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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Kateryna Yushchenko Proposed election law is boon to dominant forces awarded papal medal

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau



Lev Khmelkovsky

Msgr. George Appleyard presents the papal award "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" to Kateryna Yushchenko, first lady of Ukraine.

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEW YORK – The first lady of Ukraine, Kateryna Yushchenko, was recognized by the Catholic Church with the papal award "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" (For the Church and the Pontiff) during a brief ceremony here at the Ukrainian Institute of America on June 29.

The medal was presented on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI by Msgr. George Appleyard, pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pa., and protopresbyter of the Western Pennsylvania Deanery, who represented Bishop Robert Moskal of St. Josaphat Eparchy based in Parma, Ohio.

It was Bishop Moskal who proposed that Mrs. Yushchenko was worthy of the papal honor, chiefly for her work with the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation, explained Msgr. Appleyard. He underscored that the work of the first lady, who is Orthodox, benefits all citizens of Ukraine regardless of their religious beliefs or affiliations.

Speaking at the opening of the ceremony, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Oleh Shamshur highlighted the work of Ukraine 3000, noting that it is especially involved in the reform of health care and maternal and pediatric medicine.

However, the first lady's foundation is also involved in informing the public and the world about the Holodomor, the Famine-Genocide that killed millions of people in Ukraine in 1932-1933. Ambassador Shamshur added that the work of Ukraine 3000 is significant also because it spurs social activism in Ukraine.

Also present at the ceremony were Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Yuriy Sergeyev and his wife, Nataliya; and Ukraine's Consul General in New York Mykola Kyrychenko and his wife, Olena. In attendance as well were leaders and representatives of numerous Ukrainian community institutions and organizations (among them the Ukrainian National Association), as well as personal friends and colleagues of the first lady.

Accepting the award, Mrs. Yushchenko said it was an honor for her to receive the award at the Ukrainian Institute in the presence of many friends. She went on to speak about Ukraine 3000, saying, "We strive to do so much through our foundation," including working with children, seniors,

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Proposed election law is boon to dominant forces

KYIV – Ukraine's Parliament approved on July 1 the first reading of an election rules bill that introduces dramatic changes which critics allege would tip the rules of the January presidential vote in favor of the dominant political forces – the Party of Regions of Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc.

The changes include barring all court appeals until after the Central Election Commission (CEC) declares results, granting parliamentary factions the majority of local and district election commission seats, and no longer requiring the state press to publish results for the vote to become official.

"If the law that is currently being proposed were active during the appeals of 2004, then [Viktor] Yanukovich would have become president," said Oleksander Chernenko, chair of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU), which is financed by Western and Ukrainian sources.

In accordance with current election rules, political contenders have the right to appeal the decisions of local and district election commissions in local courts if they find election violations or proof of fraudulent vote count.

The new bill forbids any court appeals until the CEC issues its final election result, after which all complaints can be directed toward a single court, the Higher Administrative Court in Kyiv, whose decision can't be appealed.

Furthermore, those appealing the final results must collect evidence and present a case for the court to

review within two days of the CEC's announcement.

"Theoretically, the appeals procedure and the right of appeal is left, but to practically realize that under the given changes is not possible," Mr. Chernenko said at a July 9 press conference.

Holos Ukrayiny, the Verkhovna Rada's newspaper, and Uriadovyi Kurier, the Cabinet of Ministers newspaper, would no longer have to publish the election results to make them official. That would now happen once the CEC declares the winner, according to the proposed bill.

In the 2004 presidential election, among the tactics employed by pro-Orange forces to gain victory was blocking Holos Ukrayiny from publishing results that declared Mr. Yanukovich the winner.

Absentee ballots would be eliminated by the new law, which the prime minister said could prevent the "tourist bus trips" of 2004 in which voters cast numerous votes at different polling stations.

The proposed law also reduces the official presidential campaign, during which advertisements can be bought, from 120 to 90 days.

Currently, a random drawing among candidates and their organizations is used to determine who sits on Ukraine's more than 30,000 local election commissions and 225 district commissions.

The July 1 bill would give between 67 and 80 percent of those seats to the five parliamentary factions, with the remainder open to random drawing.

Parliamentary factions would control 10 seats in local election commissions of 15 members, or 67 percent; 15 seats in 21-member commissions, or 71 percent; and 20 seats in 25-member commissions, or 80 percent.

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On the eve of her Soyuzivka performance, pop star Ruslana speaks about her work

by Danylo Peleschuk

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – International music star Ruslana is headed to the United States for the Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka on July 17-19 – her first performance at a U.S. festival.

Known for elevating Ukrainian pop music to unprecedented global recognition after winning the Eurovision Song Contest in Istanbul in May 2004, Ruslana dominated 14 charts throughout Europe for nearly two years with songs from her "Wild Dances" album. It became the first album to sell more than 500,000 copies in Ukraine.

She recorded her follow-up albums, "Wild Energy" in English and "Amazonka" in Ukrainian (released in September 2008), at the world-renowned Hit Factory studio in Miami, where pop legends Michael Jackson, the Rolling Stones and Madonna have recorded.

"Wild Energy" is based on the science fiction novel "Wild Energy. Lana," by Serhii and Maryna Diachenko in which the hero, Lana, is trapped in a synthetic world, dependent on energy plug-ins and desperate to escape.

While in Miami, Ruslana collaborated with hip-hop giants Missy Elliot and T-Pain in a brief flirtation with R&B, though the Ukrainian singer says she remains loyal to the Carpathian-influenced rhythms that propelled her to global fame.

She produced a video with T-Pain, "Moon of Dreams," and will make a video, "The Girl That



Oleksandr Morderer

Ruslana

Rules," with Missy Elliot later this year.

After a reporter asked her why Ukraine is notorious for human trafficking, she took up the cause to combat the crime. "When I came back to Ukraine, I said, 'We must do something about this,'" she told The Weekly. "Then I met with some bright young girls who traveled abroad to find an honest living, but were instead thrown into the sex industry. The things they told me were just awful."

In both English and Ukrainian, Ruslana recorded the single "Not For Sale," which has since become the anthem for the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT).

In June she signed a \$40,000 contract with the

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ANALYSIS

Prior to summit, U.S. forgives Russia for invading Georgia

by Pavel Felgenhauer
Eurasia Daily Monitor
July 2

On Monday, July 6, President Barack Obama is expected in Moscow for a summit to discuss nuclear arms control, Iran, Afghanistan, the post-Soviet space and other issues. It has been announced that Mr. Obama will spend most of July 6 in formal as well as informal talks with his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev. There will be a joint press conference and a late night dinner with spouses (RIA Novosti, July 1). The two presidents will concentrate on discussing a progress report from the Russian and American negotiating teams that are working on preparing a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) (Interfax, July 1).

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told RIA Novosti that progress in the START negotiations "was more significant than our expectations." Mr. Ryabkov expressed optimism that a comprehensive new START treaty with solid verification measures that will "guarantee both sides equal security and a real strategic nuclear arms reduction" will be ready for signing by the end of the year, when in December the present 1991 START-I expires.

According to Mr. Ryabkov, the best way to improve U.S.-Russian relations is to build mutual trust that "was lacking over the last several years." He added that it was mainly the task of the U.S. "to work to rebuild mutual trust by concrete actions," since in Russia the U.S. is deeply distrusted (RIA Novosti, July 1).

The understanding that Washington must offer important concessions is widespread in Moscow. It was the Obama administration's idea to "reset" relations with Russia, so if the Americans want that to happen, they must deliver and change their foreign policy significantly to achieve anything.

A pro-Kremlin Moscow think-tank – the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy – produced a report "Retuning instead of

resetting – Russian interests and relations with the U.S.," which argues that Russia might begin to cooperate with the U.S. and NATO on Iran, North Korea and Afghanistan.

The U.S., in turn, must drastically change its policies in the post-Soviet space by not supporting the anti-Russian regimes in Georgia and Ukraine, stopping any effort to incorporate these or any other former Soviet states into NATO and refraining from developing bilateral military-political partnerships with the former Soviet states.

The report calls such a possible U.S.-Russian arrangement a "grand deal" and points out that Georgia or Ukraine are highly important to Russia, but of marginal interest to the U.S., unlike Iran, Afghanistan or North Korea. This fact could make the proposed "grand deal" possible, since Moscow and Washington will each be trading unimportant items for important ones (RIA Novosti, July 1).

U.S. officials insist they are not ready to trade horses on important issues with Russia or throw Georgia under the bus. But it seems that in the run-up to the summit the U.S. has already effectively forgiven Russia for invading Georgia, and not withdrawing its military forces from Abkhazia and South Ossetia as it appeared to have promised under a ceasefire agreement in August last year. According to Russian officials, a ministerial meeting last week of the Russia-NATO council decreed a full resumption of military and political cooperation that was suspended after the war with Georgia (ITAR-TASS, June 28).

After talks last week with the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, the top Russian military commander, Chief of the General Staff and First Deputy Defense Minister Gen. Nikolai Makarov, told reporters that it was decided that during the Moscow summit a resumption will be announced of U.S.-Russian bilateral military cooperation, broken off as a result of the August war with Georgia

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Agitation over Obama's visit betrays Kremlin's nervousness

by Pavel K. Baev
Eurasia Daily Monitor
July 6

U.S. President Barack Obama's visit to Moscow, which started a few hours ago as Air Force One landed in Vnukovo, was awaited with such anxiety and generated so much commentary in the Russian media, as if it could miraculously bring the economic crisis to an end.

Aides to President Dmitry Medvedev tried simultaneously to spin the importance of the visit and to lower expectations, and the special entry in Mr. Medvedev's (rather pedestrian) blog emphasized the need to break the trend toward the deterioration of bilateral relations that had "declined to a level practically on a par with the Cold War era" (www.newsru.com, July 2).

In the mainstream commentary and in the greater part of public opinion, the blame for such deterioration is put squarely on the U.S., so the expectations are centered on Mr. Obama who has – as the Russians believe – to take practical steps in order to substantiate his well-expressed intention to push the proverbial "reset button" (www.gazeta.ru, July 2).

This self-righteous attitude should have put the Kremlin in the psychologically comfortable position of receiving offers and concessions from its counterpart, but in fact there is a great deal of nervousness on the Medvedev team. This is partly related to the obvious desire to move fast with a deal on strategic arsenals, while the president has neither the experience nor any particular interest in matters of nuclear deterrence.

It is not just petty technicalities, like the optimal ceilings for warheads and delivery vehicles that need to be ironed out, but also the fundamental propositions that stand in the way of a new treaty, such as the linkage of reductions in offensive weapons with the non-deployment of U.S. defensive weapon

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NEWSBRIEFS

Obama, Medvedev take first steps

MOSCOW – U.S. President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, have pledged to try to put their relations on a new footing during their first summit meeting in Moscow on July 6. The two countries signed a preliminary agreement over a major new nuclear-arms deal. But many believe the positive atmospherics represent only a possible first step toward bridging fundamental differences that have sunk relations to Cold War lows. Messrs. Obama and Medvedev addressed reporters in a lavishly gilded Kremlin hall following hours of talks. The U.S. president said the two leaders had resolved to reset a relationship suffering from "drift." Mr. Obama commented: "Today, after less than six months of collaboration, we've done exactly that by taking concrete steps forward on a range of issues while paving the way for more progress in the future." The two former Cold War rivals agreed to cut their massive nuclear weapons arsenals, the issue Mr. Obama said was at the top of the agenda. "We have signed a joint understanding for a follow-up treaty to the START agreement that will reduce our nuclear warheads and delivery systems by up to a third from our current treaty limitations," Mr. Obama said. "This legally binding treaty will be completed this year." The agreement, which would replace the 1991 START treaty that expires in December, calls for each side to reduce the number of their operationally deployed nuclear warheads to 1,500-1,675. Those numbers amount to only two dozen fewer than currently agreed targets under the 2002 Moscow Treaty. The two sides signed seven other agreements on a range of issues, including a pledge from Russia to allow the United States to ship weapons and other lethal supplies across Russian territory to NATO forces in Afghanistan. (RFE/RL)

A meeting with Vladimir Putin

MOSCOW – U.S. President Barack Obama began his day on July 7 by having breakfast with Russia's hard-line prime minister, Vladimir Putin. Mr. Obama met for two hours – twice as long as planned – with Mr. Putin, who is widely seen as Russia's de facto ruler. Before leaving for Moscow, President Obama had raised eyebrows by

criticizing Prime Minister Putin and suggesting he had a "Cold War approach" to U.S.-Russian relations. Nevertheless, the Associated Press quoted a White House official as saying Messrs. Putin and Obama "formed the basis of a good relationship" during their meeting. Speaking to reporters before the meeting, Mr. Obama praised Mr. Putin's role in reviving Russia's economy and called for "a tone of mutual respect and consultation." For his part, Mr. Putin said he hoped U.S.-Russian ties would improve with President Obama in the White House. "Russian-American relations have a long history and have had different colors," Mr. Putin said. "There have been years when our relations flourished, and there have been gloomy days and even confrontation. We link hopes for development of our relationship with your name." (RFE/RL)

Obama meets with opposition leader

MOSCOW – Shortly after meeting with President Barack Obama in Moscow on July 7, Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov told RFE/RL that "Russian democracy is our problem, not America's." He said, "Liberating Russia from this corrupt bureaucracy is not Obama's obligation, it is ours. This is our battle." During an exclusive interview at RFE/RL's Moscow bureau, Mr. Nemtsov noted that, "as the president of the biggest democracy in the world, he has to speak about democracy. And President Obama did so in a clear way." Mr. Nemtsov, an outspoken critic of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, served as deputy prime minister under Boris Yeltsin in 1997-1998 and is co-chairman of the Russian opposition group Solidarity. He told RFE/RL: "President Obama got an accurate view of the difficulties faced by the Russian opposition and civil society," adding, "There are more voices than Medvedev and Putin. Meetings with NGOs and civil society leaders can also be useful and helpful for the Russian-American relationship." President Obama's hour-long meeting with Mr. Nemtsov included civil society representatives and other opposition leaders such as former world chess champion Gary Kasparov, Sergei Mitrokhin of the liberal Yabloko party and Gennady Zyuganov of

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Correction

The photo of newly consecrated Bishop Yosyf Milyan with his relatives (July 5) should have been credited to Illya M. Labunka.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In “near abroad,” a mix of hope, anxiety ahead of U.S.-Russia summit

by Brian Whitmore

RFE/RL

July 5

When Washington and Moscow get cozy, the saying goes, Russia’s neighbors get nervous.

So when U.S. President Barack Obama signaled his intention to “reset” U.S.-Russian relations, which had sunk to levels not seen since the Cold War, there was palpable anxiety in Georgia and Ukraine.

Those countries will be watching warily as Mr. Obama begins his high-profile visit to Moscow on July 6.

“There are some fears, of course, that there might be some kind of trade-off between the United States and Russia,” said Tbilisi-based political analyst Ghia Nodia, head of the International Research Institute for the Caucasus. “There may be a deal according to which Russia supports the United States in Afghanistan or elsewhere and the United States will sacrifice its support for Georgia.”

Georgia, like Ukraine, has sought to move out of Moscow’s orbit, and enjoyed overt U.S. encouragement under George W. Bush, whose relationship with Russia grew increasingly antagonistic during his eight years in the White House.

Now, in the face of emerging pragmatism in U.S.-Russia ties, many post-Soviet countries are wondering if their emerging democracies will be sacrificed on the altar of better relations with Russia.

U.S. officials have repeatedly said that Washington does not recognize spheres of influence in the former Soviet space and that Georgia and Ukraine – both of which aspire to join NATO – have the right to choose their alliances.

Mr. Obama himself appeared to throw down the gauntlet ahead of the summit in an AP interview, dismissing as “outdated” the “old, Cold War approaches to U.S.-Russian relations” favored by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who hotly opposes the defection of Russia’s post-Soviet neighbors and is seen as the driving force between last year’s war in Georgia.

Michael McFaul, the White House National Security Council’s senior director for Russian and Eurasian affairs, told reporters on July 1 that the administration has no intention of using Georgia or Ukraine as a bargaining chip with Moscow.

“We’re not going to reassure or trade or give anything to the Russians with regard to NATO expansion,” Mr. McFaul said. “We are not in any way, in the name of the reset, abandoning our very close relationships with these two democracies, Ukraine and Georgia.”

U.S. assurances

Skeptics point out that NATO recently restored full relations with the Kremlin, which had been suspended following Russia’s military incursion into Georgia in August, despite the fact that Moscow continues to deploy troops in breakaway Abkhazia and South Ossetia and has barred international monitors from entering the territories.

In a clear effort to ease such fears, U.S. Vice-President Joseph Biden is scheduled to visit Kyiv and Tbilisi in late July, right on the heels of President Obama’s trip to Moscow.

In remarks to reporters on July 1, Georgian opposition politician Irakli Alasania, Tbilisi’s former ambassador to the United Nations, called Mr. Biden’s visit “a clear signal that the United States

is not going to change its policy toward these countries, Georgia and Ukraine, and is not going to give up its support for their aspirations to join NATO and Western institutions.”

Mr. Alasania spoke in Tbilisi after returning from the United States, where he met with high-ranking officials in the State and Defense departments.

Levan Ramishvili, founder of the Tbilisi-based Liberty Institute think-tank, called Mr. Biden a “friend of Georgia” and noted that it was the vice president who first put forward the notion of the reset in a speech at a security conference in Munich earlier this year.

Mr. Ramishvili added that in the same speech, Mr. Biden also made it “clear that U.S. policy supports Georgia’s territorial integrity and supports Georgia’s right to join any alliance it chooses.”

Homegrown problems

The integration of Georgia and Ukraine into Western institutions has been complicated by political crises in both countries.

Georgia has been plagued by street protests against the government of President Mikheil Saakashvili since April.

And with presidential elections looming in Ukraine in January, the political establishment there has been paralyzed by an ongoing power struggle between President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Moreover, while Georgia is largely united in its desire to join NATO, Ukraine remains divided on the issue and dependent on Russia for energy supplies.

Analysts say Ukraine’s ongoing political deadlock plays into Russia’s hands.

“Until the political crisis ends, until the U.S. and its European allies see that Ukraine is united, until they see that there are people in Kyiv who think alike on security and foreign policy issues, there won’t be any clarity in the U.S. position towards Ukraine,” said Yevhen Kaminsky of the Kyiv-based Institute for Global Economy and International Relations Institute.

“This is what we need in order for us to see Barack Obama’s position on Ukraine,” Mr. Kaminsky added. “Everything that is happening in Ukraine today is more conducive to Russian ‘great state’ ambitions than American democratization goals.”

Yuriy Shcherbak, Ukraine’s former ambassador to the United States, said he doubts that Mr. Obama would allow Russia to “dominate the post-Soviet space” but adds that Ukraine needs to take steps to beef up its own security.

“There may be a postponement of Ukraine’s entry into NATO for some three to five years. This is fully possible,” Dr. Shcherbak said.

“That is why Ukraine must come up with a new security strategy,” he adds. “It is absolutely necessary to immediately strengthen our armed forces. This is extremely important for us as we are currently in this gray, undetermined security zone.”

Room for maneuver?

The lessons of history continue to loom large as the region contemplates its future. Fearful of a Western retreat from Bush-era commitments of support, observers in post-Soviet countries have queried whether the big powers will once again carve the world into spheres of influence – much as U.S. President Franklin D.

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Obama urges partnership, issues challenges to Moscow

RFE/RL

MOSCOW – In a major foreign-policy speech on the second day of his visit to Russia, U.S. President Barack Obama said the United States and Russia can put aside their past roles as adversaries and cooperate on common interests like stopping the spread of nuclear weapons.

But Mr. Obama also issued challenges to Russia, saying states should respect international borders, citizens’ rights and the rule of law.

In a July 7 speech to graduating students from Moscow’s New Economic School, Mr. Obama said it was necessary to jettison old ways of thinking that the two powers were destined to be adversaries.

Instead, he offered them a vision of a future made safer because of closer ties between Russia and the United States.

“This will not be easy. It is difficult to forge a lasting partnership between former adversaries, it’s hard to change habits that have been ingrained in our governments, in our bureaucracies, for decades,” Mr. Obama said. “But I believe that on the fundamental issues that will shape this century, Americans and Russians share common interests that form a basis for cooperation.”

President Obama said there were several such areas where interests generally coincided, such as halting the spread of nuclear weapons, fighting extremism and ensuring economic prosperity.

He said Moscow and Washington could deal jointly with Iran’s and North Korea’s nuclear ambitions.

Mr. Obama displayed some charm, too. He honored the Soviet Union’s sacrifices in World War II, and hailed Russian contributions in culture and science.

The U.S. president, who had made statements critical of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in the days before the summit, did not directly criticize the Kremlin in his speech. But parts of his address were a challenge to Russia’s leaders and likely to resonate with the country’s opposition.

The United States is not perfect, he said, but its political systems have allowed women and other groups to agitate for equal rights, its independent

In Moscow, President Barack Obama speaks about state sovereignty as “a cornerstone of international order.”

media exposes corruption, and competitive elections hold leaders accountable.

Governments that serve their own people survive and thrive, he said. Governments that serve only their own power do not.

State sovereignty

President Obama also touched on Georgia, whose invasion by Russia last year put an icy chill into relations between Moscow and Washington.

“State sovereignty must be a cornerstone of international order. Just as all states should have the right to choose their leaders, states must have the right to borders that are secure, and to their own foreign policies. That is true for Russia, just as it is true for the United States,” Mr. Obama said.

“Any system that cedes those rights will lead to anarchy. That is why we must apply this principle to all nations – and that includes nations like Georgia and Ukraine,” he said.

Mr. Obama’s speech was delayed because a morning meeting with Mr. Putin lasted longer than planned. He also had what the White House called a “good meeting” with former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The U.S. president met on July 6 and 7 with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The two presidents agreed on July 6 to seek a cut in their nuclear stockpiles by up to one-third.

The next day Mr. Obama also met with civil society and opposition leaders.

Villager’s murder stirs anger against powerful politicians

by Danylo Peleschuk

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – An average Ukrainian villager, Valerii Oliinyk was unemployed, nearing pension age and struggling to make ends meet in the rural village of Hrushka in the Kirovohrad Oblast.

When villagers learned that he was beaten and killed on June 16 by a group led by National Deputy Viktor Lozinskyi of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, who alleged Mr. Oliinyk was drunkenly shooting at their oncoming car, they immediately doubted their claims it was done in self-defense.

To those who knew him best, Mr. Oliinyk, 55, couldn’t hurt a fly.

“There were times when he would borrow as little as two hryvni, and not once did he fail to repay his debt,” Liudmyla Vatsiuk, Mr. Oliinyk’s neighbor told the Ukrayina Moloda newspaper. “You simply couldn’t imagine how honest he was with these things.”

Mr. Oliinyk’s murder has struck a

chord among Ukrainians, epitomizing how the nation’s most powerful politicians – and particularly members of the Verkhovna Rada, who enjoy immunity from criminal prosecution – behave as though they can get away with anything, including murder.

What added to the public outrage was Mr. Lozinskyi’s version of the killing, which doesn’t hold up to scrutiny, particularly the politician’s claims that Mr. Oliinyk possessed three guns and fired bullets at his group.

Nor did Mr. Lozinskyi appear sad or regretful at the June 22 press conference he gave following the killing. “If the situation were to repeat itself, I would have acted in the same way,” he shouted.

A series of news reports by the Inter television network, which is waging daily attacks against Yulia Tymoshenko in the election campaign, intensified public pressure on Ukraine’s leaders to prosecute Mr. Lozinskyi after Ukraine’s politi-

(Continued on page 19)

Ukrainian National Credit Union Association holds annual meeting

by Orysia Burdiak

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian National Credit Union Association (UNCUA) held its 28th annual meeting June 5-6, here at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ). Some 60 representatives of all 16 Ukrainian American credit unions gathered to discuss current issues facing credit unions, and to elect a new board of directors.

The delegates were welcomed by Bohdan Watral, UNCUA chair and CEO of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union in Chicago. Greetings were then delivered by Ihor Laszok, president of the World Council of Ukrainian Cooperatives; Olha Sheweli, vice-president of the Council of Ukrainian Credit Unions of Canada; and Tamara Denysenko, financial officer of the Ukrainian World Congress.

Presentations on topics of interest to the credit union leaders followed. John McKechnie, director of the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), spoke on the topic "NCUA and the Financial Crisis – a Washington Perspective." Ronald Koza, chief investment officer of Members United Corporate Federal Credit Union, spoke on the current economic crisis from the perspective of the corporate credit union. Dillon Shea, associate director of Regulatory Affairs for the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, spoke on legislative and regulatory



Participants of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association's conference and annual meeting held on June 5-6 at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany.

issues.

Following the presentations, delegates had the opportunity to voice their opinions during a roundtable discussion moderated by Bohdan Kurczak (CEO, Self Reliance New York FCU) and Maria Sedlarczuk (CEO, Ukrainian Home Dnipro FCU, Buffalo, N.Y.).

UNCUA conducted its annual general meeting on Saturday, June 6, with reports by management and committees, as well as the election of board members for the 2009-2010 term. UNCUA Chairman Bohdan Watral and President Orysia Burdiak reported on the current status of the Association.

As of December 31, 2008, assets of the

16 UNCUA member-credit unions totaled \$2.226 billion, with reserves and undivided earnings totaling \$356 million. Member deposits totaled \$1.843 billion, with \$1.443 billion total loans issued in 2008. A total of 106,488 individuals are members of Ukrainian American credit unions in the U.S. (down by 808 individuals from 2007).

Despite the recession in 2008, Ukrainian American credit unions contributed over \$3 million in support of community organizations, once again emphasizing the tremendous impact of credit union membership on the development of Ukrainian American communities.

The 2009 credit union calendar illustrating commemorative coins of Ukraine was well received by the membership. Over 33,500 calendars were distributed last year. Lew Mykola Hryhorczuk, author of the 2008 and 2009 calendars, presented the 2010 credit union calendar illustrating stamps of Ukraine to the delegates.

The following individuals were elected to the 2009-2010 UNCUA Board of Directors and committees:

- UNCUA Officers: Mr. Watral, (Selfreliance, Chicago), chair; Stephen Kerda (Selfreliance, Baltimore), vice-chair; Mr. Hryhorczuk (Selfreliance, Michigan), vice-chair; and Mary Kolodij (Selfreliance, Philadelphia), secretary; as well as Serhiy Hoshovsky (Ukrainian National, New York), Walter Kozicky (SUMA, Yonkers, N.Y.), Bohdan Kurczak (Self Reliance, New York) and Honorary Member Bohdan Kekish (Self Reliance, New York), executive committee members;

- Members of the Board of Directors: Jack Burscu (Osnova, Parma, Ohio), Bohdan Czapak (Cleveland Selfreliance), Andrew Diakun (Ukrainian Home Dnipro, Buffalo, N.Y.), Jaroslaw Fedun (Self Reliance, New Jersey), Andrew Jakymowych (Future CU, Warren, Mich.), Raymond Komichak (Selfreliance, Pittsburgh), Wasyl Kornylko Ukrainian FCU, Rochester), Yuri Pedenko (Ukrainian FCU, Minneapolis) and George Stachiw (Selfreliance, New England).

- Supervisory Committee: Mr. Jakymowych (Future CU, Warren, Mich.); Oleh Karawan (Selfreliance, Chicago) and Bohdan Sawycky (Self Reliance, New York).

- Nominating Committee: Mr. Fedun (Self Reliance, New Jersey); Orest Liscynsky (Cleveland Selfreliance); George Stachiw (Selfreliance, New England) and Catherine Popovech (alternate, Self Reliance, New York).

- By-Laws Committee: Mr. Liscynsky (Cleveland Selfreliance); Mr. Kekish (Self Reliance, New York) and Lubomyr Lypeckyj (Selfreliance, Warren, Mich.)

- Loan Protection and Life Savings Insurance Trustees: Ms. Burdiak, Mr. Kerda, Ms. Kolodij, Mr. Kurczak, Ihor Laszok, Mr. Olijarczyk and Mr. Stachiw.

Ms. Burdiak was elected president of UNCUA and the Ukrainian Cooperative Insurance Agency in Chicago. Staff members of the association office also include Christine Pylypowycz and Nina Bebko.

Walter Kozicky, chairman of SUMA (Yonkers) Federal Credit Union, invited the board to schedule the 2010 UNCUA annual meeting in Yonkers on the occasion of his credit union's 45th anniversary.

Ambassador Shamshur thanks Sen. Dorgan

WASHINGTON – A very warm and constructive meeting took place in Washington on May 21, between Ambassador to Ukraine Oleh Shamshur and Sen. Byron Dorgan, (D-N.C.)

At the meeting Ambassador Shamshur thanked Sen. Dorgan for being instrumental in getting the funding to get the work of the U.S. Congressional Commission on the Ukraine Famine translated into Ukrainian and reprinted for the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor. The commission's report includes over 200 interviews with eyewitnesses to the Famine and runs over 2,000 pages. It was reprinted in four volumes.

Ambassador Shamshur presented Sen. Dorgan with a letter from President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine thanking the senator for his invaluable contribution.

In 1986 the U.S. Congress established the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine. Sen. Dorgan, then a member of the House of the Representatives Congressman served on the commission together with Ulana Mazurkevich of the Philadelphia Ukrainian Human Rights Committee. On the initiative of the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee, the senator agreed that the project of reprinting the report of the U.S. Congressional Commission on the Ukraine Famine would be a most appropriate gesture of U.S.-Ukraine friendship on the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor.

At the meeting Ambassador Shamshur also briefed the Sen. Dorgan on the political and economic situation in Ukraine and invited the senator to visit Ukraine.



Looking over the reprinted Report to Congress of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine are (from left): Ulana Mazurkevich, Ambassador Oleh Shamshur and Sen. Byron Dorgan.

Demjanjuk declared fit to stand trial

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – John Demjanjuk, who has been in German custody since May 12, has been declared fit to stand trial by doctors in Munich, and he could appear in court as early as this autumn, reported Spiegel Online on July 3.

The news magazine said the case "will most likely be Germany's last big Nazi war crimes trial."

Although doctors determined that Mr. Demjanjuk, 89, was fit to stand trial, they said his court appearances must be limited to two 90-minute sessions a day.

Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, told the Associated Press: "...it is important that Demjanjuk, who actively participated in the implementation of the Final Solution, finally receive an appropriate punishment." Mr. Demjanjuk has been at the top of the Wiesenthal Center's list of 10 most wanted war criminals involved in the Holocaust.

On July 3, Mr. Demjanjuk's son, John Demjanjuk Jr., released a brief statement to the news media:

"We will vigorously dispute the prosecutor's decision in the Munich court. We know the German doctors have determined my father has about 16 months to live due to his incurable leukemic bone marrow disease, myelodysplastic syndrome.

"It took seven years to litigate an indictment on Sobibor and Treblinka in Israel, which resulted in an acquittal on all charges. With less than a year and a half for my father to live, a career-seeking German prosecutor is hastily pressing forward with a 100 percent politically motivated effort to blame Ukrainians and Europeans for the crimes of the Germans.

"This has nothing to do with bringing anyone to justice or fitness for trial.

(Continued on page 17)

Soyuzivka 2009 UKRAINIAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The masters of ceremonies

George Dzundza

Born in 1945 in Rosenheim, Germany, George Dzundza has over the years become a familiar face to TV and movie audiences alike. A graduate of St. John's University, he has had recurring roles on such popular shows as "Grey's Anatomy," where he played Dr. George O'Malley's father, Harold; "Hack," where he played Father Tom "Grizz" Grzelak; and "Law and Order," where he played Det. Sgt. Maxwell Greevey. Mr. Dzundza is also

known for his role as John in the 1978 film classic "The Deer Hunter," as well as for his role the 1979 miniseries remake of Stephen King's horror novel "Salem's Lot."

Lida Kulbida

Lida (Lydia) Kulbida is a former newscaster for NBC affiliate WNYT Channel 13 in the Albany, N.Y., area. While at WNYT, she won the distinction of Best Local TV News Anchor in Metroland in

the online Readers Choice awards for 2006. A graduate of New York University, Ms. Kulbida is now the author of a Times Union blog called "City Brights." Ms. Kulbida is currently attending graduate school in childhood education/literacy, starting up her own business and freelancing for Albany's WAMC, where she was previously a panelist on its show "The Media Project."

Andrij Stasiw

Andrij Stasiw is a well-known composer, conductor, pianist and popular MC. Mr.

Stasiw is the conductor of both the Holy Cross Church Choir in Queens and Prolisok, the choir of the Ukrainian American Youth Association in Yonkers, N.Y. He has previously conducted the Trembita chorus of Detroit. He performed with the popular duo Darko and Slavko, which won first place at the first Chervona Ruta International Music Festival in Ukraine. Mr. Stasiw is a veteran MC. He has appeared at many popular festivals, including Ukrainian Days at Brighton Beach and the St. George Street Festival in New York.

The featured performers

Ruslana and Ensemble

Ukrainian pop sensation Ruslana is the winner of the 2004 Eurovision Song Contest. Best known for her hugely successful album "Dyki Tantsi" (Wild Dances), Ruslana most recently released the English-language album "Wild Energy." She will perform at the festival with her troupe of eight dancers and promises to bring "some real Ukrainian energy" to Soyuzivka. The internationally known performer is active in many charitable endeavors and is involved with the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. (For more on Ruslana see the exclusive interview on page 1 of this issue.)

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop

The Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop was founded in 2004 on the 40th anniversary of the U.S. teaching career of renowned dancer, choreographer and instructor Roma Pryma Bohachevsky. Today, the workshop honors the artistic vision and tradition of excellence of Ms. Bohachevsky. The workshop, based at Soyuzivka, is run by her daughter, Ania Bohachevsky Lonkevych, with the assistance of Orlando Pagan, Kristine Izak, Stefan Calka and Roman Lewkowicz.

Victor Mishalow

The founder of the Canadian Bandurist Capella and a master bandurist, Victor Mishalow, was born in Sydney, Australia. He has studied at Sydney University, Sydney College of Advanced Education and the Kyiv Conservatory. Currently residing in Toronto, Mr. Mishalow has performed in Australia, North America and Europe, and has been awarded the title of Merited Artist of Ukraine.

Oleh Kulchytsky

Oleh Kulchytsky is a Merited Artist of Ukraine, violin player and composer. He has performed at the National Palace of Ukraine in Kyiv, as well as in Paris. He also founded the Oleh Kulchytsky Group, a group of conservatory-trained musicians, in 1988.

Lydmilla Fesenko

Though she currently resides in New York, Lydmilla Fesenko gained most of her performing expertise in Ukraine. Born in Kyiv, Ms. Fesenko studied at Karpenko Karyi and the Tchaikovsky Conservatory, both in Ukraine's capital. Ms. Fesenko has performed in Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East, and is currently scheduled to perform at Carnegie Hall next year.

Nadia Kobelak

Nadia Kobelak, of Mississauga, Ontario, is a pianist-turned-vocalist who has been studying piano since age 6. Although she has been singing for only a short time, she has studied music extensively, with a piano major in college. Her latest album, "Nadia," is a mixture of pop, rock, R&B and dance.

Filip Zmacher

Filip Zmacher is a top pop-rock artist on the international music scene. His blend of folk and hard rock makes his style unique. Mr. Zmacher currently lives in Ukraine, but was Serbia's contestant at Eurovision 2008. This will be Mr. Zmacher's second appearance at Soyuzivka, as he performed at the inaugural Ukrainian Cultural Festival in 2007.

Dumka Chorus

Founded in 1949 in New York as a male chorus, Dumka became a mixed chorus 10 years later. Dumka has performed at many prestigious locations, such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and the United Nations in New York and at the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington. Dumka has also performed in Montreal and Toronto, as well as in Ukraine. The chorus is directed by Vasyl Hrechynsky.

Iskra

The Iskra Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble of Whippany, N.J., was founded over a decade ago by the renowned dancer and choreographer Roma Pryma Bohachevsky. The ensemble comprises over 60 dancers age 6-19 and is directed by Andrij Cybyk, a former member of Syzokryli, Ms. Bohachevsky's New York-based semi-professional ensemble; Kashtan, an ensemble based in Ohio; and the Duquesne University Tamburitans.

Zolotyj Promin

Zolotyj Promin, translated as Golden Rays, is the Ukrainian Dance Ensemble based in Hartford, Conn. The ensemble was founded in 1994 and is currently under the artistic direction of Orlando and Larisa Pagan. The dancers, who pride themselves on vigor and enthusiasm, range in age from 7 to 18. They are approximately 50 in number and hail from all over the Greater Hartford area.

Koriny Ensemble

Koriny is a small musical group of local talent from Kerhonkson, N.Y., comprising the Shepko family. Under the direction of Halyna Shepko, the family sings and plays bandura. The group often performs with Julian Kytasty. All the members sing in the church choir of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Kerhonkson.

SEEN AT SOYUZIVKA



Roma Lisovich

Young people get together near the Veselka pavilion to enjoy the long-awaited sunshine over the Fourth of July holiday weekend at the Ukrainian National Association's heritage center in Kerhonkson, N.Y.



Roma Lisovich

Kristine and Andrij Cade hard at work on June 26 on a new sunroof for the dining room at the Lviv lodge, home to various youth camps at Soyuzivka.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Our credit unions

The Ukrainian National Credit Union Association, which unites all 16 Ukrainian American credit unions, recently held its 28th annual meeting in our neighborhood – at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany (located just down the road from us here in Parsippany). It was reported that the member-credit unions of the Chicago-based UNCUA have assets totaling nearly \$2.23 billion, and that their 106,488 individual members have deposits amounting to over \$1.84 billion. Perhaps the most notable statistic – in terms of our Ukrainian community life – is that more than \$3 million was contributed by these credit unions during 2008 for the support of diverse Ukrainian community organizations, projects and needs.

The first Ukrainian credit unions in the United States were founded more than 50 years ago by Ukrainian immigrants to this country who were familiar with cooperatives and wanted to establish their own financial institutions. As a result, credit unions, which are cooperative financial institutions, were established in cities with significant Ukrainian communities. Thanks to these institutions, many Ukrainians were able to buy homes and start businesses; and many community organizations were helped to flourish.

These financial institutions are based upon the credit union principle of people helping people, and their goal is to promote the financial well-being of their members and their community. They offer very attractive rates (generally higher rates on savings and other accounts, and lower rates on loans) and affordable services to their members. And, it is worth noting that, even in these unsure economic times, our Ukrainian American credit unions are a safe and smart bet. (We refer readers to our issue of October 12, 2008, which carried the article “Your funds are safe and insured in Ukrainian American credit unions” by Stephen Kerda.)

Our credit unions have a guiding principle of giving back, not only to their members in the form of modern financial services, but also to the community – whether that means supporting a local dance group, giving scholarships to students, sustaining a Ukrainian museum, or helping to build a new cultural center. The credit unions’ care and concern for our community is felt by countless groups: youth organizations, senior citizens’ clubs, veterans’ associations, parishes, charities and schools.

The two strongest Ukrainian credit unions in the United States, Self Reliance New York Federal Credit and the Chicago-based Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, are proud of the fact that in 2008 alone they each donated more than \$1 million to numerous cultural, educational and religious activities of the Ukrainian community. (Readers may recall that these two institutions have also given major grants – \$50,000 from Self Reliance New York and \$10,000 from Selfreliance Chicago – to this newspaper and our sister publication, the Ukrainian-language Svoboda, for our project to digitize our archives and make them available online.)

Other credit unions in other cities also are major supporters of our community life, giving donations and grants commensurate with their membership base and assets. It’s a simple formula: the more members and assets they have, the more our credit unions can give back to our community and thereby ensure its well-being and development.

Which leads us to urge each and every one of our dear readers to become members of these key institutions in our Ukrainian community.

July
12
2008

Turning the pages back...

Last year, on July 12, 2008, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair attended the annual Yalta European Strategy (YES) summit, where top Ukrainian policy-makers and representatives of the global elite discuss Ukraine’s European integration.

This was the first visit to Yalta by a British prime minister since Winston Churchill in 1945.

In his address to the participants on July 12, 2008, Mr. Blair said, “Globalization is something driven by people. [...] It’s people who are making the choices that are opening up the world in this way, and therefore it won’t be resisted in the end. There may be a major battle around resisting it, there will be periods of ebbs and flows, but in the end, it is inevitable that it continues.”

Held since 2004, the YES summit is hosted and sponsored by Victor Pinchuk at the Livadia Palace. The location is historically significant because it is where Joseph Stalin, Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt carved up Europe and set the stage for the Cold War, which dominated global politics for nearly half a century.

Mr. Blair noted that globalization would be necessary because problems shared by many nations will have to be addressed jointly, as they can’t be solved independently. “So, if you want to deal with energy security or climate change or global terrorism or financial crisis, in the end these issues can’t be resolved except by nations working together, in fact cooperating together across traditional national boundaries, forming alliances and strategic partnerships,” he said.

Recognizing the rise of influence of China in world politics, and a shift toward the east, Mr. Blair addressed the fears of some countries, but recommended embracing changes. As an example of resistance to globalization, Mr. Blair cited the rejection of the Treaty of Lisbon by Ireland that would have consolidated decision-making in the European Union and would have replaced the European Constitution. This is evidence, according to Mr. Blair, that Europe lacks unity in tackling global issues and this will affect Ukraine’s ability to join the EU. YES declared its goal of enabling Ukraine to join the EU by 2020.

“Whether Ukraine becomes a member of the EU or not will in part be determined by agreements, by negotiations and by the clauses that are going to make up the accession, the negotiation,” Mr. Blair said. “It will depend in part on the mood of the European Union at the time.”

Source: “Speaking at YES, Tony Blair says globalization is key political battle,” by Zenon Zawada, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, July 20, 2008.

IN THE PRESS

Russia and its neighbors

“**Kremlin’s Crimes. Is Russia determined to repeat its history?**” by Janusz Bugajski, *Wall Street Journal Europe*, June 11:

“As European democracies celebrate the 20th anniversary of their liberation from communism and the Soviets, Moscow seeks to restore its dominance over former satellites. Rewriting Russian history is part of this plan. The Putinist notion of a progressive Soviet system in the past is designed to provide justification for Russia’s current assertiveness in the region.

“... Although Russia was one of the victorious powers at the end of World War II, Moscow continues to disguise the historic record that the Soviet Union itself helped launch the war in close alliance with Nazi Germany. Through the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact, Stalin schemed with Hitler to carve up Eastern Europe.

“... Russia’s state propagandists maintain that the USSR never occupied its neighboring states after World War II, but rather liberated them from tyranny. And they minimize the Kremlin’s imposition of a totalitarian system over the region that stifled its political and economic progress for almost half a century. Unlike post-war Germany, Moscow has never paid reparations for Soviet crimes and expropriations in Central and Eastern Europe.

Moscow also disguises the fact that Stalin murdered more Russians and other Soviet citizens than Nazi Germany. Its official figure of 27 million war dead includes several millions of Stalin’s victims during Soviet civilian deportations and military purges.

Instead of admitting that it was a perpetrator and an opportunist in the destruction of Europe, Russia, as the successor state to the Soviet Union, depicts itself as a victim and a victor. ...”

“**A wake-up call for Georgia, Ukraine – and the West,**” By Denis Corboy, William Courtney and Kenneth Yalowitz, *Christian Science Monitor*, June 10:

“The West has a large security and economic stake in the outcome of a little-known crisis in Georgia and Ukraine right now.

“...democratic forces – torn by personal animosities and corrupt interests – have put the future of both countries at risk. ...

“Moscow is now exploiting this vulnerability in Ukraine and Georgia by demonizing democrats, aiding their opponents, and abetting separatists. The failure for democrats within those countries to work together could lead to authoritarian or anti-Western rule. ...

“Ukraine’s current President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko catalyzed democratic forces in the Orange Revolution and then led reforms. But corruption sapped much of the benefits of rapid economic growth and the east-west divide within Ukraine persists. The two leaders became bitter foes. Mr. Yushchenko has gone out of his way to irritate Moscow, while Ms. Tymoshenko has flirted with a coalition that would tie Ukraine closer to Russia. ...

“The hard lesson for Georgia and Ukraine is that governments and citizens must summon courage and solve their own problems. Leaders should make reform their main agenda. If they can’t or won’t do this, they ought to step aside. ...

“The U.S. and Europe, meanwhile, must do more to improve conditions for reform – and not disdain prospects for democratic change in troubled areas. The best tool is expanded assistance to foster the rule of law, honest elections, respect for human rights and minorities, and the fight against corruption. Advances in these areas should precede – and will enable – closer ties to the

European Union and NATO, not the other way around. ...”

“**Ukraine: A Delicate Balancing Act,**” by David J. Kramer and Damon Wilson, published on *Foreign Policy’s* blog “*The Argument*,” May 29:

“Russia has always had a knack for overshadowing its neighbors – and this time the West, focused on Moscow, is distracted from a crisis in Ukraine. As U.S. President Barack Obama gears up to ‘reset’ Russia relations, Ukraine is in disarray. The country is teetering between economic collapse, Russian influence and vague promises of Western support. It will take decisive moves from Washington to help pull Ukraine back from the edge. At the least, Obama should visit ailing Ukraine. ...

“Finger-pointing among Ukrainian politicians, already a national sport, will only accelerate as the country gears up for January 2010 elections for president (and possibly early parliamentary elections, too). ...

But politicians are desperate for quicker solutions, even ones that may not have Ukraine’s long-term interests in mind. Enter Moscow, which has provided loans to the tune of several billion dollars already to Kiev [sic] and is interested in buying up more Ukrainian properties and assets. ...

Visible U.S. support for Ukraine is critical as the country struggles through the coming months. Obama should avoid boosting one politician over another prior to any elections. A visit to Kiev [sic] on the president’s scheduled trip to Moscow in July would help, sending a powerful message that America will not seek to improve relations with Russia at all costs, neighbors included. On his trip, Obama must make clear that he seeks better relations with Ukraine and other countries in the region even as he improves ties with Moscow. ...”

“**Putin to the West: Hands Off Ukraine,**” by James Marson, *Time* magazine, May 25:

“...on Sunday [Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin] gave Russian journalists an unexpected reading tip: the diaries of Anton Denikin, a commander in the White Army that fought the Bolsheviks after the Revolution in 1917.

“‘He has a discussion there about Big Russia and Little Russia – Ukraine,’ Russian newswires quoted Putin as saying after laying a wreath in Moscow at the grave of Denikin, who is now portrayed as a Russian patriot. ‘He says that no one should be allowed to interfere in relations between us; they have always been the business of Russia itself.’

“Putin’s words are seen as the latest in an ongoing volley of pointed warnings to the West not to meddle in Ukraine, a country with such close historical and cultural ties to Russia that the Kremlin considers it firmly within its sphere of interests.

“The Russian leadership is very apprehensive about what it sees as Western moves designed to tear Ukraine away from Russia,’ says Dmitry Trenin, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center, an independent think tank in Moscow. ... ‘Any move by the West towards the former Soviet republics is seen as damaging Russia’s interests.’

“Moscow has reacted angrily to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko’s attempts in recent years to gain NATO membership, and to a recent agreement in March for the European Union to help modernize Ukraine’s aging gas-transport system. ‘This agreement is Exhibit A in Moscow’s collection [of complaints],’ says Trenin. ‘It’s evidence that Europe is concluding bilateral deals with Ukraine that undermine Russia’s interests.’ ...”

NEWS AND VIEWS

Constitutional changes needed but not these changes...

by Bohdan A. Futey

The constitutional changes of 2004, the eminent law of Ukraine No. 2222, resolved the presidential elections and prevented a political crisis from turning into chaos. Unfortunately, these changes interlaced the power of the executive and legislative branches, leaving the country in legal turmoil to this day.

To remedy the situation, on March 31 – four years into his presidency – President Viktor Yushchenko introduced to Parliament the draft law “On Amending the Constitution of Ukraine.” The draft alters the entire text of the Constitution – the basic law of the land. It would create a system that is somewhat problematic.

Additionally, the changes have raised questions about the motivation of presidential aides who drafted them. It is unclear whether the president’s advisers are giving him the best, legitimate advice, and whether they are acting as honest brokers.

Before examining the proposed Constitution, one must ask: What is the legal procedure for its approval? In 1997, the Constitutional Court in its decision explained that “the process for approval of a new Constitution can only be initiated after ascertaining the will of the Ukrainian people.” This can supposedly be done through a nationwide referendum. The approval of a new Constitution must also be made according to adopted rules and procedures, and as provided for in the current Constitution.

If adopted, the president’s proposed Constitution would introduce a radical change by creating a two-chamber legislature. The Verkhovna Rada would be renamed the National Assembly, which would consist of the Deputies’ Chamber and the Senate. The question of what type of Parliament is best for state development is more of a political and social issue, which needs deep comparative analysis and discussion.

In 1996, when adopting the Constitution of Ukraine, the “founding fathers” could have used a foreign analogue for the Ukrainian Parliament. Instead, they chose century-old Ukrainian history of state-building as a cornerstone.

Aside from the creation of a two-chamber legislature, the proposed Constitution removes from Article 91 the clause that national deputies are guaranteed immunity from prosecution. Further review of the proposed Constitution reveals, however, that there is another clause that, in effect, preserves the deputies’ immunity: “A national deputy or senator cannot be detained or arrested without the consent of the Deputies’ Chamber or Senate.” This inconsistency does not meet recent calls and demands to cancel deputies’ immunity.

There are provisions in the proposed Constitution that one can agree with, for example, the proposed cancellation of the political practice of creating a parliamentary coalition, on which the executive power’s existence currently depends. Formation of the coalition failed to add

Bohdan A. Futey is a judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington. He was appointed by President Ronald Reagan in May 1987. Judge Futey has been active in various rule of law and democratization programs in Ukraine since 1991. He served as an adviser to the working group on the Constitution of Ukraine adopted on June 28, 1996.

stability and increase the efficiency of the legislative and executive branches of government.

If the proposed Constitution is adopted, several centers of executive power would be preserved: the Cabinet of Ministers, the president (and his Presidential Secretariat) and the National Security and Defense Council. This is unfortunate. Ukraine’s experience of dualism between the president and the prime minister has clearly illustrated that a misbalanced executive branch leads to inactivity and paralysis.

The proposed Constitution does not optimize the legal status of the head of state, nor does it establish an effective system of checks and balances. The Cabinet, formed by Parliament, retains its status as the highest executive power. Simultaneously, the president preserves considerable powers, including the right to submit to the Senate the candidacies of procurator general, chief of the Security Service of Ukraine and others. The National Security and Defense Council, headed by the president, is preserved. The proposed Constitution allows the president to cancel the Cabinet’s acts on the issues of foreign policy, defense and security, after consulting with the prime minister. But it is unclear how this is to be performed. It would be expedient to introduce a counterbalance, where certain acts issued by the president are also countersigned by the head of the government. This would guarantee a certain balance between the two representatives of the executive branch.

Under the proposed Constitution, the president would have influence over the legislative and judicial branches. The president would have right to dismiss the Deputies’ Chamber. He has the right to appoint (with the Senate’s approval) all Constitutional Court judges, as well as to appoint and dismiss a number of judges of general jurisdiction. This is another attempt to preserve the president’s ability to penetrate into all branches of power, leaving the head of state above all other branches. The principle of checks and balances is not preserved.

It is essential to consider what the proposed Constitution means for the judiciary. The new modification that provides life tenure for judges is very positive. This provision would secure judicial independence and impartiality, which is crucial in a democratic state where the rule of law is recognized. The new draft, however, does not ensure that judicial salaries cannot be diminished. Both the current Constitution and the draft law foresee the participation of citizens as jurors. Bearing in mind that Ukraine does not have a well-developed concept of jury trials, it would be important to detail jurors’ rights in laws and in the Constitution. It is also crucial not to delay the implementation of the right to trial by jury guaranteed in the Constitution.

In addition, special attention should be given to judicial self-government, which is one of the most important guarantees of judicial independence and impartiality. In Ukraine, the body that is responsible for the financial and technical support of courts is the State Judicial Administration, which currently is part of the executive branch. It should be part of the judicial branch of government in any revised Constitution.

The current Constitution created a pyr-

(Continued on page 20)

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



“Snapshot Chicago,” a Ukrainian journey

Our museums are delicious repositories of Ukrainian American history. A great debt is owed to the founders, those under-appreciated, persistent and dedicated individuals who collected, sorted and catalogued everything related to our roots: photos, jubilee books, programs, diaries, letters, newspapers, magazines, archives, documents. Today our museums provide a cornucopia of information for the serious historian as well as for the dilettante looking to connect to the past.

Interest in Ukrainian museum preservation is growing. A second generation of dynamic museum aficionados has emerged to take the reins. The recent grand opening of the renovated Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Cleveland is the latest example of a renaissance that began a few years ago. Multi-million dollar renovations of The Ukrainian Museum in New York City, as well as the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago are examples of the trend. Amazingly, much of the restoration money came from non-Ukrainian sources – state and federal funds as well as foundations.

Another aspect of the revival of interest in our past is the published photo histories produced by Arcadia Publishing at no expense to our community. Three books – “Ukrainians of Chicagoland” (2006), “Ukrainians of Greater Philadelphia” (2007), and “Ukrainians of Western Pennsylvania” (2009) – are available in book stores everywhere, and Arcadia is looking for more. Why? Because they sell. Non-Ukrainians buy them. Will Stamford, Conn., Detroit/Warren and Cleveland/Parma join the Arcadia parade?

Our past is not just for us, dear reader. Ukrainians are part of the American panorama, and we need to validate our contributions to American life by getting our story out. Chicago’s Ukrainian National Museum (UNM) was recently involved in just such an outreach activity.

The journey began with Jodie Taggett. Supported by the Illinois Humanities Council, she initiated a project called “Snapshot Chicago.” On board was the Chicago Cultural Alliance (CCA), which brought together various ethnic museum directors to promote the project. Directors brought historic photos and guess what. Our photos won out. Ms. Taggett decided

to pilot her program with the UNM and Chicago’s Bucktown Charter School, an institution located in the center of the city.

Some 100 historic photos were subsequently scanned by UNM curator Maria Klimchak and sent, along with captions and explanations, to seventh and eighth grade teachers at Bucktown. The teachers selected 15 photos and distributed them to their students for study and comment. Students recorded their own questions about each of the photos and sent them on to the UNM.

The next phase was a student visit to the UNM to videotape Q&A sessions with locals familiar with the photos. Interviewees included Walter Sawkiw, Iwanna Gorchynsky, George Hrycelak, Jerry Hankewycz, Maria Klymchak, and Lesia and Myron Kuropas. Anna Chychula handled the logistics. Following the interviews, students toured the UNM and learned to sing “Mnohaya Lita,” which everyone later sang with gusto and zest. Great fun!

Student impressions were later mailed to the interviewees. “I really thought it’d be just as boring or the same as any other museum,” wrote one student. “But you have proven me wrong.” Another student wrote, “I’ve never had an interest in races and culture, but learning about the Ukrainian culture made me want to research my own culture and to continue to expand my knowledge on [sic] the Ukrainian culture.”

The “Snapshot Chicago” journey ended with interviewees visiting Bucktown School for a brief reception and viewing of the student videotapes. It was a happy ending. Ms. Taggett was gratified by the student reactions and the warm hospitality she experienced at the UNM. “I was so proud to be an honorary Ukrainian for the day,” she wrote in her gracious thank-you letter.

Ukrainian museums have catalogued many historic photos and most of them are safely stored and out-of sight. This is all well and good, but we need to remember that the old cliché, “A picture is worth a thousand words,” is only true if the picture is seen.

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



Vasile Avramenko’s formal 1928 wedding portrait. This photo was among the 15 photos selected by Bucktown School teachers for student comment and questions.

Ukrainian National Museum, Chicago

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UPA descendants are organizing

Dear Editor:

In the spring of 1942, the first units of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (Ukrainska Povstanska Army), or UPA, were formed in Volyn, Ukraine. As the military forces grew, their insurgent activity increased, engaging in guerrilla conflicts against the Germans, Russians and Poles.

The UPA fought valiantly against unbelievable odds. Although World War II ended in 1945, the UPA continued its fight against occupying forces. In 1947 many units were ordered to march across Czechoslovakia into West Germany while the rest of the UPA command structure continued to function and fight underground as late as 1954.

The units that succeeded in reaching West Germany eventually emigrated to other European countries, as well as North and South America. These men and women assimilated into their new environments, establishing families and earning a living.

As each of these veterans fell into daily routines, resuming a normal life, they never forgot the loved ones they left behind in Ukraine. Most took on major roles in the activities of their local Ukrainian communities. They became involved in establishing churches, schools and youth organizations in order to maintain their culture and traditions. They also successfully maintained ties with one another and created an association of UPA veterans. One of their most important achievements was and still is the publication of the multi-volume history of UPA known as "Litopys UPA" (UPA Chronicle).

At a meeting on April 6, 2008, in Passaic, N.J., Zenia Brozyna, Lillianna Chudolij, Oksana Bodnar and Olia Rudyk discussed the idea of forming an organization specifically for descendants of the veterans of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. The purpose of such an organization would be to continue the work of the association of UPA veterans; to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women in their struggle throughout the UPA's history; to promote general knowledge and enlighten public opinion about the UPA; and to cherish, maintain and foster true patriotism and love of Ukraine, our ancestral homeland.

More recently, on May 16, in Yonkers, N.Y., Mykola and Stephanie Hryckowian, Oksana Kulynych, Bohdan Shashkewych and Stefan Szkafarowsky joined a meeting to further discuss the ideas and planning of the organization's future. An organizing committee was formed under the name "My Pivivskoho Rodu" (MUR) and a more specific agenda outlined. First and foremost the immediate goals set are the recruitment of additional members, descendants of UPA veterans, the creation of a charter and the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the UPA in 2012. Another important objective of the organization is the maintenance of the UPA gravesites and monuments that have been erected over the last few decades in the diaspora.

An e-mail address has been set up. If you are a descendant of an UPA veteran, would like to become a member of MUR and be involved in the organization's activities, please write to us at upamur@gmail.com.

Olia Rudyk
Yorktown Heights, N.Y.

Kuropas column not appreciated

Dear Editor:

Through the years I've learned many things from Dr. Myron Kuropas' articles in The Ukrainian Weekly, particularly those concerning Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian immigration in America. I am very grateful to him for this lasting gift to us.

Because of his knowledge and love for his Ukrainian roots expressed in this work, I accept his right-wing Republican commentary, as offensive as it sometimes is, with a grain of salt. I usually know within the first two paragraphs if his articles are worth reading or not, and if not I just move on to the next article.

However, his last article titled "Obama, Ukraine and the Age of Zinn" caught my eye so I decided to read it from beginning to end. It seems that anytime he begins talking about the Democratic party, and now, a Democratic president, he loses all objectivity. His disdain, even hatred, cannot be contained. Dr. Kuropas offers a brief positive observation by admitting that "Mr. [Joe] Biden has been sympathetic to Ukraine's aspirations in the past and his visit bodes well for U.S.-Ukraine relations."

After that, it's all downhill. In the course of one article, Dr. Kuropas mentions a series of people and institutions that seem to want to bring "his" America down. Among those mentioned are President Obama, Ukrainian Democrats, Notre Dame's president, Howard Zinn, Richard Daley, Rahm Emanuel, Bill Axelrod, Bill Ayers, Hugo Chavez, Chris Dodd and Barney Frank ("horokh z kapustoyu," as they say in Ukrainian). There's more, but you get the picture.

Dr. Kuropas is, of course, entitled to his opinions. But are there no other Ukrainian American Republicans respectful of the two-party system who could share their conservative views with the rest of us and engage us in a truly interesting and meaningful discussion of Ukrainian and American issues?

Frankly, I do not see how Dr. Kuropas' rants serve the community's best interests; they don't deserve to be printed.

Maria Proskurenko
Berkeley Heights, N.J.

Congratulations to Myron Kuropas

Dear Editor:

Being a long-time fan of Myron Kuropas' articles in The Ukrainian Weekly I must congratulate him on his brilliant piece in the June 28 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly: "Obama, Ukraine and the age of Zinn." I read and re-read it three times, and each time I stood up and applauded.

Dr. Kuropas nailed it. We are Ukrainians, but our country is America. I was born in Ukraine, but live in New Jersey. I care deeply about the current political and religious turmoil occurring in Ukraine, but I live in the U.S.A. and care even more deeply about what happens politically, morally and financially to my children, grandchildren, my relatives and close friends.

The people of America in the last election voted for "change" by 53 percent to 47 percent. But let's not forget that "change" is being dumped upon all of us by a margin of only 4 percent.

Just like Dr. Kuropas, and for the same reasons, I respect President Barack Obama. But I cannot let go of the deep-gutted feeling that, despite Mr. Obama's brilliant education, eloquence and charisma, he is a nov-

ice in U.S. and world politics. As French President Nicholas Sarkozy stated "Mr. Obama is naive."

I hope that we all survive the 42 more months of "change" that is coming to us in America. Knowing the history and centuries of suffering of our brethren in Ukraine I am certain that they certainly will survive.

Again, congratulations to Dr. Kuropas on a well-written article.

Victor Babanskyj
Watchung, N.J.

UNA Seniors Week: kudos and thanks

Dear Editor:

We would like to share with Ukrainian National Association members and your readers a few words about the wonderful experience that we had at the UNA Seniors Conference last month at Soyuzivka.

This wonderful week was arranged and conducted by the president of the UNA Seniors, Oksana Trytjak. Her energy and exuberance ensured everyone had a wonderful time.

It was our first time participating in this Seniors Conference, but you can be assured it will not be our last. Next year, we will encourage all our friends and acquaintances to join us for this interesting experience.

Our special thanks to Ms. Trytjak for being so great. We hope she remains in charge of this event for many years to come.

Our compliments to the chef, Andriy Sonevitsky, for the great menus and to the staff for being so attentive and polite. Being at Soyuzivka always brings fond memories of our youth.

Thank you and, God willing, we'll see you all next year.

Iryna and Jaroslaw Kurowyckyj
New York

Lutsenko acted as a father should

Dear Editor:

Why did Zenon Zawada of the Kyiv Press Bureau, call Yuri Lutsenko Ukraine's disgraced internal affairs minister (May 17)? What Mr. Lutsenko actually did, every father would do the same under circumstances. Mr. Lutsenko tarnished? We should call him a hero. He is young, elegant and good-looking, he should be in Hollywood. He defended his 19-year-old son.

Mr. Lutsenko is internal affairs minister when he is in his office in Ukraine. Outside of his office, and outside of Ukraine, he is a husband and father, and it was his moral and legal obligation to defend his own son, or any member of his family.

When he saw his sickly son being attacked by a bunch of nasty German police officers, he went to rescue his son, who recently underwent thyroid surgery, from the cops who had gripped his son's neck. If one Ukrainian Kozak can send four German cops to the hospital, he should be decorated with medals for bravery, and not asked to step down. What is the matter with the people of Ukraine and their Parliament? We need more Lutsenkos in Ukraine.

It is obvious that Mr. Lutsenko would be a great president for Ukraine. We Ukrainians and Ukraine have been pushed around for many years, many centuries; now is the time to stand up and fight Russian bullies and even nasty German cops.

Peter Jacynicz
North Port, Fla.

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INTERVIEW: Ukrainian poet Vasyl Makhno of New York

Vasyl Makhno is a Ukrainian poet, essayist, translator and playwright. He is the author of seven collections of poetry: "Skhyma," "Caesar's Solitude," "The Book of Hills and Hours," "The Flipper of the Fish," "38 Poems about New York and Some Other Things," "Cornelia Street Café," a book of essays, "The Gertrude Stein Memorial Cultural and Recreation Park;" and two plays, "Coney Island" and "Bitch/Beach Generation." His work has been translated into Polish, English, German, Serbian, Romanian, Slovene, Russian, Lithuanian, Malayalam, Czech and Belarusian. He has been living in New York since 2000. Mr. Makhno was interviewed by Alexander J. Motyl, a professor at Rutgers University and the author of several novels.

You began your poetic career in Ukraine. How has separation from your native language affected your poetry?

I exchanged my native country for America eight years ago. The contrast between the two cultures and languages gave me a taste of something I hadn't experienced before. It made my poetry more expansive.

The city provided me with new themes and gave my poetry a new aesthetic impulse. In "38 Poems about New York and Some Other Things," I focus on New York's streets and sounds, and the poets who've lived here. Something similar happened to me when I lived in Krakow, but it was nothing compared to the American experience, which has been unique and absolutely remarkable.

What's so unique and remarkable about that experience?

Krakow is Europe, after all, but America, and especially New York, is a madness that never leaves you. In contrast to Europe, America doesn't insist that you be American. No one cares if you reject its collective psyche or way of life; no one reminds you of your otherness or foreignness. New York doesn't comprehend your loneliness; the city just makes a joke of it, leading you by the hand through its fantastic labyrinths, exposing you to countless distractions, showing you various ethnic groups, cultures and national cuisines.

The city offers you an alternative – and it's always open to dialogue. Of course, you may not be ready for such a dialogue and you may not want to accept its invitation to wander its labyrinths.

How did your fascination with New York's Beat poets come about?

In Ukraine, I wasn't very aware of the Beat generation. After all, during my youth our knowledge of American literature ended with Hemingway. When I arrived in New York, I absorbed this exotic poetry.

It was incredible to walk the same streets and sit in the same cafes as the Beats and the poets of the New York School. I began to read their writings and eventually I even met John Ashbery. This meeting was probably of no significance to him, but to me it was earth-shattering.

Has American poetry influenced you?

Yes and no. That ambiguity is reflective of my East European approach to poets as discoverers of the strange. I've always been fascinated by those things in American poetry that are absent, or almost absent, in Ukrainian or Slavic poetry – such as continually changing poetic strategies, rationalism, openness to and creation of everyday language, less abstract images and symbols, and attempts to expand the possibilities of language and poetry.

But American poetry is also experiencing a crisis. The entire world has adopted the New York School's strategy of banality

and considers that everything can be poetry, from New York garbage to Fifth Avenue ads. Every step forward entails some debasement, which is fine, since realizing this enables you to seek out new forms and language.

Which American poets have influenced you the most?

Any Slavic poet can name a few English-language poets such as Eliot, Ashbery, Pound or Platt and thereby stake a claim in this tradition, but truly engaging them can only be done in English and not in translation. One Russian critic claims to see Anglo-American influences in my poetry, but I'm not so sure. And besides, while it's true that Ashbery has influenced me, what does that really mean in light of the fact that many critics consider him to be the best exemplar of European traditions in American poetry?

That said, I especially like Allen Ginsburg and the Beats, the New York School, Derek Wolcott and Charles Simic.

Do you still consider yourself a Ukrainian poet?

Of course. My roots go back to Ukraine and I am and always will be a Ukrainian at heart. But I also consider myself European and a New Yorker. It's funny, but I'm already considered an American writer in Ukraine.

I agree with Salman Rushdie that a global society of displaced writers currently create literature out of wedlock. Regardless of where they're from, these writers share a new literary language, are marked by conflicts between their countries of origin and their countries of settlement, and are shaped by borderland cultures and psyches.

But yours was a very specific generation. Surely that makes you different.

My generation, like so many others, experienced cataclysms and disappointments and was not, in that sense, unique. On the other hand, I belong to a generation that, at the age of 15, pined for American jeans, which cost both your parents' monthly wage on the black market. We listened clandestinely to foreign radio stations, went crazy over Western music, and read Solzhenitsyn's "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich" under the covers. Then we experienced the war in Afghanistan and the Soviet collapse.

We were a transitional generation at a transitional time. We produced criminals, Mafiosi, nationalists, communists, gays, feminists, writers and emigrants – heroes and antiheroes of various kinds.

Who belongs to and creates Ukrainian culture?

Obviously, Ukrainian culture is created in Ukraine. But Ukrainian culture also exists wherever Ukrainian artists have found refuge—as in Paris during the 1920s and 1930s or in America after World War II. Consider Samuel Beckett – an Irishman who wrote in French and English. Does he belong to Irish, English or French culture – or to all three?

I do think that someone living in Ukraine and writing in Russian may contribute to Ukrainian culture. Can a writer living outside Ukraine be Ukrainian while writing in English, Russian or Chinese? I'm not sure that even an excellent writer like Askold Melnyczuk is contributing to Ukrainian culture while writing in English.

So English-language translations of your poetry don't belong to Ukrainian culture?

Not quite. My poems were originally written in Ukrainian; translations can't change my specifically Ukrainian mentality.

How did the New York Group of



Poet Vasyl Makhno

Ukrainian writers contribute to Ukrainian culture?

People may not appreciate it here or in Ukraine, but Ukrainian literature would be much poorer without them.

Yuriy Tarnawsky's "poetry of anti-poetry" has, as Bohdan Rubchak once said, affected our poetry like a virus, undermining sentimentality and pseudo-profundity. A woman poet from Ukraine once told me that it was only after reading some of Rubchak's poems that she finally understood what economy of expression means. To which I'd add that his cultural allusions intertwine the world with Ukraine. Bohdan Boychuk explores history, eroticism and human existence while moving between Western rationalism and national idealism. Wira Wowk, Patricia Kylyna, Emma Andijewska, Zhenya Vasylkivs'ka and Maria Rewakowicz have exploded form as well as linguistic and conceptual taboos.

But it's important to realize that the New York Group's innovations were also rooted in Ukrainian literary traditions. People continue to respond to their work both positively and negatively, because they're still provoking and affecting readers.

But contemporary Ukrainian literature is, as you say, being crafted in Ukraine. What's your assessment of current trends?

I take it as axiomatic that Ukrainian literature will never be like English, American, German or French literature. Ukrainian literature is interesting as what it is – as a literature in motion, reflecting the changes that befell the Soviet Union before and after it collapsed. Ukrainian literature did evolve in the 20th century, of course, but it was only after Ukraine became independent that our literature received carte blanche to be free, to escape censorship and to experience the clash of generations. Similar processes also took place in Poland, Romania, Hungary and the Baltic states.

But as Soviet readers, who always hungered for good books, were replaced by apathetic, impoverished and confused readers, Ukrainian writers came face to face with a dilemma: either to produce for the market in Ukrainian, while abandoning literary standards, or to abandon readers to Russian-language authors.

(Continued on page 17)

BOOK NOTES:

Poems by Vasyl Makhno

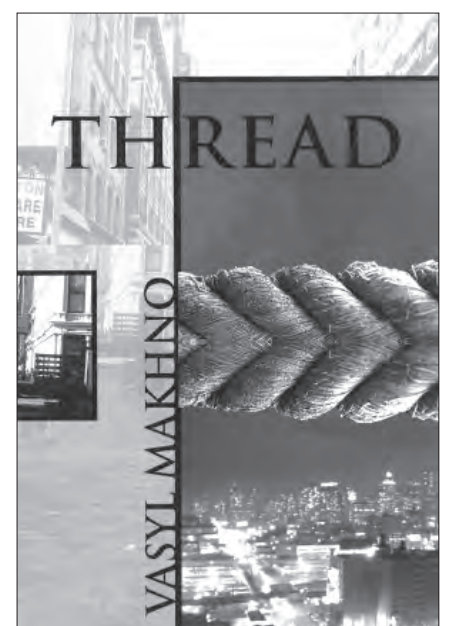
Thread and Selected New York Poems by Vasyl Makhno (translations by Orest Popovych). New York: Meeting Eyes Bindery, 2009. Softcover, 128 pp. \$15.

"Thread and Selected New York Poems" is a bilingual Ukrainian-English compilation of poet Vasyl Makhno's impressions of New York City. Touching on topics ranging from the diverse population of Brooklyn to the Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca, these poems are hailed as "highly philosophical" by Michael Naydan, the Woskob Family Professor of Ukrainian Studies at The Pennsylvania State University.

The translation of these Ukrainian poems into English is touted by Bohdan Rubchak, professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Chicago, as "able to capture not only the text but also the subtext of this poetry." The translations are by Dr. Orest Popovych, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (U.S.A.).

It is a powerful anthology for both for those who speak Ukrainian and those who do not.

Mr. Makhno was born in the town of Chortkiv in the Ternopil region of Ukraine. He has been living in New York



for the past five years. He has written seven collections of poetry, a book of essays and two plays.

Readers may obtain copies of this anthology directly from the distributor, Small Press Distribution, at <http://www.spdbooks.org/Product/9780923389796/thread-and-selected-new-york-poems.aspx>.

Ukrainian League of Philadelphia participates in Arts Crawl

by Ihor Bilynsky

PHILADELPHIA – Since 2005 the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, located in the Fairmount area of the city since 1917, has participated in the Fairmount Arts Crawl, a community-based open house during which the entire Art Museum neighborhood and business community is transformed into a show-place for local art and music.

A separate Arts Committee was established by the league to formulate and plan art shows and events. The theme of this year's spring art show, held on April 26, was "A Celebration of Ukrainian Art and Culture in Fairmount." Visitors saw master craftsmen exhibiting and demonstrating their folk and contemporary art media, as well as music. Demonstrations of various art forms included the following:

- Batik by Zoriana Sokhatska, a native of Kalush, Ukraine.

- Contemporary Ukrainian embroidery by Anna Korotkova, originally from Peremyshl; the works were designed by Lusya Oleksyuk from Kolomiya Ukraine. Both now reside in Fairmount.

- Embroidery (nyzynka) by Eudokia Sorochaniuk, a master traditional artist from Zhabye, Ukraine.

- Gerdany by Olga B. Kolodij, a master traditional artist in loom gerdan from Philadelphia, Pa., and Natalia T. Luciwi (net weaving or woven technique) from Montgomery County, Pa.

- Hutsul woodcarving by Michael Luciwi, president of the Cheremosh Ukrainian Hutsul Society from Philadelphia.

- Korovai (Ukrainian ritual bread) by Christine Rebensky originally from Fairmount and currently residing in Philadelphia.

- Painting on reverse glass by Mr. Danylovych, Irina Galai and Ustyna Danylovych. Mr. Danylovych and Ms. Galai are both originally from Lviv; they now live in Philadelphia with their daughter Ustyna.

- Pysanky by Cristina Zalucky, a high school student at St. Basil's Academy who resides in Philadelphia.

- Weaving by Maria Panczak, a folk art apprentice who resides in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia.

Musical instruments were on display and the following master musicians gave performances: Bohdana Yaroshevych, originally from Peremyshl, Poland, on bandura; Halyna Stefurak Karaman, originally of Fairmount and currently residing in South Jersey, on tsymbly; and Dmytri Luciwi of Philadelphia on Trembita.

Musical performances were featured every half hour. The first choir to sing was Svitlychka Children's Choir (Cooperative Nursery School Choir) under the direction of Iryna Pinchuk. Next was the Ukrainian Heritage School Children's Choir, under the direction of Bohdana Yaroshevych.

The male chamber choir Dzween, directed by Nestor Kyzymyshyn, performed for the first time in Philadelphia. Their repertoire covered traditional folk songs, Kozak ballads, religious hymns, and humorous songs. Dzween was followed by Vyshyvanka, consisting of five young girls who delighted the crowd with their vocalizations of popular Ukrainian contemporary and folk songs. The final vocal interlude was provided by the renowned "Accolada Chamber Choir."

The hall of the Ukrainian League was filled to capacity with people from 2 p.m. when the doors opened, to closing at 6 p.m.



The quintet Vyshyvanka (from left): Alya Fylypovych, Yulia Stupin, Milia Knyhnicki, Sofia Zacharczuk and Kira Woloshchuk.

The Arts Committee of the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia currently consists of: Marijka Hoczko, (chair), Eryna Korchynska (creative director), Halyna Martyn, Ulana Luciwi Dubas, Zenia Low, Irene Bojczuk, Marta Rubel, Oles

Cybrivsky and Ihor Bilynsky.

For more information about the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia readers may log on to www.ukrainianleague.com; for information about future art shows visit www.ukrainianarts.org.



Ustynka Danylovych explains the techniques of painting on glass to budding young artists.



Eudokia Sorochaniuk pours her heart and soul into embroidery done in the traditional "nyzynka" style.

Dear Readers!



The Ukrainian Weekly is accepting greetings on the occasion of the

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Kyiv among cities spotlighted at international festival in Chicago

CHICAGO – The Chicago Sister Cities International Program hosted its fourth Annual Chicago Sister Cities International Festival on Daley Plaza on June 15-18. With all 28 international sister cities represented, this is the only city festival that truly represents the diversity and international spirit that exists in Chicago.

As part of this year's festival, Daley Plaza was transformed into an international village featuring authentic ethnic food, merchandise and entertainment from around the world. Opening ceremonies included a parade of flags from all 28 sister cities. Marko Tun proudly carried the flag of Ukraine.

On the culinary side, visitors had the opportunity to taste Ukrainian food provided by Shokolad Pastry and Café, owned and operated by Hala Fedus. The Hromovytsia Ukrainian Dance Ensemble once again treated spectators to a wonderful performance of the "Hopak."

In 2008 the festival coincided with the naming of the City of Chicago as a finalist to host the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Mayor Richard M. Daley, Sen. Barack Obama and Rep. Rahm Emanuel joined Olympians, Paralympians, the sister cities community and thousands of Chicagoans to celebrate the announcement.



Flag-bearer Marko Tun with Consul General of Ukraine Kostiantyn Kudryk against the backdrop of flags of Chicago's 28th sister cities.



The booth of Shokolad Pastry and Café at the Chicago Sister Cities International Festival.



The Hromovytsia Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (from left): Adyo Hulyk, Lyudmila Janusonis, Markian Pylypczak, Natalie Wozny, Markie Wasylszyn, Adriana Popowycz, Jarema Pylypczak, Vera Halicki, Nazar Vovk, Daniela Pylypczak and Roksana Tech.

The Ukrainian Museum presents evening of Ukrainian wedding songs

by Ihor Slabicky

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Museum ended its 2008-2009 concert series on Saturday, June 13, with a superlative performance by Nadia Tarnawsky and her friends titled: "June Wedding: An Evening of Traditional Ukrainian Wedding Songs."

Ms. Tarnawsky's friends included Lilia Pavlovsky on keyboards, bandura and vocals, and Brandon Vance on violin. The co-host for this performance was Julian Kytasty on bandura and vocals.

Performing with Ms. Tarnawsky were the Ukrainian Women's Voices, a talented New York City-based vocal collective

that was developed in 2007 with assistance from Virlana Tkacz of the Yara Arts Group and the Columbia Teachers College of Music and Music Education department.

The members performing that evening were: Suzanna Dennison, Stephanie Trice Gill, Cherrymae Galston, Gordana Jelisijevic, Robert Kellerman, Alexandra Myrna, Iryna Pavlova, Willa Roberts and Odarka Polanskyj Stockert, with Mr. Vance joining them. (Yes, there were two male voices).

Just how talented these performers are, may be best exemplified by how this concert was organized. Ms. Tarnawsky and



Julian Kytasty, Nadia Tarnawsky and Brandon Vance perform at the "June Wedding" concert at The Ukrainian Museum.



The Ukrainian Women's Voices with Nadia Tarnawsky (right) at the "June Wedding" concert at The Ukrainian Museum in New York.

Mr. Vance are based in Cleveland. A week before this performance, Ms. Tarnawsky traveled to New York, presented the collective with unfamiliar if not completely unknown material, and, in five rehearsals, prepared them for this performance.

These traditional Ukrainian village songs are usually sung in the singer's natural voice. In a group setting, this will often result in a main melody with a number of tonalities flowing around it. To the unfamiliar listener, this polyphony can produce a "harmonic itch," as Ms. Pavlovsky so well put it. However, that is

the way village singing is supposed to sound. Under Ms. Tarnawsky's direction, her friends made it sound simply beautiful.

The performance featured wedding songs from the Carpathian, Poltava and Polissia regions of Ukraine. They were presented as they might be sung throughout the wedding feast, at the engagement, the wedding celebration and the day after.

"Do Nas, Bozhechko, Do Nas" ask blessings for the soon-to-be-married couple. In "Zvidsy Hora," the young woman

(Continued on page 20)

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Zabava - Hrim, Zahrava/Klooch
With special appearance by Ruslana

Opening Ceremonies on Stage 1:00
Afternoon Cultural Stage Show
Dinner in Dining Room 5-8pm
Evening Show 6 pm
Intermission: beverages, entertainment at Vending Area
RUSLANA & her Ensemble
Zabava - Hrim, Zahrava/Klooch

Saturday, July 18, 2009

Ukrainian Arts & Craft Vendors 10 am
Food Court 11 am - midnight
Vending Area Festivities all day incl. food, drink & entertainment – Matt Dubas, Hurt Udych, Walter Mosuriak (Zuki)
Varenyky Eating Contest – Sasha Gutmacher
DUMKA Chorus 12:00-Veselka Hall

Sunday, July 19, 2009

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Food Court 11 am-3pm
Finale with Ruslana

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

the Communist party. Mr. Nemtsov said he presented President Obama with four reports documenting corruption at the highest levels of the Russian government. "Corruption in Russia is not a problem – it's a system," he said. (RFE/RL)

EU 'prepares for worst' in gas crisis

BRUSSELS – The European Union was scrambling to put together an international loan package as Ukraine faced a July 7 deadline for another installment of its gas debt to Russia, which has been a frequent

flash point for rocky energy relations with the West. But the president of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, said the EU itself has no money to spare and was calling on international donors to step in. In an indication of the extent of the frustration at Ukraine's failure to meet its obligations, the European Commission last week recommended that member-states begin hoarding gas in preparation for further disruptions of Russian gas supplies. Mr. Barroso said in Brussels that he had fronted a last-minute mediation effort between Moscow and Ukraine in addition to looking for international loans to help Ukraine settle the tranche of its debt to Moscow that was due

on July 7. He made it clear that the EU would not step in with its own money and was, therefore, preparing for the possibility of another gas shortage next winter, saying, "Of course we are working for the best, but we are also preparing for the worst." (RFE/RL)

Ukraine demands return of lighthouse

KYIV – Ukraine is urging the Russian Black Sea Fleet (RBSF) to immediately return navigation and surveying facilities that belong to Kyiv, reads a statement of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) released on July 2. "Proceeding from an international responsibility of

Ukraine for ensuring security of navigation in own territorial waters, as well as in accordance with judgments of Ukrainian courts, Ukraine is calling on the Russian party, without prevarications, to return to Ukraine all navigation and surveying property that belongs to it, and which is being illegally used by the Russian Black Sea Fleet," the document stated. The MFA noted that on June 16 RBSF servicemen prevented law enforcement officers of the Ukrainian executive service from fulfilling a decision of the Economic Court of Kherson region on the return of the Mars-75 radio navigation station to the Ukrainian town of Henichesk. "The Russian side has again ignored a decision of the Economic Court of Kherson region that conflicts with the norms of international law and Ukraine's legislation, as well as a bilateral agreement on the status and terms of staying of the RBSF in the Ukrainian territory of May, 1997," the MFA underlined. The ministry insisted that all objects of navigation and surveying support, including the Mars-75 radio navigation station, are owned by Ukraine and cannot be subject to rent. (Ukrinform)

\$800 M from arms sale in 2008

KYIV – Ukraine earned about \$800 million (U.S.) from the export of weapons in 2008, Serhii Bondarchuk, head of the state-run company Ukrspetsexport, said in a July 2 interview with the newspaper Segodnia. "The export of weapons in 2007 earned \$700 million, and last year it was about \$800 million," he said. Mr. Bondarchuk also reported: "Of a paramount importance is the contract recently signed with India on repair and modernization of An-32 planes, worth \$400 million. I would also give a positive mark to the Vietnamese direction – contracts on the supply of passive radiolocation devices were concluded with that country for about \$54 million, and active devices for approximately \$50 million. Active work is under way with China, with a focus on new scientific technologies and creation of repair capacities," Mr. Bondarchuk said. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich calls for joint war on crisis

KYIV – The leader of the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), Viktor Yanukovich has called on politicians to unite in fighting the economic crisis. While in Luhansk on July 2, he said: "I am calling on my supporters to not fight against representatives of other political forces. The time has come to unite in the fight against our common foe, the economic crisis." The PRU leader also called for "giving over to historians the events in Ukraine since the end of 2004." Political battles, Mr. Yanukovich said, are "inopportune in conditions when Ukraine is dragging behind the majority of so-called post-Soviet countries in terms of the level of social and economic development." (Ukrinform)

PGO, SBU to focus on Tatars' deportation

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has instructed the Procurator General's Office (PGO) and the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) to institute proceedings on the illegal deportation in 1944 of the Crimean Tatar people and other nations that lived in Crimea. "The head of state believes that the fact of the illegal forced large-scale deportation of the Crimean Tatar people in 1944 is unquestionable. The deportation of other nations living in Crimea also was established; these are mainly Armenians, Greeks, Bulgarians and others," presidential press secretary Iryna Vannykova said on July 2. She added that the president is confident that there are signs of genocide in the actions of the Communist regime led by Joseph Stalin and officials of Soviet punitive

(Continued on page 15)

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On the eve of...

(Continued from page 1)

German Embassy in Ukraine to support the "Music to Break the Silence" campaign, which she regularly promotes at her performances and through her blog, <http://blog.ruslana.ua>.

Fans and curious concert-goers alike will get the chance to delight in Ruslana's high-energy dance pop when she appears during the Ukrainian Cultural Festival at the Ukrainian National Association's heritage center, Soyuzivka. (For more about the festival's performers, see page 5.)

Following a morning flight from Lviv to Kyiv and an intense day rehearsing dance sequences for the concert, Ruslana offered The Weekly an insight into her current lifestyle and projects.

Some Ukrainians visit New York or Los Angeles for inspiration. Why did you choose to go to Miami?

There's a really wonderful studio there – one of the best in the world – called the Hit Factory. All the stars record there, and all the most famous hits in the world have been recorded there, out of New York or Miami. Many stars visit Miami because it's a very touristy and leisurely place. It's not an industrial city, where you have tons of different things going on – you can come to Miami and watch the ocean in total peace, without any preoccupations to worry about, and concentrate on your music without anyone distracting you. At least that's what I think. But my real dream – even though [the Hit Factory] is one of the most popular, professional and legendary studios in the world – is to build a small studio in the Carpathians and to find huge inspiration there.

How did you get involved with the Hit Factory? Were you invited, or did you have previous connections?

This is a very interesting story. The producers whom I tried to contact before appearing at Eurovision were very skepti-

cal of me at first. They said, "Yeah, that's interesting, but maybe later." Then after I actually won Eurovision, they invited me to record in Switzerland. When I got there, we tried to do one song at a studio where ABBA often worked. After this, we agreed that our next meeting would take place in Miami at the Hit Factory. Once I got to Miami, the producers introduced me to the director of the Hit Factory.

I'm a very lively, communicative girl, and my music is much the same, so they took an interest in my recordings, and listened to everything I've done. We brought with us our own treble, our own drums and spent a lot of time experimenting in the studio. They were simply very interested. They started spending more time in the studio while I was recording, and that's how we got to know each other.

What's your opinion of America? What do you miss about Ukraine when you're there?

I come to America, and there I can live comfortably for a month or two. And I can come back quite often – every month or so I'll fly back – and I always feel great there, because every time I visit, I know I'll return to Ukraine. I know that whenever I feel down, I'll find time to fly back to Lviv, spend time with my parents, visit my favorite spots, hang out with friends, drink some good wine, or visit the Carpathians. I can ride a horse up into the mountains and simply relax.

I always miss these things after a while, regardless of where I am. I absolutely have to do these things now and again, because otherwise, I'd have no inspiration and no real energy. Even if I tell myself at certain points that I don't have time for these things, I need to find time for them – for seeing my parents, visiting my friends, and being a part of the world I've always known.

How does recording in the U.S. differ from that in Ukraine?

They are on two totally different plan-

ets, because you can't really compare them – not at all. Ukraine has a unique sense of old-fashioned spirit in everything – this spirit is its potential. Our land hasn't really been overhauled by contemporary civilization and market laws, and because of this we can still enjoy excellent home-made sour cream, fresh milk, fresh apples – all truly fresh products. And we can also play real music, real songs. But because of this old fashion, we're not able to [expand on our music] by ourselves.

We have incredibly crippled politics, and leaders who cannot seem to make Ukraine truly blossom the way it should. So we had to take this spirit and develop it with the help of professionals, and when it came time to decide where, it wasn't even a question for me.

I chose America without hesitation because it will probably remain the country that acts as the leader, not only in show business, but in many different spheres. It's because you can find so many smart, talented and professional people there. And they're dedicated to what they do.

They worked on my traditional sound and maintained its originality every day. Now it has the potential to reach the entire world and it'll sound professional. Because of this, we take our traditional musical style, our inspiration from the Carpathians, bring it to America and cultivate it there so that the rest of the world has a chance to understand it.

Have you begun work on your next album? Will it be released through Warner or EMI?

Yes, and we'll continue to work with both Warner and EMI, mainly because there's such an interesting situation building up in music today that has little to do with record companies. There is all kinds of new technology emerging, new methods and new potential for digital recording, and because of this, it's not that important anymore to search for deals with other record labels. The most important thing is to have new, strong material

– ambitious and interesting.

We've definitely begun work on the next album, but I don't want to discuss it much in advance. It's very interesting for me. There comes a moment when you take on such a complex idea, that it'll be incredibly hard to work with. But it will be the most interesting thing for you, and it'll elicit such wild emotions. Currently, I'm trying all kinds of stuff in the studio – upside down, right side up. Because of this, I'm starting to embark on a very interesting musical experiment, this next album. But we promised each other that we wouldn't give away the secret that lies behind this album.

It's a very interesting project – I was afraid at first to try the things I did, because I thought I wasn't ready for it. But now I feel that I'm ready to make this music and that's why I've spent so much time in the studio during the past months. I'll tell you honestly: when working on a project like this you really have to work on yourself to be able to fully realize it, but when you have such challenging work ahead of you it becomes very interesting and it pays off.

What can we expect from your show at Soyuzivka?

We're putting together some new, special compositions especially for this visit. We've currently set aside some studio time to practice them. I think they'll be quite interesting for you.

But first, I have to ensure everyone that a big element of [the show] will be pure Ukrainian drive – this is what we call it. It's going to be real Ukrainian music, and it's going to be very dynamic. It'll be like a journey to Ukraine, or to the Carpathians themselves.

There will be new costumes and new elements, but at the end of the day, what matters most is the energy and character of the music itself. That said, the energy and character of the music is, and always will be, Ukrainian. So in order to have some serious summer fun, we'll bring some real Ukrainian energy to the performance!

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

agencies. The deportation of the Crimean Tatars took place on May 18-20, 1944. Most were evicted to Uzbekistan (151,136 persons) and adjacent districts of Kazakhstan (4,286) and Tajikistan. The largest groups were sent to the Soviet Mari El Republic (8,597), the Urals and the Kostroma region. Many of those resettled died of starvation and illnesses in the places where they were deported in 1944-1945. Estimates of the number that died varies from 15 to 25 percent, according to various official Soviet bodies, to 46 percent, according to the estimates of Crimean Tatar activists. Unlike other deported nations that returned home in the late 1950s, the Crimean Tatars were deprived of this right formally until 1974, and actually until 1989, when a large-scale return started during the period of perestroika. (Ukrinform)

Berlin Wall fragment to come to Kyiv

KYIV – An original fragment of the Berlin Wall is to be set in front of the building of the German Embassy at 25 Bohdan Khmelnytsky St., it was reported on July 2. Agreement on the plan was reached at a meeting between Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi and German Ambassador to Ukraine Hans-Jurgen Heimsoeth. The ambassador said memorial fragments of the historic wall have also been set up in New York, London and other major cities of the world. He emphasized that there are very few such fragments and that an original

fragment symbolizes the freedom and unity of Germany. (Ukrinform)

Rada passes funding for Euro-2012

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on July 1 authorized more than \$1 billion (U.S.) of funding needed for the Euro-2012 soccer championship. The Ukrainian Parliament also made it legal for the central government to draw money directly from National Bank of Ukraine reserves if it is otherwise unable to finance the work. Since October 2008 Ukraine's government has been grappling with problems created by the global financial crisis. Repairs to roads and airports specified by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) – the governing body of European soccer – have been stalled due to lack of funds. (RFE/RL)

Village could be renamed Jackson

NEW YORK – Residents of the village of Oktiabrske, Ukraine, have suggested that it be renamed in honor of Michael Jackson, Agence France-Presse reported. Oleg Kislitsyn, a member of the Zaporizhia Oblast Council, said residents of the village in southeastern Ukraine had approached him with a proposal to rename the village Jackson. "There are many fans of Michael Jackson there," Mr. Kislitsyn said. He said the villagers wanted to create a Jackson museum to attract tourists and that he supports the proposal to change the name. "I am not a fan, but I respect his work," Mr. Kislitsyn said of the "King of Pop." The Municipal Council is to consider the request in August. (The New York Times)

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Summer Camp Dates and Information

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.

Kateryna Yushchenko...

(Continued from page 1)

orphans and the disabled. Mrs. Yushchenko noted the beneficial work in Ukraine of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Catholic charity Caritas and the Ukrainian Catholic University, which is teaching young people to do good.

She pointed to what she considered a great success in Ukraine: traditions of charitable works and volunteer activism have been revived and many are now actively engaged in such work, via both private and public initiatives.

The first lady concluded her remarks by commenting: "This award is a sign that I have to do much more."

The "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" award, established by Pope Leo XIII in 1888, is presented in recognition of the work and

expertise of recipients. It is the highest award bestowed on individuals who are not members of the Catholic Church.

Also known as the cross of honor, the award is a cross suspended from a gold and white ribbon (the papal colors) bearing an image of the apostles Peter and Paul. Mrs. Yushchenko's award was approved by the Vatican back on November 22, 2008, but the opportunity to present the award came only months later, Msgr. Appleyard explained.

He added that the award might have been presented during the first lady's visit to Pittsburgh at the end of November 2008 or during President Viktor Yushchenko's and her visit to the Vatican in early June of this year. However, due to various circumstances, the award and the documentation were never in the right place at the right time, as they were en route to the United States, arriving too late for Pittsburgh and leaving Rome prior to the Yushchenkos' visit there.



At the reception following the award ceremony, (from left) are: Martha Fedoriv, Nataliya Sergejev, Kateryna Yushchenko and Ulana Mazurkevich.

In "near abroad"...

(Continued from page 3)

Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin did at the Yalta conference

in the waning months of World War II.

Nikolas Gvosdev, a professor of national security studies at the U.S. Naval War College, said that while Georgia's and Ukraine's NATO plans may be put on hold indefinitely, this should not be interpreted as ceding a sphere of influence to Russia in the former Soviet space.

"The president doesn't have the freedom that an FDR or a Churchill had in the middle of World War II to be able to do these sweeping kinds of arrangements about geopolitical divisions of influence. I don't think that the president is going in with a sense of doing a lot of trade-offs," Prof. Gvosdev said. "He may at the margins do some things that the Ukrainians and Georgians may not like."

RFE/RL's Georgian and Ukrainian services contributed to this report.

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Ukrainian poet...

(Continued from page 9)

The struggle continues, but now both writers and readers have made concessions and reached a *modus vivendi*. As a result, Ukrainian texts get translated into European languages, Ukrainian authors take part in international festivals, and Ukrainian literature is actually considered European by the Poles and Germans.

How do you write poetry?

I used to write my poems with a pen. Today I usually type them on my laptop. And that's the first important change. As to the actual process, I don't write when half-awake or drunk. For me writing is a fully conscious activity provoked by the desire to verbalize intellectual or emotional states. I usually write a poem as a whole and then make changes. Sometimes love of a text turns to hatred and a desire to destroy it – which I interpret as a kind of Oedipal complex, a constant struggle with oneself and against oneself.

Where do you get your ideas for poems?

From many different things – a New York street or a Starbucks café, a book, my childhood, my memories. My poem, "Would You Stop Loving Her if You Knew She Was a Lesbian?" was an ad in the subway. I also get ideas from my travels. Most of the essays in "The Gertrude Stein Memorial Cultural and Recreation Park" are exploratory wanderings based on real countries and cultures. My visit to India "led" to my Indian poems, while Berlin served to inspire the cycle I'm currently writing.

Obviously, New York has been my major source of inspiration. I didn't adapt it to me; I tried to concretize my own visions and psychological states. Themes, like life, are always changing; one's voice has to remain authentic and clear.

Who is your audience?

My ideal readers have no age, but they probably have a philosophical bent.

Have you ever written novels?

I've written essays, but sometimes I think I'd like to write a novel about my generation as it moved from the collapse of the Soviet Union to middle age.

Are you related to Nestor Makhno?

Alas, no. My father comes from a village called Dubno, which is now in Poland. The two most common names in Dubno were Hohol and Makhno. I think that my ancestors came there from eastern Ukraine. It's quite possible that Nestor and I were relatives in the 1700s.

Demjanjuk...

(Continued from page 4)

My father will not live to fairly litigate the matter as he has successfully done before. They will now file sensational charges to make headlines that could never withstand a fair test of litigation. There will be no evidence of even one specific murder because he has never harmed anyone in his life.

"The Germans have only victimized him since he was a Ukrainian soldier in the Red Army, Ukrainian POW and now an 89-year-old great grandfather with barely a year to live. Were he guilty, we could not continue defending him and none of it would matter. But he is innocent and has been acquitted in Israel. If the Munich court accepts this farce, that is how he will likely end his days: sadly in a prison for the crimes of others."

State prosecutors said on July 3 that formal charges against Mr. Demjanjuk could be expected this month.

Canadian groups announce Mazepa art competitions

TORONTO – The League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC), the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women and the Ukrainian Embassy of Ukraine in Canada have announced the creation of the LUC-Embassy Mazepa Art Competition Committee. The committee comprises LUC members and members of various Ukrainian student organizations. It was formed for the purpose of organizing and adjudicating an art contest in honor of Kozak Hetman Ivan Mazepa on the 300th anniversary of his death.

The LUC-Embassy Mazepa Art Competition is open to all youth, especially Ukrainian youth. The submission deadline is October 30 and the committee will announce the winners of this contest on December 29.

It is the goal of the League of Ukrainian Canadians, League of Ukrainian Canadian Women and the Ukrainian Embassy in Canada is to mark the life and achievements of Ivan Mazepa throughout 2009, as well as to engage Ukrainian youth, Ukrainian schools and university students throughout this jubilee year.

For more information on the contest and its guidelines, readers may visit <http://www.lucorg.com/luc/news.php?id=3626&newlang=eng&type=msg>. Contestants may send artworks in JPG format to mazepaartcompetition@lucorg.com.

Sponsors, who would like to support or advertise during the competition, may call Volodymyr Paslavskyi at 416-516-8223 or write to him at director@lucorg.com.

St. Sophia Religious Association supports Church center in Rome

PHILADELPHIA – The St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics, U.S.A., on June 4 transferred over \$616,000 to Rome to sustain and maintain the religious and educational center in Rome as established by the late Patriarch Josyf Slipyj, and to further develop the newly established St. Clement Pope Institute of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

As reported by Prof. Leonid Rudnytsky, president of the St. Sophia Religious Association, the donated money came from the proceeds of the sale of St. Sophia's property in Washington, that was finalized over 10 years ago.

"Due to the major focus of Ukrainians worldwide on the construction of the Patriarchal Center in Kyiv and on the development of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics, U.S.A., feels duty-bound to intensify its support of the institutions founded in Rome by the late Patriarch Josyf, such as the building of the Ukrainian Catholic University, St. Sophia Cathedral and the Church of Ss. Sergius and Bacchus at the Patriarchal Manor located on Madonna dei Monti 3 (in Rome)," noted a statement from the organization.

The St. Sophia Religious Association also encouraged the Ukrainian community to support the Ukrainian spiritual and educational center in Rome. Donations are tax-deductible and may be sent to: St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics, U.S.A., 7911 Whitewood Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027.

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SATURDAY

Program I: New Films from Ukraine (Feature shorts)
River Tamara Karpynska
"I", 2009, Mykhailo Kaliuzhny
The Law, 2008, Vitaly Potrukh
Oath, 2007 and Rain, 2007, Maryna Vroda

Aug. 2
SUNDAY

Program II: Fairy Tale for Children
US Premier: An Awesome Tale, 2008, Roman Shyrman

Program III: New & Old Ukrainian Immigration in Film
US Premier: The Fourth Wave, 2008, Victoria Melnykova
Red Soil, 2001, Serhiy Bukovsky

Program IV: Ukraine: A View from the West
Surprise Screening (TBA)

(All films are with English subtitles)

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Newark parish honors its seniors

by Ksenia Hapij

NEWARK, N.J. – Our culture often pays too little attention to its senior citizens, the people who once were the backbone of everything that we value today. And so on Saturday, June 20, St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark scheduled a dinner and honored its older parishioners. The event was held in the church hall and started with the blessing of the long-awaited new elevator, which was built for the seniors.

In his greeting the Rev. Leonid Malkov described St. John's as a spiritual family. He said that his parishioners share in each other's joys and take on each other's difficulties; they get together to celebrate all holy days and holidays and, as all good families, they honor their parents and love their children.

He told the senior citizens that it was they who cared and continue to care for everyone and it is they who join the younger parishioners in looking toward the future with hope. He thanked his senior citizens for believing in their church and community. He thanked them for their understanding, support and gen-



Seniors in St. John's Church Hall

erosity.

He remembered those seniors who have passed away and who were so very dear to many of his guests that afternoon. He asked God to protect his seniors from all illnesses, various aches and pains and

discomforts, and he asked that God shield them from all worries and troubles. He reminded his guests that St. John's honors them, loves them and remembers them.

There was a very nice atmosphere during this celebration. Friends were glad to

see friends. Mykhajlo and Olya Stashchynshyn and Zuzanna Hywel sang beautiful Ukrainian songs. There were gifts and prizes, and a promise that in the near future St. John's Parish will host yet another dinner of this type.

Ukrainian faithful seek to revive community in California desert

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. – Attendees of Ukrainian Catholic Easter celebrations on April 12 are seen at right at the Mountain View Villas clubhouse in Rancho Mirage, Calif. The celebrants of the Resurrection Liturgy were: Msgr. Basil Smochko of Desert Hot Springs (center left) and the Rev. Joseph Radvansky, visiting from Sandusky, Ohio. In an effort to revive the recently closed St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Mission Church in the city of Desert Hot Springs (near the renowned Palm Springs resort area) Sunday liturgies have been held at a private residence. A more spacious setting for the Easter liturgy and festivities was needed and found at Mountain View Villas. The Easter liturgy, attended by over 30 persons, was followed by the traditional blessing of Easter baskets, the "Sviachene" meal and an Easter egg hunt for the children. Dr. Hanusia Olesnicki, who recently relocated to the area with her husband, Dr. Bohdan Olesnicki, and four children, said: "This was a wonderful service, so joyful and familial. Hopefully, in the future, we will be able to reach and attract more people with a Ukrainian heritage to join in the effort to rekindle and sustain a Ukrainian church here." For more information, readers may contact Msgr. Smochko at 760-251-0802.



Dr. Bohdan Olesnicki

Prior to summit...

(Continued from page 2)

(VPK, July 1). After meeting Adm. Mullen, Gen. Makarov is now commanding the Kavkaz-2009 major military exercises in the North Caucasus as well as in Abkhazia and South Ossetia (EDM, June 18, 25).

Officially, Kavkaz-2009 is in essence, "anti-terrorist," but the use of the air force, hundreds of tanks and a Black Sea naval task force with its top general in command does not seem to imply "terrorism" as the main target. It has also been announced that Kavkaz-2009 is to prepare the troops to fight

a regional armed conflict with Georgia, which is accused of preparing a new attack on South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The Russian Foreign Ministry has accused the Georgians of massing troops and of acting deliberately with the West to remove the observer missions of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe from Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Georgia in order to destabilize the situation (RIA Novosti, June 29). Of course, Moscow in fact used its veto power in the U.N. and the OSCE to remove these observers (Eurasia Daily Monitor, July 1).

Indeed, Moscow claims that the massive deployment of Russian military might on

Georgia's borders during Kavkaz-2009 is intended "to deter the aggressor" (Interfax, June 29; Izvestia June 30). But the Georgian military that suffered a humiliating defeat last August is not "massing forces" or capable of attacking the Russian armed forces in Abkhazia or South Ossetia. As tensions grew, this week another round of security consultations in Geneva between Russia and Georgia organized by the European Union, the U.N. and the U.S. ended without any significant progress (RIA Novosti, July 1).

On July 7, President Obama plans to have a working breakfast with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Mr. Obama will later meet the former Soviet president,

Mikhail Gorbachev (RIA Novosti, July 1). If the U.S. administration is indeed planning to seriously discuss important issues at a time of heightened international tensions, it is unclear why the Obama team has planned to spend most of the Moscow summit talking to the figurehead president, Mr. Medvedev, instead of concentrating his efforts on talks with Mr. Putin who is Russia's true ruler – and the only one capable of making any things happen.

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Villager's murder...

(Continued from page 3)

cal establishment was largely silent for two weeks.

Enough pressure even caused the Tymoshenko Bloc to fold following its initial defense of their fellow party member – a rarity in Ukrainian politics.

The bloc's vice-chair Oleksander Turchynov came to Mr. Lozinskyi's defense in the days after the killing, supporting the Kirovohrad politician's claim that he didn't possess firearms that day.

Yet, the Tymoshenko Bloc joined the overwhelming parliamentary vote on July 2 to strip Mr. Lozinskyi of his deputy's mandate and prosecutorial immunity.

"They didn't have a choice, because they realized Parliament would vote against him," said Serhgiy Taran, director of the International Democracy Institute in Kyiv. "Of course the Party of Regions, Our Ukraine and the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc would make the same decision, so it didn't really matter whether BYuT [the Ukrainian acronym of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc] would take care of him."

Stripping Mr. Lozinskyi's immunity then paved the way for the Procurator General's Office to pursue his arrest.

Although Yevhen Horbenko, the Holovanivsk District prosecutor at the time of the incident, was arrested along with Mykhailo Kovalskyi, the district police chief at the time, Mr. Lozinskyi is still on the run.

Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko said on July 7 that he believes Mr. Lozinskyi is still in Ukraine and is confident he will be arrested, though he added it's possible he's already abroad.

Meanwhile, Mr. Lozinskyi's lawyer, Roman Denysiuk, said at a July 3 press conference that he doesn't know where his client is. He also refused to confirm whether he and his client are in contact.

What has been confirmed about the incident is that Mr. Lozinskyi and his colleagues were driving near Hrushka when they spotted Mr. Oliinyk.

Mr. Lozinskyi and his colleagues allegedly broke Mr. Oliinyk's collarbone, legs and six ribs, among the numerous other injuries they inflicted, according to a July 1 arrest warrant, which cited 10 injuries to the victim's legs.

Mr. Oliinyk died as a result of "numerous" gunshot wounds to his legs, damaging the bones and blood vessels in his shins, prompting a sharp loss of blood, the report said, citing a doctor's claim that he died on the way to the hospital.

While never officially confirmed, the Svoboda nationalist party reported that Mr. Oliinyk suffered nine gunshot wounds to his legs, citing its anonymous sources. He was buried without his legs, prompting fellow villagers to speculate that they were amputated to hide evidence of the assault.

The July 1 arrest warrant submitted to Parliament by the Procurator General's Office outlines numerous inconsistencies and inaccuracies in Mr. Lozinskyi's alibi.

The gunshot wounds Mr. Oliinyk sustained made it physically impossible for

him to run into the woods and continue shooting from there, as Mr. Lozinskyi alleged.

The national deputy also claimed Mr. Oliinyk staggered nervously toward their car and brandished a gun, eventually firing a shot towards the side of the car as they drove into Hrushka to survey a plot of land.

But forensic reports obtained by the Ukrayinska Pravda website found no trace of gunpowder or metal residue on Mr. Oliinyk's hands and body.

Meanwhile, a forensic examination could not be performed on Mr. Lozinskyi and his colleagues because they washed up and changed clothes before authorities had the chance to inspect them, according to the report.

Mr. Lozinskyi built a local reputation as a millionaire marauder who regularly threatened anyone who encroached on the forest he claimed to own in the Holovanivsk district near Hrushka. On the evening of June 16, Mr. Oliinyk may have become the latest target out of a series.

Holovanivsk District resident Borys Pustovit told Ukrayina Moloda how Mr. Lozinskyi beat him over the head for venturing onto his land to hunt. As he was beaten, when Mr. Pustovit asked why he couldn't cross his land, Mr. Lozinskyi allegedly barked, "Because it's mine – I bought it because I make \$100,000 a month."

With the 66 hryvni he had at the time, Mr. Pustovit couldn't compete.

A majority of the land outside of western Ukraine, experts say, is organized into regional rackets controlled by local oligarchs who often yield power over local government and law enforcement organs.

"He's a baron who runs a local fiefdom, runs business with local enforcement agencies and does whatever he pleases," said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Institute of Statehood and Democracy in Kyiv. "It's a fact of life – because of the lack of rule of law, power rules. It's a natural corollary."

Incidents like the Oliinyk killing often become little more than political fodder for parties to use against each other, he said. Worse, the Lozinskyi case fell under a spotlight cast only by the impending presidential election.

"It's clear that the chances are well over 90 percent that this incident would've been no more than a footnote if not for the upcoming presidential election," said Mr. Lozowy.

"This is really just a political game – everybody is maneuvering around to see how much they can minimize their disadvantages," he added.

On July 7 President Viktor Yushchenko demanded the resignation of the Kirovohrad Oblast's prosecutor and the oblast police chief for allowing Mr. Lozinskyi to abuse his power and evade arrest after the incident.

"Did the procurator general not know how many people this national deputy, Lozinskyi, threatened with murder?" he said to the press. "Why do politicians and certain covers allow this swindler Lozinskyi to flee?"

OSCE supports national referral mechanism to assist human trafficking victims in Ukraine

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

KYIV – A conference held in Kyiv on June 19 with the support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) focused on ways to rehabilitate and provide state assistance to victims of human trafficking.

Some 150 national and regional officials, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, discussed the necessary steps to develop a state-led national referral mechanism (NRM) in Ukraine.

The NRM concept was developed by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to enable sustainable mechanisms and structures to combat human trafficking and support victims. It also provides guidance on how to monitor and build the capacity of such structures to guarantee needs-based assistance to victims.

"Human trafficking survivors require comprehensive assistance and support,"

said Ambassador Lubomir Kopaj, the OSCE project coordinator in Ukraine. "Such support can be provided only through close cooperation and coordination between various governmental stakeholders and governmental agencies and NGOs. A national referral mechanism would outline how such cooperation should work to ensure a victim-centred approach."

Tetnyana Kondratyuk, Ukraine's vice-minister for family, youth and sports, said: "Ukraine strives to follow OSCE recommendations and introduce such a mechanism to improve the protection of trafficking victims. Our ministry as an the anti-trafficking coordination authority aims to foster cross-sector cooperation and provide adequate state resources to assist trafficked persons."

The conference was organized in cooperation with the Ministry for Family, Youth and Sports, and with financial assistance from the Danish Foreign Ministry as part of the Danish Program against Human Trafficking in Eastern and South Eastern Europe.

Proposed election...

(Continued from page 1)

"The CVU believes the principle of forming election commissions proposed in the bill violates the equality of opportunity among candidates for the Ukrainian presidency," the organization stated in its press release.

"Considering that parliamentary factions are not subjects of the election process, then their prioritized right to include its representatives on election commissions could lead to violating the balance of interests on commissions and their making political decisions."

Ms. Tymoshenko not only has the support of her own faction but also that of the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense, Mr. Chernenko pointed out. With a few more independent commission appointments loyal to her, she could easily dominate an election commission.

While the bill caused immediate concern among political observers and presidential contenders such as Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who doesn't have a parliamentary faction, Mr. Chernenko said the law could change in the next several months by the time Parliament must approve it again in its second reading.

"I am an optimist because earlier unsuccessful Constitutional reforms collapsed because the blitzkrieg [approach] didn't work," he said.

"They talked a long time, someone didn't agree, they traded a long time, and it all ended unsuccessfully. In the same way, the second reading was supposed to have been voted upon today [July 9], but 400 amendments were introduced which haven't been reviewed in committee, plus the Parliament was blocked. We can hope these anti-democratic norms will remain in theory and won't be applied," Mr. Chernenko added.

In what political observers described as a populist measure, the Party of Regions blocked the Parliament's rostrum the entire week, demanding support for a

bill that would boost the minimum wage and raise the minimal living standard on which the government bases its economic decisions.

Though Party of Regions faction leader Oleksander Yefremov said the July 1 election law benefits the Tymoshenko Bloc because it has an alliance with Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense and other parliamentary factions, his party overwhelmingly supported the bill, offering 171 out of 367 total votes.

Despite such claims, the Party of Regions benefits enormously from the law because its control on the election commissions in eastern and southern Ukraine is only strengthened, said Oleksandr Paliy, an expert at the Foreign Policy Institute at the Diplomatic Academy of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Prohibiting appeals to local courts practically encourages vote manipulation, he said, and the law was written with the same goal of remaining in power as the attempted coalition between the two dominant powers.

"The voter might as well not come out to vote, since the winners have been determined prematurely – namely two winners," Mr. Paliy said. "They decided if they didn't divide power then, they'll do it now through this law, which practically nullifies the voting rights of citizens."

Only the Communist Party of Ukraine voted against the bill.

"How many words are spoken into the wind about the need to improve the law every time the presidential elections approach," Mr. Symonenko commented at the July 1 session.

"The elections conclude and the clans devise new approaches to falsify the elections, which are the biggest threat to democracy in Ukraine today. Drawing a conclusion from each election, the Italian mafia can't hold a candle to the Ukrainian clans, which falsify the elections and transform the system per se to a state system of falsifying elections," he said.

An open invitation to local community activists

Would you like fellow Ukrainians to know about events in your community? Would you like to become one of The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondents? What are you waiting for?

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions from local community activists. You may reach The Weekly by phone, 973-292-9800; fax, 973-644-9510; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com; or mail, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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Agitation over...

(Continued from page 2)

systems in Poland and the Czech Republic – Mr. Medvedev is worried about making an amateurish blunder (Kommersant, July 3; Vremya Novostei, July 2). Many commentators, however, point out that the centrality of arms control, which in essence belongs to the Brezhnev-Nixon era, shows the lack of a positive agenda relating to current pivotal issues (Vedomosti, July 3; RIA-Novosti, June 30).

U.S.-Russia relations are indeed lacking a solid foundation of economic ties as the volume of trade and investment remains unimpressive and shrinking. Mr. Obama is plainly uninterested in discussing Mr. Medvedev's ideas about replacing the U.S. dollar as the universal reserve currency with other financial instruments, and probably would not want to be reminded about Russia's irrelevance in the global anti-crisis debates.

One embarrassing issue for the U.S. president is the unfinished business of canceling the Jackson-Vanik amendment that remains a symbol of political exploitation of economic stimuli, rather than an obstacle for developing commercial ties (Vremya Novostei, July 3). A key element of the economic package that had been prepared for the summit by U.S. experts was the final arrangements for Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), but this question suddenly disappeared as Moscow opted for a collective entry with Belarus and Kazakhstan (members of the yet-to-be-operationalized customs union), which in essence means an indefinite postponement of the claim.

One of the promising topics for cooperation might be energy efficiency, which Mr. Medvedev has recently prioritized as a key direction of modernization, but it cannot qualify as a "strategic" breakthrough (Kommersant, June 19).

In the absence of an economic agenda, it is a very particular "ideology" of Mr. Obama's visit that triggers the most passionate debates and constitutes a major headache for the Kremlin. The meaning of "reset" for the Russian political establishment boils down to abandoning the pointless discussions about values and human rights and focusing on really important matters of pragmatically defined interests. The liberal camp, divided and marginalized as it is, on the contrary expects that Mr. Obama will re-launch the campaign for promoting democracy that had been seriously compromised by George W. Bush (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, July 3).

Russian policy-makers assume that Washington is facing risks stemming from two unwinnable wars at a time of protracted recession, which is mostly of its own making, and so has to concentrate on tangible issues like transit to Afghanistan or military-to-military contacts. They may have little understanding of the political phenomenon of Mr. Obama's leadership, but they still suspect that there is more to this U.S. president than horse-trading in the best tradition of realpolitik and, therefore, President Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin are bracing for surprises (Novaya Gazeta, July 3).

What has already shaken the Russian elites is that Mr. Obama has resolutely dismissed all the peculiar balances that underpin the division of authority between Messrs. Medvedev and Putin in the so-called "tandem" arrangement. He acknowledged that the prime minister "still has a lot of sway" in Russian politics and, therefore, scheduled a 90-minute working breakfast with him and his aides. That, however, is minute compared with the eight to nine hours of talks scheduled with Mr. Medvedev, a good part of which was planned in the one-on-one format.

As if that is not enough to show the difference, Mr. Obama also mentioned in a recent interview that "Putin has one foot in

the old ways of doing business and one foot in the new" (Moskovsky Komsomolets, July 3). Mr. Putin was so astounded by that remark that he found no better way of responding than to assert that "Russia is always standing firm on both feet and looks into the future," which may or may not be true – but this national characteristic has little to do with his own posture. According to some observers, the Medvedev team is very worried that Mr. Putin will find a way to demonstrate his displeasure (Ezhednevny Zhurnal, July 3).

Personal chemistry certainly matters in international relations, and with Mr. Putin it matters a lot, but Mr. Obama is aiming at more than just exploiting the differences in the odd duumvirate that currently rules Russia's enormous bureaucratic pyramid.

He understands perfectly well that anti-Americanism is an essential part of Mr. Putin's policy and not just style, while Mr. Medvedev's priority on innovation and modernization requires a functioning partnership with the U.S. (Vedomosti, July 2).

Unlike most European leaders, President Obama will hardly have difficulties mentioning the name "Khodorkovsky," and that leaves President Medvedev with a question more serious than finding a perfect number for warheads – how to bring closure to the embarrassing trial that holds him hostage to Mr. Putin's autarchy.

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The Ukrainian Museum...

(Continued from page 11)

tells her mother that she will no longer be hers, for her soul belongs to her betrothed.

Mr. Vance performed two of his compositions: "Erin's Slipjig" (dedicated to his sister) and "The Enigma."

The visit of the bridesmaids to the house of the bride-to-be is sung in "Kotylysia Orishky." "Zdohadaysia, Marusenko" tells about getting engaged.

Julian Kytasty, accompanied by Ms. Tarnawsky and Mr. Vance, performed several wedding dances. In "Kynu Kushil na Polytsiu," Mr. Kytasty played each verse just a little faster and his accompanists eventually stopped trying to keep up. That, one may say, is the *raison d'être* of that song – to show off one's virtuosity and to test the stamina of the dancers. Mr. Kytasty's bandura strings seemed to glow red hot after that number.

In the humorous "Pryidit Khloptsi," each stanza started off with what could be a risqué suggestion and ended with a verse making it obvious that this is just an innocent remark.

The evening closed with "Poslukhayte, Podruzhenky," in which the new bride bids farewell to her unmarried friends.

With the lyrics provided in the program, the audience sang along with the women's collective. In all, 20 works were performed, with the program offering extensive notes for each work.

Coincidentally, the exhibit "Fine Art/

Folk Art: A Dialogue" opened that afternoon at The Ukrainian Museum. That exhibit features works from the museum's extensive collection, and it pairs fine art with folk art items that inspire and are reflected in the fine art. With Halyna Mazepa's painting "Dance," depicting four women dancing, and traditional women's shirts, plakhty, sashes and ensembles to each side of the painting, the performers had a very meaningful setting.

Watching them, I wondered if any of those folk costumes had heard these songs in their time.

This concert series is part of the Ukrainian Wave, a Community Cultural Initiative of the Center for Traditional Music and Dance (CTMD). The series is supported by The Ukrainian Museum and by the New York Bandura Ensemble / Bandura Downtown with grants from the New York State Council on the Arts.

An appreciative audience enjoyed the evening's performance and, at the conclusion of the program, responded with a standing ovation.

Though the songs performed that evening come from a village setting, they can also be enjoyed in a 21st century setting. Thanks to Eileen Condon of the CTMD, a selection of the songs performed that evening is available as videos on YouTube. If you follow the link <http://www.youtube.com/user/CTMDProgramsConcerts> you too can enjoy these songs – for first time if you were not there, or, if you were present that evening, you can relive a wonderful concert.

Constitutional...

(Continued from page 7)

amid-like judicial system with the Supreme Court at the top. The proposed Constitution envisages a court system "under one umbrella," where both the Supreme Court and specialized courts will exist at the same level. The proposed draft also introduces elections for judges in the oblasts, supposedly with the aim of bringing better justice to communities. But this proposal is disturbing. There is a real threat that the judges, influenced by their electors, will not produce fair and honest decisions.

Lastly, the draft proposes a method for approving a new Constitution, which will weaken the vitality of the main law as a stable legal document.

Generally, it is questionable whether this proposed version of the Constitution merits approval. The flaws of the existing Constitution are due to the changes made in 2004 coupled with the failure to implement some of the clauses from the 1996 Constitution. Moreover, it should be remembered that the adopted 1996 Constitution had very positive reviews from the Council of Europe and the Venice Commission for its high level of human rights protection.

Changes to the current Constitution, are, of course, needed; however, approval of a new Constitution, with a new state order, needs a weighted approach. Ukraine has already experienced the consequences of making hasty changes to its basic law. By trying to solve current problems and patching old holes, plenty of new problems could be created. After careful study of the proposed Constitution, it is neither supportable as a better legal document, nor would it help Ukraine function better as a state. Equality among the branches of government would not be established.

It seems that history's lessons are not learned. Simply making changes does not guarantee improvement. It is important that the advisers who are working to revise the Constitution of Ukraine, in addition to good professional training, must have a yearning for national self-identification and a sense of responsibility for the fate of Ukraine.

The Constitution needs to provide stability for the Ukrainian state for many years to come. The authors have to clearly understand that the Constitution – the main Ukrainian law – has to stimulate national state-building. A Constitution that reflects only short-sighted political ambitions will suffer defeat and will not win the support of the Ukrainian people.

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OUT AND ABOUT

Through July 24
Lakewood, OH

One-person exhibit, "Of the Seasons" by Anizia Karmazyn, featuring paintings, woodcut and mixed media works, The Beck Center for the Arts, 216-521-2540 or www.beckcenter.org

August 1
Jewett, NY

Piano recital by Juliana Osinchuk, Grazhda Music and Art Center of Greene County, 518-989-6479

July 20
Cambridge, MA

Lecture by Mykhailo Minakov, "Logic of Political Populism and Institutional Responses." Harvard University, 617-495-4053

August 1
Ottawa

Concert, "Junior Rising Stars - Performances by Young Artists," featuring Aidin Tomosky Beck, Southminster United Church, www.chamberfest.com

July 20-24
Ottawa

Ukrainian Arts Day Camp, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 613-841-9489

August 1
Kerhonkson, NY

Golf tournament, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Hudson Valley Resort, 860-729-5181

July 22
Cambridge, MA

Lecture by Adrian Slywotzky, "Surviving the Perfect Storm: How we got into this economy and how we can get out," Harvard University, 617-495-4053

August 1-3
Edmonton, AB

Servus Heritage Festival, featuring Ukrainian Pavilion and Shumka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Edmonton Heritage Festival Association, 780-488-3378 or www.heritage-festival.com

July 23
Beamsville, ON

Concert fund-raiser, featuring bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka, Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, Rosewood Estates Winery and Meadery, 416-253-6700 or www.musicaeopolis.com/evites/view.cfm?id=10

August 2
Hempstead, NY

Church picnic, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, 516-481-7717

July 25
Jewett, NY

Fund-raiser concert, violinist Alexandre Brussilovsky, cellist Nataliya Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, Grazhda Music and Art Center of Greene County, 518-989-6479

August 3-7
Emlenton, PA

Mommy and Me/ Daddy and Me Camp, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., All Saints Camp, www.uocyouth.org/UOCCP.html or 412-279-1076

July 27
Cambridge, MA

Film presentation by Yuri Shevchuk, "Ukraine: A View From the Outside," Ukrainian Film Club and Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, Harvard University, 617-495-4053

August 3-14
Jewett, NY

Ukrainian folk singing course for children ages 4-9, with instruction by Anna Bachynsky, Grazhda Music and Art Center of Greene County, 518-989-6479

July 31-August 2
Dauphin, MB

Canada's National Ukrainian Festival, Selo Ukraina (Ukrainian Village), 204-622-4600

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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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Preparing for Plast's centennial in 2011-2012

by Mark Kochan

MONTVILLE, N.J. – In 2011-2012 Plast members worldwide will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

Plast was founded by Dr. Oleksander Tysovsky, referred to as "DrOT." Dr. Tysovsky became interested in scouting after he read Lord Robert Baden-Powell's book "Scouting for Boys." He felt that an organization utilizing scouting principles incorporated with the Ukrainian heritage would be extremely valuable to youth.

In 1911 DrOT, along with Petro Franko and Ivan Chmola, organized

Mark Kochan, 17, of Montville, N.J., is a graduate of Seton Hall High School and a longtime member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. He will be attending Rutgers University-Newark, where he will play for its Division I volleyball team.

the first Plast groups (hurtky) in Lviv, Ukraine. The guidelines and principles of Plast were written by DrOT in a handbook called "Zhyttia v Plasti" (Life in Plast).

Plast is based on the principle of self-education with an emphasis on the development of physical, intellectual and spiritual character. There are three main duties of every "plastun" (scout) and 14 points of the "Plastovy Zakon" (Plast Law) that members abide by.

The outbreak of World War I dampened the growth of Plast and its activities. After the war, Plast resumed its activities and developed rapidly across western Ukraine until 1930, when it was banned by the Polish government and then during the German occupation during World War II.

With the end of World War II in 1945, Plast re-emerged in displaced persons camps in Germany and Austria. Many Ukrainian emigrants began organizing Plast branches in their new cities and countries. In the



The emblem of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization combines the fleur-de-lis symbol of scouting with the "truzyb," the national emblem of Ukraine.

1950s Plast branches sprung up in six countries: Australia, Argentina, Great Britain, the United States, Canada and Germany.

In the early 1990s, with the re-establishment of Ukraine's independence, Plast was renewed in Ukraine, where it has continued to grow and develop.

As Plast evolved, new fraternities and sororities for adult scouts were founded. Plast expanded to include many different programs, activities, training seminars and camps that are a fundamental part of the organization.

In the United States, three-week summer camps for cub scouts and scouts are held at campgrounds around the country. There are numerous specialized camps for scouts, mostly in the summer and a few in the winter, including those focusing on water sports, hiking, horseback riding, skiing and winter mountaineering.

To foster friendship and to allow plastun from different countries to meet, international jamborees are organized. Such jamborees usually take place every five years. The most recent jamboree was held in 2007 in Ontario to mark the 95th anniversary of Plast.

A jamboree and other major events are being planned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Plast.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated August 9, please send in your materials by July 31. Please drop us a line: UKELODEON, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510. Call us at 973-292-9800; or send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com.

We ask all contributors to please include a daytime phone number.

Youngest "plastuny" visit Syracuse zoo

by Mark Temnycky

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The youngest scouts (novaky and novachky) of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in Syracuse, N.Y., on May 5 took a field trip to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. It was a perfect, cool, spring day for all the animals to be frolicking in their surroundings.

The youngest plastuny are between the ages of 6 and 8 old, and have been working on earning a merit badge called "Vesove Vnucha," learning about various domestic and wild animals, as well as their habitats and characteristics through songs, picture search worksheets, stories and games.

For some of the cub scouts, this was their first visit to the Syracuse zoo. They saw Asian elephants, African lions, Amur tigers, spectacled bears, snow leopards, Humboldt

Mark Temnycky is a sophomore at Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse, N.Y. He is a Plast counselor who works with cub scouts in the Syracuse Plast branch. He enjoys playing guitar and piano, tennis and reading.



Counselor Mark Temnycky and his Plast cub scouts in front of the Humboldt penguin exhibit at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, N.Y.

penguins and many other animals.

They also saw lots of different birds. Some of the most beautiful birds were peacocks that were happy to display their multi-colored feathers up close.

The Plast kids really enjoyed their visit to the zoo and even saw

some animals they've never seen before, like the red panda. Two of the novaky saw their favorite animal, the naked mole rat.

The novaky and novachky said they hope to return to the zoo some day and learn more about these wonderful animals.

Immaculate Conception Academy proud of its champion speller



Larissa Woryk

by Alexandra Lawrin

WARREN, Mich. – Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Academy congratulated eighth grade student Larissa Woryk, on her latest accomplishment: becoming the spelling champion of Macomb County.

She earned the title on March 14 after spending almost two hours competing in the Macomb Daily Regional Spelling Bee finals, winning with the word “teleran.”

On May 24 Larissa traveled with her parents, Lydia and Peter Woryk,

Alexandra Lawrin is principal of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Academy.

to Washington, as one of 300 top spellers, age 9-15, from around the United States at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. She was one of 12 top spellers from Michigan who competed in the nationals.

Larissa packed at least seven reading books in her suitcase as she headed off to Washington. That was in addition to the dictionary and spelling guides she used to study for the competition to compete with top spellers representing newspaper sponsors from across the United States, Europe, Guam, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, American Samoa, Ghana, South Korea, Canada and New Zealand.

Larissa finished the national competition just short of the finals, in which the top 40 spellers competed; she was No. 42.

Larissa has attended Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Schools since kindergarten. As an Immaculate Conception Academy student, she is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and is on the High Honor Roll.

She has competed in the regional spelling bee as the school champion in Grades 6, 7 and 8. She also won the school geography bee, which earned her a place in the 2009 National Geographic finals in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Larissa is also a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and a student of Ridna Shkola (the local school of Ukrainian Studies).

Parish honors its altar boys who graduated from high school



PARMA, Ohio – On Sunday, June 14, St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio, honored its altar boys who are high school graduates with a plaque of recognition from the parish for their years of service. They also received Bibles as a gift from the parish’s senior chapter of the Ukrainian Orthodox League. Pictured above are the cathedral clergy, altar servers and the two graduates (center, holding plaques) Nicholas Tatoczenko and Michael Mihnovets.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?

Drop us a line and let UKELODEON readers know!

Mishanyna

Summer is a great time to be active. This month’s Mishanyna is all about having a fun and productive summer. In the grid below, find the capitalized words from UKELODEON’s suggestions on what to do this summer.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Swim in a POOL | PLANT a GARDEN | Check out books from the PUBLIC LIBRARY |
| Go to the BEACH | Go on a PICNIC | Go on VACATION |
| Run through the SPRINKLERS | Spend the day at a LAKE | Take a family OUTING |
| Go to SUMMER CAMP | Play OUDOORS | Go STRAWBERRY picking |
| Do your summer READING | Put on SUNSCREEN every day | |

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

UKELODEON reader shares good news about his awards

UKELODEON reader Aedan Lodynsky (known by his Ukrainian nickname as Adian) was excited about winning two awards in school. He decided to share the good news with his fellow readers.

My name is Aedan (aka Adian) Lodynsky from Bethany, Conn., and I am only 7 years old and last week I received two grand awards from my school, which is called Bethany Elementary. I just finished first grade and I am going into second in September.

The first certificate awarded to me was the “Student of the Month” and the second one was for “The Best All-Around Friend.”

I go to St. Michael’s Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven and I also go to the Ridna Shkola in New Haven. My Mama and Tato are



Aedan Lodynsky

Halia and Adrian Lodynsky, and I have an older sister, Alexandra, and an older brother, Andre.

Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|---|---|
| July 5-18 Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop | Fund-Raiser; Dance Camp 1 Recital, 3 pm; Sitch Sports School 40th Anniversary |
| July 17-19 Ukrainian Cultural Festival | Commemoration; Zabava with Svitankok, 10 pm |
| July 19-24 Heritage Camp session 1 | August 9-22 Dance Camp session 2 |
| July 19-25 Discovery Camp | August 14-15 Friday evening: Slavko Halatyn on the Tiki Deck |
| July 25 Zabava with Oberehy, 10 pm | Saturday: Miss Soyuzivka Pageant (interviews begin at 7 pm); Zabava with Tempo, 10 pm |
| July 25-August 1 Sitch Sports Camp Session 1 | August 21-22 Friday evening: Hrim unplugged on the Tiki Deck |
| July 26-31 Heritage Camp session 2 | Saturday: Dance Camp Recital, 3pm; Zabava with Hrim, 10 pm |
| July 26-August 8 Dance Camp session 1 | August 23-29 Joseph's School of Dance (Ballroom Dance) |
| July 31-August 1 Friday evening: Kagero on the Tiki Deck | Friday: recital, 8 pm |
| Saturday: Film Festival, hosted by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk and the Columbia Film Club; Zabava with Na Zdorovya, 10 pm | August 27-30 Church of Annunciation Weekend |
| August 1-8 Sitch Sports Camp Session 2 | August 29 Wedding weekend |
| August 2-5 Adoptive Parents Ukrainian Heritage Days | August 31-September 7 Labor Day week |
| August 7-8 Friday evening: Pete & Vlody on the Tiki Deck | Weekend entertainment to be announced |
| Saturday: Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation Golf Tournament / | |



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, July 13

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute will host a screening of film shorts with Yuri Shevchuk. The films, presented under the theme of "New Films from Ukraine," are co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Film Club and the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University. It will be held at 7 p.m. in Room S-020 (Belfer Case Study Room), CGIS Building South, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 617-495-4053 or log on to <http://www.huri.harvard.edu>.

Wednesday, July 15

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute will host a lecture given by Oxana Shevel, assistant professor of political science at Tufts University, and associate of the Ukrainian Research Institute and Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. Her lecture, "The Politics of Memory in a Divided Society: A Comparison of post-Franco Spain and post-Soviet Ukraine," will be held at 7 p.m. in Room S-050 (Concourse Level), CGIS Building South, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 617-495-4053 or log on to <http://www.huri.harvard.edu>.

Monday, July 20

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute will host a lecture given by Mykhailo Minakov, professor of philosophy and religious studies at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. His lecture, "Logic of Political Populism and Institutional Responses," will be held at 7 p.m. in Room S-020 (Belfer Case Study Room), CGIS Building South, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call

617-495-4053 or log on to <http://www.huri.harvard.edu>.

Wednesday, July 22

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute will host a lecture given by Adrian Slywotzky, partner at Oliver Wyman, a global management consultancy. His lecture, "Surviving the Perfect Storm: How We Got into This Economy and How We Can Get Out," will be held at 7 p.m. in Room S-020 (Belfer Case Study Room), CGIS Building South, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 617-495-4053 or log on to <http://www.huri.harvard.edu>.

Sunday, August 23

HORSHAM, Pa.: The Ukrainian American Sport Center – Tryzub (www.tryzub.org) – will host the 18th annual Ukrainian Independence Folk Festival at Tryzubivka, County Line and Lower State roads, Horsham, PA 19044. Doors will open at noon; the festival stage show will begin at 1:30 p.m. with headliners: the Kozaks Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (Toronto); violinist Innesa Tymochko Dekajlo; the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (Philadelphia); the Luna band (New Jersey); and the Sisters Oros Duo (New York City). A zabava/dance to the music of Luna will follow the stage show, at 4:30 p.m. Delicious Ukrainian foods and baked goods, picnic fare and cool refreshments will be plentiful. Vendors are welcome; an arts and crafts bazaar and a children's fun area will be open all day. Admission: \$15; free for children under 13; free parking. For further information call 215-343-5412, or log on to www.tryzub.org. The sponsor is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization; proceeds benefit youth soccer and cultural and community programs.

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.

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.

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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