



**ХРИСТОС БОЖКРЕС!
CHRIST IS RISEN!**

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

“Ukrainian Days” in Washington bring Ukrainian issues to the fore

by Matthew Dubas

WASHINGTON – More than a dozen participants attended the “Ukrainian Days” events on March 25-26 sponsored by the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA).

The goal of the two-day advocacy event was to promote the concerns of the Ukrainian American community, including: the U.S. stance on Ukraine in NATO in the lead-up to the NATO summit (held on April 3-5); the inclusion of the Holodomor in the curriculum of genocide studies, along with the Irish Famine, the Holocaust and the Cambodian Genocide under the Khmer Rouge; the global economic crisis, its effect in Ukraine, and the need for foreign assistance to Ukraine; energy security and diversification; and Ukrainian concerns about the proclaimed “reset” of U.S.-Russian relations.

The events were opened with a briefing session at the Heritage Foundation, with remarks by Dr. Lee Edwards, chairman of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOCMF); Bob Boehme, director of the Office of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Affairs at the U.S. Department of State; and Michael Sawkiw Jr., director of UNIS.

Packets that included information on issues important to the Ukrainian American community were distributed to all participants and to those representatives and senators scheduled to meet with Ukrainian Americans during the Ukrainian Days events. The included policy papers briefed staffers or members of Congress on such topics as: U.S.-Ukraine relations, U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine, the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 and the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

Following the briefing session, participants visited the future site of the Ukrainian Genocide memorial, located near Capitol Hill on Massachusetts Avenue, and the Victims of Communism memorial, located at the intersection of Massachusetts and

New Jersey avenues.

During the afternoon, attendees had an opportunity to meet with their respective representatives and senators, among them Rep. John Tierney (D-Mass.), Rep. Nydia Velasquez (D-N.Y.), Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Rep. Betty Sutton (D-Ohio), Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), as well as members and staffers of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Speaking with Rep. Velasquez, Mr. Sawkiw said that human trafficking is an issue that affects the Hispanic as well as the Ukrainian communities. Latin countries, he said, serve as destinations for these victims, while Ukraine is mostly a transit nation. Mr. Sawkiw urged cooperation on a coordinated effort to combat human trafficking. Rep. Velasquez said that this is an issue of concern and that her office would look into it.

Ukrainian American community members voiced other concerns to congressional staffers, including the potential of Ukraine being used as a bargaining chip at the approaching G-20 meeting and the NATO summit. It was also mentioned that Russia's insistence on a sphere of influence raises concern that there is a lot of rhetoric, but a lack of visible action, on the part of the U.S. government to counter Russia's policies. The community members offered their assistance and cooperation via their respective Ukrainian organizations.

Michael Koziupa, who is involved in numerous Ukrainian organizations, and serves as the Ukrainian National Association's second vice-president, called for support of: the declassification of Soviet-era archives; the monument to the victims of the Holodomor in Washington; and Ukraine's accession to NATO and the European Union.

On Wednesday evening, a reception was held by the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) – of which the UCCA is a member – to commemorate the 10th and

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Battle among Ukraine's leaders further delays loan from IMF



Official Website of Ukraine's President

During a meeting between Ukrainian officials and the International Monetary Fund (from left) are: Ceyla Pazarbasioglu of the IMF, President Viktor Yushchenko and Volodymyr Stelmakh of the National Bank of Ukraine.

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The ongoing conflict among Ukraine's three battling factions – the Presidential Secretariat led by Viktor Yushchenko, the Cabinet of Ministers led by Yulia Tymoshenko and the opposition led by Viktor Yanukovich – has further delayed international aid for its deteriorating economy.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) continued to hold back an estimated \$1.9 billion as part of a second loan tranche after a group of national deputies loyal to President Yushchenko and Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha declined to vote on three necessary pieces of legislation at the April 14 parliamentary session.

Their denial of support – which placed them on the same side of the issue as the Party of Regions of Ukraine and the Communist Party of Ukraine – stunned political players, particularly after President Yushchenko invited World Bank and IMF representatives to the Presidential Secretariat

the previous day and called upon the Parliament to pass the necessary laws.

The failed votes startled Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn, who stated sarcastically, “Such are the results of yesterday's conference, at which there were assurances that we need to make decisions in the nation's interests.”

Equally surprised, Prime Minister Tymoshenko reacted that evening by leading the Cabinet of Ministers in passing resolutions that she claimed would satisfy all the IMF's demands that the necessary legislation would have covered.

Her decision immediately drew criticism from her opponents, who claimed she was using an executive organ, the Cabinet of Ministers, to perform the role of a legislative organ, the Verkhovna Rada.

The three laws that the Rada didn't pass involved compensating budget shortfalls for Naftohaz Ukrainy; streamlining Pension Fund expenses, including capping the highest pension; and establishing fixed insurance

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Tymoshenko reportedly cut deal with Ukraine's biggest oligarch

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – In her transformation from radical opposition leader to calculating power broker, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko mended relations with her former nemesis Viktor Medvedchuk, who in turn brokered her enhanced ties with the Kremlin in an expedient disposal of the Orange ideals.

Now abandoning the remaining pretenses that she defends the interests of average Ukrainians against the nation's business clans, Ms. Tymoshenko cut a deal in March with Ukraine's biggest oligarch, Rinat Akhmetov, ceding to him

control of the nation's largest thermoelectric generator, Dniproenergo.

Mr. Akhmetov confirmed his new partnership with the prime minister when speaking to reporters during an April 6 tree-planting ceremony at the site of the ultra-modern Donbas Arena soccer stadium that will be dedicated in August.

“I really want the government to conquer the crisis,” he said. “I don't want to fight against the government – I want to fight against the crisis. If the government is able to triumph, it will become a hero. If not, then there will be questions. I really want the government to become the

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Michael Sawkiw

“Ukrainian Days” participants at the site of the future Holodomor monument in Washington.

ANALYSIS

Russian "national identity" and Ukraine-EU pipeline deal

by **Taras Kuzio**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukraine's gas pipeline deal with the European Union on March 23 led to an avalanche of Russian outrage that had less to do with the agreement, but exposed the Kremlin's use of Russian national identity. Russia apparently felt betrayed by Europe and Ukraine. Russian state-controlled media attacked its exclusion from the negotiations, maintaining that without Russia the modernization of the pipelines would not be viable, cast doubt on the viability of the plans and vilified the \$5 billion to 7 billion promised by the EU as far too little. On March 23 Rossiya TV said the EU had forgotten that the pipelines are "mere junk without gas."

Far more was involved than a show of anger over Moscow's exclusion from the deal. On March 25 Rossiyskaya Gazeta claimed, "Europe does not want to see our country [as part of Europe] and sometimes does not even want to listen to it." While Komsomolskaya Pravda noted that, "Europe wants to control our gas all by itself, so to speak. Russia has been assigned the role of a docile gas supplier, an appendix which possesses natural resources." Elsewhere, the Russian media were no less critical, describing the EU and Ukraine as adopting a "disrespectful attitude towards [Russia's] interests." A report on Center TV International on March 28 concluded that, "Our European partners are incapable of being loyal on either geopolitical or economic issues" (Trud, Center TV International, March 25, 28).

The March pipeline deal also revealed the immaturity of Ukrainian domestic politics. Since mid-2008 Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has been savagely attacked in Ukraine by the president and his secretariat because the prime minister was allegedly doing the bidding of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in return for Russian support in the presidential elections. They demanded that the Procurator General's Office institute criminal charges of "treason" against her, which the prosecutor found insufficient evidence to warrant.

Fedor Lukyanov, editor of the journal Russia in Global Affairs, pointed out that one reason for Putin's over-reaction was that he felt "betrayed" by Ms. Tymoshenko (Vremya Novostey, March 25). Mr. Putin was committed to the January gas agreement signed with the Ukrainian prime minister as the basis, "for building a political and energy partnership." As a former FSB officer, Mr. Putin knows that duplicity is central to the post-Soviet psyche.

Ms. Tymoshenko explained the deal as protecting national interests and that she did not "betray" Russia. Instead Ukraine "has decently and clearly protected its main gas transit pipeline" (Ukrayinska Pravda, March 24). On March 29 Ms. Tymoshenko told Ukraine's 1+1 TV, "One needs courage to defend Ukraine's national interests, and I have never backed the strategic aims of other countries to bypass Ukraine with alternative pipelines and thereby leave our gas

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Moscow shows no interest in pushing 'reset button' in relations with NATO

by **Pavel K. Baev**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Anti-Americanism has noticeably melowed in the Russian mainstream media since the London summit between Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev. Some commentators emphasize that strategic arms control is the easiest problem to tackle, but the new positive tone in the dialogue makes the habitual U.S.-bashing politically incorrect (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, April 7).

There is, however, hardly any change of attitude towards NATO, so the jubilee 60th anniversary summit in Strasbourg/Kehl was portrayed as high on pomp and low on content with the prime focus on the violent demonstrations (Vremya Novostei, Kommersant, April 6).

The alliance's intention to prioritize its relations with Russia did not impress Moscow, and Dmitri Rogozin, the Russian permanent representative at NATO, promised that discussions at the forthcoming meeting of the NATO-Russia Council would be dry and tough (www.newsru.com, April 6).

It is certainly not lost on Moscow that the European allies showed scant enthusiasm about President Obama's appeal to redouble collective efforts in confronting the mounting instability in Afghanistan (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, April 6). Bitter experience informs the dominant opinion within Russia that the international military operation in Afghanistan is a hopeless enterprise, but there are few doubts inside the Russian leadership that a victory of the irrepressible Taliban would be

detrimental to stability in Central Asia.

Expecting NATO to continue carrying this heavy burden indefinitely, Moscow demonstrates readiness to assist in the transit of non-military supplies to Afghanistan. What makes this bargaining particularly rewarding is the closure of the Manas U.S. airbase in Kyrgyzstan that was finalized by President Kurmanbek Bakiyev exactly on the day of the NATO jubilee after strong urging from Russia, reinforced by credit amounting to \$2 billion (www.rbc.ru, April 2; RIA-Novosti, March 6).

The final touch in this case was made by the documentary "The Base" shown on the Rossiya TV channel on April 5 that depicted Manas as a center of U.S. espionage, much to the chagrin of the Pentagon (www.lenta.ru, April 6).

Afghanistan is a painful problem for NATO that Moscow plans to squeeze to its advantage, but Georgia remains the main trouble spot in its relations with the alliance, about which Messrs. Medvedev and Obama were able only to "agree to disagree."

Even putting Georgia's plea for accession on hold, NATO is under a strong moral obligation to help it in dire straits, but the appeal to Russia "to reverse its recognition" of Abkhazia and South Ossetia at best would be simply shrugged off in Moscow. Every symbolic gesture of Atlantic solidarity is interpreted by the Russian leadership as an unwarranted interference in the evolving conflict where small incidents, like the interdic-

(Continued on page 20)

NEWSBRIEFS

Lazarenko conviction upheld

LOS ANGELES – A U.S. federal appeals court on May 11 upheld Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko's conviction on money-laundering and conspiracy charges. Mr. Lazarenko, who was prime minister of Ukraine in 1996-1997, has been in U.S. custody since February 1999, when he fled Ukraine, after being accused of siphoning at least \$200 million from the country's coffers. Ukraine has sought his extradition also on charges of complicity in the killings of several political opponents in the 1990s. Mr. Lazarenko was found guilty in the United States in May 2004 on 14 counts related to funneling money through U.S. banks; he was later sentenced to nine years in prison. On April 11 a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco overturned the conviction on six counts but upheld the remaining eight. The judges also noted that Mr. Lazarenko's request for a rehearing of his case by an 11-judge panel had been denied and that the ruling, therefore, was the final judgment of the appeals court. (Los Angeles Times)

PRU seen as power-hungry

KYIV – Seventy percent of Ukrainian citizens consider protests held by the Party of Regions to be a struggle for power, according to a survey conducted by the National Institute for Strategic Studies. According to poll results released on April 15, only 16 percent of respondents described recent moves by the opposition as an expression of their concern about the public. Some 64 percent of those polled said they believe the Cabinet of Ministers led by Yulia Tymoshenko would be incapable of tackling the economic crisis in the near future. The Party of Regions held mass protests in Kyiv demanding that the government present its anti-crisis program and budget amendments in Parliament. (Ukrinform)

Verkhovna Rada rejects IMF bills

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on April 14 refused to put on the agenda the bills needed to resume the country's coopera-

tion with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). None of the documents received over 210 votes, with 226 being the number required to place an item on the agenda. The factions of the Communist Party and the Party of Regions, and part of the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense Bloc (the For Ukraine group and the United Center party) refused to put the aforementioned bills on the agenda. The Parliament rejected the bills on budget amendments needed to balance the financial plan of national joint-stock company Naftohaz Ukrainy, amendments to some laws on pension support, and amendments to the law on obligatory state pension insurance. President Viktor Yushchenko said he expected the Verkhovna Rada to act this week to adopt laws needed to stabilize the Ukrainian economy and continue the country's cooperation with the IMF. (Ukrinform)

Most Ukrainians want early elections

KYIV – A majority of Ukrainian citizens – 60 percent – support the idea of holding early parliamentary and presidential elections simultaneously, according to a survey conducted by the National Institute for Strategic Studies. This idea is backed by voters of the Party of Regions (75 percent) and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (53 percent), but only 45 percent believe there will be positive changes after the elections. Respondents are inclined to "believe in the better" (57 percent) if the public votes at these elections for specific individuals, rather than for political parties. According to the poll, 76 percent said they support amendments to electoral laws that foresee open voter lists, and only 8 percent opposed the idea. President Viktor Yushchenko had set four conditions for the holding of snap presidential and parliamentary elections. He demanded that a parliamentary coalition be reformatted (having at least 226 seats after the elections), electoral laws be amended, elections be held under open voter lists, deputies' immunity be cancelled, and the conditions for pre-term elections be honestly observed by all political parties and blocs. (Ukrinform)

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FOR THE RECORD: President's annual address to the Verkhovna Rada

Following are excerpts of the annual address of the president of Ukraine to the Verkhovna Rada. President Viktor Yushchenko delivered his address on March 31. The following text is taken from the Official Website of Ukraine's President (see <http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/13362.html>).

...Hard times have come for Ukraine and for the world. We need to calmly contemplate the situation. Let everyone who is wise and everyone who does not see Ukraine as only a source of profit and temporary shelter, hear me.

...Ukraine has undoubtedly changed in the last five years. Fundamental processes have moved forward. We know now where we are going.

We strengthen ourselves as one nation. The Ukrainian nation with its distinct character, culture and language, traditions, history, which has arisen on our land. And at the same time as a united political nation, which evolves without regard to difference in views, faith, language or origin. We are able to make decisions in which lies national dignity. We have brought the subject of the Holodomor to the global level. The world has heard and understood us. With no regard to political views, and if we are honest before God and Ukraine, we all understand [the] importance of establishing a single Ukrainian Church. ...

Our integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic community is not an abstract goal anymore. Yet, at the same time, it is not an end in itself. It represents practical and modern instruments, which are capable of helping us to provide welfare to people and protection to the country, our nation, our children and our grandchildren.

... Ukraine has done or stands at the doorstep of exceptional steps, which were impossible five years ago. I am speaking of the joining of energy systems of Ukraine and the European Union and the perspective of signing an agreement on energy cooperation, the Eastern Partnership agreement, the completed agreement on airspace, the beginning of talks on visa-free Ukraine-EU travel, the talks on the establishment of a free trade zone with the EU. I also mean the unprecedented closeness to signature of the Association Agreement with the European Union that will happen this year.

...Having become a member of the Bologna process, we entered the European education area. Having become a member of the World Trade Organization, we became equal partners at European and global markets. Having elaborated a business plan of

the modernization of Ukraine's energy gas transit system we began integration of our gas energy systems that not only will bring us economic profit, but also will limit external pressure. We have brought back to life the Odesa-Brody-EU energy transit route. Undoubtedly it will become a main through-passage for energy resources from the Caspian region to Europe.

... together with Poland, we became hosts of the Euro 2012 Championship. The event will give a boost to our economy and open us for Europe and for the world.

Ukraine has all chances to change. ... Isn't this a joy, a true human joy that, in 2008, 84,000 children more were born than in 2004? For the first time since we gained independence we see a surplus of births over deaths in three regions of Ukraine. And I am sure this is only the beginning.

Gradually we begin caring more for each other. In 2008 every 10th Ukrainian orphan child has found its family. Another important fact is that since 2006 national Ukrainian adoption has become more commonplace.

Compared to 2005 the number of children taken in by adoptive families increased 22 times. It is parents, who are now standing in line for adoption, not the children, contrary to as it was three years ago.

We have stopped the mass flow-out of people to other countries. In 2001-2002 two people left Ukraine per one arriving; now the tendency is reverse – people are coming back home.

We have taken important steps in education.

Four hundred twenty-five thousand children entered higher education facilities by the new testing rules. We have per se cleansed ourselves of the old corrupted system that was demoralizing both parents and children. This is the first step towards new realization in Ukrainian youth.

We have started the reform of the armed forces and the whole security sector. Fundamental changes took place from the increase in wages to reduction of the call-up period to 12 months. I am sure that despite all problems we will reach the goal of a professional Ukrainian military.

Foreign investors now believe in Ukraine. In last four years the amount of direct foreign investment to Ukraine reached almost \$27 billion – three times more than all the investment drawn by Ukraine since independence.

I would also like to mention that our potential is shown by one simple fact: before the crisis hit us, the economic growth in Ukraine was estimated at 6.5 to 7 percent,



Official Website of Ukraine's President
President Viktor Yushchenko delivers his annual address to the Verkhovna Rada on March 31. In the background is Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn.

being one of the highest in Europe. I believe that we will return to this index.

...No one can void our achievements. But we could have done a hundred times more if the idea of national dignity and unity became supreme for all of us. Particularly for Ukrainian politicians. ...

... The external political priorities of Ukraine are permanent and well-trying. The European and Euro-Atlantic goal remains unaltered and it will be reached. I emphasize that again – it is in all Ukrainian citizens' interest. I stand for improvement of relations with the Russian Federation.

I will do everything that is possible to turn the page of misunderstanding and secure equal and friendly dialogue, as it should be between neighbors. The circle of our state priorities will remain broad – from Washington to Warsaw, from London and Paris to Beijing and Tokyo, from Seoul to Tripoli.

Especially in current conditions we should increase our presence at external markets and establish new economic ties.

... Our internal situation is complicated, but far from catastrophe. We have not crossed the line yet. But already today we are facing three dangerous challenges: eco-

nomics decline, exacerbation of the political crisis and wide-scale social protest.

I am sure that main cause for economic crisis in Ukraine is not external, but descends from the inability of the state to conduct basic necessary structural reforms, first of all economic and social. ...

It turned out that we were mostly unprepared to withstand the first strike of the crisis. ... We lost external markets that consumed 60 percent of Ukrainian export; our inflow of foreign currency almost fully depended on these markets, as well as employment of almost 2 million people in metallurgy, the chemical industry and related branches.

As a result, GDP growth slowed down to 102.1 percent last year compared to 106.7 percent in 2007 and fell 25 to 30 percent in January-February this year. ... Debts in wages have doubled between October of 2008 and January of 2009 and reached 1.6 billion hrv. From last October unemployment has doubled. ...

On behalf of millions of Ukrainian citizens, I address all Ukrainian politicians. ...

Our first steps in unity have already produced results.

We are restoring dialogue with international financial institutions.

We saved the banking system from collapse. ... We introduced a stable mechanism of anti-crisis cooperation and consultations.

In the spirit of this work I address everyone who is now present in the hall of the Verkhovna Rada.

I want you to calm down political passions and impose a moratorium on conflicts. The presidential campaign opens four-months before the election.

I propose that any actions aimed at winning early political benefits be postponed until September.

I would like you to give the state time to extricate itself out of the hardest phase of this trial. I propose a joint national antirecessionary plan that will save the country and protect millions of our people. It consists out of two interrelated components: The economic program and political measures.

... First of all – we need to restore financial stability in the country.

I had repeated many times before that the existing 2009 State Budget is populism, as it

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Demjanjuk's deportation to Germany is delayed by emergency stay

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – John Demjanjuk was taken into federal custody on April 14 in preparation for his deportation to Germany, where he is accused of being an accessory to the murder of 29,000 people as a guard at the Nazi death camp in Sobibor, Poland. However, an emergency stay granted late that afternoon halted the process.

According to Spiegel Online, as a charter jet stood ready at a Cleveland area airport, six immigration officers carried Mr. Demjanjuk out of his home in a wheelchair and took him to a cell at Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Cleveland.

Shortly afterwards a three-judge panel of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals granted a stay until it could further consider Mr. Demjanjuk's motion to reopen the case that ordered his deportation. As a result, Mr. Demjanjuk was released, arriv-

ing back at his home in Seven Hills, Ohio, several hours later.

His former son-in-law, Ed Nishnic, told the Associated Press the family was "delighted" that the stay was granted. "We're prepared to make our arguments with the 6th Circuit, and it's just a shame that Mr. Demjanjuk had to go through the hell that he went through once again this morning."

Mr. Demjanjuk's son, John Jr., said on CNN that lab reports in U.S. and Germany hands prove his father is unfit to stand trial. Maintaining his father's innocence, he noted that 32 years and untold U.S. taxpayer dollars have been spent on this case, which resulted in an acquittal in Israel. He told CNN that if his father were guilty of anything Israel would not have let him go free.

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Quotable notes

"...The fact that Crimea is part of Ukraine is no bigger a 'historical quirk' than that California is part of the United States or Sakhalin is part of Russia. ...long before the establishment of the Russian naval base in Sevastopol, the peninsula was densely populated by various ethnic groups. In the 1940s, Joseph Stalin deported hundreds of thousands of the Crimean Tatars and also Greeks, Germans and Bulgarians from Crimea to Central Asia. Their place was subsequently taken by Russian settlers.

"Further, I disagree with the statement that 'the Ukrainian government has done its part to raise tensions, as well, by imposing new language laws.' With 90 percent of the Ukrainian book market and about 60 percent of the print media still in Russian, and with just seven Ukrainian schools functioning on the Crimean peninsula, it is bizarre to hear claims that the Ukrainian government is suppressing the Russian language. The 'new language laws' just restore the Ukrainians' right to speak their mother tongue after centuries of Russification.

"Mr. Kucera is right that Russia's Black Sea Fleet is more a political and economic tool than a significant military force. Nevertheless, it poses a grave problem for Ukraine's security because of its potential for active involvement in military conflicts contrary to Ukraine's national interest.

"Proponents of the prolonged stay of the fleet in Sevastopol claim that it helps the city's budget. However, experts have calculated that if all the territories presently occupied by the fleet were open to economic development, city revenues would increase manifold.

"We expect that the Russian Federation will honor its international legal obligations and vacate its base in Sevastopol by 2017. Consequently, the city will enter a new era of revived economic activity, fulfilling its potential as a dynamic civilian port and tourist destination. An important factor of political and military instability finally will be removed from Crimea."

– Oleh Shamshur, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, in a letter to the editor of *The Washington Post* published on February 17. The letter was written in response to the February 9 article "Status of Crimea hangs over Russia, Ukraine" by Joshua Kucera.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA organizing report for the year 2008

by Christine E. Kozak
UNA National Secretary

The Ukrainian National Association annually recognizes and awards those individuals who have achieved a certain level of excellence in selling UNA life and/or annuity products. It is their hard work, persistence and dedication that enable the UNA to support its official weekly newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, which are available to members and non-members alike.

The sale of life insurance and annuities also helps support the Ukrainian Heritage Center at Soyuzivka available to all where many take advantage of vacationing in the beautiful and serene surroundings in the Catskill region of New York State. Members and non-members from all walks of life, from South America, Europe and Canada, have taken the opportunity to attend the children's camps, teens' camps and dance workshops, as well as professionals' and seniors' conferences and reunions.

The UNA also supports many Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian organizations, awards scholarships and provides special benefits to its members.

The UNA's sales force is multi-faceted from traditional branch secretaries selling locally, to independent agents and to professional agents working at the UNA Home Office. Each group compliments the other, helping the UNA to

Organizers' Report By Annual Premium 1/1/08 - 12/31/08

| Organizer's name | Policy count | Face amount | Annual premium |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Lubov Streletsky | 10 | 178,000 | 14,798.89 |
| Myron Pylypiak | 5 | 53,000 | 8,537.90 |
| Longin Staruch | 5 | 50,000 | 6,880.00 |
| Eugene Gulycz | 8 | 42,000 | 5,920.02 |
| Nadia Salabay | 8 | 65,000 | 3,359.05 |
| Valentina Kaploun | 14 | 240,000 | 3,294.25 |
| Stephan Welhasch | 7 | 175,000 | 2,541.45 |
| Nicholas Diakiwsky | 7 | 65,000 | 2,265.90 |
| Oksana Stanko | 9 | 65,000 | 2,227.45 |
| Eugene Oscislawski | 6 | 55,000 | 1,783.10 |
| Nicolas Fil | 9 | 90,000 | 1,770.10 |
| Eli Matiash | 8 | 40,000 | 1,574.85 |
| Zenon Holubec M. | 5 | 25,000 | 1,500.00 |
| Gloria Horbaty | 4 | 35,000 | 1,471.55 |
| Barbara O. Boyd | 2 | 20,000 | 1,200.00 |
| Maya Lew | 3 | 80,000 | 1,182.20 |
| Oksana Trytjak | 4 | 20,000 | 1,102.40 |
| Anna Buriy | 1 | 20,000 | 1,041.20 |
| Stephanie Hawryluk | 10 | 94,999 | 876.65 |
| Myron Kuzio | 5 | 30,000 | 851.35 |
| Martha Lysko | 3 | 15,000 | 628.10 |
| Bohdan Podoliuk | 3 | 110,000 | 580.60 |
| Cyril M. Bezkorowajny | 3 | 15,000 | 570.75 |
| Steven Woch | 3 | 75,000 | 549.75 |
| George B. Fedorijczuk | 3 | 35,000 | 435.80 |
| Joyce Kotch | 3 | 35,000 | 425.60 |
| Helen Heim | 1 | 65,000 | 425.40 |
| Olga Maruszczak | 4 | 65,000 | 414.10 |
| Motria Milanytch | 1 | 10,000 | 408.30 |
| Oksana Koziak | 2 | 10,000 | 394.60 |
| Judith Hawryluk | 1 | 25,000 | 389.00 |
| Peter Hawrylcw | 1 | 10,000 | 349.60 |
| Irene V. Sarachmon | 1 | 10,000 | 349.60 |
| William J. Slovik | 1 | 10,000 | 330.50 |
| Joseph Chabon | 4 | 40,000 | 323.60 |
| Petro Pytel | 1 | 5,000 | 310.00 |
| Rodney S. Godfrey | 1 | 5,000 | 300.00 |
| Michael S. Turko | 1 | 5,000 | 236.55 |
| Jurij Danyliw | 1 | 5,000 | 219.80 |
| Nina Bilchuk | 1 | 5,000 | 204.15 |
| Myron Luszcak | 1 | 5,000 | 176.25 |
| Mykola Kis | 1 | 5,000 | 174.80 |
| Alexandra Dolnycky | 1 | 5,000 | 170.45 |
| Genet H. Boland | 1 | 30,000 | 149.10 |
| Vira Krywyj | 1 | 50,000 | 137.50 |
| Joseph Banach | 1 | 5,000 | 125.75 |
| Michael Shean | 1 | 5,000 | 125.75 |
| Myron Groch | 1 | 25,000 | 83.25 |
| Stephania Majkut | 1 | 25,000 | 80.75 |
| Adam Platosz | 1 | 25,000 | 78.25 |
| Helen Karachewsky | 1 | 50,000 | 74.50 |
| Total | 200 | 2,522,999 | 75,873.11 |



Lubov Streletsky



Valentina Kaploun



Stefanie Hawryluk

achieve a steady growth in its premium and annuity business for 2008. Total premium income for 2008 was \$12,741,403, an increase of 195 percent over the 2007 income of \$4,317,785.

New business in 2008 included 200 life insurance policies, for \$2,523,000 in face amount with a total annual premium of \$146,879. The 20-Payment Life plan continues to be the most popular in terms of the number of policies sold. As indicated by its name, this is a whole life product that is paid up in 20 annual payments. This permanent insurance has increasing cash value throughout its life and the premiums never increase.

However, 40 percent of the UNA's cash with application is made up of the Single Premium Life plan. The policyowner makes one payment and his/her life insurance policy is paid up.

The top branch secretaries who enroll the most members receive an honorary membership in one of four UNA Champions Clubs.

For 2008, the UNA is happy to announce the outstanding branch secretary for collecting the most premiums with applications is Lubov Streletsky, an advisor on the UNA General Assembly and secretary of Branch 10. Congratulations to Lubov. We are extremely proud of her accomplishment, especially in this rough economic climate.

The following branch secretaries (HQ denotes a Home Office employee) qualified for honorary membership in the UNA's Champions Clubs.

2008 Club of UNA Builders

Enrollment of 10 to 24

| Name, branch | No. of Members | Insurance amount |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Valentina Kaploun, HQ (Br. 269) | 14 | \$240,000 |
| Lubov Streletsky (Br. 10) | 10 | \$178,000 |
| Stephanie Hawryluk (Br. 88) | 10 | \$94,999 |

Club of Dedicated UNA'ers

Enrollment of 5 to 8 members

| Name, branch | No. of Members | Insurance amount |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| *Nicholas Fil (Br. 13) | 9 | \$90,000 |
| Oksana Stanko, HQ | 9 | \$65,000 |
| Nadia Salabay, HQ | 8 | \$65,000 |
| Eugene Gulycz (Br. 12) | 8 | \$42,000 |
| Eli Matiash (Br. 120) | 8 | \$40,000 |
| Stephan Welhasch, HQ | 7 | \$175,000 |
| Nick Diakiwsky (Br. 161) | 7 | \$65,000 |
| *Eugene Oscislawski (Br. 234) | 6 | \$55,000 |
| *Myron Pylypiak (Br. 496) | 5 | \$53,000 |
| Longin Staruch (Br. 172) | 5 | \$50,000 |
| Myron Kuzio (Br. 277) | 5 | \$30,000 |
| *Zenon Holubec (Br. 358) | 5 | \$25,000 |

No matter how large or how small, each and every life insurance policy issued is an important policy and helps the UNA attain its goal of continuing to benefit UNA members, as well as the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities.

During 2008, the UNA held its first "2008 Go For the Platinum Campaign" in honor of the 2008 Olympics. It was a membership campaign with a twist. One had to attain a certain number of points in order to move up

into the next category of prizes. Each and every participant was a winner, and prizes were awarded accordingly, whether a secretary or organizer sold one policy or 10. We are extremely proud of the following branch secretaries and organizers:

PLATINUM WINNER

Lubov Streletsky, advisor, UNA General Assembly, secretary, Br. 10

SILVER

Longin Staruch, secretary, Br. 172
Eugene Gulycz, secretary, Br. 12

Bronze

Eugene Oscislawski, advisor, UNA General Assembly, secretary, Br. 234

Nicholas Fil, advisor, UNA General Assembly, secretary, Br. 13

Myron Pylypiak, advisor UNA General Assembly, secretary, Br. 496

And, of course, the list would not be complete without naming all of the participants and "stars" of the UNA. The UNA's success depends on people, whose commitment, skills and positive energy make great things happen. We could not succeed without them!

*Zenon Holubec (Br. 358)
Helen Heim (Br. 121)
Alexandra Dolnycky (Br. 434)
*Gloria Horbaty (Br. 414)
Martha Lysko (Br. 171)
Nick Diakiwsky (Br. 161)
Eli Matiash (Br. 120)
Oksana Koziak (Br. 47)
Olga Maruszczak (Br. 82)
Barbara Boyd (Br. 381)
Bohdan Podoliuk (Br. 327)
Genet Boland (Br. 409)
*Maya Lew (Br. 5)
Rodney Godfrey (Br. 142)
Vera Krywyj (Br. 174)
Stephanie Hawryluk (Br. 88)
Cyril Bezkorowajny (Br. 256)
*Myron Groch (Br. 461)
Myron Kuzio (Br. 277)
Jurij Danyliw (Br. 153)
Stefania Majkut (Br. 238)
Peter Hawrylcw (Br. 253)
Joseph Chabon (Br. 242)
Adam Platosz (Br. 254)
George Fedorijczuk (Br. 162)
Myron Luszcak (Br. 379)
Helen Karachewsky (Br. 221)
Joyce Kotch (Br. 39)
Mykola Kis (Br. 486)
*Member of UNA General Assembly

The UNA would like to express its utmost gratitude to all individuals, branch secretaries, organizers, and agents for their life insurance production in 2008. Their partici-

(Continued on page 5)

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

AGENT LIFE AND ANNUITY PREMIUM RECAP REPORT

NEW BUSINESS-CWA COLLECTED ONLY

January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008

| Name | Life | Face Amt | Annul Prem | Sgl Premium | Life Premium | Annuity Prem | Life & Annuity | Rollover | |
|------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Stanko, Oksana | 9 | 65,000 | 1,067.45 | 1,160 | 2,227.45 | 23 | 883,368.51 | 885,595.96 | 579.26 |
| Woch, Steve | 3 | 75,000 | 549.75 | | 549.75 | 15 | 368,337.19 | 368,886.94 | 411,552.50 |
| Welhasch, Stephan | 7 | | 1,640.65 | 900 | 2,540.65 | 18 | 441,460.62 | 444,001.27 | 30,000.00 |
| Non Comm | | | | | | 3 | 205,000.00 | 205,000.00 | |
| Ciapka, Lydia | | | | | 0.00 | 4 | 305,000.00 | 305,000.00 | |
| Trytjak, Oksana | 4 | 20,000 | 802.40 | 300 | 1,102.40 | 7 | 278,494.02 | 279,596.42 | |
| Hawryluk, Judith | 1 | 25,000 | 389.00 | | 389.00 | 15 | 166,700.05 | 167,089.05 | 8,874.58 |
| Chabon, Joseph | 4 | 40,000 | 323.60 | | 323.60 | 2 | 71,909.86 | 72,233.46 | |
| ***Horbaty, Gloria | 4 | 35,000 | 1,471.55 | | 1,471.55 | 1 | 30,700.76 | 32,172.31 | |
| ***Serba, Eugene | | | | | 0.00 | 4 | 28,000.00 | 28,000.00 | |
| ***Oscislowski, Eugene | 6 | 55,000 | 1,783.10 | | 1,783.10 | 2 | 21,000.00 | 22,783.10 | |
| Bobeczko, Nicholas | | | | | | 1 | 20,000.00 | 20,000.00 | |
| Kuzio, Myron | 5 | 30,000 | 851.35 | | 851.35 | 2 | 17,000.00 | 17,851.35 | |
| Streletsky, Lubov | 10 | 178,000 | 9,823.89 | 4,975 | 14,798.89 | | | 14,798.89 | |
| Bilchuk, Nina | | | | | 0.00 | 3 | 14,061.00 | 14,061.00 | |
| Romanyshyn, Basil | | | | | 0.00 | 1 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | |
| Gulycz, Eugene | 8 | | 1,140.02 | 4,780 | 5,920.02 | 1 | 3,554.34 | 9,474.36 | |
| ***Pylypiak, Myron | 5 | 53,000 | 2,362.90 | 6,175 | 8,537.90 | | | 8,537.90 | |
| Derzko, Marko | | | | | 0.00 | 1 | 8,000.00 | 8,000.00 | |
| Derzko, Sophia | | | | | 0.00 | 1 | 8,000.00 | 8,000.00 | |
| Staruch, Lon | 5 | 50,000 | | 6,880 | 6,880.00 | | | 6,880.00 | |
| Kaploun, Valia | 13 | 215,000 | 2,688.50 | | 2,688.50 | 1 | 1,000.00 | 3,688.50 | |
| Salabay, Nadia | 8 | 65,000 | 3,359.05 | | 3,359.05 | | | 3,359.05 | |
| Drich, Maria | | | | | 0.00 | 1 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | |
| Hawryluk, Joseph | | | | | 0.00 | 1 | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | |
| Milanytch, Motria | 1 | 10,000 | 408.30 | | 408.30 | 1 | 2,000.00 | 2,408.30 | |
| Diakiwsky, Nicholas | 7 | 65,000 | 2,265.90 | | 2,265.90 | | | 2,265.90 | |
| Lysiak, Stefan | | | | | 0.00 | 1 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | |
| ***Fil, Nick | 9 | 90,000 | 1,170.00 | 600 | 1,770.00 | | | 1,770.00 | |
| Matiash, Eli | 8 | 40,000 | 674.85 | 900 | 1,574.85 | | | 1,574.85 | |
| Holubec, Zenon | 5 | 25,000 | | 1,500 | 1,500.00 | | | 1,500.00 | |
| Boyd, Barbara | 2 | 20,000 | | 1,200 | 1,200.00 | | | 1,200.00 | |
| ***Lew, Maya | 3 | 80,000 | 1,182.00 | | 1,182.00 | | | 1,182.00 | |
| Hawryluk, Stephanie | 10 | 94,999 | 566.66 | 310 | 876.65 | | | 876.65 | |
| Lysko, Martha | 3 | 15,000 | 628.10 | | 628.10 | | | 628.10 | |
| Podoliuk, Bohdan | 3 | 110,000 | 580.60 | | 580.60 | | | 580.60 | |
| Bezkorowajny, Cyril | 3 | 15,000 | 570.75 | | 570.75 | | | 570.75 | |
| Fedorijczuk, George | 3 | 35,000 | 435.80 | | 435.80 | | | 435.80 | |
| Kotch, Joyce | 3 | 35,000 | 425.60 | | 425.60 | | | 425.60 | |
| Heim, Helen | 1 | 65,000 | 425.40 | | 425.40 | | | 425.40 | |
| Maruszczak, Olga | 4 | 65,000 | 414.10 | | 414.10 | | | 414.10 | |
| Koziak, Oksana | 2 | 10,000 | 394.60 | | 394.60 | | | 394.60 | |
| Sarachmon, Irene | 1 | 10,000 | 349.60 | | 349.60 | | | 349.60 | |
| Hawrylcw, Peter | 1 | 10,000 | 349.60 | | 349.60 | | | 349.60 | |
| Slovik, William | 1 | 10,000 | 330.50 | | 330.50 | | | 330.50 | |
| Pytel, Petro | 1 | 5,000 | | 310 | 310.00 | | | 310.00 | |
| Godfrey, Rodney | 1 | 5,000 | | 300 | 300.00 | | | 300.00 | |
| Turko, Michael | 1 | 5,000 | 236.55 | | 236.55 | | | 236.55 | |
| Danyliw, Jurij | 1 | 5,000 | 219.80 | | 219.80 | | | 219.80 | |
| Luszczak, Myron | 1 | 5,000 | 176.25 | | 176.25 | | | 176.25 | |
| Kis, Mykola | 1 | 5,000 | 174.80 | | 174.80 | | | 174.80 | |
| Boland, Genet | 1 | 30,000 | 149.10 | | 149.10 | | | 149.10 | |
| Krywyj, Vira | 1 | 50,000 | 137.50 | | 137.50 | | | 137.50 | |
| Banach, Joseph | 1 | 5,000 | 125.75 | | 125.75 | | | 125.75 | |
| Majkut, Stephania | 1 | 25,000 | 80.75 | | 80.75 | | | 80.75 | |
| Platosz, Adam | 1 | 25,000 | 78.25 | | 78.25 | | | 78.25 | |
| Karachewsky, Irene | 1 | 50,000 | 74.50 | | 74.50 | | | 74.50 | |
| Shean, Michael | 1 | 5,000 | 125.75 | | 125.75 | | | 125.75 | |
| Independent Agents | 20 | 295,000 | | | 2,472.65 | | | 2,472.65 | |
| Totals | 195 | 2,225,999 | 40,878.82 | 30,290 | 73,767.21 | 109 | 2,891,586.35 | 2,965,353.56 | 451,006.34 |

CANADA

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|---------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|--|-----------------|--|
| Burij, Anna | 1 | 20,000 | 1,041.20 | | 1,041.20 | | | 1,041.20 | |
| Kaploun, Valia | 1 | 25,000 | 605.74 | | 605.74 | | | 605.74 | |
| Bilchuk, Nina | 1 | 5,000 | 204.15 | | 204.15 | | | 204.15 | |
| Dolnycky, Alexandra | 1 | 5,000 | 170.45 | | 170.45 | | | 170.45 | |
| ***Groch, Myron | 1 | 25,000 | 83.25 | | 83.25 | | | 83.25 | |
| Totals | 5 | 80,000 | 2,104.79 | | 2,104.79 | | | 2,104.79 | |

***UNA General Assembly

UNA organizing...

(Continued from page 4)

pation in the incentive programs made available only to branch secretaries is a small way in which we can say thank you. We wish them a prosperous 2009.

We are very happy to announce that 2008 was a very good year in the UNA's annuity line of business. The year saw an increase in annuity sales of 337 percent over 2007. New business in annuity premium income for 2008 was \$11,151,076, in comparison to \$2,551,821 in 2007. Key elements in this revenue growth are the continued recruitment of independent agents, which leads to greater exposure of UNA products in different markets; increased promotions in the UNA's publications; and the expansion of advertising in other media, including radio. Certainly there

is also the great rate UNA annuities offer to members, as well as the introduction of a new incentive program for UNA annuity-holders, "The Loyal Member Program," which pays a .25 point higher interest than the current rate if the annuity is rolled over.

The amounts sold in annuity products by our top three independent agents were: \$1,981,625, \$1,077,657 and \$632,650. The total annuity amount sold by our field agents was \$6,625,649.

The UNA's top producers of over \$10,000 in annuity premiums for year 2008 were:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Oksana Stanko (HQ) | \$883,368 |
| Stephen Welhasch (HQ) | \$444,001 |
| Steve Woch (HQ) | \$368,337 |
| Lydia Ciapka (HQ) | \$305,000 |
| Oksana Trytjak (Br 25, HQ) | \$278,494 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Judith Hawryluk (Br. 360) | \$166,700 |
| Joseph Chabon (Br. 242) | \$71,909 |
| *Gloria Horbaty (Br. 414) | \$30,700 |
| *Eugene Serba | \$28,000 |
| *Eugene Oscislowski (Br. 234) | \$21,000 |
| Myron Kuzio (Br. 277) | \$17,000 |
| Nina Bilchuk (HQ) | \$14,000 |
| <i>*Member of UNA General Assembly</i> | |

I must also mention the group of dedicated UNA Home Office professional agents who have done an outstanding job in helping to expound the benefits and stability of the UNA annuity versus the volatility of the market and the economic crisis which surrounds us on a daily basis. In order of most premiums collected with

(Continued on page 22)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine and the IMF

Whether or not one supports the view that Ukraine needs to borrow another \$1.9 billion from the International Monetary Fund, it was counterproductive to observe President Viktor Yushchenko urge Parliament to vote in favor of IMF-related legislation, only to see his national deputies withhold support the next day.

For weeks, the president had been touting the need for the second tranche of the IMF loan, even calling a special conference at the Presidential Secretariat on the eve of the April 14 vote that included IMF official Ceyla Pazarbasioglu and World Bank official Pablo Saavedra. The next day, his loyal deputies balked – likely on his orders. The incident has further chipped away at his credibility.

That President Yushchenko is more interested in playing politics and blaming Ukraine's economic deterioration on Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, rather than work with her to put out the fires, is yet another example of bankrupt leadership.

And while Mr. Yushchenko has failed in political leadership, Ms. Tymoshenko certainly isn't demonstrating fiscal leadership. Rather than cutting unnecessary expenditures, such as Mercedes SUVs for local police and government perks for the children and grandchildren of World War II veterans, she is banking on the IMF loan.

The IMF wants to see Ukraine's \$3.9 billion budget deficit reduced. Instead, the government is reportedly covering up budget revenue shortfalls of as much as 40 percent in the first quarter by re-writing them for the fourth quarter, according to veteran Kyiv political observer Ivan Lozowy.

Undeniably, the Ukrainian economy is desperately in need of the liquidity that IMF loans can provide, but it's worth examining the distributed first tranche in determining the potential for the next tranches of a loan expected to total \$16.4 billion.

Ms. Tymoshenko said all \$4.5 billion of the first tranche was used by the National Bank to boost Ukraine's gold reserve fund. Kyiv economist Dr. Oleh Soskin estimates \$2.5 billion was deposited into Ukraine's gold reserves, but the remaining \$2 billion is unaccounted for. Much of this money was given to refinance banks such as Dmytro Firtash's Nadra and Anatolii Matviyenko's PromInvestBank, that are now under state administration and insolvent. The money could have been funneled into offshore accounts, Dr. Soskin surmised, while tens of thousands of Ukrainians may never see their savings deposits returned. Another portion might have financed the state budget. In short, "the funds were used in secret, without transparency, and ineffectively," he said.

As optimists noted, crises are times of immense opportunities for reform and change. Instead, Ukraine's leadership is resorting to hackneyed proposals that offer only short-term solutions – introducing taxes and hiking those in existence, and asking for loans from foreign governments and institutions.

Rather than engaging in "ritual dances" around IMF loan tranches, in the words of former Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh, Ukraine's leaders should use this crisis as an opportunity for broad reform. Mr. Kinakh has called for a moratorium on any new taxes, as well as the launch of several dozen long-term major infrastructure projects as locomotives for economic growth. Meanwhile, banks shouldn't be refinanced unless new laws are passed on establishing firm guidelines on consumer credit.

In accepting any further loans from the IMF, Ukraine's leaders need to ensure the money will be invested transparently and wisely, ensuring Ukraine's long-term growth instead of patching together short-term remedies that might falter all the same.

April
19
1994

Turning the pages back...

Fifteen years ago, on April 19, 1994, the foreign affairs ministry of Ukraine officially announced that Ukraine and Russia had agreed to divide the Black Sea Fleet. The agreement was signed on April 15, 1994, during a Commonwealth of Independent States summit by Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin, with

each country getting 50 percent of the flotilla. As part of the agreement, Ukraine also would receive 25 percent of all other property associated with the Sevastopol fleet.

Previous agreements fell through because of dissension on both sides from naval commands, and this 1994 agreement was drafted after the Ukrainian ship Cheleken was commandeered to Sevastopol on April 9, 1994.

Borys Tarasyuk, vice-minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine, said Ukraine would hand most of its share of the ships to Russia in payment for oil and gas debts. "Ukraine will keep between 15 and 20 percent of the ships," explained Mr. Tarasyuk. "Ukraine does not need all of these ships."

Mr. Tarasyuk disputed reports by Russian media sources that suggested the fleet would be divided according to the Massandra protocol, an agreement signed in 1993 that stipulated Ukraine would renounce claims to all of the Black Sea Fleet. It was believed that President Kravchuk signed that agreement under duress and that Russia had threatened to turn off all oil and gas supplies if Ukraine did not acquiesce to Russia's demands.

"Ukraine is following an integral approach to the problem of the Black Sea Fleet," Mr. Tarasyuk said, "taking into account the provisions of the Dagomys, Yalta and Zavidovo agreements, as well as those of Massandra."

Specific details about the division of the fleet were to be discussed in Sevastopol on April 21, 1994, by the defense ministers of Russia and Ukraine. Moscow proposed that Russia should control strategic warships such as antisubmarine vessels and cruisers, and that Ukraine would take the tactical portion of the fleet, including minesweepers and coast guard boats, Interfax reported.

"Both the Ukrainian and Russian navies must be based in Sevastopol, thought in different ports of the city," said Cmdr. Volodymyr Beskorovainy of Ukraine's navy.

Any agreements signed by the parties in Sevastopol would first be reviewed by President Kravchuk and then be subject to ratification by the Parliament. Questions of ownership of the base in Sevastopol would also need to be worked out, as indicated in the Massandra protocol that required Russia to pay rent to Ukraine for use of the facility.

Russia's Defense Minister Gen. Pavel Grachev told Interfax, "This fleet belongs to

(Continued on page 17)

NEWS ANALYSIS

Russian scholar sees possible break-up of Russian Federation

by Yuri Zarakhovich
Eurasia Daily Monitor

"As a scholar, I establish the fact that the Russian Federation is developing signs of the initial stage of a break-up," Prof. Alexei Malashenko, scholar-in-residence of the Carnegie Moscow Center, told the Jamestown Foundation on February 12. "Not unlike the case of the USSR, the current economic crisis threatens to bring already badly strained internal ties to the breaking point."

The first parts to break away, Prof. Malashenko believes, will be the Kaliningrad enclave, wedged between Poland, Lithuania and Belarus and firmly oriented toward Europe, and the Far East on the opposite side of this country, firmly connected economically to China, Japan and South Korea.

The Kaliningrad region and the Far East have as little in common within the Russian Federation as, say, Estonia and Turkmenistan did in the Soviet Union. No viable economic ties exist between the extremes of this large country. There is nothing like Route 1 from Key West, Fla., to Fort Kent on the Canadian border to link Kaliningrad to Vladivostok. Only centralized control, known as Vladimir Putin's "vertical of power," has kept Russian's regions together like hoops on a cask. As the systemic crisis loosens the hoops, however, the decayed cask will start falling apart.

On February 9 the Republic of Tuva, which borders Mongolia in Eastern Siberia (and of whose existence most Muscovites are only dimly aware), challenged a key element of this power vertical. Under Mr. Putin, regional legislatures just rubber-stamp Moscow's "recommended" presidents and governors (just as the USSR's Communist Party regional committees "elected" Moscow's "recommended" first secretaries). The central government appoints the key officials of federal agencies in the regions, regardless of local feelings. Tuva now wants Moscow to seek regional approval for such appointments (www.kommersant.ru/doc.aspx?DocsID=1116295&NodesID=2).

Although the legislation initiated by Tuva will most likely die on the Duma floor, it does reflect the longstanding anger that has been smoldering in the regions as Mr. Putin has been turning the Russian Federation into a unitary state. This anger recently broke out in a dangerous way in Dagestan. On February 2 Moscow appointed Vladimir Radchenko to head the Dagestan Republic's Directorate of the Federal Internal Revenue Service (UFNS).

On February 3 Mr. Radchenko could not enter Dagestan, because a large crowd of protesting Lezgins, Dagestan's third-largest ethnic group, would not let him in. The Lezgins have a claim on the UFNS under an informal delineation of powers in the multi-ethnic republic (www.rosbalt.ru/2009/02/03/614914.html).

Only on February 6 was Mr. Radchenko able to make his way into the UFNS headquarters in Makhachkala. He did not stay long, however. Two gunmen broke in, threatened him with guns, grabbed him and threw him into a car. The kidnappers told Mr. Radchenko that they would kill him if he did not leave Dagestan and then just dumped him in the downtown area (www.interfax.ru/politics/news.asp?id=62243). Mr. Radchenko left the republic (www.gazeta.ru/politics/2009/02/11_a_2940547.shtml).

ru/politics/2009/02/11_a_2940547.shtml).

Mr. Radchenko's lawyer, Murad Karikhmanov, quoted his client as saying that it was his UFNS deputy, Gadzhimurat Aliev, a son of Dagestan President Mukhu Aliev, who led the opposition to block Moscow's appointee from assuming office (www.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/149452). Moscow had to swallow this bitter pill to avoid provoking more confrontations in restive Dagestan.

Meanwhile, on February 11 the Moscow-based daily Moskovskii Komsomolets (MK) published a story titled "Diamond Luster: Who Is Tearing Sakha out of Russia?" The Republic of Sakha-Yakutia has 90 percent of all of Russia's diamonds and 30 percent of its natural gas reserves, oil, as well as other riches. The MK story cites numerous stories "regularly appearing on popular Yakutian [Internet] sites and calling almost directly for secession from Russia." MK frets that "American sites pick up these stories."

MK accuses Afanasi Maksimov, a local millionaire-entrepreneur and a deputy of the republic's legislature of launching this "Independence for Yakutia" campaign and "fanning up the enmity" toward the central government as a defense against possible criminal prosecution for his numerous misdemeanors. That might well be; but MK also refers to local dissidents who insist that the federal center "beats and humiliates Yakutia."

Increased confrontation in Yakutia is indicative of growing centrifugal tension in Russia, held dormant under Mr. Putin's heel since the late 1990s but never resolved politically or economically.

During the economic crisis of the 1990s, Russian regions walled up, either banning exports to neighbors (Krasnodarsky Krai banned selling its grain to other Russian regions) or banning imports from its neighbors (Tatarstan banned vodka imports from other Russian regions.) Internal customs houses, banned by Empress Elisabeth in 1754, sprang into being once again. On February 3 the Moscow-based Kommersant reported that since January 15 Tatarstan had again banned vodka imports from other Russian regions.

A key factor that could unite a country in crisis is its citizens' right to self-government and self-organization. Mr. Putin's power vertical, however, is aimed at nipping any attempts at such self-determination in the bud. On May 20, 2005, then-FSB Director Nikolai Patrushev flatly stated that NGOs working in Russia threatened the country's security (www.newsru.com/russia/20may2005/janes.html). On January 10, 2006, then-President Putin signed a law that severely curtailed NGOs' activities and placed them under stringent state control (www.finmarket.ru/z/nws/hotnews.asp?id=452332&nt=).

Oleg Panfilov, a noted scholar and human rights activist, told Jamestown on February 13, "With economic ties broken and self-organization traditionally suppressed, the rotten barrel of Putin's state indeed risks falling apart, once the authoritarian hoops strain to the breaking point."

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The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Calling Vesna: Hooo!

"Hukannia," that is what it's called. Calling – from "huk" (sound, noise), "hukaty" (to call out). At the end of each refrain of some "vesnivkys" or "vesnianky," the ritual spring songs, the women add "hooo!" in a high pitched voice.

The vesnivky (plural from "vesna" spring) were sung and "danced" ("khorovid," a round dance, not a folk dance) just before the beginning of spring – to encourage spring to arrive, to "call it out," to ensure that Mother Earth, the sun and all of nature reawaken. The words, melodies and ritual gestures were just one more way of making sure that vesna actually did return. And by hukannia (calling out by making noise) rather than "vyklykannia" (calling to), vesna is being awakened, rather than just being called back. This bolsters hope for a good harvest, and for the awakening of nature and of love.

The vesnianky – ritual spring songs – were and are sung throughout Ukraine. There is one distinction – vesnianky and "vesnianochky" (diminutive) were sung, obviously, at the beginning of spring, to awaken it. "Hahilky" – also known as "yahilky," "hayivky," "halahilky," "ohulky," even "mahilky" and "hahahilky" – were sung and danced in Halychyna and the Carpathian region of western Ukraine, on Easter Sunday, and have agricultural and romantic themes. Nowadays, all these spring song names are used interchangeably, and probably few know of their original meanings.

The carrying out of these spring rituals was described by special verb phrases: "vesnu spivaty" [singing out spring] or "tanky vodyty" (carrying out dances) or "hahulky huliaty" (dancing hahulky). In Ukrainian communities in North America, the hahilky are carried out after the Resurrection liturgy on Easter Sunday.

Vesnianky were sung in March, often even before the actual spring equinox, when "winter meets spring." When the birds began arriving from their "vyriy," or winter home, there were songs addressed to them specifically. One that is now a "schedrivka," "Schedryk," – sings about the bird who

returns when all the farm animals are being born and spring has arrived. It is still sung also in the spring.

There are volumes devoted to vesnianky/hahilky. Stepan Kylymnyk's Vol. II of "Ukrainskyi Rik u Narodnykh Zvychayakh v Istorychnomu Osvitleni" (originally published by the Volyn Research Institute in Winnipeg in 1959 and reprinted in Ukraine) is all about vesnianky – all 249 pages of it. The songs are classified into many subject categories, from philosophical and mythological (pre-Christian, of course) to historical, agricultural, allegorical and romantic, among many.

The hukannia is especially symbolic. The "hooo" refrain at the end of each verse sounds strange, but had that noisemaking purpose. The call also appears in some Kupalo songs, called "hukanky" or "hukavky," and was especially common in northern Ukraine, in Polissia. Sometimes handclapping accompanied the shouts, indicating the hukannia was indeed meant to make noise. In Zakarpattia, "hoikaty" means to yell or shout a lot.

"Zibralys divky hukaty vesnu, hukaty vesnu z-za dalekykh hir: oy prydy, vesno, oy prydy krasna, prynesy do nas teple litechko!" (The girls gathered to call/wake up spring, to call spring from beyond the far mountains: oh, come spring, come beautiful one, bring us the warm summer!) This is an example of a vesnianka from the Sumy region.

In recordings by established and new folk ensembles, there are many examples of hukannia. Zoloti Kliuchi, Nina Matvienko, the Homin Choir, and many others sing these archaic songs.

So, as spring arrives – in some regions sooner than others – we welcome vesna and bid farewell to winter. "Blahoslovy Maty, vesnu zaklykaty. Vesnu zaklykaty, zymu provodzhaty!"

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Kytasty program continues tradition

Dear Editor:

As many of your readers no doubt noted, April 6 marked the 25th year since Hryhory Kytasty, he of all things bandura, left us for a place better. This anniversary was noted musically at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City on Friday, April 3 by a performance of "A Bandurist and His Legacy: Hryhory Kytasty (1907-1984)."

Julian Kytasty, his grand nephew and an extraordinarily gifted bandurist, performed on solo bandura, presenting many works written by Hryhory Kytasty and often associated with the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus.

What a treat this was! We heard performance standards like "Nahadai Banduro Spivamy" and "Homin Stepiv," "Polechka" and "Stukalka" from the State Bandurist Chorus repertoire in the late 1930s, well known works like "Zaporizhskiy March," Hryhory Kytasty's unique solo instrumental style as demonstrated in "Lvivski Fragmenty" or "Muzychniy Moment," to little performed works like the risqué "Prepodobnytsia" or a "Tropak," played at the undanceably fast pace that Hryhory Kytasty would play it.

This evening was not just a musical retrospective of maestro Kytasty's music. It included several works by other members of this family of bandurists, like "Oy Zirvu Ya z Rozhi Kvitku" from Petro Kytasty. Interspersed between the songs were stories from his life, of the family ancestral home in Kobeliaky, Poltava Oblast, out there on the edge of the steppe, the travails of the Kytasty families under Stalinism and through World War II, and of Julian Kytasty recalling his own learning pieces at the dinner table.

Not only were we presented with a celebration of Hryhory Kytasty, musically and historically, but we were also made aware of his unyielding efforts in keeping the bandura a living instrument and a viable tradition. It was a privilege to be offered these intimate moments and gems. The audience recognized this by offering Julian Kytasty not one but three resounding ovations.

Thinking back to that evening, I am struck by how this performance was a continuation of the kobzar tradition – travelling from village to town, telling stories (dumy) through words and music. That evening, through this performance, Julian Kytasty shared his story with us – "The Duma about Hryhory Kytasty" (Duma pro Hryhoriya Kytastoho).

Ihor Slabicky
Portsmouth, R.I.

CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

The vanished village

"If all this were divided up into private farms, there would be famine," remarked the district official, jerking his head toward the expanse of collective-farm land as we sped along a road southeast of Kharkiv. For an instant, the word "famine" jogged my consciousness, for here, some 60 years earlier, millions had been starved by the party to which my host probably belonged.

But he had a point. An independent farmer, lacking adequate technology and infrastructure, would not be able to harvest his crops and get them to market. The collectives, on the other hand, enjoyed efficiencies of scale and sold their grain directly to the state. They were chafing, in fact, at having to sell to Kyiv: they wanted to go out onto the international market. And in America, my host asked rhetorically, hadn't the family farm yielded to large-scale agribusiness?

Nonetheless, I wondered whether now, in a free Ukraine, the collectives would be disbanded and small-scale farming resumed. But, as the 1990s progressed, the outlook for the family farm looked bleak. Even the once proud villages in Halychyna were ghost towns: youth had fled to the city, leaving behind the elderly, the disabled and the alcoholic. There was hardly anyone left to tend the fields.

Then last May we read in the Wall Street Journal about one Mr. Spinks, who had been leasing small plots of land from hundreds of thousands of poor farmers in western Ukraine. By "recollectivizing" the land, as the Journal aptly put it, the British entrepreneur would be able to greatly increase yields of wheat, barley and rapeseed (commonly used for biodiesel in European cars) for sale both in Ukraine and abroad.

What did the farmers get in return? About \$14 per acre per year, plus the opportunity to work for Mr. Spinks' company for the relatively high wage of \$400 a month. To his credit, Mr. Spinks also provided communities with roads, schools and orphanages. The enterprise had already amassed 25,000 acres. Other companies, both Ukrainian and foreign, were following suit.

The business is lucrative because, while seed, fertilizer and equipment are expensive, Ukrainian land and labor are cheap. In fact, Mr. Spinks was expecting a 60 percent profit margin. (John W. Miller, "In Ukraine, Mavericks Take Big Gamble on Small Farm Plots," Wall Street Journal, May 12, 2008, p. 1).

In this way the individual farmer, while retaining his land, becomes a mere employee, a rural proletarian, while his village turns into a bedroom community. Capitalism is finishing off what communism failed to destroy.

The struggle with communism, to be sure, was savage. Italian historian Andrea Graziosi has written of a broad "40-years' war" against the Eastern European peasantry, lasting from 1912 to 1956. Its chief episodes were the Soviet famine of 1920-1921 and the collectivization and Holodomor of 1928-1933, in which the Bolshevik state brutally crushed the peasants. In Ukraine, where (as Stalin understood) the peasant question was inextricably intertwined with the national question, there had arisen the century's "first peasant-based national-socialist liberation movement" (Graziosi, cited below, p. 19).

Meanwhile, peasant-agrarian movements flourished in the 1920s in Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia, and even far-off Mexico, forming political parties and sometimes governments. In important ways, these

movements echoed the Distributist philosophy of Hilaire Belloc and G. K. Chesterton, as well as many features of Catholic socio-economic teaching. But in the 1930s they were destroyed, or collapsed in the worldwide depression.

Some economists and historians consider this "Green Revolution" to have been regressive, much as they see the village as primitive and backwards – a symptom of Eastern Europe's socio-economic and political retardation. Progress lay in either communism or capitalism. With their commitment to the self-sufficient farm, to the family and tradition, and their aversion to both socialism and capitalism, the peasant parties were hopelessly behind.

But behind what? Today communitarian philosophers and environmentalists, disappointed with the direction our civilization has taken, have come to see many virtues in traditional village life. It is close to nature, environmentally sustainable, economically balanced, socially equitable, and spiritually and physically healthy. The large patriarchal family engaged in self-sustaining agriculture obviates the alienation of the worker from the means of production, from his fellow-workers and from the fruits of his labor. Work is varied and seasonal, not routine and monotonous as in city and factory.

Farmers may form production cooperatives, as in interwar Galicia, even marketing their products abroad. The family, the basic unit of production, is integrated with a community that provides protection from, and representation before, the state. Local matters are decided locally and democratically, not dictated from a remote, all-powerful center.

In the traditional village, accumulated wisdom is passed on, not learned all over again by each succeeding generation. At the same time, as a hackneyed proverb reminds us, the entire community participates in raising children. They are brought up with shared values, not consumerist propaganda. This minimizes the kind of alienation and anti-social psychology that breed crime and addiction. The ritual rhythms of religion are harmonized with the natural rhythms of seasonal labor: spring sowing is associated with the Annunciation, the autumn harvest with the Dormition. Differentiation reveals meaning.

Indeed, Ukrainian culture is rooted in the village. What will become of it now that the village is dead? In our urban or suburban environment, traditions look increasingly out of place. Soon, emptied of meaning, they will be abandoned. We can build communities that physically resemble the village, but we cannot recreate village life. We can try to create a virtual village in cyberspace, but it cannot replace the real thing.

And so the Ukrainian village has vanished – and with it, the dream of a healthy, peaceful and just society.

For further reading:

Allan Carlson, "The 'Green Rising': The Triumph and Tragedy of Peasant Rule in Eastern Europe, 1917-1930," The Chesterton Review, Vol. 33, Nos. 1-2 (2007), pp. 99-122.

Andrea Graziosi, "The Great Soviet Peasant War: Bolsheviks and Peasants, 1917-1933." Harvard Papers in Ukrainian Studies (Cambridge, Mass., 1996).

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CCAU elects new board members, focuses on education

NEW YORK – A March 28 meeting of the board of directors of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine (CCAU) strengthened its 18-year commitment to aid and assist Ukrainian democracy, culture and education by electing to its Board a new generation of members committed to these goals.

The meeting provided the opportunity to review last year's accomplishments and financial reports, and to propose long- and short-term projects to aid Ukraine during these current difficult financial times.

The newly elected members of the CCAU board are Yuri Omelchenko, president; Dr. Bohdan Oryshkevich, vice-president; Polina Vusata, treasurer; Terence Filewych, secretary; Vasyl Makhno, and Anastasia Solovaniuk.

The outgoing president, Dr. Roman Andrushkiw, greeted the new officers and expressed his confidence in their ability to lead the work of the CCAU.

Mr. Omelchenko expressed his thanks, adding, "I look forward to working on more projects and enhancing cooperation with other community organizations."

In 2008 the CCAU received over \$150,000 in donations, most of which was used to fund educational programs. Last year, USA/USA an organization under the aegis of the CCAU, saw its applicants win full scholarships to Princeton, Harvard, MIT, Vassar, and Miller Preparatory School.

The Rukh Educational Foundation, another organization active as part of the CCAU, offered financial support to students at institutions such as the National University of Ostroh Academy. In addition, Rukh sponsored the publication of Ukrainian books through publishers such as Smoloskyp in Kyiv.

USA/USA also hosted several cultural and current events meetings in New York City. These ranged from screenings of Ukrainian new media shorts and art exhibits to a current events discussion series about the situation in Ukraine.

At the January 31 meeting of the CCAU USA/USA confirmed plans to begin recruiting qualified volunteers to help with the proposal for a bilingual Ukrainian charter school in New York City. The CCAU will continue to help

Ukraine build a modern democratic state, directly and indirectly, though its educational and cultural programs. It is hoped that by establishing a strong sense of Ukrainian identity within diaspora youth, the next generation will demonstrate continued interest and support of Ukraine's development.

The January 31 meeting also observed a moment of silence in memory of former CCAU President Dr. Bohdan Burachynsky, who passed away in 2008.

The USA/USA branch of CCAU thanked Christine, Adrian, Wolodymyra and Stefan Slywotzky, Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union and numerous other individuals and organizations who have contributed funds and in-kind donations last year.

Established on eve of Ukraine's independence as an umbrella organization to coordinate diaspora activities in Ukraine, the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine has published over 1.5 million copies of Ukrainian literature for use in elementary and secondary schools and universities, sponsored numerous language training seminars in cooperation

with the Ministry of Education of Ukraine and other state bodies, supported emerging democratic organizations and press, fostered cultural exchange between the east and west of Ukraine and has enabled over 40 students win scholarships worth over \$6.5 million, obtain an education, embark on professional careers and represent Ukraine in the world institutions.

Throughout its 18-year history, the CCAU was guided by five presidents: Dr. Burachynsky, Volodymyr Baranetsky, Volodymyr Wolowodiuk, (Acting President) Bohdan Hajduchok and Dr. Andrushkiw.

In 2004, a 255-page book titled "To you, Ukraine: A History of CCAU, 1991-2003" was published by Akonot Press in Kyiv. Today the work of CCAU is being carried out by three branch organizations: Rukh Educational Foundation (Newark, N.J.), USA-USA (New York, www.ukrainianscholarships.org) and the CCAU chapter in Minneapolis.

For further information readers may contact Mr. Omelchenko, the new CCAU president, at yurkiv@yahoo.com or 646-258-9217.

"Ukrainian Days"...

(Continued from page 1)

fifth anniversaries of the first two rounds of NATO enlargement to countries of the former Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union. Mr. Sawkiw acted as emcee for the event that included remarks by Sens. George Voinovich (R-Ohio) and Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.), Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, U.S. Ambassador to NATO Kurt Volker, and Dr. Mike Haltzel, former member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee professional staff, who played a crucial role during the early days of NATO expansion.

Dr. Brzezinski argued for the United States to remain engaged in Europe, with programs like Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and noted that U.S.-Russia relations show signs of moving forward, but at a cost. The goal of "mutual accommodation," Dr. Brzezinski said, will include bargaining chips such as the missile defense shield in Europe, or a program to alleviate Russian concerns about the military outpost on its doorstep. The goal of a united Europe is unfinished, he said, and wished success for the continued efforts.

Ambassador Volker observed that NATO enlargement was the best decision ever for the alliance and is responsible for the security support the alliance is providing in Iraq and Afghanistan, he said. The enlargement

process, he continued, was not easy and required a lot of work, courage and compromise. He reminded the audience of the need for NATO to build a better relationship with Russia.

On Thursday morning, a breakfast was held with the three co-chairs of the CUC, along with several staff members to discuss the future of U.S.-Ukraine relations. Reps. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.) and Roscoe Bartlett (R-Md.) mentioned the need to continue the Congress-Verkhovna Rada videoconference series that fosters dialogue between members of Ukraine's Parliament and the members of CUC on issues of bilateral importance.

One of Ukraine's biggest advocates on Capitol Hill, Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), stated, "I am glad to see that Ukrainian Days in Washington are becoming a tradition." She continued, "At the moment, Ukrainian issues are extremely important and timely, and I will gladly assist the Ukrainian American community in establishing and solidifying Ukrainian democracy." Rep. Kaptur highlighted the need for U.S. support of energy diversification in Ukraine.

Andy Futey of Ohio commended Rep. Kaptur for her work with Ukrainians and the CUC.

Rep. Kaptur recalled the work of the Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Cleveland and its preservation of Ukrainian history. The United States, she said, has strong diplomatic ties with Poland and Hungary, but hoped for stronger ties with Ukraine.

The world economic crisis, Mr. Sawkiw said, calls for maintaining a free Ukraine in Europe.

Rep. Kaptur suggested inviting multiple ethnic fraternal organizations to discuss issues of mutual concern, which she said may create a larger impact downstream.

Participants then divided into groups to meet with additional senators and representatives, including: Sens. Voinovich, Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Mikulski and Reps. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) and Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.).

Sen. Voinovich and Reps. Kucinich and Frelinghuysen



Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (second from left) meets with Eugenia Dallas, Anna and Michael Koziupa, and Michael Sawkiw Jr.

met personally with the Ukrainian Days participants.

Sen. Voinovich, who is of Slovenian and Serbian heritage, expressed concern that Russia remains a threat to Eastern and Central Europe and about the possibility that Iran, the missile defense shield or Ukraine could be used as a bargaining chip in negotiations. In speaking about Ukraine, the senator said, lack of support revolves around Ukraine's political instability and the lack of progress regarding the NATO Membership Action Plan. For the senator, Russia was most unnerving, including issues related to the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, the repopulation of Tatar lands with Russians, KGB-style propaganda in the Russian media, and the division between the wealthy minority and the impoverished majority.

Rep. Frelinghuysen, during his meeting with his constituents, recalled a recent varenyky dinner at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany and commented, "The Ukrainian community in the diaspora is very strong."

Although not a member of the CUC, Rep. Frelinghuysen's support of Ukrainian causes is unquestionable. When asked why he is not a member of CUC, Rep. Frelinghuysen said that he is not a member of any caucus and does not join these organizations out of principle.

The two-day program concluded with a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine, where participants had an opportunity to meet with members of Ukraine's diplomatic corps.

"We have a common goal before us – we are all striving to integrate Ukraine in Euro-Atlantic structures and return to its former status as a prominent European state," said Viktor Nikiituk, minister-counselor and dep-

uty chief of mission at the Embassy. "Together, I am confident we will successfully resolve our issues."

For many of the representatives and senators, or their staffers, the meetings proved informative of their constituents' concerns.

Yuriy Symczyk, 21, secretary of the UCCA in Newark, N.J., commented, "the Ukrainian Days events were a great opportunity for constituents to meet with their representatives and senators in Washington. We made the Ukrainian community and our concerns visible to our representatives and senators."

Mr. Symczyk, who also serves on the national executive board for the Ukrainian American Youth Association as representative for "druzhynyky" (adults age 18-49), said, "I would encourage increased attendance for all ages at the next Ukrainian Days, and perhaps we can ensure meetings with the actual decision-makers, rather than the staffers. I understand people's schedules are busy, but a face-to-face is more effective than passing along a message, and we get to learn where exactly our elected officials stand on Ukrainian issues."

He added, "Michael Sawkiw did a commendable job organizing the meetings, providing informative briefs for the representatives and senators, and offering a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes workings of Washington for the Ukrainian Days participants."

The Ukrainian Days organizers urged the community to make every effort to meet with their elected officials at their respective district offices. Copies of the policy papers presented during this year's Ukrainian Days can be obtained from UNIS by calling 202-547-0018 or e-mailing: unis@ucca.org.



Michael Sawkiw

Rep. Tim Gerlach, co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, addresses the Ukrainian Days participants.

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HURI hosts chief rabbi from Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine

by Peter T. Woloschuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University (HURI) welcomed Rabbi Shmuel Kaminezky, chief rabbi of Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, on March 2, when the rabbi was in Boston for a brief visit. A large gathering of faculty, staff and students met with Rabbi Kaminezky for two hours at the institute to discuss HURI's work and to hear about his own activity in Dnipropetrovsk over the last 18 years, the city's Jewish community and the current state of Ukrainian Jewry.

HURI Associate Director Lubomyr Hajda welcomed the rabbi, presented the assembled group, and then briefed him on the history of the institute and its mission. Dr. Hajda spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the institute's work on Jewish-Ukrainian matters, displayed a number of HURI's own publications on the topic and presented the rabbi with three of Institute's works: "A Prayer for the Government: Jews and Ukrainians in Revolutionary Times" by Henry Abramson; "The Lord's Jews: Magnate-Jewish Relationships in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 18th Century" by M.J. Rosman; and "The Slavonic Book of Esther," edited by Horace Lunt and Moshe Taube.

Rabbi Kaminezky thanked Dr. Hajda, said that it was an honor to be at HURI, and mentioned that no one in Dnipropetrovsk even knew that such a center existed. He went on to outline his work in the city, gave a profile of the local Jewish community, its history and current status, talked about the current state of Ukrainian Jewry as a whole, and concluded by discussing the future of the community.

"Ukraine has the sixth largest Jewish community in the world," Rabbi Kaminezky said. "According to official statistics, there are approximately 300,000 living throughout the country. However, based on the sale of matzoh at Passover and a number of other indicators, I believe that the number is much higher and that it actually approaches the 1 million mark."

"In recent years there has been an increased interest in spirituality and a desire to return to one's roots," Rabbi Kaminezky pointed out, "and this phenomenon has also touched numbers of secular Jews in Ukraine who are fully integrated into the larger society. They have begun to reach out and it is my responsibility to present Jewish culture and the Jewish religion as something alive and vital to them"

"In Dnipropetrovsk, our community is approximately 50,000 people, and we are thriving. Life has been good, and our people are prosperous. We have a Jewish Board for the city composed of 70 of some of the most influential people in the town. We are growing, and we currently have several functioning synagogues, a senior center, a school and an extensive outreach program, including catechetical lessons that even utilize the Internet and

literally gets thousands of hits a day."

"We are currently in the process of building a new community center next to our main synagogue and, when it is completed, it will be the largest Jewish community center in the world encompassing some 450,000 square feet," Rabbi Kaminezky said. "In addition to conference halls and meeting space, there will be a mall, shops, a hotel and condominiums."

"Our members have been very fortunate," Rabbi Kaminezky continued, "and one of them owns one of the largest banks in the country, currently employing more than 30,000 people."

"Word of what we are doing in Dnipropetrovsk has spread and in recent years. We have even seen a reverse migration with people coming from Israel to Ukraine in search of a better life," Rabbi Kaminezky observed. "In our school we have 600 children and at least 50 of them come from families that have moved from Israel to Ukraine."

"Most of our older congregants are exclusively Russian-speaking," Rabbi Kaminezky said, "and numbers of them are nostalgic for the old days, the Soviet Union and strong ties with Russia. Many of our younger members, on the other hand, are Ukrainian-speaking and are looking for strong leadership from the Ukrainian government and integration with the West."

"Our community is in Dnipropetrovsk by choice," Rabbi Kaminezky pointed out. "We have strong ties with the people, the land and the culture, and many would not be comfortable anywhere else. Obviously, everyone in our community has a Ukrainian passport, and a few people also have Israeli passports. To my knowledge no one has or has even sought a Russian passport."

"However, the current economic downturn has had a major impact on the community and, if things don't turn around within a reasonable amount of time, I believe that numbers of our younger members will go elsewhere in search of a decent living," the rabbi said. "There will always be a Jewish community in Dnipropetrovsk, but it's difficult to say how big it will be in the future."

He cited the example of a group of the congregants who owned a fertilizer plant in the city that employed over 12,000 people and had to shut it down in the wake of the rise in gas prices as a result of the most recent negotiations with Russia. Rabbi Kaminezky explained that. "Gas is used extensively in the production of the fertilizer and the new gas prices made the end product so expensive that it was no longer competitive on the world market."

"Our main synagogue was originally built in the 1820s out of wood and it was replaced in the 1860s by the current stone edifice," Rabbi Kaminezky explained. "In the late 1920s the Communists forced some of the congregants to sign a document saying they no longer needed the synagogue and it was taken over by the state and turned into a club."



Rabbi Shmuel Kaminezky, chief rabbi of Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, with Dr. Lubomyr Hajda, associate director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.



The main synagogue in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine.

The city's Jewish community has developed a very good working relationship with the city, oblast and national authorities, Rabbi Kaminezky said, adding that "They have been very helpful. When we petitioned for the return of our synagogues, the request was granted in short order. Without our asking, they also changed the name of the street in front of the synagogue and new community center to Sholom Aleichem Street."

"Our relations with the local Ukrainians are good as well," Rabbi Kaminezky continued, "and I can honestly say that there has never been a problem in my 19 years in the city. From my dress, it is clear who I am and yet I have never heard a single negative comment, and this has not been my experience in New York City or London or Paris which all have reputations as being great international cosmopolitan centers."

After concluding his visit to HURI, Rabbi Kaminezky went on to Harvard's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies where he made a similar presentation before their assembled professors, staff and students.

At the session, the only discordant note was introduced during the question period when internationally noted Russian and Eurasian scholar Prof. Marshall Goldman asked if the downturn in the Ukrainian economy "would be blamed on Jewish businessmen and will the Jewish community ... be made scapegoats as they have in Ukraine in the past?"

A native of Kfar Chabad, Israel, Rabbi Kaminezky, 44, was born of parents who had emigrated from the Soviet Union. He completed his basic religious and secular education (cheder and yeshiva) in Israel and at the age of 16 came to the United

States to study with the Lubavitcher Rebbe. He later graduated from the Rabbinical College of America in Morristown, N.J. and then taught for a number of years at a yeshiva in New Haven, Conn., before being asked to return to the Rabbinical College to teach.

After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1990, the Jewish community in Dnipropetrovsk turned to the Lubavitcher Rebbe in New York City and asked that he send a rabbi to head their community. Responding to their request, he sent Rabbi Kaminezky and his wife, Chana, to Dnipropetrovsk, where he was elected the chief rabbi of the city and chairman of the Dnipropetrovsk Jewish Community Council.

In the 19 years since his arrival, Rabbi Kaminezky has helped to build one of the most vibrant Jewish communities in Ukraine, with assistance from the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, Dnipropetrovsk's sister city. When Eastern Europe opened up in 1990, American Jewish leaders paired various Jewish communities in the United States with emerging Jewish communities in the region. Boston was paired with Dnipropetrovsk, Baltimore was paired with Odesa, and Chicago was paired with Kyiv.

In addition to significant financial aid, the Boston community has helped provide medical assistance, social services and an ongoing outreach program. Community leaders from Dnipropetrovsk were also brought to Boston for training in community outreach and also in community fundraising and philanthropy.

Rabbi Kaminezky and his wife have seven children – five daughters and two sons.

Saturday, April 25, 2009

7 p.m.

Varnar Hall, Oakland University
Auburn Hills, Mich.

The Ukrainian Arts Society is presenting "Catch-86," written by Taras Berezowsky and directed by Emily Campbell. This one-man presentation communicates the effects of the Chernobyl tragedy on the people of Ukraine.

Tickets: Patron \$50, Sponsor \$25, adults \$20, seniors \$15, students \$10.

Battle among...

(Continued from page 1)

payments toward a mandatory state pension insurance program. The third law also required determining the value of one year of insurance service and the procedure for determining pensions for working pensioners.

In their defense, the Our Ukraine deputies loyal to President Yushchenko claimed the Tymoshenko Bloc had ignored their requests for amendments to the legislation, which they claimed was damaging to Ukraine's small and middle business, and lacked the necessary systemic changes to the budget.

"No political arguments are driving us," said Kseniya Liapina of Our Ukraine. "Let the pope of Rome call us to vote on a bill – that won't change its essence. We are exclusively driven by concerns about how this will affect Ukraine's economy."

"I have been explaining for half a year now, for example, how changes to the law on ensuring pensions will lead to a result only the opposite of what it had as its goal. A law is introduced with the goal of increasing revenues, but more than a million small businessmen, after additional burdens are placed on them, simply will switch from legal status to illegal and will stop paying any taxes. And local budgets, and the state budget, will suffer large losses," she said.

All the Cabinet resolutions were geared toward increasing government revenues at the expense of cuts in non-social expenditures, the prime minister noted.

The resolutions covered the Naftohaz deficit, ensured equal conditions for all contributors to the Pension Fund and increased prices for electricity and natural gas for well-off citizens who live in large private homes and can afford using large amounts of electricity, said Ms. Tymoshenko.

Another resolution will launch cooperation with the National Bank of Ukraine to



Zenon Zawada

Kyiv economist Dr. Oleh Soskin believes President Viktor Yushchenko ordered his loyalists in Parliament to undermine the April 14 vote on IMF-related legislation.

recapitalize first-category banks that have fallen under its administration, she explained. State funds will be used to return frozen bank deposits.

"We approved those positions that balance the financial plan, which had to have been passed today by the Verkhovna Rada," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "We found the legal opportunities to do this with government resolutions."

Yet, Cabinet resolutions are only supposed to guide and regulate what the ministries do and don't carry the same overarching authority as laws passed by Parliament, said Ivan Lozowy, a Kyiv lawyer. "She [the prime minister] thinks she did something legally effective, but I seriously doubt that," he said.

IMF Mission Chief in Ukraine Ceyla Pazarbasioglu declined to comment on whether the IMF would decide to postpone the second tranche and merge it with the planned third tranche of \$3.75 billion.

Nor did she comment on whether the Cabinet resolution would satisfy the IMF, stating "difficult decisions were approved which are oriented towards making the future more optimistic."

"I can't comment now on the specifics of the approved decisions," Ms. Pazarbasioglu said. "We will still discuss them with the representatives of the government. But it's now obvious that the government did everything to renew the financial balance of the two most important government institutions – the State Pension Fund and Naftohaz."

The prime minister is in a difficult situation because the resolutions are insufficient and she can't muster enough support to pass the necessary laws to satisfy the IMF. She admitted that her parliamentary faction, which leads the de facto coalition, won't bother re-introducing IMF legislation in Parliament.

But Ms. Tymoshenko and her government aren't entirely victims and deserve blame as well, observers said, considering the IMF is still waiting for the Ukrainian government to pass an amended 2009 budget with a reduced deficit.

While the officially stated budget deficit is about \$3.9 billion, Kyiv economist Oleh Soskin estimated its real value at \$6 billion, taking into account a projected \$1.1 billion in privatization revenues that are unlikely and other factors.

"It's still not clear whether the IMF will extend the second tranche," said Dr. Soskin, director of the Institute of Society Transformation. "Restricting the expenditures of state budget is a key condition, and Tymoshenko doesn't want to do that. She said she will reduce the deficit with revenues, but she has no other resources."

In fact, her government is attempting to cover up a 40 percent shortfall in government revenues during the first quarter, Mr. Lozowy said, and this also is frustrating IMF authorities.

On the eve of the failed vote, President

Yushchenko met with Prime Minister Tymoshenko, Mr. Lytvyn, Ms. Pazarbasioglu, National Bank of Ukraine Chair Volodymyr Stelmakh, Parliamentary Financial and Banking Chair Mykola Azarov and Pablo Saavedra, the acting director of the World Bank for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.


"I turn to all political forces with the request to support these bills which will be introduced and reviewed in Parliament tomorrow. We are faced with the fact that, unfortunately, systemic economic steps which were supposed to be taken are not employed. In essence, a technical response is demanded from us," Mr. Yushchenko stated.

Afterwards, the president distanced himself from the vote, laying full blame on the prime minister for failing to get the legislation passed.

"The country has a Parliament with a coalition, which formed the Cabinet of Ministers and selected a prime minister," Mr. Yushchenko said. "The coalition, the prime minister and the majority led by her are responsible for the voting. The will was found to gather signatures to appoint posts, but not to gather votes for necessary decisions."

The lack of support from Presidential Secretariat loyalists in the April 14 vote is an attempt to undermine Ms. Tymoshenko's government and blame the crisis on her political force rather working together, Dr. Soskin commented. Claims that Our Ukraine national deputies acted without the president's consent to undermine the vote aren't credible, he added.

It's clear that President Yushchenko "thinks one thing, says another and does a third thing," Dr. Soskin said. "They are all trying to undermine each other. We need to urgently change everything in politics," he said, citing the immediate need to replace closed-list voting in the country's elections with open lists.



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Summer Camp Dates and Information

Tennis Camp
June 21 to July 2 \$675 UNA member \$725 non-member
Kicks off the summer with 2 weeks of intensive tennis instruction and competitive play, for boys and girls age 10-18, under the direction of Mr. George Sawchak. Attendance will be limited to 45 students.

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Workshop
July 5 to July 18 \$950 UNA member \$1,000 non-member
Vigorous 2-week dance training for intermediate and advanced dancers age 16 and up under the direction of the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation, culminating with performances on stage at our Ukrainian Cultural Festival. (Additional information <http://www.syzokryli.com>)

Tabir Ptashat
Session 1: June 28 to July 5
Session 2: July 5 to July 11
Ukrainian Plast camp (tabir) for children age 4-7 accompanied by their parents. To register child please watch for registration form appearing February 27, March 6, April 3 in Svoboda, March 1, March 8, April 5 in The Ukrainian Weekly. For further information please contact Mrs. Neonila Sochan at 973-984-7456.

Exploration Day Camp
Session 1: June 29 to July 3 \$150 per week per child or \$35 per day per child
Session 2: July 6 to 10
A day camp for boys and girls age 7-10, with five hours of supervised fun daily.

Ukrainian Heritage Day Camp
Session 1: July 19 to 24 \$160 per week per child staying on premises
Session 2: July 26 to 31 \$200 per week per child staying off premises
A returning favorite for children age 4 to 7. Campers will be exposed to the Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, storytelling, crafts and games. Children will walk away with an expanded knowledge of Ukrainian folk culture and language, as well as new and lasting friendships with other children of Ukrainian heritage.

Discovery Camp
July 19 to 25 \$400 UNA member \$450 non-member
Sleep-away camp for children age 8-15 filled with outdoor activities, sports, and arts and crafts designed to enhance the Ukrainian cultural experience.

Ukrainian Chornomorska Sitch Sports Camp
Session 1: July 26 to August 1 \$395 per week
Session 2: August 2 to 8
40th annual sports camp run by the Ukrainian Athletic-Educational Association Chornomorska Sitch for campers age 6-17. The camp will focus on soccer, tennis, volleyball and swimming, and is perfect for any sports enthusiast. Please contact Mrs. Marika Bokalo at 908-851-0617 or e-mail sportsschool@chornomorskasitch.org for application and additional information.

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Camp
Session 1: July 26 to August 8 \$950 UNA member
Session 2: August 9 to 22 \$1,000 non-member
Directed by Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych (daughter of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky), this camp is for children and teens age 8-16, and offers expert instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced students. Each session ends with a grand recital. Attendance will be limited to 60 students.

Ukrainian pro sports update

by Ihor Stelmach

Sexy ad campaign boosts career of Bondarenko, Leading campers in workout was Jazzman Fesenko, Struggling in Milan return is Andriy Shevchenko. It's the latest sports features on a trio named -enko!

Alona is Miss K-Swiss

Perusing periodicals and surfing the Internet are two prime time-killers for a sports enthusiast. Stumbling on a professional Ukrainian athlete featured in a prominent major advertising campaign is pure heaven for a Ukrainian sports journalist. Thank you, very much K-Swiss!

My first reaction to the sexy advertisement for tennis shoes (after a series of double and triple takes) was, "Wow." Could it be? Wow, it really is... Ukrainian tennis star Alona Bondarenko. What a phenomenal personal achievement, to say nothing about the tremendous exposure (no pun intended) for Ukrainians all over the world. (Move over, Anna Kournikova, you must now share the stage with a Ukrainian tennis personality.)

The "Keep It Pure" ad campaign features the trademark K-Swiss bars blocking only Bondarenko's legs and lower half. A second Alona photo/advertisement with the same layout, presented a whole new dimension of interpretation. This one is an action shot with a stronger indication that the advertisement is for actual athletic gear, as the tennis player is depicted following through on a swing. This time the K-Swiss bars are blocking Bondarenko from the waist up and the slogan ("Keep It Pure") is blazed right across the very bottom of the stomach area. This is rather eye-catching because of the tennis dress Alona is wearing. In the foreground of the second ad is a still shot of Bondarenko in a sports bra top with the K-Swiss bars plastered over her entire upper half, her face slightly averted.

Men's tennis player Tommy Haas and the aforementioned Kournikova are also part of this major K-Swiss advertising program to increase their market share in the tennis shoes/tennis accessories sporting goods business. Keeping it pure...

Fesenko coaches camp kids

Ukrainian hoopster Kyrylo Fesenko is dealing with and overcoming many challenges in his rookie campaign with the Utah Jazz. One of the biggest challenges was learning the NBA ropes with his tough coach, Jerry Sloan.

On a mid-August afternoon in 2008, Fesenko switched

from aspiring professional basketball player to coach/mentor when he participated in an instructional camp in St. George, Utah. More than 200 members of the Junior Jazz Program were put through their paces by the second-year Ukrainian. A fun time was had by all at the camp held at the Dixie Middle School gym.

In a dramatic role reversal, Fesenko played Coach Sloan for a day, directing floor exercises, drills and free-throw shooting. He demonstrated basic basketball techniques for the large gathering of avid youngsters, who eagerly listened and responded with their running, jumping and shooting.

"He's tough, but I find his workouts useful," Fesenko told the assembled crowd, one of whom was Tom Zalewski of The Spectrum & Daily News. "Whenever (coach Sloan) smiles, I get nervous," Fesenko added.

On-court drills run by Fesenko centered on fostering teamwork and coordination – the theme was to play hard, but have fun. There were movement exercises and several different drills for the competing groups of campers. Losing groups were forced to do five push-ups, which, though not fun, were hardly a big deal.

The atmosphere throughout was quite loose and very fun. When it came time for free-throw shooting drills, few were successful. Each camper was given one attempt, with only five youngsters making their first try. Of these five, only one camper went on to also make his second attempt.

The prize for 12-year-old Lance Marks was a mini game of one-on-one with the 7-foot Fesenko. Marks only had to hit a single hoop to win, while Fesenko needed to make three. Fesenko hit two quick baskets, but then misfired from in close. Young Lance hit a mid-range jumper which clanged off the rim twice before somehow falling through the cylinder as the crowd roared in appreciation of the upset.

Said young Marks in speaking with Zulewski: "I was kind of scared. He's 7 feet and I'm only 4-foot-11. He did stuff me a lot. I found out about some new workouts I haven't done before."

The city of St. George is home to a Junior Jazz program that has over 800 members. St. George played host to the fifth annual one-day camp visited by a Jazz player.

Youth and adult sports director for the city of St. George, Rosy Rosander, raved about the super turnout. "We didn't know who would come or when. There could have been a trade," he said. "We couldn't put any ads in school, so we had to hit the phones and put ads in the paper."

The camp event ended with a question-and-answer plus

autograph session with Fesenko. He admitted he did not have the time to follow the winning ways of Jazz teammates Carlos Boozer and Deron Williams, who had played and contributed to the gold medal performance of Team U.S.A. at the Beijing Olympics.

"I'm doing these camps for the kids, and I need to get some sleep," he said in explaining his time limitations on television viewing.

Fesenko's inaugural NBA season saw him make three trips between the parent Jazz and the Developmental League's Utah Flash. He said he hopes to stick with the Jazz for the entire 2008-2009 season. "Now I understand American basketball, and I know all the rules," Fesenko said. "This year, I want to make the team and stay there."

Shevchenko's return to Milan

Andriy Shevchenko's eventual return to Milan was hailed by some experts as a bit of a surprise, given the team's purchase of Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho from Barcelona in the middle of 2008. Nonetheless, a series of disappointing developments (two injuries and poor play by a third forward) created a critical need for back-up help, and Shevchenko was tabbed as a reinforcement. Upon arriving in Milan he simply stated the obvious in an interview with the club's official website: "I'm so very happy to be here."

The international soccer star was loudly welcomed back into the A.C. Milan family by Vice-President Adriano Galliani and club owner (and huge Sheva supporter) Silvio Berlusconi. The club's fandom and thousands of Shevchenko loyalists celebrated the news of his return to the San Siro. The move was criticized by Assistant Coach Alessandro Costacurta.

On August 31, 2008, Shevchenko debuted in a 2-1 loss to Bologna. On October 2, 2008, Shevchenko scored his first goal in a UEFA Cup match against Zurich, a 1-0 victory. Since then, playing in 18 additional games for A.C.Milan, Shevchenko has only one other goal.

When Shevchenko re-signed with Milan in the summer of 2008, the expectations were lofty for the striker who had tallied 127 goals in 208 matches between 1999 and 2006. Unfortunately, his unproductive stint at Chelsea appears to have stuck with him in Milan. This lack of goal production and poor play has led to many questions about whether he still has the ability to perform at the highest levels of

(Continued on page 13)



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Ukrainian American figure skater competes in Ukraine's Junior Nationals

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Matej Silecky, 14, of Verona, N.J., is an aspiring professional figure skater, who competed at Ukraine's Junior Nationals on January 28-30.

Each skating federation (country), and the International Skating Union (ISU), have various rules regarding competing in events for other countries, making it possible to compete in more than one national competition, once the national-level



Nadya Wasylo

Matej Silecky strikes a pose.

requirements are met.

As this was the last big competition of the season, Mr. Silecky wanted to put on his best performance, but unfortunately his body was not up to the challenge, as he fought back injuries and the flu. He finished in seventh place. Mr. Silecky wanted to compete in Ukraine because of his Ukrainian ancestry, and had spent his early childhood schooling in Ukraine. Mr. Silecky's father has lived and worked in Ukraine since 1992.

The young athlete's training regimen includes an hour of skate time in the morning, followed by two more hours in the afternoon and an hour at the gym.

"I try not to think about how busy my schedule is because that's when I start to procrastinate with my school work," the teenager told the Verona-Cedar Grove Times. "I just do it and don't think twice."

Mr. Silecky skates at Floyd Hall Arena at Montclair State University in Montclair, N.J., and has participated in the U.S. qualifying system for the past five years, advancing to the U.S. Junior Nationals three times.

To accommodate the young man's hectic schedule, Mr. Silecky's mother, Julie Parker Silecky, thought it would be best for a distance education program. Mr. Silecky is enrolled at the Laurel Springs Gifted and Talented Academy.

"We know that you can only do this [figure skating] for a certain number of years," Ms. Silecky added. "You need to have a life afterwards and education is a real important



Nadya Wasylo

Matej Silecky skates for the camera during a photo shoot in New York.

part of that."

Mr. Silecky is the 2009 North Atlantic Novice Regional Champion, and was among the top skaters at the sectional competitions. His performance at the sectionals earned him a second alternate spot for the national competition, which concluded on January 25.

But Mr. Silecky is optimistic for his chances next season, because most of his rivals are two years older than him. "I was a

little crushed after sectionals because I thought that I deserved to make it through," he told the Verona-Cedar Grove Times. "Things work out the way they do for a reason. Life is full of second chances – you just have to be ready for them."

Mr. Silecky hopes to one day compete in the Olympics, but feels there is much more to skating. In his opinion, the sporting event takes away from appreciating the "process" to focus on this one event so early.

"Mr. Ukraine Baseball" makes his 52nd trip to Ukraine

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – On March 31, Basil Tarasko made his 52nd trip to Ukraine in the 18 years that he has assisted in the development of Ukraine's Little League youth baseball and softball programs. The programs are now in their 14th year.

Using equipment donated by dozens of leagues in the United States, Ukraine's 5- to 18-year-olds dream of playing for the championships in Ukraine and other parts of Europe, as well as in the U.S. at eight different World Series sites.

Last year, there were 18 separate leagues in Ukraine, the second most in Europe, and more than 1,000 boys and girls participated in either baseball or softball programs. Among them were children from orphanages who were just happy to be included in Ukraine's Little League program. With the help of donations, there are currently 15 orphanages in Ukraine with baseball equipment, Mr. Tarasko – known to many as "Mr. Ukraine Baseball" – reported.

As part of the Ukraine Little League

baseball and orphanage project during 2008, Kirovohrad defeated Kyiv 10-1 and advanced to the European regional championships to represent Ukraine. Seven teams, with 78 children, including five girls and eight orphans from Donetsk, competed in the 11- to 12-year-old group. The games were sponsored by Hertz-Ukraine, which provided transportation for the team from Kirovohrad to Kutno, Poland.

At the European championships, Kirovohrad won four games and lost two by a total of three runs, and just missed the semi-final round. This was Ukraine's best record at the European Little League Championships.

Another first, last year's Big League Softball Championships (girls age 14-18) included three all-star teams from Rivne, Volyn University and the National University of Ostroh Academy. Rivne won the round-robin championship.

For the first time ever in the world, a Little League championship for children

(age 11-12) from orphanages was held in Kyiv, with teams from four orphanages participating, including Sievorodonetsk and Lutuhyne, both from the Luhansk Oblast, Mizoch, Rivne Oblast, and Kremenets, Ternopil Oblast. Lutuhyne defeated Kremenets 12-8.

The lead sponsor for this event was the Kyiv Lions Club; support came also from the McQuillen Family, the Liddle Family and Little League Baseball Inc.

The European Baseball Qualifier Championships for Cadets (age 13-15) was held in Antalya, Turkey, with Ukraine winning the championship and all of its games. Ukraine defeated England in the finals 6-0, with pitcher Mykola Kychyk from Kirovohrad going 2-0, with 15 strikeouts in 11 innings.

Ukraine's Senior National Team (adults) won the European Qualifier Championship in Tranava, Slovakia. Ukraine won five of six games and defeated Romania twice on the final day to win the championships, 8-1 and 16-4.

The European Baseball Qualifier Championships for Juveniles (age 11-12) was held in Hluboka, Czech Republic, with Ukraine winning second place, after losing to the Czech team 10-5 in the final.

Ukraine's Junior National Team (age 16-18) won the European Championship in Miejska, Poland. Ukraine swept all five games and out-scored host country Poland 5-2.

All of the players in the Juvenile, Cadet and Junior teams are on their local Little League rosters. The Little League program is the official youth baseball development program in Ukraine. Ukraine's national teams, using the Little League rule mandating more and more games coupled with new rules for pitching, have made them among the strongest in Europe.

As part of the agenda for this recent trip to Ukraine, Mr. Tarasko reached out to new communities that want to start a Little League program for their children. Assistance is needed from anyone who has experience helping schools or feels that their school can benefit with a new sports

program.

For example: John Kark, Ph.D., from San Diego, recommended that Mr. Tarasko meet with Lydia Kalynich, director of a 100-year-old school in Vyzhnytsia, near Chernivtsi, to implement the formation of a new Little League in Ukraine and the first in the Chernihiv Oblast. Ms. Kalynich explained that the teachers are ready and the children are eager to play baseball. This will provide the students with a way to keep the children busy and combat the negative influences of society.

In Lviv, another meeting is set with Volodymyr Malynovskiy, director of Razom (Together), an organization that deals with children with poor parental involvement and invites "street kids" to free after-school sports programs. This is a perfect opportunity to develop a Little League program in the city of Lviv, but assistance is needed, Mr. Tarasko said.

How can readers help? Mr. Tarasko explained that the director of a school must agree to add baseball to its sports program and two or more teachers must be trained as coaches. There is no money involved, as Mr. Tarasko supplies the needed equipment and the training. As the children grow and improve their skills, Ukraine's national teams will only perform better in the European Championships, he added.

During this trip to Ukraine, the third annual Ukraine Little League presidents' meeting took place on April 3 at the U.S. Peace Corps offices in Kyiv. Other stops during Mr. Tarasko's tour included Rivne, Cherkasy, Lviv, Ostroh, Morshin, Ternopil, and Kremenets to watch the local talent at play.

Preparations are under way for the 10th annual Little League Championships in June for children age 11-12. Championships for other age groups in baseball and softball will be considered, but funding is needed to help make this happen, Mr. Tarasko noted.

For more information, and to learn how to help the Little League programs in Ukraine, readers may contact Mr. Tarasko, 36-46 212th St., Bayside, NY 11361, or visit www.ukrainebaseball.org.

Ukrainian pro sports...

(Continued from page 12)

European soccer.

In a February poll put out by the Italian periodical Milan News, a sample of nearly 800 voters believed the Ukrainian star was by far the biggest disappointment of the season to date. The former icon of the club accumulated 46 percent of the votes, well ahead of newcomer Mathieu Flamini, second with 20 percent. Wow, how the mighty have fallen, and fallen quickly.

Not helping his cause was an erroneous report that Shevchenko refused a bench role in an early February match against Reggina. It was expected the Ukrainian hitman would be on the bench in a reserve role, but instead his absence caused a mild stir. The truth eventually came out that Sheva was suffering from terrible neck pain and dental problems, which actually had been bothering him for several days. He was pulled from a subsequent friendly match against Cyprus,

flying to London in an effort to resolve his health issues. Shevchenko was active in a Derby match against Inter Milan, only to succumb to another injury.

Indeed, it has not been the best of times for Shevchenko since rejoining Milan. He has been unable to fight for a place on the first team due to the selections of Coach Carlo Ancelotti, which have been heavily influenced by Sheva's injuries.

Shevchenko really hoped to play against Weder Bremen in a UEFA Cup match in late February. He completed the intense training session with the squad, working hard on recouping the conditioning level required for such a match. However, a left thigh injury rendered him unavailable for this key European competition. Medical examinations showed the healing process of the inflammation in the scar tissue of the left thigh was not completed, leaving him out another week.

Oh, and Milan was ousted from the UEFA Cup, not making it into the round of 16.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

YTB: end talk of pre-term Rada elections

KYIV – The parliamentary faction of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) on April 14 urged all political forces to stop speaking about the possible dissolution of Verkhovna Rada. Faction leader Ivan Kyrylenko noted the April 13 agreement reached between the parliamentary majority and the opposition about joint work on the anti-crisis program. "Monday's conciliatory council made a good sign to all of Ukraine," he said, confirming that politicians are still capable in the current uneasy conditions to "give up their political ambitions and work for this country." Now, Mr. Kyrylenko noted, it is necessary to reach agreement and stop "the spread of hysteria over early parliamentary elections," for which there are no legal, political or moral grounds. Imagine, "the president is at the polls, the government is at the polls, and the Verkhovna Rada is under lock. What is this country in for after such elections? A dying economy and continuous ruin. There will be no winners. The people will be defeated, and the state will be the loser," he underscored. The opposition Party of Regions and the Communist Party are insisting on simultaneous pre-term presidential and parliamentary elections. (Ukrinform)

Bohatyriova on visit to Washington

KYIV – Within the framework of her visit to the United States, Raisa Bohatyriova, secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine (NSDC), held a number of meetings with leading U.S. analysts and political scientists, the NSDC press-service noted on April 14. Ms. Bohatyriova met with Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), to exchange opinions about the global challenges being faced by human beings in the 21st century, and the place and role of Ukraine in Euro-Atlantic structures. The parties stressed Ukraine's significant role in maintaining regional security and stability. In this context, Ms. Bohatyriova and Dr. Brzezinski noted the necessity to strengthen support for Ukraine's course towards integration with Euro-Atlantic security structures by the western democracies. This process, according to Ms. Bohatyriova, would surely benefit from restoration of the Ukraine-US interstate commission in a new format at the head of the two countries' presidents. During a meeting with Alexander Vershbow, the U.S. Defense Department's assistant secretary for international security affairs, the parties praised the level and pace of interaction between Ukraine and the United States in the security area. (Ukrinform)

Russian fleet prepares for maneuvers

SEVASTOPOL, Ukraine – Russian Black Sea Fleet ships based in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol are preparing for large-scale naval exercises, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on April 14. Russian officials have notified Ukraine that 22 of its Black Sea Fleet vessels will leave Sevastopol for military maneuvers. This notification has been issued every day since the beginning of the previous week, but the ships' departure has been delayed for unknown reasons. Among the ships taking part in the exercises are three large ships able to carry navy commandos. Three similar-sized ships are currently on patrol near the Georgian coast – near the Abkhaz capital of Sukhumi – which is controlled by the Russian navy and Abkhaz boats. The Georgian Foreign Affairs Ministry expressed concern last week over what it called "the provocative military maneuvers" by Russia in the

Black Sea near Georgia. Before the military conflict with Georgia in August 2008, Russian Black Sea ships had left their base in Sevastopol and moved to the coast off Georgia. (RFE/RL)

Uzhhorod's water supply problems

UZHGOROD, Ukraine – Uzhhorod is facing serious reductions to its water supply, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on April 6. Water to the city is switched off for several hours every day. A city resident who identified herself only as Svitlana told RFE/RL that officials of the city's major water provider, Vodokanal, told her they have to switch off the water supply to save electricity since Vodokanal owes significant amounts of money to the local electricity provider. Sanitary Control Department officials say Uzhhorod's schools and kindergartens might be temporarily closed unless the situation is resolved soon. (RFE/RL)

Over 3,500 get foreign Ukrainian status

KYIV – Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on April 14 hosted the 12th meeting of the National Commission for Foreign Ukrainians at the Cabinet of Ministers led by acting First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Yurii Kostenko. Commission members made a decision to grant the status of foreign Ukrainians to 431 compatriots. This status has been already extended to more than 3,500 Ukrainian immigrants, according to the ministry's press-service. The meeting participants also discussed further cooperation with Ukrainian communities abroad. (Ukrinform)

President leaves room for coalition

KYIV – Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko stated that the majority coalition might be reformatted or the existence of the current one could be proved with a simultaneous appointment of a new Cabinet, Speaking at a meeting with G-8 ambassadors in Kyiv on April 8. Mr. Yushchenko said that he had submitted a motion to the Constitutional Court asking for a clarification of the powers of the current parliamentary coalition. According to him, there are three possible options to solve the political crisis in the Verkhovna Rada. The president said he believes the present coalition can collect the signatures of 226 national deputies and thus confirm the coalition's existence in line with constitutional requirements. After that, the coalition should make a decision on the appointment of a new prime minister and Cabinet of Ministers. Another option, in Mr. Yushchenko's opinion, is reformatting the coalition. "I do not rule out the possibility of coalition reformatting; the question is about Communists or the Party of Regions joining the coalition. Probably, this is unlikely, but I speak of steps envisaged by the Constitution," he explained. If there is no movement under either scenario, there is only one remaining way out: the calling of pre-term parliamentary elections. "The opposition is insisting on the third option, but I am convinced that there are first two [other] options," Mr. Yushchenko noted, saying that early parliamentary elections would be better for society. He also noted that currently there is a coalition in the Parliament that lacks 226 votes, which conflicts with the Constitution's stipulation for the existence of a majority coalition. President Yushchenko recalled that, after its formation, the coalition did not form a government and did not appoint a prime minister within the time period specified by the Constitution of Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Artek ready for Italian children

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on April 8 forwarded a letter

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

to her Italian counterpart, Silvio Berlusconi, offering health improvement for Italian children who are victims of the recent earthquake that struck the country. The facilities at the Artek Children's Center are being offered at the expense of the Ukrainian government to children who lost their parents in the earthquake. Ms. Tymoshenko said Ukraine is ready to receive in early May some 100 to 200 children, or as many Italian children as needed. The matter was discussed during Ms. Tymoshenko's meeting with Italian Ambassador to Ukraine Pietro Giovanni Donnici. The Ukrainian prime minister once again delivered condolences on the nearly 300 victims of the Italian earthquake that destroyed the city of L'Aquila. She noted that although the Italian government has declined international aid, Ukraine stands ready to provide assistance, if needed, from the Emergencies Ministry in particular. (Ukrinform)

NATO membership not on agenda

KYIV – The issue of Ukraine's NATO accession is not on the agenda today, the ex-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Arseniy Yatseniuk, said on April 8 in Symferopol, Crimea. "No one is proposing

us to become a NATO member," he added. Mr. Yatsenyuk also commented: "Ukraine today is not ready to join NATO; moreover, NATO today is not ready to accept Ukraine." Mr. Yatseniuk said he believes that the matter of membership in the alliance "is being used as a card in political elections... In other words, we are speaking about what will happen neither tomorrow nor the day after tomorrow," he said. (Ukrinform)

Moldova suspects detained in Ukraine

KYIV – Officers of Ukraine's police, security and border services on April 8 at the Odesa airport detained Moldovan citizens Gabriel Stati and Auren Marinescu, who are wanted by their country's law-enforcement bodies, said Yuri Boichenko, press service chief at the Ukrainian Procurator General's Office. "The detainees were put on the wanted list on suspicion of stirring up mass unrest in Moldova, aimed at seizure and forcible taking of power," Mr. Boichenko said. Extradition of the detainees to Moldova is being considered. As reported, Moldova's Prosecutor General Valeriu Gurbulea asked Ukraine on April 9 for the extradition, which is required within the framework of investigation of criminal proceedings launched on charges of an attempted coup d'état. (Ukrinform)



With deep sorrow we inform you that our beloved husband, father, grandfather and uncle

Dr. Theophil Sobol

died on Sunday, April 5, 2009.

He was born in Stryj, Ukraine in 1918.

The funeral was held in Keeseville, NY.

He is survived by:

- wife - Irene
- daughters - Marta Clute and her husband James
Christine Gray
Astrid Duross and her husband Daniel
- grandchildren - Sean, Lara, Damian, Cian, Asher, Darcy
- nieces/nephews - Rostyslav Sobol and his wife Christine
Tamara Tinyszyn and her husband Mykola
Larysa Darmochwal
Mykola Darmochwal and his wife Zoriana
Marta Birchard

and family in the United States and Ukraine.

May He Rest in Peace!

In loving memory of

Maestro Jurij Solovij

January 6, 1921 - April 23, 2007

– Liselotte



It is with deep sorrow we announce that at the age of 87 our beloved mother, grandmother and unforgettable aunt

Maria Hordijenko Marko

passed into eternity on April 9, 2009.

She was born Maria Drozdowska on March 17, 1922, in Lviv, Ukraine.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 9:30 in the morning at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City.

In deep sorrow:

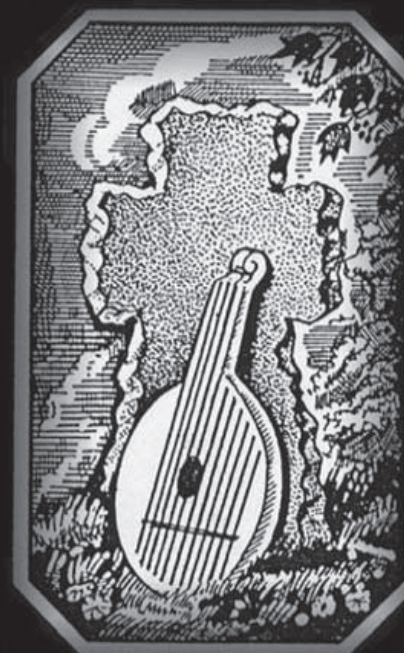
- daughter - Christina Hordijenko with husband Tzaddi
- son - Stefan Marko with wife Caroline
- grandson - Andrew Marko
- nieces - Anisia Kowalchuk with husband Roman,
children and grandchildren
- Dr. Olga Maria Cehelska
and relatives in America and Ukraine

Вічна її пам'ять

Memorial contributions may be sent to Dumka Choir, where pani Marika was a member for over 40 years.

JAROSLAW DUZYJ

November 26, 1923 - March 4, 2009



Your dedication to our mission will be always be remembered.

The Executive Board and Members of the
UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS

Вічна Їйому пам'ять!

President's annual...

(Continued from page 3)

distorts the role of state finance. It presents a serious threat to stability of the national currency and prices. We must cut all the excess expenditures and finally start living within our means. This applies to everyone – from the state to enterprises' budgets and even to every Ukrainian family. ...

... Second. Social responsibility. Providing jobs, especially for skilled workers is the duty of the government and employers. I suggest establishing a forecast system of labor resources at the local level, in order to balance demand for labor. We need to encourage mobility of labor within the country. If a particular worker is available in the range of even tens of kilometers, he must be offered the job. ...

The next thing is restoration of justice in social protection. ... At the same time I would like to make myself clear: social justice does not mean paternalism or Soviet-type equality. ...

Social justice means support of the poorest, most vulnerable people. It means help to those who want to work. And it also means tough restrictions for those, who seek to make profit on the budget.

... Third. It is necessary to provide sufficient support to the banking system. It is the spine of economy ... The state must immediately assume responsibility for the banks that are in trouble and take part in their capital.

... I am sure that rapid actions of the state will result in restoration of confidence among the citizens. As soon as we have confidence back, the investors will return.

... Fourth. Support every Ukrainian manufacturer, whose products have effective demand. The banking system should give impetus to support domestic demand. ... It is necessary to provide appropriate crediting of projects of strategic value for the state,

which were launched by private capital; I mean Euro 2012, development of infrastructure, the energy sector, communications, transport. ...

... Fifth. We must focus on Ukrainian economy sectors with growth potential. These are, first of all, agriculture and small and medium business. ... It is essential to stop any administrative interference in agriculture sector once and for all. Agriculture should also be protected from low-quality and cheap imports.

... I demand allowing the free sale of land. The moratorium, which has been imposed four times in succession, is nothing but a new form of serfdom for farmers. ...

Small and medium business. This is our main partner in maintaining employment and providing essential goods and services. I am speaking now about nearly 4 million of the most economically active citizens. It is they, who are able to quickly adapt to the new conditions, and their companies will make up the foundation for economic growth. ...

... now I will proceed to the political block of questions. I will be brief: radical change of the electoral system should become the foundation for quality renovation of staff in the government, both central and local.

The existing closed proportional system has exhausted its potential, destroyed the effectiveness of state authorities, particularly of local government.

...Citizens should be returned their right to personalized choice of deputies.

Being the only legislative body, the Parliament must implement election system reform – the transition to open election lists in parliamentary elections and to majority system in all local elections. People should have the right to vote not only for one or another political party, but also for a specific candidate. ...

... Without delay we must proceed with the establishment and implementation of a

new governance model that would meet the needs and values of Ukraine, as a European nation, and provide a response to challenges of the present.

A dualistic hybrid in organization of the executive branch was spawned, which limited [the] authority of the president of Ukraine without providing counterbalancing of the government's authority by responsibility before the parliamentary coalition and of those two before the people; in addition to lawmaking and executive power shaping functions, the Parliament was given authority to shape judiciary power and leadership of all key institutions in the country.

Modern European legal doctrine does not accept such a concentration of power by single authority.

... The time has come to set forth clear and fair criteria for distribution of power. The world has already worked out the appropriate models that should be implemented in Ukraine. I suggest introducing a bicameral parliamentary system with the decreased total number of deputies. Beside that, the basic request from people should be finally fulfilled – the request for abolition of unlimited parliamentary immunity. ...

The lower house – the Chamber of Deputies – having been elected by direct vote by the proportional system would be the body for political representation of the people. ...

The upper house is elected by direct vote by majority system and represents communities and regions. ... Equal representation of all the regions of Ukraine (three senators from each region) in the Senate will be the uniting factor. ...

As to the post of the president of Ukraine, in my opinion, we should keep the direct national representative mandate for the Head of State.

The constitutional and legal status of the president as the guarantor of sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Ukraine corresponds with the mandate. ...

At the same time, the Cabinet should get independence. The government should be responsible for external and internal policy. ...

Another essential component of the constitutional reform is ensuring reality of local government. The foundation for local self-government should be community. The community should provide basic social services to citizens.

A clear consequent connection should be established between community, district and region. It is time to allow representative bodies – regional and district councils, to establish their executive bodies, and to provide them with appropriate authority. ...

The time has come for judicial reform and reformation of law enforcement bodies. Regaining citizens' confidence in the courts is a matter of utmost significance for the state. ...

The next step is fundamental reformation of law enforcement bodies' work. Our assignment here is reorienting the bodies from protection of the government's interests to protection of the rights of the citizen, as well as depriving pre-trial investigation of its accusatory character.

... I want our state to have a Constitution that has not been created for some persons or for politicians, but for our people, our nation, our liberty and our progress. ... I have the honor today to hand over to the speaker of the Verkhovna the draft revised Constitution of Ukraine, which I ask to consider as urgent. ...

You are well aware that I was right every time I warned against unreasoned political changes and economic populism.

Dear Ukraine, we are a big, strong and free nation.

Our goal is to make a real, big next step towards a better life. We are just in the middle of the road. We need to gather ourselves up. We must believe in ourselves. We must go forward.

Glory to Ukraine!

St. Thomas Sunday

Провідна Неділя

The Council of Bishops and Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA cordially invite all Christ-loving faithful, in particular our youth of all ages to participate in this year's SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY PILGRIMAGE.

Come and share in the light, grace and Gospel of the risen Lord with others!

Bright Saturday: April 25, 2009

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy in Saint Andrew Memorial Church.

6:00 PM Vespers and Confessions in Saint Andrew Memorial Church.

St. Thomas Sunday: April 26, 2009

9:30AM Eucharistic Liturgy. Principle celebrant: His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel, and pastors of local parish communities followed by:

11:30AM *A procession to the Cemetery's Great Memorial Cross for the celebration of a Panakhyda for the repose of the souls of the departed servants of God, His Holiness Patriarch Mstyslav, His Beatitude Metropolitan John and all departed hierarchs, clergy and faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA, along with the victims of Stalin's genocidal famine of 1932-33, the victims of the Chernobyl disaster, those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom and independence of Ukraine and the USA and the victims of the 11th September 2001 terroristic attack upon America.*

St. Thomas Sunday Youth Activities

3:00PM: Meet our Father Bishops during an Ice Cream Social (all ages).



PARKING REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

As directed by the Consistory, all parking on Memorial Church and Cemetery grounds is strictly prohibited on Saturday, 25 April and Sunday, 26 April 2009. Parking is permitted only on Consistory grounds located at 135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ (Cultural Center lot and grounds). Round trip transportation of pilgrims to the Memorial Church and Cemetery will be provided.

Cultural exhibits and all commerce will take place on Saturday, 25 April from Noon to 6 pm and Sunday, 26 April from Noon to 6 pm in the main auditorium of the Cultural Center. Permits for sales must be obtained from the Consistory. No business will be transacted during the Liturgy and Panakhyda. Any individuals conducting unauthorized sales will be removed from the property.

The Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, the clergy and the Office of Youth Ministry encourage children and youth of our Holy Metropolia to enrich their lives by participating with their parents and family members in the various liturgical services, especially the Holy Mystery of Confession and the Holy Eucharist during this year's Holy Pilgrimage. Youth activities scheduled for Sunday, April 26 will emphasize a relationship based on our relationship to Christ.

All other Panakhydy (Memorial Services) are permitted only after the conclusion of the above Panakhyda at the Great Cross.

PLEASE NOTE: MEMORIAL SERVICES ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING BRIGHT WEEK - MONDAY TO FRIDAY (20 APRIL - 24 APRIL 2009). THESE DAYS ARE RESERVED FOR GRAVE CLEANING AND CEMETERY PREPARATION FOR ST. THOMAS SUNDAY (PROVIDNA NEDILA).

May the souls of our beloved find rest and their memory be eternal!

Ukrainian Free University pays tribute to Taras Shevchenko

by Roman Yaremko

MUNICH – The Ukrainian Free University commemorated the 195th anniversary of the birth of Ukraine’s great poet Taras Shevchenko in an academic ceremony held on Saturday, March 7, in the Plenary Chamber of Munich’s beautiful neo-gothic City Hall.

Among the 150 participants were representatives from the universities of Munich, Vienna, Bonn, Regensburg, Wuerzburg, Bamberg and Ulm. The ceremony commenced with Kyrylo Stecenko’s piano work “Prometheus,” performed by doctoral student Alla Boborikina.

In his introductory remarks, Ukrainian Free University Rector Ivan Myhul brought forth the importance of Taras Shevchenko’s role for Ukraine and detailed the long history of the study of Shevchenko at UFU, beginning with its inception in 1921. Dr. Myhul listed the works of some of UFU’s scholars of Shevchenko, such as Roman Smal-Stotsky, Paul Zaitsev, Yuri Boyko-Blochyn, Ivan Mirtschuk, Oleksa Horbach and Myroslav Antochy.

In the main lecture, titled “Taras Shevchenko and independent Ukraine,” Germany’s most well-known Slavics studies professor, Hans Rothe – recipient of an UFU medal for his work in Ukrainian studies – provided a new perspective on Shevchenko. He also reiterated the importance of the Ukrainian Free

University as a valuable resource for scholars of Ukrainian studies not only in Germany, but within the European Union.

This commemoration also served as a venue for the presentation of the UFU’s most recent publication in the German language, “Taras Shevchenko and the Modern Ukrainian literary Language.” This 450-page publication was realized through the generous endowment of the late Petro Cymbalysty, professor of Slavic philology at the Ukrainian Free University.

The author of the publication, Dr. Michael Moser, professor of Ukrainian studies at the University of Vienna and the UFU, presented this monumental work and thanked the UFU’s rector and its chancellor, Dr. Nicolas Szafowal, for their support and contribution to this work.

Prof. Moser’s presentation was followed by the readings of Shevchenko’s works “Osiyja, Hlava 14” (Esau, Chapter 14) and “Isaia, Hlava 35” (Isaiah, Chapter 35) both in the Ukrainian original as well as the German translation by A. Kurella.

Opera baritone Petro Bojko from Kharkiv performed musical renditions of Shevchenko’s poems, such as “Sontse Zakhodyt, Hory Chorniyut” (The Sun Setting, the Hills Turn Dark), “Iz-za Haju, Sontse Shodyt” and “Reve Ta Stohne Dnibr Shyrokyi” arranged for voice and piano by the composer Yakiv Stepovyj.

The assembly ended with the singing of Shevchenko’s “Zapovit.” (Testament).



At the Ukrainian Free University’s commemoration of the 195th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko are: (first row) Drs. Nicolas Szafowal, Hans Rothe, Ivan Myhul and Michael Moser.



Participants sing Shevchenko’s “Zapovit.”

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Russia. All the expenditures for its maintenance have been paid by Russia since September 1993. The very idea of a lease is senseless.”

Mr. Tarasyuk said Ukraine would seek a five-year lease.

During the talks in Sevastopol on April 22, 1994, Gen. Grachev and his delegation returned to Moscow before the agreement details were finalized. The reason for the abrupt departure by the Russian delegation was the division of the Sevastopol base, with its housing, repair facilities and associated machinery. According to Ukraine’s First Vice-Minister of Defense Gen. Ivan Bizhan, Russia demanded that all components at the Sevastopol base be turned over to Russia, that Ukraine’s navy relocate to Odesa and Ochakiv, and that Russia have

access to all the bases of the fleet in Crimea.

The agreement stipulated that Ukraine would take possession of 18.3 percent of the fleet’s 833 ships, including 164 battleships and auxiliary vessels. Russia would pay Ukraine for 225 ships.

Gen. Grachev insisted that Russia also should control bases in Balaklava, Feodosia, Kerch and Donuzlav.

President Kravchuk said the disagreement between the defense ministers should not be over-dramatized and reminded that they had no authority in the final decision of the matter, which was in the hands of the presidents of Ukraine and Russia. “The delegations were to prepare the documents; the political decision is for the presidents,” he said.

Source: “Ukraine, Russia agree to split Black Sea Fleet,” by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 24, 1994.

Philadelphia-area Ukrainian center to honor Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper

by Andrea Zharovsky

JENKINTOWN, PA – The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC), a non-profit educational and cultural organization in Jenkintown, Pa., will hold its 29th annual banquet on Saturday, April 25, featuring keynote speaker NASA astronaut and U.S. Navy Capt. Heidemarie M. Stefanyshyn-Piper.

The UECC will honor Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper for her shining example to youth in the Ukrainian American community and for her many achievements. She is one of only a few women astronauts to lead space walks outside the space shuttle. Her most recent flight in orbit was on November 14-30, 2008, during STS-126.

Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper will be leaving NASA and will be returning to the U.S. Navy this summer.

Cocktails will be served at 5 p.m. in the Dr. Alexander B. Chernyk Gallery, and the banquet will begin at 7 p.m. The musical program during the banquet will feature the Prometheus Ukrainian American Male Chorus under the direction of Roman Kucharsky.

Tickets for the banquet are \$100 for UECC members; \$125 for UECC non-members. For additional information readers may call the UECC office at 215-663-1166.

The UECC is located at 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046; e-mail, contact@ueccphila.org; website, www.ueccphila.org.

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PHILADELPHIA, PA, DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES
 announces that its
ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
 will be held on
 Sunday, May 3, 2009, at 3:00 P.M.
 at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center
 700 Cedar Rd.,
 Jenkintown, PA 19046

Obligated to attend the meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

10, 83, 116, 153, 162, 163, 173, 216, 231, 239, 245, 247, 339, 347, 362, 397

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

Meeting will be attended by:

Wasył Szeremeta – UNA Auditor
 Eugene Serba – UNA Advisor
 Lubov Streletsky – UNA Advisor

District Committee
 Michael Luciw, District Chairman
 Ulana Prociuk, Secretary

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Accepted to compete for Miss Vermont

BURLINGTON, Vt. – Tatiana Ripnick, a senior here at the University of Vermont, has been accepted to compete in the Miss Vermont contest that is part of the Miss America Pageant.

As a contestant, she said she needs to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network and the Miss America Scholarship Fund.

Children's Miracle Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals. Miss Ripnick explained, "The money raised is donated to children's hospitals around the nation. In my area of Vermont, it would be the Fletcher Allen Children's Hospital."

Miss Ripnick, who is majoring in pre-medicine and sociology, will graduate this December and hopes to continue her studies in medical school. "As a pre-medical student, the fund-raising is something that is extremely important to me. I am a passionate volunteer, and Fletcher Allen Hospital is one of the many places I spend my time," Miss Ripnick informed The Ukrainian Weekly in an e-mail message.

"It means a great deal to be able to help the wonderful patients I see come in and out of the children's wing, and every little bit of fund-raising helps to better the nation's hospitals," she added.

She noted that the platform she will be running on for the Miss Vermont Pageant is "Service for the Elderly: Being the Change you Wish to See," another area that is very dear to her heart. "I was blessed enough to grow up with three great-grandparents for most of my life, yet I was also exposed to the immense amount of dedication and time it took for my family to be caregivers," she noted.

"As a student of sociology and medicine, I have spent time volunteering in nursing homes, and have studied gerontology actively with one of the most renowned professors in the field. Working with the elderly is an area that is far underappreciated, and with the societal and economic issues of today, it is a field that is in need of volunteers. From helping services such as 'Meals on Wheels' to programs such as 'Adopt-a-Grandparent' the opportunities to help the aging cohort are great," Miss Ripnick said.

Miss Ripnick has been involved with the Carpathian Ski Club (known by its



Tatiana Ripnick

Ukrainian acronym as KKK) throughout her life and was a competitive Alpine ski racer. She spent time living abroad in Austria, training with Olympic and World Cup medalists, in order to try and qualify for the U.S. Ski Team.

After entering the University of Vermont, she continued to race competitively on the varsity team. This year she also began coaching. She was also a member of the women's crew team at the University of Vermont, and attributes much of the success she has had in life to the dedication learned through athletics.

Miss Ripnick's current focus, however, is on finishing her pre-med studies.

She told The Weekly that she works in a research laboratory in the medical research facilities on campus, interestingly enough in a lab heavily staffed with Ukrainians. "During my interview, I was actually put to the test intentionally when the leading doctor asked me to speak the language to some of the other workers, and so I absolutely attribute some of my job acceptance to being Ukrainian," she related. "I now work as the leading imagist of his research, studying the growth of smooth muscle cell during pregnancy, and will hopefully be helping to co-author a research paper in the near future."

The Miss Vermont Pageant will take place on June 27. Until then, Miss Ripnick advises, tax-deductible donations to the Children's Miracle Network can be made online at www.missamerica4kids.org. She can be found on that website via the "contestant search" option.

Eagle Scout to be honored

SCOTT TOWNSHIP, Pa. – Boy Scout Troop 834 of Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic Church in Scott Township, Pa., and the local community will honor Michael Spak at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Saturday, May 2.

Michael is the son of Barbara and Myron Spak of Scott Township. He has a younger sister Larissa and a younger brother Nicholas. He is also the grandson of Anne Pantalo and the late George Pantalo, and of Jaroslaw Spak and the late Audrey Spak.

Michael has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, a goal realized by approximately only two out of every 100 boys who join Scouting.

An Eagle Scout must have completed at least 21 merit badges and organized a service project that benefits his church, community or school. Michael led a renovation project for his church, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pa. Through his leadership and organizational skills, his church's picnic grove in Collier Township benefited in rehabilitation work performed over two weekends by over 40 individuals which totaled over 160 hours of work. The entire project was self-funded.

Michael joined Cub Scout Pack 861 of Holy Child Catholic Church in Bridgeville, Pa., in first grade and later earned a Cub Scout's highest award, the Arrow of Light. A member of Troop 834 since 2003, he regularly attended troop summer camp programs, which included a trip to the National Boy Scout Jamboree in 2005. Michael has held various leadership roles as a Boy Scout, including junior assistant scout master, patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader and cub

scout den chief. He is also an active member of the Boy Scouts National Honor Society, the Order of the Arrow. In 2007, Michael earned the Light is Life Religious Emblem for Eastern Catholic Scouts.

A junior at Chartiers Valley High School, he has been active in the high school show band, and high school jazz ensemble. He is a member of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, where he is an altar server and is active in the parish youth group. He is a member of the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and the Ukrainian Cultural Trust Choir.

He also has worked as a camp counselor at All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church Camp in Emlenton, Pa., and has worked as staff for Cub Scout Day Camp. Michael also volunteers at the Light of Life Rescue Mission on the North Side of Pittsburgh, where he regularly serves meals to the homeless.



Michael Spak

"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.

Earns doctorate in church law

by Maria Antonyshyn

TERRYVILLE, Conn. – The Rev. Paul Luniw, pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Terryville, Conn., has obtained a doctorate in church law.

Currently he is judicial vicar in the diocese, head of the Presbyteral Council, consultant and protopresbyter (dean) in the Hartford Deanery. Over the past few months, the Rev. Luniw began research for his doctoral dissertation, on "Eastern Catholic Churches in United States, their History, Juridical Status and Prospects for Cultural Development."

The thesis is divided into chapters, two of which are "Byzantine Catholic Churches" and "Other Eastern Catholic Churches." The Rev. Luniw outlined the history of the early immigration that left Eastern Europe or the Middle East for political or economic reasons. He used documents from the Holy See

and had the opportunity to do some research in the archives of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches in Rome.

The Rev. Luniw visited some of the chancery offices of the various Eastern Catholic Churches and obtained various papal bulls that established exarchates and eparchies. He also had the opportunity to interview the retired Bishop Frances Monsour Zayek, the first exarch in the United States for the Maronite Church, about the problems he encountered in shared jurisdiction with Latin Ordinary.

The Ruthenian and Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church are also covered in the thesis, as is the official Vatican division of the Ruthenian Greek-Catholic Church in America into separate Ukrainian and Ruthenian (Carpatho-Rusyn) dioceses in 1918.

The Rev. Luniw completed his work at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome in 2008. His dissertation defense was on January 22, after which he obtained a doctorate in canon law (J.C.D.). An extract from the thesis is to be published soon.



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Tymoshenko...

(Continued from page 1)

hero.”

Those comments rocked the Ukrainian political establishment, considering Mr. Akhmetov has been the top financier of Ukraine's biggest political force, the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), which has been in fierce opposition to the Tymoshenko government ever since it emerged in December 2007.

For Mr. Akhmetov to suddenly break with his party's opposition politics and extend support to Ms. Tymoshenko would have required a very expensive price, which the prime minister duly paid on March 24 during a Dniproenergo shareholders' meeting in Zaporizhia.

The Ukrainian government, represented at the meeting by the Energy Co. of Ukraine, agreed to reduce its stake in the Zaporizhia electric plant from 76.04 percent to 50 percent plus one share.

Although the government retained its bare majority of shareholder control, it reportedly agreed to surrender control of the supervisory board and board of directors, according to reports from media and observers.

The supervisory board was reduced from six to four members, three of whom represent the interests of Mr. Akhmetov, according to the *rupor.info* website. Those three representatives are from Mr. Akhmetov's Donbas Fuel and Energy Co., the eponymous holding company and Oleksii Zakharchuk, as reported by *Dielovaya Stolitsa*, a Russian-language weekly newspaper published in Kyiv.

Meanwhile, the board of directors was reduced from eight to five members, three of whom represent the interests of Mr. Akhmetov. His associates on the board are Yurii Bochkariyev, Serhii Bedin and Dmytro Teveliev.

As another key provision in the deal, Prominvestbank became the company's registrar, responsible for managing the shareholder databases, distributing dividends and registering the transfer of property rights.

Prominvestbank just happened to be purchased in November by the mega-millionaire Klyuev brothers, close associates of Mr. Akhmetov.

“This likely testifies to some backstage agreements between the executive government [led by Prime Minister Tymoshenko] and one of the biggest Ukrainian businessmen, who owns the Donbas Fuel and Energy Co.,” said Viacheslav Butko, the director of economic programs at the Center for Corporate Relations Research in Kyiv.

As a result of his latest business maneuver, Mr. Akhmetov stands to control about 47 percent of Ukraine's electricity production – the Zaporizhia-based Dniproenergo produces about 21 percent of the nation's electricity and Skhidenergo has about 26 percent.

Both are controlled by Mr. Akhmetov through his Donbas Fuel and Energy Co.

Just two years ago Ms. Tymoshenko vowed to “return Dniproenergo to the people,” demonizing Mr. Akhmetov and his attempts to take control over Ukraine's electricity industry during her political bloc's campaign in the 2007 pre-term parliamentary election.

Until the recent deal, she insisted the Ukrainian government retain 76 percent control, not the 50 percent plus one share.

“Now Akhmetov will decide the price to set for a kilowatt of electricity for the population,” she famously declared in September 2007, just weeks before the parliamentary vote. “The faster the electric meters turn, the swifter the life of the Regions member who controls the biggest generating company in eastern Ukraine improves.”

Following the financial crisis, Forbes

magazine estimated Mr. Akhmetov's wealth at \$1.8 billion. Meanwhile, the Kyiv-based *Korrespondent* magazine, working with Kyiv investment analysts, estimated the Donbas kingpin's wealth at \$31 billion before the crisis.

For the last three years, *Korrespondent* has traditionally estimated the wealth of Ukraine's oligarchs higher than *Forbes* magazine. No one has access to information about their true wealth.

In his April 6 comments, Mr. Akhmetov left no doubt that he and Ms. Tymoshenko have put their conflict over Dniproenergo to rest and established a new, unprecedented cooperation.

“I really want for precisely this government to defeat the crisis and end up on top, so that there are more arguments for a victory,” he said, calling upon the opposition led by the Party of Regions to join the government in resolving the crisis.

“The main task is for the Ukrainian people to feel confidence in the present

day and tomorrow,” Mr. Akhmetov said. “I can't wish for anything else, because this government is fighting the crisis on behalf of the Ukrainian people.”

The Donbas billionaire's role in the Party of Regions remains unclear.

Some observers said his deal with Ms. Tymoshenko could indicate he is spreading his risk among various politicians and parties ahead of the presidential election scheduled for October 25.

Party of Regions National Deputy Taras Chornovil indicated on April 12 that a rift has emerged between Mr. Akhmetov and PRU chairman Viktor Yanukovich, who in recent months began courting another Ukrainian billionaire, Dmytro Firtash.

In finding such new, powerful financiers, Mr. Yanukovich challenged Mr. Akhmetov's dominance over the party. But, at the same time, the presidential front-runner “burned his bridges” with Mr. Akhmetov, Mr. Chornovil commented.

Moscow shows no...

(Continued from page 2)

tion of a Russian merchant ship for crossing Georgian territorial waters, are set to generate high tensions (www.newsru.com, April 7). Georgia's rearmament is certain to remain a major source of controversy, and while its right to rebuild the armed forces is undeniable, Moscow will protest furiously against every military aid program launched by NATO.

The declaration adopted at the NATO summit lists the usual avenues for cooperation with Russia, but on closer examination most of them have reached solid dead ends. Conventional arms control has been effectively derailed by Russia's withdrawal from the CFE Treaty, and the deployment of Russian troops in Abkhazia and South Ossetia guarantees that this breakdown is irreversible. Nuclear non-proliferation might appear a more promising area, but Moscow's refusal to condemn North Korea for its long-range ballistic missile test left the U.N. Security Council unable to adopt any meaningful resolution on that matter. This indicates that any scope for practical cooperation is in fact limited (*RIA-Novosti*, April 7).

Even on counter-terrorism, the level of mutual understanding is far shallower than presumed, since Moscow is confident that its own “war on terror” in Chechnya has been successfully concluded; and now the problem is only how to keep Ramzan Kadyrov – the key part of the solution – from murdering his opponents in every possible location from Moscow to Dubai (*Ezhednevny Zhurnal*, April 6).

Energy security, in which NATO expresses growing interest, is certainly not a topic that Russia wants to discuss with the alliance; even the European Union has aroused Moscow's wrath by declaring the intent to modernize Ukraine's gas infrastructure. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, in his report to the State Duma, issued a warning that attempts to exclude Russia from decision-making on energy matters would be

“counter-productive” and now steers Gazprom to strike back together with its key allies such as the German E.ON and Italian ENI (*Kommersant*, April 6).

Moscow suspects that, for NATO, the course to expanding its dialogue with Russia is simply a means to justify its own relevance – and so it limits this dialogue to matters where it can exploit internal disagreements within the alliance.

Mr. Medvedev follows the well-established pattern of denial of NATO's central role as a security provider for the majority of European states. However, his own proposals about a new European security “architecture” remain so vague that no meaningful discussion appears possible, despite the numerous positive signals from the West.

Fedor Lukyanov, one of the few independent analysts in Moscow, suggests that instead of aiming at weakening NATO, Russia should try to develop a wider design for Eurasian security architecture (www.globalaffairs.ru, April 6). This idea might help to reduce the mostly imaginary geopolitical competition in Central Asia, but it does not address conflicts of interest in many European trouble spots, for instance, the riots in Moldova (www.gazeta.ru, April 8).

Russia's negative attitude to NATO is neither a leftover from Cold War dogmas nor a consequence of the acute “Kosovo syndrome” caused by the bombing of Yugoslavia 10 years ago. It is driven by the understanding that the alliance is based on more than just a shifting balance of geopolitical interests, that the member-states share the readiness to stand together and defend fundamental values that are not a subject for debate.

These values remain alien to the corrupt, bureaucratic regime built by Vladimir Putin – but they are not foreign to Russia. The regime's survival, therefore, requires that NATO be seen as an enemy.

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Bloomingtondale's in White Plains hosts pysanka demonstration



WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. – On April 2 Olia Rudyk (center) demonstrated the technique of creating the traditional Ukrainian Easter egg (pysanka) at the Bloomingtondale's store in White Plains, N.Y. On one of the busiest shopping days for Easter in the store's children's department, Ms. Rudyk with the help of two other members of Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 30, Iryna Hoshovskyj (right) and Areta Woroch (left), displayed a variety of pysanky and gave out flyers describing the history of the pysanka. Everyone who visited the exhibit was amazed at the intricacy of the designs, the vivid colors, the multi-step dying process and especially the symbolism. The event was successful and the store management invited the Ukrainian women back in the future to showcase other Ukrainian cultural treasures.

North Port Ukrainians conduct drive for local food bank

by Ann-Marie Susla

NORTH PORT, Fla. – St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in North Port, Florida, under the guidance of its pastor, conducted a food drive for three weeks in March to benefit the local Salvation Army Food Bank.

Parishioners and friends, inspired by the season of Lent and the spirit of giving and helping those in need, generously contributed non-perishable foods to support this project. The Rev. Dr. Severyn Kovalyshin, together with his wife,

Halyna, and daughter, Ksenia, as well as Lidia Bilous, Ann-Marie and John Susla, sorted and packed all the donated food which was then delivered to the Salvation Army on March 30.

Margie Ducharme, manager of the Salvation Army Social Services Center, and volunteers Tracy Barnes and CaroleAnn Darrow were very pleased to receive the sizeable contribution of food items to replenish their food pantry since the shelves were almost empty and the need is so great in these difficult economic times.



Packing food donations for the Salvation Army Food Bank (from left) Ann-Marie Susla, Lidia Bilous, the Rev. Severyn Kovalyshin, Ksenia Kovalyshin and John Susla.

St. George School students pay homage to Shevchenko

NEW YORK – On Friday, March 13, students from St. George Ukrainian Catholic Elementary School and Academy in New York City, grades pre-K to 12, celebrated the life and work of Ukraine's greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko.

The auditorium was filled by the entire student body, faculty, administration, parents and their guests, and the church's pastor, who blessed the special program with a prayer. Shevchenko's most notable works were performed, including: "I Mertvym, I Zyvym," "Prychynna (Reve ta Stohne)," "Dumy Moyi," "Sadok Vyshneviy," "Taras's Night," and many others, carefully staged to encompass choral singing, a bandura ensemble of third and fourth graders, a violin solo, vocal solos, poetic recitations and a theatrical presentation on Shevchenko's dramatic life.

A notable difference between this program and other Shevchenko programs was

the intertwining of both the Ukrainian and English languages, including the words of the poet himself. The student participants were of varying backgrounds, including Ukrainians of the most recent immigration, those of Ukrainian descent born in the diaspora, and many non-Ukrainians of mixed races and origins, including Hispanic, African, Italian, Irish and Arabic.

This diversity of performers contributed to the backdrop of international unity and harmony seldom seen at the school on Taras Shevchenko Place in New York City.

Upon completion of the program, all the guests and performers joined in the singing of Shevchenko's "Testament" (Zapovit).

Even the prophetic Shevchenko could not have envisioned the large and diverse family that would honor him so many years later at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Schools in New York City.



St. George school's young bandurists.



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РЕЧЕНЕЦЬ 30.ТРАВНЯ.2009 р.

Russian 'national identity'...

(Continued from page 2)

transit system without gas, without transit fees, without at a minimum \$3 billion dollars each year for Ukraine's economy."

In February 2007, Ms. Tymoshenko mobilized 430 deputies to vote for a law that banned the sale, lease or rent of Ukraine's gas pipelines. The move was a response to a threat by the government of Viktor Yanukovich to create a Ukrainian-Russian consortium for the pipelines. Tymoshenko pointed out that, "I have always defended the gas transit system from dishonest privatization, from dishonest consortiums, and knew that in doing so Ukraine is protected from being a geopolitical object of energy supplies to a direct partner and player" (1+1

TV, March 29).

Vice Prime Minister Hryhorii Nemyria (Ms. Tymoshenko's unofficial "foreign minister" on her visits to the West) explained that Ukrainian politicians were wrong to portray Ukraine's relations with Russia as a zero-sum game against its relations with the West. In fact, "the absence of a deep strategic analysis has made Ukrainian politicians uninterested in Europe, the U.S.A. and Russia" (Ukrayinska Pravda, April 2).

On March 26 a discussion between Ukraine's Ambassador to Russia Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, shadow foreign affairs minister in the pro-Russian Party of Regions, and Russia's representative to NATO Dmitriy Rogozin on NTV showed that Russia's overreaction was a product of its inability to see Ukraine as a fully-fledged independent state. In addition, the pipeline deal was evidence

that Ukraine was continuing to distance itself from Russia.

Mr. Rogozin, like most Russians, regards the Orange Revolution as Ukraine "embarking on a course of splitting the East Slav world." Russia had not criticized Ukraine for seeking EU membership until now, because it had always been seen this as an unrealistic objective (unlike NATO membership, which Moscow thought was imminent after Viktor Yushchenko's election).

Mr. Gryshchenko stated that Ukraine seeks good relations with Russia. NTV refused this, saying this is not perceived in Moscow, and said it was a "tragedy for Russia" that Ukraine "does not want to be with us and instead they want to be in NATO, which means that our former neighbors and our fraternal countries do not believe in Russia, do not believe in its course

and do not want to be part of it."

Ukraine's integration into the EU rather than into NATO, whose current expansion drive is stalled, might be raising fears in Moscow following Kyiv's pipeline agreement and an imminent free trade agreement with the EU. These steps make Ukraine appear as a more realistic candidate for EU membership. Ironically, Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Nemyria might be more of a threat to Russia's interests than Mr. Yushchenko is, as they both emphasize Ukraine's priority as integration into the EU, which, unlike possible NATO membership, has popular support within Ukraine.

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UNA organizing...

(Continued from page 5)

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Demjanjuk's...

(Continued from page 3)

John Demjanjuk denies involvement in any war crimes and says he was a prisoner of war held by the Nazis. His attorneys in the U.S. are arguing against deportation, saying he suffers from a bone marrow disorder, kidney disease, anemia, kidney stones, arthritis, gout and spinal deterioration, and that he needs chemotherapy.

Spiegel reported that the U.S. Justice Department reacted to the latest ruling in the case by saying that Mr. Demjanjuk's claim that his treatment in Germany would amount to "torture" was a "grotesque debasement of the word ... a characterization that makes a mockery of the terrible suffering inflicted on genuine victims of torture at places like the Sobibor extermination center."

A Demjanjuk attorney in Germany, Ulrich Busch, argued on April 15 that he is unfit to face trial because he needs chemotherapy for a kidney tumor. "It's either chemotherapy or a trial," Mr. Busch said, according to the Associated Press.

Saying he hopes for a "thorough" decision by the U.S. court," Mr. Busch noted, "I hope everyone now pauses to think about whether we are really going to hold a trial of a seriously sick man that could last two years and which he cannot survive."

He added that, if Mr. Demjanjuk were to be found unfit for trial after arriving in Germany, he could not return to the U.S. and would have to go to a German nursing home.

Rabbi Marvin Hier of the Simon Wiesenthal Center issued the following statement: "We remain confident that John Demjanjuk will be deported and finally face the bar of justice for the unspeakable crimes he committed during World War II, when he was a guard at the Sobibor death camp."

John Demjanjuk Jr. commented on CNN that Rabbi Hier also was sure that his father was "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka when Mr. Demjanjuk was extradited to Israel. It was later revealed that the real "Ivan" was Ivan Marchenko.

Sources: Associated Press, Spiegel Online, CNN.



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OUT AND ABOUT

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| April 23 Stanford, CA | Lecture by Alla Nedashivska, "The Interplay of Ukrainian and Russian in Contemporary Ukrainian Media," Stanford University, 650-723-3562 | April 25 St. Catharines, ON Kyiv Chamber Choir, St. Catherine Cathedral, www.ticketweb.ca or 877-266-2557 |
| April 23 Ottawa | Kyiv Chamber Choir, Christ Church Cathedral, 877-266-2557 or www.ticketweb.ca | April 25 New York Spring "Vechornytsi" Ukrainian Village Dance Party, Ukrainian East Village Restaurant, 212-571-1555 ext. 35 |
| April 23 Washington | Literary evening with poet Andriy Bondar, Ronald Reagan Building and International Center for Scholars, liz.malinkin@wilsoncenter.org or 202-691-4100 | April 25 Whippany, NJ Vovcha Tropa Camp reunion, "Ti, Scho Hrebli Rvut" sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, lesiaswan@optonline.net |
| April 24 Toronto | Kyiv Chamber Choir, Roy Thomson Hall, www.roythomson.com or 416-872-4255 | April 25-26 South Bound Brook, NJ St. Thomas Sunday Pilgrimage, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. Metropolia Center, 732-356-0090 |
| April 24 New York | Literary Evening, "Poetry, Prose and Film in New York," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 | April 26 Philadelphia Art exhibit, "Celebration of Ukrainian Art and Culture in Fairmont," Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, 215-684-2180 or 215-684-3548 |
| April 25 Silver Spring, MD | Dinner and dance, featuring music by Fata Morgana, Fantaziya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 410-598-1425 or fantaziya.tickets@gmail.com | April 26 Ft. Lauderdale, FL Performance, "A Ukrainian Montage," featuring the Ukrainian Dancers of Miami, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 954-462-0222 |
| April 25 New York | Literary evening with Dzvinya Orlovsky, Angelo Verga, Askold Melnyczuk and Alexander Motyl, Cornelia Street Café, 212-989-9319 or www.corneliastreetcafe.com | April 26 Alexandria, VA Concert, "Masterpieces of Russian and Ukrainian Vocal Music - Laughter with Tears," Russian Chamber Art Society, The Lyceum, 703-354-7354 or www.rcas.org |
| April 25 Whippany, NJ | First-Aid seminar, Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-585-7175 | April 27 Cambridge, MA Lecture by Olena Haleta, "Literary Anthologies and Their Role in Shaping Ukrainian Identity," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 |
| April 25 Passaic, NJ | 7th annual Casino Royale fund-raiser, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, 973-471-0303 | <p><i>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. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.</i></p> |
| April 25 Jenkintown, PA | 29th annual banquet, featuring Ukrainian American astronaut Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, | |

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

May 2 – Soyuzivka Clean-Up Weekend; Plast Seniors Meeting; Hudson Valley Writing Project

May 10 – Mother's Day Luncheon

May 16 – Journalists' Association convention; UNA Secretaries' Course

May 22-25 – Memorial Day weekend
Friday evening: Pete & Vlody on the Tiki Deck

Saturday: Zabava with Svitanok, 10 pm

Sunday evening: Zuki & Mike on the Tiki Deck

May 30-31 – Ukrainian American Veterans Reunion



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- "Malanka" in January.
- Deb in February.
- Two Easters this April.
- "Zlet" and "Sviato Vesny" in May.
- Soyuzivka's Ukrainian Cultural Festival in July.
- "Uke Week" at Wildwood in August.
- Back to Ukrainian school in September.
- "Morskyi Bal" in New Jersey in November.
- "Koliada" in December.
- A subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 23

WASHINGTON: The Russian Chamber Art Society presents a concert of "Beloved Ukrainian Vocal Classics" at the Embassy of Ukraine, 3350 M St. NW, Washington DC 20007, at 7:30 p.m. The program will feature the American premiere of the "Ballad of Chernobyl" by composer Yuriy Oliynyk to pay homage to the memory of the victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, as well as arias and duets by Hulak-Artemovsky, Dankevych, Lysenko, Sonevtsky and Vasylenko. These favorite pieces of the folk and classical repertoire will be performed by two outstanding Ukrainian singers, mezzo-soprano Oksana Sitnitska and baritone Oleksandr Pushniak, accompanied by pianist Vera Danchenko-Stern. Tickets at \$40 (including reception to meet the artists) must be purchased in advance. To order online go to www.thercas.com. To order by mail (before April 20) send check payable to RCAS to P.O. Box 665, Annandale, VA 22003-0665. For information call 703-354-7354 or e-mail infor@thercas.com.

Saturday, April 25

WHIPPANY, N.J.: A reunion/"vechirka" of Vovcha Tropa Plast campers from the years 1965-1975 will be held beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 60 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981. Featured stars: "Panteleimon Pupchuk" and Kinderhook Creek, plus other well-known personages of Vovcha Tropa. Dress code: "groovy" casual. Admission (at the door) is \$40 per person. The reunion is organized by New Jersey chapter of the senior Plast sorority "Ti, Scho Hrebli Rvut." Proceeds will benefit the Vovcha Tropa camp in East Chatham, N.Y. For information e-mail lesiaswan@optonline.net.

NEW YORK: The Center for Traditional Music and Dance and Ukrainian Wave presents a spring Vechornytsi (Village Dance Party), 7:30-11 p.m. at the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant, 140 Second Ave. (between Eighth and Ninth avenues). Enjoy Carpathian mountain music by acoustic folk band Cheres, led by Andriy Milavsky. Learn folk dances such as the Hutsulka, Dribka Polka, Arkan, Pleskan and more with dance master Tamara Chernyakhovska. Dance instruction 7:30-8:15 p.m., dance party 8:30-11 p.m. Admission: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. All ages welcome. For further information call 212-571-1555, ext. 35.

NEW YORK: Music at the Institute presents Tapestry Vocal Ensemble in a program titled "Faces of a Woman." The program features works by and about women in history from medieval and contemporary repertoires, including traditional melodies and ballads, folk songs, chants and selections from Rachmaninoff's Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. The concert is at 8 p.m., followed by a reception, at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., corner of Fifth Avenue. Tickets are \$30; UIA members and senior citizens, \$25; students, \$20. For more information and to order tickets call 212-288-8660

Sunday, April 26

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America will host a lecture-discussion by Dr. Taras Kuzio titled "Disgruntled Voters, Squabbling Elite, Deepening Economic

Crisis and Upcoming Elections in Ukraine." The lecture, moderated by Adrian Karatnycky, will begin at 3 p.m., followed by a wine and cheese reception, at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., corner of Fifth Avenue. Admission: \$15; UIA members and senior citizens, \$10; students, \$5. For more information call the institute, 212-288-8660.

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Russian Chamber Art Society presents a concert "Masterpieces of Russian and Ukrainian Vocal Music – Laughter and Tears" at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314, at 7:30 p.m. The program will feature the American premiere of the "Ballad of Chernobyl" by composer Yuriy Oliynyk to commemorate victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, as well as operatic arias and duets by Hulak-Artemovsky, Lysenko, Sonevtsky, Cui, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff. These favorite pieces of the folk and classical repertoire will be performed by two outstanding Ukrainian singers, mezzo-soprano Oksana Sitnitska and baritone Oleksandr Pushniak, accompanied by pianist Vera Danchenko-Stern. Tickets are \$35. To order online go to www.thercas.com. To order by mail send check payable to RCAS to P.O. Box 665 Annandale, VA 22003-0665. For information call 703-354-7354 or e-mail infor@thercas.com.

Monday, April 27

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture given by Olena Haleta, associate professor of literature and director, Center for the Humanities at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv; and Eugene and Daymel Shklar Research Fellow at the Ukrainian Research Institute. Her lecture, "Literary Anthologies and Their Role in Shaping Ukrainian Identity," will be held at 4 p.m. in Room S-050 (Concourse Level), CGIS Building South, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 617-495-4053 or e-mail huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Thursday, April 30

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America, in a new "Emerging Artists" Series, will present an evening of short films by young film directors from Ukraine and the United States. Young filmmaker Bohdana Smyrnova has organized the presentation of her own works and those of her colleagues Igor Strembitsky, Anatoliy Lavrenishin, Michael Rosetti, Fred Guerrier and Han Lee. The screening of the nine short films begins at 7 p.m., at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., corner of Fifth Avenue. General admission: \$15; UIA members, seniors and students, \$10. For specific information call 347-581-5347 or e-mail infor@herseatisvacant.org.

Saturday, May 16

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The annual meeting with the community convened by Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, will be held at 2 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey located at 60 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981. We invite the Ukrainian community to attend. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

Information should be sent to: preview@ukrweekly.com or Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**