

**INSIDE:**

“A Ukrainian Summer” –  
a special 20-page pullout section.

# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Stefanyshyn-Piper welcomed in Philadelphia



Andrea Zharovsky

**Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper with children of the Ukrainian Heritage School's morning program.**

by **Tamara Stadnychenko Cornelison**

*Special to The Ukrainian Weekly*

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – Like most U.S. cities with a large community of Ukrainian Americans, Philadelphia has numerous organizations and institutions dedicated to preserving and promoting a rich cultural heritage. This is a process that has evolved over many decades and has been shaped by people from different waves of immigration. It is also a process that has been fine-tuned by strong leaders with the vision to build and expand in ways that improve and enhance community life.

In Philadelphia, one of the manifestations of this vision is the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC), which celebrated 29 years of community service at a gala banquet on April 25 featuring a special guest: astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper.

Founded in 1980, the UECC is a non-profit organization located in the Philadelphia suburbs. The organization resides in an old school building that was purchased for \$375,000 and has since become home base to an eclectic mix of other organizations, each of which contributes to the life of the community by offering something of value.

The banquet, held in the center's auditorium and attended by more than 200 guests, was a celebration of these contributions and of the people whose vision has made the UECC a hub of activity for Ukrainians from the entire Delaware Valley.

Among those attending the banquet were representatives of the 30 or so organizations that currently use the facility for meetings, exhibits, social events and educational purposes. A short list includes the Cheremosh Hutsul Society, the

(Continued on page 4)

## Poltava residents prepare to mark 300th anniversary of historic battle of 1709

by **Zenon Zawada**

*Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV – Obstructed by the city's pro-Russian leadership, Poltava residents are struggling to ensure that the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava is commemorated in a proper manner that brings dignity to Ukraine. The 1709 battle was fought by Sweden, with its allies the Ukrainian Zaporozhian Kozaks, against Russia.

The City Council led by Mayor Andrii Matkovskiy, an opponent of Ukrainian culture, has denied financing for a short film sympathetic to the Kozak's leader, Hetman Ivan Mazepa, and has placed hurdles in the way of erecting a monument to the legendary Kozak leader in the city center at Sobornyi Maidan (Cathedral Square).

As a result, film director Oleg Mingalev said he needs \$3,000 to complete production of his 15-minute film, while National Deputy Mykola Kulchynskiy has launched a fundraising drive for the 20-foot monument, telling *The Weekly* that he has raised about two-thirds of the \$187,500 needed.

“It's very painful when we have to pressure the government, look for inroads and raise our own funds to honor Mazepa,” said Mr. Kulchynskiy, chair of Poltava's Prosvita branch and an Our Ukraine national deputy.

Preparations for the tercentenary of the Battle of Poltava were initiated by an October 2007 decree issued by President Viktor Yushchenko, which listed among its numerous requirements producing a film and erecting a monument.

Since then, Mr. Kulchynskiy has wrestled with city leaders to ensure that, at a minimum, a Mazepa monument would be unveiled on June 27, the day recognized as the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava, according to the Gregorian calendar. (The date is July 8, according to the Julian calendar.)

At least 3,000 Russian visitors and thousands of other foreign tourists will descend upon Poltava that weekend for a historical re-enactment of the battle that gave rise to the modern Russian Empire and its subsequent domination of the Baltic Sea.

Although Ukrainians are known throughout the world for their exceptional hospitality, Poltava City Council officials have demonstrated exceptional deference and accommodation to their Russian visitors – more than to their own Ukrainian residents.

At an April 15 organizing committee meeting, Mr. Matkovskiy opposed unveiling the Mazepa monument on June 27, agreeing with Oblast State Administration Chair Valerii Asadchev, who represents the Presidential Secretariat in Poltava, to postpone it until August 24, Ukrainian Independence Day.

“Establishing the monument at that time will become an impulse for a second battle of Poltava,” Mr. Matkovskiy explained. “Radical Russians, Ukrainians and others could arrive here. The monument needs to be established either now, before the 300th anniversary, or afterwards.”

The City Council made the postponement official the next day by voting to cancel its January decision allotting space on the Sobornyi Maidan for the Mazepa monument, promising to re-designate the space at its July 10 session.

Had the City Council not reneged on the space designation, Mr. Kulchynskiy said the Mazepa monument would have been erected by June 27.

Sculptor Mykola Bilyk is currently building the 10-foot bronze statue and 10-foot, 22-ton pedestal made of red granite from the Kapustianskyi quarry in the neighboring

(Continued on page 8)

## Ukraine remembers Mykola Hohol

by **Yuriy Borysov**

*Special to The Ukrainian Weekly*

HOHOLEVE, Ukraine – As horned devils danced and skipped over bonfires, black-robed monks raised torches upon rafts in the nearby pond.

A screen projecting the black-and-white images and mystical melodies of pagan folk singers floated on a raft, while the live voices of the eight-member Dakhabrakha folk ensemble sang from another.

At the intricate one-hour performance's crescendo, a five-meter cardboard sculpture of Mykola Hohol – known to the world as Nikolai Gogol – was set ablaze and cast from the shore, 200 years after his birth in Velyki Sorochyntsi in the neighboring Myrhorod district of the Poltava oblast.

To witness this homage, more than 300 enthusiasts and 200 media gathered at the

(Continued on page 3)



Yevhen Nosko

**Among the art displays at the 10th annual Hoholfest in Hoholeve, Ukraine, on April 1 were eight-foot-tall overcoats made of carpet, in tribute to Mykola Hohol's/Nikolai Gogol's novel “The Overcoat.”**

## ANALYSIS

## Medvedev tells the West to keep out of Georgia

by Pavel Felgenhauer  
*Eurasia Daily Monitor*

Russia has reacted angrily to the forthcoming NATO-led Partnership for Peace (PfP) exercises in Georgia. President Dmitry Medvedev called the decision to hold the exercises "shortsighted and not worthy of true partnership." He warned that tensions in the region will rise, saying, "these actions are a clear military demonstration, a build-up of military muscle," and that Russia "shall be following everything that will be happening there in the most attentive way, and, if need be, take this or that decision" (ITAR-TASS, April 17).

The PfP exercises "Cooperative Longbow-Cooperative Lancer 2009," scheduled to be held in Georgia from May 6 to June 1, are strictly peacekeeping in nature, aimed at achieving inter-operability of NATO and non-NATO militaries in future peacekeeping or humanitarian missions. The exercises in Georgia will not be military maneuvers per se, but staff training without the deployment or use of heavy weapons and away from the conflict zone.

Neutral European nations, Russia and other former Soviet republics are part of the PfP program. Russia's close ally Armenia announced it will take part in the exercise, as will the United Arab Emirates, Serbia, Azerbaijan, Britain, the U.S., Canada –18 countries in all (Interfax, April 18).

Gen. Alexander Sinaysky, the Russian secretary of the CIS Council of Defense Ministers, told Ekho Moskvyy radio that "the exercises are perhaps untimely," but they were planned long before the war between Russia and Georgia in August 2008, they are not military maneuvers and "there will be nothing dangerous happening" (www.echo.msk.ru, April 20). His seems to have been the sole voice of reason coming from Russian officials. The secretary general of the Russian-dominated seven-member Collective Security Treaty Organization, Nikolai Bordyuzha, called the exercise a provocation and "support of aggression" (RIA Novosti, April 20).

The Russian ambassador in Washington,

Sergei Kislyak, expressed regret that the West "has not learned the lessons of events in August." According to Mr. Kislyak, "The exercises strengthen the belief of the Georgian government that no matter what they do to Russia, they will still become a NATO member." If Georgia was already a NATO member, noted Mr. Kislyak, Russia and the U.S. would almost surely have gone to war in August 2008 (RIA Novosti, April 21).

Russian Ambassador to NATO Dmitry Rogozin announced that, in response to the exercises, the chief of the General Staff, Army Gen. Nikolai Makarov, will not attend a pre-planned meeting with NATO's military chiefs on May 7. Mr. Rogozin told journalists that President Mikhail Saakashvili will "take the presence of NATO troops and military hardware in Georgia as another permit to resume an attack on Abkhazia and South Ossetia." Mr. Rogozin said that NATO will be responsible for the security of its soldiers during the exercises and that Russia has "warned about possible provocations." Since anti-government demonstrations have been held in Tbilisi, Mr. Rogozin accused NATO of interfering in Georgia's domestic affairs, by staging the exercises (www.echo.msk.ru, April 21).

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov accused the U.S. of rearming the Georgian military, "supporting the aggressor" and destabilizing the situation. Mr. Ryabkov called Western arguments that the PfP exercises in Georgia were pre-planned and are a staff drill "cheap and unimpressive." Russia's leadership believes that the exercises will strengthen Georgia's combat capabilities.

Mr. Ryabkov added that Washington is still intent on proceeding with plans to deploy ballistic missile defenses in Europe and that Moscow is tired of hearing about the "reset" in bilateral relations (Interfax, April 21).

In a feeble attempt to quell the outburst of Russian anger, NATO headquarters indicated that Russia as a PfP member could take part in the exercises or send observers.

(Continued on page 10)

## Ukraine arrests three attempting to sell radioactive material

RFE/RL

PRAGUE – The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) arrested three men, including a regional lawmaker, who allegedly tried to sell a radioactive substance suitable for use in a terror attack.

An SBU spokeswoman said on April 14 that the lawmaker from the Ternopol region and two businessmen were detained for trying to sell the substance to an undercover agent. The trio wanted \$10 million for what was purportedly plutonium-239, a highly radioactive material that can be used to make a nuclear bomb.

SBU spokeswoman Marina Ostapenko did not name the legislator or the businessmen alleged to be involved, nor did she say where the incident took place.

Ms. Ostapenko did say the trio was arrested on April 9 as they attempted to sell 3.7 kilograms of the substance to an undercover Ukrainian agent who had set up a meeting with them.

In fact, the material the suspects were selling was not plutonium at all. Tests by experts indicate it is probably a metallic

chemical called americium, a common, less-radioactive substance used in smoke detectors, industrial gauges and other commercial uses.

As such, it is useless for nuclear bomb-making. But if it fell into the wrong hands it could still make a very effective terrorist weapon – a so-called dirty bomb.

In this scenario, the americium could be attached to a quantity of a common explosive, such as dynamite. When exploded, radioactive material would be spread over an area of some 10 city blocks.

The SBU service said in a statement that it believes the radioactive material was produced in Russia during the Soviet era and smuggled into Ukraine.

The fall of the Soviet Union led to a loss of official control of nuclear materials of all sorts, and the last decade has seen hundreds of attempts to sell stolen and smuggled materials to the highest bidder on the black market.

The Ukrainians in the latest case face between eight and 15 years in jail for illegally handling radioactive material.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Deputy secretary of state in Ukraine

KYIV – U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg arrived in Kyiv on April 27. Mr. Steinberg said upon his arrival in Kyiv that the goal of his visit is to confirm the importance of U.S. relations with Ukraine for the new U.S. administration. "[The goal of my visit is] to emphasize the intentions of President Barack Obama to support and develop the current level of our cooperation," he said. "I will try to pass the firm intention of the United States to continue maintaining the development of democracy in Ukraine, and continue supporting Ukraine's security in this important region in the world." President Viktor Yushchenko met with Deputy Secretary Steinberg on April 27. They two men discussed the organization of bilateral relations in the context of work launched by the new U.S. administration and urgent issues of international and regional policies. Mr. Yushchenko made an assessment of the domestic political and economic situation in Ukraine. "Our relations are currently strategic and very important to Ukraine," he said. Mr. Steinberg said, "our joint values and joint aspirations are creating a strong basis for our relations." He also noted that Ukraine is conducting serious democratic reforms. The U.S. official also planned to meet with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn and members of the Party of Regions of Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

### Canada's governor general in Kyiv

KYIV – Canada supports Ukraine's aspirations to join the European Union and NATO, Governor General of Canada Michaëlle Jean said. "Our presence in Ukraine is evidence of our support for Ukraine's integration with NATO," she told journalists after Ukrainian-Canadian talks in Kyiv on April 23. Ms. Jean said that Canada supports the independence of Ukraine, its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko noted that Canada has a clear position on Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations and that this issue "concerns Ukraine's future." (Ukrinform)

### Governor general remembers Holodomor

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Governor General of Canada Michaëlle Jean on April 23 honored the memory of the victims of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. The officials placed bowls with wheatears and lit candles at the memorial to Famine victims in Kyiv. Ms. Jean also planted a kalyna near the monument. Canada officially recognized the Holodomor as genocide against the Ukrainian people on May 29, 2008. This happened after Governor General Jean signed a law passed by the Canadian Parliament's House of Commons on May 27, 2008. In 2003 the Senate of the Canadian Parliament asked the government to recognize the Famine of 1932-1933 as genocide against the Ukrainian people. Canada, in which over 1 million Ukrainians live, now annually marks Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day on the fourth Saturday in November. (Ukrinform)

### Jean meets with Tymoshenko

KYIV – Canada's Governor General Michaëlle Jean said she appreciates the work of the Ukrainian government and Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko for the success achieved in talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with regard to the extension of a second tranche of the IMF stand-by arrangement. During their meeting on April 23, Mmes. Jean and Tymoshenko discussed the possibility of intensifying bilateral cooperation between Ukraine and Canada in all areas. (Ukrinform)

### Yanukovich: no YTB-PRU coalition

KYIV – There is "practically no hope" that the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) and the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) will form a coalition, PRU leader Viktor Yanukovich said on the Channel 5 on April 9. "We are meeting [with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko] regularly and for a long time. And there are many disagreements that are impossible to remove. I don't see any chance to overcome these disagreements. Our discussions being held

(Continued on page 8)

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# NEWS ANALYSIS: EU foreign ministers discuss eastern neighbors

by Ahto Lobjakas  
RFE/RL

Keeping its eastern neighbors on the path to stability and prosperity has become a formidable test for European Union foreign policy in recent months.

As she unveiled an annual review of the bloc's European Neighborhood Policy, EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero Waldner told the 27 EU foreign ministers it has been a "difficult year" – particularly in the east.

But Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, who chaired the meeting, said the EU is resolved to push on with its Eastern Partnership initiative, which is designed to forge closer ties between the bloc and six eastern neighbors.

"We believe that sending a strong message to the six partnership countries – Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan – is very important in the light of the recent developments in the region, and that we need to engage with our neighbors more closely in order to promote good governance, the rule of law, and transparency," he said.

## Brutal crackdown

One need look no further than this month's unrest in Moldova to know that this will not be easy.

That country is still recovering from a

brutal crackdown on mass public protests in the capital, Chisinau, following a landslide win for the ruling Communists in parliamentary elections. In the wake of the violence, the country's increasingly Russian-leaning president, Vladimir Voronin, pointedly accused neighboring Romania – an EU member – of fomenting the unrest.

Moldova then expelled the ambassador to Romania and imposed a summary visa regime on Romanian visitors. And sources in Brussels say Mr. Voronin told Kalman Miszei, the EU special envoy, that Moldova has "friends elsewhere."

Now, at Romania's request, EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg discussed Moldova during talks over lunch – a setting usually reserved for issues of particular concern.

The EU adopted a declaration saying it has "serious concerns" about developments in the country, and Czech Foreign Minister Schwarzenberg said Moldova "poses a challenge" for the EU.

"The current tensions in the country pose a challenge for the European Union. Our task is now to find a proper way to strengthen our policy of bringing Moldova closer to our standard," he said. "We expect Moldova to behave in a European way, not only vis-à-vis the European Union and its members, but first of all, of course, internally."

But, Mr. Schwarzenberg stressed, the Eastern Partnership initiative remains "no doubt the right tool" to bolster reforms in Moldova.

## Cutting some slack

Czech Prime Minister Miroslav Topolánek, who was in Chisinau recently representing the EU presidency, reported that neither the government nor the opposition appears to have the political will to meet the other side for talks – a key wish of the European Union.

The Netherlands is the lone advocate of a tougher EU stance on Moldova (and another problematic partnership member, Belarus). But Germany and Poland head the EU's mainstream in arguing that Moldova must not be isolated and needs greater EU support.

The country's economy is seen by many in the EU to be on the brink of collapse.

Moldova's decision to slap visas on Romanians is, however, likely to have repercussions. The European Commission has called the measure unacceptable in light of EU-Moldova visa facilitation talks and is likely to raise it at an EU-Moldova meeting in a few days.

## Political paralysis

Moldova's partner on the EU lunch agenda was neighboring Ukraine, where

there has been no public unrest but where mounting political and economic paralysis increasingly threatens the country's viability.

Again, Germany and Poland appear to be closely coordinating policy, with the two countries' foreign ministers reported to have addressed a joint letter to the EU's Czech presidency last week expressing concern at the economic and political situation in Ukraine.

The two ministers are said to have floated the idea of an EU assistance mission to Ukraine to facilitate dialogue among all political leaders. However, it is generally feared that a resolution to the political crisis in Ukraine is improbable before the 2010 presidential elections.

The EU's foreign-policy chief, Javier Solana, said after the meeting that the EU would now study ways of stabilizing the country. "After the discussion today we will see how we can help prior to the elections and after the elections, the presidential elections, to see how we can arrange the economic situation and the political situation," he said.

## Is Lukashenka coming?

The EU foreign ministers on April 27 also discussed the agendas and guest lists of two important upcoming summits.

(Continued on page 9)

## Ukraine remembers...

(Continued from page 1)

Hohol family manor on April 1, now a museum in the village of Hoholeve, to honor one of Ukraine's most famous writers, who documented the trials, tragedies and follies of peasant life in his native Ukraine.

Gogol's legacy is as enigmatic as Ukraine itself, as it remains unclear to this day whether Gogol considered Russian or Ukrainian his native language.

Likewise, Ukrainians themselves are divided as to whether they consider him their own. Gogol was a contemporary of Ukrainian national icon Taras Shevchenko, born only five years earlier, but their careers took starkly different paths.

While Gogol decided to move to St. Petersburg and write in Russian, realizing that was necessary to achieve any fame or financial success, Shevchenko decided to fight Russian imperialism, embracing the Ukrainian language and immortalizing the Ukrainian ethnic identity and consciousness through his writings.

Observing Ukraine from St. Petersburg, having received news and tales from his mother back home, Gogol depicted his native land with curiosity and amusement, in contrast to the pain and anger evoked by Shevchenko.

This year's 200th year anniversary commemoration marked the 10th Hoholfest organized by Vladyslav Troyitskyi, director of the Dakh drama theater in Kyiv and president of the Hoholfest International Festival of Modern Art, and Yehven Utkin, founder of the Ukrainian international technology firm Kvazar who has sponsored Hoholfest since its inception.

With a \$1.25 million budget, on April 11 they held an alternative music concert, "Ukraine Without Locusts," and plan a series of musical and theatrical events in Kyiv between September 5 and 27, inviting Europeans to participate.

Both men are admirers of Gogol, speaking exclusively in the Russian language and professing that Gogol was the only Ukrainian to rank among the world's greatest figures.

"There is much speculation on whether Gogol was a Ukrainian or Russian writer.

I'm saying – world [writer]," Mr. Troyitskyi said. "No one writer had such delicious language."

In Mr. Utkin's view, Gogol had "some kind of a Russian-Ukrainian language."

Indeed, Gogol is emblematic of Ukraine's inextricable relationship with Russia.

About 40 percent of Ukrainians consider Gogol both a Ukrainian and Russian writer, as opposed to 30 percent who consider him only Russian and 23 percent as strictly Ukrainian, according to a survey by the Research and Branding Group.

About 59 percent of Ukrainians support a mutual commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Gogol's birth by the Russian and Ukrainian governments.

The Research and Branding poll surveyed 2,067 respondents between February 17 and 27.

Among those enjoying the festivities were Hoholeve's close to 1,000 residents, excited that their village would finally host such an event – 25 years after the museum was founded at the manor of the Kozak family.

Indeed, "Taras Bulba" was based on the writer's Kozak ancestor, Ostap Hohol, who served as a colonel in Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky's army.

The performances were delayed by an hour because the Poltava Oblast has two villages named Hoholeve, confusing the approximately 200 members of the Kyiv media who traveled to the wrong destination instead of the Shyshaky district, where the writer grew up in the village of Vasylivka before it adopted his name.

Upon their arrival at sunset, youths dressed in folk costumes and singing traditional songs greeted the tardy guests, who were treated to cabbage and potato "varenyky" (dumplings), thick Ukrainian bread, and slices of "salo" (pork fat) with horse-radish, all of which was chased with shots of vodka or "samohon" (homemade liquor.)

After being fed, they were led to the modest, middle-class Hohol family manor for a 30-minute tour and biographical discussion.

At the entrance, the startled visitors were greeted by actors wearing white masks depicting Gogol's visage, each gripping a book which they set afire with a candle in the other hand, an ode to Gogol's decision to burn the second volume of his novel,

"Mertvi Dushi" (Dead Souls).

Soon after, performers from the Dakh Center of Modern Art, founded in 1995 by Mr. Troyitskyi as a non-commercial theater, offered a mystical artistic interpretation of Gogol's works that involved rafts, a floating screen, burning straw crosses and sculptures, and pagan songs.

Dakhbrakha, a folk ensemble that embraces Ukrainian pagan themes in its lyrics about the land, nature and family, provided the performance's musical soundtrack with its drums, flutes and guitars, all performed from a floating raft.

Ukrainians are truly torn as to whether they consider Gogol one of their own. Politicians avoid the subject altogether. When potential presidential candidate Arseniy Yatsenyuk was asked on April 5 whether he considered Gogol Ukrainian or Russian, his careful response was: "nash" (ours).

That view was shared by Svitlana Kyrnos, the education manager at Hoholeve's museum, who offered the view that "Gogol is a genius, and geniuses belong to the whole of mankind."

On the other hand, Iryna Romenska, a 25-year-old lawyer from the nearby town of Shyshaky, said she views Gogol as a Russian writer because he had all opportunities to write in Ukrainian, but didn't.

Maryna Yurchenko, a 21-year-old Poltava student enjoying the performance with a bottle of Obolon beer, said she considers Gogol a Ukrainian writer since he was born in Ukraine and wrote based on the letters his mother sent him, describing the conflicts, events and customs of his native land.

Writing in the Russian language doesn't make him a Russian writer, in her view. "Although schoolchildren study him as a Russian writer, he had a Ukrainian mentality," said Ms. Yurchenko, a proud native of Hoholeve. "He plays a great role in Ukrainian culture."

Another Hoholeve native, Roman Yarmak, 17, shared that view because he wrote about the Ukrainian peasantry and "used many Ukrainian terms," adding that his favorite work is the very funny comedy "Revizor" ("Inspector General").

Gogol's genius is revealed in novels like "Vechory na Khutori bilia Dykanky" (Evenings on a Farmstead near Dykanka), said Yehven Nosko, a 32-year-old photographer from Myrhorod.

Its themes are relevant today, he said, for example, artfully illustrating the different personality types in any society – the honest, the deceivers, the exploiters and the suck-ups.

"He was a prophet," Mr. Nosko said.



Yevhen Nosko

Musicians from the Dakhbrakha folk ensemble dance with festival organizer Vladyslav Troyitskyi (center) at the 10th annual Hoholfest in Hoholeve in the Poltava Oblast on April 1.

## Stefanyshyn-Piper...

(Continued from page 1)

Prometheus Ukrainian American Male Chorus of Philadelphia, the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA), Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, the Ukrainian Engineers Society of America, the Ukrainian Medical Association, the Ukrainian Music Institute and the Ukrainian Senior Citizens Association. The center is also home to investment clubs, human rights groups, a library, a nursery school, the Ukrainian Heritage School, a gift shop, and (as of January of this year) the local branch of the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union.

The banquet's special guest was a woman whose stunning achievements have their roots in a community far removed from Philadelphia and whose career has taken her far from the gravitational pull of the planet we inhabit – Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper.

In 1980, the year the UECC was established, she had just graduated from Derham Hall High School in St. Paul, Minn., and was beginning her studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Over the next five years she earned a B.S. and an M.S. in mechanical engineering. She received a commission from the Navy ROTC Program at MIT in 1985, and moved from an academic environment into a training program at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, Fla., emerging from the program as a Navy basic diving officer and salvage officer.

After several tours of duty as an engineer duty officer whose work comprised ship maintenance and repair, she qualified as surface warfare officer. In 1994 she reported for duty to the Naval Sea Systems Command as underwater ship husbandry operations officer for the supervision of salvage and diving. Her new position entailed advising fleet diving activities in the repair of naval vessels while waterborne, and participation in numerous salvage projects. Among the most notable of these were developing plans for the Peruvian Navy salvage of a submarine and de-stranding an oil tanker off the coast of Hawaii.

A career change came in 1996 when then Lt. Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper was selected by NASA as an astronaut candidate and reported to the Johnson Space Center in Texas. After two years of training, she qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist. Since then she has logged 27 days in space, including nearly 34 hours of spacewalks in connection with two space flights, STS-115 Atlantis in 2006 and STS-126 Endeavor in 2008.

The first mission involved delivering and installing equipment for the International Space Station, a complex operation that included robotic work, spacewalking, and replacing a signal processor and transporter that transmits voice and data to Earth. The Endeavor mission, launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, was NASA's 27th shuttle/station assembly mission and involved expanding the space station's living quarters, delivering (among other things) a new bathroom and exercise equipment, and spacewalks for repairs and for installation of an external camera group and a GPS antenna. The lead spacewalker on this mission, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper performed three of the five spacewalks.

Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper's illustrious career has earned her a Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy Commendation Medals and two Navy Achievement Medals. She has also earned a considerable amount of celebrity that comes from pursuing two careers in which women are still relatively rare – underwater salvage and space travel.

The accomplishments and accolades, however, seem almost irrelevant to her; during each of her many scheduled appearances



Voloshky dancers greet Capt. Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper with the traditional Ukrainian welcome of bread and salt. Seated is Borys Pawluk, president of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center.

on the day of the UECC's banquet, she exuded confidence tempered with a modestly sincere presence – someone clearly as comfortable with her feet on the ground as in space and someone who views her celebrity status as a "part of the job."

The captain's day began with morning photo ops with UECC Executive Director Orysia Hewka, board members and staffers, followed by a meeting with Ukrainian Heritage School (UHS) administrators and a two-hour session with children from the Svitlychka and the UHS, during which Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper answered numerous questions, and shared photographs and a video shot in space. During lunch, she met with Plast and UAYA leaders and then traveled up the road to St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church for a personal meeting with members of the UHS 2009 graduating class.

After a short break at her hotel, Capt. Stefanyshyn Piper returned to the center for a 4:30 p.m. press conference. Elegantly attired in a red dress and simple gold chain, the astronaut was introduced by Andrea Zharovsky, the UECC's vice-president of communication, and proceeded to answer (in Ukrainian) numerous questions about her work in salvage and space, her future plans and other matters.

In fielding these questions, she spoke in some detail about working with other astronauts and her previous work in underwater salvage, gently deflecting questions about Ukrainian politics but willingly sharing personal information about her feelings while traveling in space, her childhood in Minnesota and her thoughts on space exploration.

Asked why she had taken Plast's insignia with her during a space flight, she responded, "They let us take small things that are important or inspirational to us. Plast was a part of my life, and it was there that my journey to space began." Answering related questions, she spoke about meeting Plast members in Lviv, meeting Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko and communicating in Ukrainian with Ukrainian cosmonauts.

When queried about how other NASA astronauts react to her celebrity status among Ukrainians, she responded, "It's not so unusual. There are similar reactions from other ethnic groups. This is, after all, America, and we're a land of immigrants ... Just the idea that an immigrant's child can achieve just about anything is important."

Asked whether her childhood had included learning and reciting the poems of Taras Shevchenko, she laughingly responded, "I think every Ukrainian child does that."

Commenting on her morning meetings with the children, the astronaut observed that their questions to her were typical of those asked by children worldwide and cited a previous experience with Kyrgyz children who also wanted to know "what we eat, what we have to learn to be astronauts, and how we go to the bathroom."

The questions posed about space travel ranged from personal to technical. Commenting on her feelings about being in space, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper observed, "It's almost like a dream... it's beautiful. I look one way and I see Earth ... the colors, even cities. I look the other way, and it's black, empty."

She also discussed space experiments, describing a recent project to study the effect of gravity (or lack thereof) on Salmonella, part of a broader project aimed at developing a vaccine.

She spoke briefly about other things – the oddity of working in space with instruments that might or might not be designed to accommodate the metric system, the disparity in compensation for astronauts and cosmonauts, her belief that space exploration is a natural extension of human curiosity that once manifested itself as the desire to discover "what's on the other side of the river, on the other side of those mountains."

When asked about space tourism, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper joked about the first ticket costing \$20 million and that inflation had raised that price to \$35 million. She acknowledged that American astronauts were, at first, skeptical about space tourism and that the attitude had changed because the first space tourists were themselves engineers, serious people interested in serious projects rather than merely an exotic vacation.

She then paid solemn tribute to the astronauts who died in the Columbia shuttle accident, reminding those present about the inherent dangers of space travel. "It was very hard for us. I knew these people. They were friends. When we get into a rocket, we all know there's a risk."

A cocktail reception in the UECC's Alexander B. Chernyk Gallery followed, and the guest of honor graciously signed autographs and posed for photographs. Brief remarks were offered by Israel Colon, director of the Mayor's Office of Multicultural Affairs, who represented Philadelphia's Mayor Michael Nutter and the City of Philadelphia at the event.

The banquet, held in the center's main hall, was opened by the UECC's current president, Borys Pawluk, who introduced the guest of honor and the MCs for evening, Tetyana Husar and Xenia Zacharczuk. Opening prayers were offered by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, who led those assembled in an Easter hymn and asked God's blessing for the UECC, its guests, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper and the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

On behalf of the UECC and the community, members of the Voloshky Dance Ensemble welcomed Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper to the center with the traditional bread and salt greeting. While dinner was being served, the two MCs conducting the banquet program worked as a well-coordinated tag-team, delivering information and making introductions bilingually. The MCs spoke

about the long and distinguished history of the UECC, punctuating the recital with personal anecdotes.

Ms. Zacharczuk mentioned her childhood experiences at the UECC, an association that has been passed down to her own children. She joked about "the good old days" when being a member of the Ukrainian community meant walking or driving from one location to another and another to participate in various activities, noting how much easier life in the "hromada" had become since the UECC was founded.

Ms. Husar spoke of past events, as well as recent innovations at the UECC, which now boasts a radio program, a website and something akin to an Internet café. She also paid tribute to the center's past presidents: Dr. Alexander Chernyk (1980-1989), Borys Zacharczuk (1989-1997; 2001-2006), Mykola Luty 1997-1999), interim president Oleksander Mychaluk (1999) and Patricia Sawchak (1999-2001).

A musical interlude followed, with several songs performed by the Prometheus Male Chorus, whose Ukrainian repertoire for the event was punctuated by a rendition of "God Bless America," with guests joining in with gusto. On behalf of the choir and the UECC, Bohdan Mizak invited Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper to join chorus members on stage, where she was saluted with a resounding "Mnohaya Lita." The musical program continued with works by Vasyl Barvinsky and Mykola Fomenko performed on piano by Irena Pelech-Zwarych.

Following the musical interlude, the MCs honored the current board of directors by asking that they stand and be recognized for their respective contributions to the UECC. Dignitaries representing other organizations were also recognized, and pledges or donations to the UECC's building, renovation and expansion fund were gratefully acknowledged, including a \$5,000 donation from the Chicago-based Heritage Foundation, forwarded by its president, Julian Kulas, and a \$1,000 donation from the Philadelphia branch of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America.

Guests applauded enthusiastically as the current president and chairman of the board of Philadelphia's Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union formally presented the UECC President Pawluk with a check in the amount of \$20,000, part of the credit union's matching funds incentive donation in response to the UECC's phonathon.

At this juncture, the evening's honored guest and featured speaker, Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper, was formally introduced and took the podium. Speaking alternately in Ukrainian and in English, the astronaut thanked the center's administrators for the opportunity to visit the UECC and participate in its anniversary celebration. She then spoke of the people and events that had propelled her toward a career as an astronaut.

"I grew up in Minnesota," she began, with a Ukrainian father and a German mother, immigrants from post-war Europe who arrived in the United States in 1947. "We didn't know any astronauts," she continued, "but I was a good Ukrainian daughter and listened to my father who taught me three very important things. The first was to believe in God. The second was to study. And the third was to never give up."

She said that taking all three lessons to heart had made the achievements in her life possible. She noted that the third lesson was also a lesson learned by example – a lesson personified by the Ukrainian people who had endured much and had overcome. "And this," she concluded, "is what helped me to become an astronaut. I tell young Ukrainians to study and learn – not just science and math but also language ... How to become an astronaut is to be a good Ukrainian."

The closing line of Capt. Stefanyshyn-Piper's speech evoked appreciative laughter and applause and was followed by an

(Continued on page 10)



# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## UNA Auditing Committee announces new member

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Auditing Committee of the Ukrainian National Association announced that Eugene Serba is joining its efforts to provide oversight and guidance to UNA finances and operations.

Mr. Serba is treasurer and assistant secretary of UNA Branch 173 in Wilmington, Del. Upon the recommendation of Auditing Committee Chairperson Slavko Tysiak, Mr. Serba agreed to join the UNA Auditing Committee.

Mr. Serba has served as a UNA advisor prior to his recent appointment by the Executive Committee. Mr. Serba has stepped down as an advisor to avoid any perception of impropriety so that he can focus on UNA accountability and oversight. He will serve as auditor until the next Regular Convention of the UNA scheduled for May 2010.

Mr. Tysiak joined fellow auditor Dr. Wasyl Szeremeta in welcoming Mr. Serba to continue the work of the Audit Committee. Mr. Serba was appointed upon the recent passing of UNA Auditor Dr. Vasyl Luchkiw.

Mr. Tysiak stated: "Eugene Serba is a consummate business professional and true UNA activist who has been an invaluable adviser to the UNA during a time of transition and structural changes.



**Eugene Serba**

His sage advice and fiscal acumen have helped guide the UNA through stormy waters."

Mr. Serba is employed as administrator for the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Stratford, N.J. He was responsible for having the Ukrainian flag permanently fly at the Island of Flags in North Wildwood, N.J.

## Executive Committee meets, reviews the "good news" about UNA activity

by **Christine E. Kozak**  
National Secretary

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association Inc. met for the first time this year on March 30. Present at the meeting were Stefan Kaczaraj, president; Michael Koziupa, second vice-president; Christine E. Kozak, national secretary; Roma Lisovich, treasurer; and Slavko Tysiak, auditor. Zenon Holubec, first vice-president, and Myron Groch, director for Canada, were unable to attend.

Mr. Kaczaraj opened the meeting by remembering Dr. Vasyl Luchkiw, auditor and longtime advisor of the UNA General Assembly, who passed away on March 18. A moment of silence was observed.

Mr. Kaczaraj began the meeting with "good news": the UNA's annuity business for the year 2008 was up by \$8.5 million over 2007. The UNA continues to move in a positive direction and we are being optimistically cautious for year 2009, said the president.

Total premium and investment income for 2008 was \$12,741,000 and \$4,009,000, respectively, as compared to 2007, with \$4,318,000 in premium income and \$3,474,000 in investment income.

Liabilities increased mainly due to two factors. With the increase in annuity revenue from \$2,868,999 in 2007 to \$11,430,000 in 2008, there was an increase in the reserve as required by law. This requirement, however, provides our members with the additional confidence and knowledge that their annuities are protected and secure, Mr. Kaczaraj noted.

Another contributing factor to the decrease in the surplus was the loss on the rate of exchange of the Canadian dollar. The UNA is required by law to maintain assets in the amount of \$10 million (Canadian) in order to be able to continue serving its Canadian policyholders.

The UNA balance sheet is affected negatively if the Canadian dollar goes down in relationship to the U.S. dollar. Conversely, the balance sheet is affected positively when the Canadian dollar goes up. Thus, the UNA is vulnerable to market value fluctuations against the U.S. dollar.

In 2007 the Canadian dollar was almost on par with the U.S. dollar. However, in the last quarter of 2008 the Canadian dollar plummeted to a low of .72 cents to one U.S. dollar, as the uncertainty in the world's economies played havoc with the financial markets. This drop in the value against the U.S. dollar required that an adjustment be made to the balance sheet, reflecting the currency market value of the Canadian dollar on the close of business on December 31, 2008, a time of great market uncertainty and market fluctuations.

The result of this adjustment was an increase in total liabilities. As of December 31, 2008, the net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates was \$1,043,000. At year's end the UNA's surplus stood at \$4,454,135. Analysts, however, project that the Canadian dollar will recover in 2009, and already there are signs of slow improvement.

The president reported that another positive for the UNA is that the net loss from operations has been trending downward

(Continued on page 10)

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Ah, summertime

It's already May, so summer is not far behind. Ergo, our annual section called "A Ukrainian Summer." And you know what that means for us Ukrainians. There's just no rest!

While for most Americans it seems that summer is a time to just sit back and relax – as the song goes, "Summertime, and the livin' is easy..." – that doesn't seem to be the case for Ukrainians. Oh sure, our summertime activities are fun and they are restful in the sense that any change of pace after nine months of an extremely busy school, extracurricular, community and social calendar is a break. But does the pace for us Ukrainians get any easier during the summer? It depends.

For many of our community members, particularly, our younger generations, summer is a time to focus on different facets of our Ukrainian life. There may be no classes of the Ukrainian studies school, but there are Ukrainian courses in Ukraine. And for college students, there is the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute. There may be no weekly dance lessons, but there are dance camps (several to choose from) and dance workshops. Likewise, there may be no regular bandura lessons, but there is, of course, bandura camp.

There may be no meetings of our youth organizations, but their work continues at their respective summer camps. In fact, the summer camps for Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Ukrainian American Youth Association are key components of their educational programs. There sure are a lot of camps to choose from whether you're an outdoorsy type or artsy, a youngster or a young adult.

Even for the older adults among us there is just so much to do. It begins, of course, with simply getting the kids to where they need to be – oftentimes across the country. And then parents have to do the return trip at least once to pick the kids up. In between, there may be performances to attend or visits. As for actual activities geared to adults, there is much to choose from: music workshops, cultural programs at various venues, including the famous Grazhda in Jewett, N.Y. (near Hunter), sports competitions such as the tennis and golf tournaments at Soyuzivka, and even a language immersion course way out in Saskatchewan. There are also all sorts of presentations at Harvard, a film festival at Soyuzivka, and special events at various Ukrainian resorts, campgrounds and what we like to call "oseli."

And don't forget the festivals – only some of which are highlighted in our special section (look for more information about those as we get closer to the dates). One thing is for certain though, it all begins in New York City with the Ukrainian Festival in May. A huge highlight is sure to be the Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka, thanks to the headliner, Ruslana. And, fans of the versatile George Dzundza will be pleased to hear that, yes, he will indeed be the master of ceremonies for the Soyuzivka bash. The festival season ends with the grand Toronto Ukrainian Festival in mid-September – the largest Ukrainian street festival in North America.

Wow, after all this, we'll need the fall to rest. (But only briefly. There's no rest for the weary.)

May  
6  
1992

### Turning the pages back...

Seventeen years ago, on May 6, 1992, the last of Ukraine's tactical nuclear weapons were removed from its territory to the Russian Federation, where they were to be destroyed, according to Ukraine's Ministry of Defense.

In a statement issued on May 5, 1992, the Defense Ministry noted that "Ukraine has fulfilled its responsibilities earlier than the designated deadline of July 1, [1992]."

The transport of the nuclear weapons from Ukraine to Russia began on February 1, 1992, but in mid-March 1992, President Leonid Kravchuk halted the transfer. Mr. Kravchuk noted that Ukraine did not have sufficient evidence that the weapons would be quickly destroyed by Russia.

"We want these weapons to be destroyed in a country with the proper facilities. We want guarantees that they can't be used anywhere. I don't want to make anybody else stronger," he said at a press conference on March 12, 1992.

However, on April 14, 1992, his decision was reversed and the shipment of tactical weapons to Russia resumed. Anatoliy Zlenko, Ukraine's foreign affairs minister, denied reports that this step was taken due to pressure from the West and the impending deadline. An agreement on the mechanism used to destroy the weapons had been reached by Ukraine and Russia.

"Ukraine is very happy that its own representative and its own experts will accompany the transported weapons and will monitor their destruction in Russia," said Mr. Zlenko.

Following the transfer of Ukraine's tactical arsenal, Ukraine would deliver its strategic weapons from its territory to Russia. The process began after the ratification of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) by the United States and four former Soviet republics: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Unofficial estimates indicated Ukraine had 2,390 tactical warheads and 2,605 actual weapons. Due to the nature of the weapons, which varied from short- to long-range, including land mines and hand-held weapons, it was difficult to confirm the exact number of these weapons.

It was confirmed, however, that Ukraine had 1,420 ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles) on its territory and 46 missiles that did not fall under the provisions of the START agreement.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry officials underscored that Ukraine was continuing its policy of becoming a non-aligned, nuclear-free and neutral state by 1994.

Source: "Tactical nukes all removed from Ukraine," by Marta Kolomayets, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, May 10, 1992.

## COMMENTARY

### Is Ukraine a "failed state"?

by Roman Kupchinsky

"Who are we as a nation? We walked and wandered – beginning with Volodymyr the Great and ending with Volodymyr Vasyliovych [Scherbytsky]."

– Ukrainian writer Volodymyr Yavorivsky  
at the Rukh Congress in 1989.

This, without a doubt, is a provocative question for all Ukrainians – those living in Ukraine and for the generations of émigrés living in the West. Nonetheless, it needs to be explored in order to dissolve any myths we might still hold about who we are as a nation and what is our destiny.

Are we a nation of suffering patriots, who for some 70 years waited, silently resisted and prayed in the catacombs and forests asking the Good Lord to help us achieve unity and our independence – as our upbringing conditioned us to believe? Or are we as a nation being held hostage by a murky gaggle of cynical, quarrelsome, greedy, rent-seeking businessmen and corrupt officials – who grabbed an opportune moment to join the rebellion against Moscow without shedding any blood?

Did the new oligarchs of Ukraine – Viktor Pinchuk, Rinat Akhmetov, Igor Kolomoysky, Dmytro Firtash and others – support the liberation movement and cast their vote for Ukrainian independence? Or did they sneak in after the fact in order to enrich themselves and then get the hell out of Ukraine in order to relocate into their multi-million-dollar mansions on the Spanish coast, Vienna and London, taking their billions with them?

Let me go back in time 60 years. My family arrived in the United States in 1949 from a DP (displaced persons) camp in Austria. They were in their late 20s and early 40s and came to the United States seeking to make a better life.

I grew up in Brooklyn in the 1950s and 1960s and my life revolved around Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and my close comrades. We shared the same set of values and dreams – for ourselves and for that somewhat mythical, understandable country our parents fled and which we knew so little about, yet sang beautifully melodic patriotic songs to honor it at campfires in East Chatham, N.Y., and North Colebrook, Conn., and Bobrivka. They were often sung at times for our parents' sake and to keep their and our dreams alive. We honestly believed that Ukraine was destined to join the so-called "Free World."

In the 1950s we, along with the children of other émigrés, Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, Lithuanians, Belarusians and others were forced to march in the annual "Loyalty Day" parade down Fifth Avenue trying to convince the almost native American spectators that, although our parents came from "Communist countries," we were just as loyal to the U.S.A. as the spectators supposedly were.

What did we expect in return for this circus act of loyalty? A pat on the back and back room assurances that the U.S. government would support our dream of an independent Ukraine in a meaningful manner? Or was the Captive Nations Law by Congress the best we could expect?

Ukrainian independence was a dream shared by hundreds of thousands of DPs scattered throughout the world, and the dream grew over time despite the lack of knowledge about that country and what was and what wasn't possible. But we all lived the dream nonetheless in a romantic bubble

Roman Kupchinsky is a partner at AZEast Group. He can be contacted at Romkp@aol.com.

which promised that independence would guarantee prosperity and the survival of our national identity. Furthermore, we knew that history was on our side.

I vividly recall the day Ukraine declared its intention to secede from the Soviet Union and the emotions that overwhelmed me. We finally won! Everything seemed simple from now on. The main task was relatively easy in our minds. All we had to do was to build Ukraine into a modern prosperous state, have it join the western world and make Kyiv into the Paris of Eastern Europe.

Then reality slowly crept in. As my generation was coming of age, we never imagined that the prime ministers of an independent Ukraine could turn out to be gangsters and swindlers; that Ukrainian girls would become prostitutes servicing sex tourists in Kyiv and working in brothels in Hamburg while others, to our joy, would star in James Bond movies. We never figured that a large part of the population would refuse to learn to speak Ukrainian and that the presidents of an independent Ukraine would turn out to be spineless, incompetent knaves and possible murderers.

We prayed that, with the collapse of the USSR, Russia would come to its senses and its citizens would be interested in building a modern democratic state. How mistaken we were on all counts.

What went wrong?

Today there are numerous theories attempting to explain why Ukraine is rapidly going to hell in a hand basket. Some believe, as I do during weaker moments, that independence was handed to the former republics of the USSR on a silver platter and nobody, except a handful of dissidents in the 1980s and 1990s, spilled any blood to achieve the victory. This is not to say that earlier generations did not fight for this goal, but they lost and this, along with time and brutal repressions by the Kremlin of those who chose to remain faithful to the goal of Ukrainian independence, took the fighting spirit out of believers. Some simply chose to travel the well-known path of survival; others believed that the USSR was where Ukraine belonged.

I don't know what path I would have chosen had I been living in Lviv and not in Brooklyn.

Some argue that had the European Union admitted Ukraine into the EU, the country would have been forced to adopt more sensible laws – not those passed by a quasi-Parliament (the Verkhovna Rada) that comprised far too many crooked deputies, among them bodyguards for oligarchs, chauffeurs for former prime ministers, basketball team trainers for clubs owned by gas traders and so forth. It was not in the interests of these elected legislators and their sponsors to have Brussels-based legislators probing into their extremities and exposing them for what they really were.

The results of the fabled Orange Revolution turned out to be a nightmare. Its leaders are now by and large discredited, slugging it out amongst themselves on live television broadcasts and exposing the country's rotting political system for all the world to see. Their endless maneuverings of who will form a coalition with former opponents against a third party is a circus act and a feeding trough for the Ukrainian "free media," touted to be the best result of the Orange Revolution.

Unfortunately, many of these media outlets are owned by those very powerful, cynical and rich people who exercise ultimate control of what goes on the air. Articles and blogs on the Internet and in the press are often commissioned by competing parties and their sponsors who pay substantial sums

(Continued on page 10)



# A Ukrainian Summer

Supplement to The Ukrainian Weekly, May 3, 2009

Here it is: our 13th annual edition of our special section titled "A Ukrainian Summer." Yes, that's right. We began this tradition of letting readers know how to put Ukrainian content into their summers way back in 1997. (This section is published each year in the first issue of May.)

The 2009 release of "A Ukrainian Summer" is larger than ever at 20 pages. As usual, it gives readers useful information about summertime events here in the United States, in Canada and in Ukraine that can be a source of enjoyment, education and/or relaxation for our readers and their families.

Perusing this section, readers will: find out where they can learn Ukrainian folk dance; learn about Poltava, which this year marks the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava; get information on how to sign up their kids for various summer camps; and read about the latest developments at Soyuzivka and its highly successful Ukrainian Cultural Festival.

A special thank-you goes out to those individuals and organizations that submitted materials for the 2009 edition of "A Ukrainian Summer." And, to our dear readers, we say: Enjoy!

## The Weekly asks: What are you doing this summer?

**Mykola Lucak, 22, Syracuse, N.Y.:**

I will be attending the Ukrainian American Youth Association's Kholodnyi Yar campground in Fillmore, N.Y., as "kommandant," UAYA Oselia in Ellenville, N.Y., as "bunchuzhnyi" for "tabir druzhnykiv," pub nights in May and June at the Syracuse Ukrainian National Home (UNH), Ukrainian festivals in Yonkers and Rochester, N.Y., the Bloor Street festival in Toronto, performances with the Surma choir and various other zabavas (dances) throughout the summer.

These events are important to me because it is good to show our Ukrainian pride by going to these events. Without a strong sense of pride, we put our heritage at risk. It is also good for the youth to experience other Ukrainian events outside their community to get new ideas as well as to see what other Ukrainians are doing to keep their culture alive. It is also a way to show support from our Home. As president of the Syracuse UNH, I feel that showing our support is a way that people can look highly onto our UNH and community.

**Matthew Dmyterko, 28, Naugatuck, Conn.:**

This summer, I plan on attending Plast events, including a camp at Novyi Sokil, and regular visits to Soyuzivka, including the dance camp and workshop performances, as well as the festival. For me, these events are important to maintain ties with the Ukrainian community.

**Maryana Olenczyn, 23, Clifton, N.J.:**

I hope to attend as many Ukrainian events as I can this summer. Nothing specific yet, but it's important to attend these events because it helps me to stay in touch with my roots and enables me to keep Ukrainian traditions and a Ukrainian mindset.

**Andrew Melnyk, 17, Long Valley, N.J.:**

In July I am going to Europe. I will be traveling in Italy and to Paris. I might attend the Plast Morskyi camp in August. I will definitely be at the Seventh Street festival in New York City.

**Christine Syzonenko, 51, Randolph, N.J.:**

Two of my three children are involved in Ukrainian dancing. Whether they are working as instructors or counselors, studying or performing, a good part of the summer is taken up with dance-related activities. There is a weeklong dance day camp in Whippany (N.J.) in late June, a week in Lehighton (Pa.) in early July, and a two-week dance intensive at Verkhovyna in August. Of course Soyuzivka's Festival on July 17-19 is on our calendar. We are particularly looking forward to it this year because our dance school, Iskra, has been invited to perform as part of the Sunday program. The August Independence Day Festival at Tryzubivka is also not to be missed. A good friend is getting married at Soyuzivka at the end of the

summer, which will be a fun way to end the season.

**Zdan Korduba, 18, Oakland, N.J.:**

This July I am traveling to Ukraine with a couple of friends. We will spend time in Lviv, Kyiv and Yalta. Also, I will also be at Soyuzivka on Labor Day and the St. George Festival in New York.

**Paul Hadzewycz, 17, Morristown, N.J.:**

I am planning on being a counselor at Vovcha Tropa for Plast summer camps. I might also attend the Morskyi camp in August. I will be at the St. George Festival in New York and other events as the summer goes on.

**Marta Nalysnyk, 23, Jersey City, N.J.:**

I am getting married this July, so my summer is pretty much planned out. I will definitely be at the St. George Festival, and Labor Day at Soyuzivka is a natural.

**Katria Harasewych, 52, Flourtown, Pa.:**

I have quite the busy and fun summer ahead of me. I will have many trips to the Plast camp Vovcha Tropa, both in June and July. In August I plan to be in Wildwood (N.J.) for Ukrainian Week and enjoy the ocean water, warm sand and, most important, all the friends. At the end of the summer my daughter will be getting married. Very exciting!

**Greg Serba, 19, Mount Laurel, N.J.:**

I just finished my freshman year at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. This summer: I will be a tennis counselor at Tennis Camp at Soyuzivka in late June/early July. I have been a counselor for four years and prior to that a tennis camp participant. I will stay at Soyuzivka for the Fourth of July weekend celebration. I will return there for the Ukrainian Festival on July 17-19 - I've attended it in every year. Unfortunately, because school starts August 24, I will miss "Ukie Week" in Wildwood and Labor Day at Soyuzivka - both times to meet new friends and say hello to old friends.

**Lesia Lebed, "ageless mother of two," Mount Tabor, N.J.:**

Right after the Fourth of July we'll start the drives to Plast Camp in East Chatham, N.Y.: the first weekend will be to drop off my daughter, two weeks later will be to visit, and the week after that to pick her up. The one free weekend in July will be spent at Soyuzivka during the Ukrainian Cultural Festival. We'll also close the summer at Soyuzivka during Labor Day weekend.

**Andrew Fedynsky, 61, Cleveland:**

Just as we have for many years, my wife and I will be visiting the Pysanyi Kamin (Painted Rock) Plast scout Camp

(Continued on page 17)

## Come see Ruslana in concert at Ukrainian Cultural Festival

PARSIPPANY, N.J. - Approximately 1.5 billion viewers worldwide saw Ruslana achieve a spectacular victory when she was voted the winner of the 2004 Eurovision Song Contest held in Istanbul. This summer, thousands of visitors to Soyuzivka will have the opportunity to see Ruslana live at the 2009 Ukrainian Cultural Festival to be held July 17-19.

Five years ago, Ruslana's winning single and subsequent album "Wild Dances" were heard in over 25 countries; for 97 weeks Ruslana dominated 14 different charts throughout Europe. In Ukraine alone, the album achieved quintuple platinum status, making her the first recording artist to domestically sell 500,000 copies of an album.

Shortly thereafter, Ruslana received the prestigious World Music Award in Las Vegas as the top-selling Ukrainian artist in the world.

Gold Record awards and more chart successes followed in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Greece and many other countries.

The singer expanded her stage across the globe, from Canada and Iceland to Turkey and China, performing at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Music industry powerhouse Warner Music took notice and signed Ruslana to a contract as a worldwide recording artist.

In the autumn of last year, Ruslana released her new album "Wild Energy." Produced in the U.S. by Ego Works at the legendary Hit Factory Criteria Studios in Miami, "Wild Energy" maintains Ruslana's unique musical components blended with modern urban influences. This release contains a first for Ruslana - the incorporation of guest artists. Featured on two tracks are American Urban superstars T-Pain and Missy Elliott.

\*\*\*

Ruslana is not only a vocalist, but also a conductor, pianist, composer and producer. She began her classical musical training at the age of 4, when she became a participant of an experimental music school; at 7 she went on tour with a children's ensemble; and later she graduated from the music Conservatory in Lviv as a pianist and orchestra conductor.

Social commitment has always been an affair of the heart for Ruslana. In autumn 2004 she actively supported the democratic processes of the Orange Revolution. She was an outspoken member of the Ukrainian Parliament from spring 2006 to



Ruslana will be the headliner at the 2009 Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka.

summer 2007.

Ruslana has always managed to find time to support those less fortunate. She has staged many charity concerts benefiting children's hospitals in Kyiv, Lviv and Dnipropetrovsk. In the spring of 2007 Ruslana joined artists from 14 different countries in a major charity tour across Germany, performing in 15 cities to raise funds needed to address urgent social issues.

Ruslana began working with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the global issue of human trafficking back in 2006. Shortly thereafter UNICEF appointed her Good Will Ambassador of Ukraine.

Last year, when a series of devastating floods hit western Ukraine, causing monumental damage to life, property and the infrastructure, Ruslana and the Klitschko brothers formed a charitable foundation to supply substantial aid to the flood victims.

\*\*\*

Her press releases describe the Ukrainian star as "exotically unique, constantly setting new trends using original, unusual and rarely heard ethnic sounds, blending the ancient styles and singing traditions of the Carpathian mountain people with modern pop music."

For those fortunate enough to attend a live show by Ruslana, the experience is unique. Together with a team of artists, designers, dancers and musicians, Ruslana creates a mythical atmosphere in which

(Continued on page 16)

# ЛІТНІ ТАБОРИ

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2009



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## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### Bring the whole family to the Soyuzivka Heritage Center

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The 2009 summer season is rapidly approaching, and Soyuzivka is preparing a memorable season that will be long remembered.

The good news for guests is that – for the fifth consecutive year – there will be no price increases on rooms and meals. Some additional discounts will also be available. This is intended to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to come and enjoy the events that will be occurring at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center.

This season, Soyuzivka remains a bargain and is an excellent vacation destination for the entire family. Members of the Ukrainian National Association receive a discount for their stay as one of their fraternal benefits. In addition, keep your eye out for an additional savings coupon in The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda for all of our guests.

The official re-opening date is Memorial Day weekend. The event features the band Svitanok and appearances by two popular musical duos on the popular Tiki Deck: Pete and Vlody, as well as Zuki and Mike.

In June Soyuzivka hosts UNA Seniors Week, an ever-growing and popular event with over 100 attendees in recent years. Interesting speakers, programs and lectures, and an opportunity to socialize all make for a fun-filled week.

This is followed by the first big summer week with the commencement of “Tabir Ptashat,” the Ukrainian-language pre-school day camp, run by Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Tennis Camp, Soyuzivka’s unique “zabavy,” (dances), cultural theme dinners and a multitude of wonderful entertainment and performances. (A piece of advice: don’t forget to bring your Ukrainian blouses and shirts for Hutsul evenings.)

Fourth of July weekend has the popular band Hrim appearing on the Tiki Deck and a lively zabava. At the same time, Soyuzivka kicks off its Ukrainian folk dance camp season with the start of the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop.

Once the workshop begins, everyone knows that not far behind is the Ukrainian Cultural Festival, organized by the Ukrainian National Foundation for the benefit of Soyuzivka and its many activities.

Not only will attendees be treated to performances by dancers, singers and musicians, but the headliner this year is one of the biggest pop stars in Europe – Ruslana, a Eurovision song contest winner who combines traditional folk melodies and dances with contemporary music.

The appearance of Ruslana and her entire ensemble in their own spectacular and breathtaking show will make the 2009 festival one not to be missed.

After the festival, the ever-popular Soyuzivka children’s camp season begins. There is sure to be a camp that will interest you, whether you’re a dance enthusiast (five weeks of various dance camps, from traditional Ukrainian folk to ballroom dance are available) or a sports enthusiast (Ukrainian Sitch Sports School, a two-week, all-around sports camp has excellent instruction in soccer, tennis, volleyball and swimming).

Also offered are: Heritage Camp (for children age 4-8), at which campers receive excellent instruction in their Ukrainian heritage, and Discovery Camp, which gives kids an opportunity to meet other Ukrainian American kids, experience activities such as hiking and rappelling, and learn a bit about the traditions and customs of their ancestral homeland.

Soyuzivka also invites parents and other adults to participate in the auxiliary activities that the Soyuzivka location has to offer, such as golf, hiking and tennis. Then again, guests can simply relax with a cool drink at the pool during the time their children are enjoying themselves. It’s the best deal around.

Among the other wonderful events planned during the season is the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation Golf Tournament, a fund-raiser for the Ukrainian Heritage Center. All are invited to play in the tournament and/or donate to the foundation.

The third annual Ukrainian Film Festival will be held in August and this year will be hosted by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk and the Columbia University Ukrainian Film Club. Stay tuned for more information about this festival, which highlights Ukrainian-made films, films by filmmakers of Ukrainian descent or on Ukrainian topics. The selection of films should be fascinating and this is definitely a weekend not to be missed.

The rest of August will feature three separate dance recital weekends, the crowning of Miss Soyuzivka and several other entertaining performances and cultural programs.

Still not convinced? Soyuzivka’s delectable cuisine is yet another attraction. Once again there will be various theme nights at dinnertime. Odesa night, with selections from Ukraine’s Black Sea coast, will be brought back by popular demand. There will be several other culinary surprises during the season – all under the watchful eye of Soyuzivka’s masterful chef, Andriy Sonevsky.

For additional information visit the website at [www.soyuzivka.com](http://www.soyuzivka.com), call 845-626-5641 or just get in the car and take a scenic day or weekend trip.

– Soyuzivka management



Russ Chelak

A view of the audience at last year’s Ukrainian Cultural Festival.



Soyuzivka campers in 2008 on a hike to the waterfalls.

### Send your 4- to 6-year-olds to ‘Tabir Ptashat’



Andriy Wojtowycz

Campers and counselors of Week 1 of the 2008 “Tabir Ptashat” at Soyuzivka.

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – For the 21st year in a row, the very popular “Tabir Ptashat” day camp for Ukrainian-speaking children age 4-6 will be held at Soyuzivka. There will be two tours: June 28-July 5 and July 5-12.

2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the camp, as the first “Tabir Ptashat” was held in 1989 at Soyuzivka. It was the initiative of Neonila Sochan, a member of “Pershi Stezhi,” the sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting

Organization that has organized each “Tabir Ptashat” held at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center since then.

The camp is an opportunity for young children to enjoy summertime fun in a nurturing Ukrainian environment surrounded by Soyuzivka’s beauty. Campers arrive at Soyuzivka with their parents from all parts of the United States, as well as from abroad.

Parents are key to the camp’s success as they participate in organizing and help-

ing to conduct activities, including games, arts and crafts, nature hikes, sing-alongs, puppet shows and campfires.

This year’s head counselors for Tabir Ptashat are Anya Tershakovec Tomko of Short Hills, N.J., for Week 1, and Roman Ponos of Vienna, Va., for Week 2. For information about the camp or to enroll a child, readers may call Mrs. Sochan at 973-984-7456.

– Andrea Roman



Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation presents

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SOYUZIVKA  
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**July 26 - August 8**

### Dance CAMP II

**August 9 - August 22**



*Celebrating 45 years of dedication to Ukrainian Dance Education in America!*

**Reserve your place now!**

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Information and forms also available online

**[www.soyuzivka.com](http://www.soyuzivka.com)    [www.syzokryli.com](http://www.syzokryli.com)**

*Program Director: Ania Bohachevsky Lonkevych*

## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### Hear Ukraine's Kozak rock band, Haydamaky, in Toronto

by Olya Grod

TORONTO – Now in its 13th year, the Toronto Ukrainian Festival continues to be one of the most anticipated events of the season, and especially this year as it presents Ukraine's Kozak rock band, Haydamaky, in the Bloor West Village on Saturday night, September 19.

"Thanks to the large financial support of the Ministry of Tourism 'Celebrate Ontario 2009 Program' we are delighted to present one of Europe's most popular bands," said Jurij Klufas, festival president.

According to Oleksandr Yarmola, Haydamaky band leader, "Our mission is to make contemporary Ukrainian culture cool, trendy, fashionable, adopted into other world cultures and to gain for young Ukraine the widest possible recognition throughout the world." The Haydamaky are currently working on their fifth CD.

Visitors can discover Ukrainian culture in Canada and share the Ukrainian spirit at North America's largest Ukrainian street festival. This is an opportunity to

experience Ukrainian culture and hospitality at its best.

As always, there will be non-stop entertainment with Ukrainian performers from the Greater Toronto Area, Canada, the United States and Ukraine, including dancers, vocalists and musicians. The youth segment is presented on the grand stage at Jane Street. And, for those so inclined, there is dancing at the "zabava"/street dance on both Friday and Saturday evenings.

Vendor kiosks will offer delicious authentic Ukrainian food and beverages, beautiful souvenirs, interactive pavilions, and more. There will be sidewalk sale shopping at the local Bloor West Village businesses. Plus, there is a midway for kids and youth.

A colorful parade takes place on Saturday morning at 11 a.m. A new attraction this year is the art show and sale organized by the Collective of Canadian Ukrainian Artists.

CFRB Radio 1010 who will be broadcasting live from the Festival.

To get to the festival take the TTC subway and exit at either Jane Street or



The Haydamaky, Ukraine's Kozak rock band.

Runnymede Street.

For more information log on to [www.ukrainianfestival.com](http://www.ukrainianfestival.com) or leave a message

at 416-410-9965.

For a list of host hotels see [www.ukrainianfestival.com](http://www.ukrainianfestival.com).

### Appreciate music and the arts at the Grazhda in upstate N.Y.

by Natalka Sonevtsky

JEWETT, N.Y. – Founded in 1983 by the noted Ukrainian American composer and musicologist Ihor Sonevtsky, the Music and Art Center of Greene County has since been recognized in the Catskill region, as well as on the Ukrainian cultural scene, as the foremost organization featuring classical chamber music concerts performed by nationally and internationally renowned artists.

Music at the Grazhda launches its 27th season on Saturday, July 4, with a jubilee concert celebrating the 70th birthday of the distinguished contemporary composer Myroslav Skoryk and the 60th birthday of the Kyiv Opera soloist Maria Stefiuk. The honorees will perform Mr. Skoryk's works as well as operatic arias from the international repertoire.

The July 11th Concert will feature the legendary American violinist Eugene Fodor with Volodymyr Vynnytsky, the director of the Grazhda concert series, at the piano performing works by Brahms, Lalo, Ravel, Paganini, Sonevtsky and Wieniavsky.

French violinist Alexander Brussilovsky, cellist Natalia Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky will play works by Tchaikovsky and Schonfied at the Fund-raising Concert on July 25. A festive reception will follow this concert.

The noted Ukrainian American pianist Juliana Osinchuk will give a recital on August 1, playing works by Mozart,

Mendelssohn, Lysenko and Gershwin. The audience's favorite ensemble, the Music at the Grazhda Chamber Music Society – Mr. Brussilovsky, Anna Rabinova (violin), Borys Deviatov (viola), Ms. Khoma and Mr. Vynnytsky – will play works by Handel-Halvorsen, Haydn and Franck on August 8.

The Alexander Slobodyanik Memorial Concert, dedicated to the memory of the internationally renowned pianist who died in October 2008, will close the season on August 29. The featured artists at this concert will be Larysa Krupa, Ms. Khoma, Mr. Vynnytsky and the Leontovych String Quartet – Yuri Mazurkevych, Yuri Kharenko, Volodymyr Panteleiev and Mr. Deviatov.

A theater event on August 15 will feature members of the Lidia Krushelnytsky Stage Ensemble, who will pay tribute to their late founder and director with a presentation of classical, dramatic and humorous works.

All programs begin at 8 p.m. at the Grazhda Concert Hall, an architectural landmark and part of the complex of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The Music and Art Center also organizes workshops in Ukrainian folk arts as follows:

- August 3-7 – two one-week courses in Ukrainian Easter-egg making (pysanky) and ceramics (instructor Sofika Zielyk);
- August 10-14 – two one-week courses in embroidery (instructor Lubov Wolyneec) and gerdany (bead stringing) (instructor Anastasia Berezovsky);

August 3-14 – a two-week course in Ukrainian folk-singing for children age 4-9 (instructor Anna Bachynsky) and culminating in a children's recital on Friday, August 14, at 7 p.m.

General information, updates and membership information are available online at [www.GrazhdaMusicandArt.org](http://www.GrazhdaMusicandArt.org). For concert information call Natalka Sonevtsky at

212-674-6569 or 518-989-6479; for folk art courses, call Sofika Zielyk at 212-533-6419 or 518-989-6218.

The Music and Art Center is a non-profit organization supported in part by the Cultural fund of the Greene County Council on the Arts, Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, private donations and memberships.



Cellist Natalia Khoma, violinist Yuri Kharenko and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky perform at Grazhda Concert Hall.

## Bandura Camp

Kobzarska Sich

AUGUST 9 – 22, 2009

FEATURING

- Bandura Course for ages 12 and up. Aug 9 - 23
- Bandura Workshop for ages 9 to 11. Aug 9 - 16
- Ukrainian Sacred Music Workshop. Aug 12 - 16

Kobzarska Sich is held at All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Camp in Emlenton, Pennsylvania.  
Inquire for requirements and deadlines.  
Download a registration form at [www.bandura.org](http://www.bandura.org)

For more information, contact:  
Anatoli W. Murha  
Administrator of Kobzarska Sich  
734.658.6452  
[ks@bandura.org](mailto:ks@bandura.org)

## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### *Benefit from recreation and enrichment at UAYA's camps*

by Oksana Charuk-Bodnar

NEW YORK – As the temperature rises, buds and leaves appear, and summer vacation beckons, children and parents start anticipating where to spend their summer months. The children hope to maximize their fun, while parents seek a safe, enriching environment for their precious charges, filled with the values they have tried to instill throughout the year. Ready to satisfy both requirements are the Ukrainian American Youth Association campgrounds. Over the years UAYA camps have brought long-lasting friendships and fond memories to campers enveloped in a thoroughly professional physical environment, with experienced counselors, knowledgeable teachers and dedicated caregivers. The camps offer a variety of camping adventures, augmented by the elegant and unique Ukrainian heritage.

The season opens early, on June 21, at UAYA's campground ("oselia") in Baraboo, Wis. Baraboo offers six camps for children of all ages, starting with our youngest "sumeniata" at age 4. Also offered is a soccer camp for those who love soccer and can't live without it.

Oselia Khortytsia in Huntington, Ohio, will host a recreational camp during July at which campers can enjoy fun and camaraderie. At the Kyiv resort near Detroit, this summer program includes a

four-day traditional camp for children of all ages. Oselia Kholodnyi Yar in Filmore, N.Y., will offer a camp from July through early August in an enjoyable and caring environment.

At UAYA's Ellenville, N.Y., campground, the season starts off with "Vyshkilnyi" camp on June 28th (a coun-

selor-in-training camp). There follow "Huseniata" camp for tots ages 2-4, with a concurrent program of activities for parents during and after camp hours; "Praktychnyi" (River camp); Sports; recreational camp for younger and older youth; "Mysteskyi/Kobzarski" (Arts and Bandura camps), at which the children

express themselves through dance, art, handcrafts and music.

Give your children a summer vacation to remember. Check out our UAYA summer camp programs on the website at [www.cym.org/us/ellenville](http://www.cym.org/us/ellenville), call 845-647-7230, or e-mail [EllenvilleCamps@cym.org](mailto:EllenvilleCamps@cym.org) for more information.



Participants of a camp run by the Ukrainian American Youth Association.



## UKRAINIAN AMERICAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION

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|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| MAY 23, & MAY 24 | ZLET YUNATSTVA CYM 2009<br>MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2009   |
| JULY 4, & JULY 5 | LEMKO VATRA 2009<br>4TH OF JULY WEEKEND 2009   |
| JULY 5           | SVYATO HEROYIV 2009<br>4TH OF JULY WEEKEND 2009  |
| JULY 11          | 60TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET<br>UKRAINIAN AMERICAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION - CYM<br>INCLUDING STARSHE YUNATSTVO SOCCER TOURNAMENT<br>QUAD VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT            |
| AUGUST 1-2       | TABIR REUNION 2009<br>INCLUDING GOLF TOURNAMENT & ZABAVA   |
| AUGUST 7         | UKRAINIAN SPORTS FEDERATION OF THE USA & CANADA (USCAK)<br>SPORTS COMPETITIONS   |
| SEPTEMBER 4-6    | ZDVYH CYM AMERICA - LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2009<br>INCLUDING CABARET SHOW FEATURING: "SPALENY TEATER" FROM CHICAGO,<br>STAGE SHOWS, SPORTING EVENTS, AND MUCH MORE !! |

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***WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THIS SUMMER!***

## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### Sign up your athletes for Chornomorska Sitch Sports School

by Matthew Dubas

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Chornomorska Sitch Sports School will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in the athletic training of Ukrainian youth. In the last four decades the school has educated thousands of boys and girls, not only from America, but parts of Canada and Ukraine, since it gained independence in 1991.

The knowledge gained by graduates of the Sports School has been used in sports programs in various Ukrainian sports clubs in the diaspora; many participants have gone on to accomplished sports careers, and many have taken leadership positions in sports clubs.

For the Ukrainian Athletic Educational Association (UAEA) Chornomorska Sitch, the Sports School has become a strong foundation to build up the younger ranks' athletic careers in various disciplines, including soccer, volleyball, swimming and tennis. The Sports School remains among the few places where Ukrainian youths have the opportunity to develop and refine their skills in a variety of sports and take that knowledge back to their schools.

The Chornomorska Sitch Sports School is open not only to members of the UAEA Chornomorska Sitch, but to any member of a Ukrainian sports club. Authorized and sanctioned by the highest authority in Ukrainian sports in North America, the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK), and American organizations of physical fitness, Chornomorska Sitch is pleased to provide sports training to all young Ukrainian athletes and members of Ukrainian sports clubs.

In the last decade, the Chornomorska

Sitch Sports School has worked with many renowned trainers, including Eugene Chyzhowych, Dr. Ostap Stromecky, Walter Leoniv, Bohdan Hayduchok, Orest Fedash and tens of others, including trainers from Ukraine such as Ihor Chupenko, Volodymyr Kovalov, Ivan Rudavsky and the brothers Albert and Yuriy Kolb. Each of them diligently carried out the school's agenda, providing one-on-one attention. Later, these same instructors became certified trainers, earned trainers' licenses and continued their work with Ukrainian youth.

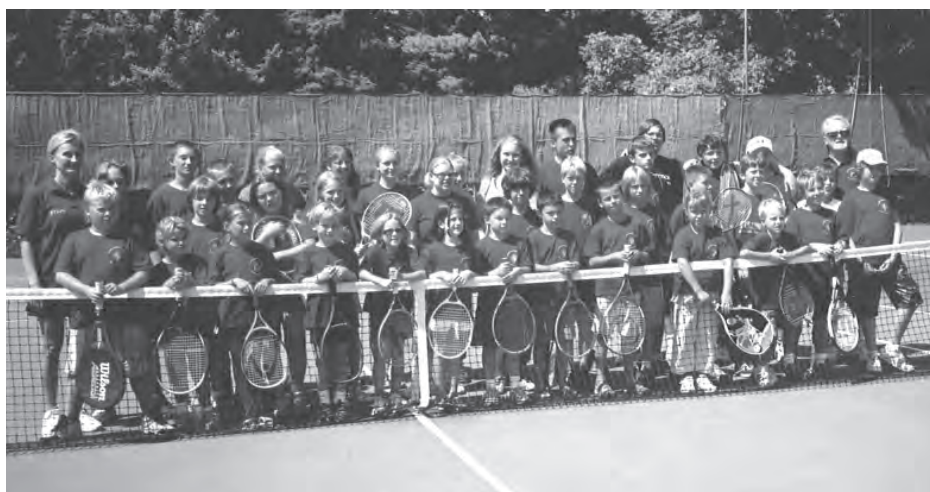
Trainers and staff returning to this year's Sports School include Andrew Panas, Andrew Kudryk, Greg Serheev, Jerry Twardowsky, George Humeniuk, Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, Zenia Matkiwsky-Olesnycky, Roman Hirniak, Luba Humeniuk and Marika Bokalo.

The Chornomorska Sitch Sports School will be held at Soyuzivka in two sessions: from July 26 to August 1 and August 2 to August 8. At the conclusion of the second session on August 8, a luncheon will take place to mark the 40th anniversary of the Sports School, with an awards ceremony and recognition of the school's past instructors and staff. Details have yet to be finalized about tournaments in soccer, volleyball and tennis.

The executive board of the UAEA Chornomorska Sitch sincerely invites all former attendees, supervisors and instructors to the 40th anniversary events. For room reservations, contact Soyuzivka, 845-626-5641; for more information about the Sports School and the 40th anniversary celebrations, contact UAEA Chornomorska Sitch, 60-C N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981.



Chornomorska Sitch Sports School participants in the pool...



... and on the tennis courts at Soyuzivka.

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### UNA SENIORS' WEEK AT SOYUZIVKA JUNE 14-19, 2009

Make your reservations for the UNA Seniors' Conference which will be held at Soyuzivka Heritage Center from Sunday, June 14, starting with wine and cheese in the evening, through Friday, June 19, including brunch.

All inclusive 5 nights, all meals beginning with breakfast Monday, banquet, taxes and gratuities included, entertainment and special speakers.

UNA members - single occupancy \$440 – double occupancy \$370 pp  
Per night - Single \$110 – double \$87 pp

Non UNA members - single occupancy \$490 – double occupancy \$385 pp  
Per night - Single \$115 – double \$95 pp

BANQUET & ENTERTAINMENT only \$35 pp

Call Soyuzivka, tel: 845-626-5641 and register early.  
Space is limited - Organize a bus from your area, contact local senior clubs!  
For information please call Oksana Trytjak, tel: 973-292-9800 ext. 3071



Senior Citizens' Week is FUN – AFFORDABLE – INTERESTING  
WE WELCOME GUESTS! COME ONE, COME ALL!

## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### Choose a Plast camp that fits your children's or teens' interests

by Danylo Peleschuk

BOSTON – Hundreds of Ukrainian American youths will descend once again upon various campgrounds across the United States this summer, as part of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's summer camp programs.

Standard, three-week camps for youths age 7-15 will be held at Vovcha Tropa, in East Chatham, N.Y.; Pysannyi Kamin, in Middlefield, Ohio; and Novyi Sokil, in North Collins, N.Y. They'll be held from July 11 to August 1.

A specialized, coed camp for teens age 15-16 (Tabir Starshoho Yunatstva) will be held on July 11-25 at Vovcha Tropa.

A series of counselor training camps ("vyshkoly") will be aimed at molding young Plast members into camp and year-round counselors, teaching them to guide groups of young girls and boys ("novatstvo") and teens ("yunatstvo"). Training for counselors of novatstvo will take place on June 27-July 8, while "Shkola Bulavnykh" (for female scouts age 17 and up who want to become camp counselors of yunatstvo) will take place on

June 27-July 8, in Hunter, N.Y.

The U.S. National Plast Command had invited eight Plast counselors from Ukraine to visit and participate as counselors at various camps this summer in an exchange program that has been maintained in recent years.

Additionally, the Plast fraternity Chornomortsji will hold its annual water sports camp, "Morskyi Tabir," on August 15-22 at Richmond Pond in Pittsfield, Mass., not far from Vovcha Tropa.

The three-week camps at Vovcha Tropa will be headed by the following "kome-

danty" (camp directors): Alex Knihnicky for boys age 6-11; Lida Mulyk for girls age 6-11; Stefan Stawnychy for boys age 12-15; and Roxanna Kobziar for girls age 12-15.

At Pysannyi Kamin', Damian Hruszkewycz will lead boys age 6-11; Natalie Bellkariou will lead girls age 6-11; Antin Durbakwill head boys age 12-15; and Roxanne Zalucky will lead girls age 12-15.


Details about other camps, the training course for counselors of yunatstvo will be available shortly on the Plast U.S.A. website: [www.plastusa.org](http://www.plastusa.org).



Plast "novaky" at the Vovcha Tropa campground in East Chatham, N.Y.



Participants of the Plast camp for older teens during the annual "Den Plastuna" festivities at Vovcha Tropa.



# SOYUZIIVKA

2009  
Kerhonkson, New York

## 2009 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](mailto: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.

## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

# Enroll in Ukrainian Summer Institute at Harvard University

by Peter T. Woloschuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Dr. Patrice Marie Dabrowski, who was recently appointed the new director of the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute (HUSI) by the executive committee of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), has been working intensively with Tamara Nary, HURI's programs administrator, to round out the schedule for the 39th annual summer session which will run from Monday, June 22, through Friday, August 7.

"Although intensive Ukrainian language training is a focus of our program," Dr. Dabrowski pointed out, "we are also offering a number of courses that are particularly relevant in light of current ongoing developments in Ukraine."

"Internationally noted Holodomor scholar and professor of contemporary history Andrea Graziosi of the University of Naples, Italy, 'Federico II' will teach a course on Soviet Ukrainian History, 1914-1991 and will highlight the impact of the Holodomor as a central feature of this history. This is particularly appropriate because this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Great Famine in Ukraine. Prof. Tamara Hundorova of the Institute of Literature at the National Academy of sciences of Ukraine will lecture on Ukrainian Literature and Popular Culture, and Michael S. Flier, Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian Philology at Harvard University and director of HURI will look at Ukraine as a linguistic battleground," Dr. Dabrowski said.

"In addition to our academic offerings," Dr. Dabrowski said, "we have put together a full schedule of extracurricular activities that range from trips to museums and historic sites of the greater Boston area, to guest speakers, cultural events and a mini-festival of Ukrainian films. With luck, we will also be co-sponsoring a concert with the Harvard Summer School featuring an internationally known Ukrainian pop artist."

"So far, we have received applications from students in almost every oblast in Ukraine, from Poland, Russia and several other European countries, as well as from the United States and Canada," Dr. Dabrowski said. "Most of our Ukrainian applicants are graduate students, and they



Dr. Patrice Marie Dabrowski

have already demonstrated that they will be the leaders of tomorrow."

"The Summer Institute," Dr. Dabrowski emphasized, "offers its participants the opportunity to make new friends from all over the world and to network with some amazing fellow students as well as internationally known professors and professional leaders and government officials. We intentionally keep our class size small so that everyone has a chance to interact with their professors and to get to know them really well," she added.

"I was a student at HUSI over the summer of 2002 and I am still in contact with a number of my former classmates," Dr. Dabrowski said. "I found the experience to be challenging, fun, and fulfilling. Although I had limited exposure to Ukrainian, I was put into the advanced language course because I was fluent in both Polish and Russian. It was either sink or swim for me and because of the approach that the instructor, Mr. Dibrova, took, by the end of the course I was fairly fluent in the language."

"My ties with HURI go back to my undergraduate days at Harvard, when I worked in its publications office as an editorial assistant and when I took a number of courses with Profs. Himka and Szporluk," Dr. Dabrowski concluded.



2008 HUSI students speak with Summer Institute Director Steven Seegel (right) in front of the building that used to house the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.

Dr. Dabrowski is a native of southern California. She received her bachelor's degree in Slavic languages and literatures from Harvard University in 1984 and holds a master's degree in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, as well as a doctorate in history from Harvard University.

A noted author and speaker, Dr. Dabrowski has also served as tutor, lecturer, and teaching assistant for the history department at Harvard. She held a Shklar Fellowship at HURI in the fall of 2008 and has been a Fulbright and IREX

scholar as well as a postdoctoral fellow at Brown University. She is currently conducting major research on the Hutsuls of the Carpathian region of southwestern Ukraine between the two world wars. Dr. Dabrowski resides in Natick, Mass.

The Summer Institute's program with an intensive seven-week curriculum of accredited university instruction in Ukrainian studies is the only one of its kind in North America. The program is run jointly by the Harvard University Summer School and HURI.

(Continued on page 18)

## Immerse yourself in study of the Ukrainian language

by Tony Harras

REGINA, Saskatchewan – The Adult Ukrainian Language Immersion Course (AULIC) will be offered again in 2009. In addition to the weekend program running from August 13 to 16, an extended program will follow until August 21.

During the first four days, three levels of instruction will be offered: beginner, intermediate and advanced. The extended five-day program will allow for a more intense Ukrainian language immersion environment and is dedicated to intermediate and advanced-level participants who wish to build on their knowledge of the Ukrainian language.

AULIC's success is based primarily on the quality of language instruction, which is supplemented with a culturally enriched program. The organizing committee ensures that the instructors selected for the camp are skilled Ukrainian teachers.

AULIC is held at Trident Camp, 25 kilometers north of Canora, Saskatchewan, at the Crystal Lake resort. Further information about the venue and facilities is available at

[www.aulic.ca](http://www.aulic.ca).

The registration fee for the four-day weekend (August 13-16) is \$185 per participant if received prior to July 9, and \$200 thereafter. The fee for the entire nine-day extended program is \$310 if received by July 7, \$325 thereafter. Room, board and all printed materials are included in the fee.

Those interested in learning more about AULIC 2009 may contact members of the Organizing Committee: Ed Lysyk, 306-789-6622, Wayne Hydeman, 306-545-2003; Ken Mazur, 306-789-4062; Katerina Oleski, 306-585-7054; or Tony Harras, 306-586-6805 or 585-7945 (fax), or send an e-mail to [info@aulic.ca](mailto:info@aulic.ca).

AULIC is sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Regina and the Ukrainian Orthodox Men's Association of Regina. Financial assistance is provided by Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Saskatchewan Provincial Council and Regina Branch, Saskatchewan Lotteries, Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages and The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko.



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Tours and weekend excursions to various places of interest

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E-mail: (attached a scanned copy of your completed application form) [ukrainiansummer@ucu.edu.ua](mailto:ukrainiansummer@ucu.edu.ua)

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June 20 - 3 & 6 weeks  
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E-mail us: [ukrainiansummer@ucu.edu.ua](mailto:ukrainiansummer@ucu.edu.ua)

Web page: [www.ucu.edu.ua/uss](http://www.ucu.edu.ua/uss)

## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### Learn to dance or perfect your Ukrainian dance skills

by Chryzanta Hentisz

NEW YORK – More than 30 years ago, Roma Pryma Bohachevsky fulfilled her dream and established a unique dance program to preserve and advance the art of Ukrainian dance in the diaspora. Her Ukrainian Dance Workshop and Ukrainian Dance Camps have since been attended by countless dancers from all corners of the globe.

Last year the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Workshop and Dance Camps, now run by her daughter, Ania Bohachevsky Lonkevych, joined forces with the Soyuzivka Heritage Center and the Ukrainian National Association to form the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Academy at Soyuzivka. The academy encompasses not only the workshop and two two-week camps, but is also the summer home of the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble.

Ms. Lonkevych, director of the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Academy, is well-qualified to continue her mother's work, having been at her side as a dancer and instructor from an early age. At this year's workshop she will be joined by Orlando Pagan, Stefan Calka and special guest instructor Roman Lewkowicz, all of whom were trained by Mrs. Bohachevsky to carry on her work. Kristine Izak will return as artistic director at the dance camps.

Mr. Pagan is the artistic director of the Syzokryli as well as the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky School of Ukrainian Dance in New York and schools in Hartford, Conn., and Astoria, Yonkers and Hempstead, N.Y. He is also a dance instructor for the Dance Theater of Harlem with which he performed for many years, playing leading roles all over the world.

Mr. Calka, principal dancer with the Sacramento Ballet, has danced professionally with such groups as the Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal and the Los Angeles Ballet. He has choreographed numerous works for the Sacramento Ballet, as well as assisted in the staging of the works of George Balanchine for the Bolshoi and Kirov ballets.

Mr. Lewkowicz will join the workshop as a guest instructor and choreographer. Mr. Lewkowicz, a former member of the Syzokryli, has studied with, among others, the Tamburitzans and the Dukla Ukrainian Folk Company in Slovakia, for whom he has choreographed works which are part of

their permanent repertory.

Ms. Izak, the artistic director of the two dance camps, earned her B.A. in dance, majoring in performance and choreography, and has been teaching at private dance schools in the Philadelphia area since 1991. She worked closely with Mrs. Bohachevsky for more than 20 years, both at the workshop and the dance camps. Ms. Izak uses her extraordinary talents not only to create magical stories which the children perform at the final recital of the dance camps, but also design the costumes and scenery which enhance the performance.

The Ukrainian Dance Workshop will run from July 5 through 18. The workshop is intended for advanced dancers at least 16 years of age. These dancers participate in a rigorous and exacting program, taking classes in ballet, character, Ukrainian dance and repertory.

Workshop participants will exhibit the skills they have acquired or honed during the two-week program with performances at the Soyuzivka Ukrainian Cultural Festival July 17-19.

Beginning to advanced dancers age 8-16 will have the opportunity to attend either one, or both, of the camps being offered in two sessions: Dance Camp I from July 26 to August 8 and Dance Camp II from August 9 to August 22.

Nina Kobryn will be on hand as "komentantka" (director) for both camps, along with a large group of counselors to ensure 24-hour supervision of the campers.

Dancers at these camps, no matter what their level, will work on developing their technique and dancing ability while taking classes in ballet, character, Ukrainian dance and repertory. The counselors are hand-picked by Ms. Lonkevych, to be ready to help students on a one-on-one basis, enhancing the dancer's learning experience. Each camp will present a final program that will highlight not only the dancers' achievements in Ukrainian dance but also character and ballet.

While all of the participants in the dance programs work intensively, dancing long hours every day, there are also many opportunities for enjoying the facilities at Soyuzivka and socializing with their fellow campers. Campers get to enjoy a bonfire with skits prepared by the dancers and the counselors; "clash" day, when everyone, including counselors, instructors and the director, dresses in



Workshop dancers perform the "Pryvit" at the 2008 Ukrainian Cultural Festival



"Zaporizka Sich" as performed by 2008 workshop participants at Soyuzivka festival.

outrageous outfits for rehearsal; and a farewell banquet. Soyuzivka also hosts a "luau" for the dancers.

The dancers also show off their newfound skills and tricks at Soyuzivka dances – making the traditional Kolomyika fun and exciting not only for the participants but for the crowds of onlookers.

The academy and Soyuzivka offer several scholarships to dancers based on merit and need.

Those wishing to participate in the programs may get further information regarding registration and requirements at [www.syzokryli.com](http://www.syzokryli.com) or [www.soyuzivka.com](http://www.soyuzivka.com) (under camps).

## Stop by the 34th annual Ukrainian Festival in New York City

by Andrij Stasiw

NEW YORK – St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church will host its 34th annual Ukrainian Festival from Friday, May 15, through Sunday, May 17, in New York City. Located on Seventh Street between Second and Third avenues off the corner of Taras Shevchenko Place, this annual street fair will feature over 100 performers, as well as many vendors selling Ukrainian arts and crafts, foods, and music/video products.

The festival program includes:

- Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (main stage): St. George Academy Ukrainian Dancers under the direction of Daria Genza; St. George Academy Chorus under the direction of Anna Bachynska; soloists Zoryanna Zarycka, Nataliya Krutovska and Chrystyna Shafranska; School of Ballroom Dance under the direction of Natalia Lemishka; and soloist superstar Viktoriya Hordyeyeva;

- Saturday, 2-4 p.m. (main stage): Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Whippany, N.J., under the direction of Andriy Cybyk; Barvinok Dance Ensemble from South Bound Brook, N.J., under the direction of Gregory Momot; bandurist and soloist Kalyna Leshchuk; St. George Elementary School of ATA Elite Martial Arts (special presentation) under the direction of Jose Munoz;

- Saturday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (main stage): duo sensation Lidia and Gabriella Oros; soloists Maryna Skliarova and Ms. Hordyeyeva; violinist and EMI recording artist Inessa Tymochko-Dekajlo; well-known opera tenor Roman Tymbala; Syzokryli Dance Ensemble of New York under the direction of Orlando Pagan; renowned soloist and composer Liliya Ostapenko;

- Saturday, 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.: "zabava"/dance (St. George School auditorium) featuring the Halychany Orchestra;

- Sunday, 1-2 p.m. (St. George Church): special concert by the Dumka Chorus directed by Vasyl Hrechynsky; and

- Sunday, 2-5 p.m. (main stage): St. George Academy Dancers and School Chorus; Roma Pryma Bohachevsky School of Dance in New York City; Zorepad of Albany, N.Y., under the direction of Peter and Adrienne Fil; soloists Zoryanna Zarycka, Anna Smith, Ms. Hordyeyeva and Ms. Skliarova; Ukrainian Dance Ensemble Mriya under the direction of Mr. Pagan; Syzokryli Dance Ensemble; Mr. Tymbala.

More performers will be announced at a later date. One and all are invited to come out and enjoy a beautiful and historic festival in the heart of the Ukrainian Village in New York City.



Soloist Vika Hordyeyeva performs at the Ukrainian Festival in New York City.



## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### *Journey to the site of the historic Battle of Poltava of 1709*

by Yuriy Borysov

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

POLTAVA, Ukraine – This year marks the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava, the decisive engagement in the Great Northern War in which Tsar Peter the Great led the Russians in defeating the Swedes and Ukrainians, giving rise to the modern Russian Empire.

For the Ukrainians, led by Hetman Ivan Mazepa, the battle was a tragic milestone in their history because it marked the beginning of the end of the Ukrainian Kozak era and a half century of autonomy established by the Pereyaslav Treaty of 1654.

Thousands of history buffs, tourists and nationalists of all stripes are expected to descend upon Poltava this summer to participate in the commemorations and learn more about the battle, regarded as among the most decisive in European history.

The Poltava City Council has created an organizational committee that has scheduled a series of festivals, historical conferences, sporting events, art exhibitions and theatre performances between May 1 and July 21. The list can be viewed at: <http://www.battle-poltava.org>.

Numerous festivals involve competitions, drawing upon the battle theme.

On May 1 city officials will launch the “Poltava Turystychna” bus tour, which will visit 10 sites that played a role in the Battle of Poltava.

Runners can join the “We Choose Health” one-kilometer jog starting at the Vorskla soccer stadium on May 14.

A June 6 festival will celebrate the Poltava “halushka,” the region’s unique traditional food that looks just like a “varenyk,” but is made entirely of boiled dough.

In their own battle, local cooks will square off to determine who makes the best halushky, as well as other Ukrainian treats.

Both events will take place on Ivanova Hora (Hill), a few blocks from the Sobornyi Maidan (Cathedral Square) in the city center. That same day, local officials plan to unveil a 26-foot Podil Tower replica, which had been part of the ruined Poltava Fortress that formed the city center during medieval times.

On June 9 the Battle of Poltava Field state historical park and museum on the

city’s outskirts will unveil a new museum hall, Kozatska Derzhava (The Kozak State). At the same site on June 13, city officials will open a renovated model of the system of sconces, or protective earthen fortifications, that were used throughout the Great Northern War.

Poltava will host an international classic music festival, “Music Unites,” on June 20 at the Marusia Churai Spivoche Pole, named after the 17th century folk singer and Poltava native.

Beer lovers can indulge their passion at the Day of Poltava Beer on June 21 at the city’s Peremoha (Victory) Park, about a mile from the city center. The same park will host an ice cream holiday on July 11, and the next day soccer teams will compete in “The Battle of Poltava Footballers.”

Among the biggest events is the historical re-enactment of the Battle of Poltava, scheduled for June 27. An Orthodox Christian panakhyda will be held the same morning for all the fallen soldiers.

Historians recognize June 28 as the day of the Battle of Poltava, based on the Gregorian calendar (July 8 according to the Julian calendar.)

The organizational committee has yet to officially select the site, but stated that it will probably be a field on the banks of the Vorskla River, near the village of Patlayivka, several kilometers from Poltava.

Historical re-enactment clubs, military enthusiasts and patriots from Ukraine, Russia, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Great Britain and the United States have registered their participation, the committee reported.

The festivities will conclude on July 21 with the Poltava Ring international boxing competition at the Spivoche Pole.

On May 24 a documentary film that was required by a 2007 presidential decree, “The Battle of Poltava: Ukrainian Territory,” is to be screened (the organizing committee did not disclose a venue). There are hints that it’s a pro-Russian film commissioned by the pro-Russian Mayor Andrii Matkovskiy, who denied financing for the completion of a Ukrainian film, “On the Wings of Memory,” produced by Poltava film director Oleh Minhaliov.

Poltava officials rescheduled the summer’s biggest event, the dedication of the monument to Hetman Mazepa at



Yuriy Borysov

The Poltava Ethnography Museum is among the oldest and most famous in Ukraine.

Sobornyi Maidan from June 27 to Ukrainian Independence Day, August 24.

As many as 3,000 Russians are expected to visit Poltava for the 300th anniversary weekend and battle re-enactment, and local officials said they wanted to avoid potential conflicts with Ukrainian nationalists that the statue’s presentation could provoke.

For those planning a trip from Kyiv, traveling to Poltava won’t require sleeping in an overnight train.

The daily, Kyiv-Kharkiv express train is the quickest trip, departing Kyiv at 6:33 a.m. and arriving in Poltava at 10:17 a.m. On the way back, the express train leaves Poltava at 6:40 p.m. and arrives in Kyiv at 10:17 p.m. A one-way ticket costs \$10.50 for second class, \$11.25 for first class.

Driving to Poltava along the Kyiv-Kharkiv route won’t save any time, as this takes an average of four hours.

Poltava is a compact city, and it’s possible to drive from one end to the other in 30 minutes. Therefore, all the hotels are situated within walking distance of major events; they report that few rooms have been booked thus far for the summer commemorations.

Poltava’s best hotel is the Palazzo complex at 33 Gogol St. in the heart of the city, which consists of 23 rooms, with single-bed rooms ranging between \$62 and \$150 per night, and double-bed rooms priced at between \$87 and \$158, including breakfast.

Its carpeted rooms are fully renovated and equipped with a safe, thermostat, mini-bar and complimentary mineral water, tea and coffee. Among its amenities are a sauna, gym with exercise machines and free weights, and car rental.

An average meal at its Ukrainian and European cuisine restaurant costs \$19. The hotel website is <http://www.palazzo.com.ua>; its telephone numbers are (80532) 61-12-05, 61-12-08 and 61-12-10.

The Halereya Hotel in the city center at 7 Frunze St. offers 23 rooms, priced at between \$59 and \$183 for a single bed and between \$85 and \$190 for a double bed, including breakfast. The rooms are fully renovated and equipped with satellite television, WiFi Internet and a thermostat.

An average meal at its Ukrainian and European cuisine restaurant costs \$12.50. Amenities are largely lacking, with the exception of a small sauna that requires reservations ahead of time. The hotel website is <http://www.hotel.poltava.ua>, and rooms can be reserved by e-mailing [bipol@ukrpost.ua](mailto:bipol@ukrpost.ua). Its telephone numbers are (80532) 56-16-66 and 56-16-97.

Poltava’s largest hotel is the Hotel Kyiv at 2/49 Sinna St., within walking distance from the city center. Its 61 single rooms cost between \$29 and \$39 a night and its nine double-bed rooms cost \$54,

(Continued on page 16)



Among the best views of Poltava is the one from the Bila Altanka colonnade on Ivanova Hora (Hill) in the city center.

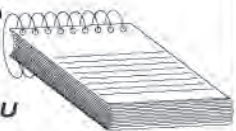


On Ivanova Hora (Hill), tourists can visit Poltava’s tribute to its favorite dish, the dumplings of boiled dough called “halushky.”

## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY ZENON ZAWADA  
KYIV PRESS BUREAU



## Ukrainian speakers, beware

If you're planning to revive your Ukrainian language skills on your summer trip to Ukraine, then be warned that you're in for a rough experience once you venture anywhere east of Zhytomyr and Vinnytsia.

In post-Orange Ukraine, the politics of language is more complex and delicate than at any point in independent Ukraine's history.

Things were simpler in the Kuchma years. Keeping the Soviet tradition in place, the Ukrainian language had a specific, reserved role in society, limited to villagers, poets, activists and western Ukrainians. It maintained its subservient status to Russian.

So, when folks from the diaspora visited and began speaking Ukrainian, many in Ukraine thought it was amusing and cute, patting us on the head and politely apologizing for not being able to speak the language fluently.

We weren't the enemy, because we weren't a threat to the status quo and the order of things.

The ascendancy of Viktor Yushchenko (and his Ukrainian-speaking, American wife) to the presidency significantly shifted language politics in Ukraine, which had been stable for more than 70 years.

Suddenly, the funny-sounding peasant language that big city residents heard mostly in folk songs became a legitimate threat to

the status quo. They realized that knowledge and use of the Ukrainian language would be necessary to gain entrance into the best universities and qualify for government jobs (at least in theory).

Suddenly, Russophiles realized they could become second-class citizens because they didn't want to speak the official state language. In many cases, neither they nor their parents ever spoke a word of Ukrainian. For many eastern and southern Ukrainians, maybe a grandfather or grandmother spoke it a long time ago before they became "civilized" and moved to the city.

Rather than learning Ukrainian, a language they have no emotional attachment to or sympathy for, many Russian speakers figured it's easier to fight and resist it. After all, learning a second language is difficult even for educated people.

For those adventurous diaspora Ukrainians who will venture to the Russian-speaking "milionyky" of Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk or Odesa, your attempts at speaking Ukrainian will find little to no moral support.

If you're fortunate, these efforts will be politely tolerated. You might find the occasional cab driver who enjoys speaking Ukrainian.

Various degrees of disinterest and rudeness are more likely, particularly if you ask

someone to speak Ukrainian to you, a gesture that will be perceived as downright offensive.

Remember, you're no longer cute. In the easterners' view, you staged a "revolution" to change the way of life. So asking someone to speak Ukrainian violates the local language etiquette and is perceived as a subtle attempt to impose on their way of life, no matter how benign the intention or how politely the request is phrased.

They want the right to speak Russian, and they want to feel comfortable doing it. They certainly don't want someone they perceive as an arrogant foreigner dictating to them what language to speak or not speak.

They have their own idea of what it

means to be a Ukrainian – a mutated, Soviet-based identity that relates to "shanson" prison songs and Moscow pop hits more than Kvitka Cisyk or Oleh Skrypka.

They also won't feel any ethnic kinship or bond if you speak Ukrainian. You're better off speaking English if you want to order food in a restaurant or make new friends. It's a sad state of affairs, but your options are adjusting to reality, or waging a crusade and incurring the wrath of the "malorosy."

If you're a staunch crusader, speak with confidence. They may or may not like you, but they will respect you. And more than politeness or kindness, Russians and "malorosy" respect strength and confidence.

(Continued on page 13)

## Challenges of communication

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

By now, diaspora Ukrainians are quite aware that the Ukrainian they learned from their parents and grandparents isn't enough to get by in contemporary Ukraine, at least beyond the Halychyna region.

The challenges of communicating in Ukraine are multifold for any foreigner, even those with a background in the Ukrainian language. The obstacles are big, particularly when a majority of Ukrainians prefer to speak Russian, and many don't want to switch to Ukrainian, even if you say pretty please.

Then, many of those who think they're speaking Ukrainian are actually speaking "surzhyk," which is a mix of Russian and Ukrainian. Indeed, these people don't

know for themselves which words are actually Russian and which are Ukrainian!

And, when you do find the handful of folks who actually speak the standard, legitimate Ukrainian, it turns out they are speaking the contemporary, post-Soviet form, which is inundated with adapted Russian and English words and phrases.

Particularly deceptive are the "false friends," or English words that have an entirely different meaning in Ukrainian. The following are some of the most common false friends that have become imbedded in the Ukrainian language:

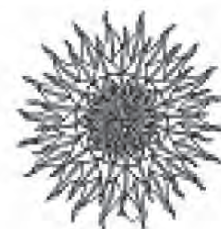
"Aktualne" doesn't mean actual. It is an adjective describing something that is relevant.

An "apartament" isn't a standard apart-

(Continued on page 18)



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## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### Study language, icon-painting at Lviv's Ukrainian Catholic U.

by Matthew Matuszak

LVIV – This year a program devoted to the study of churches and sacred art in Lviv, called “Twilight of the Empire,” joins the established summer offerings of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU). The university’s School of Ukrainian Language and Culture is now in its seventh year and the Icon-Painting School in its fifth.

Offered in English, “Twilight of the Empire” runs from July 16 to 25. The iconography course, which runs from July 5 to 25, is offered in either Ukrainian or English. The Ukrainian language and culture courses accept beginners, intermediate and advanced students, and run from June 22 to July 10 or July 13 to July 31, or six weeks without a break.

“Twilight of the Empire” combines tours of sacred sites and monuments of Christian art and architecture with intellectual study of the basics of the theology, history and most important features of Ukrainian Christian art from the times of Kyivan Rus’ to today.

“Ukraine, in particular western Ukraine (Halychyna), has wonderful, world-class monuments and museum collections of Eastern Christian art that remain almost unknown to the Western public,” noted Dr. Victoria Luka, director of “Twilight of the Empire.”

“These include church buildings dating from as early as the 12th – 13th centuries, superb examples of various architectural

*Lviv is the largest city in the world in which Ukrainian is spoken.*

styles, the Armenian cathedral in Lviv, the Lviv National Museum, which has one of the richest icon collections in the world, national shrines of Ukraine, Pochayiv and the Kyivan Monastery of the Caves, and more,” noted Dr. Luka.

“But, though there are numerous routes taking people to various holy places of Eastern Christendom, they’re usually organized as tourist trips or religious pilgrimages. During such excursions people often lack a deeper familiarity with the themes of Eastern Christian religious art and an understanding of the basics of its history and theory. So an integral part of our program is to provide the participants with a knowledge of these elements through a short series of lectures, illustrative material and general information,” Dr. Luka added.

“And, the program is based in Lviv, one of the most beautiful towns on earth – come see for yourself. So, besides learning and seeing many interesting things during the lectures and study trips, you are guaranteed



Hryhorii Prystay

Natalia Yakimiuk and Alexander Oryshkevych, participants of the Ukrainian Catholic University’s School of Ukrainian Language and Culture, enjoy a break from the summer sun.

a very pleasant time at your leisure: you have at your disposal numerous museums, theaters, restaurants, coffeehouses, and the simply charming streets of our medieval downtown,” concluded Dr. Luka.

In 2008 students from the United States, Canada and even the Philippines participated in the workshops of the Icon-Painting Summer School, getting acquainted with the ancient Ukrainian technique of iconography.

“We are one of the very few icon-painting programs taking part in a traditionally Eastern Christian country but offered in English and attuned to the needs of the international audience,” noted the school’s director, Solomiya Tymo.

This summer two new courses are being offered: “Eastern Christian Theology of Icons: An Introduction” and “Selected Topics in Eastern Christian and Ukrainian Sacred Art: Advanced Seminar.”

Building on the success of previous years, UCU’s School of Ukrainian Language and Culture has once again developed a summer program that provides an intensive course of daily Ukrainian-language instruction with a complementary schedule of activities to offer students full immersion into Ukrainian culture.

An international faculty of native speakers, experienced as teachers of Ukrainian as a foreign language, expertly pace Ukrainian-language instruction in the classroom. Outside the classroom, a key element of the program is the staff of tutors who are always

available to assist program participants and guide them through a variety of planned activities.

Each three-week session can be audited or can be taken for university credit (each session is equivalent to a four-credit semester course in North American colleges). Participants can enroll in one, or both, summer sessions. Upon arrival at UCU for the summer program, students will be tested for placement in the appropriate level of language instruction. No prior knowledge of Ukrainian is required.

The full-day language program is provided at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Intensive language classes normally meet for four to five hours per day in the morning and afternoon during the week. Work outside the classroom usually requires between two and three hours per day. Besides class instruction, participants will have time for conversational practice with tutorial staff.

The summer program has always attracted a lively and interesting group of students from North America, Europe and Ukraine. To accommodate students, a Western-style dormitory is available. However, choosing to live with a host family can enhance a student’s experience of Ukraine. Participants in previous summer programs have included university students, professionals improving their language skills, as well as adults who want to learn, or re-learn, their native lan-

(Continued on page 16)



Petro Didula

Laryssa Borkowsky from the U.S., a 2008 participant of the Ukrainian Catholic University’s Icon-Painting Summer School, proudly displays her first icon, Old Testament patriarch Jacob.

### Ukrainian speakers...

(Continued from page 12)

If they detect a hint of weakness in your Ukrainian skills, they’ll claim they don’t understand you. Worse, they’ll request that you switch to English because they don’t understand what they could allege are your attempts at Polish, or your feeble attempts at Russian.

Crusaders will have more success in central Ukraine, which is still Russian-speaking, but at least is open to change. My advice for speaking Ukrainian in central Ukraine is to assume firmness and confidence, and pronounce your words slowly, loudly and clearly. Otherwise, you might not be taken seriously, or simply be ignored.

Everyone from the diaspora has his or her own tales of attempting the Ukrainian language in Kyiv.

I went into a dry cleaner and asked whether they iron clothes. The verb in Ukrainian is “prasuvaty,” and the service attendant looked at me as though I was speaking Zulu. Just then an African fellow

walked in and asked for his pants to be ironed, only he used the Russian word, “gladit,” which the attendant understood perfectly.

In a single moment, the effects of Russian imperialism and Soviet genocide became starkly apparent to me – an African was able to communicate better in Russian with a “fellow Ukrainian” than an ethnic Ukrainian speaking the Ukrainian language.

For the most part, the residents of cities like Poltava and Kyiv will respect your attempts to speak the Ukrainian language. In most situations, however, they will respond in Russian.

There are two reasons for this: either they are uncomfortable in using the Ukrainian language, or in their limited consciousness and understanding of the world, they believe that anyone capable of speaking Ukrainian is at least capable of understanding Russian. The majority of Ukrainians can’t fathom a person knowing the Ukrainian language but not the Russian language.

In these situations, I suggest being very clear and direct, something along the lines of, “I am from the United States. I only

speak Ukrainian. I don’t speak Russian. Can you please speak to me in Ukrainian?”

These are central Ukrainians, not malrosy, so you can say this with a smile and attempt some degree of politeness. They might actually respond to it.

When I posed such a request to an electronics salesman in Kyiv, he responded enthusiastically, “Yes,” before continuing to speak in Russian. Diaspora folks tell me this happens very often. Perhaps he was too embarrassed to admit that he was uncomfortable speaking Ukrainian, or perhaps simply didn’t want to.

If your interlocutor keeps speaking in Russian, you can repeat firmly, “I am sorry. I don’t speak Russian. I speak Ukrainian. Can you speak in Ukrainian?” You might need to repeat this four or five times before it sinks in. But, trust me – it may never sink in.

Cities like Kyiv and Poltava have significant minorities of Russophiles who are hostile to the Ukrainian language.

Having someone ignore your requests to speak Ukrainian isn’t unusual in central Ukraine. But the hostile ones will give you a

dirty look, pretend they don’t understand what you’re saying or (get this!) tell you to “say it in Russian.”

Although such situations will get your blood boiling, I recommend backing off and moving on to avoid any conflict, verbal or otherwise. The Ukrainian language will continue to thrive without you getting a broken nose over it.

As for the Russian speakers in Lviv and other western Ukrainian cities, diaspora tourists ought to tolerate them. We can’t dictate what language anyone should speak in the private realm.

Americans ought to be an example of reasonable levels of tolerance and respect for individual rights. Let’s not sink to the level of some of those in Donetsk and Odesa.

For the flexible-minded, learn some basic words and phrases in Russian, and practice some of them on the flight to Ukraine or with your Ukrainian relatives. It’ll make your life easier.

For the crusader – onward, soldier! Just try to keep the peace as much as possible ... and make it back in one piece.

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## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### Play Ukraine's national instrument at Kobzarska Sich

by Anatoli W. Murha

DETROIT – Founded in 1979, Kobzarska Sich Bandura Camp was designed to bring together bandura players from all over North America to learn more about the bandura and its unique art form. Over the years, Kobzarska Sich has diversified its programming to encompass the rich traditions and sounds of Ukrainian choral music.

Kobzarska Sich offers two bandura programs and the Ukrainian Sacred Music Workshop. All three programs will be held between August 9 and 22, though each program has its own schedule. In addition to the programs offered, there will be free time for sports, swimming and relaxation.

The 2009 music program will feature instructors from North America and Ukraine. Past instructors have included: Hryhory Kytasty, Oleh Mahlay, Julian Kytasty, Yuriy Petlura, Roman Hurko, Adrian Bryttan, Oleh Sozansky and Taras Lazurkevych.

Scholarships are available for first-time participants, and for returning participants for the bandura programs only.

The 2009 programs are as follows.

- Bandura Course, August 9-22: Over seven hours of daily instruction in the technique of playing bandura, bandura history, solo and ensemble playing and singing, music lectures, elementary music theory (as needed). This course is designed for teenage children (age 12 and older) and adults of all ages.

- Bandura Workshop, August 9-16: This workshop covers the basics of playing bandura and bandura history. Participants are introduced to ensemble

playing and singing, music lectures, elementary music theory (as needed). This workshop is designed for children age 9-11.

- Ukrainian Sacred Music Workshop, August 12-16: The newest program introduced at Kobzarska Sich began two years ago with great success. This workshop provides an opportunity to sing sacred works by Ukrainian master composers and provides practical pointers for church singers, cantors and conductors alike relative to common areas of church singing. Listening lectures will open up many hidden aspects of the sacred music tradition. This course is designed for older teenagers (age 15 and older) and adults of all ages.

Kobzarska Sich is held at All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Camp in Emlenton, Pa. All Saints offers over 90 acres of pristine beauty in the Allegheny Mountains. The camp's facilities include volleyball courts, a swimming pool, 10 cabins for participants, a Millennium Cultural Center with housing and classrooms, an activities pavilion, tennis and basketball courts, an infirmary and nature trails.

All Kobzarska Sich participants are housed on the grounds of All Saints Camp in either cabins or in the Millennium Cultural Center.

A final concert for the Bandura Course will be held on Saturday, August 22, at 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Kobzarska Sich Administrator Anatoli W. Murha at 734-658-6452 or [ks@bandura.org](mailto:ks@bandura.org). To download a registration form online visit: [www.bandura.org/bandura\\_school.htm](http://www.bandura.org/bandura_school.htm).



Participants of the 2008 Kobzarska Sich Bandura Camp after the final concert.



Participants of the 2008 Sacred Music Workshop in front of the All Saints Camp chapel.

### Participate in a workshop in Ukrainian folk dance

by Paula Holoviak

LEHIGHTON, Pa. – 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the Ukrainian American Heritage Foundation (UAHF) folk dance workshop and camp for children and young adults.

The workshop will be held daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, June 29, through Friday, July 3, at the Ukrainian Homestead in Lehigh, Pa. Instruction is offered to children age 5 and up, with advanced workshop instruction for experienced dancers.

The workshop is under the artistic

direction of Andriy Dobriansky, assisted by Yuriy Dobriansky. Special activities for this year's camp include bandura, embroidery, pysanky and gerdany instruction.

Adult workshops in various Ukrainian folk arts will also be available for parents and the general public during this week.

The camp will conclude with a performance on Saturday, July 4, at 7 p.m. The performance is open to the public, free of charge.

The UAHF will host a "zabava" (dance) in celebration of the 20th anniversary.

(Continued on page 18)

### Pay a visit to Pennsylvania's Ukrainian Homestead

by Ihor J. Czenstuch

LEHIGHTON, Pa. – Located in the southern foothills of the Pocono Mountains in northeastern Pennsylvania, five miles from the Mahoning Valley exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Northeast Extension), is The Ukrainian Homestead, a piece of Ukraine on 200 acres owned by the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine (ODVU).

For over 50 years, this resort in Lehigh, Pa. – 75 miles north of Philadelphia and 90 miles west of New York City – has been the summer home for Ukrainians of all ages from various states and countries.

In recent years, this Ukrainian resort has experienced a resurgence of visitors. Adults who spent many summers at the Homestead are now bringing their children; third- and fourth-generation Ukrainians from the coal mining regions of Pennsylvania are revisiting their roots; and the new wave of Ukrainians is finding a haven at the "oselia."

The Ukrainian Homestead offers motel rooms, bungalows, barbeque areas, a swimming pool, two dance halls and a social club. A traditional open-air chapel also graces the grounds.

Occupied throughout the year by skiers, bikers, rafters, hunting and fishing enthusiasts, conventioners and vacationers, the Homestead is near attractions such as the quaint town of Jim Thorpe and many ski resorts.

In the summer the Homestead hosts two camps: Ukrainian Gold Cross Children's Camp and the Kazka Dance Camp. During the summer of 2009, the "oselia" will host several anniversaries: the 80th Anniversary

of ODVU, the 50th anniversary and reunion of the Ukrainian Gold Cross Camps and the 20th Anniversary of the Kazka Dance Ensemble.

The highlight of the summer is the annual Ukrainian Independence Day Festival held on the third weekend in August. Spectators come from many regions of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland come to experience traditional songs and dance as performed by groups from the U.S. and Canada. Guests feast on Ukrainian foods, view arts and crafts presented by many vendors, and enjoy the "zabava" (dance) on Saturday night. This year's festival will take place on August 15-16 and will feature Barvinok Dance Troupe (Canada), the Kazka Ensemble, violinist Inessa Tymochko-Dekailo and many more.

The summer season at the Homestead ends in September with the traditional "Pechennia Baraboli" (potato bake and pig roast) and dance.

For more information, or to make reservations, call The Ukrainian Homestead at 610-377-4621 or visit [www.ukrhomestead.com](http://www.ukrhomestead.com) for a complete schedule of events.

\*\*\*

As a special attraction this coming Fall, on the weekend of October 3-4, a re-enactment of the 1659 Battle of Konotop will take place. This was the battle where for the first time the Ukrainian and Polish nations united in battle against the Muscovites. Cannons, sabers and other period arms will be used on the "field of battle." Living history demonstrations and hands-on-activities are sure to keep the family engaged.



A performance by students of the dance workshop and camp in Lehigh, Pa.

## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### Journey to...

(Continued from page 11)

including breakfast. An average meal is \$6 at its restaurant.

The prices reveal that the Hotel Kyiv is indeed a Soviet relic, with no Internet service or indoor carpeting. Rooms are equipped with a television, simple furniture and hardwood floors. Its telephone number is (80532) 22-42-86.

A fourth option is Hotel Ukrayina at 41A Zhovtneva St., located less than a mile from the city center. Its 28 standard rooms rent for at \$31.50 a night per single bed, and \$40.50 per double bed, and \$49.50 per single luxury room and \$52.50 per double bed in a luxury room.

Rooms are fully renovated with a refrigerator, carpeting and standard Internet service. Its café offers meals that start at \$3.75. The telephone number is (80532) 80-53-22.

Among the top restaurants in Poltava is Ivanova Hora at Sobornyi Maidan 2, which features Ukrainian and Armenian cuisine. Its specialty dishes are its unique meat-stuffed halushky and grilled mutton.

Guests can enjoy billiards, its outdoor beer court and reserve its indoor banquet hall for social occasions. An English-language menu is provided. An average meal costs between \$18.75 and \$25, and reserving the elegant banquet hall requires \$31.25 per person. The telephone number is (80532) 56-00-03.

The Zefir restaurant at 24 Zhovtneva St. offers Ukrainian and Russian cuisine. Designed in the Russian style of the 19th century, its top dishes are caviar-stuffed pancakes, halushky and grilled trout with lemon. An English-language menu is available, and chefs can prepare dishes

not included on the menu. Management recommends reserving a table two days in advance. An average meal costs between \$12.50 and \$18.75. The telephone numbers are (80532) 61-26-96 and 61-26-97.

Café Apelsyn (Orange) is an all-night hangout offering Ukrainian and European dishes in addition to its bar. Among its renowned specialties are boiled ostrich meat with grapefruit and mayonnaise. An average meal costs between \$12.50 and \$18.75. It is located on Kalinina Street in an outlying district, and its telephone number is (80532) 68-25-29.

Besides participating in the 300th anniversary events, Poltava offers much for tourists to enjoy, including two drama theaters and a philharmonic.

The Sobornyi Maidan is home to the Ivan Kotliarevsky Farmstead Museum, a replica of the boyhood home of the author of "Eneida," a Ukrainian interpretation of the Odyssey and the first work published in the vernacular Ukrainian language. The Kotliarevsky Literary-Memorial Museum is located at 18 Pershotravnevyi Blvd.

The city's most popular outdoor area is the circular Korpusnyi Sad park in the very heart of the city. At the park's center is the Monument of Glory, built in 1811 on the 102nd anniversary of the Russian Army's victory against the Swedes and Ukrainians.

The monument consists of a cube-shaped pedestal with 18 rifles pointing out from all sides. A golden eagle holding a wreath in its beak is perched atop the 33-foot column that emerges from the pedestal.

Local legend stipulates that graduates of the local military institute climb the column and place their caps on the eagle's head after receiving their diplomas, but it's more myth than tradition since

nobody has claimed to have witnessed the feat.

In the evenings, Poltava residents and guests enjoy visiting the Bila Altanka, a simple Roman colonnade of eight columns that overlooks the city from Ivanova Hora and offers a panoramic view of the city, including the field where the Battle of Poltava was fought.

The Poltava Ethnography Museum at 2 Konstytutsiya St. is among the oldest and most famous museums in Ukraine, founded in 1889 by Dr. Vasyl Dokuchayev, a respected professor of geology, and designed by Ukrainian architect Vasyl Krychevsky in the Ukrainian modern style.

Its collection includes nearly 3,000 artifacts that represent the historical and cultural heritage of the Poltava region, including folk embroidery, weaving, carpet-making, archeological finds, numismatic materials and natural collections.

However, tourists will be most interested in visiting the Battle of Poltava Field state historical park and museum at 32 Shvedska Mohyla St., situated on the city's northwest outskirts and a 20-minute bus ride from the city center. Its telephone number is (80532) 22-27-48.

Among its monuments are those established by both the Russians for the Swedes and the Swedes for the Russians in 1909, 10 granite obelisks marking where sconces stood, the Peter the Great statue in front of the museum and a monument marking where the Russians crossed the Vorskla River.

The complex also includes the Khrestovozdvyzhenskyi Cathedral, which was built in 1650 and served as the headquarters for Swedish King Charles XII, the Spasky Church built in 1706 and a Russian soldiers' grave.

### Study language...

(Continued from page 13)

guage and become more aware of their Ukrainian heritage.

"Of course, as a university, we are focused on students who will be taking our course for class credit," noted Roman Vaskiv, director of the language school. "Nonetheless, we sincerely encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the intensive language and culture program, which is also designed to be accessible to busy professionals and adults with responsibilities who cannot take more than a few weeks to participate in a summer course."

Lviv, a UNESCO cultural heritage center, is the largest city in the world in which Ukrainian is spoken. Evening activities and weekend field trips include the cultural events and museums of Lviv, expeditions to monasteries, castles and villages in the countryside, as well as the possibility of travel to Ukraine's capital city, Kyiv, as well as other nearby cities.

Deadlines are fast approaching. For more information visit <http://www.os.ucu.edu.ua>

### Come see Ruslana...

(Continued from page 1)

melodies, dynamic rhythms, colors and movement collide to create something wild.

This summer, Ruslana and company will present this extraordinary show at Soyuzivka. Ruslana's first U.S. festival performance is sure to be an experience not to be missed.

— compiled from materials on [www.ruslana.ua](http://www.ruslana.ua)

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## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### Send your high school students to Kyiv Mohyla Academy

NEW YORK – Since 2005 the Ukrainian American Youth Association's New York branch, in conjunction with New York City's School of Ukrainian Studies (Ridna Shkola), has organized a summer studies program in Ukraine at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (NUKMA). The annual program, established for students interested in enhancing their Ukrainian language and cultural knowledge, has provided a top-notch educational experience as well as a unique opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the myriad historical, cultural and social offerings of the capital city and of Ukraine.

As the adult guides for the program, the authors of this article experienced first-hand the intensity and diversity of the program. The program was characterized by academic scholarship and achievement, hard work and the experience of student life in a leading Ukrainian university.

To supplement classroom learning, the program also included numerous field trips and excursions to the many historical and cultural sites in Kyiv and environs.

On a daily basis, the students had opportunities to observe and participate in contemporary life in Kyiv – the good, the interesting and the problematic. Ample free time was available to explore and socialize, and to form new and lasting friendships. The beauty of the city, with its wide boulevards, parks, gardens and architectural gems, proved to be a perfect backdrop for the summer immersion program.

The uniqueness of the program lies in its diversity. Students from different cities, countries and backgrounds, with varied talents and interests, gathered each morning for four hours of Ukrainian-language based instruction, covering topics including language, history, culture, mythology and contemporary political affairs.

The instructors also had diverse backgrounds – some were professors of NUKMA; others were distinguished guests and subject matter experts. Students were assigned to either intermediate or advanced classes, according to age and language abilities.

The professors, under the direction of Larissa Kadurina, the Kyiv-based NUKMA summer program director closely monitored the progress of their students. There was Western-style interaction and discussion in class. Homework consisted of writing assignments, and final exams were administered.

Each weekday afternoon was organized around a different "excursion" to one of

Kyiv's many interesting historical, cultural or natural sites. Students were given opportunities to explore art, enjoy music, relive some of Ukraine's history, and marvel at the splendor of this 1,000-year old city – the cradle of Ukrainian civilization. Each excursion was led by an experienced student guide who was knowledgeable and attentive to the interests and needs of the students.

In the words of Nataliya Surmachevska, a student participant: "The excursions all around Kyiv to all of the various landmarks were informative and fun. Finally, everything I had been learning about for years was right there, in front of my eyes!"

Evenings were mostly free and students could explore both the well-known and hidden corners of the city – its cafes and restaurants, shops, parks and public squares. It was a time to socialize with friends and to meet new ones.

On weekends, the students split into groups to pursue their various interests. One group enjoyed the beach and related activities at HydroPark along the banks of the Dnipro River. Another went shopping or to rummage through books and CDs at the Petrivka market. Still another went to explore and experience different parts of the city. Summer music concerts were abundant. It was possible to observe and enjoy the various political discussions and debates that are a staple of city life on Independence Square. Sidewalk cafes were filled and people-watching is a legitimate weekend activity.

The final week of the program was intended to be equally exhilarating yet completely different. It consisted of a whirlwind trip to a more remote area of Ukraine – far from the capital. Choices included western Ukraine, the Zakarpattia Region or Crimea. The students had an opportunity to experience a different Ukraine – more rural and less cosmopolitan.

It is difficult to imagine a more interesting and satisfying student program – one that is lived as a participant and temporary citizen of a great city in a young and dynamic country.

Simon Kazarenko summarized his recent experiences: "I believe this program is 'one of a kind,' unique in its liberal way of presenting the information, which was new to many of us. A combination of rigorous study, informative trips and freedom of choice for rest from the voluminous amounts of information gained each day is ideal for those seeking to know more about Ukrainian life and history."



Summer program participants during a visit to Yaremche in the Carpathians.

Much credit is due to the New York City organizers of this enriching program, including Bohdanna Wolansky, Peter Sabat, Mykola Hryckowian, Zhdan Lasowsky and especially the President of the Social Development Institute, Mykhaylo Kazarenko.

Mr. Kazarenko is the inspiration, implementor, and champion of this exceptional

project which deserves the highest level of community and parental support.

For further information about the 2009 summer program readers may log on to [www.sdinstitute.org](http://www.sdinstitute.org) or call 718-372-0235.

– Halia Hlushko, Stefania Kernytsky, Nataliya Lopatsky, Myron Melnyk and Ivanka Zajac



Students in class at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

### The Weekly asks...

(Continued from page 1)

on weekends to visit our daughter, Olesia, re-connect with longtime friends and see how much their children have changed since last year. In August, we'll spend a week at Soyuzivka along with aunts and uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins for the annual family get-together where we relax and rejuvenate. In the expectation that we'll be getting regular reports, we'll also get to vicariously enjoy the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv where our son, Mykhas, will be attending classes in June and July.

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## A Ukrainian Summer: where to go, what to do...

### Participate...

(Continued from page 15)

versary of the camp immediately following the performance.

For more information on the camp or the adult craft workshops, contact Paula Holoviak at 570-708-1992, Sandra Duda at 610-377-7750, or Joseph Zucovski at 570-622-8056, or e-mail holoviak@kutztown.edu. Forms and information are also available online at [www.kazkaensemble.org](http://www.kazkaensemble.org).

The camp is supported by the

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, through its regional arts funding partnership, Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA). State government funding for the arts depends upon an annual appropriation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. PPA is administered in this region by the Lehigh Valley Arts Council. Additional funding comes from the Schuylkill County Commissioners through the Schuylkill County Council for the Arts.

### Challenges...

(Continued from page 12)

ment, the Ukrainian word being "kvartyra." It's a term, used widely in Crimea, to describe luxury apartments.

At the dinner table, Ukrainians love to speculate on all the chemicals and additives in their foods. But when joining the discussion, don't complain about the "prezer-vatyvy," which in fact is the Ukrainian term for condom. "Konservanty" is the Ukrainian term for food preservatives.

When someone tells you they're going to the "mahazyn," they're referring to a store, not the newspaper kiosk to buy a magazine. And shut away "sklep" from your vocabulary because that's strictly the Polish word for store. In western Ukraine the proper word for store is "kramnytsia."

Your laptop is a "noutbuk," and your notebook is either a "zoshyt" or "bloknot." No one will understand your references to your laptop.

"Miting" has indeed found its way into the Ukrainian language, but it strictly refers to a street demonstration or protest, not a business meeting or flirtatious rendezvous.

If nephew or niece asks for an American "futbolka" as a gift, it's a T-shirt, not the prolate spheroid ball made of pigskin.

A "test" refers strictly to standardized, multiple-choice tests, not an "ispyt" or "ekzamen," which are the standard verbal and written tests.

When informing your relatives of your upcoming "vizyt," they might think you are a bit pretentious because that strictly refers to an official or state visit by a government leader. It's a "vidviduvannia" when travel to see your friends or family.

Batteries are "batereiky." A "batereya" is a radiator.

A "kostium" can be a costume, but more often than not, they're referring to your business suit.

An "interviu" is strictly a question and answer with a journalist, whereas a job interview is strictly called a "spivbesida."

Pasta is not "pasta," which is the Ukrainian word for paste. Instead Ukrainians refer to pasta as "makarony," or by the slang term "vermisheli."

A "sympatychna" person is attractive and likable, not necessarily sympathetic.

The "militsiya" is simply the police, not some kind of citizens' militia.

Another challenge for diaspora tourists involves filtering out all those diasporisms, or words that exist exclusively in the universe known as the North American Ukrainian diaspora, and nowhere else.

If you utter these words in Ukraine, even in the Halychyna region, you will receive facial expressions that express puzzlement, bewilderment and perhaps laughter, depending on the temperament of the person you're addressing:

Basketball is simply "basketbol," not "koshykivka," a well-meaning invention,

employing the Ukrainian word for basket, by the diaspora. And you play "basketbol" wearing "krosivky," the Ukrainian word for sneakers, not "tenysivky."

When you need to use the bathroom, it's the "tualet," not any "laznychka" or "kliozet." I imagine the latter word is derived from the British term, "water closet," for which you'll see references throughout Ukraine with the pervasive WC signs.

Your audio and video recordings are stored on a "plivka," not a "tasma." Neither is "tasma" the word for Scotch tape, which is simply "skoch" in Ukrainian.

If you can't find a washing machine (there's not a single laundromat in Ukraine) and run out of underwear, please ask for "trusy," not "pidshtantsi." And your trip to Ukraine is a "vidpustka," not "vakatsiyi," another word that likely emerged in the diaspora.

Although diaspora Ukrainians love "lescheta" and "leschetarstvo" as much as any other sport, skis are "lyzhi" and skiing is "lyzhnyi sport." (Although the Karpatskyi Leschetarskyi Kliub [Carpathian Ski Club] is active in Ukraine.)

"Bronzovyi" is the Ukrainian adjective for bronze, not brown, which is "korych-nevnyi." And cleaning up a mess or stain requires a "hanchirka," not a "shmata," a diasporism which will certainly draw curious looks.

William Taylor Jr. is the American "posol" to Ukraine, not the "ambassador." Pronouncing an English word with a Ukrainian accent does not magically make it Ukrainian.

Finally, "sklep" and "gratyiuu" are strictly Polish words. "Vitary" is to congratulate someone in Ukrainian. "Ya vitayu vas" if you can remember this all.

Once you've mastered the false friends and eliminated your diasporisms, you will have to cope with the Ukrainians who have succumbed to Russisms, or strictly Russian words that have infested the Ukrainian language.

Many Ukrainians don't even know they're using Russian words, so be patient with them, just as they're patient with you. After all, we're an oppressed people who have had to master other languages before our very own. We're bound to mix things up.

While hundreds, if not thousands, of Russian words plague the present-day vocabulary of Ukrainians, here are 12 to look out for:

- (1) tapochky – kaptsi – slippers
- (2) klubnika – polunytsia – strawberry
- (3) butylka – plishka – bottle
- (4) roza – troianda – rose
- (5) polotyentse – rushnyk – towel
- (6) konky – kovzany – skates
- (7) gruzovik – vantazhivka – truck
- (8) vilka – vydelka – fork
- (9) triapka – hanchirka – rag
- (10) zakaz – zamovlennia – order
- (11) spravka – dovidka – certificate
- (12) myeshat – zavzhaty – interfere

### Enroll in...

(Continued from page 9)

To apply, students must be at least 19 years old or have completed one year of college. Exceptional high school students may be considered through Harvard's Secondary School Program. They must submit the Harvard Summer School registration form and the non-refundable \$50 registration to: Tamara Nary, Program Administrator, Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute, 34 Kirkland St., Cambridge, MA, 02138.

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School courses is \$4,950. Being subsidized by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, HUSI is able to offer its program for a reduced fee of \$2,970 for eight units of credit. Admission is based on the applicant's academic record letter of recommendation, and an essay.

The deadline for applying is May 26. However, students can apply as late as the middle of June if they are willing to pay Harvard Summer School's late fees.

For more information and application materials, call the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute, 617-495-3549, e-mail [www.huri@harvard.edu/husi.html](mailto:www.huri@harvard.edu/husi.html), or fax 617-495-8097.



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# SOYUZIVKA

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## 2009 Summer Calendar of events

- |         |  |                       |  |
|---------|--|-----------------------|--|
| May 22  | Memorial Day weekend<br>Friday Evening Tiki Party with Pete & Vlodya<br>Saturday zabava with Svitanok, 10 pm<br>Sunday evening Tiki Party with Zuki & Mike | July 31               | Friday Evening Tiki Party with Kagero  |
| June 14 | UNA Seniors Week   | August 1              | Film Festival, hosted by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk and the Columbia Film Club; Zabava with Na Zdorovya, 10 pm; Sitch Sports Camp Session 2                                       |
| June 21 | UNA Father's Day; Tennis Camp  | August 2              | Adoptive Parents Ukrainian Heritage Days   |
| June 27 | USCAK Tennis Tournament Weekend  | August 7              | Friday Evening Tiki Party with Pete & Vlodya   |
| June 28 | Tabir Ptashat 1st session; Exploration Day Camp 1  | August 8              | Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation Golf Tournament / Fund-Raiser; Dance Camp 1 Recital, 3 pm; Sitch Sports School 40th Anniversary Commemoration; Zabava with Svitanok, 10 pm |
| July 3  | Friday Evening Tiki Party with Hrim Unplugged  | August 9              | Dance Camp session 2   |
| July 4  | Saturday Zabava with Hrim, 10 pm   | August 14             | Friday Evening Tiki Party with Slavko Halatyn  |
| July 5  | Tabir Ptashat 2nd session; Exploration Day Camp 2; Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop   | August 15             | Miss Soyuzivka Pageant and zabava with Tempo, 10 pm  |
| July 10 | Friday Evening Tiki Party  | August 21             | Friday Evening Tiki Party with Hrim unplugged  |
| July 11 | Saturday zabava with Fata Morgana, 10 pm   | August 22             | Dance Camp Recital, 3 pm; Zabava with Hrim, 10 pm  |
| July 17 | Ukrainian Cultural Festival with Ruslana and George Dzundza as MC  | August 23             | Joseph's School of Dance (ballroom dance)  |
| July 19 | Heritage Camp session 1; Discovery Camp  | August 28             | Recital of Joseph's School of Dance, 8 pm  |
| July 24 | Friday Evening Tiki Party  | August 31-September 7 | Labor Day week<br>Weekend entertainment to be announced  |
| July 25 | Saturday zabava with Oberehy, 10 pm; Sitch Sports Camp Session 1   |                       |  |
| July 26 | Heritage Camp session 2; Dance Camp session 1  |                       |  |

For Additional information please or call us at (845) 626 -5641 or check the Soyuzivka website @ [www.Soyuzivka.com](http://www.Soyuzivka.com)

## FOLLOW-UP: President Barack Obama's statement on Armenian Remembrance Day

Following is the statement by President Barack Obama on Armenian Remembrance Day released on April 24 by the White House, Office of the Press Secretary. We publish this as a follow-up to last week's commentary on the Armenian Genocide by Dr. Jean-Pierre Cap.

Ninety-four years ago, one of the great atrocities of the 20th century began. Each year, we pause to remember the 1.5 million Armenians who were subsequently massacred or marched to their death in the final days of the Ottoman Empire. The Meds Yeghern must live on in our memories, just as it lives on in the hearts of the Armenian people.

History, unresolved, can be a heavy weight. Just as the terrible events of 1915 remind us of the dark prospect of man's inhumanity to man, reckoning with the past holds out the powerful promise of reconciliation. I have consistently stated my own view of what occurred in 1915, and my view of that history has not changed. My interest remains the achievement of a full, frank and just acknowledgment of the facts.

The best way to advance that goal right now is for the Armenian and Turkish people to address the facts of the past as a part of their efforts to move forward. I strongly support efforts by the Turkish and Armenian people to work through this

painful history in a way that is honest, open and constructive. To that end, there has been courageous and important dialogue among Armenians and Turks, and within Turkey itself. I also strongly support the efforts by Turkey and Armenia to normalize their bilateral relations. Under Swiss auspices, the two governments have agreed on a framework and roadmap for normalization. I commend this progress, and urge them to fulfill its promise.

Together, Armenia and Turkey can forge a relationship that is peaceful, productive and prosperous. And together, the Armenian and Turkish people will be stronger as they acknowledge their common history and recognize their common humanity.

Nothing can bring back those who were lost in the Meds Yeghern. But the contributions that Armenians have made over the last 94 years stand as a testament to the talent, dynamism and resilience of the Armenian people, and as the ultimate rebuke to those who tried to destroy them. The United States of America is a far richer country because of the many Americans of Armenian descent who have contributed to our society, many of whom immigrated to this country in the aftermath of 1915. Today, I stand with them and with Armenians everywhere with a sense of friendship, solidarity and deep respect.

## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



## Two sons of Ukraine

We all reflect a point in time and circumstance, and so it is with two of Ukraine's greatest sons: writers Mykola Hohol and Taras Shevchenko. Born five years apart, they grew up within 150 miles of each other a generation and a half after Empress Catherine II's armies destroyed the Zaporozhian Sich in 1775. With that, Ukraine lost its last vestiges of freedom and independence. Like everyone else, Shevchenko and Hohol heard the story from blind kobzars who wandered the countryside singing about Ukraine's heroic past to a people mired in abject serfdom.

Mykola Hohol, whose 200th anniversary we celebrate this year, was born in Sorochyntsi, a village in the Poltava region. His father, Vasyly, owned a modest estate with the usual complement of serfs. All of them, as well as their master, were descended from Kozaks. When his father died in 1825, Mykola was 16. Three years later, he left for St. Petersburg, aspiring to enter into government service.

In Russia's capital, Hohol became Nikolai Gogol. Eventually, he did get a job as a government official, but after 15 months he quit, disillusioned and cynical. Gogol's real calling was literature and he began writing the stories he had heard growing up, elaborating and adding twists that made them his own. With a healthy market for books about the region the empire called "Little Russia," Gogol in 1831 and 1832 published two volumes of "Village Evenings near Dykanka," featuring stories based on Ukrainian history and folklore. The 23-year-old author became a sensation, winning prominent new friends, including Alexander Pushkin. (It would not have been lost on Gogol that Pushkin had recently published "Poltava," celebrating Tsar Peter's victory over Ukraine's Hetman Ivan Mazepa, someone Russians considered an arch-traitor – many still do.)

In 1835 Gogol published "Mirgorod," another collection based on Ukraine, including "Taras Bulba," about the Kozak who leads a revolt against Poland. When his son betrays his nation for the love of a Polish noble woman, his father executes him with his own hand. Mindful of his audience, Gogol wrote in Russian.

In February 1831, months before Gogol's "Dykanka" appeared, another Ukrainian – Taras Shevchenko, a 16-year-old slave and valet to his master, Pavel Engelhardt – arrived in St. Petersburg. Before long, he too made a name for himself, following a parallel but far different path than Hohol. Because of his intelligence and talent as an artist, Shevchenko came to the attention of cultural activists who bought him his freedom in 1838. Unwittingly, they changed the course of history.

Like Gogol, the young Shevchenko was a literary genius who drew inspiration from Ukraine's history and culture. Unlike his countryman, Shevchenko wrote poetry instead of prose and, mindful of his audience – illiterate, disenfranchised serfs – he wrote in Ukrainian. Critics lambasted him for writing in a language that few people read, but millions of Ukrainians took Shevchenko's "Kobzar" to heart and recited his verse from memory.

Embittered and radicalized by the contrast between his own emancipation and the bondage of his people, Shevchenko began writing revolutionary verse, initially for the drawer but ultimately for a far wider audience: "to the dead, the living and those yet unborn, to my countrymen who live in Ukraine and outside..." Fight for your lib-

eration, he exhorted them: "rend your chains and bless liberty with the vile, evil blood of your enemies!" In 1847, Tsar Nicholas's secret police uncovered Shevchenko's poetry, arrested and exiled him to the most remote corners of the empire to serve as a lowly private in the imperial army.

Gogol moved in the opposite direction: as his fame grew, he shifted from Ukrainian themes to Russian. His 1842 play, the "Inspector General" – based on his unhappy experience as a bureaucrat – ridiculed government officials as corrupt, lazy and dysfunctional. In constant repertory on the Russian stage ever since, audiences universally recognize the types that Gogol satirizes so effectively. In 1842 Gogol also published "Dead Souls," where a smooth-talking swindler buys title to serfs who died but are still listed on official census rolls. He uses them as collateral for a loan, which gives him entry to aristocratic circles so he can cut further deals. Here, Gogol lampoons Russian society as morally rotten, greedy and paranoid.

In 1842, Gogol also redid "Taras Bulba." The original version has a strong Ukrainian context; the revised one a Russian nationalist orientation, reflecting the tsarist line and Gogol's growing identification with the empire.

Although they never met, Shevchenko and Gogol were well aware of each other. In 1844 Shevchenko dedicated a clandestine poem to Gogol, comparing himself to his famous countryman: "While you laugh, I cry..." Gogol was also familiar with Shevchenko – he was "enchanted by Shevchenko's 'Kobzar' and 'Haidamaky'..." and following Shevchenko's arrest, said "the personal fate of the poet is worthy of every sympathy and sorrow."

Following the triumphant year of 1842, Gogol became increasingly eccentric, going into voluntary exile, wandering around Europe and Russia. He died in 1852, deliberately starving himself in the midst of depression and despair. Days before he died, he burned the long-awaited manuscript of the second part of "Dead Souls."

On the 200th anniversary of his birth on April Fool's Day, both Russians and Ukrainians claimed Gogol's legacy, reflecting our own time, when Russia is working to maintain its centuries-old dominance over Ukraine, even as the newly independent country aggressively asserts its identity by reclaiming its history and legacy.

It's not scientific research but, for what it's worth, I went to a few bookstores in Cleveland to check on Gogol and sure enough, he's still in print, just as he was when I first read him in English 45 years ago. I still have those books, which unambiguously identify him as a Russian author. Today's editions unmistakably describe him as Ukrainian – a different time, different circumstance. Yet, there's no denying that Gogol, winning fame by tapping into his Ukrainian identity, ended up as one of the principal architects of Russian literature.

And yes, I also checked on Shevchenko and confirmed that bookstores are not stocking his books. We're not there yet. Still, judging by the map of the world today, compared to what it looked like when he was alive, you might be justified in concluding that Shevchenko, humbler but far bolder than his more famous brother, may well over time have made a far greater difference.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is [fedynsky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fedynsky@sbcglobal.net).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Holodomor study in state of New York

Dear Editor:

The New York State Education Law, Article 17, Section 801, mandates the study of the Holocaust and the mass starvation in Ireland, but not the Ukrainian Famine Genocide, or Holodomor, of 1932-1933. We can have the Holodomor included in the New York State education curriculum, but we need the public's help.

Currently, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins has introduced Bill S3356 in the New York State Senate and Assemblyman Mike Spano has introduced Bill A6690 in the New York State Assembly that would require the study of the Holodomor. Sixty-two senators and 150 assemblypersons throughout New York State will be voting on this in May or June. It is particularly important that we get the support of the members of the Senate and Assembly education committees.

We need to flood members of the Senate and Assembly with phone calls, letters and e-mails asking them to support these bills and sign on as co-sponsors. Readers can find their legislators by logging on to [www.senate.state.ny.us](http://www.senate.state.ny.us) and [www.assembly.state.ny.us](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us).

We need people in cities throughout the state of New York who will mobilize these efforts. We need to set up a network of key contact people so that we can keep each other updated and offer suggestions on how to get this passed. For more information readers may contact me at 914-965-6467 or [Holodomoreducators@yahoo.com](mailto:Holodomoreducators@yahoo.com).

Oksana Kulynych  
Yonkers, N.Y.

### We welcome your opinion

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

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

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

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

occasionally, not on a permanent basis,  
persuaded me that there is practically no  
hope," he said. Mr. Yanukovich said that  
the PRU is ready to support the govern-  
ment's program of activities on condition  
that the "Party of Regions would form the  
skeleton of the government" if the Cabinet  
of Ministers is fully reformed. He also  
said that after the presidential election no  
president would wish to work with the cur-  
rent government. Speaking about the pos-  
sible creation of a new coalition in the near  
future, Mr. Yanukovich said that the for-  
mation of such a coalition "is theoretically  
possible, if there is an understanding  
[between the PRU and the YTB]." Ukrainian  
political experts described the chances of  
forming a coalition between the YTB and  
the PRU as realistic. The president of the  
Open Policy Analytical Center, Ihor Zhdanov,  
said that the two parties had made serious  
progress in agreeing on the draft of a new  
Constitution and in forming a new govern-  
ment. The director of the Penta Center for  
Political Studies, Volodymyr Fesenko, pre-  
dicted that if this agreement is reached,  
President Viktor

Yushchenko would once again take up the  
question of the Ukrainian Parliament's dis-  
solution, as he would face threats to his  
interests. (Ukrinform)

#### Plane detained at Boryspil

KYIV – A plane from New York was  
detained at Boryspil Airport on April 29  
due to suspicion that one of passengers  
was infected with swine flu. One of the pas-  
sengers, a U.S. citizen, felt ill and pilots  
informed Boryspil Airport services about it.  
There were 184 passengers and nine crew-  
members aboard the plane. Doctors exam-  
ined the passenger but failed to detect any  
symptoms of swine flu. Passengers were  
then allowed to leave the plane. Sanitary  
control over citizens arriving from abroad  
has been set up at all Ukrainian airports with  
the aim of stopping the swine flu from enter-  
ing the country's territory. (Ukrinform)

#### Embassies monitor swine flu

KYIV – The Foreign Affairs Ministry  
ordered Ukraine's embassies abroad to keep  
track of the situation regarding the spread  
of swine flu and the measures taken in the  
countries of their mission, MFA press secre-

(Continued on page 29)

## Poltava residents...

(Continued from page 1)

Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

Poltava patriots allege postponing the  
unveiling is part of a larger, ongoing cam-  
paign to subvert any homage to the Kozak  
leader.

In the fall, a majority in the Poltava  
Oblast Council consisting of the Tymoshenko  
Bloc, Party of Regions and Communist Party  
voted to deny state subsidies for the Mazepa  
monument.

Mr. Kulchynskyi officially launched his  
fund-raising drive on February 12; he told  
The Weekly he secured \$7,500 from Our  
Ukraine, \$20,000 from Presidential  
Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha, and \$15  
and \$20 contributions from average  
Ukrainians, who sent donations to an  
UkrSotsBank bank account.

The brisk fund-raising success led the  
City Council to vote on April 16 to cancel  
the land designation and postpone the  
unveiling, he alleged.

While the Oblast Council wasn't able to  
find funding for a monument, it did find  
money to renovate the system of renovated  
sconces, or protective earthen fortifications,  
at the Battle of Poltava Field state historical  
park and museum.

It's at this site that Russian visitors,  
including hundreds of members of an orga-  
nization called "Descendants of the Victory,"  
are expected to participate in a "Glory of  
Russian Weaponry" celebration.

Mr. Kulchynskyi was also offended  
when the anniversary organizing committee  
denied organizers of MazepaFest the chance  
to host the annual Ukrainian pop and folk  
music concert over the June 27 weekend,  
which would have given the Russians a  
glimpse of Ukrainian culture.

"They've taken a marked anti-Ukrainian  
position, denying a Ukrainian accent to the  
events and keeping them in the Soviet spir-  
it," said Mr. Kulchynskyi, who has spon-  
sored MazepaFest for six years.

Monuments aren't the only thing irking  
local politicians.

Last year the City Council gave  
Poltava film director Oleg Mingalev  
\$3,375 to produce a 10-minute advertise-  
ment for the festival, but he instead pro-  
duced a 15-minute documentary about  
Mazepa, shot with theatrical and operatic  
elements, as he described it.

"It's about Mazepa's internal condition  
before the battle – he sings and calls the  
people to war," Mr. Mingalev said. "It's not  
a dry film. It's historically true from a

Ukrainian view, as a leader of a nation.  
Mazepa left behind poems, and I used one  
of them in the film."

He submitted a raw version of "On the  
Wings of Memory" for Mr. Matkovskyi's  
review in September. The mayor wasn't par-  
ticularly impressed.

"First they read the screenplay, approving  
its Ukrainian theme," he said. "It's possible  
afterwards they became concerned that it  
was too much about Mazepa, as opposed to  
[Russian Tsar] Peter the Great. To this day,  
Mazepa is not perceived as a hero, which  
should be the appropriate view. I suppose  
it's because they were raised Soviet."

In the highly politicized Ukrainian soci-  
ety, officials representing Mayor Matkovskyi  
suggested to Mr. Mingalev that he finance  
the film's remaining production expenses on  
his own, making a largely incredulous offer  
of reimbursing him afterwards.

Mr. Matkovskyi was elected to the City  
Council in 2006 with the Yulia Tymoshenko  
Bloc, which depicts itself as a political force  
that fights for Ukrainian language and cul-  
ture but often fails to deliver.

When he was elected as council chair in  
November 2006, Mr. Matkovskyi drew sup-  
port from the Tymoshenko Bloc and the  
Communist Party of Ukraine.

Our Ukraine has only three deputies on  
the Poltava City Council, Mr. Kulchynskyi  
said – not enough to combat the anti-Ukrainian  
policies of the Communist Party, the  
Party of Regions of Ukraine and the  
Tymoshenko Bloc.

Meanwhile, the organizing committee  
has announced that another film, "The Battle  
of Poltava: Ukrainian Territory," described  
only as "academic, popular," will be  
screened on May 24 (<http://www.battle-poltava.org>).

A woman at the tourism and cultural heri-  
tage division of the city's cultural adminis-  
tration, who declined to give her name, said  
the film was being directed by Anatolii  
Mishen at the oblast's Ltava TV network.

She declined to offer any other details,  
including the screening's location, and  
Poltava patriots have begun expressing con-  
cern about its content.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mingalev said if he finds  
the necessary funds soon, he could complete  
his film in time for the June 27 anniversary  
weekend.

"Mazepa lost the battle, but he won a lot  
for Ukraine," he said. "He not only built  
churches and schools, he built the Ukrainian  
state. But a part of Ukrainians betrayed  
Mazepa nevertheless."

And history has proven it has a tendency  
to repeat itself.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 8)

tary Vasyl Kyrylych said on April 27. The Foreign Affairs Ministry also expressed the need for timely notification of Ukrainian citizens staying abroad about safety measures. The ministry had no information at the time about Ukrainians who might have contracted swine flu in the United States or Mexico, Mr. Kyrylych said. (Ukrinform)

### Ukraine bans some pork imports

KYIV – Ukraine has banned the import of live pigs, pork and pork products from Mexico, the United States, Canada and New Zealand due to outbreaks of swine flu in these countries, the press service of the State Committee for Veterinary Service said. The ban also applies to products sent after April 21. The import of live pigs and pork from the mentioned countries has been banned due to the worsening of the epidemiological situation with swine influenza A (H1N1). (Ukrinform)

### Tyhytko plans to run for president

KYIV – Another banker, Swedbank CEO Serhii Tyhytko, has expressed his intention of running in the upcoming presidential election. The announcement came after Arseniy Yatsenyuk, former chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and also a banker, declared himself a candidate. Mr. Tyhytko, co-chairman of the Council of Investors at the Cabinet of Ministers and an adviser to the prime minister, said he would resign and run for president. He said he wanted to return to politics to influence the situation in Ukraine since, in his opinion, the country is entering a “zone of turbulence, including political turbulence.” Mr. Tyhytko predicted that the authorities and the opposition would lose their popularity. He noted that 30 to 40 percent of voters currently do not want to support so-called “old” politicians, adding that the number of these voters will grow. Mr. Tyhytko headed the headquarters of presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich during the presidential election campaign in 2004, but in November 2004 he left the post and resigned as chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine. At that time he said he was not planning to return to politics. The Verkhovna

Rada has called presidential elections for October 25, however, the legality of this date is currently being considered by the Constitutional Court. (Ukrinform)

### Koran translated into Ukrainian

OSTROH, Ukraine – A scholar at the National University of Ostroh Academy in Ukraine’s Rivne Oblast has completed the first-ever full translation of the Koran into Ukrainian. The author of the translation, Mykhailo Yakubovych, told RFE/RL that the translation of all 114 Surahs of the Koran is only one part of a bigger project. According to him, classics of Arabic and Persian literature that have never been translated into any European languages will be translated into Ukrainian in the future. He also said that experts at the Saudi periodical Journal of Qur’anic Research and Studies had given him high marks for his translation. (RFE/RL Ukrainian Service)

### Piskun sacking is voided

KYIV – Kyiv’s district court of appeal on April 23 cancelled the presidential decree of May 24, 2007, relieving Sviatoslav Piskun of his duties as procurator general. Commenting on the court verdict, Mr. Piskun said that the decree was ruled invalid because the prosecutor general was discharged without the Verkhovna Rada’s consent. He said he was not sure what he should do next. Mr. Piskun is a national deputy, and Oleksander Medvedko heads the Procurator General’s Office. Mr. Piskun voiced his hope that the Presidential Secretariat would challenge his reinstatement, which did not bring him joy. (Ukrinform)

### Questions about constitutional majority

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada must prove the existence of a constitutional majority that is capable of working effectively, President Viktor Yushchenko reiterated at a press conference on April 22. “This coalition must provide evidence of its existence, it must be shaped, it must present the government and so on. A second option is enlargement of the coalition,” Mr. Yushchenko added. Referring to the situation in the Ukrainian Parliament, the head of state noted that

today there is no parliamentary majority. “No politician in this country saw a list that would have been signed by 226 deputies saying that we are a group of national deputies in that composition, we undertake – as the Constitution envisages – a political responsibility for the economic and social course of the country,” the president emphasized. “I will do my best so that the Parliament starts working efficiently. If this does not happen, there is another way – pre-term parliamentary elections,” Mr. Yushchenko said. He said the presidential election of October 25 must be held simultaneously with snap parliamentary elections, adding that a major prerequisite is that the elections should be held only after the election law is amended and deputies’ immunity from prosecution is restricted. (Ukrinform)

### Nemyria addresses Brookings Institution

KYIV – Within the framework of his official visit to the United States, Ukraine’s Vice Prime Minister for European and International Integration Hryhoriy Nemyria on April 22 delivered a report at the Brookings Institution. Speaking on “Current Political and Economic Developments in Ukraine,” Mr. Nemyria focused on the burning issues of relations between Ukraine and Russia, the political situation in Ukraine in the run-up to the presidential election, and government measures to overcome the effects of the global financial and economic turmoil. He also held meetings with representatives of the U.S. National Security Council and the co-chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Richard Lugar, to discuss implementation of the Ukraine-U.S. Charter on Strategic Partnership and the development of bilateral relations for 2009. The parties also discussed support for Ukraine in the context of the fulfillment of its commitments made in the agreements with the International Monetary Fund and ways to overcome the global economic downturn. Mr. Nemyria began his working visit to the United States on April 21. He led the Ukrainian delegation to the spring meeting of the boards of the IMF and the World Bank. (Ukrinform)

### Captain rescues 75 in Indian Ocean

KYIV – Mykola Chernikov, the Ukrainian captain of the German freighter Dorian, rescued 75 persons in the Indian Ocean near Tanzanian shores. Despite a storm and strong winds, he ordered the freighter to turn back to rescue the passengers and crew of the sinking ship. The 42-meter Etoile d’Anjouan carried 47 passengers (including four children) and 28 crewmembers. One sailor died. It was impossible to save the ship. (Ukrinform)

### Foreigners must provide biometric data

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on April

14 adopted a bill of amendments to Article 25 of the law on the legal status of foreigners and non-citizens. The bill orders foreigners and non-citizens to provide their biometric data for registration during the issuance of entry visas at diplomatic and consular offices of Ukraine abroad, as well as during customs control at state border checkpoints (if another is not stipulated by law). Determination of the list of this data and the procedure for its submission is to be decided by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The bill goes into effect on January 1, 2010. (Ukrinform)

### Number of jobless down by 30,000

KYIV – According to the State Statistics Committee, in March the official unemployment rate in Ukraine dropped by 0.1 points to 3.1 percent. As of April 1, some 879,000 million jobless were registered at the State Employment Service, while as of March 1 there were 906,000. The number of unemployed who received state assistance in March made up 627,400 persons, and the average amount of assistance received was 604.16 hrv. (Ukrinform)

### Ukraine considers Canadian technologies

KYIV – Presidential Secretariat Deputy Chief Andrii Honcharuk and Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Daniel Caron have discussed the implementation of a memorandum of mutual understanding and cooperation in the field of nuclear energy that was signed by Ukraine’s national nuclear energy generating company Energoatom and Canada’s AECL (Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.) in May 2008. The Ukrainian official confirmed that a joint group is continuing to study the possible development in Ukraine of the nuclear fuel cycle based on the CANDU nuclear power reactors and the drafting of a respective feasibility study. Mr. Honcharuk said that these technologies are special, because nuclear reactors operate on ordinary, rather than enriched uranium. Ambassador Caron, in turn, said that in this connection, he had held talks with Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Minister Yurii Prodan. He also said that Canada is planning to participate in the Ukrainian project on the building of a satellite, and called for the construction of this satellite in Canada. (Ukrinform)

### Poland to open Consulate in Vinnytsia

KYIV – Poland’s Consulate General in Vinnytsia will start working on September 1, said Vladyslav Mormytko, head of the International Cooperation and European Integration Department at the Vinnytsia Oblast State Administration. Consulates General of Poland are already functioning in the Ukrainian cities of Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa, Kharkiv and Luhansk. (Ukrinform).

## Medvedev tells...

(Continued from page 3)

On May 7 representatives of Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan have been invited to attend a summit in Prague on its Eastern Partnership, which is meant to extend special benefits to the EU’s eastern neighbors.

Much speculation is circulating over whether Belarus’s authoritarian president, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, will attend. The invitations to the summit are not personal, giving every country’s leader the choice of whether to turn up in Prague in person. Many EU nations expect Mr. Lukashenka to send a stand-in.

A joint declaration signed by the 27 EU member-states and the six partner countries is planned for the summit. The text of the document is still being discussed with the partners and was expected to be finalized a week in advance of the summit.

On May 8 the EU will hold another summit in Prague, dedicated to what has become known as the Southern Corridor of energy provision.

This meeting will be conducted under the auspices of the EU “troika” of Mr. Topolaneck, Mr. Solana and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. The three will face officials representing Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

Together, the five countries represent the EU’s main hope of securing signifi-

cant amounts of natural gas deliveries without resorting to Russian supplies or mediation.

Six “observers” have also been invited – Iraq, Egypt and Uzbekistan as potential supplier countries; and Russia, Ukraine and the United States as other major interested parties.

The presence of the last three has been the subject of some controversy within the EU. Germany led a long-established group of countries – including France, Italy and Spain, among others – which overcame resistance from others and secured an invitation for Russia.

The Southern Corridor is explicitly defined by the EU as a direct link to energy resources in the Caspian Sea region bypassing Russia.

A draft summit declaration, seen by RFE/RL, breaks new ground for the EU by saying the bloc intends to “give strong political support” to the construction of the Southern Corridor – including the “trans-Caspian link.” This is a planned gas pipeline running from Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan which would link Central Asia directly with the Nabucco pipeline. It is projected to run from Baku to Europe, circumventing Russia.

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The Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists  
regrets to announce that

**VASYL LUCHKIW**

passed away on March 18, 2009

Mr. Luchkiw was an exemplary member of the Ukrainian community and active in many facets of the Ukrainian community life in the United States. His loyalty and dedication will be sorely missed.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Mary, sons Michael, William, John, and their families and the entire Luchkiw family in the US and Ukraine.

**May he rest in peace!**

## Executive...

(Continued from page 5)

over the past three years: in 2006 it was \$1,903,000; in 2007 – \$1,206,000; and in 2008 – 677,000.

National Secretary Kozak, national secretary reported on the very positive direction the UNA has taken in terms of the sales of its products. Total premium income for 2008 was \$12,741,403 – an increase of 195 percent over 2007 income of \$4,317,784. New business in life insurance resulted in the issuance of 200 policies for \$2,523,000 in total face amount with total annual premiums of \$146,879. The 20-Payment Life and Single-Premium Life Insurance plans continue to dominate the types of plans sold.

The year 2008 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. It is a variety of key factors coming together along with the very competitive rates the UNA is offering that are increasing the UNA's annuity business, Ms. Kozak explained.

The UNA continues a strong recruitment effort to contract independent agents and is making a concerted effort in the form of newsletters, flyers and direct contact to keep the UNA name in the forefront.

The UNA introduced the "Loyal Member Program," a new incentive program for short-term annuity holders which pays a .25 point more interest than the current

interest rate if a member rolls over a short-term annuity into another one.

So far year, 2009 has also begun on a very good note, the national secretary continued. The new rate books have been printed and distributed among branch secretaries, and the feedback has been very positive. The newest product offered is the 20-Year Term, which has excellent rates and was a very much requested type of plan. Currently, the UNA has four types of term life insurance plans available: five-, 10- and 20-year term, as well as Term to Age 30, a juvenile term policy. In general, the premium rates on most of the products have decreased, making the cost of the products much more competitive.

Treasurer Lisovich reported that the UNA has been fortunate that the current financial crisis has not had a significant impact on the yield of its investment portfolio and there is noticeable progress in investment income performance. The net investment income as of the year ending December 31, 2008, stood at \$4,009,000 in comparison with the \$3,474,000 and \$3,052,000 recorded at the end of 2007 and 2006, respectively.

The UNA was fortunate not to be significantly impaired by the tumultuous credit markets, of the last quarter of 2008. The emphasis on credit risk management has been paramount and the exposure to credit risk was limited by the UNA's policy of broad diversification, Ms. Lisovich noted. The emphasis continues on bonds as the prime investment vehicle with a decreased

reliance on mortgages and stocks.

The stocks held by the UNA are common stocks that were inherited from previous administrations and no new investments were made in the last two terms of the present Executive Committee, she explained. The investment portfolio holds no direct exposure to sub-prime mortgages, collateralized debt obligations, or credit default swaps. The UNA's portfolio yield average in 2008 was 6.25 percent. This, however, will be more and more difficult to sustain as rates go down.

Preparations for the Ukrainian Cultural Festival to be held July 17-19, at the Ukrainian Heritage Center at Soyuzivka are in full swing. As in previous years, the Ukrainian National Foundation is running the festival. This year the festival promises to be bigger and better than in previous years as Ruslana, the Eurovision 2004 winner, is headlining the event. The advertising campaign has started – flyers and posters will be ready for distribution in the near future.

At the request of the UNA General Assembly, a meeting was held in Toronto in October 2008 requesting all Canadian branch secretaries to attend or, if not possi-

ble, to send a branch representative. Representing the Home Office were President Kaczaraj and Auditor Tysiak, who walked the participants through the statistical information in insurance sales by secretaries in Canada since 1998 and briefed them on a proposal to convert current Canadian insurance policies from Canadian dollars to U.S. dollars.

Mr. Kaczaraj and Director for Canada Groch provided additional information related to the work of the Canadian Committee over the past 14 months. A strong emphasis was placed, first and foremost, preserving the secretarial network and keeping the UNA in Canada. The meeting minutes and summary of the meeting will be presented to the General Assembly, which will meet during the third quarter of 2009.

Other matters discussed included the renovation of the UNA Home Office, including offices of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, which has been completed.

The meeting closed on a very positive note as the UNA executives anticipate a successful summer at the Ukrainian Heritage Center at Soyuzivka and a great year for the UNA's life insurance and annuity business.

## Medvedev tells...

(Continued from page 2)

Moscow showed no interest, however, and it is unlikely that the authorities in Tbilisi would have allowed Russian military personnel to participate while they occupy Georgian territory.

The announced desire by the U.S. and NATO to "reset" relations seems to have been interpreted in Moscow as a vindication of the invasion of Georgia last August and a tacit recognition of Russia's special rights and interests within the South Caucasus. In this context, the NATO exercises were apparently interpreted as Western double-crossing, or as an attempt to redress the facts on the ground after the Russian invasion. After the exercises, if the West keeps out and gives Moscow a free hand in the South Caucasus, the row might end.

Russian naval and land forces have recently been maneuvering near Georgia in what could be interpreted as a preparation of a new invasion (Eurasia Daily Monitor,

April 16). The EU mission monitoring the ceasefire said it had registered Russian reinforcements at the line separating Georgian-controlled territory and South Ossetia and Abkhazia, but had not monitored any significant Georgian build-up (Reuters, April 16). The situation on the border remains tense.

Two OSCE observers were briefly detained in the second half of April by the authorities in South Ossetia, accused of "using bandit methods and provocations" (Interfax, April 21). Both Georgia and South Ossetia reported a shooting incident near Tskhinvali (Interfax, April 22).

The presence of a contingent of foreign military personnel in Georgia for most of May could interfere with prepared plans for possible Russian action, if the situation in Georgia further worsens. This might explain the fury behind Moscow's reaction.

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## Is Ukraine...

(Continued from page 6)

of money for articles that slander their opponents and keep the truth buried from the eyes of the information-consuming public.

Unbridled avarice and ruthless ambitions explain the behavior of Ukraine's erstwhile political elite. The fate and independence of the country, contrary to their eloquent proclamations, seems to play a secondary role for them. However, they certainly do not want to be Vladimir Putin's bitches and most definitely do not want to share a prison

cell with former Yukos president Mikhail Khodorkovsky in some inclement region in the Russian Far East. Their hopeless dilemma and endless bickering could ultimately bring Ukraine to its knees, and the country might be described in future history texts as the first, and only, failed state in Europe.

Are we prepared to deal with this possibility? If Ukraine goes down the drain, will a new Ukrainian pro-independence lobby be created to convince Congress that Ukraine deserves the right to once again become an independent state? I think not. Nobody will take us very seriously anymore.

## Stefanyshyn-Piper...

(Continued from page 4)

exchange of interesting gifts. The guest of honor presented the UECC with a photograph of herself at the International Space Station, a Ukrainian flag clearly visible in one corner. The UECC, in turn, presented the astronaut with a basketful of Philadelphia goodies.

Closing prayers were offered by the Rev. Frank Estocin of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, but guests lingered long after the formalities, enjoying private conversations with friends and personal moments with the Ukrainian American woman who has made all Ukrainians proud. Seated at tables, each of which featured an intriguing space-themed centerpiece created by Halyna Mizak, or mean-

dering through the hall, they savored the moment and let it wind down slowly rather than with abrupt departures.

The UECC board of directors gratefully acknowledged the generous sponsors who made the event possible: MB Financial Bank, the Plast Foundation, Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America, the Tkachenko family (Bell's Florist), the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, and James, Marta and Christina Vosbikian.

Special credit for the success of the event must also be accorded to the Banquet Committee members: Mr. Pawluk, Anna Makuch (committee chair), Ihor Bilinsky, Natalka Firko, Ms. Husar, Lubomyra Kalyta, Laryssa Krywusha, Ms. Mizak, Maria Panczak, Larysa Stebly, Ms. Zacharczuk and Ms. Zharovsky.

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## OUT AND ABOUT

May 7  
Stanford, CA

Lecture by Hiroaki Kuromiya, "The Enigma of the Great Famine of 1932-1933," Stanford University, 650-723-3562

May 9  
Chicago

"Selo Fest" Ukrainian Village festival, Ukrainian American Youth Association - Chicago, 773-486-4204

May 9  
Newark, NJ

Three-on-three basketball tournament, Ukrainian American Youth Association, St. John Ukrainian Catholic School gymnasium, usdruzhyunnyky@gmail.com

May 9  
New York

Book presentation and discussion, "Toward a History of the Ukrainian Patriarchal Movement," Ukrainian Patriarchal Society in the U.S.A., The Ukrainian Museum, 203-261-4530

May 9  
Whippany, NJ

Cinco de Mayo party, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, Hoverlia Social Club, 973-585-7175

May 10  
Minneapolis, MN

Mother's Day brunch, featuring the Cheremosh Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble and music by the Ukrainian Village Band, Ukrainian Event Center, 612-379-1956

May 10  
New York

Lecture by George Gajecky, "Roxolana Khurrem: The Ukrainian Wife of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent," Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 64, UNWLA Art Gallery, 212-260-4490

May 13  
Silver Spring, MD

Book presentation and discussion, "Toward a History of the Ukrainian Patriarchal Movement," Shevchenko Scientific Society, Holy Trinity Particular Ukrainian Catholic Church, 240-205-1889

May 15-17  
New York

Ukrainian Festival, St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, 212-674-1615

May 16  
Lansdale, PA

"A Traditional Ukrainian Dinner," Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church, 215-368-3365

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](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com).

## Campground at Round Lake, Ill., seeks volunteers for clean-up

by Natalie Mirutenko

ROUND LAKE, Ill. – Last fall, Ukrainian American Association Cooperative (UAAC) members donated the campground commonly known as "the oselia" at Round Lake, Ill., to the Ukrainian Youth Camping Organization (UYCO), a non-profit organization. The transition was finalized in March.

A secluded lakefront beach property, the oselia was founded in February 1951 as a recreational retreat for Ukrainians and has a long history of community service.

During the 1950s and 1960s the campground flourished as a weekly retreat for many Ukrainians. During the 1970s and 1980s, it became a sports mecca for volleyball players and water sports enthusiasts alike. By the 1990s the camp served as a weekend retreat for new immigrants seeking a private facility nearby. Recently a soccer field was added which allowed the oselia to become the home field for both


the Lions and Ukrainian Connections soccer clubs.

Donating the oselia to the UYCO ensures the campground's future growth, retention and further integration into the fabric of the Ukrainian community. This open waterfront property has sufficient land to sustain various sports events, picnics, day camp initiatives, as well as social or special events. Interested organizations may call directly or e-mail their inquiries for reservations for the oselia directly to Marko Pilecky at [Pileckys@gmail.com](mailto:Pileckys@gmail.com).

The UYCO will hold its first organized event at Round Lake on Saturday, May 16. This will be a day dedicated to spring cleaning. Organizers are soliciting the help of all Ukrainians, young and old, to help with the clean-up. This will be a work day that will include painting, chopping wood and organizing the grounds.

Mr. Pilecky will be leading this effort and organizing the event. Volunteers are asked to e-mail Mr. Pilecky.

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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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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Saturday, May 9**

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh-A) invites all to a presentation of the Encyclopedia of Ukrainian Diaspora, Volume 1, United States of America, Book 1, edited by Vasyl Markus and Daria Markus, and published by NTSh-A (New York-Chicago, 2009). After an introduction by Dr. Orest Popovych, the presentation will adopt a roundtable format, with the participation of EUD administrator Nadia Zajac, Wolodymyr Baranetsky, Mykola Haliv, Dr. Alexander Lushnycky, Dr. Wolodymyr Vasilaky and Dr. Jaroslaw Zalipsky. The program will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Avenue (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

**Sunday, May 10**

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.:** The piano duo of Oksana Skidan and Dmitri Nazarenko, will appear in a festive Mother's Day concert featuring works for four-hands by Ravel, Poulenc, Shubert and Skoryk. The concert is at 3 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Seating is unreserved; suggested donation, \$20, free for students. For information call 301-229-2615.

**NEW YORK:** Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 64 presents "Roxolana Khurrem," a program featuring a lecture by Prof. George Gajecyj, who will talk about the Ukrainian wife of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent. The lecture will include a slide presentation. Lavrentia Turkewicz will perform the traditional koliadka "There was a widow" to the accompaniment of the bandura. The program will take place at 2 p.m. at the UNWLA Art Gallery, 203 Second Ave., fourth floor, New York, NY 10003. Donation: \$5. The "Bird Kingdom" exhibit, featuring ritual creations by "Workshop-64" and folk artist Maria Prymachenko (reproductions) will

also be on view. For more information, call 212-260-4490; log on to <http://www.geocities.com/ukrastlitclub> or <http://www.unwla.org>; or e-mail [ukrastlitclub@yahoo.com](mailto:ukrastlitclub@yahoo.com).

**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.

**LANSDALE, Pa.:** The Presentation of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church will host "A Traditional Ukrainian Dinner." Enjoy generous portions of tasty homemade Ukrainian ethnic foods and baked goods: pyrohy, holubtsi, kovbasa, sauerkraut, breads, beverages and desserts. Also, listen to traditional and contemporary Ukrainian folk and pop music. This family friendly event will be held at 3-6 p.m. at the church's social hall, 1564 Allentown Road, Lansdale (Towamencin Township). Dinner tickets are \$10 per person at the door with seating. For advance tickets, reservations or more information call 215-368-3365. Take-outs will be available.

**Wednesday, May 20**

**WASHINGTON:** Pianist Valentina Lisitsa performs works by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Schubert and Shostakovich at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Shenson Chamber Music Concerts series, at 7:30 p.m., 1250 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20005, two blocks north of Metro Center. Reservations are required. Call 202-783-7370 or e-mail [reservations@nmwa.org](mailto:reservations@nmwa.org). Reservations are held until 7:20 p.m. The concert is free.

## 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.

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

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

Information should be sent to: [preview@ukrweekly.com](mailto: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.**

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