities. In addition, the council is responsible for increasing the participation of ethnic organizations in governmental affairs; providing community and social services; promoting ethnic and cultural events; developing policies affecting ethnic neighborhoods; and increasing knowledge and public awareness of ethnic history and culture.

Council members are appointed for two-year terms.

## Descendant of internee becomes honorary chair of Redress Council

OTTAWA – Following the recent death of the last known survivor of Canada's first national internment operations, Mary Manko Haskett, 98, who was only 6 years old when she and the rest of the Manko family were confined at the Spirit Lake concentration camp, in Quebec's Abitibi region, her daughter, Fran Haskett, has agreed to take on her mother's role as honorary chair of the National Redress Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Commenting on Ms. Haskett's willingness to take on this responsibility, UCCLA Chairman John B. Gregorovich said: "We have always been conscious of how important it is to take into consideration the sentiments of the descendants of those unfortunates who were interned without just cause during Canada's first national internment operations. They were forced to do heavy labor for the profit of their jailers and suffered other

state-sanctioned indignities, including the confiscation of their wealth and disenfranchisement. For several years two survivors of that unfortunate episode in Canadian history were the co-chairs of the UCCLA's National Redress Council. Now that the last known survivor has passed away, without a timely and honorable settlement having been reached, we are very pleased that Mary's daughter, Fran, has stepped up to assume this role."

Mr. Gregorovich noted that Fran Haskett has been a consistent supporter of the UCCLA's campaign for recognition, restitution and reconciliation.

"We hope this government will soon meet its legal obligation to negotiate a settlement with our community's designated representatives, as they are required to do under the terms of Bill C 331 – 'The Internment of Persons of Ukrainian Origin Recognition Act,' which received Royal Assent in November 2005," he said.

## Sister Miriam Claire Kowal elected general superior of Basilian Sisters

FOX CHASE MANOR, Pa. – Sister Miriam Claire Kowal, of the Order of St. Basil the Great (OSBM) of Fox Chase Manor was elected to the position of general superior. As general superior she will serve as the spiritual and organizational leader of the entire order. This position is based in Rome, Italy.

Sister Miriam Claire is required to personally visit and assess all locations of the order during her six-year term, covering 10 countries on four continents. Her main goals during her tenure are to increase the visibility and recognition of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great and promote education of the order's founder, St. Basil of Cappadocia (who lived circa 330 A.D.).

The Greater Jenkintown area has felt the quiet, gentle yet strong and consistent impact of Sister Miriam Claire for many years. She was one of the driving forces behind the growth of Manor College in Jenkintown, serving the college for 23 years in various capacities, her last 10 years (1976-1985) as president. In addition to being responsible for the growth of the educational departments of Manor College, Sister Miriam Claire was behind the cre-

ation and implementation of the Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center, whose purpose is to preserve, promote and perpetuate the culture and traditions of Ukraine.

She also has provided vision and structure to the Fox Chase Manor Province, serving on various provincial councils (boards of directors) and two terms as provincial superior (president/CEO). While provincial, she envisioned and laid the groundwork for changes and improvements in the infrastructure of the Fox Chase Manor property, resulting in renovations of the Motherhouse to care for retired sisters and the eventual building of the Holy Trinity Chapel, a chapel styled after 18th century Ukrainian village chapels.

In addition to her service to Manor College and the province, Sister Miriam Claire has taught at St. George School in New York City. Most recently, Sister Miriam Claire has been serving as principal of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral School in Parma, Ohio, where she was instrumental in its 2007 re-accreditation by the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association. Sister Miriam Claire is a member of the board of trustees of Manor College.

## Human Rights Committee urges reprinting of report by U.S. Commission on Ukraine Famine

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian Human Rights Committee met recently with Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) to get his support for the reprinting of materials from the hearings of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine. Committee members also held numerous discussions with officials from the Department of State and urged them to support the reprinting of the report of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine.

Activists of the Philadelphia-based committee informed both the members

Commission on the Ukraine Famine.

In 1986 the U.S. Congress mandated the formation of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, whose purpose was to conduct a study of the 1932-1933 Great Famine in order to expand the world's knowledge of the Famine and to provide the American public with a better understanding of the Soviet system by revealing the Soviet role in the Ukraine Famine.

Hundreds of survivors of the Holodomor-Famine testified before the commission. The full text of these eye-



Meeting in Washington (from left) are: Chrystia Senyk; Sen. Frank Lautenberg and Ulana Baluch Mazurkevich.

of Congress and the officials at the State Department that in the year 2008 the Ukrainian government will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Famine and that it would be a nice gesture from the U.S. government to present to the government of Ukraine the reprinted hearings of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine.

The committee further noted that the government of Ukraine is currently collecting data on the Famine. However, many of the survivors are no longer alive and the largest body of information is compiled in the official report of the U.S.

witness accounts, some in English and some in Ukrainian, were published by the U.S. government. The report also included historical scholarship on the Famine; diplomatic dispatches from consular offices; Soviet press sources on the Famine and the American response to the Famine.

The Ukrainian Human Rights Committee is urging the U.S. government to cover the costs of the reprinting of the report of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine and the distribution of the copies of this report to all institutes of higher learning in Ukraine.

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# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## Young UNA'ers



Kalyna Kulchytsky, daughter of Lev and Aretka Kulchytsky of Parma, Ohio, is a new member of UNA Branch 358. She was enrolled by her grandparents Dr. George and Daria Kulchytsky.



Anya Elizabeth and Thomas William Kotkoskie, children of Kimberly and Thomas Kotkoskie of Burnt Hills, N.Y., are new members of UNA Branch 13. They were enrolled by their grandmother Eugenia Makuch.



Roman William Rudak, son of William and Nataliya Rudak of Port Colborne, Ontario, is a new member of UNA Branch 461. He was enrolled by his parents.



Marko Yuriy Panycia, son of Chrystyna and William Panycia of Lincoln Park, N.J., is a new member of UNA Branch 5. He was enrolled by his grandmother Olga Pasternak.

**Do you have a young UNA'er,  
or potential young UNA'er in your family?**

Call the UNA Home Office, 973-292-9800, to find out how to enroll.

## Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

## UNA launches online Resource Center for Branch Secretaries and Field Agents

by **Christine E. Kozak**  
UNA National Secretary

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – As part of the Ukrainian National Association's overall strategy of "Redesigning the UNA for the 21st Century," a new online UNA Resource Center for Branch Secretaries and Field Agents has been launched.

The purpose of this password-protected, information-packed and user-friendly site is to act as a resource center and sales toolkit for any organizer, branch secretary or field agent of the UNA. The center provides materials necessary for the success of the UNA's sales force – right at their fingertips.

The Resource Center will give UNA branch secretaries and field agents the ability to download UNA brochures and flyers, utilize the UNA Rate Book Tutorial and gather information on UNA products.

It also allows them to access compliance information that may pertain to the individual states where UNA products are sold, as well as UNA company policy procedures, such as the UNA Conservation Policy for the branch secretaries or UNA Advertising Procedures for the field agent.

All General Assembly members, branch secretaries and field agents with Internet and e-mail service are encouraged to sign up to have immediate access to the UNA Resource Center.

The process is simple:

- Go to: <http://www.unamember.com>.
- Click on "UNA Staff Resource Center" on the left-hand navigation column.
- When the new page loads, you will see the Resource Center. Click on "Join this Group" on the upper right of the page, and await an e-mail with instructions.

Maya Lew, an advisor on the UNA General Assembly, will be the administrator for this site. She is available at any time to help Resource Center users get signed up or if they should encounter any problem. Ms. Lew may be reached at [mayalew123@yahoo.com](mailto:mayalew123@yahoo.com) or 703-568-4584.

The beauty of the web is that the materials on the UNA site can change and evolve as the organization does. If you need any UNA brochures, literature, tutorials or materials that you do not see on the Resource Center, please contact National Secretary Christine E. Kozak at [ckozak@unamember.com](mailto:ckozak@unamember.com). Suggestions are welcomed.

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Fund the USUF

There is troubling news coming out of Washington these days – and not just surrounding the war in Iraq. Recently we learned that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has refused to fund the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, known to our community and to Ukraine as one of the most effective non-governmental organizations helping transform Ukraine from a post-Soviet society into a democratic and transparent state governed by the rule of law.

That the Bush administration does not see the folly of this refusal is, frankly, beyond belief. The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation has an excellent track record – one that may be second to none in helping Ukraine by working with what the foundation likes to call its “democratic modernizers.” In the early 1990s, USUF was the first U.S. organization to provide hands-on technical assistance to fledgling democrats involved in local government and non-governmental institutions. Some of these democrats of newly independent Ukraine received on-the-job training in Ukraine; others were brought to the United States to learn from counterparts in this country.

The successes have been many during USUF’s 15 years of work. O.P. Popov, a “graduate” of USUF’s programs who today is Ukraine’s minister of housing and communal services, recently wrote to Rep. Nita Lowey, chair of the House Subcommittee on States, Foreign Operations and Related Programs, urging her to support funding for the foundation so that it could “continue its significant contributions not only to the development of local democracy in Ukraine, but also ... to the strengthening of relationships between our countries both at the national level and at the level of people diplomacy.”

Another beneficiary of the USUF’s programs, Tymofiy Motrenko, who heads the Main Department of the Civil Service of Ukraine and has been tasked with reforming the public administration system, also provided a very positive assessment of USUF programs. In fact, he suggested to Rep. Lowey that a new program “focused on the top 300 or so Ukrainian civil servants who will develop the mindset and skills to become the agents of change in their areas of responsibility” would “provide maximum benefits.”

Clearly, there is much more that the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation can do in the area of democratic institution-building in Ukraine. The key, of course, is more funding – not a halt in funding.

Indeed, just last year, the U.S. Senate’s Committee on Appropriations reported: “The committee is aware of the work of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, and commends the foundation for its support of democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine. The committee directs USAID to continue to support the foundation’s activities ... The committee expects funding levels to exceed those of prior years.” The counterpart committee in the House of Representatives expressed similar sentiments.

So why has USAID decided to simply refuse funding for USUF? And why are the wishes of the U.S. Congress being disregarded? Is Ukraine no longer to be considered a strategic partner of the U.S.? These are questions that must be answered, questions for which the administration must be held accountable.

We strongly support the valuable work of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and we urge the Congress to demand that its recommendations with regard to aid programs for Ukraine be followed. Furthermore, we demand that the Bush administration back up its fine words regarding U.S.-Ukraine relations and democracy-building in general with the bucks required.

Sept.  
16  
1997

### Turning the pages back...

Ten years ago, on September 16, 1997, Ukraine’s foreign affairs minister, Hennadii Udovenko, was unanimously elected to be the president of the 52nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Udovenko expressed his sentiment that it was “symbolic that a representative of a renewed democracy, which is living through a period of fundamental social, economic and political reform, has become president of the General Assembly at a time when the issue of United Nations reforms tops its agenda.”

As head of the General Assembly for a one-year term, Mr. Udovenko oversaw the daily work of six permanent assembly committees and of the assembly body composed of 185 representatives. In 1997, 160 items were on the agenda. Additionally, Mr. Udovenko remained in his post as Ukraine’s foreign affairs minister, which continued a precedent established by earlier General Assembly presidents. During his term, Mr. Udovenko addressed the expansion of the 15-member Security Council, which has five permanent members – the United States, China, Russia, France and the United Kingdom – and 10 rotating seats. Proposals to expand the council ranged from adding one more seat to adding five, but the change needed the approval of the General Assembly. Offering his optimism for a progressive term, Mr. Udovenko said, “This session of the General Assembly has all the prerequisites to become a watershed session. ... We have a chance to revitalize this universal organization ... and mark the beginning of a new era in the history” of the U.N.

The 185 member-states of the United Nations are informally divided into five regional blocs – Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe, the U.S. and Canada – and the presidency of the General Assembly is rotated annually between regional blocs in the above order. Mr. Udovenko was the sole candidate put forth by the Eastern European bloc for approval by the full General Assembly. Commenting on the election of Mr. Udovenko, Anatoli Zlenko, Ukraine’s ambassador to the United Nations, added, “This event should be considered in the same league as the signing of the NATO-Ukraine partnership charter and the Kyiv summit of Ukraine and the European Union.”

Source: “Udovenko elected president of U.N. General Assembly,” by Irene Jarosewich, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 21, 1997.

## NEWS ANALYSIS: Gazprom’s investment drive – is it feasible?

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL

WASHINGTON – The chairman of the board of Russia’s state-controlled gas monopoly Gazprom, First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, says the company plans by 2030 to invest \$420 billion in exploration and new gas-production facilities – all with the aim of ensuring Russia will have enough gas to meet its domestic and export obligations.

Mr. Medvedev told the Russian newspaper *Vedomosti* in an interview published on July 5 that joint ventures and asset swaps with foreign partners will also help Gazprom meet future demand. He named Germany’s E.ON and Britain’s BP as possible partners in future swap deals.

Baltic Sea. The estimated cost of Nord Stream is reportedly \$6 billion.

In the meantime, existing Gazprom pipelines to Europe are not operating at full capacity – the Blue Stream to Turkey is transporting only a fraction of the gas it was expected to, the Ukrainian main pipeline is underused, and the Ukrainian Energy Ministry has begged Russia to send more gas through its system to Europe.

Kyiv’s offer, however, was rejected by Valery Golubev, Gazprom’s deputy CEO, who improbably stated, “there is no demand in Europe for more Russian gas.”

Plans, meanwhile, for a pipeline from Novoposkov on the Russian-Ukrainian border to Uzhhorod on the Hungarian-Ukrainian border, designed to transport

*Western critics have long claimed that Gazprom’s investment policies are unrealistic, and that the gas monopoly has overextended itself by delving into what many believe to be “political” pipeline projects meant to promote Russian foreign policy goals and murky money-diversion schemes.*

The Gazprom board chairman rejected criticism that the company has squandered funds on secondary projects while neglecting investment in production, saying fears of a gas deficit on the domestic market are “groundless.” The only gas shortage on the horizon, he added, are “for those who want to buy it on the cheap.”

Gazprom reported in late June that its profits more than doubled in 2006, to \$24.6 billion. The climb is attributed to higher gas prices at home and for its CIS customers.

#### Gazprom’s critics

Western critics have long claimed that Gazprom’s investment policies are unrealistic, and that the gas monopoly has overextended itself by delving into what many believe to be “political” pipeline projects meant to promote Russian foreign policy goals and murky money-diversion schemes.

One particularly vocal critic of Gazprom’s corporate governance is Hermitage Capital Management, which with \$4 billion invested is Russia’s largest foreign institutional investor. In November 2006 Russian authorities banned Hermitage CEO William Browder, a U.S. citizen, from entering Russia, and accused him of constituting a “danger” to Russian national security.

Numerous analysts have pointed to Gazprom’s reliance on cheap gas imports from Central Asia to meet its rising domestic demand. Some suggest this practice will end soon, as Central Asian leaders increasingly turn toward lucrative markets in China and India, and raise gas prices to world levels accordingly.

Gazprom’s agreement with Italy’s Eni to build a second major gas pipeline under the Black Sea, known as South Stream, is expected to cost \$13.5 billion and will be owned and financed by a 50-50 joint venture between the two companies.

There has been much Russian and Italian hype over South Stream. But many energy analysts have questioned the commercial value of the project.

Gazprom is also committed to building the Nord Stream pipeline under the

an additional 16 billion cubic meters of Russian gas to Europe, remain dormant. At a cost of \$2.5 billion, it would have been a much cheaper route than South Stream, but because it would go through Ukraine, the Kremlin vetoed the route.

#### Meeting demand

Russia’s growing demand for gas has also called into question where gas from the giant Kovykta gas field will be sold now that the British-Russian venture BP-TNK was forced to sell its license to Gazprom.

Earlier, an internal Gazprom study indicated that Kovykta gas would be used solely to meet domestic demand. BP-TNK wanted to sell this gas to China, but Gazprom would not allow them to use its pipelines for this purpose.

If Kovykta gas is sold on the Russian domestic market below world market prices, it will lower Gazprom’s income projections.

Russia’s marked increase in domestic gas consumption – which jumped by 17 billion cubic meters between January 2004 and December 2005 – is a major factor haunting the Kremlin.

Gazprom’s Research Institute for the Economics of the Gas Industry, NIIGazekonomika, determined in a report in late 2005 that domestic consumption of natural gas is increasing at a faster pace than projected in Russia’s Energy Strategy, the official guidelines for the energy sector adopted in May 2003.

The new study noted that the projections of the Russian Energy Strategy are based on data from the 1980s, which the study’s authors claim are not reliable.

“Taking into account the objective results, in the future one cannot discount the growing internal demand for gas,” the NIIGazekonomika study states. “The fulfillment of any of the scenarios presented can potentially lead to an inability by Russian Federation producers to meet demand for gas in both domestic and foreign markets. This situation in turn can prevent double-digit Russian GDP growth and can disrupt gas export obligations.”

Mr. Medvedev’s hopes that Russian-

(Continued on page 8)



## NEWS AND VIEWS

**Prof. John Fizer: an appreciation**

by R.L. Chomiak

Prof. John Fizer's place in the annals of scholarship is both known and secure. He was a serious scholar, a solid member of the Ukrainian community in the United States, a true carrier of the Ukraine idea even when it wasn't fashionable or when it was dangerous. And, he had a knack for self-deprecating humor, which will be greatly missed during stolid academic gatherings.

Few know that this scholar of Oleksander Potebnia's phenomenology could exhibit rare and welcome practicality when scholars or writers needed help.

Ivan Fizer died at the end of August. I first met him nearly 50 years ago when I immigrated to the U.S. We worked on a few community projects together – in the U.S., and, lately, in Ukraine, where he had made short and extended trips since independence.

I well remember an unusual honorarium he devised back in the mid-1960s.

This was when the Ukrainian SSR delegation to the annual U.N. General Assembly session included two leading Ukrainian poets: Ivan Drach and Dmytro Pavlychko.

The Ukrainian community in America was generally wary of them. Messrs. Pavlychko and Drach, after all, represented a regime that buried Ukraine, turned it into an insignificant Russified colony and physically destroyed millions of Ukrainians, including the best and the brightest from the elite to the hard-working peasant class.

All U.N. General Assembly delegations are made up of a country's professional diplomats, as well as distinguished representatives of the non-governmental sector, from the fields of culture and academia. Messrs. Pavlychko and Drach were in the latter category. During the fall and winter months in New York they mingled formally and informally with like people from all over the world.

While Ukrainian community leaders insisted we were in a "state of war" with the Soviets, some of us didn't want to waste an opportunity to show off new Ukrainian talent like Messrs. Drach and Pavlychko to our fellow Americans.

Moscow had seen to it that opportunities to show Ukrainian talent were rare. The Soviet Ukrainian Mission to the United Nations couldn't do it even if the Moscow masters had allowed it. The Soviet Ukrainian Mission had no American cultural contacts to speak of. Russians didn't like competition then, as they don't like it now, and this was the time when what was good for the Russians was good for the USSR.

Prof. Fizer and I were members of a group that arranged forums for Messrs. Pavlychko and Drach, despite the stern looks of disapproval from other members of the Ukrainian community, who considered themselves truer and wiser patriots. It was our network that arranged the visit of Messrs. Pavlychko and Drach to American writer John Updike in Massachusetts. A year earlier Mr. Updike had visited Ukraine on a State Department cultural exchange tour and was happy to host Ukrainian colleagues once he learned from us that they were in New York.

We also organized their appearance at the University of Southern Illinois, where British translator Herbert Marshall was a faculty member and had translated their poems. Prof. Fizer also invited Messrs. Drach and Pavlychko to his Rutgers University campus and arranged for local media coverage. News stories about

Ukraine were very rare. Mass arrests of Ukrainian intellectuals at that time were not reported because, when Western journalists asked for official confirmation, they got official denials.

As Soviet diplomats the two Ukrainian poets couldn't travel more than 25 miles from Manhattan without special permission, and the Rutgers campus in New Brunswick, N.J., is more than 30 miles away. But they did get our State Department's permission to travel, and I was the designated driver.

We traveled in a rental car – because I didn't own a vehicle when I lived in Manhattan. This was the Cold War. My rental car and its license plate must have been captured several times by surveillance cameras – and not just American, either – as we drove to New Jersey on a November evening.

My wife, Martha, was with us as one of the translators of Mr. Drach's and Mr. Pavlychko's poetry. Their appearances before university audiences would have been impossible without translations, and several persons sharpened their pens to render their works on very short notice. These were great and memorable poems, very un-Soviet, produced during the Krushchevian thaw. Most of them we could recite from memory, in Ukrainian. These were the works by leaders of Ukraine's revolutionary "Sixties generation" – "Shistdesiatnyky." They were lyric and political. And foremostly – "un-Soviet."

I remember that Prof. Fizer decided not to give the Ukrainian guests their university honoraria in cash. Instead, he did something better: he ordered two portable typewriters with the Ukrainian alphabet – something much more precious for a Ukrainian writer in the USSR, where typewriters were hard to get. They were "defitsytnyi tovar" – "deficit goods." (Deficit, in Soviet terminology, meant you couldn't get any.) Also, most office typewriters in Soviet Ukraine had only Russian letters, so the letter "i," for instance, would be substituted by the numeral "1" in Ukrainian texts. The Russian alphabet has no dotted "i." Think about it – south of Kyiv, in Dnipropetrovsk at that time, Ukrainian scientists were manufacturing sophisticated rockets, but Ukraine couldn't, or wasn't allowed to, manufacture a Ukrainian typewriter.

Mr. Drach has a poem from those days: he describes a slim Soviet rocket, shaped like a needle, flying into space, while an old peasant woman on the ground cannot get a needle for darning.

Prof. Fizer's decision to present the guests with new portable typewriters was not a simple proposition. You couldn't get them off the shelf. This was decades before personal computers with dozens of alphabets in their memory. The way to get a Ukrainian typewriter in the 1960s was to buy a Russian one from a knowledgeable dealer. The dealer would resolder five or six letters before selling it.

The Russian "eh" sound could be flipped to make Ukrainian "ye." The dealer also would have a supply of the Ukrainian "yi" to replace a Russian letter not needed for Ukrainian texts. And really good dealers had a supply of the letter "g" – a letter that Stalin's linguists had determined Ukrainians didn't need, so they dropped it. The idea was to keep the Soviet-approved Ukrainian language as close as possible to Russian, and the extra Ukrainian letters in the alphabet were in the way.

(Continued on page 8)

**Faces and Places**

by Myron B. Kuropas

**Ukraine's "brain drip"**

When I first starting teaching at Northern Illinois University some years ago, I was struck by the number of students from the People's Republic of China. Some could barely speak English. A few sat in class with a Chinese/English dictionary. They were bright, hardworking and determined, however, and they made it through.

I soon learned that the Chinese government was paying for these students' education. All of those with whom I spoke planned to return to China. Why? Because their government had plans for them. Jobs. Opportunities. Is it any surprise that today China is a growing economic powerhouse?

Ukraine offers no such assistance for its best and brightest students. On the contrary, the Soviet mindset still dominates the Ministry of Education. Those few students who complete their university degrees in the United States and return to Ukraine are shunned by the education establishment. The Ministry of Education argues that education in the United States is inferior to Ukrainian education. Ministry officials sneer at American graduate degrees. A Ph.D is the equivalent of a "Kandydat Nauk" in their eyes. Whom are they kidding? In most cases, especially in the social sciences, the "Kandydat" degree is about the equivalent of a community college associate's degree – if that.

This jaundiced view of American education pervades all levels of schooling in Ukraine. Lesia and I were once involved with two teenage students from Ukraine who completed the sixth and 12th grades in DeKalb, Ill. They were forced to repeat the same grade levels when they returned to Ukraine. Fortunately, both were able to return to the United States and complete university degrees here. One now has an MBA and works for FedEx in Memphis. The other is completing his education at the University of New Mexico.

We all know about Ukraine's brain drain: bright and talented young people leaving the country to make money abroad. Millions hold menial jobs in Europe and elsewhere. But what about those who have no chance to leave? What happens to them? They, dear reader, become part of what I call Ukraine's "brain drip," the slow erosion of intellectual power because of limited prospects.

Some abandon their professions and become involved in "biznis." I have two relatives, for example – one an engineer, the other a dentist – who have done just that. They have families to support and there are few opportunities for them in their chosen professions.

While Ukraine's political leadership continues to play musical chairs in Kyiv, arguing over who is allowed to steal what and when, and our community leaders here continue to wave their fists in frustration, some Ukrainian Americans are committed to action, that is analyzing the situation, dealing with what is, and doing something about it. One such individual is Bohdan Oryshkevich, a man who receives too little recognition and support for his efforts.

Dr. Oryshkevich is the founder of USA/USA, an endeavor dedicated to identifying and assisting young talent in Ukraine. "The mission of the USA/USA Program," he writes, "is to develop an international-caliber brain trust for Ukraine. The strategy that we employ," he continues, "is helping some of the brightest students in Ukraine obtain scholarships

to leading universities in the Western world. Our methodology involves selecting students according to demanding application requirements and objective testing." The program also includes "comprehensive assistance in the college application process as well as extensive mentoring and leadership development."

Founded in 1992, USA/USA has thus far helped students win four-year financial aid packages to Berea (five), Mt. Holyoke (three), Smith (three), Grinnell (two), Lake Forest (two), Dartmouth (two), Middlebury (two), Brown (two), Harvard (two), Yale (two), MIT (two), University of Pennsylvania (two), Franklin and Marshall (two) as well as Stanford, Lafayette, Vassar and Colby.

"Given that the value of one four-year financial aid package to an elite private college is now surpassing \$180,000," writes Dr. Oryshkevich, "the potential return on sponsoring one USA/USA college applicant is almost inestimable."

Does USA/USA contribute to Ukraine's brain drain? Absolutely not, believes Dr. Oryshkevich. "A brain drain generally implies that ready-made and fully educated talent departs a country for better shores abroad," he explains. "The USA/USA Program attracts highly proficient talent whose dreams of emigrating usually antecede their knowledge of the USA/USA Program."

Dr. Oryshkevich is optimistic about the future. "Ukraine is striving to become a normal country in a world it knows relatively little about and which it interacted with even less during its Soviet era," he argues. "A network of world-class educated Ukrainians is desperately needed to provide Ukraine with expertise in virtually every facet of running a country and in attracting attention to its newfound place in the family of nations. Many academic disciplines are simply not available or advanced enough in Ukraine to develop the expertise Ukraine desperately needs."

Despite efforts by Sovietophiles in Ukraine to remain anchored to Russia, the fact of the matter is that Ukraine's future lies with the West, especially the United States. Like it or not, English is the language of the scientific, diplomatic and business worlds.

Dr. Oryshkevich reminds us that the best American colleges have set aside numerous places for international students. It is incumbent upon us to take advantage of these opportunities.

Regardless of how Ukraine's September elections turn out, USA/USA will remain in place. Stemming the brain drip will take time, but it can be ended with your help.

USA/USA needs volunteers who have direct employment experience in Ukraine as well as people who are willing to host students from Ukraine who are studying in the United States. Can we stop Ukraine's drip immediately? Of course not. But we can help slow it down by assisting in a number of ways.

Located at 80 Maiden Lane, Suite 606, New York, NY 10038, USA/USA is a program of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine (USA) Inc., a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible. For more information go to: info@ukrainianscholarships.org or call 212-785-4170.

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



## Ukrainian Orthodox...

(Continued from page 1)

continue its efforts to include an endowment fund for operating expenses of the complex/museum.

Maria Konyk, president of Protection of the Mother of God (Pokrova) Sisterhood of South Bound Brook, announced the sisterhood would fulfill its pledge of \$100,000 to the Historical and Educational Complex/Museum at the upcoming sobor.

Archbishop Antony praised this local sisterhood for its readiness over the past 50 years to assist the church with all its needs. The sisterhood has given over \$1 million to the church.

Dr. Stephen Sivulich, director of the Office of Development, offered thanks and appreciation to individuals, parishes and church organizations that have already contributed very generously.

Emil Skocypec, property manager, commented on the construction phase of the building, and introduced Mark Dobbs, who will serve as general construction



Consistory Members and staff before the identifying sign placed at the construction site: (from left): Dr. Stephen Sivulich, Protospesbyter Taras Chubenko, Protospesbyter Frank Estocin, Archbishop Antony, Emil Skocypec, Dr. George Krywolap and the Very Rev. Bazyl Zawierucha.

## Prof. John Fizer...

(Continued from page 7)

What Messrs. Drach and Dmytro Pavlychko received as honorarium for appearing at Prof. Fizer's university was literally something money couldn't buy – in Kyiv. But not in New York. And in making arrangements for the Rutgers visit of the two diplomats-writers, Prof. Fizer went to the trouble of ordering something very welcome and rare.

Years later, when Messrs. Drach and Pavlychko were founding Rukh, and were on the front line of pushing Ukraine to declare independence, John and I would exchange meaningful looks or

short remarks to the effect that we had put the money on the right horses, back then at the beginning of Brezhnev stagnation era.

After Ukraine's independence, when Viacheslav Briukhovetsky led the revival of the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy – a premier higher education establishment in Eastern Europe until the Russian tsars dissolved it – Prof. Fizer was in Dr. Briukhovetsky's corner: he invited him to observe the workings of American universities close up, and he headed the foundation that would support the revival and development of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. He also went to teach there and suggested guest lecturers from

among his many academic colleagues. The late American historian James Mace, who had directed the U.S. Commission on Ukraine Famine, moved to Kyiv to teach at Kyiv-Mohyla at Prof. Fizer's recommendation.

The last time I sat and talked with Prof. Fizer was in Kyiv earlier this year. He had just arrived for another stint as a distinguished American lecturer. We were in the "Two Ducklings" restaurant on the Khreschatyk. With Prof. Fizer, you could just pick up the conversation where you left off – yesterday, a month ago, or two years ago. And, as usual, it was fun to be with him talking about Ukrainian politics, newly published interesting books and candid commentaries about their authors, exchanging academic and pedestrian rumors.

"Diakuyu Ivane," for many good times. Your friends and fans salute you.

## Gazprom's...

(Continued from page 6)

Western joint ventures will help solve Gazprom's production problems is a risky gamble. Many Western companies are wary of doing business with Gazprom after seeing Russian heavy-handedness in Sakhalin-2, Kovykta and the giant Shtockman gas field, where these companies were forbidden from participating as full partners.

Senior managers of Western energy firms might well ask what, if any, guarantees exist that Gazprom's behavior will change now that it needs Western capital and technical expertise to meet its obligations?

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Administration – 3041  
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Subscriptions – 3042  
Production – 3063, 3069

manager of the complex/museum project. Mr. Dobbs said that a website would be established and maintained to report on the progress of the ongoing construction.

Victor Rosynsky, president of the Ukrainian Information Bureau Inc., addressed the gathering and presented a check in the amount of \$58,500 in memory of Patriarch Mstyslav I. Mary J. Kramarenko then presented a check in the amount of \$30,000 in memory of Patriarch Mstyslav and dedicated to the memory of her husband, Petro Kramarenko, who was co-founder and past-president of the Ukrainian Information Bureau.

Others participating in the actual groundbreaking – with shovels and hard hats – included: Protospesbyter Taras Chubenko, Consistory member; Shirley Skocypec, Senior Ukrainian Orthodox League; Kristin Ulbright, Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League; Ala Trochymchuk, treasurer, Friends of the Memorial Church Museum; and Richard Jarmel, project engineer.

The groundbreaking was followed by a buffet lunch in the UOC Cultural Center.

Information about the fund drive is available from: Dr. Stephen Sivulich, director, UOC Office of Development, 206 Christopher Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15205; telephone, 412-389-1723.

## Will Ukrainian...

(Continued from page 2)

tion in 2009. Only Mr. Yanukovich is more popular, with 29.8 percent, while Mr. Yushchenko trails with only 12.9 percent.

The YTB said that it has collected 200,000 signatures across the country in favor of a constitutional referendum on September 30. However, on August 17 the CEC refused to give the formal go-ahead to the collection of signatures. Ms. Tymoshenko appeared on TV screens accusing Mr. Yanukovich and Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine party of conspiring against the referendum, as representatives of those parties on the CEC had voted against the collection of signatures.

Mr. Yushchenko and CEC Chairman Volodymyr Shapoval, however, explained that a referendum would be legally impossible on September 30, as the law provides for three months for referendum preparation after it is formally announced. This did not stop Ms. Tymoshenko from suing the CEC on August 20.

Mr. Yushchenko has made it clear that he fully supports the idea of a referendum to approve a new Constitution. This would put an end to the troublesome constitutional reform of 2004, he told a press conference on August 20. Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yushchenko also agree that the constitutional assembly should comprise constitutional law experts, rather than politicians.

In his Independence Day address on August 24, President Yushchenko said that he would authorize the creation of a constitutional assembly in order to draft a new Constitution, which should then be approved by a referendum. Speaking during a trip to Chernihiv on August 29, Mr. Yushchenko said that the year 2008 should be devoted to changing the Constitution.

The first attempt to change the Constitution of Ukraine by a popular referendum in order to boost presidential powers, launched by former President Leonid Kuchma, failed. In the referendum of April 16, 2000, the majority of Ukrainians voted in favor of allowing the president to dissolve Parliament if it cannot form a majority, canceling deputies' immunity from prosecution and introducing a bicameral legislature. Parliament, however, did not agree to the amendments.

Sources: Channel 5, August 17; 1+1 TV, August 19; UT1, August 20, 24; Silski Visti, August 22; Interfax-Ukraine, August 29, September 3.

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# PHOTO ESSAY: Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin



Wow, are you ever tall! A stiltman performs for the younger set.

All photos in this series by Al Kachkowski.



Canada's National Riding and Dancing Kozaks, one of North America's most exciting festival features, ride toward the grandstand at Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, Manitoba, held on August 3-5.



Twirling dancers from the Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble.



Theresa Sokyrka, former Canadian Idol runner-up, performs Ukrainian numbers.



Modernistic costumes and dance by the Pavlychenko ensemble based on the traditional "Arkan."



The enthusiastic Edmonton crowd at the festival. Note the number 42 on the car, a reference to the fact that this was the 42nd Dauphin festival.



Mark Klopoushak, drummer for the TYTiTAM band.



## THE 16th ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

### Capital District, N.Y.

WATERVLIET, N.Y. – While only a single link in a much larger chain in Ukraine's worldwide diaspora, the Ukrainian community in New York state's Capital District recently came together to celebrate and observe Ukraine's 16th Independence Day here at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club.

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Capital District Chair Dr. Andriy Baran said "the goal this year was to get all community-based organizations to participate in marking the observance of Ukraine's Independence Day."

As often is the case, Ukrainian National Association members, who often wear multiple hats in their local communities, played an active role marking Ukraine's Independence Day. Mykola Fil, a member of the UNA General Assembly, together with Slavko Tysiak, chairman of the UNA Auditing Committee, joined the many other participating UNA members at the weekend holiday activities.

The hope was to draw on the insights, common heritage and rich diversity that is today's Ukraine and, in no small way, reflected in this little corner of the world. Local leaders of several organizations participated in looking beyond their normal membership, thinking about how to draw together groups and people spread across the area.

"People from a number of organizations stepped up to enable the work to be spread out," said Dr. Baran. For exam-



Dr. Andriy Baran

ple, Mr. Fil, as president of the Ukrainian American Citizens Club and as UNA Albany District Committee chairman, made the hall and stage available for the community event and also helped line up individuals to participate in the observance as speakers and entertainers.

Mr. Tysiak, president of the St. Nicholas Brotherhood Society – the sponsor of UNA Branch 13 for almost a century – worked with John Suchowacki, local chapter leader of the Lemko Organization, to provide coffee and desserts after the celebratory program, and arranged for decorating the club hall and for reporting on the local event.

Michael Popowsky of Cohoes, N.Y., arranged for the printing of a colorful banner to decorate the stage. There was also Taras Myshchuk of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, who added his organizational energy and skills to his multiple singing and musical talents to events throughout weekend.

All who attended and participated in the series of events bore witness to a truly community-wide celebration and observance of Ukraine's 16th Independence Day. The new immigrants who participated also communicated in a new voice their love of Ukraine and lent their many artistic talents to such new endeavors as the "Ridna Pisia" Community Choir, under the direction of Mykhaylo Tcpar.

To mark the beginning of the holiday, Mayor Robert D. Carlson of Watervliet was joined at City Hall by Messrs. Fil and Myshchuk to raise the Ukrainian flag, which was flown at City Hall on Ukrainian Independence Day. "We've seen the fruits of democracy in Ukraine, now we have to remind everyone else how important Ukraine is to our future," noted Mr. Fil.

To start the weekend, Mr. Myshchuk organized a European Discoteque that was held the evening of Friday, August 24. "We wanted to add some fun to the annual celebration of Independence Day. This year we decided to extend a special invitation to all Ukrainians who arrived here since the early 1990s and also to include other people who arrived from Eastern Europe in recent years," said Mr. Myshchuk, in explaining the Euro-Disco theme.

A good turnout allowed many in the local community to bring a sense of joy and enthusiasm to the more traditional celebration of Independence Day held on Sunday, August 26. That day started with prayer in area churches and closed with an entertaining and memorable observance at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club. Ukrainians from the surrounding cities of Amsterdam, Cohoes,



The "Ridna Pisia" Community Choir directed by Mykhaylo Tcpar.



Vera and Anna Dyakiw in a poetry recitation.

Schenectady, Troy and Watervliet as well as the suburbs and even the Hunter area to the south came out to bear witness to the rebirth of their ancestral homeland.

When asked what brought him to the Sunday observance, John Udyecz, who recently celebrated his 89th birthday, said "Why wouldn't I be here? We waited long enough for independence. Many died and suffered for the cause of freedom in Ukraine. Everyone should take time out to come out and show that freedom means something to them."

Others came to one or more of the events while visiting family or just vacationing in the area. For example, unexpected visitors included Bohdan and Elizabeth Fedushiw, who reside in California. They

stopped by the Ukrainian American Citizens Club, in their "tryzub" embroidered clothing, just to say hello. As it turns out, Mr. Fedushiw grew up in the neighboring city of Troy and, after living outside the area for many years, just stopped by to be among Ukrainians. The couple had such a good time, they returned for the traditional holiday program on Sunday afternoon.

Dr. Baran emceed the Sunday afternoon program which included traditional songs by the "Ridna Pisia" choir under the direction of Mr. Tcpar. The choir sang eight selections, opening with "Bozhe Velykyi Yedynyi" and with several choral arrangements accompanied on accordion by Mr. Myshchuk. A men's trio consisting of Mr. Tcpar, Stefan Korostil and Mr. Myshchuk sang two beautiful songs arranged by the very talented Mr. Tcpar. It's worth noting that a few of the choral selections were newer pieces written by contemporary Ukrainian composers.

Vera Dyakiw gave the main address that focused on Ukraine's historic struggle to create and maintain its democracy. As someone who settled in this country since Ukraine declared independence, she called attention to the forces at work inside and outside Ukraine, both in support of and in opposition to Ukraine's future as a successful, democratic nation. Later in the program Mrs. Dyakiw joined her daughter, Anna, in a poem titled "Words of a Ukrainian Child."

When the program closed, a number of the choir members stayed behind and joined other community members in a series of rousing folk songs. The unexpected surprise visit made Mr. and Mrs. Fedushiw feel right at home. They observed that whatever happens in Ukraine, witnessing the unity at the Independence Day observation should give Ukrainian Americans complete faith and optimism that Ukraine and its people will survive.



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## THE 16th ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

### San Francisco, Calif.

by Nestor Wolansky

SAN FRANCISCO – The largest crowd in recent memory – estimated at over 700 – came out on August 26, a typically chilly San Francisco summer day, to energetically celebrate Ukraine's 16th anniversary of independence. The celebration was back at the Golden Gate Music Concourse after a three-year absence due to the construction of the M.H. de Young Museum complex adjacent to the venue.

Back by popular demand from Manitoba was the internationally renowned Ukrainian Dance Ensemble Barvinok, under the direction of Kurt Walker, with a new repertoire of dances from various regions of Ukraine. Barvinok opened the event with the traditional Ukrainian welcome of bread and salt, followed by "Two Dances" from the opera "Zaporozhian Kozak Beyond the Danube" by Semen Hulak-Artemovsky, as performed by Golden Gate Park Band, which is celebrating its 125th year as the oldest civic band in the U.S. The group first performed in 1882, the year the outlaw Jesse James was killed. (The perennial joke that the band itself is 125 years old is disputed every year by the conductor Michael Wirgler, who claims that only some of the band members have been around for 125 years.)

The Kalyna Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from Sacramento, Calif., under the direction of Irina and George Arabadji, merited artists of Moldova, performed the "Volynska Polka." Kalyna was formerly known as the Children's Dance Ensemble, but the children have grown up and now perform on a different level.

Maria Tscherepenko, the energetic program director and mezzo-soprano, performed "My Kyiv" and "Gypsy Girl" (music by Ihor Shamo, lyrics by D. Lutsenko). Barvinok returned with a lively Hutsul dance from the Carpathian Mountains, and Ola Herasymenko, Merited Artist of Ukraine, performed two pieces on the bandura.

Ukraine's Consul General Mykola Tochytskyi in San Francisco warmly greeted the audience in English, reminding everyone that Ukraine is very much on track economically and is expected to join the World Trade Organization by the end of the year despite ongoing and as yet unsettled political questions. Mr. Tochytskyi presented the Golden Gate Park Band with a commemorative certificate from the Ukrainian community.

The Kalyna ensemble returned with the energetic rendition of the Ukrainian national dance, the "Hopak." Mezzo-soprano Ivanna-Taratula Filipenko, soloist of the Lviv Opera House, and her young daughter, Juliana, performed two Ukrainian folk

songs by Platon Maiboroda.

Barvinok then performed two more pieces from the Volyn region, followed by the Golden Gate Park Band's rousing rendition of "Rejoice, America!" a classic by Claire Grundman.

Ms. Tscherepenko made a special acknowledgement to Dr. Ellen Simpson, who was present in the audience, noting that this great friend of Ukrainians and Ukrainian independence was marking her 90th birthday and warmly thanking her for her numerous contributions and generous support. Dr. Simpson worked with Andrea Skrypka on diabetes projects in Ukraine, helped with the publication of translations on diabetes into Ukrainian, and was involved with the Lupus Ukraine Project.

The Tritschenko Family Ensemble, recently arrived from Arizona, performed two charming Ukrainian folk songs. Once again, "Barvinok" took the stage with its "Kuban Dance," followed by Ms. Filipenko and Ms. Tscherepenko's medley of popular songs.

Barvinok made its final appearance with their moving signature performance of "Kozak, Hopak," a dance that defines the independent Ukrainian spirit itself.

The "Ukrainian Day" event was spon-



Members of the Kalyna and Barvinok dance ensembles.

sored by the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Heritage Club of Northern California, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church, St. Volodymyr Mission of Santa Clara, Ukrainian Fraternal

Association (Assembly 270), Ukrainian National Association (Branch 486), Ukrainian National Women's League of America (Chapter 107), Ukrainian Medical Association of Northern California and the Ukrainian Professional and Business Group of Northern California.



Ukraine's Consul General in San Francisco Mykola Tochytskyi.



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## LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2007 at Soyuzivka

by Yarema Belej

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Every year a throng of Ukrainians with their families and friends converge on the outskirts of this small town to close out the summer days by dancing, partying, lounging in the sun and enjoying the long weekend among old and new friends. And it happened yet again on August 31-September 3 at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center.

This year's Labor Day weekend at Soyuzivka – an estate owned and operated by the Ukrainian National Association – had everything: a healthy mix of young Ukrainians from all corners of the world, a dance floor bouncing with life, a concert featuring a Ukrainian American dance ensemble along with unique performers from Ukraine, serenades by a talented accordionist, perfect weather and excellent service.

There were several guests at Soyuzivka who normally do not attend the Labor Day festivities. Still in the area after attending the International Plast Jamboree in Canada, a group of European and Australian members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization

took in all that the upstate New York estate has to offer.

"It is so beautiful here," said Oksana Szczurko of Munich. "I can see why everyone comes here. It is so full of life and such fun. I cannot wait to come back someday."

The featured band this year was Hrim, which played during the outdoor "zabava" (dance) on Saturday night. Its high energy mix of traditional Ukrainian and contemporary popular rock songs thrilled the audience and kept the dance floor packed and hopping. Adept at playing music that satisfies both the older demographic and the young, Hrim really showcased its talents and cemented its place among Ukrainian bands in North America.

"Hrim was excellent," said Mykola Koshiw, "and the zabava provided the perfect backdrop for everyone to forget all other cares and dance and party the night away." Everyone danced throughout the zabava, which culminated with a traditional "Kolomyika."

The concert was an impressive showcase of talented dancers from the Syzokryli Dance Ensemble who blended traditional dances and costumes with contemporary moves and outfits. "Syzokryli

has not performed at Labor Day weekend since 2002," said Dianna Shmerykowsky of New York City. "It was wonderful to do it again. Everything went very smoothly, and we performed well. We have been working together for many weeks this summer, and to feel that con-

nection on stage is a great experience."

Indeed, the mix of traditional and not-so traditional Ukrainian dances is always a risk, but the dancers truly came out looking like pros. "Overall, we heard a lot of good comments and were received with open arms," said Ms.



Christine Syzonenko

Syzokryli dancers in flight during the "Hopak."



Christine Syzonenko

Syzokryli greet the audience with their opening performance of "Pryvit."



Christine Syzonenko

UNA President Stefan Kazaraj.



Christine Syzonenko

Dancers strike a pose in character for dramatic effect.



Yarema Belej

Taras Lazurkevych and Oleh Sozansky of "Bandurna Rozmova"



## LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2007 at Soyuzivka

Shmerykowsky. "The Labor Day crowd changes a lot each year and it's wonderful to see how positively they react to our dances and group as a whole."

The dance ensemble was complemented by a pair of bandura players who were incredibly talented and surprised nearly all concert-goers with their playing skills and voices. Called "Bandurna Rozmova," the duo is made up of Taras Lazurkevych and Oleh Sozansky from Lviv. Their virtuoso performance showcased Ukraine's national instrument as rarely has been done.

Like most recent years, there was entertainment at the Tiki Bar during the day on Sunday. Here the gifted Matthew Dubas wowed the audience with his talents playing the accordion. "I've been coming to labor Day for many years," said Maya Lew, "and I have never seen such a group of people having so much fun around an accordion."

"It was hilarious and truly inspiring that we can get together and support our young musicians, each other and Soyuzivka as a whole," added Ms. Lew, a Brooklynite who is an advisor on the Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly.

As always, the Trembita Lounge was the place to be at night throughout the weekend when the band wasn't rocking the dance floor. "It was great in there," said Matthieu Bouadana. "I spent most of my time there, dancing to the good music and enjoying the fair drinks. It is how I remember most of my Labor Days, dancing and enjoying the night with my good friends in the Trembita Lounge."

With all the rooms filled and nearly every seat and stool occupied, Labor Day 2007 at Soyuzivka was a weekend during which everyone enjoyed themselves and everyone supported their beloved Soyuzivka.



Yarema Belej

Youths dance the night away in Trembita Lounge.



Yarema Belej

Mark Horbal, Mykola Koshiw and Marco Melymuka on the Veselka Patio.



Natalie Dubas

Matthew Dubas fills the afternoon with accordion music at the Tiki Bar.



Yarema Belej

Syzokryli dancers show their stuff during the Kolomyika on Saturday.



Yarema Belej

Natalia Wolchasty (top) with visitors from Australia in the Trembita Lounge.



Maya Lew

Justin Matijcio inspires others in improvised dance steps at the Tiki Bar.



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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

years to complete key projects, Reuters reported. "Naturally, I would truly like to work as Ukraine's prime minister for no fewer than five years. That would give us the chance to implement the plans we have today," he said. "We must form a coalition after the election in the shortest possible time and will make every effort to ensure that happens. Our country has no time to start things again from scratch," he added. Mr. Yanukovich was prime minister from November 2002 to January 2005 and became the head of the current government in August 2006. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Moroz: Rada to debate budget

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada of the fifth convocation will convene a session after September 20 to debate the draft budget for 2008, Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz told a press conference in Poltava on September 9. He said that, in keeping with the budget resolution, the Cabinet of Ministers is to submit to the Rada a draft budget for the next year before September 15. Therefore, Mr. Moroz said he hopes the Parliament will be able to debate it after September 20. (Ukrinform)

### Secretariat warns of illegality

KYIV – The government's plans to submit the draft state budget for 2008 to the illegitimate Parliament are aimed at exacerbating the political situation in the country, the first deputy head of the Presidential Secretariat and the president's representative at the Cabinet of Ministers, Oleksander Shlapak, said. Mr. Shlapak pointed out that the government failed to take into account most of President Viktor Yushchenko's proposals, both concerning the provision of pension guarantees for those who were retired before 2004 and with regard to raising pensions by 35 percent by means of raising the coefficient of the employment-based insurance. Also, the president deems inadequate the increase in the monthly child-care benefits from 154 to 168 hrv per month as stipulated by the draft budget. Mr. Shlapak also pointed out that the government failed to consider the decision of the National Security and Defense Council on the financing of law-enforcement agencies, as well as its proposals to increase funding for local state administrations, to regulate the allocation of funds from local budgets, and other issues. Mr. Shlapak said the draft state budget should be prepared by the new government to be formed after the September 30 parliamentary elections. (Ukrinform)

### PRU ready for coalition talks

KYIV – After the pre-term parliamentary elections the Party of the Regions will be ready for talks about forming a ruling coalition with all Ukrainian political forces elected to the Parliament, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said on September 10. He urged all political forces to set aside their own political ambitions and unite for the sake of the development of the state. He also expressed his strong conviction that the Party of the Regions will collect enough votes to form the ruling coalition. The prime minister also told journalists that as of September 12 he is taking a leave to devote himself to campaigning. (Ukrinform)

### Yanukovich begins campaign tour

KYIV – The leader of the Party of the Regions, Viktor Yanukovich, kicked off his canvassing tour of Ukraine in the Zaporizhia region on September 12, visiting Melitopol, Tokmak and Zaporizhia to

take part in pre-election rallies as well as in festivities on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Motor Sich Company. The early parliamentary elections will put an end to the careers of Orange politicians, Mr. Yanukovich stated during a rally in Tokmak. "Let's win over the Orange plague. September 30 will be their last day," the party leader said, describing this stance as "our generation's duty to the war veterans, teachers and children who dream about good lives." Mr. Yanukovich said the Orange forces were aiming to secure power by way of injustice and deceit. He described the snap elections as a manifestation of disregard for the opinion of the people expressed in the parliamentary elections of 2006. (Ukrinform)

### PRU for decentralizing governance

KYIV – The leader of the election headquarters of the Party of the Regions, Borys Kolesnikov, said that the party supports creation of a two-chamber Parliament in Ukraine. This idea, first voiced by President Leonid Kuchma, was put up, among others, for a national referendum on the Constitution in April 2000. Although supported by 81.6 percent of the voters at the time, the initiative was never put into practice. Mr. Kolesnikov said the idea of a two-chamber legislature correlates with the PRU's scheme to decentralize the system of state governance, under which heads of regional and district administrations shall be elected by citizens rather than appointed by the president, as they are now. Mr. Kolesnikov underlined that the reform of local self-governments, which the PRU has always supported, should provide the oblast state administration chairs, popularly known as governors, with an opportunity to protect the interests of their regions in Parliament as well as with a right to the legislative initiative. It's only logical, he said, that the elected governors should constitute the Verkhovna Rada's upper chamber. The party suggests that the lower chamber should be made up of 210 deputies, while the upper one, should incorporate from 54 to 81 deputies. One governor and two senators to the upper chamber would be elected by the regional council of each region, he explained. (Ukrinform)

### Israeli delegation visits Babyn Yar

KYIV – Israeli Minister for Tourism Yitzhak Aharonovich, Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine Zina Kalay-Kleitman and Knesset members attended a ceremony of commemoration of Holocaust victims at Babyn Yar, in Kyiv. The victims were honored with a moment of silence, lit candles and placement of flowers at the Menorah monument at Babyn Yar. The Israeli delegation is paying a visit to Ukraine within the framework of the Days of Culture of the State of Israel in Ukraine, which is being staged in Kyiv, Irpin and Bohuslav. The delegation is also supposed to visit Uman, where one of the spiritual leaders of the Jewish people, Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, is buried. The delegation is also expected to meet with members of the Cabinet of Ministers and hold a series of other meetings, it was reported on September 10. (Ukrinform)

### Pilgrims have simplified entry

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers instructed the Internal Affairs Ministry to secure the granting of permission to pilgrim Hasids to enter Ukraine for a period of up to 14 days at the international airports of Boryspil and Odesa between September 4 and 13. Some 20,000 Hasidic Jews annually go on pilgrimage to Uman to the tomb of

(Continued on page 15)



## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. (Ukrinform)

### Yulia vows to return lost savings

KYIV – Opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko promised at a meeting with voters in Kherson on September 8 that her political bloc, if it comes to power following the September 30 elections, will return lost deposits of Ukrainians in the Soviet-era state savings bank within two years, the Ukrayinska Pravda website reported. “We realize that this is an almost sensational commitment, but we are taking it upon ourselves, basing it on the past six months of analyses and calculations that our team made regarding all means and sources in the country, from where we could take resources to restore justice to depositors who lost their savings in the savings bank,” Ms. Tymoshenko said. Yuri Lutsenko, a leader of the pro-presidential Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense bloc, commented on September 10: “I am perhaps a weaker economist than Yulia Volodymyrivna [Tymoshenko], but I don’t see how it is possible to return those savings worth \$120 billion within two years.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

### No stake for Russia in gas system

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said in an interview with the Financial Times that Ukraine will not give Russia a stake in its gas transportation system, insisting that it must be used rationally and in the nation’s interests. “I am not saying no politician will start this speculation but I guarantee that nobody will be able to continue these polemics,” he said. “Even if there are people in the government who dream of this, this policy has no legal consequences and prospects.” Speaking about Ukraine’s energy relations with its northern neighbor, the president said Russia would obviously try to impose its own scheme of gas supplies. “RosUkrEnergo is one of the stories of this kind to which official Ukraine has no relation,” he said, adding that the name of this company “means absolutely nothing” and was “intended to create an impression that Ukraine has an interest in it.” In fact, he said, “there is no state interest whatsoever.” Mr. Yushchenko underscored that Ukraine’s relationship with the Russian Federation would always be based on the “concept of national independence.” (Ukrinform)

### President surprised at referendum idea

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko told journalists on September 6 that the Party of the Regions’ recent initiative to hold a referendum on Ukraine’s neutrality and the status of the Russian language is “political adventurism,” Interfax-Ukraine reported. “The position of the Party of the Regions surprises me. I regret that the prime minister pursues such a policy,” Mr. Yushchenko said. He argued that a referendum on constitutional changes should cap a legislative process of introducing such changes, rather than inaugurate them. “A draft bill [of constitutional amendments] should be endorsed by 226 votes and subsequently submitted to the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court should give its assessment [of the bill] and subsequently the Verkhovna Rada should approve it by a two-thirds majority. After this, the law should be subject to a referendum. And only after this it may take effect. To start the process with a referendum means to grossly violate the order of the introduction of amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine,” President Yushchenko explained. The Party of the Regions reportedly proposes the following refer-

endum questions: Do you agree to Russian and Ukrainian becoming the state languages of Ukraine? Do you agree to electing the heads of raion and oblast administrations by the citizens of Ukraine? Do you agree to Ukraine becoming a state that does not participate in military blocs? (RFE/RL Newsline)

### YTB criticizes PRU referendum idea

KYIV – The deputy chairman of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), Oleksander Turchynov, said that the Party of the Regions’ referendum bid shows that the party “is losing ground, and it has therefore decided to shift the attention of voters to the issues of the Russian language and NATO.” He added, “They don’t have any [worthy] results of their work to show to the public, so they have resorted to their old policy of ‘divide et impera,’ and put on the daily agenda the speculative issues that split the nation and the country.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Moroz: elections affected from abroad

VINNYTSIA, Ukraine – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz alleged in Vinnytsia on September 6 that the ongoing pre-term election campaign in Ukraine is being influenced from abroad, Interfax-Ukraine reported. “I am convinced that [the campaign] is being carried out not only by our politicians alone, but it is also being orchestrated from abroad,” Mr. Moroz said at a local pedagogical college, without identifying those foreign forces. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Restored icon exhibited in Lviv

LVIV – A restored icon of the nativity of the Virgin Mary that dates back to the 17th century was exhibited on August 21 at the Lviv National Museum named after Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. Local authorities dealing with cultural issues, museum staff, clergymen and those interested in religious tradition and culture visited the exhibition and gave undivided attention to both this original icon and its restorer, arts scholar and teacher Volodymyr Mokrii, who devoted two years of his life to restoring it. On the day of the exhibit Mr. Mokrii celebrated his 60th birthday. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

### 301 Ukrainian peacekeepers honored

KYIV – The deputy special representative of the U.N. secretary general for Liberia, Jordan Ryan, as well as representatives of the civil and military leadership of the United Nations mission in that country, awarded 301 Ukrainian peacekeepers with the United Nations Medal “In the service of peace,” reported the Defense Ministry of Ukraine. Speaking during the solemn ceremony, Mr. Ryan thanked Ukrainian peacekeepers for their significant contribution to establishment of the peaceful processes on the African continent. On behalf of United Nations and the Liberian people he thanked Ukrainians for guaranteeing the safety of flights and timely delivery of relief. During four months of peacekeeping tasks in Liberia, a Ukrainian helicopter squadron implemented 1,796 flights and airlifted almost 10,000 passengers and 211 tons of cargo. (Ukrinform)

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## Ukraine bids...

(Continued from page 1)

legendary leader.

After meeting Gen. Kuk and learning of the UPA’s struggle, Lt. Cmdr. Lupakov, who served in the 14th Submarine Division of the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, said he felt ashamed to admit that for most of his life he had served in an occupying force.

“But at the same time, I finally realized who I am and what I am,” he said. “And I owe this personal revelation to the unsung and unrecognized heroes of Ukraine, because 16 years ago, when Ukraine’s independence was declared, God had granted people like Vasyl Kuk a long life. And they, in turn, are causing us to be proud of our Ukrainian heritage. Therefore, Ukraine will thrive.”

Among the mourners who stood in line to pay their last respects to Gen. Kuk during the four-hour public viewing in Kyiv were both UPA and Red Army veterans; former Soviet political prisoners Mykhailo Horyn, Yevhen Proniuk and Ivan Dziuba; former Ministers of Foreign Affairs Hennadii Udovenko and Borys Tarasyuk; presidential adviser Dr. Zhulynskyi; civic activist Les Taniuk; renowned historian Volodymyr Serhiichuk; politicians Yuri Kostenko, Oleh Tiahnybok and Viacheslav Kyrylenko; Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (Revolutionary) Chair Andrii Haidamakha, Officers Union of Ukraine Chair Viacheslav Bilous and UPA Kyiv Brotherhood Chair Orest Vaskul.

Although Mr. Dziuba didn’t personally know Gen. Kuk, he said he considered it his duty to attend the viewing to honor the legendary figure.

“Whenever Vasyl Kuk appeared on television or the radio, I was always struck by his sound mind, objectivity and well-balanced commentary on the current political situation in Ukraine,” Mr. Dziuba said.

“He was not the stereotypical individual who experienced a hard life and could have held a grudge against humanity. He was constantly evolving, right up to the end,” he added.

President Viktor Yushchenko issued a statement on September 10 honoring Gen. Kuk’s legacy. “To his last breath, he was in the ranks of fighters for the Ukrainian idea, himself being its living embodiment,” the presidential statement said.

“His life’s journey always will be an example of the devoted struggle for

Ukraine’s freedom and statehood, a symbol of victory over the two totalitarian regimes of the last century. A loyal son of Ukraine, Vasyl Kuk will always remain in our memory as an inextinguishable model of loyalty to the nation and selfless service to our state.”

Although President Yushchenko did not personally attend the viewing or the panakhyda, quite possibly because of the ongoing election campaign, he sent a memorial telegram that was read aloud, and his representatives laid a memorial wreath beside Gen. Kuk’s coffin at the Teacher’s Building.

Ukraine’s other influential political leaders, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, withheld any reverence for Gen. Kuk.

Ms. Tymoshenko said representatives from her political bloc would take part in the burial, but they weren’t visible in Kyiv or Lviv.

“We will do everything so that the historical contribution of such people will be adequately assessed,” Ms. Tymoshenko said of UPA veterans.

In the current election campaign, she has avoided taking a position on UPA recognition because it could cost her support in crucial eastern and southern oblasts of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yanukovich told reporters during a September 10 press conference that he could only agree on the fact that Gen. Kuk “led a dazzling life, as they say.”

He advised historians and journalists not to rewrite history, which has already assessed the role of the UPA. Furthermore, “it’s not possible to rear the future generation on such an ideology,” Mr. Yanukovich said, referring to Ukrainian nationalism. “This ideology also can’t be the country’s ideology.”

Nevertheless, scores of Ukrainian youths were present at Gen. Kuk’s funeral. Plast scouts served as part of an honor guard, while Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists (CUN) members served as official pallbearers.

Following the viewing, a procession of hundreds of mourners followed Gen. Kuk’s coffin to St. Volodymyr Cathedral, where a memorial service was offered by the Rev. Volodymyr Cherpak.

After the service, Gen. Kuk’s remains were placed into a makeshift hearse and driven to St. George Cathedral in Lviv, arriving late at night.

(Continued on page 17)



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# BIOGRAPHY: UPA Gen. Vasyl Kuk, 1913-2007

by **Illya M. Labunka**

*Special to The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – Vasyl Kuk was born January 11, 1913, in the village of Krasne, Zolochiv County, Ternopil District (today Busk District, Lviv Oblast) into a family of eight children. He was the son of railroad worker Stepan Kuk and his wife, Paraskevia.

Two of Gen. Kuk's siblings died during childhood, while the other six became members of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), the clandestine, paramilitary and propaganda organization of the Ukrainian liberation movement.

Polish authorities executed two of Kuk's brothers, Iliarii and Illia, in 1938 and 1939, respectively, for their OUN membership. Soviet authorities sentenced Gen. Kuk's two other brothers, Fylymon and Ivan, to respective eight- and 18-year sentences of hard labor in the gulag.

Between 1923 and 1932, Vasyl Kuk was a student at the Zolochiv Classical Gymnasium administered by the "Ridna Shkola" Association.

In 1927 he joined the Plast Ukrainian

Scouting Organization and the following year became a member of OUN's youth league.

In 1930 Kuk joined the ranks of the Zolochiv County OUN Executive Leadership. In 1931-1932, he became acquainted with future underground OUN leaders Dmytro Myron, Yaroslav Stetsko and Yaroslav Starukh. During this period he served as a courier, smuggling weapons and explosives from Krakow to Lviv and distributing clandestine literature to Lutsk and Rivne in the Volyn region.

Following his 1932 graduation from the gymnasium, Kuk enrolled in the legal studies department at the Catholic University in Lublin, where he chaired the OUN student group.

Due to his revolutionary activities, Kuk was arrested numerous times in the 1930s by Polish police. He was released from prison in 1936 as a result of an amnesty following the death of Polish Premier Josyf Pilsudski

Kuk resumed his leadership of the OUN in the Zolochiv region, posing as a retailer. In May 1937, at age 24, Kuk joined the OUN's underground move-

ment and became a covert revolutionary in the Pidhaisi region of the Ternopil Oblast.

During the Second Extraordinary OUN Congress in Krakow (April 1941), OUN (Revolutionary) Chair Stepan Bandera appointed Kuk to the OUN Leadership, where he directed the logistics sector and took part in Military General Staff operations.

In the spring of 1941 Kuk's focus shifted to eastern Ukraine. He organized and led OUN raiding units that were trained for dislocation in Ukraine's eastern oblasts. The network of these units eventually spread throughout all of Ukraine, as well as the Kuban and Crimea regions.

In July 1941 Kuk organized and led the OUN's Kyiv combatants, the majority of whom were from eastern Ukraine. In late August 1941 Kuk was arrested by the Germans in Kyiv Oblast but escaped in Lutsk while being transported to Lviv.

In the spring 1942 Vasyl Kuk became leader of the OUN in southeastern Ukraine. At this time, he met and married Ulyana Kriuchenko, who was born in 1920 in the village of Sursko-

Mykhailivka, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. She joined the liberation movement in 1941 and led the OUN youth league in the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

Following the death of the OUN's leader in northwestern Ukraine in February 1943, Kuk also assumed leadership of this territory.

By the springtime, he took command of the newly formed UPA South and by 1945 led the OUN in all of eastern Ukraine. The UPA was the military wing of the OUN that emerged in October 1942, although the OUN continued to engage in clandestine paramilitary operations simultaneously.

On the recommendation of OUN Home Bureau Chair Roman Shukhevych in 1947, Col. Kuk was unanimously chosen as his second-in-command.

Following Gen. Shukhevych's death on March 5, 1950, Col. Kuk succeeded him in all his posts and duties, namely: OUN Home Bureau chair, UPA commander-in-chief and Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council General Secretariat chair. In October 1952 the UVHR promoted Gen. Kuk to brigadier general.

Under the pseudonyms "Lemish," "Koval," "Bezimennyi" and "789/1," Gen. Kuk continued to lead the struggle for national liberation until his capture in May 1954. A victim of treachery, Gen. Kuk was captured by KGB forces posing as brothers-in-arms in a Lviv Oblast bunker.

Gen. Kuk and his wife, who was with him, were arrested and imprisoned for six years. At first, the Kucs were incarcerated separately, but after one year they were allowed to serve their imprisonment together.

For years, the facts surrounding Gen. Kuk's capture, arrest and incarceration were kept in deep secrecy and were virtually unknown, both inside and outside the Soviet Union. Gen. Kuk and his wife were never formally charged or put on trial.

In July 1960 the Presidium of the Parliament of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) issued a decree pardoning Vasyl and Ulyana Kuk.

Since their release, the circumstances involving the couples' amnesty have never been fully explained and continue to be topics of debate in Ukraine and the West.

Although Gen. Kuk wished to continue his legal studies, he was allowed to enroll in the history department of Taras Shevchenko State University in Kyiv. In 1964 he received a history degree.

Beginning in 1961 he worked as a senior research fellow at the Central State Historical Archive, specializing in the Hetmanate era.

Between 1969 and 1972 Kuk was employed as a senior research fellow at the Department of Historiography of the Institute of History at the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR.

He wrote his candidate's thesis on agrarian reform in Ukraine, but the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine determined the work was not acceptable for eventual defense.

Along with countless others in 1972, Gen. Kuk was expelled from the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR and forbidden from seeking employment at any type of academic institution.

His research project on the Ukrainian national question and Ukrainian political parties in western Ukraine in the years 1918-1941 was blacklisted, and he was prohibited from further research.

Mrs. Kuk died in 1971 after years of poor health stemming from her service in

(Continued on page 17)


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## Ukraine bids...

(Continued from page 15)

On the morning of September 11, a memorial liturgy was served in St. George Cathedral by the Rev. Petro Kravchuk and the Rev. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

A profound, solemn tone prevailed the Lviv ceremonies as more than 5,000 mourners lined up for the public viewing prior to, and after, the three-hour funeral liturgy.

Among those attending were Lviv Oblast State Administration Chair Petro Oliynyk, Lviv Oblast Council Chair Myroslav Senyk, Lviv Mayor Andrii Sadovyi, Members of Parliament Petro Pysarchuk (Party of the Regions) and Oleksii Hirnyk (Our Ukraine), former Soviet political prisoners Ihor and Iryna Kalynets, Ivan Franko Lviv National University Rector Ivan Vakarchuk, Lviv Oblast Prosvita Society Chair Yaroslav



Soviet Army veteran Yevhen Lupakov, lieutenant commander of the 14th Submarine Division of the Black Sea Fleet, came to pay his last respects to Gen. Vasyl Kuk.

Pitko, and hundreds of UPA veterans from the Lviv, Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts.

During the liturgy, Plast and Ukrainian Youth Association (SUM) stood vigil alongside cadets from both the Heroes of Kruty Military Lyceum and the Institute of Infantry Forces in Lviv.

A tearful Mr. Kalynets recalled how he learned about the leadership of Gen. Kuk. As a 6-year-old boy, he lived in the village of Horodysche after the end of World War II and remembered several partisans hiding out in a makeshift bunker in his grandmother's barn. When he visited them, they gave him partisan literature and postcards, he said.

"One day, I was curious and asked them, 'Who is your leader?' and they replied 'Col. Koval,'" Mr. Kalynets said. "For some reason, I remembered this pseudonym, although I was obviously not aware of the true identity of this individual at the time."

Years later when employed as a research associate at the State Archives in Lviv, Mr. Kalynets was sent on official business to Kyiv in 1964 to perform research in the State Historical Archives.

"All of sudden, a fellow archivist colleague of mine mentioned to me that 'this is Kuk', the one who was captured years ago," Mr. Kalynets said.

"However, at that time I wasn't well aware yet of who actually led the UPA, so the name did not ring a bell initially."

When learning Mr. Kalynets was from Lviv, Gen. Kuk asked him about the youth in Lviv and whether patriotism was alive in western Ukraine.

Over the years, they met occasionally at various public events and from time to time Mr. Kalynets greeted him on his birthday.

"Vasyl Kuk was a very intelligent individual," Mr. Kalynets said. "Whenever I saw him on television, I was always amazed at how calm and logical his responses were. It was astound-



Illya M. Labunka

The Rev. Volodymyr Cherpak, pastor of St. Volodymyr Cathedral, delivers a eulogy in memory of Gen. Vasyl Kuk.



The coffin bearing the body of Gen. Vasyl Kuk is carried by CUN pallbearers from St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Kyiv en route to Lviv.



Mourners at the Teacher's Building in Kyiv on September 10. Seated beside his coffin at the far left is Yurii Kuk, the former general's only son.

## Biography...

(Continued from page 16)

the underground.

Eventually, Gen. Kuk found employment in a state advertising agency, where he worked until his retirement in 1986.

During the years of Ukrainian independence, Kuk published numerous personal memoirs on his fellow combatants Stepan Bandera, Gen. Shukhevych, OUN leader Dmytro Myron and others.

In 2003 former President Leonid Kuchma issued a presidential decree granting Gen. Kuk the prestigious honorary title Hero of Ukraine. Out of principle, he declined the award because the Ukrainian government had not yet recognized the Ukrainian Insurgent Army as a fighting force for Ukrainian independence.

Gen. Kuk is survived by his only son, Yurii, who was born in 1947 and lives in Kyiv.

ing to me that a man in his 90s could still possess such an amazing memory and be so astute politically."

Following the liturgy, the funeral procession exited St. George Cathedral and the coffin was transported under official military escort to Krasne, Gen. Kuk's native village, in keeping with his last wishes.

In some ways, Gen. Kuk's death marks the end of an era, the Rev. Dr. Gudziak said.

"On the one hand, we are grateful for our independence, which was the ulti-

mate goal and driving force of the UPA combatants," he said. "On the other hand, Ukraine has not yet fully grasped or comprehended, as a state, as a political entity, what lies at the core, what paved the way for this independence."

By remembering the sacrifices of all UPA leaders and combatants, whose many graves will never be identified, "today's prayer is for the soul of Gen. Vasyl Kuk, but also for all those who paid the ultimate price for the freedom of Ukraine," the Rev. Gudziak said.



Two veterans of two different armies – the Red Army (left) and the UPA – pay homage to Gen. Vasyl Kuk, a fellow soldier.





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## NOTES ON PEOPLE

### Two to be inducted into N.D. Hall of Fame

BISMARCK, N.D. – Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk, adjutant general of the North Dakota National Guard, and George Kuchynski, retired farmer from Dickinson, N.D., were nominated to the North Dakota Ukrainian Hall of Fame. Their induction will take place here at the North Dakota Heritage Center on October 6.

The N.D. Ukrainian Hall of Fame was established to honor persons who have contributed in large measure to the state and nation and their heritage.

Maj. Gen. Sprynczynatyk served the state of North Dakota as state engineer and director of the State Water Commission. He oversaw the completion of the Devil's Lake City Levee System, the Devil's Lake Outlet and the Southwest Water Pipeline which brought water to thousands of rural users in North Dakota.

In January 2001 Gov. John Hoeven appointed Mr. Sprynczynatyk as director of transportation. He served as head of that department until February 2006, at which time he was promoted to major general and assumed command of the North Dakota National Guard.

In the nomination, Dr. Theodore Pedeliski added, "David also maintained a strong interest and pride in his Ukrainian heritage. He speaks with pride of his Ukrainian family and upbringing. In 2006 he and his wife, Connie, were

able to track David's roots and visited Ukraine where their daughter, Cathryn, was teaching English to students at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine."

The other candidate to the Hall of Fame, Mr. Kuchynski, traveled to Ukraine to fulfill his father's dream. His dad emigrated to the New World in 1905 and, after working for 11 years, he purchased a farm in Stark County. His desire was to sponsor another family member to emigrate from the ancestral village of Smorzhiw to North Dakota. Because of World War I and World War II and the Cold War with the USSR, he couldn't fulfill his dream.

Mr. Kuchynski said it was incumbent on him to realize his dad's dream, but in a different way. Soon after the collapse of the Soviet Union and Ukraine's declaration of independence, he traveled to Ukraine. With the assistance of a tour guide, he made contact with his dad's brothers and sisters.

After the visit Mr. Kuchynski invited his cousin Ihor to come to the United States. Ihor spent six months living and working side by side with George and Hilda Kuchynskyi, experiencing rural life in a democracy. Thus, Mr. Kuchynski fulfilled his dad's dreams by assisting his relatives in Ukraine.

Mr. Kuchynski maintained his dad's roots by being active in the N.D. Ukrainian Cultural Institute. He served on the board of directors and Endowment Committee, and volunteered his assistance with many in-kind programs and activities.

### Recognized by area's Chamber of Commerce

MARCO ISLAND, Fla. – Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce recently presented its employee of the month award to Ivan Chystyk, a 21-year-old Ukrainian immigrant who came to the United States just five years ago along with his mother and two sisters.

The award was given to him for his outstanding services as an air-conditioning technician with Southern Comfort Air. Owner Zack Cecemski submitted the nomination outlining Mr. Chystyk's willingness to learn and become an integral part of the company's operations.

Mr. Cecemski, who has been in the air-conditioning business for the past 30 years, said, "When I took him on, he knew how to do some installations, which was great because he did the installations and I did the servicing. Now he can do it all."

He embraced Mr. Chystyk as a virtual

family member. "I sympathized with the fact that he didn't have a dad. You could say I became like a father figure to him, but he's treated no better or worse than my son and daughter," added Mr. Cecemski.

Mr. Chystyk admitted to being excited about the award and revealed that when he arrived in the U.S., he could barely speak a word of English. He learned the language by watching TV and listening carefully to people, and now is fluent.

Coming to America wasn't really a culture shock for Mr. Chystyk. "But living here is easier than in Ukraine," he said. "There are more opportunities here."

Nevertheless, he added, his country of origin is beautiful, and has some really nice towns and vacation spots.

Mr. Chystyk and his family hold permanent residency and will go through the citizenship process once they become eligible in a few years' time.

A story about Mr. Chystyk and his award appeared in the May 22 issue of the Marco Eagle.

*"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.*

### Awarded Plast's prestigious St. George Medal



EAST CHATHAM, N.Y. – Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's highest honor, the St. George Medal, was bestowed on George Huk during ceremonies held here at the "Vovcha Tropa" (Wolf's Trek) Plast campground during the annual "Den Plastuna" (Day of the Plast Scout) festivities over the weekend of July 21-22. On Sunday, July 22, Mr. Huk, longtime head of the Regional Plast Camp Committee that runs "Vovcha Tropa," was recognized for his 13 years of selfless leadership and dedication. During his tenure Mr. Huk was instrumental in keeping the Plast spirit alive among second- and third-generation campers. Mr. Huk is seen above kneeling as the medal was placed around his neck by a representative of the Plast leadership. In the background are campers, as well as young members of Mr. Huk's Plast fraternity, the "Burlaky" (seen on the right), who arrived especially to witness the award ceremony and to pay tribute to one of their own.

– Natalie Salek



### "Music at the Institute"

SEASON OPENING RECITAL

Saturday, September 22, 2007 at 8 p.m.

at the  
Ukrainian Institute of America

**NATALYA SHKODA, piano**

**An Evening of Ukrainian Music: Viktor Kosenko (1896-1936)**

Program

Eleven Etudes in the form of Old Dances, Op. 19.

**Ukrainian Institute of America**

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## Detroit's Ukrainian American Youth Association holds recreational camp

by Roman Los

DETROIT, – The Ukrainian Youth American Association (UAYA) of Detroit, Vasyl Symonenko Chapter, held a recreational camp on August 2-5 this year for children age 5-13 at the Kyiv campground in Whitmore Lake, Mich. This year there were a total of 24 children, more than doubling the past two year's participation of youth.

The weekend was spent keeping the children busy every minute of the day, beginning with exercise in the morning, and concluding in the evening with bonfires. In comparison to last year, the camp was extended by one day, and non-traditional interactive/fun activities like a 10-foot water slide, rock climbing and a zip line were introduced. Moreover, traditional UAYA camp activities like

sports, lectures, singing and assemblies were included throughout this busy four-day weekend.

One of the highlights of the camp occurred Sunday after the divine liturgy, as the Ukrainian Future Credit Union (Kredytivka Buduchnist) was also holding its annual picnic for members at the UAYA campgrounds. John Zaryckyj graciously volunteered to set up a Ukrainian dance recital, using time allotted during the camp to teach the children. His wife, Natalia, sewed attire for all the participants. The children's performance was met with a standing ovation.

Even the stress of losing the symbol of the campground – a fallen 100 to 125 -year-old oak tree, as well as a very rainy day, did not detract from the community experience.

Plans for next year have already begun, as the Kyiv campground will be



Campers and counselor pose for a group picture.



After a successful dance recital, children prepare for their bow.

celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The UAYA board thanked Myron Fedoriw, Tanja and Mike Kryzaniwskyj, Rosie Angelo, John and Natalia Zaryckyj, Steve and Christine Bytz, Borys Potapenko, Mika Bologna and

Mike Andriaschko for their help and involvement with the camp and children.

For information on Detroit's UAYA or to help with the 50th anniversary planning, readers may contact Roman Los at 313-574-0473 or pomahlosh@yahoo.com).



Eager campers attempt to scale the 80-foot rock-climbing wall.

### Батьки дітей у віці 6-10 літ!

Заохочуємо Вас вписати Ваших дітей до НОВАЦТВА Пласту, Української Скавтської Організації, в Нью Йорку.



Пластова Свічечка

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(212) 982-4530,  
[www.plastusa.org](http://www.plastusa.org)



Новацьке Свято Весни

### Lesia Ukrainka School of Ukrainian Studies in Morris County, NJ

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for children from pre-kindergarten (age 5) through 12th grade

**on September 8, 2007**

at 9:00 A.M.

Please register online [www.ridna.org](http://www.ridna.org)

Ukrainian American Cultural Center  
60 E. North Jefferson Rd.  
Whippany, NJ 07981

Lubodar Olesnycky, President of the Parents' Committee  
Website: [www.ridna.org](http://www.ridna.org)



# Syzokryli dancers wow audience at Eisenhower Park's Ukrainian American Night

by Anna Chelak

EAST MEADOW, N.Y. – Long Island saw the return of the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble on August 20 at the annual Ukrainian American Night at Eisenhower Park.

Accompanying the Syzokryli dancers were Mriya of Hempstead, N.Y., under the direction of Orlando and Larissa Pagan; The Wave Band, which performed traditional and contemporary Ukrainian music; and Ukrainian vocal soloist Inna Sydorak. All the performers put on a magnificent show despite the chilly weather and rainfall.

The dance performance began with a warm welcome of the traditional "Privit," choreographed by the ensemble's founder, the late Roma Pryma Bohachevsky. The beautiful, regal costumes and the dynamic presentation was



The ladies of the Syzokryli Dance Ensemble on stage.

and three very different suitors that left the crowd roaring with laughter.

Closing the show was Syzokryli's best-known dance, the "Hopak." It is perhaps the most dynamic, spirited and exhilarating dances in the Syzokryli repertoire, choreographed by Mrs. Bohachevsky.

As one of Syzokryli's final performances for the summer, the Ukrainian American Night was a huge success. The Eisenhower Park event is a great end to the summer season and an exciting experience for all who participate.

For more information on Syzokryli and their upcoming shows, readers may visit [www.syzokryli.com](http://www.syzokryli.com).



Andriy Cybyk showcases his dancing prowess.

a perfect start to the evening show.

The Syzokryli performed two numbers seen for the first time at this year's Ukrainian Film and Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka, where they were performed by the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop. First was a lively polka choreographed by Volodymyr Dvorovenko called "Polissian Quadrille." The second was a vibrant contemporary dance choreographed by Kristine Izak to a song titled "Wild Energy" by Ukrainian pop star Ruslana.

Other numbers included an exciting and vigorous Bukovynian dance, another one of Mrs. Bohachevsky's choreographies. The piece incorporated fast, complicated footwork and exciting aerobics and lifts characteristic of that region. It was followed by another dance by Mrs. Bohachevsky titled "Z Syrom Pyrohy," a hilarious character dance about a sassy young woman


## Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

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# BANDURA БАНДУРА

THE SOUL OF UKRAINE Душа України

**Friday, October 19 – 7:30pm**  
**DETROIT**

The Music Box at the Max M. Fisher Music Center  
3711 Woodward Avenue -- Detroit, MI 48201

**Tickets and more information:**  
313.576.5111 -- www.detroitssymphony.com

Sponsored by:

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*Members of Ukrainian Future Credit Union and Ukrainian Selfreliance Michigan Federal Credit Union receive special discounted tickets, please call Future (586.757.1980) or Selfreliance (586.756.3300) for more details.*

**Saturday, October 20 – 7:00pm**  
**CLEVELAND**

United Methodist Church of Berea  
170 Seminary Street -- Berea, OH 44017

**Tickets and more information:**  
Baldwin Wallace Academic and Cultural Events Series  
440.826.2157

*This concert is presented by the Baldwin  
Wallace College World Music Series*

**Thursday, October 25 – 7:00pm**  
**HARTFORD**

Theater of the Performing Arts  
359 Washington Street -- Hartford, CT 06106

**Tickets and more information:**  
Theater of the Performing Arts Box Office  
860.757.6388

**Sunday, October 21 – 6:00pm**  
**WASHINGTON DC**

Sandy Spring Friends School  
16923 Norwood Road -- Sandy Spring, MD 20860

**Tickets and more information:**  
240.353.7364

**Friday, October 26 – 7:00pm**  
**MONTREAL**

Dim Molodi  
3260, rue Beaubien Est -- Montreal, Quebec

**Tickets and more information:**  
Caisse populaire Desjardins Ukrainienne de Montreal  
514.727.9456

**Monday, October 22 – 7:00pm**  
**PHILADELPHIA**

Ukrainian Educational & Cultural Center  
700 Cedar Road -- Jenkintown, PA 19046

**Tickets and more information:**  
Ukrainian Educational & Cultural Center  
215.663.1166

**Saturday, October 27 – 7:30pm**  
**OTTAWA**

Centre Bronson Centre  
211 Bronson Avenue -- Ottawa, ON K1R 6H5

**Tickets and more information:**  
Borys SIRSKYJ Lydia REPLANSKY  
613.726.1468 613.738.0849

**Tuesday, October 23 – 7:00pm**  
**WHIPPANY**

Ukrainian American Cultural Center  
of New Jersey (UACCNJ)  
60 North Jefferson Road -- Whippany, NJ 07981

**Tickets and more information:**  
UACCNJ – 973.585.7175  
General – 917.559.8629

**Sunday, October 28 – 2:00pm**  
**TORONTO**

Ryerson Theatre  
43 Gerrard Street East -- Toronto, ON

**Tickets Available at Branches of  
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# OUT AND ABOUT

- |                                   |  |                                 |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| September 18<br>New York          | First anniversary party, Ukrainian Language and Social Networking Group, 917-655-5256 or <a href="http://www.ukrainian.meetup.com/6">www.ukrainian.meetup.com/6</a>                      | September 27<br>New York        | Panel discussion, "Remembering Babyn Yar," Columbia University, 212-854-4697  |
| September 22<br>Lehigh, PA        | 20th anniversary of Kazka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, potato bake, pig roast and dance, featuring music by Burya, 215-235-3709 or 610-377-4621   | September 29<br>McLean, VA      | McLean East Slavic Cultural Festival, McLean Community Center, 703-790-0123   |
| September 22<br>Ottawa            | Murder Mystery Dinner, Ukrainian Professionals and Businesspersons Association, Tosca Restaurant, <a href="mailto:ucpbaottawa@infoukes.com">ucpbaottawa@infoukes.com</a> or 613-565-3933 | September 29<br>Tremont, OH     | Tremont Walk for Chernobyl, United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, <a href="mailto:zappz@cox.net">zappz@cox.net</a>  |
| September 22<br>Portland, OR      | Ukrainian Fall Festival, St. John Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 503-235-7129  | September 29<br>New York        | Lecture by Serhii Plokyh, "Ukraine in Search of Europe," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130  |
| September 22<br>New York          | Lecture by Vasyl Hrechynsky, "The Choral Art of Oleksander Koshetz," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130   | September 29<br>Barnesville, PA | "Celebrating Our Eastern European Heritage," featuring Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, 570-628-2632  |
| September 22<br>Grayslake, IL     | Golf Open, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club, 630-574-1961  | September 29<br>Whippany, NJ    | Fund-raiser concert, featuring Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and Academy and Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-895-4868 |
| September 23<br>Winnipeg          | Film screening, "Bereza Kartuzka" by Yuriy Luhovy, Manitoba Museum, 204-944-9128 or <a href="mailto:szwaluk@shaw.ca">szwaluk@shaw.ca</a>   | October 5<br>Vernon, NJ         | Golf Outing, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, Black Bear Golf Course, 908-766-0030 or <a href="mailto:Michael@uaccnj.org">Michael@uaccnj.org</a>               |
| September 24<br>Washington        | Lecture by Nadia Diuk, "The Next Generation in Russia and Ukraine - Agents of Change?" Kennan Institute, 202-691-4000  |                                 |   |
| September 25-29<br>Warrington, PA | Carnival for Hope, St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church, 215-343-0779  |                                 |   |
| September 27<br>Delaware, OH      | "The Bandura - Unplugged," with presentations by Oleh Sozansky, Taras Lazurkevych  |                                 |   |

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers; please send e-mail to [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com). Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.

## Heritage and Culture of Ukraine


hosted by  
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May 1 - 13, 2008


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## Art Exhibition

### Sergei Belik

Recent Paintings

September 21 - October 14, 2007

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Friday, September 21, 6-9 PM

Gallery hours  
12 to 6 PM daily  
(closed Mondays)

**Ukrainian Institute of America**  
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## Soyuzivka's Datebook

### September 21-23

KLK Weekend - General Meeting and Banquet; Whippany Spa Group

### September 25-27

Stamford Clergy Days - Fall Seminar

### September 28-30

Plast Rada - Pershi Stezhi sorority; Plast Rada - Burlaky fraternity

### October 5-7

Plast Rada - Lisovi Chorty fraternity

### October 5-8

New York Cycle Club

### October 12-14

UNWLA Spa Weekend; Plast Rada - Chortopolokhy sorority

### October 13

Corvette Road Rally

### October 19-21

U.S. National Plast Conference

### October 26-28

Halloween Weekend - Kids' Parade and Masquerade Zabava

### November 9-11

Plast Orlykiada Weekend



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Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Friday, September 21

**NEW YORK:** The "Art at the Institute" program presents an exhibition of recent paintings by Sergei Belik, a contemporary artist from Odesa, Ukraine. The public is invited to meet the artist and attend the opening reception for the exhibition on Friday, September 21, at 6 p.m. The exhibition will continue through October 14 at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10075. For additional information and to RSVP for the opening reception call 212-288-8660 or e-mail programs@ukrainianinstitute.org.

### Saturday, September 22

**NEW YORK:** The "Music at the Institute" chamber music series invites the public to a concert by pianist Nataly Shkoda, "An Evening of Ukrainian Music: Viktor Kosenko (1896-1936)." The program will feature "Eleven Etudes in the Form of Old Dances," Op.19. The concert will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. at 8 p.m. Donation: \$30, UIA members and senior citizens, \$25; students, \$20. For additional information and reservations call 212-288-8660 or visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

### Sunday, September 23

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences will host a presentation by Prof. Anna Procyk of Kingsborough College of the City University of New York on the subject "The West European Connection of the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood." This opening lecture of the new academic season will take place at 2 p.m. in the building of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences, 206 W. 100th St. (between Broadway and

Amsterdam Avenue). For further information call 212-222-1866.

### Sunday, October 7

**SUNNY ISLES BEACH, Fla.:** A cocktail reception fund-raiser will be held at 6-8 p.m. at the new and elegant oceanfront hotel Acqualina, 17875 Collins Ave. This year's "Help the Children" benefit for the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund will be hosted by Sunny Isles Beach Vice-Mayor Lewis Thaler and his wife, Madi. U.S. Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Florida will be an honored guest. The evening will feature Dr. Steven Schultz, director of pediatrics at Holts Children's Hospital/Jackson Memorial, as guest speaker. Dr. Schultz's topic: the recent collaboration between University of Miami physicians and doctors in Ukraine. Entertainment will be by Ukrainian violin virtuoso Vasyly Popadiuk and his group Papa Duke. Donations: \$150. For information and tickets contact Oksana Piaseckyj, 305-798-0190.

### Saturday, October 13

**YONKERS, N.Y.:** The Ukrainian American Veterans 60th annual national convention will be hosted here by Post 301. A banquet and dance will be held at 6 p.m. at the Ukrainian Youth Center, 301 Palisade Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701. Music will be by Na Zdorovya. Please make banquet reservations by October 1. Questions may be directed to Nicholas Skirka, 914-965-3707, or John Tkachuk, 914-965-1678. (Journal ads will be accepted until September 1; contact UAV National Commander Anna Krawczuk, 732-888-0494.) Hotel reservations can be made at the Royal Regency Hotel in Yonkers by calling 914-476-6200.

## 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 submission**) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, senders are asked to include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours, as well as their complete mailing address.

Information should be sent 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.

## Being Ukrainian means:

- Malanka in January.
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- Tabir in July.
- Volleyball at Wildwood in August.
- Labor Day at Soyuzivka in September.
- Morskyi Bal in November.
- Koliada in December.

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