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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Plans disintegrate for new Ukrainian government coalition



Official Website of Ukraine's President

President Viktor Yushchenko at a press conference on June 6.



Web-Portal of the Ukrainian Government

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko at a June 3 meeting of the Cabinet.



Viktor Yanukovich Personal Information Server

Viktor Yanukovich at a session of the opposition government on May 28.

by **Zenon Zawada**
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Plans for a coalition between Ukraine's two most powerful political forces collapsed the morning of June 7 when Party of Regions of Ukraine Chair Viktor Yanukovich announced he was leading his party in withdrawing from the negotiations, claiming there wasn't enough time to reach a quality agreement.

"I understood that time is needed for a new government and a new coalition, but it makes no sense to create a new government with the approaching presidential elections," Mr. Yanukovich said in a television address at Kyiv's Monastery of the Caves (Pecherska

Lavra), indicating that the presidential contender is once again injecting religion into the campaign.

"The few months that separate Ukraine from the presidential elections would simply not have been enough to begin truly, effective anti-crisis activity," he noted.

That same evening Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko delivered her response in a live, national television address, blaming Mr. Yanukovich for ruining the chance to unite the nation's leaders to cope with Ukraine's economic crisis, as well as distancing herself from the agreement's controversial provisions.

"Our political force accepted large, unforeseen compromises," she said of her

eponymous political bloc. "We conceded to everyone. We were ready for any losses – political, electoral, image, ranks. But today, not for a second, do I regret that we attempted this. This is the true and righteous path."

The planned coalition between the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) would have amended the Constitution of Ukraine to enable Parliament to elect the Ukrainian president instead of a popular vote, and extended the term for members of Parliament by between three and five years, leaving Ms. Tymoshenko in place as prime minister for that duration.

The proposed Constitution, leaked to the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia newspaper on June 4,

contained numerous other points that raised concern, including depriving licenses to mass media accused of "disinformation of society," as well as giving the president enhanced control of law enforcement authorities.

The Tymoshenko-Yanukovich Constitution would have also required the Ukrainian president to get approval from the National Security and Defense Council and the Parliament before using military force against a foreign invader, "a direct threat to Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity," said Oleksander Paliy, an expert at the Foreign Policy Institute of the Foreign

(Continued on page 4)

Exhibit focuses on 'dialogue' between Ukrainian fine and folk art

by **Marta Baczynsky**

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Museum in New York City on June 13 opened its latest exhibition, "Fine Art / Folk Art: A Dialogue." Featured are paintings and sculptures from the museum's fine arts collection and folk costumes, embroidered textiles, a kilim, and pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs) from its folk art collection. The majority of the folk art and fine art objects in the show are from various periods of the 20th century, with the addition of several contemporary works. The exhibition will run through September 27.

Since its founding, The Ukrainian Museum has mounted many exhibitions from its collections. In the exhibition "Fine Art/Folk Art: A Dialogue," the two disciplines are presented in a comparative setting for the first time, allowing for the study and appreciation of the relationship between them.

"The exhibition's rationale lies in the symbiosis between the fine arts and folk art traditions in Ukraine," explained Prof.

Jaroslav Leshko, curator of the exhibition and president of the museum's board of trustees. "The exhibition is an invitation to view seminal works from the fine art and folk art collections and explore the rich interaction between the two traditions." He added that "while not all the exhibited artists consciously focus on folk art, there are examples of their work where a link with folk art reveals itself in unexpected, varied ways."

Nature and its infinite bounty of motifs stand as the most compelling influence on the development of Ukrainian folk culture. Its power is reflected in the rites, rituals and traditions of secular and religious celebrations, in the designs and coloration of embroidered and woven textiles, in the fine craftsmanship of woodworking and metalwork. It is crystallized in the uniqueness and perfection of the most identifiable and quintessential representative of Ukrainian folk culture – the pysanka.

The designs on the pysanky in the exhibit

(Continued on page 17)



"Dance" by Halyna Mazepa (1956, oil on board), gift of Ilarion and Svitlana Cholhan.

ANALYSIS

Grand coalition talks collapse in Ukraine

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The talks on forming a coalition between Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) leader Viktor Yanukovich have failed due to mutual distrust.

Electing the next president in the Verkhovna Rada was among the main conditions for a grand coalition that would have permitted Ms. Tymoshenko to remain as prime minister after Mr. Yanukovich's election as the next president by Parliament. This would have initiated the start of Ukraine's transition to parliamentary rule (Eurasia Daily Monitor, June 3).

Since the talks have failed, until after the popular presidential election scheduled for January 2010, Ukraine will remain an unstable and mixed parliamentary-presidential republic where the line between the authorities of president and prime minister are blurred.

Everything was in place for forming a new coalition by June 5, including the draft of a new Constitution of Ukraine, which had been published in the media and widely discussed. However, on June 7 Mr. Yanukovich unexpectedly announced on TV that the talks had failed. The main reason, he said, was that he could not agree to elect the president in Parliament, since this would "make society doubtful about the transparency of our actions." Mr. Yanukovich also said that a new coalition would have insufficient time to appoint a new government and adopt a fresh Constitution (Inter TV, June 7).

Ms. Tymoshenko reacted immediately with an improvised televised address to the nation. She stated that the PRU unilaterally withdrew from the coalition talks, although "the four political forces – the PRU, the bloc of Parliament chair Volodymyr Lytvyn, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) and the majority of Our Ukraine agreed to unite for the sake of the people," at a time of severe economic crisis. She said that this left no alternative to her running for the presidency in a popular election. Ms. Tymoshenko said that her party was against both electing the president in Parliament and extending the current parliamentary term from 2012 to 2014 – although it is widely known that the two conditions for a grand coalition had been agreed on between her and Mr. Yanukovich (ICTV, June 7).

Mr. Yanukovich apparently decided that it was safer to run in a popular election – which the opinion polls indicated that he might win – rather than rely on an election in Parliament of a coalition partner that had been his long-standing opponent. Moreover, mutual distrust was fueled by the lack of unity among the YTB ranks regarding the coalition conditions. The nationalist wing was firmly against extending the parliamentary term, and Ms. Tymoshenko reportedly assured them that the next parliamentary election would be held in 2012 (Ukrayinska Pravda, June 8). This probably raised doubts within the Yanukovich camp as to

whether the rest of the agreements would be adhered to.

Mr. Yanukovich apparently wanted more guarantees of his election victory. Ms. Tymoshenko claimed in her address to the nation that he insisted on raising the minimum age requirement for presidential candidates from 35 to 50. This would automatically exclude from the race both Ms. Tymoshenko and the third most popular candidate, the liberal economist Arseniy Yatsenyuk. Ms. Tymoshenko said she could not accept such an "exotic" precedent (ICTV, June 7).

Apparently both Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yanukovich do not rule out resuming coalition talks after the presidential election. However, several points are already clear: Ukraine will experience a popular presidential election once again, most likely in January 2010 (Parliament has yet to schedule the exact date); both Mr. Yanukovich and Ms. Tymoshenko will run for president; and there will be no transition to parliamentary rule – at least in the short to medium term, since no matter who is elected he or she is likely to try to boost presidential power at Parliament's expense. This trend has been observed in Ukraine on several occasions in the past.

In the interim, Ukraine will be steered by an exceptionally weak government chaired by Prime Minister Tymoshenko. The amorphous coalition that backs her – consisting of the YTB, the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc and the majority of Our Ukraine – controls significantly less than half of the seats in Parliament. In crucial votes, it has to seek support from either the Communists or the PRU. Furthermore, the number of vacant positions in the government is growing, which raises doubts about its ability to steer Ukraine out of the present crisis.

On June 5 Parliament dismissed Defense Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov. The motion was backed by 363 votes in the 450-seat body. The vote demonstrated how little influence the weakened President Viktor Yushchenko retains over Parliament.

Ms. Tymoshenko had insisted on Mr. Yekhanurov's dismissal. On May 20 she accused Mr. Yekhanurov of corruption, referring to the results of investigations alleging that ministerial officials were involved in illegal operations involving land and fuel. Ms. Tymoshenko asked Mr. Yushchenko to dismiss Mr. Yekhanurov but he refused, insisting that Mr. Yekhanurov had not violated any laws (UNIAN, May 20).

With Mr. Yekhanurov's departure, the Tymoshenko Cabinet remains without a defense minister, finance minister and foreign affairs minister. Justice Minister Mykola Onyschuk, another ally of Mr. Yushchenko, also might be vulnerable, as the YTB has long insisted on his dismissal.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Yushchenko appeals to ambassadors

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on June 5 called on the international community to help Ukraine preserve democracy. He made this call during his meeting with ambassadors of the Group of Seven, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Sweden and the European Commission. Mr. Yushchenko noted that he had invited the ambassadors to present to them his vision of the political situation in Ukraine. "All masks have actually been cast off over the past week," he said, reporting on the talks on creation of a coalition between the Party of Regions of Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. The main objective of this coalition is amendment of the Constitution, the president stated. He said the amendments that are to be proposed provide for reserving for Yulia Tymoshenko the prime minister's post for the coming 10 years, as well as for the Verkhovna Rada to elect the president. Mr. Yushchenko emphasized that at issue is the restriction of the democratic rights and freedoms of citizens, whose vote is being diminished. He also said that initiatives to prolong the terms of the Verkhovna Rada and local bodies of power are illegal. "All these initiatives are illegal and in fact imply a constitutional upheaval. This is a breakdown of all the democratic achievements Ukraine has made over the past few years," he stressed. "As the president of Ukraine, I guarantee that I will not allow the unlawful election of the president in Parliament and will do my best for Ukraine to comply with all of its international commitments on the observance of the rights and freedoms of citizens," he underscored. He added he is appealing to the international community for assistance in maintaining the democratic development of Ukraine. The president also told the foreign news media that the purpose of amending the Constitution is a coup d'état and said that "the goal of creating a coalition of the two biggest factions is to provide mutual guarantees for their stay in power." (Ukrinform)

Tymoshenko accuses Yanukovich

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister

Yulia Tymoshenko said in her televised address on June 7 that she would run for the presidency. "I will participate in the presidential elections, and I'll win them. I believe and know that one day Ukrainian politics will be pure and fair, while the authorities will be strong and incorrupt. I believe and know that Ukraine will become the way you dream about it – European and beautiful," she said. Ms. Tymoshenko said that talks on the creation of a broad coalition between four political forces had ended because Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich had unilaterally left the negotiating process. She said that Mr. Yanukovich had decided to end coalition talks due to her refusal to amend a constitutional norm increasing the age requirement for presidential candidates to 50. Ms. Tymoshenko reiterated that attempts to unite political forces were aimed at tackling the crisis. She said that she would like to put an end to all discussions on constitutional amendments. "The issue did not concern the extension of the Parliament's powers, the unilateral election of the president by Parliament or any other measures to restrict freedom of speech. Our political force, as well as the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc and Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense, was totally against amendments of this kind," Ms. Tymoshenko said. She added that such conditions were unacceptable to her, and stressed the need to immediately pass constitutional amendments. The current Constitution, she said, is being used to destroy the state and its sovereignty. "It is unacceptable to continue living in line with such a constitution," Ms. Tymoshenko said, expressing confidence that "we'll change the Constitution for the better" shortly after the presidential election. (Ukrinform)

PRU will not join coalition with YTB

KYIV – The Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) has ended its talks with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) regarding the creation of a broad coalition and changes in the form of government in Ukraine because of its reluctance to deprive the people of their right to elect

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NEWS ANALYSIS: Ukraine's intelligence service promotes exposure of Soviet era

by **Taras Kuzio**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

On May 11 in an interview with *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, outlined how previously secret documents from 1917-1991 were being released that will reveal details about the "crimes of communism."

Mr. Nalyvaichenko described the opening of formerly secret documents and plans to proceed with prosecutions as "the launch of a Ukrainian version of lustration." The documents reveal Soviet crimes against Ukrainians fighting for independence from 1917-1920, the 1933 Famine and the nationalist partisan struggle from 1942 to the early 1950s.

Mr. Nalyvaichenko also revealed that the secret documents exposed crimes committed against other nationals, including Poles living in Ukraine. These began in 1937-1938 and those whom the NKVD did not then murder were later murdered in the Kharkiv prisons (and Katyn forest) in 1940.

The director of the SBU's archives, Volodymyr Vyatovych revealed that the SBU had already compiled 136 names of individuals involved in committing crimes against humanity during the Famine. These included NKVD officers, senior members of the Communist Party and those who had signed documents. The manner in which the crimes were organized was the basis for the allegation that the Famine was a pre-planned "genocide" against Ukraine (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, May 28).

Russia has countered the claims of "genocide" by using the argument that the Famine was felt throughout the USSR and was an outcome of collectivization and severe weather. This view has long been prevalent within left-wing and pro-Soviet political and academic circles in the West.

Mr. Nalyvaichenko replied to these Russian counter-claims by asserting that

they had not studied the formerly secret documents made publicly available by the SBU. The SBU had requested its Russian counterparts to open secret Russian documents on Soviet repression, but this had been rebutted.

"At first the 'tsulag' was established in Ukraine and then later the gulag that we all know about," Mr. Nalyvaichenko said. The *tsulag* was established in 1919 in Ukraine and included 18 locations. On May 21, the official Day of Memory of Victims of Political Repressions, President Viktor Yushchenko attended a commemoration at one of the most infamous of these in the Bykivnia forest outside Kyiv. The area was established as a State Historical and Memorial Preserve by a resolution adopted by the 2001 Yushchenko government. The SBU had identified 14,000 names of the estimated 100,000 victims buried in Bykivnia.

Mr. Nalyvaichenko described how repressive Soviet agencies surrounded Ukrainian oblasts to prevent food entering them. These same units were also stationed on the Crimean border with Ukraine (then within the Russian SFSR). Mr. Nalyvaichenko's assurances that the SBU's work on Soviet crimes was not directed against Russia will fall on deaf ears in Moscow, especially following President Dmitry Medvedev's establishment of a special commission to "counteract attempts to falsify history."

Mr. Nalyvaichenko revealed that a 226-page collection of materials showed how, in addition to the deaths caused by the Famine, many others were shot, and these included "Russians, Germans, Jews and Ukrainians" (www.radiosvoboda.org, May 28). The SBU has also investigated the 1944 deportation of 300,000 Crimean Tatars and criminal cases against the Tatar nationalist Milly Firqa organization in the 1920s (*Channel 5*, May 18).

The SBU chief said he believe it would only require a short period of time to collect

eyewitness accounts and launch criminal proceedings. These would investigate the repeated "actions of criminal groups and the crimes of repressive agencies in the first place against the civilian population" (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, May 28). Soviet repression included mass murder of the civilian population, mass deportations and placing the children of those sentenced or murdered into orphanages.

Launching criminal charges and lustration within Ukraine might be more difficult than placing this in the hands of the international courts. Ukraine's judiciary and prosecutor's office are highly corrupt and have not demonstrated sufficient competence in pursuing high-profile cases, such as investigating the organizers of journalist Heorhii Gongadze's murder or Mr. Yushchenko's poisoning.

Parliament might also prove unsupportive. Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovych described the SBU's lustration plans for launching criminal charges in relation to the Famine as "provocative and irresponsible" (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, May 27). Mr. Yanukovych accused Mr. Yushchenko of playing the nationalist card by using the Famine to stay in power, potentially further dividing the country and worsening relations with Russia.

President Yushchenko replied to such domestic critics as individuals whose "dream is a gubernia where they would be uncontrolled lords," a place "without Ukrainian culture and without the Ukrainian language" (www.president.gov.ua, May 17).

Mr. Nalyvaichenko replied to Mr. Yanukovych that Soviet repression and the Famine had been most severe in the Donbas and the Zaporizhia Oblast, Party of Regions strongholds. He pointed out that since 2006 Ukrainian legislation asserts that the Holodomor was an "act of genocide against the Ukrainian people," prosecution for which falls within the criminal code.

The Ukrainian Institute of National

Memory has compiled nearly 900,000 names of Ukrainians who died in the famine. The SBU and the institute continued to work on the documents, collect eye-witness statements and locate mass burial grounds. "In this criminal case there is a serious possibility of success in court," Mr. Nalyvaichenko added (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, June 3).

The lustration of former Communist officials has not been the norm in the majority of the 27 post-Communist states. Different degrees of lustration were undertaken in Germany and within 10 Central and Eastern European countries, and the Baltic states. The toughest lustration legislation was adopted in the Czech Republic and Germany.

It is noticeable, however, from this list of countries that no CIS state, including Georgia, has undertaken lustration. This could now change with Ukraine following Central and Eastern Europe in launching the lustration of Communist crimes against humanity.

The issues of nation-building and historical memory have become a personal crusade for President Yushchenko. In his speech at Bykivnia Mr. Yushchenko called for the removal of all the Communist "symbols of murder" (www.president.gov.ua, May 17).

Following the disintegration of the USSR, Ukrainian democratization could never be divorced from nation- and state-building. President Yushchenko's crusade against Soviet crimes is intimately bound up with Ukraine's democratization and integration into Europe. This explains Moscow's hostility, as it is in the throes of covering up Soviet crimes, and building an autocracy grounded in a synthesis of nationalism and Soviet rule.

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UKRAINE'S ECONOMIC CRISIS: Interview with economist Andriy Novak

by **Zenon Zawada**

Kyiv Press Bureau

To offer an independent analysis of the current economic crisis in Ukraine, The Weekly decided to interview three economists who are independent of the global and Ukrainian financial elite, which is widely accused of corruption and mismanagement. This interview, conducted on May 27, is the second in the series.

KYIV – Once an economic advisor to Yulia Tymoshenko (in 2005), Andriy Novak is now critical of his former boss, viewing her government's fiscal irresponsibility in 2008 as the main cause of Ukraine's current financial crisis, the direct result of the foreign trade deficit reaching unprecedented levels.

And while the majority of Ukrainian economists laid a significant part of the blame for the hryvnia's plunge on the leadership of the National Bank of Ukraine, particularly Chairman Volodymyr Stelmakh, Mr. Novak said its supervisory board led by Petro Poroshenko, was ultimately responsible for the corruption.

Mr. Stelmakh should have resigned for allowing himself to become a hostage to the situation, Mr. Novak commented.

Currently, the Ukrainian government is still unable to decide which banks will receive government refinancing, a matter that most Western countries resolved by the end of last year.

"Everything is exceptionally concealed from the public, although the issue is about public finances and government funds," he said. "It's obvious that all the same, the

funds will be distributed from the state budget for the benefit of certain bank owners who are close to power."

Also hidden are the government statistics that economists like Mr. Novak need in order to make their analyses and judgments. So much is the government concerned about poor economic data that it ordered local organs not to release reports without the prime minister's explicit consent, Mr. Novak said.

Incidentally, the Tymoshenko government decided at the start of the year to adopt European standards of reporting, releasing economic data on a quarterly basis instead of monthly. Regardless, the data are not available.

"Therefore it's very hard for experts and average citizens to evaluate the real economic situation, and yet the financial situation and behavior of financial markets depends on this," he said.

Mr. Novak, who was advisor also to Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, is among the most visible figures in Ukrainian economics, first publishing his manifesto "How to Lift the Ukrainian Economy" in 2006 and currently working on the book's third edition. About 9,000 copies of the book's first two editions have been published.

A Kolomyia native, the 36-year-old economist has toured Ukraine's universities over the past year, giving lectures on his ideas, the essence of which is his proposed Trifunctional Economic Model for Ukraine – producing products, selling them and properly dividing the results.

Among Ukraine's key economic problems is that it exports raw materials



Zenon Zawada

Andriy Novak, a former economic advisor to Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, says her government's irresponsible foreign economic policy, which led to record trade deficits, was the primary cause of Ukraine's crisis.

abroad, where they are used to make finished products that are eventually imported back to Ukraine. As a result, Ukrainian consumers pay exceptionally high prices compared with their wealthier European counterparts.

In Mr. Novak's view, Ukraine desperately needs to develop corporations that can produce finished consumer goods from the nation's abundant raw materials, both industrial and agricultural.

Last month, the government-sponsored

Ukrainian World Coordinating Council tapped Mr. Novak to chair the organizing committee of the second World Economic Forum of the Ukrainians, planned for September 27 and 28 in Kyiv.

It seems that the most controversial subject in Ukrainian economics currently is the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans. What is your position? Do you support them or not?

(Continued on page 8)

Citizen activist murdered in Kyiv Plans disintegrate...

by Yuriy Borysov

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – Living near an illegal hydraulic dredge that sucked tons of sand from the Dniipro riverbed for eventual sale, Oleksander Honcharov, an average citizen, was concerned about the potential ecological effect on the nearby Zhukiv Island.

For two years he led a protest campaign, alerting Kyiv's various government authorities, including the City Council, to no avail. He even confronted the workers themselves, demanding to see their permits.

In lawless Ukraine, however, where businessmen routinely get away with murder, challenging the interests of big business cost Mr. Honcharov his life.

On May 26, two attackers jumped a fence into his yard and allegedly beat the 58-year-old Ukrainian to death with a baton. They also left his 30-year-old Czech wife handcuffed and battered.

So far, one suspect who allegedly ordered Mr. Honcharov's murder has been arrested, the Ministry of Internal Affairs announced on June 6, without disclosing his identity or whether he will be prosecuted. The killers, however, are still at large, even though the victim's wife has identified at least one.

"I walked into the district police station, and that killer was sitting on a bench near the entrance," Monika Mateova told the *Gazeta.ua* website in an exclusive June 4 interview. "I recognized him. He was smoking and laughing. He wasn't arrested. He said, 'One step to the police and we'll kill you.'"

Ignoring phone threats telling him to stop his campaign, Mr. Honcharov persisted in his efforts until the very end, speaking with ICTV journalist Oleksii Kutypov by telephone the very day of his murder.

Just a few days earlier he led Mr. Kutypov and a cameraman to Zhukiv Island to show them the illegal operation, which might have been the last straw for the sand-thieving businessmen.

"Nothing was taken, so there's no basis for a robbery," the reporter told a June 2 press conference to discuss Mr. Honcharov's murder. "His wife is frightened and didn't show up for the press conference. She was beaten and left alive."

The couple's 10-year-old daughter, also named Monika, was home during the daytime attack, screaming, "Don't touch my mom" and startling one of the killers. She fled and eluded the perpetrators, while Ms. Mateova hid beneath a crane about a thousand feet from the home.

"He left me, saying 'Lie silent! Soon we'll come for you,'" said Ms. Mateova, who didn't explain how she removed her

handcuffs and called the police to report the crime.

When viewing ICTV's footage of the dredge extracting sand, Ms. Mateova told the reporter she recognized a worker as one of her husband's killers.

These same workers stopped showing up at the dredge in the days immediately following the murder, said Oleksii Vasyliuk, vice-chair of the National Ecological Center.

Police claim that two days later they arrested workers attempting to dismantle the hydraulic dredge. Yet the work has since resumed without interference from law enforcement authorities.

Since 2004 the National Ecological Center has filed more than 600 complaints with authorities regarding the Zhukiv Island dredging and other illegal sand-extraction operations, with no response or action.

"All these cases prove lawlessness," Mr. Vasyliuk said.

Indeed digging up free sand, without paying taxes, and then selling thousands of tons for \$6 a ton is a profitable business, said Andrii Rypynskyi, an activist of the Korchuvate suburb, where Mr. Honcharov lived. "Anyone could drive up to a dredge and load a truck for money," he said.

In his investigation, Mr. Kutypov found two sites where sand was illegally sold and the names of companies involved, but declined to reveal them for lack of sufficient proof.

Ms. Mateova told *Gazeta.ua* she is selling her property and returning to the Czech Republic, not expecting much help in Ukraine. "I want to see these killers in prison, but I am frightened."

The morning of June 4, activists of the Protect Old Kyiv civic organization seized one of the Zhukiv Island hydraulic dredges and blocked its operation.

They planned the action to honor Mr. Honcharov on the ninth day after his death, in accordance with Orthodox tradition, demanding that the police arrest and prosecute Mr. Honcharov's killers and that authorities take steps to stop all dredges from continuing to steal sand.

Kyiv police chief Vitalii Yarema issued a June 6 resolution requiring police authorities to take measures stopping all illegal sand extraction within Kyiv limits.

In Mr. Kutypov's view, the Honcharov murder marked a turning point "of who will be left standing and who will fall" in Ukrainian society, particularly among its journalists.

"They killed a hero who called upon journalists, but tomorrow they'll kill the very journalists themselves," he said. "This is a test for journalism's professionalism – to be broken, to back down or to fight to the end."

History: made to be rewritten?

RFE/RL

PRAGUE – Russia's Defense Ministry offered a novel reinterpretation of history on June 4, announcing in a paper published on its website that World War II was caused by none other than the Poles.

The research paper was not an official government statement, but the author, Col. Sergei Kovalyov, is the director of the scientific-research department of military history in the ministry's Institute of Military History.

The Defense Ministry has now distanced itself from the piece, removing it from the site and telling journalists that it "must not be considered the official point of view of the Defense Ministry."

But, Paul Goble, writing in *The Moscow Times*, suggested that "many Russian historians" are sympathetic to

the view, highlighting political scientist Sergei Lebedev's response to the piece: "Poland had conducted itself like a lion among hyenas."

The Associated Press reported:

"The paper, titled 'Fictions and Falsifications in Evaluating the USSR's Role On the Eve of World War II,' recounts how in the run-up to Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, Hitler demanded that Poland turn over control of the city of Danzig as well as a land corridor between Germany and the territory now known as Kaliningrad.

"Everyone who has studied the history of World War II without bias knows that the war began because of Poland's refusal to satisfy Germany's claims," he [Kovalyov] writes. Kovalyov called the demands 'quite reasonable.'"

(Continued from page 1)

Affairs Ministry.

In the following days, political observers speculated about the real reasons Mr. Yanukovich led the Party of Regions in backing out of the so-called Unity and Rebirth Coalition that was also to include the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc and a majority of Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc deputies.

The conversations that occurred between the main players, and who they met with, remained unclear.

The Russian-owned, Russian-language *Kommersant* newspaper, published in Kyiv, reported that Mr. Yanukovich flew to St. Petersburg on June 5 for an informal meeting with Russian Federation President Dmitry Medvedev. Only after the meeting did the pro-Russian opposition leader become firm in his decision to abandon coalition talks, reported *Kommersant*, citing an anonymous source.

The next day, Mr. Yanukovich reportedly met with former Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha and had a phone conversation with President Viktor Yushchenko, during which the president allegedly tried to convince the PRU leader that he could win the presidential election, *Kommersant* reported on June 10.

Additionally, Mr. Baloha allegedly pledged legal, organizational and electoral support to Mr. Yanukovich, particularly in the Zakarpattia Oblast, if he agreed to abandon the coalition talks, *Kommersant* reported.

During a June 9 press conference, President Yushchenko confirmed that he had a June 6 telephone conversation with Mr. Yanukovich to convince him of the possibility of his "legitimate election."

Mr. Yanukovich and Mr. Baloha didn't confirm or deny the other reports.

Citing more anonymous sources within the Tymoshenko Bloc, *Kommersant* also reported that Ms. Tymoshenko traveled to Moscow the night of June 9 to meet with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, a report dismissed as "complete nonsense" by Natalia Lysenko, a Cabinet of Ministers spokeswoman.

Another cited reason for the failed coalition agreement was the inability of both sides to agree on clear principles for their coalition and on economic anti-crisis measures.

No economic crisis plan emerged from the negotiations, and the coalition agreement took no specific positions on the most sensitive subjects, such as the status of the Russian language and NATO membership.

A widely held view among political observers is that, ultimately, Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yanukovich didn't trust each other to fulfill a third document being drafted between the two forces, besides the coalition agreement and the amended Constitution, reportedly called "The Grand Agreement."

It stipulated cooperation between the Tymoshenko Bloc and the Party of Regions until 2024, including participation in elections as a single political bloc.

The agreement allegedly gave Mr. Yanukovich the first two terms as president, and the second two to Ms. Tymoshenko, *Ukrayinska Pravda* reported.

"First and foremost, the mega-coalition fell apart because of the distrust between the leading political players for each other," said Ihor Zhdanov, president of the Kyiv-based Open Politics Analytical Center and a former Our Ukraine advisor.

"The complicated historical experience, personal ambitions and mutual offenses remain the main factors that distinguish the political configuration in the country," he said.

Both Mr. Yanukovich and Ms. Tymoshenko entertained the idea of forming a coalition and amending the Constitution as

early as last summer, according to various reports, and the negotiations ebbed and flowed throughout the year.

Presidential candidate Arseniy Yatsenyuk claimed Ms. Tymoshenko gave him a copy of an amended Constitution, similar to what was recently drafted, in September 2008, when he was still the Verkhovna Rada chair.

Although long aware that the two political forces frequently flirted with each other, Kyiv's political establishment was surprised when it became apparent in the first days of June that a coalition agreement was imminent.

Among the proposed Constitution's main authors, reportedly is Oleksander Zadorozhnyi, who began drafting the document in February 2008, reported *Ukrayinska Pravda*, a leading news website.

Mr. Zadorozhnyi is a close associate of Viktor Medvedchuk, a suspected KGB agent-turned-mega-millionaire who has helped Ms. Tymoshenko broker improved relations with Russian Prime Minister Putin, who is the godfather of Mr. Medvedchuk's daughter. (The wife of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev is the godmother.)

When *Ukrayinska Pravda* asked Ms. Tymoshenko at a June 9 press conference when was the last time she met with Mr. Medvedchuk, the prime minister avoided answering the question and dismissed the "insinuations."

"Once and for all, I am rejecting what you are now asking me, that certain surnames are linked to me and the Constitution," she said, stating that the various Constitutions that were drafted in 2007 and 2008 were the work of a group of advisors.

Mr. Zadorozhnyi led this group of advisors, *Ukrayinska Pravda* reported, citing its sources.

President Yushchenko and the nation's right-wing forces took to the mass media to firmly criticize the coalition, calling upon Ukraine's citizens to resist it.

Polls weren't conducted whether Ukrainians supported or opposed the coalition, but they did indicate the vast majority opposed among the agreement's main conditions, which was electing the president in Parliament.

When the coalition fell through and the smoke cleared, both Mr. Yanukovich and Ms. Tymoshenko distanced themselves from the agreement's more controversial points.

Both denied that they wanted to shift electing the president to Parliament – a key point in their agreement, and each blamed the other for making the suggestion.

Ms. Tymoshenko denied even considering extending the term of current members of Parliament for five years. She also denied any attempt to enhance the government's ability to deny licenses to the mass media.

Instead, she blamed Mr. Yanukovich for what she deemed "exotic" proposals, such as requiring all presidential candidates to be age 50 or older, which would have eliminated her and Mr. Yatsenyuk from contention (Ms. Tymoshenko is 48.).

Yet, all these points, except for Mr. Yanukovich's alleged age requirement proposal, were agreed upon in the draft of the Constitution submitted to Mr. Lytvyn for his bloc's consideration, and subsequently leaked to *Dzerkalo Tyzhnia* for all the public to see.

The day after her television address, a video clip was leaked to the public that showed Ms. Tymoshenko preparing for her announcement informing the nation that the coalition had fallen apart.

After taking a deep breath, crossing herself and saying aloud "God help me," she appears ready to speak when the teleprompter suddenly has problems.

"Everything is lost," Ms. Tymoshenko tells someone off-camera, before shouting in Russian to the crew in frustration. "Put it from the beginning! I don't have it on the teleprompter!"

The video can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EGR37bwuYc>

Students recognized for works on Holodomor in Illinois competition

by Maria Kulczycky

CHICAGO – Two students from St. Nicholas Cathedral School in Chicago were finalists in a competition held by the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center for their submissions dealing with Holodomor, the Ukrainian genocide.

Adriana Chychula, a seventh grader, received third place for her drawing titled “...give us our daily bread...,” and Marianna Oharenko, also a seventh grader, received second place for her fictionalized first-person account of a girl who lost her entire family to famine titled “Holodomor, Surviving an Unforgettable Tragedy.”

There were 26 submissions from seventh and eighth grade students among the 600 total submissions from middle and high school students throughout Illinois.

“Our students exhibited a remarkable passion and understanding of our great national tragedy,” commented Daria Hankewych, the faculty member at St. Nicholas School who guided participation in the competition. “We have been teaching our students about the Holodomor for several years, but it’s particularly significant now that Illinois law requires that children are made aware of the many genocides in human history.”

The biennial competition, the Leo and Antonia Gershanov Memorial Student

Arts and Writing Contest, was established at the Holocaust Education Center by the Gershanov family. Leo and Antonia Gershanov settled in Chicago after World War II and devoted their time and resources to the fight against discrimination and prejudice. The contest offers middle and high school students throughout Illinois the opportunity to reflect on the nature of the Holocaust and other genocides in their lives.

This year’s submissions were reviewed by a panel of judges that included contest co-sponsor Ann Gershanov and local educators. The master judge was the Holocaust historian and author Robert Jan Van Pelt.

“As always, judging this year’s entries was an enriching, yet difficult process,” said Ann Gershanov. “The student artists and writers offered incredible insight into how their generation uses the mirror of the Holocaust and other contemporary genocides to further their learning to teach others. It was very challenging to select the finalists among so many outstanding entries.”

This year’s theme, “Memory Keepers – Transform the Future,” offered students the chance to create a poem, story, artwork or musical composition that demonstrates what memory of the Holocaust or modern genocide they would use to affect change in their



At the awards ceremony for the Illinois Holocaust Museum competition, Board President Sam Harris and Mayor George Van Dusen of Skokie, Ill., congratulate Marianna Oharenko and Adriana Chychula for their winning submissions on the Holodomor.

(Continued on page 16)

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: May

Amount	Name	City				
\$200.00	Yaroslav Bihun	Washington, DC		Zenon Zachar	West Bloomfield, MI	
\$100.00	Dorothy Chupa	Briarwood, NY	\$20.00	Ronald Boyd	Port Charlotte, FL	Andrew Kushnir
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	Michael and Oksana	Campbell Hall, NY		Helen Duda	Old Bridge, NJ	Lubomyr Zobniw
	Kobyleckyj (in memory of Maria and Michael Kobyleckyj)			Stefan Golub	Minneapolis, MN	Maria Bachynska
	Magda Kolcio	Plain City, OH		Anna Iras	West Palm Beach, FL	Dmytro Bodnarczuk
	Ulana Mazurkevich	Elkins Park, PA		Joseph Jackson	Basking Ridge, NJ	Ewhen Brenycz
	Andrew Renner	Beverly Hills, CA		Nina Kalman	Fort Collins, CO	Julian Chornij
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	Lubomyr Wynar	Ravenna, OH		Oksana and Bohdan Kuzyszyn	Fords, NJ	Jurkiewicz
	Inia Yevich-Tunstall	Annandale, VA		John R. and Natalie Lopic	Elverson, PA	Maria Klos
\$45.00	Wolodymyr Mohuchy	Newark, N.J.		Jaroslav Oberyshyn	Jamaica, NY	Adrian Klufas
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	Michael Pylypczuk	New York, NY		Halyna Shepko	New Paltz, NY	Anna Krawczuk
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\$25.00	Roman Bohonowych	Kerhonkson, NY		Eustachiy Derzko	Lorton, VA	Dmytro Porochniak
	Oleh Boraczok	Madison, WI		Nadia Deychakiwsky	Brecksville, OH	Larissa Sawka
	Walt Czepizak	Oakhurst, NJ		Dorothy Doloszycki	Little Falls, NJ	Dmytro Sich
	Andrew Fenchak	Dublin, OH		Michael Dziman	Maplewood, NJ	John Starosta
	George Jaskiw	S. Euclid, OH		Ann Goot	Moretown, VT	Zenon Wasylkevych
	Andrij Maryniuk	Bay Harbor Island, FL		Daria Kindrat-Pratt	Fairport, NY	Peter Woloschuk
	Roman Nestorowicz	Warren, MI		Bohdan and Olga Kramarchuk	Clifton, NJ	Andrij Zwarun
	John Pluta	Wallingford, PA		Mykola Kril	Las Vegas, NV	Frank Stuban
	Roman Procyk	Huntingdon Valley, PA		Petro and Lydia Kulynych	Yonkers, NY	
	Rostyslaw and Helen Ratzcz	Edison, NJ				

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

No “unity,” no “rebirth”

The attempt by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Viktor Yanukovich to form the so-called Unity and Rebirth Coalition resembled two mafia lords hatching the heist of their lifetimes. Had they united their forces and rammed the deal through Parliament and the courts, Mr. Yanukovich would have been president for 10 years, Ms. Tymoshenko would have remained prime minister for five years, and all the members of the Verkhovna Rada would have stayed on for at least three more years, and possibly five.

When their plans fell through, they ran back to their respective corners and began pointing the finger of blame.

“I have always announced, and announce now – the nation’s president should be elected through direct, popular elections,” Mr. Yanukovich said, failing to mention that he had agreed with the coalition agreement’s provision to amend the Constitution to allow Parliament to elect the president.

In Ms. Tymoshenko’s own distorted version of events, “the issue was not about prolonging the Parliament’s authority, or election of the president in Parliament, or any measures to limit the freedom of speech.”

Yet these were all provisions of the coalition agreement that both leaders gave to Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn for his review, and then leaked to the media on June 4.

It would have been nice to believe that Mr. Yanukovich and Ms. Tymoshenko were forming this coalition for the sake of political and economic stability, which Ukraine so desperately needs. But their true motivation was power and money. They could have locked power in the hands of the oligarchic clans that finance the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) for at least five years, and perhaps even longer.

It’s disturbing that among the proposed Constitution’s authors was Oleksander Zadorozhnyi, a close associate of Viktor Medvedchuk, who chose Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to be godfather to his daughter.

It’s even more disturbing that Mr. Yanukovich reportedly made his decision to nix the coalition after flying to St. Petersburg on June 5 and meeting informally with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. What did Mr. Medvedev tell Mr. Yanukovich that led him to change his mind? And what did President Viktor Yushchenko tell Mr. Yanukovich during their June 6 phone call? Mr. Yanukovich announced his withdrawal from negotiations the following morning.

If the PRU and the YTB truly wanted to take Ukraine in a positive direction, they would have drafted a Constitution that eliminates the current system of elections via closed party lists, in which voters can choose only a party or a bloc of parties, not an individual candidate. They would have brought back geographically designated election districts with single mandates, or a mixed system of proportional representation with open electoral lists in which voters select not only a party or bloc of parties, but also their proposed candidates.

In her national address Ms. Tymoshenko said the current political crisis was caused by the 2004 constitutional reforms that were approved during the Orange Revolution and went into effect January 1, 2006. “Today in the country, based on the current Constitution, no one is held accountable,” she said. “It creates several antagonistic and mutually exclusive centers of approving decisions. It causes imbalance in governing the state, carrying with it chaos, anarchy and a complete absence of own responsibility.”

There is much truth to that, considering it was these very reforms that created the closed-list system, which exists nowhere in Europe and is an abuse of democracy.

Indeed, Ukraine’s Constitution needs amending “to clearly separate the authority and responsibility of the president, prime minister and Parliament,” as Ms. Tymoshenko put it. Yet it’s also the people who lead a country that are key. Good leaders are able to work constructively, even under a poorly drafted Constitution.

In the end, poetic justice triumphed when Mr. Yanukovich and Ms. Tymoshenko parted company. These swindlers – to use President Viktor Yushchenko’s words – who gained much of their fortunes through illegal means, couldn’t seal the deal largely because they don’t even trust each other.

In this case, antagonism and rivalry turned out to benefit the Ukrainian people.

June
15
2006

Turning the pages back...

Three years ago, on June 15, 2006, Viktor Yanukovich announced that his Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) was close to forming a parliamentary majority with certain members of the Our Ukraine bloc or the Socialist Party of Ukraine.

Earlier that week, Our Ukraine leaders said they were quitting coalition talks with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialist Party of Ukraine after intense lobbying by Oleksander Moroz for the Verkhovna Rada chairman’s position.

It was expected that, if such an agreement were reached, the Our Ukraine bloc would splinter because of the unlikely possibility that all six of the bloc’s member-parties would agree with the Party of Regions.

Specifically, business-oriented political parties such as the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs led by Anatolii Kinakh and the Our Ukraine People’s Union led by Yuri Yekhanurov indicated their willingness to compromise on many issues.

However, the People’s Rukh of Ukraine led by Borys Tarasyuk and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists led by Oleksii Ivchenko were unlikely to backtrack on ideological issues, such as official status for the Russian language and recognition of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

The Christian-Democratic Union Party led by Volodymyr Stretovych said it would enter a coalition with PRU only if the coalition agreement explicitly supported

(Continued on page 10)

NEWS AND VIEWS

A Russian time warp at the United Nations

by Askold S. Lozynskyj

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics officially came to an end in December 1991. President Boris Yeltsin apparently forgot to tell the USSR Permanent Mission to the U.N.

On May 5, the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations held a briefing titled “The Outcome and Lessons of World War II and the Present” at the U.N. headquarters in New York. The event was opened and presided over by Ilya Rogachev, deputy permanent representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations. In his opening remarks Mr. Rogachev said:

“Despite the tragic lessons of World War II, we oftentimes witness the revival of practices conducive to the escalation of modern forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. Unfortunately, a number of countries have recently been pursuing an undisguised policy of presenting as heroes those who participated in Nazi crimes; that includes the whitewashing of former members of the SS, which was recognized as a criminal organization by the Nuremberg tribunal.

“Quite recently, we have witnessed the profane action or inaction by the Ukrainian authorities, which allowed billboards bearing the emblem of the Ukrainian SS division ‘Galichina’ to be posted on the streets of the city of Lvov. It is well-known that Ukrainian SS members killed Soviet soldiers, guerrilla fighters in France and Yugoslavia, and innocent civilians in Poland, suppressed anti-fascist uprisings in Slovakia, and executed Jews and Communists in Ukraine by firing squad.

“Open glorification of SS veterans and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army fighters, who tainted themselves with the crimes against those who fought in the ranks of the anti-Hitler coalition, declaring notorious Nazi Roman Shukhevych as a hero of Ukraine, demolition and desecration of monuments to Soviet soldiers are all links of the same chain of practices aimed at re-writing the history of World War II and inculcating blatantly pro-fascist ideology in the minds of the current and future generations.”

Subsequently he went on to calumniate the Baltic states and then introduced Alexander Brod, head of the Moscow Bureau for Human Rights and a member of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation. Mr. Brod went on to calumniate further, adding Stepan Bandera to the list of Nazis on the occasion of this being Bandera’s anniversary. Two other scheduled speakers followed with less offensive presentations.

A cursory review of the website belonging to the Moscow Bureau for Human Rights reveals that this alleged non-governmental organization, in its statements, speaks very much in tandem with the Russian government position. In fact, one can scarcely find a single statement by this bureau critical of the current regime in Russia. The bureau has issued statements, however, rebuking Ukraine for politicizing the Famine of 1932-1933 and has chided the United States for not repealing the Jackson-Vanik amendment’s application to Russia.

I managed to get the floor and offered a somewhat different perspective. Briefly, I suggested that this briefing was a time warp,

Askold S. Lozynskyj is an attorney based in New York City. He is a former president of the Ukrainian World Congress.

very much similar to former Soviet briefings at the United Nations, yet taking place almost 18 years after the USSR’s demise. I pointed out that the most egregious Nazi collaborators were Stalin and the Soviet Union, which signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact with Hitler 70 years ago and then proceed to divide Europe as spoils of their collaboration. This union was not surprising since it was a devil’s pact of two aggressors, both with a litany of cruelty and a legacy of victims.

My intention was not to attempt convincing the two main speakers that they were wrong on their assessment of the Ukrainian formations and individuals mentioned since Mr. Rogachev and Mr. Brod were men on a mission. I did submit to the audience the fact that Soviet prosecutors at the Nuremberg Tribunal, Roman Rudenko and Lev Smirnov, did not level accusations against the aforementioned formations and individuals and that the Nuremberg findings do not mention these names. Finally, I stressed for Mr. Brod’s benefit that I had reviewed his organization’s website and, based on the material posted, consider him very much a voice for the Russian government. Should he and the others be interested in human rights, I offered copies of Amnesty International’s country report on Russia’s human rights violations.

Mr. Brod appeared quite taken aback by my rebuke, while Mr. Rogachev rebutted, pointing to my inability to comprehend the intricacies of Molotov-Ribbentrop, explaining that the Soviet Union was buying time. In any event, the briefing concluded.

This pro-Soviet performance by representatives of Russia was not an aberration. In fact, several months back, in October 2008, Vitaly Churkin, Russia’s permanent representative to the U.N. held a press conference at the U.N. press center in New York disparaging Ukraine’s attempts to inform the world about the Great Famine of 1932-1933. In the course of his diatribe he attempted to connect Ukraine’s position on the Great Famine with Ukraine’s honoring Roman Shukhevych, whom Ambassador Churkin defamed as a Nazi, with a posthumous Hero of Ukraine award. When confronted, he went on a tirade accusing Ukrainians and Balts of killing Jews, insisting that Ukraine and the Baltic states voluntarily joined the USSR and concluding by praising the virtues of the USSR.

Some bemoan the fact that today Ukraine-Russia relations are at an all-time low. In fact, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has chided President Viktor Yushchenko for allegedly causing this condition. Ms. Tymoshenko is wrong. For the first time in a very long time, Ukraine is a legitimate component in the community of nations. It has the right to deal with Russia on an equal footing, not as a subservient victim. It seems to me that acrimony in Ukraine-Russia relations is a dose of reality and an opportunity to expose today’s Russia for what it is.

The czarist Russian Empire was cruelly oppressive. Brute force silenced its victims. Its successor the USSR was equally hostile and criminal, particularly, to the non-Russian nations caught within its pernicious web. The Great Famine, gulags and other repressions constituted its arsenal.

Today’s Russian Federation is an appropriate successor to what President Ronald Reagan once termed the “evil empire,” and appropriately holds the Soviet seat at the United Nations. The fact that it brazenly defends Soviet criminality should open eyes. We Ukrainians have an opportunity to fight back.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Verveer biography quite incomplete

Dear Editor:

I imagine that many Ukrainians were impressed by the treacherous article about Melanne Verveer by Alexander Kuzma (April 26), praising her as our "national treasure." I think when one takes it upon oneself to inform people about the achievements of a prominent person, we should get a more truthful and complete biography.

We now know that Ms. Verveer is head of Vital Voices, received countless awards for her work for women's rights and has been named ambassador-at-large for women's issues by President Barack Obama. This is a new position that no doubt must be her reward for supporting Mr. Obama among Ukrainians.

We are not informed that Ms. Verveer came to prominence working for Hillary Clinton and Madeleine K. Albright. Their main thrust for women's rights is "abortion rights," despite all the cosmetic changes they describe. Curiously, Mr. Kuzma does not use the word "abortion" even once. Why?

Let's call a spade a spade. Ms. Verveer worked tirelessly against Robert Bork's nomination to the Supreme Court as well as Judge William Rhenquist's appointment as chief justice based simply on their pro-life stance. She was executive vice-president for People for the American Way, a leading pro-abortion liberal group. She is closely associated with the U.S. Catholic bishops and this gives her Catholic credentials.

She is a member of many Catholic groups that consistently cover up their pro-abortion stance. Many so-called Catholic organizations are bogus and exist to convince Catholics to vote for left-wing radicals. This is misleading to pro-life Catholics and should be challenged.

Left wing radical feminists think that most women's issues in Third World countries can be solved by abortions. It is

much more complicated. Until the men in these countries regain their self-respect, they will not respect anyone. What is most galling is that President Obama has signed a bill reversing the work of President George W. Bush that requires our tax dollars to pay for these abortions. American citizens should not be required to pay for abortions here or anywhere else. We have Ms. Verveer and Ms. Clinton to thank for this.

As far as the assertion by Mr. Kuzma that Rush Limbaugh's descriptions of these women as "femi-Nazis" impedes the progress for women's rights, he couldn't be more wrong. In my long life as a female professional I have found that most women (as well as men) would work tirelessly to help abused women, but they fear that the femi-Nazis will destroy them both professionally and socially if they know of their pro-life stance. The "sisterhood" can be mean and vindictive. These pro-abortion activists, not Mr. Limbaugh, are actually impeding progress by their vicious intolerance.

Ms. Verveer may be a national treasure for Mr. Kuzma, but not for me!

Lydia Kossak Kernitsky, D.M.D.
Colts Neck, N.J.

We welcome your opinion

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

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

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

ACTION ITEM

Ukrainian Genocide curriculum

As part of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness of 1932-1933, the New York State Educators for the Study of the Ukrainian Holodomor have been working to amend the New York State education law to include the study of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide (Holodomor) in the New York State social studies curriculum. Bills have been introduced by Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins (S3356-A) and Assemblyman Mike Spano (A6690-A) in the New York legislature. These bills would require the study of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide in New York State public schools.

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) encourages the Ukrainian community in New York State to contact the Chairpersons of the Education Committees in the New York State Senate and Assembly, Suzi Oppenheimer and Catherine Nolan, respectively.

Below is a sample letter to the chairpersons. Their support of these bills is crucial for the curriculum project to push forward. You may find your legislator by logging on to the following websites: <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us> or <http://www.senate.state.ny.us>.

For additional information readers may contact the UNIS office at 202-547-0018 or via e-mail at unis@ucca.org. (Please monitor this and other projects of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness of 1932-1933 at <http://www.ukrainegenocide.org>.)

Sample letter

The Honorable (Suzi Oppenheimer/
Catherine Nolan)
New York State (Senate/Assembly)
Albany, NY

Dear Chairperson (Oppenheimer/Nolan):

I am writing to request your support of Bill (S3356-A/A6690-A) and move it out of your Education Committee. This bill would mandate the inclusion of the Holodomor – the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, into the social studies curriculum of New York State. In 1932-1933 Stalin attempted to exterminate the independently-minded Ukrainian nation by closing the borders of Ukraine and seizing all food. As a result, 7 million to 10 million people, including mil-

(Continued on page 10)

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Cui bono in Demjanjuk case?

Cui bono? Who benefits? Who benefits from the ongoing, seemingly never-ending Demjanjuk debacle?

The main beneficiary, of course, is the Office of Special Investigations (OSI), that self-aggrandizing, make-work unit of the Department of Justice that pretends to hunt for Nazis while spying on East European American communities, rummaging about for signs of anti-Semitism, and relying on Jewish congressional leaders to carry their water.

OSI director Eli Rosenbaum has succeeded in conning Germany into accepting John Demjanjuk to stand trial for being an accessory to the death of 29,000 Jews. An "accessory," mind you, not the actual killer. It's another OSI swindle, similar to the one perpetrated against Israel by former OSI directors Allan Ryan and Neal Sher.

Mr. Rosenbaum hopes that this time there will be a conviction, and that the OSI will be vindicated. Forgotten will be judicial rulings in America accusing the OSI of "perpetrating fraud against the courts." Faded will be memories of the OSI withholding exculpatory evidence during Mr. Demjanjuk's original trial in Cleveland.

Not that Mr. Rosenbaum ever really worried about any of this. As long as Rahm Emanuel, Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Charles Schumer and Rep. Henry Waxman are around, he is protected. He's untouchable. Still, it must occasionally sting to know that the OSI is a racket, a rip-off of the American taxpayer.

If you've been following recent developments, you know that the OSI is behind the narrative that the German press has adopted concerning the case. In a May 14 Der Spiegel posting devoted to the Demjanjuk case, we read: "Historians and legal experts estimate that up to 10,000 Nazi collaborators emigrated to the United States during the chaos of the first few postwar years." Really?

This canard was first promoted by Allan J. Ryan, OSI director from 1980 to 1983, in his book, "Quiet Neighbors: Prosecuting Nazi War Criminals in America." Like all OSI directors, Mr. Ryan had to justify the existence of an agency within the Department of Justice, initiated by Jewish Congressional leaders to hunt alleged Nazi war criminals living in the United States.

Mr. Ryan took a page out of the Soviet playbook when he wrote: "The Displaced Persons Act of 1948 was a brazenly discriminatory piece of legislation, written to exclude as many concentration camp survivors as possible and to include as many Baltic and Ukrainian and ethnic German Volksdeutsche as it could get away with... Had Congress tried to design a law that would extend the Statue of Liberty's hand to the followers and practitioners of Nazism, it could not have done much better than this without coming right out and saying so..."

"How many Nazi perpetrators came to the United States?" asked Mr. Ryan. "No one knows and no one ever will. All one can do is conjecture. There were 393,000 immigrants under the DP Act. If one estimates that only 2.5 percent of that number took part in persecution, then nearly 10,000 Nazi war criminals came to America." So much for the opinions of the "historians" and "legal experts" mentioned by Der Spiegel. It's all "conjecture." OSI

came up with this figure years ago and the German press is buying it.

Where did the idea of displaced persons as war criminals originate? With the Soviets, of course. When the war ended, and thousands of refugees in Western Europe refused to return to Stalin's "workers' paradise," the Soviets were mightily mortified. "How could that be?" the world wondered. The escapees had to be "Nazi collaborators" and they needed to be returned to the Soviet Union to face "Soviet justice." The New York Times of January 24, 1945, agreed, concluding that those Soviet nationals who wished to remain in the West were "collaborationists who have no claim on the sympathies of Russia's Western allies."

Responding to Stalin's demands, codified earlier at Yalta, the British, French and Americans instituted "Operation Keelhaul," forcibly repatriating thousands of helpless men, women and children. In his books "Victims of Yalta" and "The Secret Betrayal," Nikolai Tolstoy estimates that more than 2 million Soviet nationals were repatriated. Upon their return, some 20 percent were either executed or sentenced to the gulag for 25 years; another 15 percent received sentences of five to 10 years.

What does Germany gain from the OSI-orchestrated Demjanjuk circus? If and when the trial actually takes place, German prosecutors will follow Israel's example and introduce tons of extraneous and irrelevant history. They will demonstrate that not only Germans were guilty of crimes against Jews, Hungarians, Croats, Latvians, Estonians, Lithuanians, Poles, Ukrainians and other nationalities were complicit as well.

The stage for such a scenario was set by Der Spiegel in a May 20 online article titled "Hitler's European Holocaust Helpers," which read: "The Germans are responsible for industrial-scale mass murder..."

But the collusion of other European countries in the Holocaust has received surprisingly little attention until recently. The trial of John Demjanjuk is set to throw a spotlight on Hitler's foreign helpers." Right.

Such disclosures will confirm Moscow's original claims regarding Ukrainians and Balts, making the Russians another beneficiary in the process. Count on Moscow to crow as the Demjanjuk circus drags on for months. Another benefit for Moscow will be to turn the world's attention away from Soviet war crimes. The Holodomor will be put on hold.

Some final questions. What right does Germany have to try an American of Ukrainian descent who never lived in Germany, who allegedly committed war crimes in Poland, whose alleged guilt is based on an identity card manufactured in Russia, and who was freed by Israel? Aren't there enough war criminals living in Germany? Sure there are, but as Patrick Buchanan pointed out, "the Germans voted an amnesty for themselves in 1969."

Mr. Rosenbaum and his OSI cohorts remain, a fetid, festering carbuncle on the American body politic. The sooner they disappear, the sooner will the Justice Department be restored to the rule of law. Attorney General Eric Holder can make America whole again. Will he do it?

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Interview...

(Continued from page 3)

Indeed the general sum of the loans of \$16 billion (120 billion hrv) seems to be planned for four years. It's a very insignificant sum for an economy the size of Ukraine's [Editor's note: Ukraine's Gross Domestic Product was 951 billion hrv in 2008]. That's about \$4 billion a year. These are amounts which can't even patch financial gaps that emerged after the financial and currency crisis.

But the psychological factor, particularly for foreign investors, that the IMF is working with Ukraine, has more meaning – that Ukraine is among those nations that are interesting for such large international financial organizations. This factor is far more important than the actual amounts.

As for how the Ukrainian government uses the IMF tranches, it will bring no benefit to the economy, because half of the funds are being used to cover old debts.

Whom is the debt owed? Other governments, or international institutions?

There are various debtors – governments, international institutions, the World Bank. Meaning the time to pay debts is nearing and enough was stolen that this year debts still need to be paid. Therefore, half the tranche is being used to cover these debts. And the other half is practically being used to cover the budget's required social spending to prevent any social breakdown, or at least postpone it.

Therefore, these tranches are practically being entirely spent. The money is not being used to develop the real economy. So far the tranches are being used solely for patching financial gaps and budgetary problems. So these tranches offer nothing for economic development.

Could we have done without them? Obviously yes, by cutting budget spending. I think it wouldn't have been a prob-

lem to cut budget spending by the tranche's amount for 2009. These aren't such large amounts that it would have been impossible to reduce budget spending. There are a lot of cases in which Ukrainian governments have large sums, for example from the sale of Kryvorizhstal, which brought \$5 billion at the time, and nobody can say where this money went. So the public relations hype of the sale occurred, the funds from Mittal Steel were received, but no one knows where they were directed.

And now we are standing on one knee before the IMF and taking much fewer amounts per year. These tranche amounts can't influence the economy, but for the world, for investors and for international financial organizations, it's more important that the IMF is working with Ukraine than the actual tranche amounts.

Do you share the view that a large portion of the tranche was used to refinance banks which suffered and were thereby rescued, or that they were used for corrupt schemes?

The first tranche [Editor's note – \$4.5 billion] was entirely used to solve problems on the currency market, or the hryvnia's devaluation. At least the National Bank of Ukraine announced that at the moment of the crisis' beginning, it had \$35 [billion] or \$37 billion in reserves. But I think the larger part of these reserves [Editor's note: known as gold-currency reserves, or foreign exchange reserves] was simply not liquid. It was in government bonds. I heard information that a large part of these bonds were Georgian, which are not liquid [Editor's note: liquidity refers to the ease with which an asset is traded]. Georgia couldn't pay Ukraine at that moment if Ukraine needed to sell these bonds.

So the sum is there, but a part is in various currencies in various banks. Another

portion is gold and precious metals, and another part is bonds. So the majority of the National Bank's stated reserves are not liquid, and when the currency crisis unfolded, the National Bank simply didn't have enough reserves of real money to cope. Therefore, if you noticed, the IMF decided to extend Ukraine this \$16.5 billion loan with extraordinary quickness and very quickly distributed the first tranche. It understood that the currency blast was such that it could have led to social upheaval. So the first tranche was simply to extinguish the currency fire.

The second tranche was used for old debt due this year and social payments, because Ukraine's budget is not being fulfilled. The government is announcing that, according to its "plan," it's even surpassing budgetary requirements. The government's "plan" is one thing, but the real financing needs, for example the State Pension Fund, show that budget revenues for the first quarter of 2009 are less than the Pension Fund's expenditures. Therefore, less was raised for the entire budget than what was needed to spend for the Pension Fund alone.

Is this official, or from your sources?

This is not official. But based on revenues reported on treasury accounts, it's apparent that budget revenues are less than Pension Fund spending alone. Half of the tranche is to cover social spending, above all pension expenses. Many are saying this and it's real, which is why the second, third and even a fourth tranche will be used for social spending.

But look, when the first tranche was given, it's said the devaluation only accelerated afterwards ...

That's a whole other issue of how the National Bank acted on the currency market. During the first 10 days of the currency crisis in Ukraine, the National Bank took a wait-and-see position, believing that these were insignificant fluctuations and they would extinguish themselves. It did nothing, and the hryvnia devalued. You remember that the rate was 4.6 hrv per \$1 [in the summer] and the exchange rate grew higher than 10 hrv per \$1.

After 10 days, the National Bank understood that something needed to be done on the currency market, it began to intervene, but the wave was already too large. Even after it began to intervene, the exchange rate grew to more than 10 hrv per \$1. Currently the government and the National Bank are shouting that they stabilized the hryvnia, calling it a stabilization and strengthening of the hryvnia.

Truly, this is stabilization from the fact that the income of Ukrainians has fallen very sharply, particularly wages. Nominal incomes have fallen by a third, or 35 percent, and real incomes by a quarter, or 25 percent. Plus a large number of citizens were sent on mandatory leaves at their own cost in the first quarter. So people don't have income and are living off their savings. So the real amount of money is so meager that they don't have anything to buy [foreign] currencies with. It's the same situation among businesses. Industrial output has fallen by a third. The construction industry fell by 52 percent. With such declines, of course, enterprises don't have funds to even handle their sales. They don't have anything to buy [foreign] currencies with.

So the demand for currency declined and the hryvnia strengthened. It's not from anything the National Bank did. Hryvnia-denominated incomes have fallen so much among citizens and businesses that they don't have the ability to buy themselves foreign currencies.

Why was the hryvnia devalued in October-November?

It was caused by the government's very unwise foreign economic policy in the first

half [of 2008]. Already in July the government brought the foreign trade deficit to almost \$10 billion.

Was that the largest?

Such a negative foreign trade deficit never existed in Ukraine's history.

What was the effect?

The negative balance of payments was brought to almost 10 percent of GDP, which led to limits on the sale of grain as support for the currency. Additionally, to reduce inflation, the [Ukrainian] government began buying imported food products, particularly meat. It restricted its own producers, prohibiting them from exporting their products and thereby restricting foreign currency inflows. And with its own currency, the government bought imported food products. That's why an artificial currency deficit was formed in the country and that all led to the fall, when the financial crisis began in Ukraine, leading to the largest devaluation in Europe and among the largest in the world.

But how can a deficit in foreign currency lead to devaluation?

After the fall, when the demand emerged for foreign currency, everyone, under the pressure of the financial crisis, wanted to protect themselves from harm. Wealth could be protected by buying hard foreign currencies. So the rush onto the currency market led to the hryvnia's sharp devaluation. We have a unique situation in Ukraine – the hryvnia-dollar exchange rate can fluctuate, but the hryvnia-euro exchange rate can be at almost the same level. It's simply a stereotype among Ukrainians – they favor the dollar for hard currency and view it as more convenient. Even after the euro's introduction, the dollar declined against the euro by half, yet the hryvnia remained stable at 5.05 [hrv per \$1].

Tymoshenko accused the National Bank of speculating on the hryvnia...

She was forced to make these accusations in order to shift the blame. The National Bank slept for 10 days, and that was its mistake. But the National Bank is not responsible for the country having a negative balance of payments of \$10 billion, at 10 percent of GDP. That's the government's foreign economic policy. The National Bank was a hostage to the situation when the currency market was rushed. It's another matter that it had to react instantly, rather than falling asleep for 10 days.

So the economy and finance ministers were responsible?

The economy minister decides almost nothing. For Ukraine, he's a mute and prognosticator, gives out a few licenses and permits, but practically has no direct influence on economic policy. The finance minister forms the budget primarily. The prime minister decides on permits or bans on imports or exports. He signs them. These ministries are merely executors.

Remember that at the start of the crisis, there was a very large conflict between the government and the National Bank as to who was responsible. The government said the National Bank was conducting some unintelligible operations, and the National Bank blamed the government. The IMF reconciled them, posing the question point-blank: either take responsibility as a single government and we will give you credit, or we won't extend credit to the government and National Bank separately. We are extending Ukraine credit because it's Ukraine's government debt.

It was the very strict position of the IMF, whose money they couldn't have avoided at that moment, which removed the mutual, public accusations between the government and National Bank, though

(Continued on page 9)

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Interview...

(Continued from page 8)

not reconciling them.

What are your thoughts about this year's budget, and how is it related to the crisis? Did it worsen the crisis?

If you remember, the budget was passed during the final days of last year. The Verkhovna Rada applauded loudly and joyfully that it passed the budget, but it was passed apriori, based unrealistic macroeconomic indicators which the government planned for 2009 – GDP growth of 0.9 percent and low [annual] inflation of 9.5 percent. The first quarter showed that this is an absolutely unrealistic budget, based on macro-indicators.

During a crisis, there is a need to review the state's budget spending for cuts. That is why there is a pressing need to not even introduce budget amendments, but to form a new crisis budget in new crisis conditions and realities that takes into account industrial declines.

Other than that, Ukraine needs at long last anti-crisis measures, and the national budget is an important element in realizing these measures. To this day, there aren't any real anti-crisis programs. Not a single branch of government is proposing any realistic budget amendments – not the Cabinet, the Parliament or the president. There's criticism that it needs to be amended, but no one is offering realistic proposals. It's impossible to find logic in the Ukrainian government's economic measures. The logic is more along the lines of "svii-chuzhyi" [ours-not ours]. We give to ours, but not to others.

If the budget doesn't reflect reality, then what will happen?

The government is currently operating by the "fill in the gaps" method. There's a problem – it's necessary to pay pensions. Then all budget revenues are practically directed towards this payment. If funds are lacking, then the issue involves obtaining funds from the IMF or World Bank, or floating government bonds. So the government's principle is, above all, covering the necessary social spending as much as it can. Budgetary development projects aren't an issue today because their required financing is delayed until at least the end of the year.

But it's evident the government already can't fulfill all its social payments. For example, the Ministry of Education ordered teachers to submit statements requesting two weeks of unpaid leave for spring recess in most regions. So the government can't even pay two weeks of teachers' meager salaries, which testifies to very big problems in fulfilling the state budget. I think we'll really feel what social upheaval is once the government is unable to pay pensions.

That might happen this year?

In theory, we can expect it some time during the second half of the summer.

By the way, it is believed that Tymoshenko is re-writing various budget deficits and revenue shortfalls from the first quarter to the fourth quarter. Do you think this is happening? What other manipulations are being performed?

The government is currently using such manipulation technologies. It is executing the budget, not on a quarterly schedule, but by the so-called "government plan" – the "government's plan" on budget spending and revenue. The "government plan" is some kind of document which can be approved but is not required to conform to real quarterly budgetary needs. The prime minister claims the government is exceeding its budget revenue plan. But it's not surpassing its budget revenue, but some internal government plan for budget revenue.

The "plan" can be formed in such a way

that you can execute it in any situation. It's a manipulative technology to go to a press conference and say, "We are executing the revenue plan," but not the actual revenues. To a large extent, I think the government was counting on pre-term presidential elections, which were supposed to occur in late October, in order to hold on for this period and at the end of the year – what will be, will be. That didn't happen, and now it's harder for the government to hold on until the end of the year.

One economic indicator that is disturbing is the gradual decline in foreign exchange reserves of about \$20 billion since the summer to about \$24.5 billion currently.

The president said only \$14 billion, or even \$12 billion, will be left in the National Bank's gold-currency reserves by the end of the year.

What will that mean?

If a positive foreign trade balance is maintained, or even-level trade, it won't be a danger. But if imports will continue to significantly outweigh exports, then the latest risks will emerge, primarily for the hryvnia's further devaluation.

Reserves haven't been this low for a long time.

It's been a very long time, and you need to compare it with Gross Domestic Product levels. GDP is larger than 10 years ago, yet these gold-currency reserves of \$12 to \$14 billion are at the level of eight to 10 years ago. But the economy's volume was significantly lower then.

What do you think is the best way to brake the crisis and return the economy on to the right path?

To be frank, the strongest step would be for the government to resign. There can't be a better signal for the market than the resignation of the government that brought the economic crisis to such depths as in Ukraine.

That's the president and prime minister?

Our economic government consists of two branches – tax and budget [fiscal] policy belongs to the Cabinet, and the money-credit policy [monetary] belongs to the National Bank of Ukraine. The president doesn't have direct economic authority or levers.

But he could have at least dismissed [National Bank Chair] Volodymyr Stelmakh, which was widely called for.

He didn't do this, but the fact of the matter is I don't think the National Bank chair decides all that much, because we have a unique national bank in the form of its supervisory council, led by [Petro] Poroshenko. If you examine the list of supervisory council members, you will see representatives from all the political forces, including [Arsenyi] Yatsenyuk, [Vasyl] Horbal, the former mayoral candidate of the Party of Regions of Ukraine, and Socialists as well.

The supervisory council has access to primary sources of information that is gathered – for example, what the National Bank will do on the currency markets. All these people are owners of large capital. Of course, being privy to primary sources of information of what the National Bank plans to do, undoubtedly these people who own enormous capital simply speculated on the currency market during the crisis and profited on credit.

Who did this?

Members of the supervisory council like Poroshenko, Yatsenyuk, Horbal and others. Just look at the list of its members ...

[Dmytro] Firtash's Nadra ...

"To this day, there aren't any real anti-crisis programs. Not a single branch of government is proposing any realistic budget amendments – not the Cabinet, the Parliament or the president."

***– Economist
Andriy Novak***

Yes. A large financial speculation, or corruption if you will, occurred.

You're sure of that?

It's obvious. There's not even a discussion.

But other economists say Stelmakh and [National Bank First Vice-Chair Oleksander] Savchenko are responsible ...

They were hostages to the situation. In Stelmakh's place, I would have simply voluntarily resigned, and that's it. If you don't control the situation and can't influence it, then acknowledge, declare it publicly, which would be an even more posi-

tive step, and resign.

What else needs to be done?

Approve an anti-crisis program. It doesn't exist. It must be developed between the government and the National Bank. It can't be only the government's program, or only measures of the National Bank. It must be a common document of both institutions that implement economic policy. The program should be planned for no less than three years, until 2011. I have my own version of anti-crisis measures.

For example? They say that instead of putting out fires, structural reforms are necessary. You're a big proponent of that.

That's absolutely necessary because the results of the crisis once again proved that Ukraine has an absolutely outdated economic system that doesn't conform to its era. Above all, metallurgy and chemistry must be developed. These branches suffered the most during the crisis.

And the single branch of the Ukrainian economy that not only didn't decline, but even showed small growth, was agriculture, which grew about 2 percent [in the first quarter]. What does this tell us? Regardless of the Ukrainian government, which gives the impression it is intentionally destroying the Ukrainian village, agriculture survived all the same, it continues to survive and even grew during the crisis.

Are competent leaders lacking?

We can't say that experts are lacking altogether. But experts don't decide policy. They simply execute it. We've had several good finance ministers, but they merely carry out policy. The prime minister tells them that one-half goes to the budget, the other half goes into pockets.

(Continued on page 10)



Українська Спортова Централь
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USCAK - EAST 2009 and KLK Tennis Tournament Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles

Dates: June 27 - 28, 2009

Place: Soyuzivka Heritage Center, Kerhonkson, NY

Starting Times: Singles will start 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 27th.
Doubles will start 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Entry: **Advance registration is required for singles.** Entry fee is \$30 per adult individual or a doubles team, \$10 of which will be donated to Soyuzivka for tennis court repair and maintenance. Entry fee for junior players is \$15.
Send registration form including the fee to:

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Singles registration must be received by June 20th. Doubles teams may register at Soyuzivka by 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 27th. **Do not send entry form to Soyuzivka.**

Rules: All USTA and USCAK rules for tournament play will apply.
Participants must be Ukrainian by birth, heritage or marriage.
Players may enter up to two groups of either singles or doubles.

Awards: Trophies will be presented to winners and finalists in each group.

Host Club: KLK, USCAK Tennis Committee will conduct the tournament.

Registration Form
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Doubles _____ Partner _____ Mixed Doubles _____ Partner _____

USCAK EAST 2009

Interview...

(Continued from page 9)

And the finance minister has to carry out everything.

A telling example was [former Finance Minister Viktor] Pynzenyk. He was a good minister because he hoped that she truly wanted to do something good and knows how. But when he saw that he would be a minister during inadequate and ineffective measures, he stated this and pointed out the dangers. I believe that was the right position, which Stelmakh should have taken.

But he didn't sign his statement. He released it anonymously.

Anonymously. He was politically dependent. His party was taken into the [Tymoshenko] bloc, into the Parliament, and made him a minister, meaning he was politically dependent and politically civil. Though what civility can we have when the entire country is rolling downhill?

He didn't personally sign the statement, but everyone knows, and I personally know his style of laying things out, his sentences, and he wrote it. Stelmakh should have done the same – show the real picture. If he has very great courage, name the people who speculated on the currency market.

Why is the government concealing economic data, and is that appropriate?

From the political position of the government's leader, it's appropriate because she considers herself the president and if she revealed the real economic indicators, it would immediately cut her poll ratings in half. That Ukraine's economic crisis is the worst in Europe – and among the worst in the world – that's a mark of the government's work. For her own cause, the prime minister's concealment is good. But for the country, undoubtedly not.

Many investment banks and businessmen are holding roundtables and conferences to discuss when the crisis will end and when investment will return. It seems that won't happen for a while. People have lost their trust and we know that it's very difficult to regain it. What do you think?

Renewing trust will be very difficult in Ukraine, because the history of the hryvnia in it of itself is very difficult. It was very shinningly introduced in 1996 during a decline in GDP and a very deep economic crisis. The process of introducing the hryvnia was lustrous. During two months and without any problem, the national currency was introduced. The exchange rate was stable until the col-

lapse of the Russian ruble in 1998, which dragged the hryvnia down with it. Though there weren't any economic preconditions for the hryvnia's collapse, the psychological factor led people to rush exchange booths which led to the hryvnia's decline in 1998, though half as much as the ruble's fall.

And now, when at the end of 2008 the devaluation was more than 100 percent, the loss of faith in the national currency was very large. It's necessary to restore this trust. Firstly, a complete ban is needed on deposits, loans and insurance in foreign currencies. All financial operations must take place exclusively in hryvni, other than those foreign-economic, because if all other currencies are in free circulation in Ukraine, then the question emerges of why do we have a national currency? What is it for?

But isn't that the case now?

No. Ukrainians can borrow money and open savings deposits in foreign currencies. On the cash real estate market, most transactions take place in foreign currencies. If a national currency exists, then all banking operations on our territory should be exclusively in our currency. If you want to buy something abroad, then you go on the currency market and buy yourself the foreign currency. When you can't conduct any banking transactions in other currencies, then trust is forced to return. There's no alternative. Without the monopolization of the hryvnia on Ukraine's domestic banking market, restoring faith in the hryvnia will be very difficult, almost unrealistic.

A second step is establishing order in Ukraine's banking sector, which has been very liberal. A few million dollars or euros was all that was necessary to create and open a bank. It's 10 million currently. Any businessman of a slightly higher level could afford that amount. So the process of launching banks in Ukraine was too liberal and now, during the financial crisis, we are reaping the fruits of that. The majority of Ukrainian banks are either bankrupt or close to it, unable to pay back deposits. And like any bankruptcy, it should be declared so and put on sale.

Or refinanced?

I believe the procedure of refinancing banks, which is popular throughout the world, and recapitalization can't be done under any circumstance in Ukraine. Under no circumstance. The government and the National Bank earmarked 44 billion hrv [\$5.9 billion] for re-financing. What does this mean? It means that 44 billion hrv of taxpayer money are paying 50 or 60 bankers and rescuing them.

Why should I, a taxpayer, rescue some-

one who was making exorbitant profits, took too many risks, and created an excessively risky asset. Now he's burned and I'm supposed to rescue him? A bank is a commercial structure with the goal of earning profit as quickly as possible and as much as possible. Where will he go with this money? Where there's fast money – speculating on the currency market. Of those 44 billion hrv, very little will go into the real economy, because you don't gain quick or large profit there.

This is money that is given to bankers according to the "svii-chuzhyi" (not ours) principle. Ours receive, while the others are chased out. This process of recapitalization in Ukraine is a "deryban" [editor's note: the Ukrainian term for corrupt government giveaways] on a national scale. If we complained about derybanchyky in the past, then 44 billion is enormous, practically a third of the budget, which is earmarked for rescuing a few dozen bankers.

Are these funds from the state budget or the IMF?

These are budget funds. The government already announced it will sell government bonds, which the National Bank will buy. I think it will buy them by printing money, primarily.

Isn't it dangerous for inflation to issue government bonds?

If this money went into the real economy, then of course the inflation lag would have extinguished itself. Since it goes directly to the banks, which will take this money to the currency and stock markets, then of course it poses a very large risk of encouraging inflation in Ukraine, as well as large fluctuations in the currency market.

We are currently witnessing a battle of statistics. The president said in late April the State Pension Fund has a \$1.7 billion deficit. A week later, its chair said the Fund had an excess of 4.7 percent, without naming a figure. What's the real situation?

Publishing financial and economic data completely depends on where people are sitting. Of course, the government wants to publish positive figures to show the situation is not critical, that everything is fine and plans are being fulfilled or exceeded. The opposition and the Presidential Secretariat are trying to show the real picture, because the presidential campaign has begun. All these mutual accusations are an element of the presi-

“... the strongest step [to brake the crisis] would be for the government to resign. There can't be a better signal for the market than the resignation of the government that brought the economic crisis to such depths as in Ukraine.”

**– Economist
Andriy Novak**

dential campaign.

Undoubtedly, there's a real set of data. But interpreting and commenting on them is another matter. So far, pensions are being paid, but the question is how ...

And at what expense?

They are being paid at the expense of many other programs that are supposed to be financed by the state budget. That the prime minister concentrated her attention on this, and that the government scrupulously is fulfilling pension obligations tells us that they selected pensions as the criteria for crisis. If we're paying pensions, then that means everything is fine.

Pensions are so much a fundamental social payment that if the government can't even fulfill them, then we have returned to the middle of the 1990s, when Ukraine owed a multi-billion dollar debt in paying pensions and wages, particularly to miners.

And do you expect this again?

I think a lot will depend on whether the government will attract foreign resources, because it's apparent that budget revenues won't be able to cover even the guaranteed social payments of the national budget.

Ukrainian Genocide...

(Continued from page 7)

lions of children, were deliberately starved to death.

As a member of the large Ukrainian community in New York state, I am very interested in seeing this bill pass in the New York State legislature. In fact, many New Yorkers wonder why a genocide of this magnitude is not being taught in our state school system. Passing this bill

would go a long way toward rectifying this inequity.

I urge you to make every effort to facilitate the passing of Bill (S3356-A/A6690-A). As a champion of democracy, the United States must bring to light the crimes of totalitarianism as part of its struggle to end oppression in all corners of the world.

– submitted by the Ukrainian National Information Service

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Ukraine's membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Socialist Party of Ukraine leader Yosyp Vynskyi said the party's leadership would not sign a formal agreement with PRU, but didn't rule out the possibility that some of his party deputies would join a coalition with PRU.

Ms. Tymoshenko denounced the news that Our Ukraine was open to talks with

the PRU, and declared that such a coalition had already been in the making and attacked Our Ukraine for its betrayal of the Orange Revolution.

Ms. Tymoshenko reiterated her stance that her bloc would never unite with the Party of Regions, and its union with Our Ukraine would benefit Ukraine's elite businessmen at the expense of its common people.

Source: "Party of Regions reported to be close to forming majority coalition in Rada," by Zenon Zawada, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 18, 2006.

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Executives of Ukrainian national TV visit Chicago

by Vera Eliashevsky

CHICAGO – After taking part in the conference of Ukrainian Journalists of North America held at Soyuzivka on May 15-17, Vasyl Ilaschuk, president, and Andrij Chernyuk, vice president, of National Television Company of Ukraine, Channel 1, traveled to Chicago to attend several meetings arranged for them by the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International.

On May 20 meetings were held at the Chicago ABC-TV Network WLS with General Manager Emily Barr and Vice-President and News Director Jennifer Graves. Ideas regarding management, technology and programming were exchanged and the visitors had a chance to view the studio and operations of the television station. Mr. Ilaschuk, who had been a TV anchor in Ukraine for over 20 years, felt much at home during the visit.

A meeting was also held with Dorothy Coyle, director of the Chicago Office of Tourism. Discussions were held on how Chicago is promoted and has grown to become not only a business destination, but also an international tourist city. Each year, 48 million tourists visit the city of Chicago. Based on the Chicago/Kyiv sister cities relationship, it was agreed to continue to explore opportunities for collaborative projects. Ukraine's Channel 1 will start by featuring segments about Chicago in Ukraine.

This enhanced reputation of showcasing Chicago to its international partners holds the promise of sustainable benefits for the city, and comes at a critical time in

Chicago's bid for the 2016 Olympics.

In addition, Orysia Cardoso, president of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, greeted Messrs. Ilaschuk and Chernyuk at an informal meeting where members of Chicago's Ukrainian community had gathered to meet with the guests and had an opportunity to discuss current affairs in Ukraine.

Maria Klimchak, who operates the "Ukrainian Wave" program on Radio WSBC 1240 AM in Chicago, and Oksana Chuyko, who operates "Ukrainian Independent Radio" on 750 AM in Chicago, co-hosted the event.

Since 1991 Chicago and Kyiv have enjoyed a close partnership as sister cities. Over the years, the committee has engaged in several exchanges between Kyiv and Chicago, particularly in the areas of education, culture and medical initiatives.

In 2009 the two cities partnered to launch the first electronic library in Ukraine through a partnership with the Kyiv Committee and Chicago's Northwestern University to give Ukrainian students access to world's digitized network of academic and research information.

In an official capacity, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley traveled to Kyiv in 2005 to meet with business, government, educational and religious leaders, and in April, Chicago welcomed Vice-Mayor Yevhen Chervonenko for the first-ever "Chicago Global Cities Forum," where municipal leaders from nearly 30 countries met in Chicago to discuss today's most critical urban issues.



Vera Eliashevsky

WLS-ABC 7 News Co-Anchors Sylvia Perez and Hosea Sanders with Vasyl Ilaschuk, president of the National Television Company of Ukraine.



During a get-together in Chicago (from left) are: Maria Klimchak, "Ukrainian Wave Radio," and member, Chicago Kyiv Sister City Committee, Vasyl Ilaschuk, president, National Television Company Ukraine, Channel 1; Emily Barr, president and general manager, WLS (ABC 7) Chicago; Vera Eliashevsky, chair, Chicago Kyiv Sister City Committee; and Andrij Chernyuk, vice-president, National Television Company of Ukraine.

Librarians of Ukraine and N.Y. share experience through Open World program

IRONDEQUOIT, N.Y. – Open World leaders from Ukraine arrived in Irondequoit on Saturday, April 25, for a weeklong program to promote mutual understanding between American and Ukrainian librarians.

The Irondequoit-Poltava Sister Cities organization had planned a program to promote mutual understanding and share ideas about library services in the United States. Participants included highly motivated Ukrainian public and academic librarians and the staff members of Window on America Centers opened in regional libraries in Ukraine under the U.S. government's Window on America (American Corners) Program.

Five librarians, including one representative from Poltava, Irondequoit's Sister City in Ukraine, participated in the professional and cultural exchange accompa-

nied by an English speaking facilitator also from Ukraine.

Open World participants included: Nataliya Dida, Luhansk Regional Scientific Library; Lyudmyla Halitsyna, editor, Educational Management; Yaroslava Khimich, State Academy for Cultural and Arts Executives; Olena Turkina, Window on America, Poltava Oblast Library; Valentyna Volynets, Kyiv Polytechnic Institute Scientific and Technical Library; and Krystyna Dobrovol'ska, facilitator.

Managed by the independent program Leadership Center at the Library of Congress, Open World is designed to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and the countries of Eurasia and the

(Continued on page 16)



Open World program participants and their hosts during a visit with the Irondequoit Town Council and Town Supervisor Mary Ellen Heyman (seated, center).

This project has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage through Dance Advance

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

the president. Party leader Viktor Yanukovich said in a televised address to the Ukrainian people on June 7: "People should believe that the head of state does all he can to improve the lives of all citizens, so that Ukraine revives economically and has prospects for the future. The mandate of such trust can be received only in national elections." Mr. Yanukovich said that constitutional amendments would be introduced after nationwide presidential elections. He also described speedy talks in the Parliament's corridors as a "step back from democracy." "It's necessary to speed up reforms, but not by restricting the rights of citizens," he said. Mr. Yanukovich said that during their talks the PRU and the YTB had gained invaluable experience in seeking compromises that will be used after elections. "It's possible to save Ukraine only by uniting all, without exception, participants in the political process," he said. (Ukrinform)

YTB to submit its draft constitution

KYIV – The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) is planning to submit its draft of constitutional amendments for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada on June 10-11, the leader of the bloc's parliamentary faction, Ivan Kyrylenko, said on June 9. He said that this bill did not contain any proposals to extend the powers of the current Parliament for several years or to have the Parliament elect the president. "You know that we support a parliamentary form of government where the key post is that of prime minister," he added. The Party of Regions of Ukraine and the Tymoshenko Bloc had previously discussed their joint draft of constitutional amendments. (Ukrinform)

President says he persuaded Yanukovich

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said he had a number of talks with Party of Regions of Ukraine leader Viktor Yanukovich regarding the inexpediency for the PRU and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc to unite in order to amend the Constitution of Ukraine. Mr. Yushchenko said at a press conference on June 9 that he had phoned Mr. Yanukovich several times, persuading him that the only way of coming to power was through legal means. Mr. Yushchenko also said that he had sent his envoy to the PRU and the YTB to explain to them that presidential elections should be direct, and that both political forces could not deprive the people of their right to make this selection. "I had a firm position, and I knew that the key to this situation was in my hands," the president said, adding that this could have had an effect on Mr. Yanukovich's decision to end any talks on the creation of a broad coalition and the introduction of constitutional amendments. He said that the PRU's refusal to form an anti-state coalition had proved the existence of a strong democracy in Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

PM says Yushchenko disrupted talks

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said she is confident that President Viktor Yushchenko disrupted talks on the creation of a broad coalition. She said at a press conference on June 9 that coalition talks had been held with all parliamentary factions, not only with the Party of Regions faction. Ms. Tymoshenko said that the goal of a broad coalition was the stabilization of the political and economic situation in Ukraine amid the global financial crisis. She denied reports in the media that constitutional amendments considered by the Tymoshenko Bloc and the Party of Regions foresaw the extension of the cur-

rent Parliament's powers for five years and the restriction of work by certain media. (Ukrinform)

Parliament sacks defense minister

KYIV – With an overwhelming majority of 363 votes, the Verkhovna Rada on June 5 dismissed Defense Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. The deputies who overwhelmingly supported the vote were from the opposition Party of Regions, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc, and the Communist Party. Mr. Yekhanurov, a former prime minister himself, was not present during the vote, as he was participating in a session of the National Security and Defense Council. "This is petty revenge against the president," said Ihor Popov, the Ukrainian president's representative in the Verkhovna Rada. "As far as I remember, according to the Constitution, it is the president who nominates and dismisses the defense minister. Therefore, we will definitely examine whether this procedure has been violated." Ms. Tymoshenko initiated the dismissal of Mr. Yekhanurov two weeks ago after accusing him and his ministry of financial improprieties. (RFE/RL)

Acting defense minister is named

KYIV – The Ukrainian government has dismissed Valerii Ivaschenko as vice-minister of defense minister and appointed him as first vice-minister of defense. The decision was taken at an extraordinary government meeting on June 5. Thus, Mr. Ivaschenko has begun serving as acting defense minister. (Ukrinform)

Secretariat: dismissal was revenge

KYIV – The vote in the Verkhovna Rada for the dismissal of Yurii Yekhanurov as defense minister was a "minor political revenge," the president's representative in Parliament, Ihor Popov, said on June 5. He noted that today in Ukraine "ministers are being dismissed not due to their activity or inactivity, but because it's necessary to demonstrate something, frighten somebody and take revenge on somebody." (Ukrinform)

President: dismissal politically motivated

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said that the Verkhovna Rada's decision of June 5 to dismiss Defense Minister Yurii Yekhanurov is a purely politically motivated step, the president's press secretary, Iryna Vannykova, reported on June 9. She said that the Parliament was not interested in pressing problems of the Ukrainian army and added that such a decision was a planned political step to settle scores with Mr. Yekhanurov. Ms. Vannykova said that President Yushchenko viewed the Parliament's decision as the continuation of the government's campaign of "vacant posts." She recalled that the country still remains without finance and foreign affairs ministers. She quoted Mr. Yushchenko as saying that the defense minister's dismissal would not influence the activity of servicemen, and that they would remain disciplined. "Destructive political decisions will not harm the activity of the Ukrainian army," Ms. Vannykova stated. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine seeks apology from Russia

KYIV – The Presidential Secretariat stated that it hopes Russia will apologize for statements on the inability of Ukraine's Naftohaz to pay for gas, the president's commissioner for international energy security, Bohdan Sokolovskiy, said at a briefing on June 5. "After the payment [for Russian gas consumed in May] is made, we have grounds to hope that the Russian side will make apologies for its ill-considered, inappropriate and humiliating statements against Ukraine

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

and the Ukrainian people," he said. Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said at a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council on Friday that Naftohaz Ukrainy would pay Gazprom for gas consumed in May through an emission of 3.8 billion hrv. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said earlier that Russia had doubts regarding Ukraine's ability to pay for gas supplied by its neighbor. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin sent a letter to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in which he focused on the need to provide additional assistance to Ukraine to prevent the disruption of gas supplies in the autumn/winter period. A similar letter was sent to the European Commission. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine, Russia agree on cooperation

KYIV – Ukraine and Russia support the deepening of regional cooperation, the press service of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ukraine reported on June 5. This position was declared by Ukraine's Acting Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Khandohiy and Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Lavrov during their meeting in Denmark within the framework of the Baltic Sea Countries' Council. The two sides also discussed the strengthening of European security and the role of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in this process, and they exchanged information about the dynamic of Ukraine's and Russia's relations with NATO. The parties also expressed mutual interest in prolonging the dialogue within the framework of workgroups on the state border issues. Messrs. Khandohiy and Lavrov also reached agreement on further consultations on issues of mutual interest, particularly within the framework of the meeting of foreign ministers of OSCE member-countries in Corfu (Greece) in late June. (Ukrinform)

Nine miners dead in Donetsk

KYIV – Work at the Skochynsky coalmine in Donetsk stopped after a powerful methane and coal explosion on June 8. The fate of nine miners was unknown, while two others were found dead on the day of the accident. By the next day the death toll had risen to six and the search continued for the seven other miners. By June 10, the bodies of nine miners were recovered; and the fate of four others was unknown. Between 48 and 51 miners were working at the site of the accident when coal dust exploded. Search and rescue operations are under way at the coalmine. President Viktor Yushchenko demanded that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko immediately set up a government commission to investigate the circumstances of the accident at the Skochynsky coalmine owned by the state-run Donetsk Coal Energy Company. On June 9 Donetsk regional prosecutors opened a criminal case under Part 2, Article 272 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine – the violation of safety rules while conducting dangerous work – due to a coal dust explosion that occurred at the Skochynsky coalmine. The condition of two miners injured after the accident at the coalmine is serious. They were taken to the Kalinin regional clinic, while 34 miners suspected of being poisoned with mine gas are at the city hospital for occupational diseases. (Ukrinform)

President asks Rada to discuss Euro 2012

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has asked the Verkhovna Rada to dedicate one plenary meeting to the consideration of issues linked to the country's preparations for hosting the

Euro 2012 European Football Championship. The head of state sent a letter to the Parliament, which Presidential Secretariat Vice-Chair Ihor Popov read at a meeting of the Parliament's conciliatory council on June 9. On June 5 the Verkhovna Rada adopted a law on amending the Ukrainian law on organizing and hosting the Euro 2012 European Football Championship. On May 13 the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) chose Kyiv and preliminarily Donetsk, Lviv and Kharkiv, as cities that could host Euro 2012 matches. Ukraine and Poland have won a UEFA tender to hold the championship. (Ukrinform)

Lviv: town of two mayors

PRAGUE – The western Ukrainian city of Lviv has found itself with two mayors after a Kyiv court decision returned a previously sacked mayor to office, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on June 5. In the fall of 2005 the Lviv City Council sent Mayor Lubomyr Buniak packing, accusing him of not fulfilling campaign promises. Mr. Buniak's supporters say he was ousted because he cracked down on graft and corruption, and he took the council's decision to court. A Kyiv regional court reinstated him, but the Lviv City Council voted to sack him again. Mr. Buniak took the case back to court, but Lviv held new elections in the spring of 2006 and elected Andrii Sadovyi as mayor. After working his way through five courts, Mr. Buniak has now been reinstated as mayor by a Kyiv administrative court, effective June 1. Mr. Buniak is now seeking three years' back pay, as well as compensation for the problems the council caused him. Mr. Sadovyi was on vacation and could not be reached for comment. (RFE/RL)

Canada to simplify visa regime for youth

KYIV – Canada intends to simplify the visa regime for Ukrainian youth, the Family, Youth and Sports Ministry press service reported on June 5. Minister Yurii Pavlenko held a meeting with Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Daniel Caron during which the parties discussed a memorandum that is being prepared concerning youth exchanges. Mr. Pavlenko noted that the document, initiated by the Canadian party, is aimed at liberalizing the visa regime between Ukraine and Canada by simplifying the procedure for Ukrainian citizens age 18-35 for obtaining the right to travel, study and work in Canada for a term of up to one year. (Ukrinform)

Extended ban on who may adopt

KYIV – The Ukrainian Parliament has amended the Criminal and Family codes of Ukraine, introducing tighter requirements for those who adopt children. People with disabilities, those deprived of parental rights, alcoholics and drug addicts, the mentally ill or those who have no permanent place of residence or permanent income will not be able to adopt children, it was reported on June 4. Individuals previously convicted of committing serious crimes, as well as unmarried foreigners, – with the exception of foreigners who are related to the child, have also been banned from adopting children. According to the Family, Youth and Sports Ministry, Ukrainians adopted 2,066 children in 2008, while foreigners adopted 1,587. (Ukrinform)

Tougher penalties for abuse of state symbols

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has toughened criminal responsibility for the abuse of state symbols, it was reported on June 4. Amendments to the Criminal Code provide that public humiliation of Ukraine's state symbols may be punishable by deprivation of freedom for a term of up to three years.

Previously, these offenses were not punished with imprisonment, but only with fines. The Ukrainian Parliament also showed respect to the national symbols of other countries. Thus, abuse of the official flag or emblem of a foreign state may be punished with a term of up to two years. (Ukrinform)

Lutsenko chairs CIS council

KYIV – Ukraine's Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko will lead the Council of Internal Affairs Ministers of member-countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, it was reported on June 4. His Russian counterpart, Rashid Nurgaliev, handed over the post to Mr. Lutsenko during the CIS internal affairs ministers' council meeting in Yalta, Ukraine. Taking part in the summit were ministers from 11 CIS member-countries. (Ukrinform)

Azarov to head PRU election headquarters

KYIV – In the course of the political council meeting of the Party of Regions faction on June 9, Mykola Azarov was elected to head the party's election headquarters in the upcoming presidential election. News of the elections was given by Oleksander Yefremov, deputy head of the faction. (Ukrinform)

One-third GDP comes from shadow

KYIV – About a third of the Ukrainian gross domestic product (GDP) originates from shadow, President Viktor Yushchenko told a meeting on contraband and illegal economy. June 4 news reports quoted him as saying that "31.1 percent of the GDP is produced in shadow, or even up to 50 percent according to World Bank estimates." This situation, he said,

causes an annual loss of 90 billion hrv from the national budget. Mr. Yushchenko urged the Security Service of Ukraine, the Procurator General's Office and the National Bank of Ukraine to take immediate measures and legalize the domestic economy. "The chain of corruption stretches to the top echelons of power," the president said, adding that it is time for the SBU, PGO and NBU "to take the positions of national interests." (Ukrinform)

Russian sailors as illegal migrants

KYIV – Since early 2009, the Sevastopol militia has discovered 135 violators of migration legislation among servicemen of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, it was reported on June 10. Last week the Russian Black Sea Fleet command voiced a protest against actions of the Ukrainian militia that allegedly conducted a "mass examination" of Russian servicemen's documents. In the statement, disseminated by the Black Sea Fleet press service, these cases were labeled as "disrespect" for the status of Russian military formations and as an "unfriendly step aimed at aggravation of the Russian-Ukrainian relations." According to Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry, last year militiamen uncovered 277 violations of migration legislation among the Russian sailors. On the whole, the Black Sea Fleet servicemen make up one-tenth of all uncovered illegal migrants in Sevastopol. The documented violations are considered by territorial courts. The Russian Black Sea Fleet is temporarily stationed in Sevastopol; according to bipartite agreements it is to be withdrawn in 2017. (Ukrinform)





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BOOK NOTES: Ukraine on Europe's cultural map Librarians...

"*Contemporary Ukraine on the Cultural Map of Europe*," edited by Larissa M. L. Zaleska Onyshkevych (Shevchenko Scientific Society) and Maria G. Rewakowicz (University of Washington). Published by M. E. Sharpe in cooperation with the Shevchenko Scientific Society, April 2009. ISBN 978-0-7656-4200-0. 496 pp. Hardcover, \$89.95.

The concept of a "return to Europe" has been integral to the movement for Ukrainian national rebirth since the 19th century. While the goal of a more fully reformed politics remains elusive, numerous expressions of Ukrainian culture continue to develop in the European spirit. This wide-ranging book explores Ukraine's European cultural connection, especially as re-established since the country regained independence in 1991.

In this volume, an international group of contributors, specialists in their particular fields, discuss many aspects of Ukraine's contemporary culture.

Part I has chapters dealing with history, politics and religion (written by Roman Szporluk, Mykola Riabchuk, Giulia Lami, Oxana Pachlovska, Andrew Sorokowski, Catherine Wanner, Elehie Skoczylas, Myroslava Antonovych and Marian

Rubchak).

Part II deals with literary culture (with chapters by Maria Zubrytska, Larissa Onyshkevych, Michael M. Naydan, Ola Hnatiuk, Lydia Stefanowska, Marko R. Stech, Marko Pavlyshyn, Maxim Tarnawsky and Maria G. Rewakowicz).

Part III discusses language, popular culture, media and the arts (with chapters by Serhii Vakulenko, Michael Moser, Laada Bilaniuk, Yuri Shevchuk, Marta Dyczok, Marko Pavlyshyn, Myroslav Shkandriij and Virko Baley).

What emerges is a fascinating picture of a young country grappling with its divided past and its colonial heritage, yet asserting its voice and preferences amid the diverse and at times conflicting realities of the contemporary political scene. Europe becomes a powerful point of reference, a measure against which the situation in post-independence Ukraine is gauged and debated. This framework allows for a better understanding of the complexities deeply ingrained in the social fabric of Ukrainian society.

A book launch of this publication and a roundtable discussion were held during the international annual convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities held at Columbia University on April 23 and at the Shevchenko Scientific Society



on April 25.

The book may be ordered at www.mesharpe.com or info@shevchenko.org for \$44.98 (plus shipping) until June 25; afterwards for \$89.95. Shevchenko Scientific Society members receive a 20 percent discount for books purchased at the society.

(Continued from page 11)

Baltic States by developing a network of leaders in the region who have gained significant, firsthand exposure to America's democratic, accountable government and free-market system.

Irondequoit-Poltava Sister City volunteers had scheduled professional sessions with many regional resources for the librarians' delegation from Ukraine. Delegates met with librarians at the University of Rochester, Monroe County Municipal Libraries, Syracuse University, State University of New York – Brockport, the Ukrainian historical library at the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union and Irondequoit area high schools. They also explored international education opportunities through Nazareth College.

Homestays allowed the Open World delegates to experience family life in America. Delegates attended the annual meeting of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, met with representatives of International Sister Cities of Rochester and toured Niagara Falls.

Homestays were a memorable experience, as they connected the Ukrainian visitors with new friends in the United States; and contributed to mutual understanding.

The Open World Program is a non-partisan initiative of Congress designed to build mutual understanding between the United States and Tajikistan. Since 1999 more than 14,400 Open World participants from Russia, Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union have been hosted in all 50 states.

For more information about the Ukraine delegation's visit to New York readers may contact Tamara Denysenko, 585-544-9518, ext. 226. For more information about Open World, please visit www.openworld.gov.

Students recognized...

(Continued from page 5)

own communities or on a broader scale. Twenty-four finalists were selected. All students received scholarship awards, including Miss Oharenko and Miss Chychula.

This year's awards ceremony on May 17 was the first to be held in the newly con-

structed Illinois Holocaust Museum, an institution dedicated to teaching future generations the lessons of the Holocaust.

"We are very proud of our students," said St. Nicholas Principal Maria Klysh Finiak. "We were also encouraged that we were able to bring more stories about Holodomor to the wider public through this competition. The entries of all our students will be available for viewing on our website, [\[cathedralschool.org\]\(http://cathedralschool.org\)."](http://stnicholas-</p>
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St. Nicholas Cathedral School, established in 1936, fosters a unique and proven learning environment, where traditional values are affirmed and upheld, and a strong educational foundation is provided. Among its alumni are many prominent professionals and state and national leaders. For more information, readers visit the school's website or call 773-384-7243.

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Exhibit focuses...

(Continued from page 1)

bition reflect a compilation of folk art, fine art, history and tradition. The pysanky are the work of folk artist Iryna Bilianska (about whom very little is known), who created them during the 1920s – a time of national reawakening. Bilianska's work is based on the traditional floral designs of the Sokal region, where she was born. While adhering to her native artistic language in the use of the floral motifs, the artist interprets the patterns in her own unique way, and at times integrates into the design or superimposes on it national symbols and inspirational words – both religious and secular in content.

The Carpathian Mountains and the brilliant and colorful culture of the Hutsul people had a powerful influence on the artists of western Ukraine. Oleksa Novakivsky (1872-1935), the celebrated artist, teacher, and founder of the Novakivsky Art School, which played a major role in the nurturing and education of many young Ukrainian artists in the early 20th century, established an art colony in the quaint and picturesque village of Kosmach in the Carpathian Mountains to the great benefit of art students and folk culture enthusiasts.

The natural and cultural bounty of the region made a strong impression on the artist Mychajlo Moroz (1904-1992) – one that lasted his entire life. A student at the Novakivsky school, Moroz had an affinity for the Hutsuls and their land that is brilliantly illustrated in his numerous early paintings, among them "Harvesters (Kosmach)" (1933) and "The Hutsul Wedding" (1930), both part of the exhibition. Moroz's style changed over the years, and his work in the latter part of the century became more expressionist. His paintings – European and American landscapes in this later period – continued to show the infusion of the vibrant colors of the Hutsul culture and projected the spirit and freedom of the people and the mountains that he so loved.

Prof. Leshko explained that "to witness Easter in the Hustul region or a Hutsul wedding [as depicted in the painting by Moroz] is to partake in a transcendent experience – one that underscores the force of folk art as a living tradition vital to a people and a culture."

This is also true of the works of Edward Kozak, known as "EKO" (1902-1992), an illustrator and satirist and a student of the Novakivsky Art School, who throughout his life interpreted on canvas Hutsul life, as in "Dovbush" (1957), "Arkan (Highlanders' Dance)" (1964) and other works included in the show.

The magical lure of the Carpathian Mountains and its people also captured the imagination of artist Mykola Butowych (1895-1961), who expressed his sentiment for the area in the charming painting "Evening in the Carpathian Mountains"

(1946). In his work Butowych often drew on themes from Ukrainian folklore, as reflected in the work on exhibit "Old Man Under a Tree" (1960).

Borschiv is another region of Ukraine whose folk art creates a strong visual impact. Painter, sculptor and graphic artist Jacques Hnizdovsky was born and raised in the Borschiv region, and the dominant color schemes of black on white and black on black, with vibrant colors as accents, found in the area's rich embroideries permeate many of his compositions.

"He absorbed less the picturesqueness of the region than the essence of its creative identity," commented Prof. Leshko. In Hnizdovsky's woodcut "Forest in Spring" (1961), the rhythmic intertwining of tree limbs and flowers is reminiscent of the intricacies in the patterns of Borschiv embroidery. The forceful application of black and sparse use of reds, yellows and greens in "Life and Death" (1953) or in the abstract "Tower of Babel" (1954) reflect the color spectrum and balance of Borschiv's unique embroidery and weaving, as do the highly stylized shapes of the apostles in his "Last Supper" (1954).

The sensitive landscapes of the Crimean seacoast by Vasyl Hryhorovych Krychevsky (1872-1952) that are included in the exhibition perfectly capture the delicate and ethereal hues of that southern coast on the Black Sea. Krychevsky was also an innovative architect; he designed the building known as Poltavskje Zemstvo, which won first place in a national competition in 1903. In the design he combined the decorative aspects of Ukrainian folk art with the prevailing Art Nouveau form, thus creating an original Ukrainian architectural style.

In the 10th century, Kyivan Rus' adopted Christianity from Constantinople, and the Byzantine influence left its indelible mark on the spiritual and cultural development of the people. World-acclaimed sculptor and innovator Alexander Archipenko (1887-1964) drew on its legacy in such striking works as "The Ray" (1956), which is part of this exhibition. This large-scale sculpture evokes iconic principles in its stylization that recall the Virgin Oranta (11th century) in St. Sophia in Kyiv.

Contemporary artist Christina Saj also defers to the 1,000-year-old Ukrainian icon tradition in her work "Creation" (2003). The painting is abstract in form and color, yet the protocol of iconography is discernible in its execution.

Sometimes an artist will use other means, such as poetry, to support the symbolism in the work. Contemporary expressionist artist Natalia Pohrebinska's "Awakening" (1988-2004) is a flow of pastel colored ribbons of paint on a huge canvas, not unlike the ribbons that cascade from a traditional Ukrainian wreath of flowers worn by young village girls. The work, referred to in the poem in metaphorical imagery, is a tribute to

Ukraine, where the artist was born; to the great river, Dnipro; and to the golden-domed city of Kyiv on its banks.

Many artists whose works are included in the exhibition (and there are several more beyond those mentioned here) reference some aspect of their relationship to the cultural folk heritage of their native Ukraine.

Contemporary artist Iona Sochynsky's "The Red Moon" (1991) is an abstract work, but its vibrant color palette hints boldly at a link to a rich heritage that unites every artist in this exhibition. The legacy of cultural continuum in this work is less apparent than in the very open and obvious "Dance" (1956) and "Three Generations" (1983) by Halyna Mazepa (1910-1995) but no less intriguing and amazing. Mazepa's paintings are explicit and exquisite stylizations of village girls and women in folk costumes.

While showing the bond between folk art and fine art in Ukrainian culture, the exhibition also invites viewers to appreciate the collections from which the objects on display were drawn. Private collectors – members and friends of the museum – have contributed greatly to the growth and enrichment of its collections. The museum's most recent acquisitions from private sources are two very valuable collections.

The first – 167 paintings by Moroz – was donated by the artist's widow, Irena Moroz. The second – a large group of pysanky, the work of folk artist Bilianska – was presented to the museum by Andriy Hornjatkevyc, whose father, Prof. Damian Horniatkevych, collected them in the 1920s and assured their survival through the trials and tribula-



"The Dance" by Alexander Archipenko (1912-1913, bronze), on long-term loan from the David Niles Collection.

tions of World War II and immigration. Objects from both newly acquired collections are part of the exhibition "Fine Art/Folk Art: A Dialogue," ensuring a broader representation of the richness of Ukrainian culture.

The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St. in New York City. It is open to visitors Wednesday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students, and free for children under 12. For information readers may call 212-228-0110, e-mail info@ukrainian-museum.org, or log on to www.ukrainian-museum.org.

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Cervantes Orchestra performs at Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art

CHICAGO – A record crowd filled the main gallery of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) on Sunday, May 3, for an inaugural performance by the Cervantes Chicago Orchestra.

The orchestra was created as a music ensemble supporting the mission of the Instituto Cervantes, namely, to promote classical music from diverse ethnicities, with a strong focus on the music of Spanish and Latin American classical composers.

The Cervantes Orchestra comprises of young talented musicians of multicultural backgrounds. One of its most ambitious aims is to educate emerging artists in the spirit of collaborative performances in an inspiring environment, inasmuch as the orchestra reflects the diversity of our multicultural society.

Mychajlo Holian, the director of UIMA's Music Committee, welcomed the musicians and guests, and shared a brief background of the history of the orchestra and of the Cervantes Institute.

The 18-member string ensemble, under the direction of its conductor, Emanuele Andruzzi, performed a selection of classical Spanish and Latin music, starting with a vibrant rendering of Manuel De Falla's Pantomime and Ritual Fire Dance from "El Amor Brujo" for piano and string orchestra.

Enthusiastic applause set the stage for an exciting afternoon of music. The concert continued with selections which included: Bachianas Brasileiras No.4, "Preludio," by Villa-Lobos; Oracion del Torero by J. Turina; Fuga y Pajarillo by A. Romero; Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber; Rapsodia Sinfonica, for piano and string orchestra by J. Turina.

Mr. Andruzzi is both a conductor and composer, and he has a strong connection

to the rich musical tradition of Rome's Conservatory, where he graduated with a diploma in opera, orchestral conducting and composition. He has worked extensively in Europe and the United States as pianist, conductor and teacher, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in orchestral conducting at Northwestern University under Viktor Yampolsky.

The pianist, Ana Fau, was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and is a graduate of the St. Petersburg State Conservatory. She currently holds a faculty position at the Merit School of Music at Northwestern University. She has performed in numerous European countries, including Spain, Italy and Germany. Last summer, she had the honor of performing at the Troldsalen concert hall in Bergen, Norway, during the anniversary season commemorating the death of Edward Grieg.

Orysia Kossak-Cardoso, UIMA president, thanked Juan Carlos Vidal, executive director of the Cervantes Institute, for co-hosting this musical event and extended a warm invitation to the orchestra to give encore performances. In reciprocation, she requested a performance of Ukrainian compositions at the Cervantes Institute.

A reception followed in the institute's art galleries, and participants enjoyed mingling with the musicians and viewing the artwork.

Operational support for the UIMA is provided by the: Illinois Arts Council, Chicago City Arts Program, Self Reliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union and The Heritage Foundation.

For more information on future exhibits and events at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art readers may visit the website at www.uima-chicago.org.



At the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (from left) are: Orysia Kossak-Cardoso, Ana Fau, Juan Carlos Vidal, Mychajlo Holian and Emanuele Andruzzi.



The Cervantes Orchestra performs.

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OUT AND ABOUT

June 18 Toronto	Lecture by Jars Balan, "California Dreaming: Father Ahapii Honcharenko's Role in the Formation of the Pioneer Ukrainian-Canadian Intelligentsia," St. Vladimir Institute, 416-923-3318	June 21 through July 3 Emlenton, PA	Diocesan Church School Camp, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., All Saints Camp, www.uocyouth.org/UOCCP.html or 412-279-1076
June 18 Chicago	Chicago Sister Cities International Festival, Hromovytsia Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Daley Plaza, www.chicagosistercities.com or 312-744-2172	June 23-26 Whippany, NJ	Ukrainian Dance Day Camp, with Andriy Cybyk, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 908-759-1771
June 19 Perry Hall, MD	Crab feast, Baltimore Ukrainian Festival Committee, Columbus Gardens Hall, 410-591-7566 or daira.kaczaniukhauff@verizonwireless.com	June 24-27 Champaign, IL	Conference, "Contemporary Ukraine: Challenges and Perspectives," University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 217-356-9195 or shtohryn@illinois.edu
June 19 Toronto	Casino night, "From Toronto With Love," Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund, Trident Banquet Hall, 416-604-4611 or www.tickettrunk.com	June 26 Washington	Lecture by Serhii Kot, "Restitution of Looted Ukrainian Cultural Property," Shevchenko Scientific Society, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, 240-205-1889 or 202-223-2228
June 19 Washington	Oleksa-Myron Bilaniuk Memorial Lecture, Embassy of Ukraine, 202-349-2923	June 27 Philadelphia	Concert, "Steppes: A Ukrainian Journey," featuring the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Prince Music Theater, 215-569-9700 or www.princemusictheater.org
June 19-21 Yonkers, NY	Yonkers Ukrainian Festival, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 914-963-0209 www.brama.com/yonkersukrainianfest	June 28 Warrington, PA	Ukrainian Festival and dinner, St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church, 215-343-3948
June 21 Horsham, PA	Father's Day Ukrainian Folk Festival, featuring U.S. Amateur Soccer Association's National Cups Region I Championship Tournament, Ukrainian American Sports Center - Tryzub, 215-362-5331 or eluciw@comcast.net	June 28 Toronto	Film screening, "Bereza Kartuzka" by Yuriy Luhovy, St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral hall, 416-603-3224
June 21 New York	Book presentation by Volodymyr Serhijchuk, "Stepan Bandera in Soviet Security Service Documentation (1939-1947)," Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S., 212-222-1866		

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.

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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Toronto Ukrainian Festival to feature three Ukrainian bands

TORONTO – The Toronto Ukrainian Festival, has announced that three popular bands that will be featured at the 13th annual festival in the Bloor West Village on September 18-20.

Toronto-based Zirka is a band of six musicians who love to play their instruments and have a good time. Peter and Morris Hucal started the band when they were 12 years old and playing guitar and accordion. Five years later their brother Johnny joined in on trumpet, then a couple of years later their sister Katherine on sax. Bill Hawryschuk joined the band three years ago, bringing with him the experience of playing drums with Solovey, Burya and Dunai. Karen Aniol joined the band two years ago on violin.

Zirka has performed at countless dances (zabavy), weddings and festivals over the years. (See zirkamusic.com for more information.) The band is back by popular demand and will be the featured

Saturday night zabava band on the main stage at Jane and Bloor streets on September 19 at 10:30 p.m.

From Winnipeg comes Zrada, formed in 2005 and forging unforgettable music ever since. The members of the band set out with the goal to take their Ukrainian roots into the modern world by fusing them with the music they grew up with in Winnipeg. Inspired by Slavic melodies, sultry Gypsy dances, So-Cal punk rock, reggae and ska, Zrada's sound is a tight maelstrom of intricate melodies, unyielding grooves, and passionate, emotional beauty.

While the Zrada live show includes modern interpretations of several traditional folk songs, the bulk of the material is original. Written in a folk style, the compositions strive to project the same emotion and imagery as traditional Ukrainian songs. The band will perform on the main stage at Jane and Bloor Streets on Friday, Saturday and Sunday



Zirka of Toronto.

during the festival. (See myspace.com for more information about the band.)

New York City-based Hrim is a Ukrainian band consisting of five members, all of Ukrainian descent. They are: Roman Palylyk (vocals, bass guitar), Peter Kolinsky (vocals), Peter Drobenko (accordion/keyboards, vocals), Roman Kozicky (guitar) and John Drobenko (drums). Since its inception in the summer of 2004, Hrim has performed at weddings, festivals, zabavy, and all kinds of events throughout North America.

Hrim's sound is unique in the sense that it combines traditional and modern

styles of music. The result is a sound that relates to all ages and that everyone can party to. The band is extremely excited to be in the process of recording its first album. (To keep up with Hrim news, pictures, music, videos, blogs, merchandise and more log on to www.hrimband.com and www.myspace.com/hrimband, <http://twitter.com/HRIMBAND>.) Hrim will be featured on Friday, September 18, at the evening Zabava by the main stage at Jane and Bloor Streets at 10 p.m.

For more information readers may log on to www.ukrainianfestival.com or leave a message at 416-410-9965.



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FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Syracuse Plast members clean up to mark Earth Day

by Lida Hvozda Buniak

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization branch in Syracuse participated in Onondaga County's Earth Day Litter Clean-up on Saturday, April 25. Since the inception of Earth Day over 34 years ago, almost every area in the U.S. currently takes part in some type of clean-up project.

For the members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization it was an opportunity to give back to the Ukrainian community by cleaning the grounds of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, rectory and School of Ukrainian Studies (Ridna Shkola).

The Rev. Robert Batcho, administrator and the Rev. Roman Malyarchuk, assistant pastor, have always been supportive of Plast, allowing its members to hold meetings and ceremonies on Saturdays after Ukrainian school.

The unseasonably balmy 90-degree temperature provided these scouts with ideal conditions to work hard on their good deed. Youngsters donned rubber gloves to pick up trash and rake leaves to beautify their parish and school.

The youngest Plast members, or "novatstvo," were struck by how much litter they found, especially plastic, recyclable bottles and cigarette butts. This was a good lesson of how smokers who discard their cigarettes fail to see themselves as littering their surroundings. The Consensus amongst the novaky was that the smoking habit is "pretty gross."

Syracuse Plast intends to make this an annual event and promises to make next year's Earth Day commemoration even bigger.



The Plast clean-up crew in front of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church.



Syracuse "novatstvo" in action: Ostapko Juravich, Adriana Buniak and Christine Juravich.

N.J. student to compete in Pre-Teen America program



Katerina Nozhenko

PAPRSIPPANY, N.J. — A New Jersey student and native Ukrainian, Katerina Nozhenko, recently earned the title of first runner-up in the New Jersey Pre-Teen America program. As a result, Ms. Nozhenko, a resident of Bayonne, N.J., has qualified for the National Pre-Teen America program, which will take place on July 3-8 in Baton Rouge, La.

According to the website, the Pre-Teen America Program "was founded in 1990 for the purpose of recognizing young ladies 7-12 years of age with high academic rankings, outstanding personal achievements, school activities and volunteer services participation, leadership abilities, sports accomplishments and creative talents." National finalists will be judged on a variety of achievements, including academics, volunteerism, and

development of personal skills.

Ms. Nozhenko has already accomplished a great deal in her 13 years. She is a seventh grader at Public School No.14 in Bayonne and speaks Ukrainian, English and Russian fluently, in addition to some Polish. She is a four-time published poet, an award-winning dancer and swimmer for the Ukrainian sports club, Chornomorska Sitch.

The cost of the six-day National Pre-Teen America program is well over \$500 and does not include the cost of travel to Baton Rouge and board. Ms. Nozhenko is asking for the support of the Ukrainian community to make her dream of participating in this educational and leadership program a reality. For more information, readers can contact her parents via e-mail at pupkin1972@yahoo.com.

Named to society of H.S. scholars



LITTLE FALLS, N.J. – Martha S. Lewko, 16, a sophomore at Paramus Catholic High School, was named to the National Society of High School Scholars. The NSHSS invites only top students to become members. Martha is a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and a volleyball player for the Chornomorska Sitch sports club.

Young Ukrainian athletes compete at Randolph Relays

RANDOLPH, N.J. – The Randolph Relays held at Randolph High School on April 25 saw several of young Ukrainian American athletes in action. Among the track and field athletes competing were: Roman Hatala, Basking Ridge High School; Lesyk Martynetz, Oratory Preparatory School; Tina Michel, Randolph High School; Nicky Salek, Seton Hall Prep; and Lesyk Syzonenko, Randolph High School. They were captured in photos by track-and-field mom/photographer Christine Syzonenko.



Roman Hatala runs a leg of a relay.



Lesyk Syzonenko in the long jump.



In the photos above (from left) Nicky Salek (No. 6), Tina Michel (with baton) and Lesyk Martynetz (No. 7) compete in the relays.

SOYUZIVKA

2009

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Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

Summer Camp Dates and Information

Tennis Camp

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

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Workshop

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

Tabir Ptashat

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

Exploration Day Camp

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

Ukrainian Heritage Day Camp

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

Discovery Camp

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

Ukrainian Chornomorska Sitch Sports Camp

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

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Camp

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

Plast Chicago honors St. George and marks Mother's Day



Plast youths who earned various merit badges.

by Victoria Kuritza

CHICAGO – As is the custom on the first Saturday in May, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in Chicago celebrated its patron saint – St. George – along with Mother's Day.

Over 150 people attended – including Plast members of all ages, “ptashata,” “novatstvo,” “yunatstvo,” “starshe plastunstvo,” “seniority,” as well as parents and guests.

Alex Kuzyk, opened the celebration with the traditional singing of the Plast hymn. Afterwards the scribe, Marianne Seneczko, read the program of events, as well as awards and honors received by vari-

Victoria Kuritza, 16, is a member of Chicago's 6th Unit of "yunachky" named in honor of Marko Vovchok. She is a sophomore at Maine South High School in Park Ridge, Ill.

ous members.

With their fathers standing behind them, Ksenia Lewyckyj, and the brothers Matej and Lukasyk Lisowsky, took their individual oaths in joining novatstvo (cub scouts), while Svitlana Kolodiy, a recent émigré from Lviv, took the Plast oath. Katia Iwanik, Diana Kuritza, Mark Liber, and Lucas Wyshnytsky received their well-deserved Plast eagle scout rank. Additionally, many other members received various promotions in rank, merit badges and commendations.

A special event was witnessed by all in attendance – the rare presentation of the 2nd Plast Commendation. This was awarded to Miss Kuritza and Julian Hayda, leaders of the 6th and 7th Units respectively. In a celebration never before seen in Chicago, the head of the Educational Sector, Andrij



The newest “novaky” (cub scouts) of Chicago Plast.

Kolomayets, presented the award for excellence in leadership and extraordinary hard work.

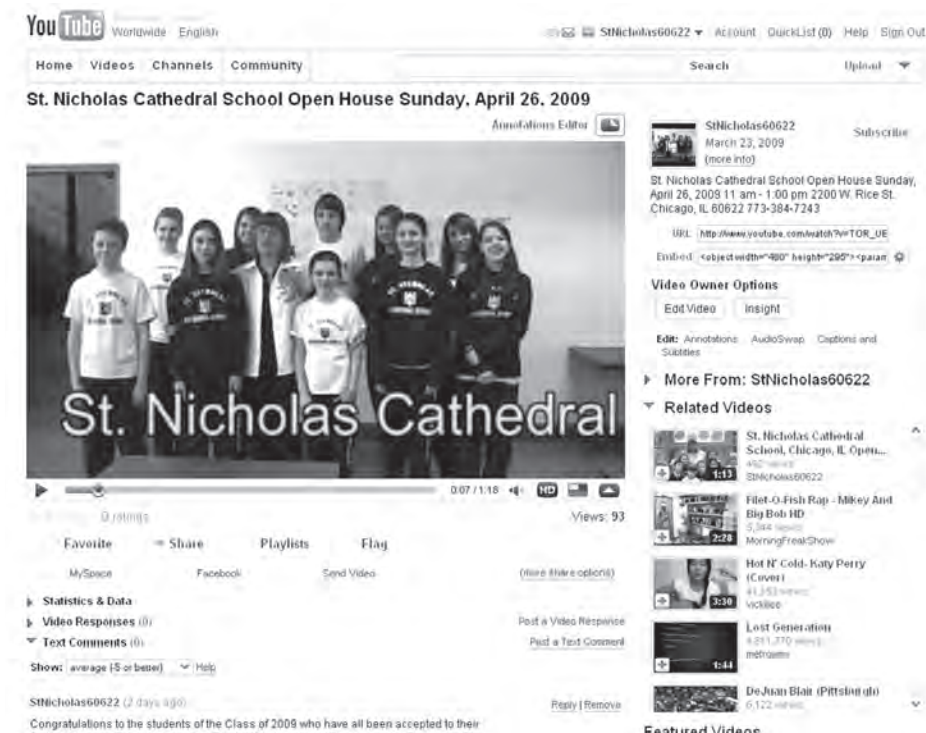
Afterwards, the Iskra patrol presented the biography of St. George, followed by a charming Mother's Day skit arranged by the cub scouts.

As is our branch tradition, all Georges were acknowledged with

the singing of “Mnohaya Lita.” The parent's association organized a buffet luncheon for all the hungry participants.

Chicago Plast are now getting ready to attend various summer camps in Cleveland, Buffalo and East Chatham, N.Y., as well as and specialized camps throughout the U.S.

Ukrainian school on YouTube



CHICAGO – St. Nicholas Cathedral School promoted its recent Open House (April 26) with a YouTube video touting the achievements of its students. In a previous campaign, some 500 “hits” helped drive attendance. Readers can key in “St. Nicholas Cathedral School” on www.youtube.com to view both videos. The Chicago elementary school is using the new technology for its current campaign to increase enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year.

– Maria Kulczycky

Mishanyna

This month, as you are finishing school and looking forward to summer camp, think about how much fun you will have spending time outdoors. Then, search below for the following creatures you might see while hiking in the woods at summer camp.

- ANT
- BEAVER
- CARDINAL
- CHIPMUNK
- DEER
- DUCK
- FOX
- FROG
- HAWK
- LIZARD
- RABBIT
- RACCOON
- SQUIRREL
- SKUNK
- TURTLE

T	D	U	C	K	T	I	T	P	S	K	U	N	K	U
R	Z	O	I	O	E	R	A	C	C	O	O	N	K	C
C	B	A	F	A	T	Y	I	J	T	N	B	O	T	H
A	E	N	M	O	N	B	S	W	P	O	T	M	P	H
R	O	E	S	P	X	E	Q	R	C	G	U	D	I	A
D	S	R	T	D	A	L	U	L	G	L	R	N	Y	W
I	L	I	Z	A	R	D	I	S	A	N	T	E	O	K
N	U	S	E	E	O	C	R	M	Y	O	L	I	F	L
A	W	T	I	B	B	A	R	T	K	M	E	V	G	Y
L	H	V	O	F	L	D	E	A	A	T	U	N	R	A
L	F	R	O	G	O	K	L	S	H	C	I	O	L	W
T	W	O	Q	O	P	Y	V	H	B	E	A	V	E	R
W	P	L	F	J	S	D	T	Q	E	X	I	M	E	N
C	H	I	P	M	U	N	K	H	L	E	K	S	O	K
T	S	K	P	I	H	K	I	K	S	T	D	E	E	R

Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|--|--|
| June 13-14 Program to be determined | July 5-18 Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop |
| June 14-19 UNA Seniors Week | July 17-19 Ukrainian Cultural Festival |
| June 19-21 Wedding weekend | July 19-24 Heritage Camp session 1 |
| June 21 UNA Father's Day | July 19-25 Discovery Camp |
| June 21-July 2 Tennis Camp | July 25 Zabava with Oberehy, 10 pm |
| June 27 Private party | July 25-August 1 Sitch Sports Camp Session 1 |
| June 27 USCAK Tennis Tournament Weekend | July 26-31 Heritage Camp session 2 |
| June 28-July 5 Tabir Ptashat 1st session; Exploration Day Camp 1 | July 26-August 8 Dance Camp session 1 |
| July 3-4 Friday: Hrim Unplugged on the Tiki Deck
Saturday: Zabava with Hrim, 10 pm | July 31-August 1 Friday evening: Kagero on the Tiki Deck
Saturday: Film Festival, hosted by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk and the Columbia Film Club; Zabava with Na Zdorovya, 10 pm |
| July 5-12 Tabir Ptashat 2nd session, Exploration Day Camp 2 | |
| July 11 Zabava with Fata Morgana, 10 pm | |



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
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Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, June 19

WASHINGTON: The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, The Washington Group, Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A. (UVAN) and the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine, are honored to host a special evening and lectures in honor of the memory of renowned physicist Oleksa-Myron P. Bilaniuk. Prof. Albert Kipa, president of UVAN-U.S.A., will deliver the tribute to Prof. Bilaniuk. Dr. Theodor Kostyuk, NASA astrophysicist, will deliver the lecture, "Is the Earth Unique? A Search for Earths in the Universe." A reception will follow. The event will take place at the Embassy of Ukraine, 3350 M St. NW, at 7 p.m. RSVP to the Ukrainian Embassy: Victor Voloshyn, voloshyn@ukremb.com, 202-349-2923; or Olexandr Mykhalchuk, olex@ukremb.com, 202-349-2977. For more information contact George Masiuk, 202-646-5897 or 703-960-0043 (evenings).

Sunday, June 21

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Academy of Art and Sciences in New York will host a book presentation by Prof. Volodymyr Serhijchuk, director of the Ukrainian Studies Center of Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv and editor of a recently published three-volume collection of documents from the Soviet archives on Stepan Bandera. The event will be held in the academy's building, 206 W. 100th St., at 3 p.m. All are invited. For more information contact the academy, 212-222-1866.

Friday, June 26

WASHINGTON: The Shevchenko Scientific Society, Washington branch, presents Dr. Serhii Kot of the Institute of History of Ukraine, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, speaking on "The Restitution of Ukrainian Cultural Property from Russia: A Decade of Efforts to Return the Mosaics and Frescos of St. Michael's Golden-Domed church in Kyiv." The presentation (in Ukrainian) will be at 6:30 p.m. at the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, 1701 K St. NW, Suite 903. Admission is free; donations are welcome. For further information call 703-242-4245.

Saturday, June 27

PHILADELPHIA: The Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, in partnership with the Ukrainian Federation of America, will present: "Steppes – A Ukrainian Journey," at the celebrated Prince Music Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, beginning at 6 p.m. The performance will feature Vasyl Popadiuk and his band Papa Duke on stage with the Voloshky, which will showcase its new Hutsul costumes and choreography. Ruslana will be on stage to receive this year's Steppes to Liberty Award for her humanitarian efforts. A "Meet the Stars" reception and wine-tasting will be held right after the show for those purchasing the limited number of VIP tickets. For tickets call 215-569-9700 or log on to www.princemusicaltheater.org. Admission: \$60 for performance, \$200 for performance and "Meet the Stars" reception. For additional information visit www.voloshky.com. The sponsors are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations; proceeds benefit the artistic and cultural programs of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble.

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 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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TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 172

As of June 1, 2009, the secretary's duties of Branch 172 were assumed by Mr. Stephan Welhasch.

We ask all members of this branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance to the address listed below:

Mr. Stephan Welhasch
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054
973-292-9800, ext. 3036