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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Specialists working to retrieve artifacts stolen from Ukraine

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – Since Ukraine regained its independence in 1991, a number of its culture and art specialists, researchers and officials have been working on retrieving Ukraine's cultural heritage, its art treasures, stolen by foreign occupiers during the last century.

One of the prominent activists in this field, Dr. Serhiy Kot, spoke about their work and the problems they have been encountering during a discussion on June 26 at the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation sponsored by the Washington branch of the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

He spoke about the restitution of Ukrainian cultural property from Russia, focusing specifically on his and his colleagues' decade-long effort to have Russia return the mosaics and frescoes of Kyiv's St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral looted in the 1930s and during World War II.

Dr. Kot – a member of the Institute of History of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences and bilateral commissions with Russia and Poland on these issues – was in Washington as a Fulbright scholar at the Kluge Center of the Library of Congress.

Ukraine has been the object of what he and other experts in this field call "cultural appropriation" by Russia for centuries, first under the Russian Empire and, more recently, the Soviet Union.

During that period, he said, Ukraine saw its name, its history and culture – especially the pre-Mongol period – beginning to be referred to as Russian. Its cultural treasures were taken out of Ukraine to Moscow, St. Petersburg and other Russian cultural centers to be exhibited as part of the Russian culture.

After independence, Dr. Kot said, Ukraine saw a need to assert its identity – regain its culture, history and traditions – and thus began the tug of war with Russia. "And Ukraine's cultural treasures," he noted, "have become a part of this war."

Initially, Ukraine's efforts for a bilateral resolution with Russia were stymied by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who refused any kind of talks with Ukraine on cultural issues, which, he said, did not exist. Ukraine persisted, however, and the issue was raised and negotiated at the highest level during the Kuchma-Yeltsin period.

St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral was built in the early 12th century and survived many wars and difficult time until the Soviet era, when in the mid-1930s it was set for destruction because it occupied the most prominent hilltop in Kyiv, to which the country's capital was moved from Kharkiv.

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## Battle of Poltava recalled on its 300th anniversary

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

POLTAVA – More than 60,000 spectators, patriots and history buffs paid a weekend visit to the Poltava battlefield on June 27-28 to commemorate one of Europe's most significant historical events: the Battle of Poltava of 1709 between Ukrainian Hetman Ivan Mazepa and Swedish King Karl XII on one side and Russian Tsar Peter the Great on the other.

In the Great Northern War between the Swedes and the Russians for control of the Baltic Sea, the Battle of Poltava was the decisive turning point that not only marked the permanent decline of the Swedish Empire, but also ended Hetman Mazepa's aspirations for Ukrainian independence.

Visitors as diverse as Russian Cossack fraternities, Swedish tourists and Ukrainian nationalists commemorated the politically sensitive anniversary peacefully and in the spirit of international goodwill, without any significant conflicts.

Among the dignitaries attending was former Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin, who came through on his promise to finance restoration projects to prepare for the commemorations of the Battle of Poltava.

The cash-strapped Poltava City Council, however, couldn't deliver on its promised world-class historical re-enactment. It's doubtful Swedish soldiers knew the Asian martial arts that were demonstrated. Perhaps the most questionable moment of the 15-minute theatrical replacement show came when only Russian Prince Aleksandr Menshikov and four pro-Russian Ukrainian Kozaks were left standing – without Russian soldiers.

Despite the disappointments, the more than 60,000 visitors to the Poltava battlefield found enough satisfying moments in the commemorations.



Zenon Zawada

Swedish soldiers and their Kozak allies charge toward their Russian enemies during the theatrical performance presented on June 27 to mark the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava.

"You never know when things are scheduled, but you have to be flexible and they did a good job," said Col. Bjorn Tomtlund, a military expert at the National Defense Council in Karlstad, Sweden, who visited the commemoration.

Thousands of guests, including Kharkiv Mayor Mykhailo Dobkin, arrived for a morning liturgy at the Sampson Church, completed in 1856 and named in honor of the Rev. Sampson Strannopriimets, the Orthodox saint known for his healing powers and whose feast day fell on June 27.

Mr. Chernomyrdin drew the most honor, having recruited Kyiv businessmen to help him finance the renovation of the Battle of Poltava Museum.

Just prior to the liturgy, Mr.

Chernomyrdin joined a group that included Russian Presidential Administration Chair Sergei Naryshkin, Russian Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Minister Grigory Karasin and Poltava Mayor Andrii Matkovskiy in ascending the steps of the Russian Soldiers Burial Mound to its monument. Its restoration also was financed by Mr. Chernomyrdin, who is among Russia's wealthiest people.

They placed commemorative wreaths to honor the 1,345 Russian soldiers who died during the three-day battle and were buried there. The burial mound overlooks the Sampson Church, which Peter the Great built nearby because of his belief that the saint helped his army onto victory.

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## Ukraine looks for "clear signals" from U.S. via Biden visit

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – U.S. Vice-President Joseph Biden will visit Ukraine between July 20 and 22 to meet with President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn and possibly opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich and presidential contender Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

Vice-President Biden will also meet with American businessmen.

The bulk of these political and business meetings will occur on July 21, Presidential Secretariat First Vice-Chair Andrii Honcharuk said at a July 16 briefing.

President Yushchenko is expected to meet with U.S. President Barack Obama at the United Nations General Assembly

at the end of September, Mr. Honcharuk added, and Vice-President Biden could arrange for President Obama to visit Ukraine in the autumn, before or after that meeting.

"This is among the main issues and among the arrangements, if not results, after the vice-president's visit to Ukraine," he said.

Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Oleh Shamshur, will be in Kyiv for Mr. Biden's visit.

President Yushchenko nominated Dr. Shamshur to replace the ousted Volodymyr Ohryzko's as Ukraine's foreign affairs minister, but Verkhovna Rada didn't approve or reject Mr. Shamshur's candidacy for lack of consensus. Pro-Russian forces don't support his nomination.

The U.S. has yet to appoint its new

ambassador to Ukraine. U.S. Chargé d'Affairs James Pettit said in June that he expects an appointment will be made by the summer's end.

Given that Parliament's last assembly of the fourth session was on July 16, Parliament won't approve a new foreign affairs minister until September at the earliest. Diplomat Yuriy Kostenko is Ukraine's acting foreign affairs minister.

The U.S. vice-president is visiting Ukraine at President Yushchenko's request after the Presidential Secretariat extended a similar invitation to President Obama following his election, Mr. Honcharuk said.

"As to why the vice-president is coming, it's hard for me to say from the point of view of the White House planning

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## ANALYSIS

## Reactions in Ukraine to Obama-Medvedev summit

by Roman Kupchinsky  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

U.S. President Barack Obama's first summit meeting in Moscow with Russian leaders did not warrant headlines in the Ukrainian media. The top story, understandably, continued to be the seemingly unending political crisis in the country, as a consequence of which, American-Russian summitry was buried in the middle pages of the printed media and merited 15 second reports on television news broadcasts.

Despite the low level of coverage, Ukrainian political leaders nervously but closely monitored events in Moscow and considered what the discussions meant for their country's future. Would the United States, Ukrainian analysts wondered, abandon its support for Ukrainian aspirations to join the European Union and NATO, or would Mr. Obama tell Dmitry Medvedev and Vladimir Putin that Moscow's quest to force Ukraine back into Moscow's sphere of influence was unacceptable?

This apprehension was evident in a comment by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko who stated on July 7: "Ukraine hopes that it will not become the third side, through which other countries will make compromises to reach their interests" (UNIAN Press Agency, July 8).

The Ukrainian ambassador to Russia, Konstantyn Gryshchenko, told the UNIAN press agency: "The principled position of our country... is that matters pertaining to Ukraine will be decided in Ukraine by Ukrainian political leaders who have a mandate from the people." He added, "There is concern that discussions do not take place over matters

which could constitute a danger to our interests."

Nonetheless, many in the Ukrainian policy-making establishment were heartened by Mr. Obama's support for Ukraine's sovereignty during his speech to the graduating class of the New Economic School in Moscow where he stated: "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 why we must apply this principle to all nations – and that includes nations like Georgia and Ukraine" (UNIAN Press Agency, July 8).

Volodymyr Fesenko, the chairman of the Kyiv-based Penta Center for Applied Political Studies, noted that while Ukraine was not on the agenda in Moscow, "There were soft warnings from the American president to his Russian colleagues that it is better not to create problems on its borders. There were hints that it is essential not to allow anarchy in neighboring countries and additional conflicts. It was a signal that America is not indifferent to this" (Kyiv Post, July 10).

Yuriy Shcherbak, Ukraine's former ambassador to the United States, welcomed President Obama's defense of Ukraine's sovereignty. "It is a very essential signal," Dr. Shcherbak said. "Obama clearly showed that the United States will not treat positively Russia's attempts to dominate the post-Soviet space and, especially, to impose on Ukraine any of its models or demands. After this visit, if Russia wants to [improve its relationship] with the United States, it must operate more carefully in post-Soviet space."

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## Obama praised in Moscow for moderation

by Pavel Felgenhauer  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

U.S. President Barack Obama's administration wanted to make the Moscow summit a success, and their Russian counterparts, though more skeptical, decided to follow this approach. Positive speeches were made and a cluster of agreements signed. Contentious issues were mentioned, but not emphasized. The atmosphere in U.S.-Russian relations has improved, which seems to have been the main mutual goal.

Mr. Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a framework agreement on strategic nuclear arms that aims within 10 years to cut the number of deployed warheads on both sides to 1,500-1,675 and strategic delivery systems to 500-1,100. Both sides expressed optimism that a comprehensive treaty will be ready for approval by the end of the year (www.kremlin.ru, July 6).

However, there are still many disagreements remaining on the final number of delivery systems, ballistic missile defense (BMD) and on U.S. plans to deploy long-range non-nuclear weapons. Disagreements on BMD have, in effect, been papered over to produce a more positive summit, but later they might impede plans for the speedy conclusion of a treaty.

Moscow has particularly opposed U.S. plans to deploy components of the BMD in Poland and the Czech Republic. These proposed BMD sites were initially planned to become operational after 2013, but could be further postponed by the Obama administration. While avoiding the topic of abandoning BMD plans for Europe, as Moscow wanted, Mr. Obama, according to Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov, promised to take into account Russian concerns (Interfax, July 7).

Mr. Obama had a "Russian style" working brunch with Mr. Putin with smoked beluga and black caviar. At present, the commercial production, sale and consumption of beluga or black caviar is illegal in Russia to protect endangered species. It was speculated that Mr. Putin served Mr. Obama Iranian-made caviar, which is legal (Interfax, July 8). Of course, in Russia, laws do not apply to the top nomenclatura, so the delicacy Mr. Obama consumed was most likely Russian-made and contraband.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### IMF mission proposes further aid

KYIV – A delegation from the International Monetary Fund mission visiting Ukraine said on July 11 that it would recommend approval of a further \$3.3 billion in aid, while downgrading its annual growth forecast for the country. Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, IMF mission chief to Ukraine, said Kyiv could expect the third tranche from a \$16.4 billion standby loan granted last autumn within four weeks, pending approval by the fund's board. The new tranche depends on the adoption of legislation to reform Ukraine's bank sector. The Verkhovna Rada has been gridlocked for the past two weeks by bitter political rivalries, making any progress on reform problematic. Roman Olearchyk of the Financial Times reported: "Referring to a 20-percent contraction in gross domestic product in the first quarter of 2009, Ms. Pazarbasioglu said the fund expects GDP to contract by 14 percent, whereas previously GDP was expected to decrease by 8 percent. 'These revisions mainly reflect the first quarter. Looking forward, we hope there will be a return to growth,' she said, adding that government and central bank policies had 'allowed the country to manage the crisis, bringing stability to its financial system.'" (Financial Times)

### PRU still blocking Verkhovna Rada

KYIV – The Regions Party of the Regions of Ukraine (PRU) has again demanded that the question of increasing the living wage and the minimum wage be considered first, the deputy head of the coalition faction of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), Andriy Kozhemiakin, said on July 14. He was commenting on the results of a conciliatory council of the leaders of parliamentary factions before the start of an extraordinary meeting of the Parliament. Mr. Kozhemiakin said that the YTB had made concessions to the PRU by agreeing to remove all of the staff issues from the agenda and extend the number of individuals whose immunity would be taken away, starting with the president and ending with national deputies and judges, if the vote for a bill on this issue is held. However, he said that the opposition continued insisting on the urgent consideration of the question of increasing social benefits. Mr. Kozhemiakin

said that at a meeting of the conciliatory council, the YTB had proposed putting this question first on the agenda. Commenting on the current situation, he said that the YTB had secured its right to call five more extraordinary meetings of the Verkhovna Rada by July 24. "We'll be calling extraordinary meetings – and if necessary, an extraordinary session if the current session is closed – until we pass the necessary laws for the country that will serve it as a way out of the financial crisis," Mr. Kozhemiakin said. (Ukrinform)

### Tymoshenko sees new Constitution

KYIV – "After the presidential election, our business will be to present a new and fair Constitution, discussed in public and fully analyzed by all people," Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said at a July 14 meeting dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Batkivschyna Party. "After the election, we'll have to start reforming the Constitution. Under the current Constitution, we won't have a strong country, a strong government and responsible courts," she said. The prime minister said that, first and foremost, a nationwide referendum would be held to ask the public which form of government they want – presidential or parliamentary. "If [they want] a presidential form [of government], so there should be no prime minister, but there should be a united team of executive authorities and complete responsibility for any results. If [the public wants] a parliamentary form of government, this is quite another thing. Then we'll have a strong prime minister elected by all people and strong executive authorities, while the president will have representative functions. However, it's up to the Ukrainian people, rather than political teams to make the choice," Ms. Tymoshenko said. (Ukrinform)

### Rights activists protest appointment

MOSCOW – A group of prominent Russian human rights and civic activists have written an open letter to Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev protesting First Deputy Kremlin Chief of Staff Vladislav Surkov's appointment as co-coordinator of a bilateral working group on civil society. The working group, which will be

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## Correction

Although it was correctly noted in the text of the story "Kateryna Yushchenko awarded papal medal" (July 12) that Nataliya Sergeev, wife of Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Yuriy Sergeev, was present at the ceremony, in a photo caption she was incorrectly identified as Nataliya Shamshur.

# Lenin statue's destruction sparks formation of Decommunization Committee

by Danylo Peleschuk

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – The June 30 defacing of the Vladimir Lenin statue in downtown Kyiv by Ukrainian nationalists has reignited a movement to remove Soviet-era relics and monuments, inspiring activists to form a Decommunization Committee aimed at using legal means instead of vandalism.

Established on July 3, the committee has recruited 33 civic and political organizations to lobby for the removal of Soviet monuments and change the names of cities, streets and squares named after Soviet icons involved in the persecution of Ukrainians.

"These individuals must not be honored by monuments, street names or even placards," Sydir Kizin, the committee's lawyer – who also represents those charged with defacing the Lenin statue – said at a July 8 press conference.

He filed a petition with the Institute of National Memory on July 1 to kick-start the legal process of removing statues and symbols, namely those dedicated to Soviet engineers of the Holodomor.

It's unclear whether the latest effort to remove Communist relics will have much success. A similar decree issued by President Viktor Yushchenko in March 2007 – to which he brought attention again in May 2008 – went largely unnoticed, its priority level diminished by political turmoil.

Moreover, experts said the president's dwindling political capital – once propped up by scores of politicians who have since abandoned him – will likely make progress difficult for anyone trying to push the issue.

"It would have been a much better time to do this a year or so after the Orange Revolution," said Olexiy Haran, a political science professor at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. "Yushchenko could have made it a priority by setting it as a clear agenda item when he had more support."

According to organizers, the committee is composed of political parties such as the Svoboda All-Ukrainian Union and the People's Rukh of Ukraine, as well as civic groups like Prosvita, the nation's most visible educational-cultural organization, and the All-Ukrainian Union of Veterans, among others.

The committee will also try to prosecute "criminals involved in the persecution of the Ukrainian nation," said Oleh Osukhovskiy, one of its organizers, at the press conference.

"Every one of our families suffered under the occupation of a Communist regime," said Mr. Osukhovskiy, who also

heads the Liustratsia (Lustration) civic organization. "We are turning to our government in order to quickly begin an international legal process against criminals and against communism."

The Security Service of Ukraine announced on May 22 it will prosecute Communist officials who carried out the Holodomor, the Famine-Genocide in which millions perished.

However, using the law to remove Soviet monuments is a whole different matter, because they were established legally and in many cities where they still stand they enjoy wide public support, legal experts said.

"In legal terms, there's close to zero chance of a suit getting anywhere because there isn't a legal foundation," said Ivan Lozowy, a Kyiv lawyer. "There's no legal norm which requires the government, national or local, to remove such monuments."

Much of Ukraine's landscape remains dominated by Soviet relics, and the majority of cities, especially in the eastern and southern regions, have kept statues of Lenin and other Soviet leaders in their centers, ignoring the president's calls to remove them.

Soviet symbolism is much larger than mere monuments, however.

Cities like Dnipropetrovsk and Kirovohrad, are named after early Soviet leaders Grigoriy Petrovskiy and Sergey Kirov, the latter having no relation to Ukraine.

In fact, 428 population centers are named for Soviet leaders, according to Mr. Osukhovskiy. There are 2,692 cities, towns or villages that still bear monuments to Soviet leaders, and 7,218 streets or squares named in their honor.

The Ukrainian capital of Kyiv still has 45 Soviet monuments and 1,475 administrative landmarks that bear Soviet names, Mr. Osukhovskiy said.

The group of men charged with defacing the Lenin statue was led by Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists member Mykola Kokhanivskiy, who has smashed Soviet relics throughout Ukraine, including a prior attempt on the same statue in Kyiv.

He said he supports the Decommunization Committee's efforts.

Though Mr. Kokhanivskiy said he first tried more diplomatic means of drawing attention to the removal of the statue, his efforts proved fruitless.

"The OUN [Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists] and many other political parties tried to draw attention to this. Letters were written – I don't even know how many," he said. "There was no reaction. So we got frustrated and destroyed it ourselves."

## Ukraine looks...

(Continued from page 1)

schedules," he said. "But I don't see any intrigues as to why the vice-president is coming and not the president."

"We would have wanted Mr. Obama, however, he had a tour, that's understood," he added.

President Yushchenko and Vice-President Biden will participate in official ceremonies, such as honoring the victims of the Holodomor, the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

"We hope this visit will put the final dots on all the i's among those people who have doubts about the United States' consistent support for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration course," Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kostiantyn Yelisyeyev said at a July 15 press briefing.

"We expect clear signals will be given during the visit that the U.S. supports Ukraine's course towards Euro-Atlantic integration and that no third party has the right to veto the nation's security policy or its cooperation with other international structures and organizations."



A bust of Bolshevik Revolution leader Vladimir Lenin overlooking the Teatralna metro station is one of at least a dozen such public monuments to the Soviet dictator remaining in Ukraine's capital.

## Demjanjuk formally charged by Munich state court

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – John Demjanjuk was formally charged on July 13 with involvement in the murder of 27,900 people at the Nazi death camp in Sobibor.

The charges were filed just two months after the former U.S. citizen arrived in Germany after being deported from the United States.

The Associated Press reported that the Munich state court must now decide whether to accept the charges and set a date for the trials. A spokeswoman for the court said the trial was unlikely to begin before the fall.

Writing in Spiegel Online on July 10, Cordula Meyer noted: "For the first time, a foreign henchman from the lowest rung of the chain of command will be prosecuted, not because of his particularly gruesome behavior as a perpetrator of so-called 'excessive acts,' but because he helped keep the killing machinery running smoothly."

Mr. Demjanjuk, Ms. Meyer wrote, "was probably an ordinary henchman, like thousands of others. But German courts have been extremely lenient in the past when it has come to putting these Nazi helpers on trial. In fact, even their superiors almost always got off lightly. In other words, the judiciary is planning nothing less than a radical break with a decades-long practice which was often perceived as offensive."

"For Demjanjuk's defense attorney, this line of argument 'upends the entire postwar legal practice in Germany.' The court must conduct its proceedings on the basis of evidence, and yet it presumably also wants to avoid being accused of inaction or perhaps even leniency toward former Nazis. All of this creates the impression that the

German judiciary is using the Demjanjuk case, which has become well-known because of its previous history, to make up for past omissions," Ms. Meyer commented.

John Demjanjuk Jr., reacting to the news of formal charges against his father, stated:

"As long as my father remains alive, we will defend his innocence, as he has never hurt anyone anywhere. They have hurried to justify the deportation and the violation of his legal and human rights with sensational charges, but it is all a farce and cannot withstand the test of litigation. German doctors have confirmed he has about 15 months to live due to an incurable leukemic bone marrow disease, myelodysplastic syndrome. His condition will continue to worsen and he will not have the opportunity to fairly litigate the matter as he successfully did in Israel once before."

The AP quoted Dieter Graumann, vice-president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, as saying that more important than whether Mr. Demjanjuk ultimately serves prison time is "that the guilt is determined, that it's discussed."

"Now, at a time when there are so many Holocaust deniers... it's all the more important that in such a trial it's made clear once again what happened, what took place," he said.

In related news, Reuters reported on July 8 that the elder Mr. Demjanjuk lost an appeal against his deportation from the United States when Germany's Constitutional Court ruled he had given no substantiated reason to back his argument that his deportation had violated his basic rights.

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# Ukrainian Catholic University honors 'Reporters of Hope'

by Taras Antoshevskyy

LVIV – Ukrainian journalists who uplift their readers were honored as “Reporters of Hope” at a ceremony held at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) on May 27. The goal of the contest, organized by UCU’s Institute of Ecumenical Studies, was to honor journalists who show life’s difficulties but also present solutions. Nine authors were honored in three media categories: television, radio, and publications in the press or Internet. A total of 714 entries from all regions of Ukraine were considered. The themes were varied: ecology, health, politics, economics, culture, society and religion.

The Ukrainian competition followed a precedent set in France.

“The ‘Reporters of Hope’ competition was inspired by a similar project of the ‘Reporters d’Espoirs’ association,” explained Dr. Antoine Arjakovsky, director of the institute. The French association, which supported the competition in Ukraine, has been similarly honoring journalists in France for the past five years.

“In Ukraine this was a nationwide contest for journalists who bring hope to people, conquering the atmosphere of despair, powerlessness and apathy [that prevails in the “If it bleeds, it leads” school of journalism],” continued Dr. Arjakovsky. “Each of us knows that in daily life there are a number of victories, invisible or unnoticed by the general public – victories which are, unfortunately, not covered in the news. So the goal of this contest is to encourage journalists to cover the good news.”

“The slogan that the French ‘Reporters of Hope’ chose is: ‘It’s easier to show a forest that’s burning, but more truly important is a forest that’s growing.’ So a real journalist is a person who sheds light on all the good initiatives that no one ever talks about. People think that this happens naturally, but, really, the world is moving forward and developing thanks to open, positive, dynamic, hopeful initiatives,” said Dr. Arjakovsky.

The winners in the television category included

Khrystyna Stets of Liuks TV-radio in Lviv, who won first place for her stories about children with Down’s syndrome. The author tried to convince the viewer that the condition is not a condemnation but only “a difference” with which one can live, enjoy life, and bring joy to others.

“The gift of adoption,” by Yevhen Klimakin of Radio Emmanuel in Kyiv, won second place in the radio category. “Orphans are not abandoned by God,” Mr. Klimakin said. His story showed how children are blessed with new parents as God answers their prayers.

Halyna Svitlikovska of the newspaper Volyn in the city of Lutsk won first prize in the category “publications in the press or Internet” for her article “What to do: Complain about difficulties or roll up your sleeves?”

“For the majority, the very word ‘crisis’ sets you up to expect the worst,” wrote Ms. Svitlikovska. “It paralyzes activity and the desire to find solutions to difficult circumstances. I once read about a poor Frenchman who moved to the U.S. during the Great Depression. There he established a flourishing wine business and made a great profit. When they eventually asked him how he managed to become wealthy under the conditions of a world economic crisis, he replied: ‘I understood English so poorly that I couldn’t read the newspapers, and so I didn’t know anything about the crisis.’”

Ms. Svitlikovska told the story of 78-year-old Ivan Boiarchuk, who became wheelchair-bound at the age of 31. “And then soon after that his wife died, and he was left with two pre-school age children to feed, clothe and raise,” she wrote. “He had to think how to provide for his family.”

He tried work that he could do at home. He also tried to be a taxi-driver, though he didn’t go to popular spots because he didn’t want to anger other taxi-drivers as a competitor, “so he was glad when some passenger came along. And he exercised to keep in shape,” Ms. Svitlikovska wrote.

“I didn’t receive any help,” said Mr. Boiarchuk. “The children didn’t grow up in luxury. They had responsibilities from a young age. But I didn’t have trouble with



News tends to focus on the negative, according to organizers of the Reporters of Hope contest. Ukrainian journalists who wrote about uplifting topics – such as religious outreach to Ukraine’s mentally retarded (as shown here) – were honored for their efforts.

them. They studied, now they work. My daughter is a university professor and my son is in the army,” he recounted in Ms. Svitlikovska’s article. “For 47 years now he has lived in a state of personal, serious crisis, but he has come out of it a victor,” Ms. Svitlikovska summed up.

All nine winners received certificates of participation, but the authors who won first place in each category received a cash prize of 4,000 hrv.

“It is desirable that people turn their attention to their neighbor, not only when he appears on the covers of newspapers or magazines, or when he is shown on the news,” said Vakhtang Kipiani, one of the judges. “In fact, there are many issues and problems worthy of serious attention, and there are also many strong, though not famous people close to us. It is important to give them attention not only when a contest like this is being conducted.”

Further information about UCU (in English and Ukrainian) is available on the university’s website at [www.ucu.edu.ua](http://www.ucu.edu.ua).

## President Obama speaks at Civil Society Summit

MOSCOW – The Eurasia Foundation, New Eurasia Foundation and the Center for Strategic and International Studies on July 6-7 hosted a Civil Society Summit in Moscow to coincide with the presidential meetings between President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia and President Barack Obama of the U.S.

President Obama attended the closing session and told participants that ordinary citizens are the key to lasting change. “For history teaches us that real progress – whether it’s economic or social or political – doesn’t come from the top-down, it typically comes from the bottom-up. It comes from people, it comes from the grassroots – it comes from you. The best ideas and solutions come from ordinary citizens who become involved in their communities and in their countries. And by mobilizing and organizing and changing people’s hearts and minds, you then change the political landscape,” he said.

Mr. Obama addressed more than 100 representatives from non-governmental organizations, media outlets and academic institutions from the U.S. and Russia who took part in the two-day summit. The summit provided a crucial forum for open dialogue and shared problem-solving between the two countries.

An overall aim of the conference was to move Russian-American collaboration beyond traditional models of foreign assistance toward more equitable engagement in tackling problems that have real meaning in the lives of ordinary citizens in both countries.

“Now is the time for U.S. and Russian organizations to address common challenges while enhancing the environment for broader engagement between our govern-

(Continued on page 21)

### The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: June

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## UIA completes major restoration work, elects new leadership

NEW YORK – Over the past six months, the Ukrainian Institute of America has undergone a number of important transitions and has achieved significant milestones in the restoration of its landmark building, the historic Fletcher-Sinclair mansion on New York's Museum Mile.

After decades of outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the organization, Jaroslav W. Kryshchalsky stepped down from his position as president of the board of directors. His colleagues on the board noted that the institute greatly appreciates his continued support and his extensive involvement in key projects and in the organization's operations.

The newly elected president, Dr. Daniel Swistel, heads an executive committee whose members include: Kathy Nalywajko, vice-president; Bo Bazylevsky, treasurer; Lydia Zaininger, secretary; and Andrei Harasymiak, Counsel to the Board.

In order to help the institute effectively achieve both its short- and long-term goals, the board recognized the need to have an experienced and dynamic executive director on the ground every day.

After a long and exhaustive search, renowned pianist Laryssa Krupa, accepted this position and joined the institute in February. Ms. Krupa has an intimate understanding of the needs of the institute, as well as a long history of successfully leading and building arts-oriented non-profit organizations.

In the last five months, the institute has undergone two major renovation projects: the upgrade of its electrical system and restoration of half of the building's windows. Both projects were initiated six years ago under then-President Walter Nazarewicz.

The electrical system of the institute's building, which has National Historic Landmark status, has been completely rewired and augmented with additional power supply. This project also included

the restoration and repair of the building's historic chandeliers and sconces. In addition, a new security system was also installed.

The window-restoration project provided for the repair and painting of the building's window frames, as well as the replacement of window glass for half of the building's windows. One of the most striking and visible changes was the uncovering of the skylight above the center stairwell. The skylight allows natural light to be brought into the building from the roof for the first time since the late 1940s.

In the coming 2009-2010 season, the organization's 61st year, the UIA will be expanding programming. In addition to concerts and art exhibits, a new film series will be launched, as will a new "Emerging Artist Series." Plans are under way for children's programs, lectures and seminars on historical and current political topics related to Ukraine, and other educational, cultural and social programs.

The new executive director will also focus on reorganizing the institute's collection of books, and – together with the existing Research and Documentation Center – hopes to create a permanent library that will include a music collection of Ukrainian composers and artists.

This year's "Music at the Institute" concert series will present mostly Ukrainian artists and will open on October 3 with a special tribute concert in memory of pianist Alexander Slobodyanik, performed by many of his colleagues and friends, including violinists Yuriy Mazurkevych and Yuri Kharenko, cellists Vagram Saradjian, Natalia Khoma and Volodimir Panteleyev, violist Borys Deviatov, baritone Oleh Chmyr, pianists Volodymyr Vynnytsky, Mykola Suk and Laryssa Krupa Slobodyanik.

Art exhibits in the upcoming season will feature works by Ilona Sochyńska, Taras Polataiko, Mykola and Volodymyr

Zhuravel, Anatoliy and Anna Kryvolap, and a special exhibit from the private collections of members of the institute.

A special program to honor the 200th anniversary of the birth of the great Ukrainian writer Mykola Hohol is planned for November 6-8. The "Hohol Arts Forum," a three-day celebration in all art forms influenced by the writer's works, will include an art exhibit, films, concert, dramatic readings/presentations, lectures and a roundtable discussion on the writer's life.

The institute's 61st year will open on September 19, with the second annual "Welcome to Ukrainian New York" – a bridge-building event intended to raise the visibility of and cooperation among Ukrainian organizations in the area. This event proved to be very popular and well-attended last year, and looks to be even bigger this year. (For information about how to include their organizations in this project, readers may contact the institute, 212-288-8660.)

### IN THE NEWS: Eugene Kuziw

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukrainian American Eugene Kuziw, a National Park Service park ranger, was featured in the June 29 edition of Crain's New York Business. The article, "Give Me Liberty..." focused on Mr. Kuziw's preparedness for the re-opening of the crown of the Statue of Liberty, which as of July 4 is once again accessible to the public.

According to the article, Mr. Kuziw has dedicatedly worked at the Statue of Liberty for 15 years and was recently promoted to chief of emergency services. In preparation for the reopening of public access to the statue's crown, he has been training responders for evacuations and emergencies, including panic attacks on the statue's narrow staircase.

He is quoted as saying of his time working at the statue, "The stars and planets have been in alignment for me since I've been here." He added, "It's my destiny."

Mr. Kuziw is a familiar face to readers of The Ukrainian Weekly. In the December 2, 2007, edition, Mr. Kuziw is mentioned in the article "Whippany Meets Brazil Through Dance." Mr. Kuziw took dancers from Barvinok Ukrainian Folk Ensemble and the Santa Monica

Traditional Brazilian Center, who were visiting the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and Academy of Whippany, N.J., from Brazil, on a special tour of the Statue of Liberty and corresponding exhibits after hearing them speak Ukrainian on Liberty Island, where the monument is located. He was also pictured with the dancers in front of the Statue of Liberty.

Mr. Kuziw was again featured in The Weekly, this time on the front page, in the June 1, 2008, edition. Mr. Kuziw was pictured alongside the president of the New York branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Ivanka Zajac, in front of Lady Liberty with the Holodomor Remembrance Torch.

According Crain's New York Business, Mr. Kuziw was instrumental in the set up and execution of a triage unit on Ellis Island on September 11, 2001. In addition, he is a member of a volunteer search-and-rescue team in New Jersey and fights forest fires in the western U.S. every summer. He is also described as a former folk musician who still plays jazz guitar, paints and sculpts.

– Tyrssa Korduba



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### Aliquippa branch presents college scholarships



ALIQUIPPA, Pa. – The Aliquippa Ukrainian Club, St. Nicholas Branch 120 of the Ukrainian National Association, held its ninth annual scholarship awards dinner on Saturday, June 6. The club awarded 14 scholarships totaling \$14,000. The keynote speaker was Melissa Reft Krawczynski of Hopewell Township, a former scholarship winner. She is a lending officer at Dollar Bank's corporate headquarters in Pittsburgh. Jean Karmazyn of Aliquippa was the master of ceremonies. In the photo above are: (seated from left) Mrs. Karmazyn, Sadie Martin, Shippensburg University; Cara Vaughn, Youngstown State University; Kayla Rapko, Community College of Beaver County; Ashley Owad, Robert Morris University; Andrea Drevna, Kent State University; Kristen Drevna, Ohio State University, (standing): Mark Fox, president of Branch 120; Eli Matiash, Treasurer; Cory Vaughn, Youngstown State University; Justin Rapko, Community College of Beaver County; Tyler Holp, Penn State University; Mark Szedny, branch secretary; Michael Zdranik, Catholic University in Washington; David Wytiaz, Slippery Rock University; Michael Fisk, Slippery Rock University; Dave Lemmon, Scholarship Committee. Missing from the picture are: Andrew Martin, Allegheny College, and Mary Reft, Ohio State University. To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, students must have a parent or guardian who is a member of the Ukrainian Club of Aliquippa.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

# Obama in Russia, Biden in Ukraine

President Barack Obama had famously called for a "reset" in relations between the United States and Russia, so the world was watching when he paid a visit to Moscow for a summit with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, as well as meetings with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, members of the opposition and representatives of civil society.

Mr. Obama noted in his public pronouncements in Moscow that it would not be easy to accomplish this task of "forg[ing] a lasting partnership between former adversaries." Nonetheless, first steps were made, as the atmosphere between the two countries seemed to improve and several agreements, including one on military cooperation and a framework agreement on cutting strategic nuclear arms were signed. Disagreements remained on the issue of Russia's treatment of its neighbors (most notably Georgia) and the missile defense shield planned for Eastern Europe. And, Mr. Obama did not address the issue of human rights in Russia, cases of political repression or the Politkovskaya murder. (He told opposition leaders, "I think in the past there's been a tendency for the United States to lecture rather than to listen.")

For Ukrainians, the highlight of President Obama's visit to Moscow was his July 7 address to graduating students of the New Economic School. In what was billed as a major foreign policy speech, President Obama clearly and unequivocally stated: "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. Any system that cedes those rights will lead to anarchy. That's why we must apply this principle to all nations – and that includes nations like Georgia and Ukraine."

Significantly, six days after meeting with Mr. Obama, Russia's president paid a visit to South Ossetia, the Georgian region that Russia invaded last year and then recognized as an independent state. The Washington Post editorialized: "the message of Mr. Medvedev's provocative visit was unmistakable: Russia has no intention of abandoning its campaign to turn its neighbors into satellites, using blunt instruments such as military force and its control of energy supplies."

Meanwhile, a group of Central and Eastern Europe's most influential political leaders on July 16 released the text of an open letter to President Obama expressing their concern about "Russia's increasing intimidation" in the region and calling for the U.S. to take a strong stance. "Russia uses overt and covert means of economic warfare, ranging from energy blockades and politically motivated investments to bribery and media manipulation in order to advance its interests and to challenge the trans-Atlantic orientation of Central and Eastern Europe," the letter noted. Russia "is back as a revisionist power pursuing a 19th century agenda with 21st century tactics and methods," it underscored. The letter also expressed concern that the U.S. could sacrifice the interests of the region for better relations with Russia, adding "our region is one part of the world that Americans have largely stopped worrying about."

Back in the United States, analysts generally praised Mr. Obama's position on Ukraine. Anders Aslund, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, told the Kyiv Post: "President Obama stated publicly and clearly all the things that are important for Ukraine: sovereignty, territorial integrity and the right to pursue an independent foreign policy. Obama's stand on Ukraine in Moscow was as clear and positive as anybody could ask for. Ukraine plays an important role in U.S. politics and no U.S. president is likely to play down Ukraine." Adrian Karatnycky, senior fellow with the Atlantic Council of the United States, commented to the newspaper: "Obama has made clear that Ukraine is not a bargaining chip in the U.S.-Russia relationship."

Still, there continue to be concerns about words versus policy, as noted in the detailed letter (over 3,150 words) sent by Central and Eastern European leaders.

On the heels of President Obama's visit to Russia, on July 20-24 U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden – a former chairman of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee who is intimately familiar with the issues at stake and has a good track record on Ukrainian issues – will travel to Ukraine and Georgia. Commenting on the upcoming visit, a former ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, told the Kyiv Post that he had no doubt Ukraine had come up in discussions between Russian leaders and the U.S. president "dozens of times" in their closed talks. The Biden visit, he added, "hopefully will clarify to Ukrainian leaders what was going on in Moscow [at the U.S.-Russian summit] and what is the American government's position."

In our view, the vice-president's visit should serve as an excellent opportunity for the U.S. to demonstrate its strong support for Ukraine. We will be watching with intense interest to see how the U.S. chooses to propel its relationship with this strategic partner. And Central and Eastern European leaders also will be watching to gauge U.S. credibility and commitment to the region.

July  
27  
1994

## Turning the pages back...

Fifteen years ago, on July 27, 1994, Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), visited Kyiv to discuss an economic recovery strategy with the Ukrainian government. Mr. Camdessus, the first IMF official to visit the Ukrainian capital, met with President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol and National Bank Chairman Viktor Yushchenko.

Key issues for reform, outlined by President Kuchma, included, the stabilization of the economy, liberalization of prices, structural changes necessary for enterprises to be more productive and to compete efficiently, social measures to protect the populace from the harshness of transition, and gathering international aid to support these changes.

(Continued on page 19)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### VP Biden's visit: a great solution

Dear Editor:

I was sitting on the 13th floor balcony of our apartment in Kyiv, with the whole Right Bank of the city in front of me, when I heard on Radio Era that Vice-President Joe Biden is coming to Ukraine.

What a great solution for the "American visitor problem."

I was elated, because a few weeks earlier I was irked by my old friend Myron Kuropas's statement in the May 10 issue of *The Ukrainian Weekly*: "President Obama says he wants to visit Russia. Will he stop in Ukraine on his way, or skip it in order to make Russia feel important? Will Ukrainian Democrats who so ardently support Mr. Obama show the president the road to Kyiv?"

As a Ukrainian Democrat who ardently supports Mr. Obama, my first reaction was to tell Dr. Kuropas that we need not show the president the road to Kyiv – he's been there already, four years ago in the company of Sen. Richard Lugar, then-chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In fact, that was the first time I saw then-Sen. Barack Obama in person – at a press conference in Kyiv. He showed a good grasp of issues concerning Ukraine from avian flu spreading from Asia toward Ukraine, to arms control and energy problems.

With President Obama going to Moscow, Ukrainian Americans and some citizens of Ukraine began to agitate for a stop in Kyiv – before or after Moscow. Of course, I'd like to see the American president visit Ukraine. I remember visits to Kyiv by President Bill Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore, Hillary Clinton. But I am definitely against "me-tooism" with Russia. I was hoping Mr. Obama would come to Ukraine on a separate trip, perhaps combining it with a visit to Estonia, or Finland, or Poland.

I am very averse to what I call the "vmyestyie" syndrome. "Vmyestyie" means together in Russian. Russians, and unfortunately many Ukrainians, cling to the togetherness idea, together as it was in the old empire – tsarist and Soviet. God forbid that Ukrainians do something on their own without looking for approval from or partnership with Moscow. At any hint of it, Russians immediately propose doing it together. You remember how upset the Russians were a few months ago when Ukraine tried to partner with Western Europe to upgrade Ukraine's gas transmission and storage system. And a few years ago Russia tried to keep Ukraine from joining the World Trade Organization, suggesting instead that the two countries join together. Luckily Ukraine went to the WTO by itself, leaving Russia behind.

That's why I didn't like the idea of President Obama adding Ukraine to his visit to Russia. And that's why I was elated when the White House announced Vice-President Biden's visit to Ukraine and Georgia. Smart thinking! This is Mr. Biden of Scranton and Wilmington, where Ukrainians are not an unknown factor; Mr. Biden with years of experience in foreign affairs. This will be a trip combined with a visit to Georgia, a natural ally of Ukraine – and not "vmyestyie" with Russia.

R.L. Chomiak  
Washington and Kyiv

### A response re: visit to Ukraine

Dear Editor:

I am compelled to respond to a letter to the editor written by Jerry Zynycz (July 5). Mr. Zynycz's skepticism regarding a stopover by President Barack Obama to Ukraine while traveling to Moscow for a summit with Russian President Medvedev is self-deprecating and belittles the Ukrainian community's advocacy of that very important issue.

In fact, the critical essence of a stopover in Ukraine by President Obama was not simply advocated by the Ukrainian American community (and yes, indeed, initiated by the Ukrainian National Information Service), but was promulgated by many in the Washington political elite.

Members of Congress, at the behest of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, sought to persuade President Obama to visit Ukraine; the Central and East European Coalition, a group of 18 national ethnic organizations representing Central and East European communities in the United States, added its support by penning a letter to President Obama; the Ukrainian World Congress – on behalf of the nearly 20 million-strong Ukrainian Diaspora – encouraged President Obama to visit Ukraine; as did former U.S. government officials, who in their own public releases underscored the political manifestation of a stopover in Ukraine while visiting Russia.

The Ukrainian community has a lot of strong support in Washington and beyond. In fact, in the July 5 edition of *The Ukrainian Weekly*, under "Quotable Notes," readers saw a citation from Sen. John McCain at a policy seminar titled "Security in Central and Eastern Europe on the Eve of the Obama/Medvedev Summit," where the one-time presidential candidate stated: "...while we cannot close off opportunities for Russia to re-engage in a productive way, we must not yield any hint that we will cede this region [Central and East Europe] to a re-established, Moscow-centered sphere of influence." It is precisely that type of support that we, as a vibrant Ukrainian American community, must nurture and cultivate to advance our interests in promoting a strong and vibrant strategic partnership between Ukraine and the United States.

Thus, Mr. Zynycz, there was nothing "last minute" about our efforts to advocate a presidential stopover in Ukraine to highlight the profound pressure being placed on that country by its northern neighbor. Simply stated, the Ukrainian National Information Service, as the Washington bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, had its finger on the pulse of the Washington establishment and rightfully proposed and delivered information to the Ukrainian community to advance our concerns regarding the strategic nature of the U.S. bilateral relationship with Ukraine.

Undoubtedly, the enumeration of our community's successes in the past in advancing our concerns would fill the pages of this edition and many others. Let's keep that in mind and not surrender before the battle even begins.

Michaal Sawkiw Jr.  
Washington

The letter-writer is director of the Ukrainian National Information Service.

### Notice regarding letters to the editor

Please note: Letters to the editor must include the complete mailing address and daytime phone number of the letter-writer. Letters without such information will not be published.

## From a Canadian Angle

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn



## CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

### Myths, realities, new guiding principles “Free, just, prosperous and glorious”

Some myths in our community parade as universal truths: where two Ukrainians gather there are three political parties; three Ukrainians make four leaders. But are they correct? Let's examine two.

1. We have too many organizations.

The Canadian Ukrainian Congress (UCC), representing over 1.2 million Canadians of Ukrainian descent, reports some 30 member-organizations on its site. That's about one organization for some 40,000 Ukrainian Canadians.

In comparison, there are some 160,000 organizations in Canada, while in the U.S. there 1.5 million – that's one organization per 200 citizens. Our myth is wrong. The reality is that the Ukrainian diaspora is drastically under-organized.

Titles of UCC organizations lead to another unhappy conclusion: many community needs are not being addressed. There are no organizations dealing with the impact of war or economic upheavals on subsequent generations, or assistance to psychologically traumatized people to stave off alcohol, drugs and mental illness. There are listings of immigration and social services, but they exist in just a few major centers.

There are no signs of organizations dealing with multiculturalism. While Anglo-Celtic and French cultures have taken care of their own in Canada, they are protected by the official languages law. No one, it seems, is taking care of us. Multiculturalism was hijacked some time ago by gender, visible minority, disabled and native interests. But who was minding our business then, and who is doing it now?

More. Might we in Canada, and elsewhere –including Ukraine – not benefit from organized groups seeking equal media access for our stories and gathering evidence on under-representation? Most would agree that our presence in mainstream media is negligible. Greater coverage – minus the Russian slant – would be most welcome. And groups working to ensure a major blockbuster like “The Pianist” or “The Reader” would not hurt either.

There are no entities on the UCC list of members dealing with policy content. How, then, is policy on key issues set in our community? Who determines, and how, for instance, whether Michael Ignatieff, Canada's leader of the Opposition, has apologized adequately for

dismissing, in his writings, Ukraine as a serious sovereign state? Some half century after the Holocaust the Jewish/Israel policy is to obtain clear, direct public apology and criticize –lately the holy father – if contrition fails to meet policy standards.

Well, that myth is wrong, isn't it? Here's another one.

2. Stay out of politics; it divides us.

Summed up in Ukrainian as “ne svarimsia” (let's not argue), this is a dangerous myth. In democracies, lack of debate and participation is a sure ticket to the sidelines. Yet, too often, guided by this myth we stay back, not taking a stand, not working ideas through to reach a consensus and, finally, not ensuring our point of view is heard where it matters: the corridors of power.

“Ne svarimsia” could be a cop-out not a virtue. It may be easier to engage in social events – teas, concerts, summer festivals. But no amount of delicious pyrohy, nor splendid dancers, nor millions of pysanky will influence government policy in our favor. This has to be done by hard-hitting policy statements coming out of sometimes difficult deliberations, followed up by an active presence in politics.

The “stay out of politics” myth leads to another cop-out. In the interest of “ne svarimsia,” we often pass the buck: “Let the UCC do it.” Umbrella organizations – overworked, underfunded – are not necessarily qualified to handle the numerous issues touching our community.

Here's a case in point.

Recently, Jason Kenny, Canada's Conservative minister of citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism said in Alberta, where some 15 percent of the population is of Ukrainian descent, that if they wish to learn Ukrainian they should pay for it. This is an unacceptable statement for a state interested in citizens' well-being when studies show that children brought up in their ethnic communities thrive better than those thrown into the mainstream. Also, this statement follows the cancelling of Ukrainian-language broadcasting on public airwaves. Russian broadcasts operate 14 hours per week.

Now both Mr. Kenny and the Liberal Party Leader Ignatieff are calling for a greater focus in Canada on the official languages – French and English. Clearly,

(Continued on page 19)

You could get into some interesting conversations at the Hostal Estrella on the Plaza Obispo Font in the Catalan resort town of Rupit. A jumble of 17th and 18th-century masonry houses, their dates carved on the stone lintels, perched precariously atop a rock above a stream, Rupit was a favorite of painters and tourists from Barcelona.

I had traveled from Paris to the end of the French rail line and walked across the border, suitcase in hand, to the Spanish frontier town of Puigcerda. I quickly discovered that knowing Spanish was not very useful: everyone spoke Catalan, a clipped and archaic language resembling medieval Provençal.

I made my way down from the Pyrenees to Rupit. A total stranger lent me money to tide me over until I could cash a check. There were no vacant guest rooms at the Estrella, but they found me a narrow space with a wash-basin on the top floor, where the staff lived and the laundry was hung. Meals were simple, though breakfast was often accompanied by wine squirted from glass beakers.

It was July 1971, in the last years of the Franco regime. The Catalans at the inn talked excitedly. Their culture, they assured me, was older and richer than that of their warlike Castilian overlords. I could identify with that. I could not resist telling them of my own people, a “submerged nation” in the USSR. They understood.

There are, indeed, striking parallels between Catalan and Ukrainian history. As Kyivan Rus' arose in the ninth century, the counts of Barcelona, who ruled the land between the Franks and the Moors known as the Spanish March, broke away from French vassalage. In the 12th century, with Rus' at its height, Catalonia entered a successful union with the kingdom of Aragon.

But in the 13th and 14th centuries, Rus' succumbed to the Mongols, Poles and Lithuanians, while Catalonia reached its zenith. This was the age of the mystical poet, philosopher, theologian, scientist and missionary Ramon Llull (ca. 1232-1315). While inland Castile was preoccupied with conquering its neighbors, the Catalans turned to the sea, projecting their power to Sardinia and Sicily, aiding the Byzantines against the Turks, and in 1311 even taking Athens. Their commercial success funded magnificent Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals.

But, as European power shifted from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, and Aragon united with Castile in 1469, Catalonia began to decline. Like Ukraine, it experienced a revolt – the Reapers' War – in the 1640s. Like Ukraine, it lost the last vestiges of its independence in the 18th century: its parliament, the Generalitat, was abolished, its language was severely restricted.

And, like Ukraine, Catalonia experienced a national rebirth – the Renaixença – in the 19th century. Ukrainian writers were torn between using Russian like Nikolai Gogol and writing in their own language like Taras Shevchenko. In Mallorca, Joan Alcover (1854-1926) wrote his early poetry in Castilian, but after a series of personal tragedies decided that he could only express his innermost feelings in his native Catalan. At the First International Congress of the Catalan Language in 1906, Alcover declared that

to scorn one's native tongue was an individual and collective degradation.

In the late 19th century a commercial and industrial boom combined with bourgeois optimism, local patriotism and a commitment to social justice to fuel a revival of Catalan culture. Artists and musicians congregated at Barcelona's café-restaurant Els Quatre Gats. Politically committed Modernist architects like Lluís Domènech i Montaner blended Art Nouveau forms with traditional Catalan crafts and folk motifs. (One can see something analogous in the 1905 Dnister Insurance Co. building in downtown Lviv.) A public cultural and spiritual consensus provided the necessary matrix for a visionary genius like Antoni Gaudí, whose crowning work, the still unfinished Expiatory Temple of the Holy Family (Sagrada Família), continues to be funded by private donations. In the last century Catalonia has produced world-famous painters Joan Miró and Salvador Dalí, the cellist Pau Casals, and the architects Josep Lluís Sert and Ricardo Bofill.

With the establishment of the Second Spanish Republic in 1931, Francesc Macia (1859-1933) proclaimed a Catalan Republic. In the following year, the Spanish Parliament approved its statute of autonomy with some modifications, including a proviso making Castilian a second official language alongside Catalan. The Generalitat was re-established.

As a result of the successful Nationalist rebellion in the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), Catalan autonomy was again abolished, and the language banned from the schools, press and government. These restrictions were relaxed after 1950. Catholic priests, who began to use Catalan in their services, joined in protest with students and workers. After the death of Francisco Franco in 1975, the Generalitat was revived, and Catalan autonomy was restored. Today, Catalonia is an “autonomous community” within Spain.

Catalans understand that language is central to cultural survival. Most people in Catalonia use Catalan either alone, or together with Castilian, in everyday life, and a plurality consider it their native tongue. A whole complex of laws protects the language. Public education is in Catalan. Signposts, advertisements, even restaurant menus give it priority. Catalan radio and television abound. How much of this is due to regulation, and how much to public support, is difficult to say; obviously, they reinforce each other. Nor are people inclined to neglect their own language in order to accommodate foreigners: in Cedric Klapisch's 2002 film “L'Auberge Espagnole,” a French student in Barcelona, having taken the trouble to master Spanish, must put up with a professor who insists on lecturing in Catalan. Compare the supine Ukrainians catering to foreigners' presumed predilection for Russian.

Francesc Macia desired that his homeland be “free, socially just, economically prosperous and spiritually glorious.” At first glance, it would appear that it had achieved all these goals but the first. Today's Ukraine, by contrast, has achieved only the first. But its freedom is largely external, formal, juridical. The Catalans, while technically dependent, are free in spirit. Ukrainians can learn from them.

Andrew Sorokowski can be reached at [samboritanus@hotmail.com](mailto:samboritanus@hotmail.com).

### INTRODUCING OUR NEW COLUMNIST

Oksana Bashuk Hepburn is a former senior government policy adviser to the government of Canada and director in several departments, including Health and Welfare Canada, and the Canadian Human Rights Commission. She co-directed the Executive Development Program, the first major program that brought Ukraine's ministers and vice-ministers for training to Canada, establishing a model for other such programs.

In 1991 she founded the consulting firm U\*CAN Ukraine Canada Relations Inc. to broker interests between Western democracies and Ukraine in several sectors, including shipbuilding, telecommunications and agriculture.

She published the memoirs of her mother, Natalia Leontowych Bashuk (Nata Lenko), titled “Na Mezhovii Zemli: Spomyny z Zakerzonnia” and is

readying the book – a Ukrainian best-seller – for a second edition and an English translation under the title “The Borderland.” She is the editor of Nasha Doroha, a glossy quarterly of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada and a media commentator on Canada/U.S./ Ukraine issues.

Ms. Bashuk Hepburn was an officer of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress on the local and national levels, as well as national president of Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation; she is currently a board member of the Canadian Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and the Ukrainian Journalists of North America.

She lives with her husband near the water in Quebec and Florida, enjoying visits from her three grown children and wonderful grandchildren.

# Ukrainian Federation of America honors E. Morgan Williams

by Nataka Gawdiak

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – On Sunday evening, May 17, a large roomful of supporters and friends of the Ukrainian Federation of America met at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center to honor the achievements of E. Morgan Williams.

Celebratory Ukraine-related events are often quite predictable: there is usually food, speakers get up, say nice things about the honoree, the honoree gets up, says a few words, thanks everyone, the people applaud and everyone goes home happy.

This evening was different. Although there was lovely food and an engaging atmosphere, it was truly an educational experience and the attendees learned much in a short time about why the work of Mr. Williams and others like him is so significant for Ukraine.

Most importantly, they were left with a heightened awareness of some quite serious issues that Ukrainians and the Ukrainian diaspora must confront. One of these pointed out by the master of ceremonies, former Congressman Charles F. Dougherty (R-Pa.), was what he called the current administration's "Russia first" policy, in reference to the President Barack Obama's trip to Russia.

One subtheme of the evening was that Ukrainians in the United States are not always aware of who their friends are, or they take those friends somewhat for granted.

The obvious very hard and time-consuming work of the organizers of this event, Dr. Zenia Chernyk, co-founder with her late husband of the UECC and founder of the Ukrainian Federation of America, and Vera Andryczyk, current president of the federation, along with the latter's husband and others, are among these, often unsung, friends. Their decision to help raise the profile of

another friend of Ukraine, Mr. Williams, was exceedingly timely.

This same message was brought home by U.S.-Ukraine Foundation President Nadia K. McConnell. She had high praise for Mr. Williams' persistent battle against Washington officialdom's indifference concerning the significance of Ukraine's Holodomor and also for Mr. Williams' patience when sometimes taken for granted by those who should know better.

Neither Mr. Williams, a descendant of Welsh immigrants to Kansas, nor the evening's Irish American master of ceremonies, is Ukrainian – another reason this evening was unique. Rep. Dougherty touched on the many high points of Mr. Williams' career – his M.A. in economics from the University of Kansas; his leading role in the presidential campaign of Bob Dole; his work in international food distribution systems around the globe; his current position in the very successful Sigma Bleyzer Investment Group, which invests billions in Ukraine; and the awards he has received for his work for Ukraine, especially regarding his active interest in the Famine of 1932-1933, known to Ukrainians as the Holodomor.

Mr. Williams started working closely with the Ukrainian Federation of America six years ago on a program to tell the world about the Holodomor. He became the trustee of the Dr. James Mace Holodomor Memorial Fund administered by the UFA and he is now, in cooperation with UFA, the founder/trustee of the Holodomor collection. Together with the UFA, Mr. Williams has also founded a collection called "Gulag: Through the Eyes of Ukrainian Artists."

As a result of his interest in the Famine, Mr. Williams was asked to serve on President Viktor Yushchenko's committee



Dr. Zenia Chernyk and Vera Andryczyk of the Ukrainian Federation of America with E. Morgan Williams at the UFA's reception in his honor.

for the 75th anniversary commemoration of the Holodomor and was awarded a Distinguished Service Award by the president in 2007.

Mr. Williams' prescient vision of the value of Ukrainian art generally has also provided a rich basis for its appreciation by a global audience. (See, for example, the "Genocide Gallery" on the website [www.ArtUkraine.com](http://www.ArtUkraine.com))

Rep. Dougherty praised Mr. Williams' role in the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council which has seen a major expansion under his leadership and has increased Ukraine's profile to possible investors. He was also pleased to be able to surprise Mr. Williams with several congratulatory messages sent in from dignitaries who know of and respect his efforts on behalf of Ukraine, such as Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.), the head of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in Washington, a group of members of the House of Representatives.

Ihor Gawdiak, president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, thanked Mr. Williams for his work and also brought up the question on peoples' minds: How was it that an American from Kansas with no ties to Ukraine came to be so committed to Ukrainian causes?

Mr. Gawdiak, noting the contribution that non-Ukrainians sometimes make to Ukraine, quipped that Mr. Williams must belong "to that small group of Americans like Rep. Dougherty and former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller, who have inhaled the fragrance of 'yevshan zillia,' " the plant that magically induces a nostalgia and love for Ukraine.

Another reason that made this event stand out was that, while at many Ukrainian functions only the older generation gets to speak, this evening gave the floor to two young academics, Mark Andryczyk and Roman Procyk, who analyzed for the audience some of the most serious and critical reasons why people like Mr. Williams and others working on Ukrainian issues must be not only recognized but supported.

Dr. Andryczyk, lecturer of Ukrainian literature and administrator of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, as well as organizer of the Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series featuring Ukrainian poets at the Harriman Institute, shed light on an important consequence of Mr. Williams' endeavors.

He extolled the broad outreach of the Action Ukraine Report, the online, English-language Ukrainian information service that Mr. Williams started several years ago. He noted that the number of subscribers to the AUR is some 11,000. This collection of current articles in English helps to keep non-Ukrainian speakers abreast of Ukraine-related developments, not only in business

and politics, but in a wide range of disciplines. Dr. Andryczyk noted that it is a great help for someone like himself who teaches Ukrainian literature if their non-Ukrainian audience is more informed about Ukraine generally, and the AUR service goes a long way to achieving that end.

Dr. Andryczyk recalled his first meeting with Mr. Williams in Lviv, when the latter brought to his attention that the Ukrainian government was about to issue a postage stamp commemorating the Holodomor, but depicting a collage of photographs erroneously ascribed to the Famine of 1932-1933. Williams said the photos were taken in Russia during the famine of 1921-1922.

It is not a well-known fact among many Ukrainians in the diaspora that no photos have come to light from Ukraine's 1932-1933 Holodomor. Mr. Williams' insistence on publicizing only authentic material about the Holodomor led him to offer a reward for anyone in Ukraine who could produce a photograph from the 1932-1933 time period. Not having received any, he thought to collect artwork inspired by the tragedy. He at first did not realize that under the Soviet regime artists were not allowed to portray the Famine.

Undaunted, he went to Ukraine to find or to commission contemporary art depicting the Famine. He noted that many artists did not want to attempt the subject because it was so painful, but others produced evocative images that are a fitting memorial to the Famine's millions of victims.

Dr. Procyk, executive director of the Ukrainian Studies Fund, related interesting Internet statistics about the night's honoree: a Google search for "E. Morgan Williams" results in 1,240 hits – a significant fact in itself.

Before going on to discuss Mr. Williams' work on the Ukrainian Famine, Dr. Procyk noted that the Ukrainian Studies Fund has just published the first booklet in "The Holodomor Series: Sources for the Study of the Great Famine in Ukraine" by Hennadii Boriak, a resource funded in large measure by the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council. The second booklet in this series, published with funds raised by the Ukrainian Federation of America, will be dedicated to Mr. Williams.

Using handouts copied from Soviet archives, Dr. Procyk gave graphic evidence – only one example of several – of a current Russian misinformation campaign aimed at distorting the history of the Holodomor. A document showed that Joseph Stalin had sent bread to Ukraine during the Famine, but the bread was to be given only to the agitators and the collective farm administrators who were implementing the draconian measures the Soviets were imposing.

(Continued on page 22)

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# Grupo Yuri helps kick off summer season at Red Bank Jazz and Blues Festival

by Christina Kotlar

RED BANK, N.J. – The annual Red Bank Jazz and Blues Festival, held this year on June 5-7, kicks off the summer season for the Jersey shore. Friday was rained out with an all-day downpour, and overcast skies lingered most of Saturday morning into early afternoon. By late afternoon, however, most of the clouds cleared out and the sun came through starting to set over the Navesink River basin just at the time when Grupo Yuri was ready to step out on the Marina Stage set against the backdrop of the harbor and cruisers.

Grupo Yuri, a phenomenal group of musicians led by violin virtuoso Yuri Turchyn, brought its blend of World Beat, Latin and Jazz styles to the receptive crowd packed on the hillside facing the stage and beyond. As the set progressed, more people filled in the few spots left between the seated audience, and many moved down to the forefront dancing to the electrifying blend of instrument and musician perfectly enhanced by the festival's professional sound stage personnel. Everyone was moving – the rocking roadies, the vendors in their booths, even members of another group, M'Zume, who climbed on stage, joining the percussion for a Mozambique rhythm number, "Fresh Grass," and staying on for a couple of numbers.

Despite a broken thumb on his bow

*Christina Kotlar, producer and host of Film Festival Reviews, searches out conversations on current trends in film festival circuits worldwide, independent films and filmmaking, emerging film markets and distribution models. See www.filmfestivalreviews.com.*

hand (from a leaf blower accident a few days earlier), Mr. Turchyn showed no signs of pain or letting up throughout the performance. Later, he remarked it was as if his violin "took on a life of its own and was leading him" from one number into the next, almost leaping out of his handling. Through it all he maintained the tight technical, improvisational sync with the rest of the group – Ernie Fortunato on guitar, Al Selert on drums, Jim Grant on bass and Stacy Grant on table percussion.

Starting with "Nightingale," "Song For My Father" (by Horace Silver), "Slinky and Stone Companion," Grupo Yuri then slowed a bit with "Fortune," a song dedicated to a friend, musician Danny Petraitus, who passed away on June 2 in Nashville.

The second half of the set brought a dancing crowd back on its feet down and in front of the stage with "Caraboo," "Mr. Magic" (by Grover Washington), "Fresh Grass," "Fate is The Hunter," and ending with a soulful "Heart of a Woman Part 2." (Aside from those indicated, all songs are written by Mr. Turchyn.)

The crowd appreciated Grupo Yuri's efforts and applauded wholeheartedly by the end of the set with the festival continuing with the next scheduled performer. Beyond the food court and display booths, the downtown streets teemed with people overflowing from the marina park, out of restaurants onto street seating and beer garden courtyards. Open storefronts were plastered with festival posters and hordes of young talent awaiting their turn at an open audition call at the Count Basie Theater. The marina was a perfect setting for a swelling crowd strolling along the causeway during the sunset, listening to the sounds of jazz and blues into the night.



Grupo Yuri on stage at the Red Bank Jazz and Blues Festival.

Christina Kotlar

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filmfestivalreviews.com.

Readers can learn more about Grupo Yuri on the website [www.grupoyuri.com](http://www.grupoyuri.com), as well as from a podcast conversation on the Film Festival reViews website [www.filmfestivalreviews.com](http://www.filmfestivalreviews.com).

The Red Bank Jazz and Blues Festival ([www.redbankfestival.com](http://www.redbankfestival.com)) is produced by the Jersey Shore Jazz and Blues Foundation, a non-profit organization made up entirely of volunteers.

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

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

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

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

## Battle of Poltava...

(Continued from page 1)

Following the liturgy, they gathered at the Memory of the Fallen Rotunda, a 31-foot black granite and concrete structure consisting of three white pillars united by three arcs and a half-ton bell that was built in Donetsk to commemorate the anniversary.

Built atop a three-tiered granite stylobate, at the rotunda's center is a white marble sculpture of three doves, symbolizing the peace and memory of those who died.

Inside each of the three columns that form the arches, the Swedish, Russian and Ukrainian flags are depicted, with inscriptions in the respective languages, "Time

Heals Wounds. Eternal memory to the brave soldiers who perished in the Battle of Poltava on June 27, 1709."

Created by Poltava resident Seiran Marharian, the rotunda was built with funds provided by the Ukrainian state budget.

While the Russians attended their liturgy, Swedish Ambassador to Ukraine Stefan Gullgren and Finnish Ambassador to Ukraine Christer Michelsson led more than 300 Swedes in placing flowers at the 20-foot tall, 20-ton For Swedes from Swedes Monument at the battlefield.

It was erected on the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava to honor more than 9,200 fallen Swedish soldiers.

One of the day's bigger controversies was sparked at the start of the ceremony at the Memory of the Fallen Rotunda when the Russian national anthem was played before the Ukrainian anthem, an incident believed to have been planned by the city's Russophile leadership.

Additionally, the Russian delegation chose not to visit Poltava's Kozak Cross monument – which doesn't make any references to Mazepa – to place flowers to honor all fallen Kozak warriors, not just those killed in the Battle of Poltava.

"We offered them participation in all the [wreath-] laying ceremonies," said Mr. Matkovskiy during his June 27 press conference. "In my opinion, issues with their protocol emerged and that's why they didn't go. I want to assure you that today we had discussions and they requested that we drive to the Swedish monument and the Kozak monument."

However, city authorities apparently didn't fulfill the alleged request.

Ukrainian Kozaks fought on both sides of the Poltava battle, as the Zaporozhians led by Kost Hordiyenko along with Mazepa's forces, totaling 15,000 troops, joined the Swedes while 9,000 Kozaks led by Hetman Ivan Skoropadsky aided the Russians.

An estimated 4,000 Zaporozhians and Mazepa loyalists perished during the battle, according to Valerii Voloskov, a Poltava resident and author of the book, "Poltava Battle: Before and After." No estimates exist of the number of casualties among the Russian-allied Kozaks.

Russian Orthodox bishops of the Poltava, Nizhyn, Kremenchuk and Belgorod eparchies consecrated the rotunda, and speeches by the three governments' representatives followed.

### Government representatives' speeches

Russian Presidential Administration Chair Naryshkin, who also chairs the Russian Federation's Commission to Counteract the Falsification of History, delivered remarks that were Russo-centric, and contradicted basic historical facts.

He began by stating that the commemoration was very important "for both our peoples," yet at certain points he seemed to be referring to the Swedes, and at others times to the Ukrainians.

"The triumph at Poltava dearly cost our peoples, but it laid the path to development and prosperity," Mr. Naryshkin said. "The Poltava victory was the start of a new history and new European politics, in which from the time of Poltava the voice of a single Russian state resounded loudly and surely."

Rather than development and prosperity, however, the Battle of Poltava brought the decline of Ukrainian autonomy under the Russian tsar and the permanent decline of the Swedish Empire.

And while the voice of a single Russian

state certainly resounded, it had little to do with the European political values that were emerging at the time. Kozak hetmans were forbidden to establish diplomatic relations with Europe. The Ukrainian peasantry declined into serfdom and Kozaks lost their status, being reduced to peasant status.

"Those who didn't betray their oath and bravely fought for their land will always be remembered," Mr. Naryshkin said. "At Poltava they were all united by their love for the fatherland, united by those spiritual ideals, moral values and Orthodox values that unite our peoples."

The statement implied that those Ukrainian Kozaks who allied with the Russians didn't betray their oath to Tsar Peter I, and their fatherland was the Russian Empire – not an independent Ukrainian state.

But none of his remarks was a more blatant falsification of history than Mr. Naryshkin's concluding comments: "The contemporary development of our countries is based on the foundations of good neighborliness, cooperation and the ideals of freedom which the peoples of our countries defended at Poltava, on the Borodynskyi Field and in the battles of World War II."

Not all Ukrainians cooperated with the Russians in the Battle of Poltava, or during the second world war. The Soviet Union did not defend the ideals of freedom in World War II, but a totalitarian Communist empire that murdered tens of millions of its own citizens.

The remarks offered by Sweden's Ambassador Gullgren were progressive and insightful, and reflective of European culture.

Unlike the soldiers who slaughtered each other 300 years ago, those attending the commemoration are familiar with each other, he said. "We came to pay honor to the

(Continued on page 11)



Zenon Zawada

**Poltava Mayor Andrii Matkovskiy was criticized by the city's Ukrainian patriots for accommodating the Russians above others at the 300th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Poltava.**

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## Battle of Poltava...

(Continued from page 10)

fallen, regardless of their background or the reason that brought them to this field," Mr. Gullgren said.

The Battle of Poltava belongs to those historical events that are interpreted differently by the different nations involved, he said. "This is important to accept, understand and honor," Mr. Gullgren noted. "History can't be called an objective science, because it's always distinguished, and its perception is different for all of us. Otherwise there wouldn't have been an academic field such as history, and that's the essence of humanity, which we all know. Therein lies the truth."

For Sweden, the Battle of Poltava was the start of a protracted process that led the nation to its current state. The Great Northern War continued for 12 years after the battle, and Sweden endured three more wars with Russia during the next 100 years.

A century after the Battle of Poltava, Finland gained its independence.

Now Sweden is a nation in peace with itself, with its past and with its neighbors, said Ambassador Gullgren. "The Sweden that we know today is a Sweden which we are proud of, and Poltava was one of the stages on this path," he added.

Offering the Russians and Ukrainians an example of positive neighborly relations, he said Sweden and Finland have honest and good relations with each other – the result of

learning lessons from history.

"It's necessary to be careful and not allow history to direct everyone," he said. "We shouldn't let this happen. We are supposed to view history as we view our partner, with respect, humility and patience. We are all different, everyone thinks for himself and aspires to something different. But the times changed and we with them, and the enemies of the past are no longer enemies."

Although that may be the case for Sweden and Finland, Ukraine still faces an aggressive neighbor that threatens its independence and sovereignty.

Representing the Presidential Secretariat of Ukraine, Vice-Chair Maryna Stavniichuk immediately called for honoring the memory of the fallen "Kozaky-Mazepynsi," who sacrificed their lives on the altar of Ukrainian independence.

The Battle of Poltava gave Ukraine the historic chance for sovereignty and independence, she said. "The result of this battle was the defeat of the national-liberation uprising led by Mazepa, but at the same time the triumph of the Ukrainian spirit in the struggle for its freedom," Ms. Stavniichuk said.

"Time heals wounds' is written on the walls of this rotunda, but history teaches us how to be far wiser and smarter. Today Ukraine, Russia, Sweden and other countries should direct their efforts to peaceful cooperation in understanding, the welfare and wealth of its countries and peoples," she said.

Addressing a press conference afterwards, she characterized the Battle of Poltava as a great victory for the Russians that became the basis for forming its state and as a devastating defeat for the Swedes.

"For Ukraine, this is yet another important page from the history of the liberation movement, the independence movement of Ukraine, and it's fine that each country contributes to and researches its own history in this event," she said.

President Viktor Yushchenko was unable to attend the tercentenary of the Battle of Poltava because he was leading the Our Ukraine party congress the same day.

### Ukrainian patriots' observations

Poltava's Ukrainian patriots and nationalists didn't attend the rotunda ceremony, instead organizing a simultaneous

Ukrainian Orthodox panakhyda (memorial service) and mournful procession in honor of Kozaks who joined the Swedes under the leadership of Hetmans Mazepa and Hordiyenko.

Bishop Fedir of Poltava and Kremenchuk led the panakhyda at the Kozak Cross at Observation Square in central Poltava.



Zenon Zawada

**Former Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin was honored at the Battle of Poltava tercentenary for financing the restoration of the Battle of Poltava Museum and the Russian Soldiers Burial Mound at the Poltava battlefield.**

Black-and-red and Svoboda party nationalist flags dominated the panakhyda, during which more than 300 activists hung their heads in solemnity. Afterwards, which they lifted placards that read "Poltava Battle – Tragedy of the Ukrainian People" and "Kyiv

(Continued on page 13)

## Visitors of various backgrounds comment on Poltava commemorations

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

POLTAVA, Ukraine – The 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava was a natural vacation trip for Anders Bergstrom, a Swede married to a Russian woman.

Having visited the Russian Federation often, he noticed a significant difference in how the two nations perceive the event.

"For quite a while, we have never claimed to be a superpower, and Russia has been, so we don't take it so emotionally today," said Mr. Bergstrom, 50, a history buff who lives in Stockholm.

Historical discussion and debate filled the steamy summer air at the Poltava battlefield the weekend of June 27, when more than 60,000 visitors gathered for the 300th anniversary commemoration of one of the most significant events in European history, in which the Swedish Empire gave way to the Russian Empire.

More significantly for Ukrainians, the Battle of Poltava marked Hetman Ivan Mazepa's failed attempt to preserve Ukrainian autonomy and perhaps gain independence in aligning with Swedish King Karl XII.

The diverse crowd had equally diverse interpretations of the events that transpired.

It was the Russians who started the Great Northern War in 1700, Mr. Bergstrom said, while Sweden was merely defending the vast territory that a vulnerable 18-year-old King Karl XII inherited.

"The Baltic Sea was like a sea within Sweden, but then the battle changed history," he said, noting that every Swede knows the year 1709. "We kept Finland for another 100 years, and then we lost it also to Russia in 1809."

His wife, Anastasia Nekrasova, noticed "there's not much fuss" about the Poltava battle among Swedes, while her fellow Russians are "quite emotional."

"Nations tend to have different orientations toward the past, the present and the future," she said. "I noticed that, Russians, who are very much past-oriented, look for sources of inspiration in the past. This doesn't apply to the Swedes, who are more present-oriented and are very instrumental

about the past."

Viewpoints are just as diverse among Ukrainians themselves.

Yulia Stadnyk, a Ukrainian tour guide at the Poltava battlefield, said she learned in school that Ukraine didn't exist at the time and everyone considered themselves "russki."

In fact, Russians prefer to view Hetman Mazepa as a random rebel leader who stirred up the Kozaks, who had always despised power, Ms. Nekrasova said.

"You always have some separatist movements or rebels in a country, and for Russia, it has always been about keeping things together," she said. "The Russian perception is that it wasn't a country trying to separate itself from another, but an individual who put together a clique."

However, Ms. Stadnyk's tour guide partner, Tania Plavetska, had a markedly different view of history, firmly believing that Ukrainians were already nationally conscious when the Battle of Poltava erupted.

Having supported Russian Tsar Peter I for a quarter of a century, Mazepa enabled Ukraine to prosper as an autonomous state within the Russian Empire, she said.

Mazepa was merely buying time for Ukraine when serving Peter the Great, explained Yevhen Khailov, a Ukrainian nationalist and Poltava resident who left the city that weekend so as not to be near the commemorations.

During his service, Mazepa was able to unite the right and left banks of Ukraine, created rifle divisions and kept the schemers and plotters suppressed.

Yet at the same time, Mazepa observed how Tsar Peter scorched Belarus and burned the Donbas region, and he knew what awaited Ukraine, Mr. Khailov said. If the Russians won, there'd be further subjugation. If the Swedes won, King Karl XII would have handed over Ukraine to his Polish allies. "What choice did he have?," he said. "Conduct negotiations with King Karl XII."

That earned Mazepa an anathema from the Russian Orthodox Church.

"Mazepa was a son of a bitch, for which even the Orthodox Church cursed him," said Viktoriya Antifieva, a Poltava resident.

In fact, 30 percent of Ukrainians view

Mazepa as a hero who fought for Ukrainian independence, while 28 percent view him as a traitor according to a poll of 2,078 respondents conducted between April 1 and 9 by the Kyiv-based Research

& Branding Group.

Meanwhile, nearly 44 percent of Ukrainians view the Battle of Poltava as a victory, while only 9 percent of Ukrainians view it as a defeat.



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- Oleh Kulchytsky, violinist – Ukraine
- Filip Zmacher, singer – Ukraine
- Victor Mishalow, bandurist – Canada
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  - Koriny ensemble
  - Dumka chorus
- Iskra, dance group – Whippany
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### Friday, July 17, 2009

Ukrainian Arts & Craft Vendors 11 am  
Food Court BBQ 5-11 pm  
Dinner in Dining Room 5-7 pm  
Evening Stage Show 7pm  
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  
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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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Ukrainian Arts & Craft vendors 11 am  
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Stage Cultural Show - noon  
Food Court 11 am-3pm  
Finale with Ruslana

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Swedish soldiers charge against Russian forces during a theatrical performance of the Battle of Poltava.

## Battle of Poltava...

(Continued from page 11)

Is Against Moscow,” and conducted their mournful march through the city center toward the St. Yurii Ukrainian Orthodox Autocephalous Church, the site of Poltava’s other Cross of Fallen Kozaks.

Among those marching were members of Ukraine’s right-wing political parties – Our Ukraine, the Ukrainian People’s Party, the People’s Rukh of Ukraine and the Svoboda All-Ukrainian Union – and a handful of Plast scouts.

“In the historical context, this is a historical tragedy for me and my friends since Ukrainian independence could have been achieved, but it didn’t happen,” said Yevhen Yankevych, the regional director of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in Poltava. “Now it’s a confirmation that the idea was real because it didn’t die and was realized after 300 years. Mazepa’s idea triumphed.”

Some posters carried by marchers depicted the double-headed eagle featured on the Russian coat of arms being beheaded by a Kozak-style sword.

However, Ukrainian patriots reserved their sharpest criticism for Poltava Mayor Matkovskiy, whom they accused of bending over backwards to accommodate Russian guests, at the expense of Ukrainians and even the Swedes. Moreover, at the rotunda consecration ceremony, he addressed the crowd in Russian.

At the commemoration, the Swedish delegation presented a bronze bust of King Karl XII to the Poltava City Council with the expectation it would be included in the collection of the Battle of Poltava Museum. Instead, city officials tucked it away in the offsite Poltava Ethnographic Museum.

“We are surprised and somewhat offended that the bust is located here,” Berhard

Englund, the sculptor who created the bust, told the daily newspaper Den in Kyiv. “Logically, the bust is supposed to be in the Battle of Poltava Museum.”

Ever since his election in 2006, Mr. Matkovskiy has led the City Council in actively opposing Ukrainian culture in Poltava, obstructing efforts to establish a statue to Symon Petliura, head of the Ukrainian government in 1919-1921, and, instead, demolishing an already established plaque in his honor.

After numerous obstructions by local officials, the city’s Mazepa statue is scheduled to be unveiled on August 24, but Poltava patriots said authorities are still placing hurdles – the latest being the city’s Arts Council having yet to approve the design. In addition, city officials have erected a large fence around the monument’s site to block construction activity, reported the press service of the Svoboda nationalist party.

“The main argument against its establishment this time became the impossibility of sawing two trees which are growing side by side and are interfering with the monument’s placement,” the press release charged.

The statue was supposed to be presented on June 27, but the City Council voted on April 16 to cancel the land designation and postpone the unveiling.

After two billboards were posted on June 22 by Svoboda with the slogan, “Mazepa Triumphed! There is a Ukrainian State!” the Poltava City Council voted to prohibit any more. After the weekend’s events, the City Executive Commission ordered them removed. Svoboda claimed this was in retaliation for its public accusation that Mr. Matkovskiy and other council leaders engaged in drunken partying at the Ivan Kotliarevsky Farmstead Museum on the eve of the commemoration.

The alleged incident was confirmed by



Zenon Zawada

For the 300th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Poltava, Svoboda nationalists posted two billboards declaring, “Mazepa Triumphed! There is a Ukrainian State!” The billboards were taken down after the commemorative events on the orders of the Poltava City Executive Commission.

numerous cultural leaders in Poltava, who claim it got so unruly the police had to be called in.

### Re-enactment scrapped

Yet another controversy, which was largely overlooked by the Ukrainian mass media, was how the planned historical reconstruction with promised re-enactments of key battlefield episodes became a 15-minute theatrical show featuring local actors and college students.

City officials promised a world-class re-enactment, with two years of planning and a budget of some 30 million hryvnia budget at their disposal for the event. (The figure is a rough estimate, for which Poltava City Council spokesman Viktor Kikot could not

offer more specifics.)

When The Weekly asked Mr. Matkovskiy at a June 27 press conference in Poltava what happened to the planned historical reconstruction, he responded that the State Organizational Committee led by Ivan Vasiunyk, a close advisor to President Viktor Yushchenko, forbid it.

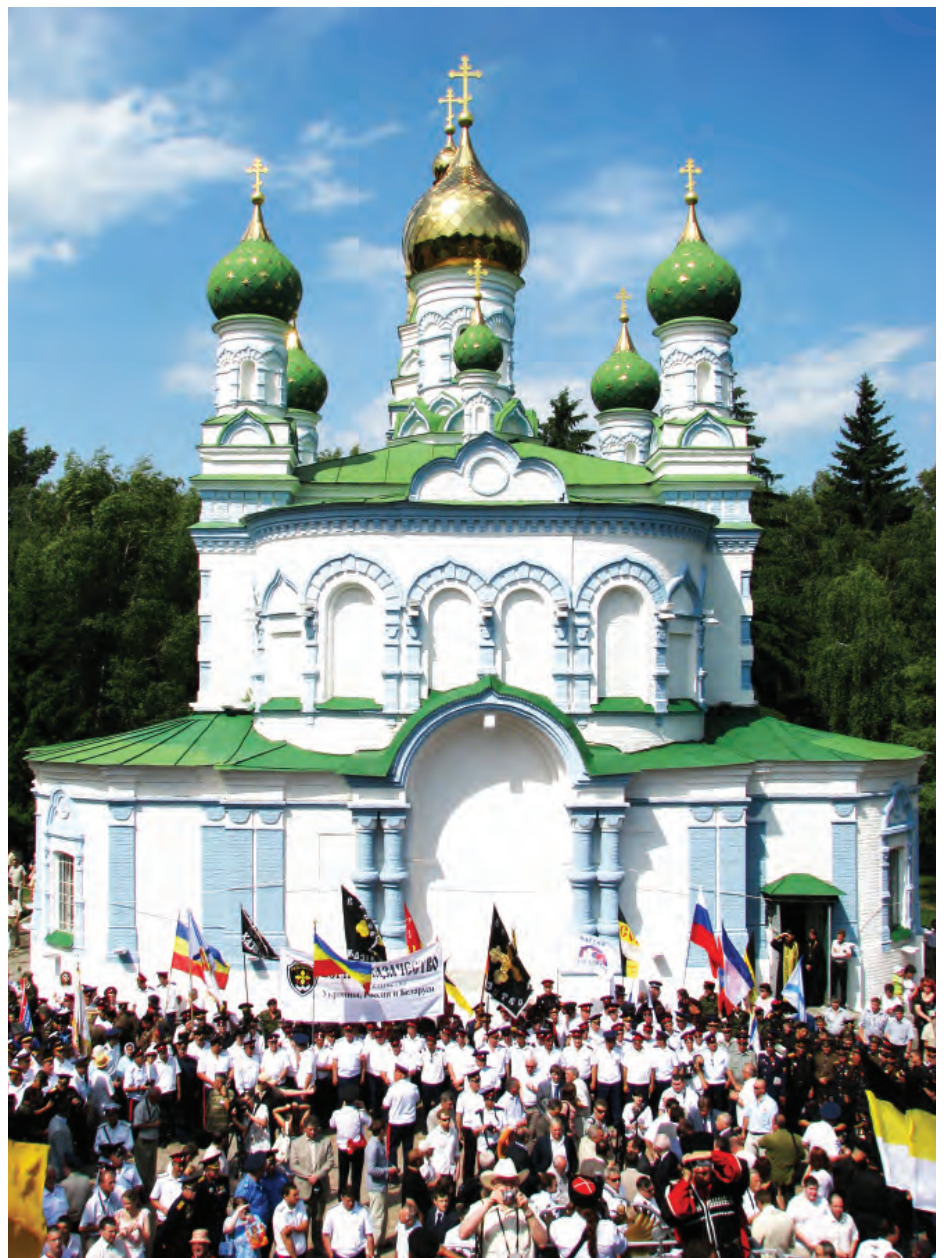
“That’s why the Ukrainian military-patriotic club declined, and we saw other clubs decline,” he said. The Weekly confirmed with Mr. Kikot that this club was a Kyiv historical reconstruction group led by Oleksii Rudenko.

Speaking for the Presidential Secretariat, Ms. Stavnichuk said Mr. Vasiunyk, also the vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs,

(Continued on page 16)



Ukrainian patriots from Myrhorod led by Oleksander Ksionzenko (far left) participated in a solemn procession honoring Hetman Ivan Mazepa and Kozaks who fell in the Battle of Poltava in 1709.



Thousands of visitors gathered at the Sampson Church at the Poltava battlefield for the June 27 divine liturgy to honor the 1,345 Russian soldiers who perished during the Battle of Poltava.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

coordinated on the U.S. side by Mr. Obama's senior Russia advisor, Dr. Michael McFaul, is one of 13 that was established by Presidents Medvedev and Obama during their summit in order to foster closer bilateral cooperation. The 22 activists who signed the letter are not pleased that Surkov, the Kremlin's chief ideologist – and the godfather of “sovereign democracy” and the “power vertical” – will be helping to coordinate cooperation between Russian and American NGOs. The activists wrote in their July 7 letter: “Vladislav Surkov is associated with the most negative tendencies in the development of democracy in Russia in recent years: the rollback of press freedoms, the liquidation of competition in the political system, and the purposeful erection of barriers against the development of civil society. For this reason we ask you, Dmitry Anatolevich, to reconsider your decision to appoint him as the Russian co-coordinator for issues of civil society.” (RFE/RL)

### Russian missile convoy intercepted

SEVASTOPOL, Ukraine – A Russian military convoy transporting short- and medium-range missiles was intercepted by Ukrainian police in the Crimean port of Sevastopol, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on July 10. The convoy, which was stopped on the night of July 8, included three missile-carrying trucks covered by a tarpaulin, as well as a fire truck, and did not have the necessary permits to transport the missiles through the city. The vehicles were en route to a technical base some 30 kilometers outside Sevastopol that is maintained by Russia's Black Sea Fleet. Ukrainian authorities said the Russian military convoy initially would not allow police to check the contents of the convoy, but eventually the police were allowed to do so. The trucks contained an unspecified number of SS N-2 short-range and SS N-9 medium-range missiles, which are capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. SS N-9 missiles were used by the Russian Black Sea Fleet against the Georgian Navy during last year's war. According to Ukrainian-Russian agreements, Black Sea Fleet movements of troops, armaments or other military equipment must be approved by the Ukrainian authorities. The convoy was returned to its point of origin. (RFE/RL)

### Resolution on Stalin riles Russia

VILNIUS, Lithuania – Russian delegates have reacted angrily after the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe meeting in Lithuania voted for a remembrance day for victims of Nazism and Stalinism. The parliament of the pan-European security body passed a resolution equating the roles of the USSR and Nazi Germany in starting World War II. Moscow's delegation tried but failed to have the resolution withdrawn. The resolution, meant to mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain, said that Nazi Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union brought genocide and crimes against humanity to Europe. It called for making August 23 a day of remembrance for the victims of Stalinism and Nazism. On that day in 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union signed a pact that carved up Eastern Europe between the two countries. (BBC)

### Historical truth and Crimean nations

KYIV – The instructions of the Ukrainian president for the Procurator General's Office and the Security Service of Ukraine to institute proceedings on the illegal eviction of the Crimean Tatar people and other nations in 1944 from Crimea is motivated by a desire to restore historical truth regarding those events, Viktor Yushchenko said at a July 3 news conference in Symferopol. He noted that 230,000 persons were deported

from Crimea based on nationality, adding, each nation has to assess the tragic pages of its own history and make relevant conclusions in order to avoid such developments in the future. Mr. Yushchenko said the assessment of the events of 1944 is necessary to defend universal values. “This is moral and ethical polemics, which should have a legal basis,” he said. The president also pointed to a resolution passed on July 1 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe that equates the Nazi regime with Soviet Stalinism. (Ukrinform)

### Ukrainian MFA blames Russia

KYIV – Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said on July 15 that Russia refuses to continue negotiations with Ukraine on delineation of the Kerch Strait. “Such a stand by the Russian Federation conflicts with the accords reached both in framework of the negotiation process on delimitation of the Azov and Black seas and the Kerch Strait and Russia's obligations under the agreement between Ukraine and Russia on the Ukrainian-Russian state border of January 28, 2003,” an MFA statement read. The MFA noted that negotiations on delineation of maritime space, including the Kerch Strait, have been ongoing for 13 years in accordance with Article 5 of this agreement. (Ukrinform)

### Six Ukrainians killed in Afghanistan

KYIV – Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has confirmed the deaths of six Ukrainians after an Mi-26 helicopter crash in the Afghan province of Helmand on July 14. The military command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan had officially confirmed that the helicopter belonged to Air Pectox airlines (Moldova) and was being used in the framework of the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. The helicopter was struck by a missile or rocket on the morning of July 14. (Ukrinform)

### U.S. delegation in Belarus

MINSK, Belarus – At the urging of Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.), chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission) and a seven-member Congressional delegation in Minsk on June 30, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed official documents releasing American prisoner Emanuel Zeltser. Mr. Zeltser had been in a Belarus prison since March 2008 after being convicted in a secret trial. The Helsinki Commission has consistently advocated for Mr. Zeltser's release due to concerns over his health and the fact he was convicted of espionage in a closed trial. Sen. Cardin commented: “We welcome the release of Emanuel Zeltser on humanitarian grounds. However, we made it clear to President Lukashenka today that the only way to improve the relationship between our countries is for him to increase political freedom and respect for human rights.” He added, “Belarus should make progress on the conditions laid out in the Belarus Democracy Act if the country is to see any changes in U.S. sanctions here.” The U.S. delegation also met on June 30 with political activists – several of whom have been imprisoned for opposing Mr. Lukashenka. In response to an expansion of U.S. sanctions against Belarus, Mr. Lukashenka kicked out approximately 30 diplomats from Minsk last year; the U.S. Embassy is now down to a staff of five. The U.S. delegation, which included Sens. Cardin, Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Roger Wicker (R-MS), Reps. Chris Smith (R-N.J.), Mike McIntyre (D-N.C.), Robert Aderholt (R-AL) and Lloyd Doggett (D-Texas), called for Belarus to allow for an increased U.S. diplomatic presence. (Helsinki Commission)

(Continued on page 15)

## Specialists working...

(Continued from page 1)

Under pressure from Communist groups in Western Europe, Joseph Stalin agreed to at least save the cathedral's old icons and frescoes before its destruction in 1937. More than 50 other old churches in Kyiv were destroyed around this time as well.

When Ukraine became independent, the decision was made to reconstruct the cathedral, which was accomplished between 1996 and 2001. Dr. Kot and his colleagues, who were involved in the archival research for this project, managed to establish that 26 original frescoes and icons from the cathedral were being held in three state institutions in Russia – the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, the Hermitage and Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, and the Novgorod Museum Preserve.

The Russians took out eight of them in the 1930s, and, in 1943, the Germans took out 18, which were returned to the Soviet Union after the war and were quietly relocated in Russia – not repatriated to Ukraine.

Dr. Kot praised the U.S. post-World War II policy in this regard. "It must be noted that the American government established an extraordinary policy with respect to the cultural treasures stolen by the Germans in various European countries."

"And the American government did everything it could to have these items returned to the rightful individual and national owners of these items that were taken from them during the German occupation," he added.

The Americans returned 1.6 million of these artworks and maintained very good

records, as did the Germans, he said. And Dr. Kot and his Ukrainian colleagues used these documents in their discussions with the Russians about restitution. They ran into Russian roadblocks in the talks, he said, but added that there were officials in the Russian Ministry of Culture who helped.

Bilateral negotiations on in these matters began in 1998. "Let me assure you that this was not easy," Dr. Kot said, but added that there was a fortunate turn of events that year, when his boss at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences Historical Institute, Valerii Smolii, was appointed vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs. He pursued the issue with Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko, who then convinced President Boris Kuchma, who, in turn, got his old friend, Russian President Yeltsin to agree to officially confront this issue.

The first of three rounds of talks was held in December 1998. The Ukrainian side presented a convincing case, in full accordance with UNESCO standards, which resulted in an agreement about the return of the St. Michael's icons and frescoes. This was done in two shipments, in 2001 and 2004. But, Dr. Kot noted, there are at least 15 more St. Michael's artworks in Russia that have not been returned.

In addition to the items returned from Germany to Russia, there are countless items that were evacuated from Ukraine to Russia prior to the German occupation which also have not been returned to Ukraine, Dr. Kot said.

For reasons he could not explain, during the four years of Viktor Yushchenko's presidency the momentum has stopped. Dr. Kot thinks that it may not be because of any presidential decision to that effect, but that



Dr. Serhiy Kot speaks in Washington about the complicated work of retrieving Ukraine's cultural heritage.

the issue has not been passed up to him for his decision. Neither has the Kyiv government been providing funds for this effort, he added, noting that some financial assistance had come from Ukrainian Americans.

"But I remain an optimist," he continued. "The process has slowed, but we will get things going again, not only in the case of the return of St. Michael's art from Russia, but also in initiating an ongoing process of getting all of our art treasures from Russia."

Asked about other countries from which Ukraine is seeking a return of artworks taken during World War II, Dr. Kot said that Germany, under Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, for some reason stopped what had been a good process of returning or compensating for stolen artworks during its occupation of Ukraine. But he noted that Ukraine's bilateral talks with Poland have been positive.

Asked about Ukrainian artworks that could be returned from the United States, he

said there are such items here, and that they include not only pieces that were somehow illegally brought here during and after World War II but before it as well, in the 1920s and 1930s, when the Soviet regime was selling off artworks for next to nothing while millions were starving to death in Ukraine.

Among these collections Dr. Kot mentioned that of millionaire Armand Hammer; the Los Angeles Art Museum, which has a diptych, "Adam and Eve," confiscated by art officials from Leningrad and sold abroad; and New York's Metropolitan Museum Byzantine collection, which contains some questionably acquired art treasures from Kyiv.

As for artworks illegally brought over after World War II, the U.S. government took what he called an admirable position of calling on American museums to double check the origin of the artworks, not accept illegal items but confiscate them, and have them returned to the rightful owners.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

### Yekhanurov at Presidential Secretariat

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has appointed Yurii Yekhanurov first deputy head of the Presidential Secretariat, it was reported on July 14. The Ukrainian Parliament had removed Mr. Yekhanurov from the defense minister's post on June 5, and the District Administrative Court of Kyiv rejected Mr. Yekhanurov's protest against his dismissal. (Ukrinform)

### No proof of attempted assassination

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada's ad hoc team for investigation into an alleged attempt on the life of presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko in 2004 did not find any legal proofs of this attempt, it was reported on July 9. "If there are no proofs of a deliberate poisoning, was there an attempt?" asked Volodymyr Sivkovich, head of the parliamentary ad hoc team. "Either it was a casual poisoning, or some kind of disease – there are very many versions," said Mr. Sivkovich, a representative of the Party of Regions. The ad hoc team established a number of violations in the work of the relevant group at the Procurator General's Office, headed by investigator Halyna Klymovich, which supervises the Yushchenko poisoning inquiry. Mr. Sivkovich said he would demand a report by Procurator General Oleksander Medvedko to Parliament in September, and did not rule out that he would demand his resignation. (Ukrinform)

### It's now the Our Ukraine party

KYIV – The Our Ukraine People's Union party has submitted an official statement to the Justice Ministry regarding a change in the party's name, the ministry's press service reported on July 13. It will now be called the Our Ukraine party. A decision on the name changes was made at the seventh congress of Our Ukraine People's Union on June 27. The Justice Ministry registered the Our Ukraine People's Union on March 22, 2005,

and included it in the register of political parties under No. 112. (Ukrinform)

### Chervonii killed by lightning

KYIV – Vasyl Chervonii, national deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of four convocations, former chairman of the Rivne Oblast State Administration (2005-2006) was killed by lightning while fishing in the village of Hannivka, Kostopil district, Rivne Oblast, it was reported on July 6. Mr. Chervonii was one of the initiators of Rukh in the Rivne region in 1980s. He was first elected a national deputy of the Verkhovna Rada in 1990. (Ukrinform)

### Violence in Marhanets turns deadly

KYIV – Security measures have been strengthened and a criminal case has been launched after an ethnic conflict left one policeman dead in the southeastern Ukrainian city of Marhanets, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on July 3. A fight between Ukrainian and ethnic Armenian gangs at a bar resulted in injuries and the death of one policeman. In the aftermath of the gang fight, there was mass disorder and racist attacks, and the houses and cars of Armenian residents have been set afire. Additional police forces and special security forces were patrolling the town to maintain order and prevent further violence. The reason for the ethnic conflict in Marhanets, a city of some 50,000 people, is unclear. (RFE/RL)

### Tymoshenko wants NATO referendum

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, the highest-rated presidential candidate, confirmed once again at a news briefing on July 8 that the question of Ukraine's entry in NATO must be decided at a nation-wide referendum. "I want to stress once again that both I personally and my political team may talk about entering NATO exclusively by way of an all-Ukraine referendum," she stressed. Ms. Tymoshenko noted that at its meeting that day the government had adopted "the parameters of cooperation" with NATO, but there was no word about Ukraine's entry into the alliance. (Ukrinform)



With great sorrow we announce the death of our husband,  
brother-in-law and uncle

## Volodymyr Roman Diachuk

who was called to the Heavenly Father on Friday, July 10, 2009.

Panakhya was held on Monday, July 13, 2009, at Lakeview Memorial Home in Clifton, NJ. Funeral services were on Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Passaic, NJ, followed by interment at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Hamptonburg, NY.

In deep sorrow remain:

- wife -Ulana Maria
- brother-in-law -Dr. Lubomyr Jawny with wife Maria Dzvenyslava
- nephew -Roman Jawny
- nieces -Daria Iwanchuk with son Andriy and family
- Chrystyna Senytsia with husband Andriy
- Dr. Olya Sokhan with husband Dr. Oleh and son Nestor
- Lada Gawdiak with husband Yuriy and sons Lev and Zakhar
- Keith Otto, husband of deceased niece Tanya Otto, with sons Keil, Jack and Max

and members of the extended Shklar, Gawaniuk and Sochan families

### Vichna yomu pamiat!

He will live forever in our hearts and thoughts.

Donations in memory of the deceased can be made to: The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E 6th St., New York, NY 10003; the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv through the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60622; or the UNA's Ukrainian National Foundation, 2200 Route 10, PO Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

## UASC Tryzub Foundation organized by Ukrainian American benefactors

by Bohdan Siryj

HORSHAM, Pa. – From its inception in 1950, the Philadelphia area's Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub has been a visionary organization. It sets and meets its ambitious goals as much through hard work and determination as through creativity and imagination. The UASC Tryzub Foundation is the club's most recent innovation, aimed at boldly and proactively meeting the challenges of the future – to protect, to prolong and to expand Tryzub's rich and important legacy.

After a decade of success as a Majors Division amateur club, Tryzub in 1959 acquired the American Soccer League's

Philadelphia Nationals team, aptly renamed it the Philadelphia Ukrainian Nationals and proceeded to win the U.S. Open Cup Championship the very following year. No one will ever forget the deafening thunder of the Ukrainian American community's cheers as Tryzub reached the heights of success.

More successes followed:

- 1956 – U.S. Amateur Cup Final in St. Louis;
- 1960s – six American Soccer League Professional Championships;
- 1960s/1970s – three German American Professional League Championships; and
- 1960, 1961, 1963, and 1966 – four U.S. Open Cup Professional

Championships; and

- 1960s – five U.S. Open Cup Finals.

Teams from around the globe visited Philadelphia to play Tryzub. Among them was Manchester United, England; Dundee, Scotland; Stuttgart, West Germany; and Vienna, Austria.

In 1967 the Ukrainian Nationals represented the United States in international competition before 102,000 fans in El Salvador.

Tryzub was the first soccer team in the United States to have home games televised, and it played in the first regulation indoor soccer game in Convention Hall in Atlantic City, N.J.

Recognizing dramatic changes in the demographics of the Ukrainian American

community and the harsh economic realities of professional sports, Tryzub re-focused its efforts on amateur soccer and the development of youth programs.

In 1978 Tryzub acquired a 39-acre parcel of undeveloped land in the northern suburbs of Philadelphia. Despite financial and logistical challenges that would have broken the resolve of many, Tryzub built a multiple-use community and sports complex, that boasts six soccer fields, three tennis courts, two volleyball courts, a clubhouse, a banquet hall, a festival grove, picnic areas, a playground and parkland.

The dividends from this imaginative

(Continued on page 21)

## Battle of Poltava...

(Continued from page 13)

didn't block anything.

Poltava's Ukrainian patriot leaders, including Our Ukraine National Deputy Mykola Kluchynskyi, were confident that what was planned by the Poltava city government was a reconstruction with the theme, "Glory of Russian Weaponry," celebrating the impressive Russian victory over its enemies. Among the participants would have been Russian Cossacks belonging to the organization Descendants of the Victory.

They were concerned the Poltava government would have allowed a celebratory performance to occur on what should be a tragic day for Ukrainians, said Valentyna Shemchuk, an Our Ukraine district party leader in Poltava.

When The Weekly asked Mr. Matkovskyi to further explain the conflict at a July 2 Kyiv press conference, he said the Presidential Secretariat had cast doubt on the Poltava city government's patriotism.

He denied accusations that the council was planning to sponsor a "Glory of Russian Weaponry" celebration as part of the historical reconstruction. "When we planned to reconstruct the battle, we understood that we had to show that Russian armies won," Mr.

Matkovskyi said. "But when passions began boiling, we decided it's not necessary to offend people and offered a nice example. We declined the re-enactment."

Adding further context, Mr. Kikot said the City Council's agreement with Mr. Rudenko fell through two weeks before the Poltava commemoration because of a disagreement he couldn't identify. "There were mutual complaints, but I don't know exactly what," he said. "From what I know, among the main reasons is that certain individuals spoke out against a direct reconstruction."

Meanwhile, Mr. Rudenko claimed it was because of a financial dispute. So instead of a professional troupe or experienced European and Russian re-enactors as city officials suggested earlier, about 40 actors took to the field, their main experience being from the local Hohol Theater.

Prior to the historical re-enactment, four performers dressed as bare-chested Kozaks offered spectators a 20-minute show with horseback tricks and acrobatics.

The performance began with the Russian flag being introduced first, again irking Ukrainian patriots. Nor were their uniforms historically accurate.

Many of the 30,000 spectators in attendance couldn't see the show because their view was blocked by rows of seated specta-

tors in bleachers. Those who could see the battle followed its progress by listening to a Ukrainian-language soundtrack, but patriots complained it lacked any context in Ukrainian history.

The show consisted of canons being fired, actors engaging in elementary-level combat scenes with elements of eastern martial arts amidst speakers playing an eclectic mix of Ukrainian military melodies and the "Chariots of Fire" theme.

At the conclusion, doves were set free, while those depicting the Russian-allied forces didn't rejoice in their victory in a politically correct finale apparently requested by Kyiv and the Presidential Secretariat.

Swede Chris Jonsson missed many of the weekend's events because schedules weren't made available, even in the city's hotels and restaurants – a complaint shared by Poltava residents and Ukrainians as well.

"We heard different rumors about different times things would take place," he said. "I don't think it was well-organized, because I was here a few days ago and it was chaos."

Even the time of the theatrical show itself wasn't clear. Some thought it was set for the morning, others 4 p.m., but it started shortly after 6 p.m.

"When Ukrainians wait one or two hours it's okay," said Col. Tomtlund of Sweden.

"When we wait 10 minutes, it's not okay. It's different way of looking at things. But they have done a really good job."

Deflecting the criticism, Poltava authorities stressed the weekend's successes, including "Find Mazepa's Treasure," a citywide treasure hunt held on June 28 and sponsored by the Channel 5 television network.

While the government of President Yushchenko is trying to force its view of Mazepa on the Ukrainian public, a better way is to hold recreational events like the Mazepa treasure hunt, in which thousands of participants were given maps and sent searching, said Oleh Deyneka, a Channel 5 news anchor and key organizer.

The treasure – a bag of 10,000 one-hryvnia coins – was hidden in the Vorskla River. It tore open, leaving numerous winners to scoop up the coins.

"Mazepa was a patron of the arts, he was the wealthiest man in Ukraine and there's a legend about his treasure," Mr. Deyneka said. "Gradually the attitude toward Mazepa improves that way, rather than as a result of pressure to present the re-enactment in one way or another."

Stressing economic gains, the City Council estimated visitors brought an additional \$2.6 million in revenue to the city, consuming more than 2 tons of shashlyky (shish-ka-bobs), 1.5 tons of halushky and varenyky (dumplings), and 5,000 liters of Poltava-made beer.

The city's hotels hosted 1,200 tourists, and vendors sold nearly \$30,000 worth of souvenirs.

### Lack of historical context

However, critics of the local government said revenues would have been just as plentiful if event organizers had placed more emphasis on Ukrainian culture and history, rather than hiding them as if it were taboo.

Despite Mr. Deyneka's claim that events like the Mazepa treasure hunt did a better job in raising public awareness of the hetman's role in Ukrainian history, patriots said more could have been done.

Not enough Ukrainians are aware that Mazepa was disappointed with Tsar Peter I for not honoring the 1654 Pereiaslav Agreement, requiring Russia to come to Ukraine's aid against Poland, said Dr. Hanna Kapustian, a history professor at Kremenchuk State University who attended the commemoration.

Instead, the Russians were reintroducing serfdom into Ukraine, which had long concluded in Europe, and increasingly required the Kozaks to fight its wars.

"Mazepa was not mentioned at all, and the reasons for his decision and aspirations weren't explained," she said. "For just three minutes, they could have described the social-political context Ukraine found itself in at the time. It wasn't explained that Ukraine was losing its political autonomy at this time, and Mazepa was looking for new allies. Instead, Ukraine was portrayed as a poker chip."

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# Ukrainian American Veterans hold reunion at Soyuzivka

by Anna Krawczuk

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian Heritage Center of the Ukrainian National Association, was the site for the first-of-its kind reunion of American veterans of Ukrainian heritage held at the end of May.

The initiator and chairman of the Reunion Committee was Wiroslaw Snihurowych, who had the support of the Ukrainian American Veterans Inc., as well as his wife, Patricia, and daughter Maria.

The UAV's national commander, Brig. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk, UAV Immediate Past National Commander Anna Krawczuk and UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj served as honorary chairs. Past National Commander Mathew Koziak, National Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki and UAV Post 33 Commander Carl Harvey were committee members.

The main mission of the reunion was to reach out to Ukrainian Americans who have served or are on active duty in the U.S. military and to allow them to meet and communicate in an informal setting.

At the resort, veterans shared their military experiences, met old friends, made new ones, and also were informed about current issues that face the U.S. Armed Forces. Attendees came from as far as Florida and as near as upstate New York, New England, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Mr. Snihurowych, a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, opened the official program on the morning of Saturday, May 30, with ceremonies that included the posting of colors, the U.S. and Ukrainian national anthems and a moment of silence for departed comrades.

Remarks by Brig. Gen. Kondratiuk centered on the history of Ukrainian Americans who served in the U.S. military and the UAV.

Mrs. Krawczuk made a presentation about the UAV Registration Project and UAV National Monument to inform and to encourage American veterans of Ukrainian heritage to participate by registering. (For more information readers may visit [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org) or e-mail [uav.reg@att.net](mailto:uav.reg@att.net).)

A recent veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2007-2008), Lt. Col. Michael O. Logusz, U.S. Army, introduced his 320-page book "With Musket and Tomahawk, The Turning Point of the Revolution – The Saratoga Campaign, 1777," which is to be released this fall. He has also authored many articles and previously published the book "Galicia Division."

Guest speakers from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., gave very interesting presentations. Col. Andrew

Glen, Ph.D., associate professor, spoke on recent changes in the curriculum at the academy that now offers more than 40 majors to cadets. Col. Deborah McDonald, director of admissions, reiterated the requirements and recommendations needed for entrance. She also pointed out that the number of female cadets is increasing. Her husband, Lt. Col. Kenneth McDonald, who recently returned from Iraq and is deputy commander of the New York District Corps of Engineers, also spoke.

Mr. Snihurowych, who was an instructor and assistant professor at West Point, thanked his colleagues for their very informative presentations that clearly captivated the audience.

The last of the speakers was Maj. Gen. Leonid Holopatiuk, Military attaché at Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. He spoke about the military in Ukraine and the economic hardships with which Ukraine is faced. A question and answer period followed.

The afternoon was left open, for socializing and recreation. Glorious spring weather conditions added to the full enjoyment of the fresh mountain air.

The evening banquet was presided over by the master of ceremonies, George Stachiw, a retired major of the U.S. Army. Mr. Stachiw introduced UNA President Kaczaraj, members of the UAV national executive board and guests, especially Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Ukrainian Catholic eparch of Stamford, Conn.

In his greetings, Mr. Kaczaraj, a Vietnam era veteran, welcomed everyone to Soyuzivka and gave an overview of the UNA, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly whose histories and records of service that reached to the 1890s.

Bishop Chomnycky led everyone in prayer before dinner. The UAV national commander presented a toast to the president of the United States, and the master of ceremonies offered one to the president of Ukraine.

UAV Past National Commander Atanas Kobryn provided a very moving keynote address, "Veterans Throughout History and Today." The speech was intertwined with the names of Ukrainian American veterans and Ukrainian American community activists, including Joseph Lesawyer, who was not only a longtime UNA president but also a U.S. Army captain during World War II and founding member of UAV Post 7. Mr. Kobryn cited his own military service that started in 1944 in western Ukraine, when he was a member of the 1st Ukrainian Division. During World War II, at the age of 17, he became a POW of the

(Continued on page 21)



Maria Snihurowych

Veterans after an outdoor memorial service with celebrants the Rev. George Bazylevsky and the Rev. Archpriest Volodymyr Piso.



Anna Krawczuk

Attendees of the Ukrainian veterans' reunion at Soyuzivka. Seen in the first row (from left) are: Patricia Snihurowych, Oksana Koziak, Wiroslaw Snihurowych, Anna Krawczuk, Stefan Kaczaraj, Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Leonid Kondratiuk, Atanas Kobryn and George Stachiw.



Anna Krawczuk

Guest speakers from U.S. Military Academy at West Point: Col. Andrew Glen (right) and Lt. Col. Kenneth McDonald.

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## Babunya's Gourmet Spice blends bring Kostiw family cooking secrets to Scranton-area markets

By Matthew Dubas

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Grandmothers tend to hold their treasured recipes as a closely guarded secret, and Ukrainian grandmas (or babunyas) usually measure everything by eye (“na oko”). But Janina Kostiw’s cooking led her son, Tom, and his wife, Marlén, of Carbondale, Pa., to bottle the Kostiw matriarch’s secret ingredients and offer Babunya’s Gourmet Spice in six varieties of blends to the public.

The spice blends, available in original, parsley, cinnamon, black pepper, granulated garlic and granulated onion, are available in Scranton-area supermarkets including, Everything Natural, Quinn’s Markets, ShopRite and Gerrity’s. Other vendors have met with Mr. Kostiw to discuss other locations. “We’ve received orders from stores in Texas, Miami, Chicago, Boston, Seattle and Brazil, too,” Mr. Kostiw told the Scranton Times-Tribune.

Mr. Kostiw explained that his wife wanted to start a home-based business and ideas included opening a restaurant, but it was too time-consuming. He also wanted people to

try his mother’s cuisine and her spices, so the idea came to put the spices in a bottle and sell them.

Some product testing included unsuspecting friends. “Our good friend, Byrdy Snyder, hates lamb [...] but we seasoned it with Babunya’s and when she ate it, she was surprised. She said she didn’t know it was lamb,” Mr. Kostiw said.

It was Mrs. Snyder’s husband, Carl, who encouraged the Kostiw family to pursue bottling and selling the spices. Other people who helped launch Babunya’s Gourmet Spice, include: Mark Toda of Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (a state agency that supports economic development); Lisa Hall of the Small Business Development Center in Scranton; and Paul Browne of the Carbondale Technology Center, where the Kostiw box and ship the spices. There was also helpful business advice from Mr. Snyder. Babunya’s Gourmet Spice is bottled by MELT Enterprises, LLC.

During the second world war, the Kostiw family moved from Eastern Europe to Italy,

and then to Brazil. In 1967 Mrs. Kostiw came to the United States with her husband, Thomasz (a Lviv native) after the couple met in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Their son, Tom, was born that same year when they settled in New Jersey, where Mrs. Kostiw still resides.

“When I was growing up, my grandmother was cooking all the time and so was my mother,” Mrs. Kostiw said. “I always liked to help cook and a lot of times I got to do all of the cooking because they were working in the farm. I would add more things to the food and everyone liked it.”

Mrs. Kostiw, 83, recounted how she made her apple cakes for Jaqueline Kennedy Onassis in the 1980s after being introduced to the former first lady by a New York antique dealer who was a friend of President

John F. Kennedy’s widow.

“She loved my apple cakes,” Mrs. Kostiw said. “I cooked a turkey and used some of my blends to season it and Jean Pierre, Mrs. Onassis’ friend, told her about my cooking, let her taste some and she liked it and wanted to meet me, so I made her some apple cakes.”

Babunya’s Gourmet Spice blends are available in various sizes, including 14-ounce (\$13.99), and four-ounce (\$4.99). Readers can find the spices in grocery stores in the Scranton area, or by visiting Babunya’s website at [www.Babuynas.com](http://www.Babuynas.com), which also features video cooking demonstrations. Orders can also be placed by telephone, 877-270-1245, or by writing to MELT Enterprises LLC, at P.O. Box 891, Gouldsboro, PA 18424.

## Introducing...

(Continued from page 7)

the emphasis on diversity in Canada will change with such policy directions. And our community will not be a winner. Yet, there is no response or call to arms on this issue on the UCC website other than to write letters regarding the Ukrainian-language broadcasts on Radio Canada International that broadcasts to Ukraine.

But why haven’t the rest of us responded? The democratic reality is that one voice is less effective than many. Have

myths rendered us incapable of fighting for our rights, allowing others to decide how our country will treat us?

Indeed, the myths that politics divides us or that there are too many organizations have led to non-participation and the hijacking of policies that concern us. This must stop. We might begin by dropping myths that fail us in dealing with the realities of today and embrace new principles that serve us better.

*Oksana Bashuk Hepburn may be contacted at [oksanabh@sympatico.ca](mailto:oksanabh@sympatico.ca).*

## Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

“We feel that we are at the beginning of something difficult, but something promising, the beginning of something important,” Mr. Camdessus said. “I believe the recent democratic elections in Ukraine have given a clear expression of the need of the Ukrainian people for action, urgent action to recreate conditions of prosperity in this country.”

Experts from the IMF worked over the next two months with Ukrainian government officials to help them deal with such problems as the inflation rate and to look for ways to decrease the budget deficit and design a monetary policy that would bring Ukraine out of its financial crisis. Ukraine was promised a \$700 million credit line, but it did not meet conditions of economic reform to be able to take

advantage of the offer.

Mr. Yushchenko said the program would be submitted for consideration at a scheduled IMF meeting. “This is the most fruitful of all such meetings between Ukraine and the IMF,” Mr. Yushchenko added.

Criticizing Ukraine’s half-hearted attempts at reform over the previous two years, Mr. Camdessus said: “This country has suffered too much in the recent past from a succession of programs which were too piecemeal, incomplete, programs that addressed a few issues and ignored others. This is the moment to try to attack all these difficulties. There is no reason why Ukraine cannot be as successful as other countries have been at economic reform.”

*Source: “International Monetary Fund to assist Ukraine’s recovery,” by Marta Kolomayets, The Ukrainian Weekly, July 31, 1994.*



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## Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 17)

U.S. Armed Forces in Austria and was discharged in 1946. Drafted into the U.S. Army almost upon arrival in the USA, he served in 1952-1954 (during the Korean War era), followed by U.S. Army Reserve duty.

Mr. Kobryn said his service gave him an opportunity for education in his new country, success in the workplace, family life and eventual retirement. These opportunities are still in effect for the new generation of U.S. servicemen and service-women.

The banquet closed with everyone singing "God Bless America."

Sunday was dedicated to religious services at both the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches. An open-air ecumenical panakhyda (memorial service) for the repose of the souls of all departed veterans was celebrated in Ukrainian by the Rev. George Bazylevsky of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Rev. Archpriest Volodymyr Piso of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The Ukrainian American Veterans' color guard participated, and Vladimir Bakum, Korean-era veteran and UAV member, directed the Orthodox choir that sang the responses.

The traditional bugle call, taps, signaled an emotional end to the reunion.

## UASC Tryzub...

(Continued from page 16)

strategy continue to flow. No less than 28 teams – both girls' and boys' play under the Ukrainian Nationals' flag. Its Majors Division men's team has amassed an unprecedented number of championships: 15 Pennsylvania State National Cups Tournament Championships; 11 United Soccer League Majors Division Championships; and seven Inter-County Soccer League Majors Division Championships.

Every Memorial Day weekend Tryzub organizes and hosts an immensely popular interstate and international youth soccer tournament, which last year grew to 168 teams, including also of squads from Bermuda and Canada. In addition, in the years 1988, 1995, 2000 and 2008, UASC Tryzubivka was the venue for four Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiads.

The U.S. Amateur Soccer Association regularly schedules its Region I U.S. Open and Amateur Cup finals at Tryzubivka.

Despite these advantages, Tryzub recognizes that economic realities are again in flux. The costs of operating even a charitable organization are growing exponentially, even as fund-raising opportunities and traditional sources of donations are diminishing. The economic realities of the future will be brutal and harsh.

A board of dedicated Ukrainian American activists envisions the UASC Tryzub Foundation as a fertile vehicle for the accumulation and growth of capital assets – the fuel for future development and action. The foundation's goal is to provide not only a handsome financial reserve for Tryzub and its Ukrainian Nationals teams, but also for other organizations with similar aims and objectives.

The UASC Tryzub foundation encourages readers to become active donors and to consider making the Tryzub Foundation an integral part of estate and charitable giving plans and endowments.

The UASC Tryzub Foundation is a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization. All contributions are tax-deductible. All correspondence should be addressed to: UASC Tryzub Foundation, P. O. Box 184, Horsham, PA 19044

## Reactions in Ukraine...

(Continued from page 2)

hecontinued.

Speaking about the upcoming visit of U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden to Kyiv, Dr. Shcherbak commented: "Hopefully [Biden] will explain to Ukrainian leaders what was going on in Moscow and clarify the position of the American government" (Kyiv Post, July 10).

Commenting on the forthcoming Biden visit, the Ukrainian Internet publication Ukrayinska Pravda wrote on July 8: "The visit [by Biden] will be closely observed in Moscow. Russian experts are convinced that Biden will have to explain to Kyiv and Tbilisi 'who is the master.' Without this there can be no resetting of Russian-American relations." This however, is the typical Russian point of view which has not changed for many years. "Will the Americans be able to formulate in two weeks a clear message to the post-Soviet space? Nonetheless, this message will in a large way determine how events evolve in the region," the report suggested.

The results of the Ukrainian presidential elections scheduled for early January 2010 might resolve the dilemma facing

Washington, Moscow and Kyiv. If voters elect Viktor Yanukovich as their next president, the foreign policy agenda of Ukraine might be in for a monumental change. The pro-NATO forces in Ukraine will find themselves more isolated than they are now and a new team of pro-Russian policy-makers will aim to steer the country closer to Moscow on such matters as NATO enlargement, energy policy and greater cooperation in CIS security arrangements.

Moscow, however, will be very cautious in welcoming a new Ukrainian government into its fold. The Kremlin has learned hard lessons from its turbulent relationship with Alyaksandr Lukashenka, the president of Belarus who, by any yardstick, has been more pro-Russian than Mr. Yanukovich. Any precipitate move by the Kremlin to embrace a Yanukovich government might also incur the wrath of Washington and escalate a new Cold War, one which Russia is incapable of winning.

*The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.*

## President Obama...

(Continued from page 4)

ments and citizens. The recommendations and work plans developed from this meeting will help U.S. and Russian civil society actors solve real, shared problems and will make cooperation more sustainable," said the Eurasia Foundation's president, Horton Beebe-Center.

While in Moscow, President Obama also gave the commencement speech at a Eurasia Foundation grantee, the New Economic School (NES). Mr. Obama called NES "a school founded with Western support that is now distinctly Russian; a place of learning and inquiry where the test of an idea is not whether it is Russian or American or European, but whether it works."

The Eurasia Foundation Network is a partnership of autonomous foundations promoting prosperity and stability throughout the former Soviet Union. The network partners consist of the Eurasia Foundation (United States), New Eurasia Foundation (Russia), Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia, Eurasia Partnership Foundation (South Caucasus) and East Europe Foundation (Ukraine).

**AT SOYUZIVKA 2009 UKRAINIAN FILM FESTIVAL**

**AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup> & AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Aug. 1 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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## Obama praised...

(Continued from page 2)

It is not clear what is politically more damaging for a U.S. president: to publicly eat Iranian caviar or Russian contraband. Mr. Putin indeed has a peculiar sense of humor.

Before the brunch President Obama announced he had "excellent discussions" with President Medvedev and praised Mr. Putin for doing "extraordinary work on behalf of the Russian people" as the former president, and now prime minister (The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, July 7). Under Mr. Putin's rule since 2000, elections have been regularly rigged, and political and press freedoms crushed. Last August Messrs. Putin and Medvedev ordered Russian troops to invade neighboring Georgia and occupy its territory, but for Mr. Obama these issues seemed to be secondary.

The government-controlled media has observed with approval President Obama's "hands off" approach to human rights issues in Russia. "The atmosphere of friendship and 'reset' was all over the last two days," wrote Interfax as Mr. Obama left Moscow. Mr. Obama praised the Russian authorities "for moving in the right direction in developing civil society," and announced that he did not intend to teach Russia anything while making no public mention of the case of the murdered Novaya Gazeta reporter Anna Politkovskaya or any other prominent instances of political repression. This was in "marked contrast to the attitude of the previous U.S. administration" (Interfax, July 8).

Mr. Obama's "hands off" approach reportedly disappointed human rights activists (Vedomosti, July 8). However according to Mr. Obama's assistant and senior director on Russia, Michael McFaul, Mr. Obama did not cite specific violations of democratic principles by the Russian government by design, since the lecturing

tone adopted by President George W. Bush failed to further the cause of democracy (Wall Street Journal, July 8).

The U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen and the top Russian military commander, Chief of the General Staff and First Deputy Defense Minister Gen. Nikolai Makarov, signed an agreement to resume U.S.-Russian military cooperation, watched by Presidents Obama and Medvedev. According to the White House press service, quoted by Interfax on July 6, the agreement will allow some 20 joint U.S.-Russian military exercises in 2009. Nonetheless, Gen. Makarov said there will be no joint military exercises in 2009 – only discussions to possibly stage them in 2010 (ITAR-TASS, July 6). Military cooperation was broken off to punish Russia after the August war with Georgia. It seems that Washington is now more eager to forgive Moscow for the invasion than Moscow aspires to be forgiven.

Messrs. Mullen and Makarov also

signed an agreement to allow U.S. air transit of troops and supplies through Russian airspace. Dr. McFaul told reporters that this is a very important and concrete agreement that will permit some 4,500 flights annually, and that Russia has waived collecting an estimated \$133 million in navigation fees (www.foxnews.com, July 6). At present U.S. flights successfully reach Afghanistan while bypassing Russia, and the transit agreement seems to be the only definitive result of the summit.

The act of acute political appeasement Messrs. Putin and Medvedev performed by the Obama team in Moscow has produced something, but what will be the final price? Mr. Obama discussed Georgia with Mr. Putin and agreed to disagree (Interfax, July 7). President Mikheil Saakashvili interpreted Mr. Obama's statement, reiterating Georgia's independence and territorial integrity, as a demonstration of "unconditional support" (Civil Georgia, July 6), but is that indeed true?

The ramifications of the Moscow summit depend on how Mr. Putin understood Mr. Obama and his team. Russia is ready to give the U.S. a free hand in Afghanistan, but in exchange it wants freedom to deal with Georgia. If Mr. Obama is seen as too weak and compromising, Mr. Putin may decide to act against Georgia unilaterally, believing Mr. Obama has already been paid off.

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## Ukrainian Federation...

(Continued from page 8)

In the face of this revisionist propaganda, Ukrainian researchers must use the most reliable, unassailable sources possible to combat malicious distortions and outright fabrications. For this work, Ukrainian Americans are urged to support those organizations seeking to underwrite continued research in this field, Dr. Procyk said.

In response to the praise received, Mr. Williams expressed his gratitude to Dr. Chernyk, Vera Andryczyk of the Ukrainian Federation of America and to the other organizations he has worked with and been supported by, including the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council.

He explained for those wondering how a Kansan became so involved in Ukraine how he happened upon Ukraine through his early work in the international food distribution industry and through his association with his current employer, Michael Bleyzer.

Mr. Bleyzer, originally from Kharkiv, was granted asylum in the U.S. in 1978 and has since made great strides in helping his homeland through his private equity firm. Mr. Bleyzer has also been generous in giving Williams time and leeway to develop his U.S.-Ukrainian Business Council.

This edifying evening ended with Mr. Williams relating some interesting facts about the connections of Welshmen and Ukraine, among them, Gareth Richard Vaughan Jones, a Welsh journalist who tried to tell the world about the Famine but was murdered in 1935, and about historic connections between Ukraine and Kansas. Probably very few in the audience knew that early Mennonite immigrants from Odesa and Crimea brought Turkey Red Wheat, which was far superior to American grains, to Kansas. This wheat spread throughout the Midwest and has been a boon to wheat farms ever since.

All in all, it was an instructive evening and a fitting honor for Mr. Williams. (To learn more, readers may log on to www.ArtUkraine.com, which contains information about a wide range of areas in which Mr. Williams is involved.)

## OUT AND ABOUT

July 23 Jenkintown, PA	Book presentation and signing, "Ukrainians of the Delaware Valley" by Dr. Alexander Lushnycky, Basilian Spirituality Center of the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great, 215-379-3998	August 3 Montreal	Concert, "Nostalgia," featuring the Pavlychenko Folklorique College Jean-Eudes, 888-222-6608 or ticketweb.ca
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 3-7 Jewett, NY	Pysanka workshop, with instruction by Sofika Zielyk, Grazhda Music and Art Center of Greene County, 518-989-6479
July 29 Pittsburgh	Concert, "Nostalgia," featuring the Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble, Upper St. Clair Theater, 866-468-7619 or www.ticketweb.com	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 31-August 2 Dauphin, MB	Canada's National Ukrainian Festival, Selo Ukraina (Ukrainian Village), 204-622-4600	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
August 1 Ottawa	Concert, "Junior Rising Stars - Performances by Young Artists," featuring Aidin Tomosky Beck, Southminster United Church, www.chamberfest.com	August 6 Mississauga, ON	Concert, "Nostalgia," featuring the Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble, Meadowvale Theater, 888-222-6608 or www.ticketweb.ca
August 1 Kerhonkson, NY	Golf tournament, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Hudson Valley Resort, 860-729-5181	August 8 Jewett, NY	Concert, "Music at the Grazhda" Chamber Music Society, Grazhda Music and Art Center of Greene County, 518-989-6479
August 1-2 Kerhonkson, NY	Ukrainian Film Festival, presented by Yuri Shevchuk and the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University, Soyuzivka Heritage Center, 845-626-5641	August 9 Edmonton, AB	Ukrainian Day, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council and the Alberta Council for Ukrainian Arts, Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, www.ukrainianvillage.ca
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	August 9-22 Emlenton, PA	Kobzarska Sich Bandura Camp and Ukrainian Sacred Music Workshop, All Saints Camp, ks@bandura.org or 734-658-6452
August 2 Hempstead, NY	Church picnic, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, 516-481-7717	August 14 Jewett, NY	Children's music concert, Grazhda Music and Art Center of Greene County, 518-989-6479
August 2 Whippany, NJ	Concert, "Nostalgia," featuring the Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 866-468-7619 or www.ticketweb.com	<p><i>Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to <a href="mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com">mdubas@ukrweekly.com</a>.</i></p>	

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# Soyuzivka's Datebook

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



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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**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>.

**Monday, July 27**

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute will host a film screening with Yuri Shevchuk. The screening, presented under the theme of "Ukraine: A View from the Outside," is 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>.

**Sunday, August 2**

**UNIONDALE, N.Y.:** The annual picnic of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church will take place at 1-6 p.m. at the parish center, 226 Uniondale Ave. Admission for adults is \$15, which includes a meal, soft drinks and all activities; students age 13-18, \$10; children 7-12, \$5; free for children under age 7. The festival will feature music, raffles and activities such as sports and games. For more information call the parish center, 516-485-0775.

**Friday, August 28**

**WILDWOOD CREST, N.J.:** The Khmelnychenky Plast fraternity is sponsoring an all-ages dance at the Wildwood Crest Pier Recreation Center, across the street from the Pan Am Hotel. Doors open at 7 p.m. with dance music at 7-8 p.m. The "Party Ptashat" kids dance will be held at 8-9:30 p.m., hosted by MC Bratchyk Levko. The "Wildwood Idol" dance contest with guest judge Ania Bohachevsky Lonkevych begins at 10 p.m. with cash prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 per couple. The teen "Club Crest" "vechirka" will follow the dance contest. Admission: kids and students, \$5; adults age 23 and over, \$10. Proceeds go toward Plast camps; donations accepted. Volunteers wanted. For more info, e-mail Adrian Horodecky, [adrian@telligys.com](mailto:adrian@telligys.com).

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

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