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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXXVII

No.33

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2009

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Uzhhorod mayor accused of attacking campaign worker

by Danylo Peleschuk

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – The alleged beating of a campaigner for presidential candidate Arseniy Yatsenyuk by the mayor of Uzhhorod, and his subsequent anti-Jewish statements, ignited the latest election campaign scandal amidst a summer already riddled with high-ranking lawlessness.

Serhii Ratushniak, a politician with a long history of alleged violence, was accused of beating and strangling 21-year-old Natalia Butrymko, who was handing out pamphlets promoting Mr. Yatsenyuk's Front of Change (Front Zmin) civic organization, on August 6.

Local prosecutors filed criminal charges of hooliganism and abuse of office against the mayor on August 7, then dropped them the next day alleging further investigation was needed. Mr. Ratushniak then returned to his mayoral duties without a hitch.

The alleged attack erupted into an international controversy when Mr. Ratushniak embarked on a tirade against Mr. Yatsenyuk himself, labeling him an "insolent little Jew" in a formal statement released by the city's press service on August 7.

In an Ukrayinska Pravda interview published on August 11, Mr. Ratushniak ranted about what he alleged is a tightly controlled

Jewish network of money and crooked courts in Ukraine, led by industrial and media magnate Victor Pinchuk and Dmytro Firtash, a partner in RosUkrEnerg.

Meanwhile, in his August 7 statement Mr. Ratushniak alleged that Mr. Yatsenyuk exploited his Jewish influence to build his campaign with "criminal money," along with a youth movement that lacks merit.

"Throughout the regions, he gathered his drug dealers and bandits, who have absolutely no legal or moral grounding, trash our city, obstruct the peaceful lives of our citizens and degrade the standard of living here," said Mr. Ratushniak. "Soon he'll fool people into thinking that the nearest river runs because of his Front of Change."

Mr. Ratushniak offered no apologies when referring to Jews as "Zhydy," which many Jews and Ukrainians consider offensive. However, "Zhyd" was the standard Ukrainian and Polish word for Jew and continues to be widely used and accepted in western Ukraine. Currently, the word "Yevrei" (from the same root as the word "Hebrew") is used.

On August 12 the Zakarpattia Oblast Procurator General filed criminal charges against Mr. Ratushniak for his anti-Jewish statements.

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Medvedev blasts Yushchenko for "anti-Russian position"

by Danylo Peleschuk

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – Russian Federation President Dmitry Medvedev blamed Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko for the worst bilateral relations between the two nations since the Soviet period, calling upon the next president of Ukraine to launch a new era of relations.

In the August 6 letter posted on the Kremlin's website five days later, Mr. Medvedev scolded Mr. Yushchenko for mishandling numerous critical issues, citing alleged arms delivery to Georgia during the South Ossetian War, energy agreement violations and recent diplomatic expulsions.

"What we have witnessed during the years of your presidency cannot be interpreted as anything other than the Ukrainian party's departure from the principles of friendship and partnership with Russia," Mr. Medvedev said, speaking about two months before the official start of Ukraine's presidential campaign.

Mr. Medvedev said he would postpone approving the next Russian ambassador to Ukraine, citing the "anti-Russian position of Ukrainian authorities."

Yet, in a sudden turn of events, Mr. Medvedev signed an August 13 presiden-

tial decree officially appointing Mikhail Zurabov as Russia's ambassador to Ukraine just hours after President Yushchenko issued a firm response to his letter. Mr. Zurabov is Russia's former minister of health and social development.

Along with the letter, the Kremlin released a video statement, recorded at the president's residence on the Black Sea coast and posted on Mr. Medvedev's Internet blog, in which the Russian president vented his grievances over the Ukrainian government's policies.

Besides military and economic matters, Mr. Medvedev criticized campaigns "to oust the Russian language from the Ukrainian media, education, culture and science."

"The Ukrainian leadership's outwardly smooth-flowing rhetoric fits ill with the overt distortion of complex and difficult episodes in our common history, the tragic events of the great famine in the Soviet Union, and an interpretation of the Great Patriotic War as some kind of confrontation between two totalitarian systems," he said.

The video message was aimed at reaching a wide television and Internet audience to influence Ukrainian voters to select a more Moscow-friendly president in the January 17, 2010, vote, experts said.

"He sent the message that Ukrainian society doesn't have the right to choose its own president, but instead, choose one that's most fitting for Russia," said Oleksander Paliy, a political expert of the Foreign Policy Institute at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry.

In his August 13 response to the letter, President Yushchenko stated that he was "very disappointed with its unfriendly character," acknowledging serious problems in relations between the two countries but expressing surprise that Russia failed to recognize its responsibility for that as well.

"Our state never abandoned the principles of friendship and partnership established in the 1997 great agreement [Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation], did what was maximally possible for the consistent and mutually convenient development of bilateral relations," the Ukrainian president stated. "Moreover, in accordance with the mentioned agreement, our countries should build relations one-on-one, particularly on the principles of mutual respect and sovereign equality."

The Ukrainian Presidential Secretariat's response to the Russian president likely prompted Mr. Medvedev's decision to approve Mr. Zurabov's appointment rather than postpone it further, said Grigory Perepelytsia, director of the Foreign

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UCC national executive meets with controversial Liberal leader

TORONTO – Liberal Party Leader Michael Ignatieff met on July 31 with members of the national executive of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. The UCC delegation included Paul Grod, president, Alexandra Chyczij, vice-president, and Andrew Hladyshevsky, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko.

"We are pleased that we were able to share with Mr. Ignatieff many of the UCC's objectives and that we addressed many important issues to our community and to all Canadians," said Mr. Grod. "Our discussion touched on a number of important issues, which included Canada-Ukraine relations, multiculturalism, immigration, as well as a host of other issues."

Among those issues was Mr. Ignatieff's disparaging writings about Ukraine and Ukrainians. In his 1995 book "Blood and Belonging: Journeys into the New Nationalism," Mr. Ignatieff wrote: "Ukrainian independence conjures up images of embroidered peasant shirts, the nasal whine of ethnic instruments..."

He also wrote: "My difficulty in taking Ukraine seriously goes deeper than just my cosmopolitan suspicion of nationalists everywhere. Somewhere inside I'm also what Ukrainians would call a great Russian and there is just a trace of old



Seen during the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) meeting with Liberal Party leader Michael Ignatieff (from left) are: Oleh Romanyshyn (League of Ukrainian Canadians), Zenon Potichnyj (Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce), Member of Parliament Walt Lastewka, Mr. Ignatieff (leader of the Official Opposition), Paul Grod (president, UCC), Alexandra Chyczij (vice-president, UCC), Danylo Korbabicz (Ukrainian Canadian Students Union), Ann Szyptur (UCC and Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization) and Andrew Hladyshevsky (Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko).

Russian disdain for these little Russians."

At this meeting with UCC representatives Mr. Ignatieff repeated comments that he made in Edmonton on June 30 and again in Winnipeg on July 2, saying, "I understand

that my book and documentary 'Blood and Belonging' contained statements that are offensive. I used derogatory terms, with

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ANALYSIS

International assistance granted to support Ukrainian economy

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Several recent international decisions relating to Ukraine have shown that attitudes toward the local economy have improved following signs of stabilization. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the allocation of another loan tranche; a rating agency expressed optimism on the sovereign ratings; and the European Commission (EC), the executive arm of the European Union, organized a loan to help Naftohaz Ukrainy, the state-owned oil and gas behemoth, pay for Russian gas. This should help Ukraine to prepare for a possible second wave of the financial crisis during the fall when the country faces payments on several large foreign debts. Moreover, pressure on the national currency is mounting, which will present further challenges for the Ukrainian economy.

Initial uncertainty over the IMF's loan decision triggered the hryvnia's plunge against the main currencies in late July, showing the extent to which the weak national economy depends on foreign financing. Although the hryvnia's official rate dropped by only 1 percent in July, the street rate plunged by as much as 4 percent to over 8 hrv per \$1 (U.S.). The central bank suggested that this had resulted from the payments of Ukrainian banks and companies on foreign loans being increased in July raising the demand for foreign currency and weakening the hryvnia.

The news about the IMF's approval of the \$3.3 billion third tranche of the \$16.4 billion standby loan to Ukraine, which came on July 29, stabilized the hryvnia almost

immediately (www.bank.gov.ua, August 4).

This tranche allocation was smooth compared to the discussions between the IMF and the government of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko that preceded the allocation of the second \$2.8 billion tranche in May. The IMF apparently trusts that Ms. Tymoshenko will follow its recommendations to proceed with reform and abstain from economic populism despite admonitions from her arch-rival President Viktor Yushchenko.

The IMF in its press release praised the recent increase in the domestic price of gas by 20 percent aimed to bring into in line with international prices in order to reduce the budget deficit of Naftohaz. The IMF also noted that the central bank had demonstrated its readiness to tighten fiscal policies to withstand inflation and exchange rate pressures (www.imf.org, July 28).

Following the IMF's positive decision, Standard and Poor's (S&P), the international rating agency, revised its outlook on Ukraine's debt obligations from "negative" to "positive." S&P said this reflected the recent progress in structural reform in the budget and financial sectors, which allowed Ukraine to qualify for the IMF loan. S&P also praised the "strong and coordinated banking measures" that helped to improve depositor confidence as the outflow of private deposits from banks stopped by the summer. Similarly, S&P noted that political and economic risks remain ahead of the January 2010 presidential election, which prevented it from upgrading Ukraine's weak ratings, rather than just the outlook on the country's economy (www.standarda-

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U.S.-Ukraine "tough love": the feeling is mutual

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor

U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden's visit to Ukraine (Eurasia Daily Monitor, July 28) underscored the shift from enthusiastic support of Euro-Atlantic integration goals to conditional support, depending on Ukraine's own performance. Dubbed "tough love," this revision in U.S. policy was long in the making, but had not received official high-level expression until now.

A "tough-love" U.S. policy had begun to emerge in response to the post-Orange Revolution crisis in Ukraine's institutions and governance. However, the policy change was not officially conceptualized or articulated, nor clearly visible to the public. The Bush administration's loss of focus on Europe's East delayed this reformulation of policy; and its sudden, enthusiastic but short-lived burst of support for Ukraine's NATO candidacy obscured the actual U.S. shift toward a "tough-love" policy.

Thus, the Obama administration is formalizing and articulating a policy change that was already developing under its predecessors. As expressed by the Bush administration's senior State Department official handling Ukraine, David Kramer, the United States can help the country to the extent that Ukraine helps itself (David Kramer, "Biden's Critical Trip to Ukraine and Georgia," GMF Policy Brief, July 17), which indeed became Mr. Biden's message in Kyiv.

The tough-love feeling, however, turned out to be mutual. Excepting the weakened

President Viktor Yushchenko, Ukrainian leaders and parties made clear during Mr. Biden's visit that they do not expect unilateral U.S. favors; and also that Russia is a factor to be taken into account in Ukraine, particularly in an election year.

Vice-President Biden spoke with extraordinary frankness about the dysfunctional aspects in Ukraine's political and economic systems in both of his public appearances in Kyiv. Portraying its political leaders as less mature than their own people, he wondered "why communication among leaders has broken down [and] political posturing prevents progress." He told the political establishment in nearly admonitory terms that Ukraine needs accountability in governance, "an independent court system as a check on the corruption that fuels cynicism and limits growth." He chastised energy waste in Ukraine, called for phasing out energy subsidies to consumers, and openly invoked the "strings attached" to any U.S. or International Monetary Fund lending to Ukraine, and reminded his audiences that "friendship requires honesty." Based on shared goals, however, "the United States and Ukraine will work together in the months and years ahead to strengthen the strategic partnership" (Vice-President Joseph Biden, speech at Ukraine House and news conference in Kyiv, White House press releases, July 21-22).

Both sides were careful to de-emphasize NATO during Mr. Biden's visit. The vice-president alluded to it obliquely as "Euro-

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NEWSBRIEFS

Ulianchenko cites 'imperial complexes'

KYIV – One day after a blunt message from the Russian president to the Ukrainian president, Kyiv responded, but the answer did not come from Viktor Yushchenko and or the Foreign Affairs Ministry. Responding to Dmitry Medvedev was Vira Ulianchenko, the chief of the Presidential Secretariat, whose response was released not as that of an administration official, but as chairperson of the political council of the Our Ukraine party. Ms. Ulianchenko said she believes that the address of President Dmitry Medvedev demonstrates the existence of "old imperial complexes" among the young Russian leadership, which constantly cultivate "the image of a foreign enemy and replace an equitable dialogue with all neighboring countries with the language of insults and threats." Ms. Ulianchenko recalled components of "Moscow's wrongful policy in terms of economic relations – Russia's failure to fulfill agreements on the operation of a free-trade zone between Ukraine and Russia, the gas conflict inspired by the Russian side, and economically unjustified and politically biased provisions of the agreements on gas delivery to Ukraine. The Our Ukraine party leader stressed that Mr. Medvedev's thesis about a single gas transport system for Russia and Ukraine cannot but surprise. "With this logic we should also speak about single gas and oil resources on the territory of Russia, as it was like in 'the good old times of the Soviet Union,'" she noted. Ms. Ulianchenko also said that the words of the Russian president alleging oppression of the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine are beneath criticism, as Ukraine runs more than 1,400 Russian schools and every Ukrainian general education school teaches the Russian language and literature. Funds are allocated from the Ukrainian state budget for effective operation of Russian theaters, museums and cultural centers; meanwhile, Russia does not offer similar support to Ukrainian institutions on its territory. Ms. Ulianchenko was also indignant over the desire of some Russian politicians to recognize all Russian-speaking Ukrainians as ethnic Russians. She also underlined that the

position of the Our Ukraine party regarding the Russia-Georgia conflict remains unchanged: violations of fundamental principles of international law can have tragic consequences. She underscored that the civilized world has not recognized the self-proclaimed states of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. She also said, "The current processes in Ukraine are irreversible. The revival of our national identity, historical memory and culture is a large-scale movement." She called on the two countries' citizens "to isolate themselves from the aggressive policy to which the latest message of the Russian president, unfortunately, refers." (Ukrinform)

Opposition supports Medvedev message

KYIV – The leader of the opposition Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), Viktor Yanukovich, said on August 11 that there is currently no hope for the improvement of Ukrainian-Russian relations. He was commenting on Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's message addressed to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko. "Unfortunately, there is practically no hope for the normalization and improvement of relations with Russia under the current [Ukrainian] authorities," Mr. Yanukovich said. "Therefore, the first thing we'll do after rising to power will be the revival of normal, neighborly, equal and mutually beneficial relations with our strategic partner Russia. Such relations will open prospects for both states," he said. The Russian president accused Ukraine of having an anti-Russian policy and deviating from the "principles of friendship and partnership, stipulated in the 1997 treaty," and postponed the arrival of a new Russian ambassador in Ukraine. Ukraine's acting Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Khandohiy said at a briefing on August 11 that President Yushchenko would officially respond to the Russian president's message. (Ukrinform)

Experts see boost for Yushchenko

KYIV – The director of the Gorshenin Institute of Management Issues, Kostiantyn Bondarenko, said on August 11 that the

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$55; for UNA members – \$45.

Periodicals postage paid at Parsippany, NJ 07054 and additional mailing offices. (ISSN – 0273-9348)

The Weekly: UNA:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510 Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:

The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Editors: Matthew Dubas
Zenon Zawada (Kyiv)

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com; e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, August 16, 2009, No. 33, Vol. LXXVII

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FOR THE RECORD: Medvedev's message to Yushchenko

Following is the text of the message from Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to the president of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko. The text, which appears on the Official Web Portal of the President of Russia, notes that the message "reads in part" as follows.

Problems in bilateral cooperation have, of course, existed before. This was natural following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, when we had to develop relations between two sovereign states. However, what we have witnessed during the years of your presidency cannot be interpreted as anything other than the Ukrainian party's departure from the principles of friendship and partnership with Russia, embodied in the Treaty of 1997 [Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Russia and Ukraine]. I already wrote to you about this in November last year and the situation has not improved, but rather degraded.

Let me cite a few examples that characterize the current state of affairs created by the conscious actions of your administration.

A negative public reaction was caused by Ukraine's anti-Russian stance in connection with the brutal attack on South Ossetia by Saakashvili's regime. A year after those tragic events, once again the question of why civilians and Russian peacekeepers in Tskhinval [sic] were killed with Ukrainian weapons has arisen. Those in Kiev [sic] who supplied the Georgian army with weapons and, by the way, do not intend to stop doing so, fully share with Tbilisi the responsibility for the committed crimes.

Ignoring the views of Ukrainian citizens as well as Russia's well-known position, the political leadership of Ukraine stubbornly continues to pursue accession to NATO. And as a so-called argument you hint at a "Russian threat" to Ukrainian security, something which, as you are well aware, does not and cannot exist. Unfortunately, the logical continuation of this destructive reasoning is the incessant attempts to complicate the activities of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in violation of the fundamental agreements between our countries governing the parameters of its base in Ukraine.

At the same time, it seems that Kiev [sic] has consistently sought to sever existing economic ties with Russia, primarily in the field of energy. These

actions threaten the ability of our countries to reliably use what is, in fact, a unified gas transmission system that ensures the energy security of Russia, Ukraine and many European nations.

Despite our repeated appeals at various levels, virtually nothing has been done to stop the violation of property rights of Russian investors in Ukraine. All this has essentially undermined the formerly solid economic foundations of our bilateral partnership.

Russian-Ukrainian relations have been further tested as a result of your administration's willingness to engage in historical revisionism, its heroization of Nazi collaborators, exaltation of the role played by radical nationalists, and imposition among the international community of a nationalistic interpretation of the mass famine of 1932-1933 in the USSR, calling it the "genocide of the Ukrainian people." The ousting of the Russian language from public life, science, education, culture, media and judicial proceedings continues.

In this context, the harmful practices of intervention by the government of Ukraine in the affairs of the Orthodox Church beg attention. The conditions that were created artificially on the eve and during a recent pastoral visit to Ukraine by Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia could hardly be described as favorable. Against this background, it is particularly gratifying to see the genuine and broad support for the unity of Orthodoxy demonstrated by Ukrainians who welcomed the patriarch.

Among the obstacles that authorities accountable to you have devised to hinder the positive development of Russian-Ukrainian relations is the provocation, unprecedented in the entire post-Soviet space, by expelling two of our diplomatic representatives from Ukraine without any justification. This attack – that incidentally, immediately preceded the patriarch's visit – conveys the essence of the current Ukrainian authorities' approach to relations with Russia. Naturally, we could not but retaliate to this unfriendly measure.

I would like to inform you that in view of the anti-Russian position of the current Ukrainian authorities I have decided to postpone sending a new Russian ambassador to Ukraine. Specific date will be determined later in light of the future development of Russian-Ukrainian relations.

For Russia, from time immemorial

Ukrainians have been and remain not just neighbors, but also a fraternal people for whom we will always cherish the very best feelings, with whom we share a common history, culture and religion, ties stemming from close economic cooperation, and strong kinship and human relations.

I am convinced that the leadership of Russia and Ukraine is obliged to cherish these neighborly feelings, this wealth that is also our common competitive advantage in a globalizing world. The challenge of responsible public figures is to resist the temptation to artificially divide our peoples for any geopolitical projects or political machinations, but rather safe-

guard the friendship between Ukrainians and Russians in every possible way, strengthen the foundations of our cooperation for the mutual benefit and prosperity of our countries. It is unacceptable to subject centuries-old relations to such serious tests for the sake of short-term developments, thereby encouraging younger generations to harbor a mutual grudge by playing with nationalist complexes.

In Russia we hope that the new political leadership of Ukraine will be ready to build relations between our countries that correspond to the genuine aspirations of our peoples and help strengthen European security.

Medvedev's speech on relations between Russia and Ukraine

Following is the text of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's speech "Relations between Russia and Ukraine: A New Era Must Begin," which was delivered on August 11. The text below is from the Official Web Portal of the President of Russia. (<http://www.kremlin.ru/eng/>), which also contains a video of the speech.

A few days ago, I sent a letter to the President of Ukraine. It was not an ordinary document, I should say, as it contains a number of complex and unflattering characteristics of the actions by the top political leadership of Ukraine. In my today's address I would like to explain the reasons behind my step.

There has been public concern in both Ukraine and Russia of late over the state of our bilateral relations. Ukrainian politicians themselves have admitted that relations are at an extremely low point today, and it is hard not to agree. The strain in relations between our countries has indeed hit unprecedented levels.

I have on many occasions stated that Russia seeks to be a predictable, strong and comfortable partner for its neighbors, all the more so for a country with which we share common historical and cultural roots. We are more than just neighbors; our ties are those of brothers.

Nikolai Gogol, the great writer and son of both Ukrainian and Russian peoples, said, "There are no bonds more sacred than the bonds of brotherhood." As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Gogol's birth, we remember these words once again. These celebrations are yet another vivid illustration of our peoples' spiritual closeness.

Set against this background, the difficult – to say the least – relations our countries have been experiencing make an even stronger contrast. Let's take a look at what is actually happening.

The leadership in Kiev [sic] took an openly anti-Russian stand following the military attack launched by the Saakashvili regime against South Ossetia. Ukrainian weapons were used to kill civilians and Russian peacekeepers. Russia continues to experience problems caused by a policy aimed at obstructing the operations of its Black Sea Fleet, and this on a daily basis and in violation of the basic agreements between our countries. Sadly, the campaign continues to oust the Russian language from the Ukrainian media, the education, culture and science. The Ukrainian leadership's outwardly smooth-flowing rhetoric fits ill with the overt distortion of complex and difficult episodes in our common history, the

tragic events of the great famine in the Soviet Union, and an interpretation of the Great Patriotic War as some kind of confrontation between two totalitarian systems.

Our economic relations are in a somewhat better situation and are developing, but we have not yet succeeded in tapping their full potential. Again, the problem is that Russian companies frequently face open resistance from the Ukrainian authorities. Bypassing Russia, Ukraine's political leaders do deals with the European Union on supplying gas – gas from Russia – and sign a document that completely contradicts the Russian-Ukrainian agreements reached in January this year.

But no matter what the complexes or illusions motivate the actions of individual Ukrainian officials, we will always value our fraternal ties with the Ukrainian people and will strive to strengthen our humanitarian cooperation. It is with this aim in mind that we plan to open branches of the Russian Science and Culture Center in several Ukrainian cities and will do all we can to support Ukrainians living in our country in their efforts to develop their national culture.

Patriarch Kirill's recent pastoral visit to Ukraine was also an event of great significance. I had a meeting with the patriarch following the visit, and he shared his impressions and said many cordial words. We both are of one and the same opinion that the two fraternal peoples may not be separated as they share common historical and spiritual heritage.

I am confident that our relations with Ukraine's people will overcome any problems. They cannot be destroyed by politicians' selfish interests, fickle changes in the global situation, or individual leaders' mistakes, and all the more so, cannot be undone by empty words and pseudo-historic research.

I am certain that a new era will begin. Nevertheless, in the current situation, I have made a decision to refrain from sending the Russian ambassador to Ukraine. The new ambassador will commence his duties at a later stage, and naming the exact date for it will depend on the positive dynamics in bilateral relations.

There can be no doubt that the multifaceted ties between Russia and Ukraine will resume on a fundamentally different level – that of strategic partnership – and this moment will not be long in coming. I hope that the new leadership of Ukraine will be ready for the breakthrough. We will in turn make our best for it to happen.

COMMENTARY

Dmitry Medvedev's disinformation blog

by Roman Kupchinsky
Jamestown Foundation

The Kremlin never fails to astonish its worldwide audience.

In what can best be described as an open letter to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko posted on the Russian President's website on August 11, Dmitri Medvedev took the proverbial gloves off and lashed out at the democratically elected Ukrainian President.

The pretext of his letter was a directive he signed that day postponing the appointment of a new Russian ambassador to Ukraine.

By publicizing his private communication on his website and his video blog Mr. Medvedev turned what should have been a civil debate on differing views between him and Mr. Yushchenko on the nature of the Ukrainian-Russian relationship, into a new confrontation.

The Russian president did everything in his power to popularize his views in

order to turn them into an instrument of anti-Ukrainian and anti-Western propaganda and prolong the ongoing anti-Ukrainian campaign that began in 2004.

The Kremlin's disinformation campaign that the Ukrainian Orange Revolution in 2004 was not a popular one, but was funded and organized by the government of the United States, remains alive and well in the imagination of many Russians. "Democratically elected" is a term which is still widely misunderstood on the streets of Russia.

The letter to Mr. Yushchenko appears to have been carefully crafted by the Kremlin's spin-doctors in order to incite an anti-Ukrainian backlash among the Russian folk. Mr. Medvedev's letter includes denunciations of Ukraine's support of Georgia during last year's Russian invasion of that country; Ukraine's continued efforts to join NATO; and attempts to diversify gas supplies – denouncing

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Providence Association announces merger with Ukrainian Fraternal Association

The press release below was issued by the Providence Association and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association and was published in their respective newspapers, America and Narodna Volya.

PHILADELPHIA – On June 17 the Providence Association (Providence) and The Ukrainian Fraternal Association (UFA) signed a historic merger agreement that results in a fraternal benefit and life insurance society composed of nearly 19,000 members, over \$50 million of life insurance in force and assets of over \$21 million.

The governing bodies of both entities mutually concluded that combining the two societies into a common effort will help: to provide greater financial security to all of the members, especially in these turbulent economic times; to preserve the societies' and their members' common cultural and ethnic heritage; and to foster and to promote their fraternal missions within the Ukrainian American community at large.

The UFA's members and the chapters (branches) into which they have traditionally organized themselves will now participate and be a significant part of Providence's strategic growth and marketing plans. They will also be able to take advantage of a more diverse portfolio of insurance products, including annuity savings certificates, IRA annuities, higher available policy limits and a premium structure tailored to the 2001 CSO mortality table.

Equally important to both societies were the benefits of streamlined operations and a growth in the number of active lodges, fraternal officers, and professional and frater-

nal agents and counselors. The integration of the societies' newspaper and other periodical operations will enhance overall circulation and more efficiently disseminate news that is important to the Ukrainian American community.

Although the surviving charter, by-laws and governing bodies will be Providence's, it is important to note that the merger agreement, at the grass-roots level, will preserve UFA's active branches, branch sales, and other branch officers and branch representatives. The integration will lead to greater growth, strength and stability at all levels.

The Providence Association will assume all of the UFA's life insurance certificates (policies) and will honor and preserve all of the obligations and responsibilities to the UFA membership. Providence will also honor all current Narodna Volya subscriptions with issues of the America newspaper. The certificate (policy) obligations will be reserved and guaranteed with the entire claims paying ability of the merged entity. The merger will have no effect whatsoever on Providence life insurance or annuity certificates (policies).

The merger agreement also creates a five-member Advisory Council to Providence's governing body known as a General Assembly. The UFA has already appointed these five people. Providence has also committed to a celebration of the UFA's 100th anniversary in the year 2010, even as it prepares to celebrate its own centennial in the year 2012.

The full text of the agreement of merger appears is also available on-line on Providence's website, www.provassn.com.

More on the merger agreement

The Agreement of Merger between the Ukrainian Fraternal Association and the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics published in Narodna Volya on June 30 provides more details beyond that given in the official press release issued by the two fraternal organizations. Below are some highlights of the agreement, which was signed on June 17 by Bishop John Bura and Eryna Cvikula Korchytsky of Providence and Jaroslaw Gawur and Christina Shablovsky of the UFA.

- 1.1 UFA shall merge into Providence, resulting in a single fraternal benefit society (the "merger") with the surviving entity to be known as the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America (the "surviving society"). The surviving society shall continue to operate under Providence's existing Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-laws. UFA shall no longer exist as a separate legal entity, but as a division of Providence as set forth in this agreement.

- 2.4 After the effective date of the merger, in order to honor and preserve the history and traditions of UFA as a fraternal benefit society and to enable its centennial celebration, Providence shall commit for a period of time through the end of 2010, or longer at the discretion of Providence to:

- Establish the Ukrainian Fraternal Association Division of the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America;

- Appoint from the membership of the UFA a three-member advisory committee or panel of Providence's General Assembly, in accordance with Providence's By-laws, for a period of time through the end of 2010; and

- Undertake the centennial celebration of UFA in 2010 in accordance with the outline of events and budget set forth in Exhibit "B." [Editor's note: Exhibit "B" provides for a budget not exceeding \$20,000 to cover publication of a double issue of the Forum magazine to commemorate the UFA centennial, and, if funds allow, a 100th anniversary banquet.]

In the "Addendum to that Certain Agreement of Merger" (signed on June 17), it is further agreed that:

- All Narodna Volya newspaper [the official publication of the UFA] subscribers will automatically receive the America newspaper [the official publication of Providence] for the duration of time as the subscription monies in the subscriber's account allow. At that point, in due course, Providence will offer all Narodna Volya subscribers and opportunity to continue their subscriptions to American at the then obtaining rates.

- Providence accepts and appoints the five-member advisory committee that the UFA elected to serve as the committee referenced in Paragraph 5 of this Addendum: Orysia Dail, Christina Shablovsky, Stephen Kostecki, Paul Ewasko and Mykola Bojczuk.

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: July

Amount	Name	City			
\$250.00	Plast Tabir Ptashat Soyuzivka	Kerhonkson, NY		Myron Groch	Fonthill, ON
\$100.00	Anya and Jurij Petrenko	Ashton, MD		Anatol Grynewytsch	Newport News, VA
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TOTAL: \$2,245.00

*Sincere thanks to all contributors to
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Ukrainian elite urges West to cooperate with Kyiv

RFE/RL

KYIV – A group of Ukrainian intellectuals has sent an open letter to leaders of the European Union and the United States urging them to develop greater cooperation with Ukraine, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reports.

The letter says Ukrainian intellectuals want to see their country as an "important and rightful member" of the world's democratic community and Europe.

They say that the security of Europe and Euro-Atlantic space is not possible without Ukraine being secure and, therefore, understand that the EU's Eastern Partnership program is an important tool for modernization of Ukraine and other countries involved.

One of the signatories, Ukrainian writer and scholar Mykola Ryabchuk, told RFE/RL that NATO and partnership with Europe should not be considered as a threat to Eastern European countries, including Ukraine.

As of July 28, the letter was signed by 79 Ukrainians, including writer Yuriy Andrukhovych, former National Security and Defense Council Secretary Volodymyr Horbulin, human rights activist Yevhen Zakharov, poet and publisher Ivan Malkovych, and former political prisoner Vasyl Ovsienko.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

SEEN AT SOYUZIVKA



The second session of "Tabir Ptashat," held on July 5-11 at Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian heritage center of the Ukrainian National Association, attracted 58 campers. Above, the campers are seen doing arts and crafts and during a game. Below, the campers and counselors of this Plast day camp for preschoolers are seen in a group photo. The camp director for the second session of Tabir Ptashat was Roman Ponos, while Oksana Isajiw served as administrator. The camp – which this year marked the 20th anniversary of its founding – is organized by the Perzhi Stezhi sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. The sorority's Tabir Ptashat Committee functions under the leadership of Neonila Sochan, chair, and Oresta Fedyniak, head administrator.



Alexander Pikas

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Young UNA'ers



Markian Fil, son of Peter and Adrienne Fil of Latham, N.Y., is a new member of UNA Branch 13. He was enrolled by his grandparents Nicholas and Maria Fil. The new UNA'er's grandfather is an advisor on the UNA General Assembly.



Ella Olena Bodnarskyj has joined her sister, Nina Marie, as a member of UNA Branch 360. The girls are daughters of Roman and Rachel Bodnarskyj of Darien Center, N.Y. Ella was enrolled by her grandmother Maria Bodnarskyj.



Solomia and Zoriana Sonevtsky, daughters of Markian and Jessica Sonevtsky of Metuchen, N.J., are new members of UNA Branch 25. They were enrolled by their grandmother Natalka Sonevtsky.



Call the UNA Home Office, 973-292-9800, to find out how to enroll your Young UNA'er!

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Russia flexes its muscles

It seemed that Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill had just completed his "pastoral" visit to Ukraine (which was going to be the topic of this week's editorial), when Russian President Dmitry Medvedev fired his twin salvos at Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko: the first an open letter to the Ukrainian president and the second a videotaped speech on his website that was clearly aimed at reaching the people of Ukraine and the worldwide community.

Mr. Medvedev accused his Ukrainian counterpart of "anti-Russian" policies and said Ukrainian leaders had violated "the principles of friendship and partnership with Russia." He charged that Kyiv was supplying arms to Georgian forces during the Russo-Georgian war, had bypassed Russia in an energy agreement with the European Union, was creating problems for Russia's Black Sea Fleet stationed on Ukrainian territory, was driving the Russian language out of Ukraine and was rewriting history to the detriment of Russia. And that's only a sampling. (The English-language texts of both the open letter and the videotaped speech appear on page 3 of this issue. Mr. Yushchenko's response, which was released on August 13, was not available in English as of press time.)

In a highly aggressive and demeaning tone, Mr. Medvedev castigated Mr. Yushchenko for his administration's stance on NATO. "Ignoring the views of Ukrainian citizens as well as Russia's well-known position, the political leadership of Ukraine stubbornly continues to pursue accession to NATO," he wrote in his open letter. And he pooh-poohed notions of a "Russian threat," which "as you are well aware, does not and cannot exist."

"In Russia we hope that the new political leadership of Ukraine will be ready to build relations between our countries that correspond to the genuine aspirations of our peoples and help strengthen European security," the Russian president wrote. He concluded his videotaped address – titled "Relations between Russia and Ukraine: A New Era Must Begin" – with the words: "There can be no doubt that the multifaceted ties between Russia and Ukraine will resume on a fundamentally different level – that of strategic partnership – and this moment will not be long in coming. I hope that the new leadership of Ukraine will be ready for the breakthrough. We will in turn make our best for it to happen."

Clearly, Russia once again is asserting its "special interest" in neighboring Ukraine. And, it is doing so only three weeks after the visit to Kyiv of U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden and just weeks before the official campaign opens for Ukraine's presidential election of January 17, 2010. As Reuters put it: the Russian president has "waded into neighboring Ukraine's presidential election campaign."

However, there might be even more at stake.

One of Ukraine's former ambassadors to the U.S., the highly regarded Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, was quoted as warning that Moscow might be considering an invasion of Ukraine, home to a large Russian and Russian-speaking minority, in order to partition its territory. Readers and observers worldwide will recall that it was exactly a year ago in August that Russia sent its troops onto Georgian territory.

Alexander Dugin, leader of the extreme right Eurasian Movement, said the Medvedev letter was actually a declaration of war against the United States on the entire post-Soviet space. He also said that Crimea and eastern Ukraine could be Russia's next targets and spoke of a "Georgian scenario" in Ukraine.

Apparently President Medvedev has decided to flex his muscles and put Ukraine in its place.

What would make Russia happy in its bilateral relations with Ukraine? It's quite simple, really: a president who is a puppet of the Kremlin, a government that won't make a move without consulting "neighborly" Russia, an administration that is grateful for Moscow's guiding hand, a nation that doesn't know and/or doesn't care about its past, and a people willing to disappear into a great Russian melting pot.

However, President Yushchenko, in a measured and thorough response to his Russian counterpart, underscored that "Ukraine continues to remain an advocate of broad cooperation with the Russian Federation on the basis of mutual respect, equal rights and via constructive dialogue, including on the highest level."

Insulting and degrading letters in which one president publicly attacks another do not fit that scenario. Mr. Medvedev's pronouncements this past week can only be seen, to use the words of Vira Ulianchenko, chair of Our Ukraine's political council, as evidence that the "Russian leadership is turning into a hostage of old imperial complexes."

COMMENTARY

Why some Russians are ready to acquire Ukrainian citizenship

by Paul Goble

Patriarch Kirill's suggestion that he is ready to acquire dual citizenship in Ukraine has prompted activists of the Russian National-Democratic Movement (RNDM), a nationalist but not statist group, to conduct a survey in regions of the Russian Federation bordering Ukraine on whether they would like to take Ukrainian citizenship.

While many writers have discussed whether Ukrainian citizens might like to take Russian citizenship, this is one of the very few efforts to determine how Russian citizens might feel about moving in the opposite direction. And while the number of people polled is too small to be reliable, the reasons the activists suggested they might have for doing so are intriguing.

According to RNDM, there are eight reasons "why [ethnic] Russian people might express a desire to receive Ukrainian citizenship. First, the movement says, the population of Ukraine is far more uniformly Slavic than that of the Russian Federation, thus allowing "ethnic Russians to feel comfortable (www.anvictory.org/index.php?name=pages&op=view&id=420).

While in the Russian Federation, "peaceful and unarmed Slavic indigenous residents" are frequently attacked by "armed bands" from the Caucasus, thus creating what might be called "an inter-ethnic war," "in Ukraine, there has been only one case of such an attack," the RNDM activists say.

Second, in Ukraine but not in the Russian Federation, religious organizations can register "freely." Many religious groups, including Old Believers, find it difficult if not impossible to conduct their affairs in Russia, but the same people, RNDM activists say, would have absolutely no problem if they were in Ukraine.

Third, the Ukrainian government, unlike the Russian one, is not against the titular nationality. No senior Ukrainian official, the activists say, would permit himself to suggest that "Ukraine is not for Ukrainians," while nearly all senior Russian Federation officials are appalled by any suggestion that "Russia is for the Russians."

Moreover, the RNDM activists note, Ukraine lacks an article in its Criminal Code like Paragraph 282 under the terms of which Russian Federation officials routinely seek to suppress those of their oppo-

nents who Moscow portrays as "extremist" or interested in "exacerbating" relations among ethnic and religious groups.

Fourth, the site continues, "conditions of service in the [Ukrainian] army are much more tolerable" than those in the Russian military. In Ukraine, RNDM says, there are "practically no cases of suicide or deaths of those in uniform."

Fifth, "the conditions for conducting a business [in Ukraine] are more civilized" than they are in Russia. In Russia, the RNDM says, "it is impossible to conduct a legal business" because businessmen must pay off "bandit structures which consist to a large extent of the workers of the MVD, the FSB and the senior officials of the Russian government."

Sixth, the level of crime is much lower in Ukraine than it is in Russia.

Seventh, medical care is "much more accessible."

And eighth, according to the RNDM activists, Ukrainian men currently live longer, an average of 62 years, compared to their Russian counterparts who now die on average at 59.

The article on the ANVictory.ru website reporting these conclusions also features a discussion of ethnic Ukrainians in Russia, a group Moscow says numbers fewer than 3 million but one that may be three times as large not only in the regions adjoining Ukraine itself but also in the Far East, a region Ukrainians call the "Zelenyi Klyn" or "Green Triangle."

After providing a brief history of how these Ukrainian communities arose on the territory of what is now the Russian Federation, the site points out Russian officials have done everything they can to force the Ukrainians to give up their language and national identity and become Russians ethnically as well as politically.

At present, it suggests, Ukrainian has been reduced to the status of "rare languages" by Russian state policy. "There are only a few Ukrainian language schools in the Russian Federation now (in Moscow, Belgorod oblast and Krasnodar kray) and only a single library of Ukrainian literature in Moscow."

The staff of that library, ANVictory.ru continues, has been subject to persecution not only for "propagandizing Ukrainian language and culture" but also "for several letters [they have written] to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the president of Ukraine."

Moreover, as Ukrainian scholars have pointed out, Russian textbooks present a highly distorted image of the history of Ukraine, one far more problematic than the distortions in Russian history by Ukrainians and others that Russian scholars, commentators and propagandists routinely complain about.

As a result, many ethnic Ukrainians in the Russian Federation also have an interest in taking Ukrainian citizenship in order to be in a position to return to their homeland – a trend very different than most analysts have assumed and yet another way in which Patriarch Kirill's recent remarks are likely to have unintended consequences in Russia.

Paul Goble is a lecturer at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy in Baku. He is a long-time specialist on ethnic and religious questions in Eurasia who has served in various capacities in the U.S. State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the International Broadcasting Bureau, as well as at the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Mr. Goble writes a blog called "Window on Eurasia" (<http://windowoneurasia.blogspot.com/>). This article above is reprinted with permission.

August
19
2008

Turning the pages back...

Last year, on August 19, 2008, the North Atlantic Council (NAC) of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held a special session of 26 foreign affairs ministers in Brussels 11 days into Russia's invasion of Georgia.

The participating ministers hoped that the meeting would take place during Russia's withdrawal of its troops. To the dismay of the ministers, it became clear that Russia did not have the intention of leaving Georgia anytime soon. Their meeting focused on the French-brokered ceasefire agreement that called for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgia's interior.

The text of the Franco-Russian armistice treaty urged prompt, good-faith implementation of the ceasefire, politely ignoring its loopholes. In an official statement, NATO clearly endorsed Georgia's territorial integrity, which the ceasefire agreement cast aside.

"We have resolved that we cannot continue business as usual [with Russia]. We call on Moscow to demonstrate both in word and in deed its continued commitment to the principles upon which we have agreed to base our relationship," the alliance stated.

The statement from the meeting did not indicate the principles in question or how the alli-

(Continued on page 17)

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association. Letters should be typed and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at staff@ukrweekly.com.

NEWS AND VIEWS

The Russification of Yatsenyuk's presidential election campaign

by Taras Kuzio

Just as U.S. President Barack Obama was landing in Moscow for an important visit to "re-set" the button in U.S.-Russian relations, pro-ua.com (July 3) and Ukrayinska Pravda (July 6) published similar investigative reports into the Russification of political technologists running Arseniy Yatsenyuk's election campaign. Although Mr. Yatsenyuk told ICTV on July 6 that "I have never worked with political technologists," this was obviously untrue.

Ukrainian political technologists headed by Prof. Rostyslav Pavlenko of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA) have been forced out. Prof. Pavlenko is a protégée of well-known NUKMA Prof. Olexiy Haran and worked as head of the analytical service in the Presidential Secretariat in 2005-2007. This writer knew him when he worked on Viktor Yushchenko's 2004 election campaign and we spoke together at a conference on Ukraine in Vienna that year. Prof. Pavlenko has returned to the Presidential Secretariat.

Mr. Pavlenko's first foray into election consultancy was working in 2002 for the Winter Crop Generation (KOP), the first political project financed by Victor Pinchuk with the aim of taking votes away from Mr. Yushchenko's newly established Our Ukraine.

Two leading figures in KOP were Valerii Khoroshkovskiy, an ally of Inter and RosUkrEnerg owner Dmytro Firtash, and Inna Bohoslovska, a fierce critic of Yulia Tymoshenko who was elected to Parliament in 2007 by the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU). In the 2006 elections Mr. Bohoslovska had campaigned in a second failed Pinchuk project, Viche. Last month Mr. Bohoslovska resigned from the PRU although she refused to resign her seat, which she had won by being on the party's closed list, not as an individual candidate.

Pro-ua.com reported that, "Now the entire Mr. Yatsenyuk campaign is being undertaken under the leadership of Russians who control the flow of every dollar in the headquarters." The headquarters of the Front for Change is in the Kyiv district of Podil with the Front occupying the fourth floor of a building and the Russian technologists occupying the fifth.

The most striking revelation is that the candidate with the allegedly "new face" of the "younger generation" is neither a new face nor representative of young Ukrainians. In fact, the Russification of the Yatsenyuk election campaign shows to what degree he has not learned lessons from Ukraine's past.

Of the three main presidential candidates – Ms. Tymoshenko, Viktor Yanukovich and Mr. Yatsenyuk, only the latter is using Russian political technologists. Mr. Yanukovich and the PRU changed their Russian political technologists for Americans in autumn 2005. The Tymoshenko bloc, Mr. Yushchenko and Our Ukraine have always used Western political consultants.

The Russian political technologists heading the Yatsenyuk campaign produced the black propaganda of Mr. Yanukovich's 2004 campaign, such as alleging that Mr. Yushchenko believed Ukrainians were

divided into "three types." One of the leaders of the Russian group of consultants is Vladimir Granovsky, who worked in the underground Mr. Yanukovich campaign in 2004 headed by Andrii Kluyev, which produced grotesque black propaganda and dirty tricks. Mr. Granovsky is thought to be behind the idea of Ukraine divided into "three types" that was used in the anti-Yushchenko posters.

Using Russian political technologists casts a negative shadow over Mr. Yatsenyuk. Although he is often seen as Mr. Yushchenko's protégée, Mr. Yatsenyuk he would not seem to hold the same emotional and ideological connections to the Orange Revolution.

Messrs. Yushchenko and Yatsenyuk are in fact cut from the same cloth as both are very reluctant revolutionaries. If Mr. Yushchenko had not been removed as prime minister in April 2001, he would have faithfully served President Leonid Kuchma to the end of his term, even seeking to be endorsed by Kuchma as his "successor." Mr. Yushchenko described his relationship with Mr. Kuchma as akin to in a bizarre manner as like "father and son."

Throughout the anti-Kuchma protests of 2000-2003 Mr. Yushchenko either condemned them (as in the famous February 2001 open letter signed with Mr. Kuchma and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Plushch). Or, he wavered between supporting the protests and negotiating a deal with Mr. Kuchma whereby Mr. Yushchenko would return as prime minister.

Mr. Yushchenko's hesitancy as a "revolutionary" has been clear throughout his presidency. Mr. Yatsenyuk's similar disposition and career background would indicate that he would be little different if he were to be elected president. Certainly he would be no "revolutionary" seeking "change," and most definitely no "Ukrainian Obama." A Ukrainian media consultant told me, "I do not like him. He is an empty vessel. Of course he will lose."

Pro-ua.com reported that attempts by Mr. Yatsenyuk to imitate Barack Obama's election campaign, such as seeking donations from below via the Internet, have failed and has been closed down. The influence of Russian political technologists have been seen in the billboards now seen throughout Kyiv that have been heavily criticized by Ukrainian election and advertising specialists. Pro-ua.com wondered if the Russian political technologists "either do not believe in his victory or else do not want a full-scale campaign and, therefore, a Yatsenyuk victory."

The Russification of the Yatsenyuk election campaign sheds light on two other factors.

Firstly, Mr. Pinchuk is now the largest contributor to the campaign. According to pro-ua.com and Ukrayinska Pravda, Mr. Pinchuk was behind the Russification of the Yatsenyuk campaign.

In addition to Mr. Pinchuk's financial largesse, Mr. Yatsenyuk has received a large amount of free television time on Ukraine's most popular television channel, Inter. Mr. Granovsky is a member of Inter's ruling board of directors and an influential "ideologue" on the channel.

Inter channel owner Mr. Firtash, who is one of the owners of the corrupt RosUkrEnerg gas intermediary, has provided indirect support to Mr. Yatsenyuk through the provision of costly free access to Inter. Mr. Pinchuk's finances and Mr.

CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

An old immigrant

As he told the story later, it had all started with an argument about taking grain to the miller. Ambrose lost his temper. He decided to leave home. At least that was what he told me in his Galician country dialect, peppered with Americanisms, during the steamy New Jersey summer of 1965, sitting in the apartment that he shared with his wife and invalid son above the Van Houten Bakery in Clifton.

But when his granddaughter interviewed him (in English) six years later, he told a somewhat different story. After his father, a cobbler, had died in a fall from a horse, his widow and nine children fell on hard times. Ambrose often went hungry. He quit school after six years and went to work in a bakery. "Always plenty food there," he reasoned. Soon he was bringing bread home to the family. But then he heard about America – "rich country, plenty work and good place to make money." And so he decided to leave. His mother gave him some cash and provisions for the trip. His elder brother Tomko, who had attended university and was embarking on a legal career, paid his passage.

The town he left behind was called Komarno. Situated on the river Vereshytia just southwest of Lviv, it had a population of around 5,500, comprising over 2,000 Jews, some 2,000 Greek-Catholic Ruthenians (Ukrainians), and about 1,000 Poles (see "Komarno i Rudky ta Okolytsia," New York, 1987, pp. 27-28). It was an important center of the Jewish Hasidic movement, home of the renowned "Komarno Rebbe" (1806-1874). Its inhabitants were known for their cunning, notably demonstrated when they helped Polish King Jan Sobieski defeat the Turks in 1672. Its swampy environs favored mosquitoes, whence its name.

Accompanied by an older relative and a local Pole, 17-year-old Ambrose made his way across Germany to Antwerp. They boarded the steamship Kroonland on August 4, 1906, arriving in New York 10 days later. According to the passenger list, he was Polish. He had \$10 in his pocket, and the address of a cousin in Philadelphia.

Ambrose worked in a bakery in Philadelphia, but was drawn to New York. With a friend he rented a room and started looking for a job. Before long he was penniless and so painfully hungry that he considered killing himself. Then he got a job sweeping floors, and then an opportunity to demonstrate his skill in a bakery in New Jersey. He must have worked hard and lived frugally, for in four years he had enough money to open his own business.

But first, he had to get married. So he returned to Komarno – "I was rich American now" – and in June 1910 married Katherine, a girl of nearly 18 with a full round face and classically proportioned features. Meanwhile, the family had been feuding over a piece of land. This was common, for the custom of dividing property among the children resulted in bitter contests over parcels barely sufficient to sustain a family. As Ambrose explained to me, the Jewish lawyers had an interest in perpetuating the dispute. He sat the family down at a table, brought out horilka and sausage, and bro-

kered a settlement. Then he returned with his wife to America.

The young couple opened a bakery in Garfield, N.J. They worked hard, opening at 5 a.m. for the workers on their way to the factory. When Ambrose made deliveries, he had to memorize the exteriors of his customers' houses because he couldn't read the street signs. They prospered: "Never have to starve again." He named his first son after the brother who had paid his way to America. Another son followed in his father's footsteps as a baker; a third left home at 17, eventually to become an Air Force officer. One daughter married a baker, the other a physician.

During the Depression, Ambrose bought two houses and a vacant lot in nearby Clifton, and built a new bakery on Van Houten Avenue. Often, when customers couldn't pay, he let them have the bread for free. Katherine scolded him, but secretly did the same.

After World War II, Ambrose brought his younger brother to America. Alex had fought for Ukrainian independence, then served as a judge in Poland. But World War II left him a refugee and common laborer in Vienna. He arrived in Clifton with his family in March 1947. Ambrose welcomed him, but expected to get his money back. The former judge went to work in a confectionery plant.

At some point Ambrose, who was baptized a Greek-Catholic, had joined the Russian Orthodox Church. There were, in fact, two Russian Orthodox parishes in neighboring Passaic. Both had been founded in the 1890s by Greek-Catholic immigrants from Galicia (Halychyna), Transcarpathia (Zakarpattia), and the Lemko region (Lenkivschyna). They soon accepted the authority of the Russian bishop. At first, they were called "Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic," perhaps to smooth the transition. But both eventually joined the Moscow Patriarchate, where they remain to this day. There was, to be sure, a Greek-Catholic church in Passaic as well. But it was rumored that Ambrose had quarreled with the priest. In any case, like most western Ukrainians of his time, Ambrose called himself a "Rusyn." To many, that translated into English as "Russian."

Ambrose died in America's bicentennial year. His progeny are scattered throughout the country. They may have some notion of their Ukrainian roots, but they are basically Americans. Should we condemn Ambrose for not having been more like us? His mentality was more typical of the old Ruthenian immigration, of American immigrants in general and, in some ways, of today's millions of desperate global migrants.

Some five years before his death, his granddaughter had asked Ambrose whether he had had a happy life. "Yeah, OK," he replied. "Work plenty. Build nice house. Raise nice family. Now have nice grandchildren. Mama, she good woman. Work hard in business with me."

It is an honorable epitaph.

Andrew Sorokowski can be reached at samboritanus@hotmail.com.

Dr. Taras Kuzio is a research associate and former visiting professor at the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, George Washington University, and a senior research fellow at the Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Toronto.

(Continued on page 22)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Little League baseball in Ukraine

Dear Editor:

The 10th Ukraine Little League Baseball Championships for children age 11-12 was held in Rivne, the first time this championship was held in western Ukraine. It was a pleasure hearing the Ukrainian language everywhere, especially from the ball players, the future of Ukraine. I was in Ukraine for the championships – on trip No. 53 as a volunteer.

I was very impressed with the local Rivne Little League organization, which arranged for housing, meals and a cultural program for six all-star teams. All-star teams arriving on June 17 were from Lviv, Kirovohrad, Donetsk, Symferopol, Cherkassy (the first time for a team from that city) and the host city, Rivne. Teams were grouped by three.

Seventy children participated, including one young lady from Donetsk. There were a total of 11 games played. After the games each day, skills competitions were held. One day I held the pitching accuracy contest in which each player threw six pitches at a strike zone. Another day each player ran 180 feet against the stopwatch. On another day the city of Rivne arranged for a free trip to the local zoo. The most popular activity was the Saturday lottery, where each player was guaranteed a prize or two, ranging from a T-shirt to a set of catcher's gear. There were smiles all around on the young faces of the players.

The final game pitted Kirovohrad against Symferopol on Sunday, June 21. Both pitchers dominated early with no score until the fourth inning when Kirovohrad led off with a triple and scored on a ground out to short.

In the fifth inning Kirovohrad added three runs to lead 4-0 until Symferopol mounted a comeback with two runs, but left the tying runs on in the final inning. So close.

Final score: Kirovohrad 4 - Symferopol 2. This allowed Kirovohrad to represent Ukraine at the European Regional Championships beginning on August 8 in Kutno, Poland. Good luck to our Ukrainian young men. If the unexpected occurs and Kirovohrad wins the regional, then off they will go to Williamsport, Pa., for the Little League World Series beginning on August 17. All will be invited to root our boys on.

I'd like to sincerely thank the lead sponsor of the 10th annual Ukraine Little League Championships, the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, as well as President Bohdan Kurczak and the board of directors, for their continued financial support of my work with the children of Ukraine.

Other contributors were Ukraine's Ministry of Sports, George Logush, CEO of Kraft-Ukraine, Leonid Rybachok, director of Chervona Kalyna mineral water, and the city of Rivne. Thank you all for helping me help the children in Ukraine.

Basil P. Tarasko
Bayside, N.Y.

The letter-writer is district administrator of the Little Leagues in Ukraine. For more information readers may log on to www.ukrainebaseball.org.

Poltava events: debasing spectacle

Dear Editor:

As a long-time reader of The Ukrainian

Weekly, I have encountered some strange, thought-provoking articles through the years, but Zenon Zawada's "Battle of Poltava recalled on its 300th anniversary" (July 19) compels me to respond.

Personally, I am absolutely opposed to celebrating our greatest catastrophe as though it were a national holiday. Let alone celebrate it with our worst enemies – the cause of this tragedy. Having said that, I wholeheartedly support the idea of commemorating this event on a national level, with church services and prayers offered for our fallen heroes and those of their allies. This should be an occasion to make our youth aware of the true meaning of Poltava and long-suppressed and distorted facts about who Hetman Ivan Mazepa really was and what he stood for, to at long last elevate him to his rightful status as one of Ukraine's greatest statesmen.

This is where I start to have a problem with the commemorations. For starters, I had difficulty determining who the object of the festivities was – Hetman Mazepa et al, or ex-Ambassador Viktor Chernomyrdin. I also feel that referring to the Muscovite tsar as Peter the Great was a bit much and at least on this occasion inappropriate. Tsar Peter or Peter I would do just nicely. While we are on the subject, I was always under the impression that the Kozaks and Swedes were fighting the Muscovites, not the Russians, for the simple reason that the name change occurred later, around 1720 or so. (It's kind of like writing that the cowboys were fighting Native Americans. Same thing but different.)

In my opinion the only positive side of the article is that in presenting this sorry, debasing spectacle, this utter lack of self-respect and dignity, we should all be filled with resolve to do everything in our power to always stand up for what's ours and to never be intimidated into feeling inferior. Only then can we aspire to become a true nation with respect for each other while earning the respect of others.

Oleksander Terleckyj
Port Charlotte, Fla.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Numerous sources indicate that the term "Russia" was used well before 1720. In fact, the Encyclopedia of Ukraine (University of Toronto Press) says that the Battle of Poltava was "the turning point in the Great Northern War between Sweden and Russia" (not Muscovy).

What kind of America will it be?

Dear Editor:

In his June 28 column, Dr. Myron Kuropas stated incontrovertible facts about the current president's personal history, which created a maelstrom of defensive responses.

If Dr. Kuropas had enumerated some of the policies that the Obama administration has attempted to, or in some cases, has already inflicted upon the American people, perhaps the similarities to the former Soviet Union would be a startling revelation to some misinformed readers.

Among those policies are: a state-controlled auto industry; coercing networks to pre-empt shows in lucrative prime time slots in order to run press conferences wherein the president attempts to enamor the public into his partisan policies; income redistribution and salary caps; firing CEOs in the private sector; union card

check (open ballot voting); bank take-overs; government-controlled universal healthcare (government officials exempt from participation); instructing proponents of the healthcare program to report dissenting bloggers to the White House; orchestrating invitation-only town hall meetings stacked with union campaign supporters and paid operatives where only pre-approved questions may be asked; using union members to intimidate peaceful opposition to the administration's health care program; appointing more czars reporting directly to the president than the entire Russian empire had in 100 years.

Do these policies represent a democracy or a socialist totalitarian state? What kind of America will it be, indeed?

Stefa Charczenko
New York

Take on Obama is dead wrong

Dear Editor:

For years I have avoided commenting about U.S. domestic politics. Dr. Myron Kuropas, a highly esteemed community leader, who once worked in the White House, does so frequently, and at times with great insight.

However, his take on the Obama presidency (June 28) is not only premature; it is evil and dead wrong. It has no relevance to the administration's policy toward Ukraine, which he haphazardly weaved into his column so it would be read by Ukrainian Americans and help turn them again the administration.

The former high school principal from Chicago, who served a stint in the White House advising the president on ethnic groups, tore into President Barack Obama with a viciousness rarely seen outside of the lunatic ravings of the Republican far right.

Charges that Mr. Obama's father's had alleged and unproven connections to the Mau Mau, and about Obama's so called "socialism" (why then did he rescue the capitalist banking system in America and bail out capitalist companies such as GM and Chrysler – which were almost destroyed by the pro-capitalist policies of President George W. Bush?) are all part of the last gasps of a discredited ideology.

Dr. Kuropas' opinion that Obama believes America is a "diseased depraved nation in need of major surgery" is far off base. Was the war in Iraq really rational? Did any of America's allies really support Gitmo prison, and was waterboarding legal? Might it have indeed been depraved? Was torture in Iraqi prisons a lesson in democracy or was it a vital component in the war against terrorism – which we have not made much headway against? Read the latest news reports from Pakistan and Afghanistan about how the Taliban are doing.

Dr. Kuropas' outrageous charges and innuendos will only serve to discredit the Ukrainian American community in Chicago – and elsewhere.

This columnist's writings creates the illusion that the Ukrainian American community is a supporter of the Rush Limbaugh-Sarah Palin crowd of born-again reactionaries and thus are a great disservice to the Ukrainian community. And while he is entitled to a forum, does Dr. Kuropas really believe that he is the prophet of the Ukrainian American wing of the Republican Party?

Roman Kupchinsky
Arlington, Va.

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For Ukrainian satirist, irony is 'a way of overcoming gravity'

Dmytro Chekalkin is credited by many Ukrainians for tearing down the Soviet-era convention that humor and politics are a dangerous mix. Mr. Chekalkin, a former military interpreter and Ukrainian consul to Israel, first rose to satirical prominence during the 2004 presidential race that led to the Orange Revolution.

Perhaps his best-known project at the time was "Merry Eggs," a series of Internet cartoons featuring a pair of eggs singing satirical songs and exchanging jokes. Five years later, Mr. Chekalkin says Ukraine is still hungry for humor, even if the novelty of overtly political content has faded. He spoke to Irena Chalupa, the director of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service.

Is there a tradition of political satire in Ukraine?

During the years of Soviet rule in Ukraine you couldn't even mention political satire. Satire was in a very infantile stage then. There were some attempts at political satire, but it was only with the permission of the Communist Party.

Just this morning I was reading an interview with [Soviet-era Russian satirist] Mikhail Zhvanetsky. He was allowed to tackle difficult topics only because [Leonid] Brezhnev himself liked listening to his sketches. Everything was under complete control; the political elite controlled the level of permitted satire the way we control the volume on our radios. This was not free expression – it was something that was completely controlled from the top.

Roughly the same continued during the Kuchma era. The only Ukrainian newspaper which was allowed to print caricatures of Leonid Kuchma was the English-language Kyiv Post, whose American publisher sometimes would go into hiding, who was often not granted visas to enter Ukraine. Printing companies would regularly refuse to print his newspaper. I was the director of the Kyivske Viedomosti media holding and printed his newspaper

in our publishing house.

Real free satire came into being in 2004 when we started the "Merry Eggs" ("Veseli Yaytsia") project after Viktor Yanukovich was hit with an egg in the city of Ivano-Frankivsk and tumbled to the ground. This was perhaps an answer on the part of our developing civil society to the authorities, who were trying to push one single presidential candidate through.

I was particularly struck by some poll numbers that I came across then: 60 percent were ready to cast their votes for Viktor Yushchenko, but only 15 percent believed he would win. This was a very serious diagnosis for me, that people do not believe in their own strength, and the majority are in a state of apathy.

Humor is one of those things that can get rid of fear and apathy and we used this fully. Our puppets traveled with Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko during the 2004 presidential campaign and performed politically satirical songs in over 80 Ukrainian cities. During that time we received many responses from people all over Ukraine, who were grateful to have had an opportunity to smile and at the same time shed their fear and apathy.

[Eds: Chekalkin also ran a series in 2004 featuring a family whose family members each supported a different political force in Ukraine.]

Can satire do what other forms of expression, such as the printed word or cinema, cannot achieve?

I believe that irony and self-irony are the most appropriate form of interacting with our world; it's a way of overcoming gravity. Through laughter we not only get rid of our fears, but we also overcome our shortcomings. The sense of life is in finding the right way of laughing at your misfortunes and troubles. You know, they say that a smile is one of the most pleasant things that you can do with your lips.

You've been involved in political satire for some time now. Have you ever had any difficulty because of this? Have

you experienced any repression because of your satire projects?

Threats were made, but for the most part these were anonymous threats. Often word-of-mouth criticism reached me. Once my door was spattered with rotten eggs in 2004. Sometimes when we have meetings with political opponents in public places unpleasant exchanges can ensue, but thank God there have never been any direct threats made or carried out.

Ukraine is poised for another presidential election that is likely to see Viktor Yanukovich, Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko all squaring off against each other. What do you see as satirical fodder in this process, and who can be satirized effectively in this campaign?

Well, in fact they are all worthy of being laughed at. I always remind people that in countries such as North Korea and Cuba, where politicians are glorified and worshiped as idols, the people live in poverty and dire conditions. But in those countries where the politicians are under the constant eyes of the media, where they are made fun of and satirized, there people attain the highest standard of living, in countries such as Great Britain, the United States, France or the Scandinavian countries, where political satire is an indivisible part of political and media life.

Do you believe there is a point that cannot be crossed when doing satire?

Probably yes. Satire should be ruthless, but there are topics that should be closed to satire, such as one's nationality, physical disabilities, sexual tastes. There are subjects that are not worth being made topics of satire. We should not make fun of what a person cannot control, such as their outward appearance, but rather what the person says and does.

Is there someone on the Ukrainian political scene who, more than anyone, else begs to be satirized?

Of course, this is our "professor." [Eds: a reference to Yanukovich, who in his 2004 presidential candidate application made numerous spelling and grammatical mistakes, including misspelling his former vocation as an economics professor. "Professor" became Yanukovich's common nickname during the 2004 campaign. The Ukrayinska Pravda newspaper ran a full reproduction of Yanukovich's application.]

He has made so many mistakes in his life, he's mixed up the office he has held and made many mistakes in the writing of his own titles and positions. This is a challenge to all of society when a person who is running for the highest office in the land wouldn't, according to current Ukrainian law, have the right to even serve in the armed forces as a soldier, but lays a claim to the presidential office and the position of commander-in-chief of all of Ukraine's armed forces. Unfortunately, today he again has a realistic chance of running for office, so certainly he will remain the main subject of political satire in this country.

Can we expect a revival of "Merry Eggs"?

"Merry Eggs" haven't stopped being merry. Every day thousands of people visit our site, listen to our shows on Ukrainian radio programs. The "Merry Eggs" continue to sing their songs. Today they don't have the political overtones that they once had. We've left politics a bit behind because people are exhausted by politics, we noticed that particularly on our site, where the level of discussion had become much less political and new and promising political figures begging to be satirized have not presented themselves.

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Uzhhorod mayor...

(Continued from page 1)

Observers said Mr. Ratushniak's comments have no place in Ukrainian politics, and his words and actions only serve to reflect his incompetence as a political figure.

"It's shameful how Ratushniak allowed himself to express his feelings," said Olexiy Haran, a political science professor at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. "It's stark reflection on not just him, but Ukrainian society in general. He's embarrassing Ukrainians and creating another reason for people to label us as anti-Semites."

The Israeli Foreign Affairs Ministry weighed in on the incident, with its spokesman Yigal Palmor stating Israel considers any anti-Semitic or racist slogans inadmissible in political life. Israel, therefore, hopes for the good sense and decency of Ukrainian politicians, who must suppress such statements, Mr. Palmor said.

Ms. Butrymko suffered a concussion and was left with bruises around her neck and clavicle from the altercation with the Ukrainian Uzhhorod mayor.

Authorities said she would require 21 days of medical treatment after the incident, which took place outside of a Front of Change campaign tent erected in front of Uzhhorod National University.

The victim's father, Volodymyr Butrymko, told Ukrayinska Pravda that several commuters had filmed videos of the incident on their phones from inside a bus, but Mr. Ratushniak's security guards promptly shook them down and erased the footage.

Mr. Ratushniak denied those claims in the August 11 interview, alleging Ms. Butrymko had falsified all her claims.

In his version of events, he approached the Front of Change tent and asked her to show Ms. Butrymko permit, which he had every right to do. In return, she struck a bad attitude, he claimed, telling him to leave her alone, after which she allegedly "pounced on him like a panther," hit him on the head with her cellphone, scratched him and ripped his shirt.

Meantime, Ms. Butrymko maintains she was simply minding her own business when the mayor approached, visibly angry and began unreasonably threatening the small group of activists.

Mr. Ratushniak allegedly insulted Ms. Butrymko before tearing down the olive-colored campaign tent. Then he allegedly grabbed her, began strangling her and threw her to the ground, resulting in a concussion, she said.

"He began to run away and screamed at bystanders that I was the one attacking him, but none of them would believe it," Ms. Butrymko said in a television interview following the incident.

Mr. Yatsenyuk commented on the incident only four days later, alleging Mr. Ratushniak was trying to discredit a political campaign that has gained momentum, particularly in western Ukraine.

"[Ratushniak] set a goal of hindering the information campaign about the true situation in the country," the 35-year-old candidate said in a press statement.

"The tents of the Front of Change offer factual, reliable information about the

real situation in the country. This is a chain of feudalism, banditry and the animal face of the current government."

Dubbed "Rata" in local circles, Mr. Ratushniak gained a reputation for his rampant temper and politically charged assaults. His rap sheet boasts 10 violent incidents, according to television reports.

While still a national deputy, in May 2003 he stormed the office of Zakarpattia Oblast Councilman Stanislav Ponomarev and allegedly beat him. Later that year he was allegedly involved in a brawl with the oblast's tourism chair, Serhii Slobodianiuk.

In December 2003 Mr. Ratushniak allegedly attacked a dentist from a local clinic and his wife while they dined in a city restaurant. In 2005 he allegedly assaulted Volodymyr Pipash, the oblast head of the People's Rukh of Ukraine on an overnight train.

More recently, on June 28 Mr. Ratushniak allegedly assaulted the leader of the Zakarpattia Oblast organization of the Reforms and Order party, and several others.

Mr. Butrymko, the victim's father who worked in the oblast's organized crime investigation unit, claimed he himself was assigned to investigate Mr. Ratushniak for prior criminal offenses, including financial fraud, but no one ever convicted him.

"Not a single criminal charge against him ever made it to court because of his relatives, who hold high government positions in Zakarpattia," said Mr. Butrymko. "Everyone here knows what

he has done, but they remain silent."

Oleh Soskin, director of the Kyiv-based Institute of Society Transformation, claimed the incident was a political provocation by the camp of Mr. Yatsenyuk, whose presidential campaign is financed by Mr. Pinchuk and his father-in-law, former President Leonid Kuchma.

Mr. Ratushniak was a one-time member of Mr. Kuchma's clan but turned against him in the late 1990s, Dr. Soskin said. This incident was a way of getting back at him through Mr. Yatsenyuk, who is "by no means an independent figure," he commented.

"[Mr. Yatsenyuk] is a puppet controlled by Pinchuk, who in turn answers to Kuchma," Dr. Soskin alleged. "So Pinchuk offered his skills to an ally as a competent provocateur. What happened with Ratushniak was no accident. It was a planned provocation, because Yatsenyuk needs a greater base. He has the Chernivtsi and Zakarpattia oblasts, and now he needs to make a greater push across the west."

Other experts believe the incident was a simple lashing-out on the mayor's part.

Though the Front of Change is trying to gain more electoral popularity, any alleged provocation would've been too complex and ambiguous to organize, Mr. Haran said, especially given Mr. Ratushniak's influence with local officials and possible connections to criminal gangs.

"To say that this was some sort of special provocation, that Ratushniak was lured into such a trap, is incredibly hard to believe," he said.

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SPORTSLINE

Soccer

• Ukraine defeated England 2-0 at home and won the UEFA Under-19 Championships at RSC Olympiyskiy Stadium in Donetsk. Ukraine made history with the victory as the only team in the UEFA Under-19 Championships to win on home soil. Denys Garmash scored in the first half, and Dmytro Korkishko opened up the second half with a curling corner. Garmash and Kyrylo Petrov were named among the top 10 players of the championships.

• One of Ukraine's most famous strikers, Serhiy Rebrov, 35, announced his retirement from the sport on July 20. According to FC Dynamo Kyiv's website, the former Dynamo striker will return to the club as assistant senior coach of the youth team. Rebrov has played for FC Shakhtar Donetsk (1991), Dynamo Kyiv (1992-2000, 2005-2008), Tottenham Hotspurs F.C. (London, England, 2000-2003), Fenerbahçe S.K. (Istanbul, Turkey, 2003-2004), West Ham United F.C. (London, England, 2004-2005), and FC Rubin Kazan (Russia, 2008-2009). During his career with Dynamo Rebrov played 355 matches and scored 161 goals.

• FC Dynamo Kyiv striker Artem Milevsky was awarded the Golden Ball of Ukraine by football.ua, based on his play during the 2008-2009 Ukrainian Premier League Championship. Milevsky was in contention for the prize with Shakhtar Donetsk's Darijo Sma, with the former earning 5,140 points, to the latter's 4,706 points. Teammate Oleg Gusiev was awarded the honor in 2007.

• Ukraine's women's team advanced to the group stage in the UEFA women's Euro Cup 2009 in Helsinki, Finland. The tournament continues from August 21 through September 10. Ukraine, in Group A, will play Denmark, the Netherlands and Finland.

• Ukraine's Dynamo Kyiv and Shakhtar Donetsk are ranked among the top teams by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics, with 2009 UEFA Cup Champions Shakhtar in fifth place and 2009 Ukrainian Premier League Champions Dynamo Kyiv in 11th place. Shakhtar Donetsk was recently eliminated from the UEFA Champions League after a series of losses during the qualifying round.

• Ukraine's Premier League was ranked by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS) in ninth place in the world and Ukraine's team was recently ranked sixth in Europe.

Futsal

• Ukraine's policemen's futsal (indoor soccer) team won its second consecutive championship at the Worldwide Indoor Soccer Police Association Tournament in Auckland, New Zealand, on July 22. Ukraine defeated the host country team 2-0 in the finals. Along the way, Ukraine defeated WISPA-1 and WISPA-2, 7-0 (each game), China 3-0 and Brazil 5-1, and tied Russia 1-1.

• FC Time Lviv defeated Shakhtar Donetsk 5-4 in penalty kicks, after a 4-4 draw, and won the Green Ball Cup international futsal (indoor soccer) tournament in Teplice, Czech Republic, on August 9.

Boxing

• Vitali Klitschko's scheduled bout against David Haye of England on September 12 has been cancelled. Klitschko's management team stated that the negotiations fell through after what they said was the unprofessional behavior of Haye's promoters. Chris Arreola, who is currently undefeated, is the next mandatory WBC challenger for Klitschko and a date for the bout has yet to be announced.

• Wladimir Klitschko has been obliged by the International Boxing Federation to hold

negotiations with challenger Alexander Povetkin of Russia. Povetkin was to face Klitschko last December, but was injured and was replaced by Hasim Rahman. Other potential contenders include Eddie Chambers, who became the WBO challenger after he defeated Alexander Dimitrenko. Klitschko retained his IBF, IBO and WBO titles on June 20 against Ruslan Chagaev of Uzbekistan with a 10th round TKO.

Chess

Ten players from Ukraine were named among the world's top 100 by the World Chess Federation (FIDE). Ruslan Ponomarev was the highest-ranking player in 16th place, Sergey Karjakin in 20th place, Pavel Eljanov in 21st place, and Vassily Ivanchuk in 30th place. Kateryna Lahno, Ukraine's highest-ranking female chess player, was in 20th place.

Tennis

Alona and Kateryna Bondarenko won the ECM Prague Open women's double final in the Czech Republic on July 19. The No. 2 seeded sisters from Ukraine defeated first seed pair Iveta Benesova and Barbora Zahlavova Strycova 6-1, 6-2.

Wrestling

• Alina Makhyna (67 kg) won gold and Iryna Husyak (59 kg) won silver at the 2009 FILA Junior World Championships in Ankara, Turkey, on August 6. Ukraine's women's team was ranked in second place out of 40 teams with 50 points. In men's freestyle, Stanislav Zinchenko (66 kg) and Andriy Nahorny (74 kg) won bronze medals.

• Yulia Ostapchuk (63 kg) won gold at the 20th European Juniors Greco-Roman Wrestling Championship in Tbilisi, Georgia, on July 2-4. Maxym Fesenko (84 kg), Ruslan Oleskenko (74 kg), Anzhela Kleshcheva (44 kg), Iryna Netteba (67 kg), Yulia Kuzmiv (48 kg) and Yulia Blahinya (55 kg) won bronze medals. In men's freestyle, Mykola Aivazian (55 kg) won the silver medal. Ukraine's women's team was ranked in second place out of 27 countries with five medals.

Weightlifting

Serhiy Tahirov (105 kg), Halyna Alekseyenko (58 kg), Yulia Vlasenko (75 kg) and Anna Kozenko (+75 kg) won bronze medals at the European Junior Weightlifting Championships in Landskrona, Sweden, held from July 25 through August 2.

Shooting

Ukraine's rapid-fire pistol team of Oleksandr Petriv, Taras Mahmet and Roman Bondarchuk won the bronze medal in the 25-meter range at the EPSO European Shooting Championships in Osijek, Croatia, on July 12-28. Kyrylo Soyko won the silver medal in men's junior 25-meter standard pistol event. Kateryna Dyomkina won bronze in the 25-meter junior women's pistol event and Ukraine's junior women's team won bronze in the same event. Ukraine's men's team won the 25-meter standard pistol event. Ukraine's women's 50-meter three-position rifle team won bronze. Darlya Sharipova won bronze in the women's junior 50-meter three-position rifle event. Vladyslav Prianishnikov won the men's 50-meter running-target mixed event and Ukraine's men's team won silver in the same event.

Diving

Ukraine's athletes won 31 medals at the at the Universiade in Belgrade on July 12, with seven gold, 11 silver and 13 bronze medals. Konstantin Milayev won the gold medal in men's 10-meter platform diving. Olympic archery champion Viktor Ruban also won

the gold medal. Ukraine's team was ranked sixth among 56 countries.

Olympics

• Twenty of Ukraine's Olympians for the 21st Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, in 2010 will be awarded scholarships by the International Olympic Committee from July 1 through February 2010. Ukraine's National Olympic Committee requested that the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Solidarity program quota of 10 be extended to 20. The scholarship recipients will receive \$1,000 monthly.

• Viktoria Klochko won gold in women's discus throw at the 10th European Youth Olympic Summer Festival in Tampere, Finland. Nataliya Ilkiv (52 kg) and Kateryna Lyalina (57 kg) won gold and bronze, respectively, in women's judo. Dmytro Altanov (50 kg) and Andriy Kushkov (55 kg) won bronze medals in men's judo. Yevhen Stokan won the bronze medal in the men's triple jump and Oleksandr Oliynyk won bronze in men's 3-km race. Ukraine won seven medals and was ranked 15th in the medals count.

Track and field

• Oleksander Osmolovych won the silver in the 800-meter race and pole vaulter Maksym Mazuryk won gold with 5.70 meters at the Open Moscow international tournament on July 1. This was an Area Permit Meeting Qualifier for the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Athletics Tour.

• Natalia Fokina-Semenova won bronze in the discus throw with 61.53 meters and Oleksandr Pyatnytsia won bronze in the javelin throw with 81.42 meters at the Grand Prix Lille Metropole international tournament in Villeneuve d'Ascq, France, on June 30.

• It has been 15 years since Serhiy Bubka set the world pole vault record of 6.14 meters. Bubka, who is president of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, set the previous world records 35 times (17 outdoor and 18 indoor records) and his current record still stands.

Basketball

The Basketball Federation of Ukraine (BFU) announced in July the creation of a single Ukrainian Super League for the 2009-2010 season. A total of 16 teams are expected to participate. This came as a result of the Ukrainian Basketball League holding a championship in April 2008 without the BFU or the Super League.

Martial arts

Ukraine won six medals at the Cadet European Judo Championships in Koper, Slovenia, on June 26-28. Natalia Ilkiv (52 kg) won the gold. Hanna Hutsu (44 kg), Khrystyna Mykhalenko (70 kg), Oksana Darchuk (+70 kg), Dmytro Atanov (50 kg) and Abriy Mikitin (70 kg) won bronze medals.

Heptathlon

Anna Melnychenko won this year's

European Cup Combined Events Super League in Szczecin, Poland, on June 30. Ukraine's men's and women's teams were ranked in third place.

Fencing

Olha Kharlan defeated Russia's Yekaterina Dyachenko (15-7) in the European Fencing Championships finals in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, on July 16. Halyna Pundyk and Yana Shemyakina won bronze medals.

World Games

Olena Movchan and Yulia Domchevska won the gold medal in women's synchronized trampoline finals at the World Games in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, held on July 16-27. Mykola Popov and Mykola Shcherbakov won gold in men's duo acrobatic gymnastics. Roman Urzabakiev, Andriy Bilozir, Andriy Lytvak and Denys Kruichkov won bronze in the men's group acrobatic gymnastics finals. Yulia Odintsova, Natalia Vinnik and Kateryna Kalyta won bronze in the women's acrobatic gymnastics. Viktor Nykyforenko won bronze in men's tumbling competition. Alevtyna Tytarenko won gold in body fitness, and in weightlifting, Beyla Baloh (80 kg) and Oleksandr Bilous (85 kg) won gold, Vyacheslav Makahon (70 kg) won silver and Natalia Dychkivska (55 kg) won bronze.

Baseball

Ukraine's Kirovohrad Technical University won the Euro Cup, defeating Croatia in the final 5-4 in Trnava, Slovakia. Ukraine ended with a 5-1 record, and suffered its lone defeat to Sweden 4-7. In two games, hurler Dmytro Cimarenk allowed six hits in 14 innings, striking out 12. Lead batter Maksym Symchyna finished with a 0.409 average, going nine for 22, with seven RBI's. The team finished with an astoundingly low 0.43 ERA. In the cadet championships on July 7-11 in Brno, Czech Republic, Ukraine finished in eighth place; and in the juvenile championships on July 13-18, in Dupnitsa, Bulgaria, Ukraine finished with a 3-2 record for seventh place.

Mountain climbing

A team of mountain climbers from Donetsk, Ukraine, composed of athletes and coal miners, has scaled the summit of one of Tian Shan's peaks on August 3. The mountain range extends from Kyrgyzstan to northwest China. The team named it "The Peak of Ukrainian Miners" in honor of Donetsk's coal miners, as part of the "Coal of Donbas on the World Peaks" program. The previously unnamed peak was reported by climber Serhiy Kovalev to be 5,123 meters high.

Triathlon

Oleksiy Siutkin won the gold medal at the 2009 ITU Triathlon European Cup in Egirdir, Turkey, on August 4. Andriy Hlushenko finished in fourth place, and Roman Korol finished in fifth place.

— compiled by Matthew Dubas

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BOOK REVIEWS

Ostarbeiters: victims of Nazis and Soviets

"Ostarbeiter – A Bitter Word," by Viktor Pedak (in Ukrainian) Lviv: Ukrainian Technologies Publishers, 2009. 318 p.p., 165 photos. \$21 (includes handling).

by Roman Ferencevych

This is a book about victims of two dictatorships: Nazi and Soviet Russian.

Ukraine's World War II experience has always been as controversial as it was tragic, with the country torn between Hitler and Stalin. One of the many subjects that were considered taboo was the plight of the ostarbeiters [German for workers from Eastern Europe], or slave laborers, forcibly deported to the Third Reich.

The use of vast numbers of foreign workers was planned before Germany went to war and was in itself an integral part of the Nazi conspiracy for waging aggressive war.

The theory of the "master race," which underlay the Nazis' labor policy in the East, was perhaps best expressed in the following words by Erich Koch, reichskommissar for Ukraine, at a meeting of the National Socialist German Workers' Party on March 5, 1943, in Kyiv: "We are the master race and must govern hard. I will draw the very last out of this country. I did not come to spread bliss. I have come to help the Führer. The population must work, work and work again."

Over 2 million Ukrainians were forcibly taken to Germany during the 1941-1944 occupation as slave workers. Many were forced to work on armaments projects in abysmal conditions, where life expectancy ran to mere weeks. More fortunate victims ended up as maids or nannies in middle-class German homes.

Initially, there was an effort to recruit willing workers. But soon news begun to filter back about the terrible conditions many Ostarbeiters faced in the Third Reich and the pool of volunteers soon dried up. As a result, the Germans were forced to resort to mass round-ups, often using the ploy of targeting large gatherings such as church congregations and crowds at sporting events, with entire groups simply marched off at gunpoint to waiting freight cars and deported to Germany.

Upon liberation after the end of World War II, the fate of these prisoners was often little better than that which awaited Soviet prisoners of war who survived years of incarceration in Nazi concentration camps. Stalin condemned anyone who fell into enemy hands as a traitor. Upon their return

Roman Ferencevych, a Washington-based journalist, is a former Ostarbeiter.



to the Soviet Union many POWs were sent straight to Soviet Gulag in Siberia.

Although some of the slave workers were spared this fate, nonetheless they did suffer from state-sanctioned stigmatization, with special references in their passports (and the passports of children and relatives) mentioning their time in Germany during the war. Many jobs were off limits to anyone unlucky enough to carry such a status, and during periods of repression former slave laborers would often be ostracized by the wider Soviet community. Many victims have testified that since the war they have suffered a lifetime of abuse and suspicion from their fellow countrymen, many of whom have accused them of being traitors who helped the Germans and lived comfortably in the Third Reich while Ukraine burned.

Unfortunately, even current books on Ukrainian history rarely mention the tragedy of an entire generation of young Ukrainians of the World War II period.

Now, finally, a new book by a journalist from Zaporizhia Viktor Pedak, who devoted over 15 years to researching and studying this topic, covers all aspects of the tragedy. It is based on exhaustive research of all available sources and numerous first-person eyewitness accounts of individuals who lived through the Ostarbeiter experience and its aftermath.

The book provides the general reader with an objective, solidly researched and deeply moving account of a hitherto little-known chapter of 20th century Ukrainian history.

The book is available for \$21 (includes handling) by e-mailing ridnaknyha@gmail.com or calling 215-646-8411.

Basilian Sisters host book-signing by Lushnycky

FOX CHASE MANOR, Pa. – Beginning in 1912, the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great ran a well-populated orphanage in Chesapeake City, Md. This orphanage provided not only food and shelter for the children in its care, but also love, education and a sense of purpose. The orphanage closed its doors in the 1980s, when there were no longer orphans who needed care from the sisters.

But, for one all too brief evening, the sound of orphan children playing, sleeping, swimming, learning and growing to maturity were alive in people's minds again. On Thursday, July 23, renowned author Dr.

Alexander Lushnycky provided insight on and told anecdotes about the history of the Chesapeake City orphanage.

Speaking to a crowd of over 50 at the Sisters' Basilian Spirituality Center, Dr. Lushnycky gave a very mesmerizing presentation on the orphanage and its success. This information had been compiled by Dr. Lushnycky, while researching his newly released book "Ukrainians of the Delaware Valley."

Though the orphanage has been closed for many years, it still touches and influenc-

(Continued on page 17)

Brzezinski, Scowcroft discuss future of U.S. foreign policy

"America and the World: Conversations on the Future of American Foreign Policy" by Zbigniew Brzezinski and Brent Scowcroft, moderated by David Ignatius. New York: Basic Books, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-465-01501-6. Hardcover, 290 pp., \$27.50.

by Markian Hadzewycz

The collapse of the Soviet Union and end of the Cold War led many to believe that a new, more peaceful world would emerge. Instead, the bipolar world became a more complex one, with many new emerging powers that would rise to challenge the United States. While the U.S. remains a top player, it is clear that its strength has waned, that it is not as capable as it once was. Where did we go wrong in recent years, and can we get back on the right track?

These are the questions raised and discussed in the book "America and the World: Conversations on the Future of American Foreign Policy." The average citizen rarely gets such an intimate glimpse into the thought processes of the world's most influential foreign policy heavyweights. Moderated by esteemed Washington Post columnist David Ignatius, two former national security advisors – Democrat Zbigniew Brzezinski of the Carter administration and Republican Brent Scowcroft of the Ford and Bush administrations – debate solutions to the United States' most intractable problems and challenges on the world stage. Their conversations on foreign policy took place in Washington during the spring of 2008, before the presidential election would bring in a new administration.

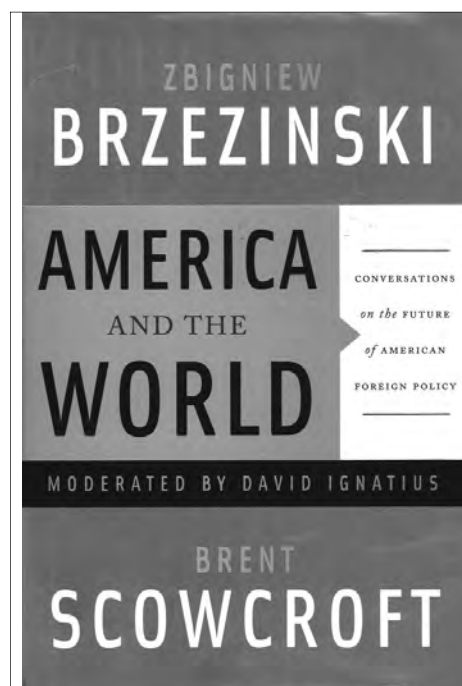
Though they come from two different political parties and served different administrations, there is much common ground between Dr. Brzezinski and Mr. Scowcroft: both call themselves foreign policy realists, agree the U.S. must keep engaged with the changing world rather than react against it, and agree on the need for flexibility and openness when interacting with both friends and enemies.

Issues from all corners of the world are discussed: the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, American involvement in Iraq, the nuclear weapons programs of Iran and North Korea, the war on terror in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region (known in foreign policy circles as AfPak), Central Asian energy security, and the economic and political rise of China.

As both men were leading figures during the Cold War, there is much discussion of NATO, Eastern Europe, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the motivations of a resurgent Russia.

Mr. Scowcroft comments that Mikhail Gorbachev "grossly underestimated nationalist sentiments in the various parts of the Soviet Union." And he adds: "He had this notion of restructuring the Soviet Union into a kind of confederation. He actually developed a framework, and the various republics voted on it. When Ukraine voted against it, that was the sign that Gorbachev was finished. It was a paper project. It didn't deal with the realities of what was developing in the Soviet Union."

Asked about the so-called "Chicken Kiev" speech of 1991 (in which President George Bush warned of "suicidal nationalism" – ed.), Mr. Scowcroft claims: "That speech was not about Ukraine staying with the Soviet Union. It was about



Ukraine not breaking up into its constituent parts, as Yugoslavia was already starting to do. It was a warning against the perils of disintegration – which is why it was made in Kiev [sic] and not Moscow."

Both Dr. Brzezinski and Mr. Scowcroft agree that the USSR's break-up was deeply traumatic for Russians because, despite all the rhetoric about a Soviet brotherhood of peoples, the USSR was also a continuation of tsarist imperial expansion and domination. Hence the popularity of a figure such as Vladimir Putin, who talks of restoring national greatness and plays the Russian nationalism card.

Speaking of Mr. Putin, then Russia's president, Dr. Brzezinski says: "...he's not going to try to create a new Soviet Union. But he is going to try to isolate central Asia in order to keep the West out as much as possible. ...Secondly, he'll try to subordinate states such as Ukraine and Georgia because they are geopolitically critical. Ukraine, because if Ukraine goes there's no longer any chance of a Slavic union and Russia becomes only a national state. Georgia, because it's critical in the Caucasus, and the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline gives us access to the Caspian, which the Russians would like to cut."

The "semijustification, or sweeping under the rug" of the Soviet-Russian legacy, as Dr. Brzezinski puts it, not only makes it difficult for Russia to come to terms with its own past, but makes it more difficult for Moscow to have normal relations with its ex-Soviet neighbors, particularly Ukraine. For the Kremlin, any talk of more sovereignty for former vassal states, be it in the fields of energy security or NATO expansion, are immediately viewed through the prism of a zero-sum game.

Dr. Brzezinski favors the U.S. and Russia seeking common ground on mutual issues wherever possible, but says we must also see the creation of "geopolitical contexts in which the Russians will eventually" agree that it is in their own best interests to reform and join an "Atlantic community" in Europe. This is one reason he favors steps to encourage Ukraine toward NATO and the EU, as this will, in his view, increase the probability of Russia also moving Westward on the path to reform. Russia cannot remain so large and control so many resources without eventually integrating with the West.

Mr. Scowcroft is less optimistic about Russia following Ukraine's lead in the

(Continued on page 21)



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych



Canada Post issues pysanka stamps

During the early years of this decade, Canada Post issued several stamps featuring Ukrainian-related topics. However, it has been more than five years now since the last such stamp – honoring Ramon (Ray) Hnatyshyn, Canada’s first governor general of direct Ukrainian descent – was released in March of 2004.

I am happy to report on two new Canadian stamps released in July of this year depicting a Ukrainian topic – this time a Ukrainian Easter egg, or pysanka. But not just any pysanka. The stamps show what is easily the world’s largest pysanka, a massive sculpture in Vegreville, Alberta, at the entrance to Elk Island National Park.

Vegreville is a farming community with what is reputed to be the largest Ukrainian settlement in Canada. The idea of an egg monument came from Town Council member Kay McKenzie. The timing and funding of the project were related to the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The egg, built in 1975 but dedicated the following year for the anniversary, is appropriately and simply titled “Pysanka.”

About the sculpture

The egg was designed by Ron Resch, a professor of computer science at the University of Utah specializing in sculpture and industrial design. The concept of an egg sculpture was so unique that it required the development of new computer programs to tackle the modeling of the shape of an egg.

The “Pysanka” sculpture is really an immense jigsaw puzzle containing 524 star patterns, 2,206 equilateral triangles, 3,512 visible facets, 6,978 nuts and bolts, and 177 internal struts.

As a result of Prof. Resch’s work and leadership, “Pysanka” is recognized around the world as not only a unique artistic masterpiece but also an achievement of nine mathematical, architectural and engineering “firsts.”

To make the egg a reality, Prof. Resch also took on the task of fabricating the tiles and designing the ingenious way the tiles are bolted together. It requires an onsite viewing of the installation techniques used to truly appreciate the awesome assembly of this sculpture. Thousands of tourists from around the world visit Vegreville annually to marvel at “Pysanka,” which is 25.7 feet long, 18.3 feet wide and 31.6 feet high. It is one of the premier tourist attractions on the Trans Canada Yellowhead Highway.

The egg’s 2,000-pound aluminum skin is attached to the central mast at a 30-degree angle with 177 turnbuckle struts. The massive internal support structure weighs 3,000 pounds, and the entire sculpture rests on a 27,000-pound base of concrete and steel.

“Pysanka” was designed to be kinetic and turn in the wind like a weathervane. This attribute was incorporated to minimize the loading that could occur on the sculpture from the 100-mile-per hour winds that can sweep across the Canadian prairie.

Symbolism

The symbolism on the egg is described

Dr. Inger Kuzych may be contacted at P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150, or via e-mail at ingert@starpower.net.



An opened self-adhesive “Roadside Attractions” stamp booklet. Each of the four stamp designs, including the pysanka stamp, is shown twice.

as follows. Beginning at either end of the egg in sequence are five distinct symbols that make up the overall design. The radiating gold stars on each of the end sections, symbolize life and good fortune. Next are a series of three-pointed stars in alternating gold and silver, which symbolize the Trinity and represent the strong devotion Ukrainians have to their Christian faith. The silver bands that circumscribe the egg display no end and no beginning, and so symbolize eternity. On the central barrel section one can discern six-pointed stars in gold and silver. Officially, these are described as six-vaned windmills that symbolize a rich harvest. Pointing to the center from the silver band are large zig-zags, which are the most prominent motif of the design. They represent silver wolves’ teeth and symbolize the protection and security afforded to the pioneers of the area by the RCMP.

The coloring of the tiles also has symbolic meaning. For the color arrangement Prof. Resch was assisted by Paul Sembaliuk, an Albertan artist and authority on Ukrainian culture and traditional Easter egg design. Mr. Sembaliuk used three main metallic colors – bronze, silver and gold – to symbolize Prosperity. Bronze, the predominant color of the design, suggests the “good earth,” the land on which the early settlers struggled for survival and existence.

Stamp details

The “Pysanka” stamp design is part of a set of four stamps in a new Canada Post series titled “Roadside Attractions.” The curiosities depicted on the other stamps are: “Mr. PG” a giant “log” man (roughly 26 feet high) who has welcomed visitors to Prince George, British Columbia since 1960; the Watson Lake Signpost Forest in the Yukon Territory (a collection of road signs begun in 1942 that today numbers over 64,000 signs); and the giant “Inukshuk” (Inuit sculpture) at Hay River in the Northwest Territory, built in 1978.

The 54-cent stamps were designed by Fraser Ross using original oil paintings



The souvenir sheet of the “Roadside Attractions” stamps.

by Nova Scotia artist Bonnie Ross. She included some people in each of her paintings in order to give an idea of scale. On the “Pysanka” stamps, two young men stand next to the stand supporting the egg. They hold in front of them an unfurled Ukrainian flag – a nice touch by Canada Post.

The stamps are available in two formats: self-adhesive stamps in booklets of eight (Figure 1; two examples of each of the designs) or gummed and perforated (13+) in souvenir sheets (Figure 2). So,

there are really two distinct stamp types. Four million booklets were prepared, while only 250,000 souvenir sheets were printed (lithography in seven colors). First day of issue ceremonies occurred on July 6 in Prince George, British Columbia. (Orders can be placed through Canada Post at www.canadapost.ca/collecting.)

Eight additional stamp designs are planned in this series featuring roadside attractions further east in Canada. It remains to be seen if any of those will have any Ukrainian connections.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

harsh tone of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's message addressed to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko only plays into the hands of Mr. Yushchenko as the number of his supporters will grow against the backdrop of "any external threat from Russia." The expert said that Mr. Yushchenko's ratings would grow, first and foremost, in Ukraine's western regions. The director of the Penta Center for Applied Political Studies, Volodymyr Fesenko, also said that such statements by Mr. Medvedev would increase Mr. Yushchenko's ratings. "Russia is indirectly trying to influence the presidential election campaign [in Ukraine]. However, this could have an opposite effect. It's not ruled out that this will add votes to President Yushchenko from nationalistically minded voters," he said. The director of the Institute for Global Strategies Vadym Karasiov, also said that the Ukrainian president's ratings would grow. He said that "statements of this kind could have only an opposite effect" for Russia and "favor political development" in Ukraine. He said that the Russian president's statement was a symptom of a deep crisis in Ukrainian-Russian relations, which, in his opinion, was not Ukraine's fault. (Ukrinform)

EP leader sees Russian interference

KYIV – Tough statements by the Russian President against the Ukrainian leadership demonstrate that Russia is seeking to interfere with the election process in Ukraine, said Marek Siwiec of Poland, vice-president of the European Parliament. In an August 11 interview with Radio Liberty, he said this is the start of interference into the election process in Ukraine. Mr. Siwiec added that the European Union right now has no grounds to intervene in the Ukraine-Russia row, but Brussels should thoroughly monitor developments. (Ukrinform)

Yatsenyuk warns Kremlin of interference

KYIV – The leader of the Front for Change, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, warned the Kremlin about interfering with the election process in Ukraine. Speaking live on Echo of Moscow radio on August 11, he said: "If it continues, this will be the greatest mistake." Mr. Yatsenyuk noted that Ukraine would not change as a state, but the relations' format could be modified. "Any participation of any foreign country in the election campaign of other country means troubles for this country," the politician stressed. (Ukrinform)

Ex-PM criticizes Medvedev message

KYIV – The leader of the Russian People's Democratic Union, Mikhail Kasyanov, on August 12 called the open letter of Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev to Viktor Yushchenko "unprecedented and inadmissible both in tone and content." Mr. Kasyanov, who is a former prime minister of Russia, called Mr. Medvedev's message a demarche, which "looks like the creative development of a theory of limited sovereignty of post-Soviet states." He added, "Instead of moving toward Ukraine and the start of correcting mutual political mistakes, Medvedev has headed for a complete break of relations with Russia's closest neighbor." (Ukrinform)

Lytvyn proposes meeting of deputies

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn on August 12 called on the parliamentarians of Ukraine and Russia to hold a constructive dialogue instead of making mutual accusations. He was commenting on Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's statement addressed to his

Ukrainian counterpart, Viktor Yushchenko. Mr. Lytvyn called for an "urgent" meeting to be held at the level of the Ukraine-Russia interparliamentary commission. He expressed confidence that the involvement of intellectual, scientific and spiritual elites in the process of "people's diplomacy" would be effective in order to avoid "rows in mutual relations between Ukraine and Russia." (Ukrinform)

MFA: no problems with Kirill visit

KYIV – The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs received thanks for its assistance during the visit of Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill to Ukraine, acting Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Khandohiy told a briefing on August 11. "We have no information about posing any problems to this visit on the part of Ukraine. Quite the contrary, the country's authorities provided the pastoral visit and worked constructively. ... We received thanks from the Patriarch's retinue," he noted. In his letter addressed to President Viktor Yushchenko, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev spoke about the "interference" of Ukraine's authorities with the affairs of the Orthodox Church. In particular, he mentioned unfavorable conditions that had allegedly been created before and during the pastoral visit of Patriarch Kirill to Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Patriarch Kirill extends thanks

KYIV – Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill sent a letter to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich to thank them for assistance during his pastoral visit to Ukraine, Ukrinform reported on August 12, quoting the Moscow Patriarchate's press service. In his message to President Yushchenko Patriarch Kirill said that "our frank talks seem to help improve understanding of the needs and expectations of the believers on the part of the public authority." In his letter to Ms. Tymoshenko, he wrote: "The Ukrainian Orthodox Church, like Ukraine on the whole, has lots of unsolved problems, including those that had been addressed during our talk. In this connection I hope for a continuation of the church-state dialogue and cooperation intended to completely take into account the legal interests of the Ukrainian believers." Writing to Mr. Yanukovich, the patriarch said: "A positive experience of cooperation between the Church and you and other Ukrainian politicians brings hopes that this cooperation could promote a spiritual revival of people and bring many good fruits." (Ukrinform)

"Tit for tat" in expelling diplomats

KYIV – Russia is using a principle unacceptable to Ukraine, that is, "tit for tat," when expelling diplomats, acting Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Khandohiy said on August 11. "The Russian Federation is expelling our diplomats without any reasons," Mr. Khandohiy noted, adding that the Ukrainian party had expelled Russian diplomat Vladimir Lysenko "for weighty reasons," adding that he had violated a provision of the Vienna Convention, but noting "we do not comment on the cause behind the expulsion." As reported earlier, a counselor at the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow, Ihor Berezkin, left Russia after Russian authorities proposed that the Ukrainian ambassador terminate the mission of one of his counselors in response to the expulsion of Mr. Lysenko from Kyiv. Ukraine was also asking that the authority of Russian Consul General to Odesa Aleksandr Grachev be terminated. However, the Russian party, in response, threatened to expel Ukraine's

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

Consul General to St. Petersburg Natalia Prokopovych. The diplomatic row has now moved to the status quo: the Russian party will recognize the authority of the Ukrainian Consul General to St. Petersburg as much as the Ukrainian party will recognize the authority of the Russian Consul General to Odesa. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovych tops presidential poll

KYIV – If the presidential election had been held last Sunday, Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) leader Viktor Yanukovych would receive 22 percent of the vote, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko – 13 percent, and Front for Change leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk – 11 percent, according to the results of a survey conducted by the Razumkov Center on July 20-28. A total of 2,006 respondents from all Ukrainian regions participated in the study. The poll's margin of error does not exceed 2.3 percent. Razumkov Center Director for Social Programs Liudmyla Shanina presented the results of the study in an article published in the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia newspaper. According to the survey, President Viktor Yushchenko and Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko would each receive 4 percent of the vote, while Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn would get 3 percent. Around 10 percent of respondents said they would not participate in the election, while 15 percent said they were not sure whether they would vote in the election. If Messrs. Yanukovych and Yatsenyuk entered the second round of the presidential election, they would get 32 and 28 percent of the vote, respectively; 21 percent of those polled said they would vote against both candidates. If Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yatsenyuk entered the second round, they would get 19 and 26 percent, respectively, while 31 percent said they would vote against both candidates. (Ukrinform)

Police arrest sex slavery gang

KYIV – The Ukrainian police smashed an international gang that had sold more than 500 Ukrainian women into sexual slavery. Several citizens of the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Russia and Ukraine were arrested. They earned around EUR 9 million euros from human trafficking, the Segodnya newspaper reported on August 7. According to officials with the Internal Affairs Ministry, the slave traders placed an advertisement on the Internet for girls seeking jobs abroad. If a girl passed the "casting," she then went to a "job." Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko said more than 200 girls between the ages of 16 and 25 were sent last year to the UAE, Great Britain and Germany. (Ukrinform)

Woman injured during combat exercise

KYIV – The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hopes that Russia will bring to responsibility those soldiers who on July 31 injured Olha Lytvynenko of Ukraine during combat firing at the Sevastopol range leased by the Russian Black Sea Fleet. Ukraine's acting Foreign Affairs Minister Yuriy Kostenko on August 6 delivered a verbal note to Russia's Temporary Chargé d'Affaires to Ukraine Vsevolod Loskutov. Mr. Kostenko expressed strong concern over violations by the Russian Black Sea Fleet command of the agreement on the fleet's stationing in Ukraine and rules about conducting military exercises utilizing small arms. The Ukrainian diplomat said the MFA also hopes that the woman will be paid for the physical injury she suffered. The Russian Black Sea Fleet said that Ms. Lytvynenko

and several other local residents had entered onto the range, ignoring a warning notice. (Ukrinform)

MFA contacts NATO's new leader

KYIV – Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Volodymyr Khandohiy sent a letter to NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. The MFA press service reported on August 4 that Mr. Khandohiy assured NATO's new chief of Ukraine's standing course to achieve NATO membership criteria within the framework of the First National Program Ukraine-NATO. Ukraine also expressed hope for active support from the secretary general for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko meets with congressmen

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on August 7 met with a delegation of the U.S. Congress headed by the House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio). "Our relations with the U.S.A. are significant for us. We think they are developing very rapidly," said Mr. Yushchenko as he opened the meeting. He expressed the belief that the two countries have clear priorities for the development of bilateral relations, particularly the Strategic Partnership Charter and the Ukraine-United States Action Plan. The Ukrainian president also noted the active diplomatic relations between our countries. "It is very important for us that the Ukrainian policy of democratization of political processes has large internal and external support," he said, pointing to such support from the U.S. government. He expressed appreciation for the congressmen's initiative to visit Ukraine, saying that this is very important, especially in the context of the recent visit by U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden. "It means a lot for us to have active dialogue with the American authorities and American opposition," emphasized the president. Rep. Boehner said, "We are interested in developing a better understanding of democracy in Ukraine and prospects of its further advance." Among the topics discussed during the meeting were: strengthening the energy security of Ukraine, the Euro-Atlantic integration course of Ukraine and overcoming the financial crisis, including development of cooperation between Ukraine and the International Monetary Fund. The delegation included Reps. Dan Boren (D-Okla.), Jo Bonner (R-Ala.), Dave Camp (R-Mich), Tom Latham (R-Iowa) and Greg Walden (R-Ore.). (Ukrinform)

Czech Consulate in Lviv resumes operation

KYIV – The Consulate General of the Czech Republic reopened its doors in Lviv after a four-month break, it was reported on August 6. The Consulate will again accept applications for short-term visas of up to 90 and over 90 days (excluding long-term visas for purposes of employment, doing business and functioning as legal entity), as well as documents requesting long-term stays and permanent residence in the Czech Republic. The Consulate serves residents of Ukraine's Lviv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia regions. (Ukrinform)

Election to cost 1.5 billion hrv

KYIV – Ukraine's Central Election Commission (CEC) on July 29 endorsed spending of 1.532 billion hrv (7.69 hrv = \$1 U.S.) on the upcoming presidential election. The sum will be put into the 2010 budget request. CEC Deputy Chair Andrii Mahera said the sum was arrived at due to the laws in effect, according to which each presidential candidate has the right to send two delegates to territorial or precinct electoral commissions. According to CEC forecasts, 13,500 members of territorial and up to 2,031

million members of precinct commissions will work during the presidential election, and the bulk of the budgeted funds will be spent on payments to them. The presidential election is scheduled for January 17, 2010. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko on Eastern Partnership

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said on July 30 that he is anxious about the slowdown of negotiations with the European Commission on filling the European Union's Eastern Partnership initiative with real content. The presidential website quoted Andrii Honcharuk, deputy head of the Presidential Secretariat, as saying: "The president says the level of specific content in discussions between Ukraine and the EU on practical implementation of Eastern Partnership projects is rather low." Mr. Yushchenko is convinced that it is necessary to work on new mechanisms that would help lead toward real integration between partner nations and the European Union. "Future projects of this initiative must have an innovative character, and they must leave a positive impact on the areas they will involve, including institutional development, regional development, creation of an integrated system of border management in keeping with EU standards, and deepening of cooperation in power industry," Mr. Honcharuk added. The key principles and goals of the partnership are described in the joint declaration signed in Prague on May 7, during the summit of the European Union's Eastern Partnership initiative. (Ukrinform)

NSDC on relations with Russia

KYIV – Stepan Havrysh, the first deputy secretary of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC), says it is necessary to find a new model of strategic

partnership between Ukraine and Russia. He said he is confident that the staffs of Ukraine's NSDC and Russia's Security Council play an important role here. "These institutes should build a new policy, where diplomatic protocol is not used, but working discussions are held in search for a new model of strategic partnership. As the old model of strategic partnership, which exists rather virtually, is out of date now," the official said on July 28. Mr. Havrysh said Ukraine-Russia relations lack an exchange of opinions at the level of top officials. In this connection Mr. Havrysh noted that it is of great importance to search for new working mechanisms for the two states to keep in contact. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovych on relations with Russia

KYIV – The leader of the opposition Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), Viktor Yanukovych has promised to improve Ukraine's relations with Russia, it was reported on August 3. "I'm sure that the policy conducted in respect to Russia will be based on the desire of the Ukrainian people to revive their relations with Russia and revive Ukraine's economy. I will conduct such a policy as soon as I rise to power," he said. (Ukrinform)

Turkish Airlines launches route

KYIV – Turkish Airlines has launched a new airline route from Istanbul to Lviv, it was reported on July 28. Flights will be conducted three times a week – on Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays, in both directions. The company's press service said that the promotional price for round-trip tickets would be EUR 99 euros in the first month of the new service. Lviv is the Turkish Airlines' sixth destination in Ukraine after Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kyiv, Odesa and Symferopol. (Ukrinform)



With deep sorrow we announce that

Lydia Salenko

was called to the Heavenly Father
on Thursday, July 30, 2009.
She was 86 years old.



Lydia was a devoted member of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, New York, NY. She was treasurer of the New York School of Bandura in New York City for many years, and she also enjoyed working at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City. Lydia loved Ukrainian music, art, and poetry. She played the violin and piano beautifully and was very talented in the decorative art of Ukrainian embroidery. Lydia most enjoyed spending time with family and friends at her summer home in Glen Spey, NY.

Panakhya was performed by Rev. Nestor Kowal at Jarema Funeral Home in New York City on Friday, July 31. Funeral services and interment were held at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Cemetery, South Bound Brook, NJ, on Saturday, August 1.

In deep sorrow:

husband	- Vsevolod
son	- Jaroslav with wife Martha
grandchildren	- Alexandra and Yaroslav
cousins	- Maria Bachir
	- Anne Yarusso with husband Ron
	- Danusia Tkacz with husband Kris
nephew	- Zenon Bachir
nieces	- Eva Markus with husband Bohdan and daughter Alexandra
	- Anna Tkacz

Lydia was predeceased by her parents, Pauline and Stefan Decker, and by her stepmother, Maria Decker.

Donations in Lydia's memory may be made to: St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral ("Choir Fund"), 160 W 82nd St, New York, NY 10024 or to The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E 6th St, New York, NY 10003.

There will be a 40th day Panakhya service for Lydia at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 160 W 82nd St, New York, NY, on Sunday, September 13th, following the 10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Receives YWCA achievement award

FLINT, Mich. – Michelle Oksana Rosynsky, Ed.D. was awarded a YWCA Women of Achievement Award for her outstanding contributions to the University of Michigan-Flint, where she serves as the director of the Women's Educational Center. Under her leadership, the center has experienced growth in its program offerings and in 2007 was awarded the Outstanding Campus Program Award from the Michigan American Council on Education Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education.

Much of Dr. Rosynsky's career has focused on women's issues and college student leadership development. While serving as director of programming for the Douglass Project at Rutgers University in 1992-1998, Dr. Rosynsky developed programs for pre-college and college women interested in science and math related fields. Subsequently, she served for several years as assistant director of residence life at Douglass College-Rutgers, overseeing staff development and special interest housing.

Dr. Rosynsky currently serves on a variety of university and community committees, including the Diversity Council, Student Services Social Justice Team, LGBT Center Advisory Board, Marketing Council and the YWCA Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.

In addition to her administrative work, Dr. Rosynsky has taught leadership development courses and has facilitated many



Dr. Michelle Oksana Rosynsky

workshops. She is also the author of several successful project grants.

In 2003 Dr. Rosynsky received a doctorate in educational administration from Rutgers University. Her dissertation focused on the experiences of women leaders in higher education. She is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi National Honor Society in Education, National Association for Student Personnel Administrators and the National Women's Studies Association.

Dr. Rosynsky and her husband, Mykola Newmerzycky Jr., reside in Goodrich, Mich., and are active members of St. Mary's Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Southfield, Mich.

Sister Lydia marks 25th anniversary

FOX CHASE MANOR, Pa. – Twenty-five years ago, inspired by the Sisters of St. Basil the Great who taught her at Immaculate Conception High School in Hamtramck, Mich., Sister Lydia Anna Sawka joined the Order of St. Basil the Great. On June 13, the Order, Sister Lydia's family and the Ukrainian community came together to celebrate Sister Lydia's 25 years of dedication with a divine liturgy celebrated by Archbishop-Metropolitan Stefan Soroka with the Bishop John Bura, Msgr. Peter Waslo, the Rev. Philip Sandrick, OSBM, and the Rev. George Worshak.

Sister Lydia has been an important part of the Ukrainian Catholic community, teaching at St. Josaphat School in Parma, Ohio, St. Nicholas School in Chicago and Immaculate Conception Elementary School in her hometown of Hamtramck. She has also served as vocational directress and directress of youth for the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Chicago. Additionally, Sister Lydia has served the Order of St. Basil the Great in Rome as general secretary and as a translator for meetings of the Sisters of Order of St. Basil the Great.

Before joining the Order of St. Basil the Great, Sister Lydia had organized a nursery school, worked as a scout leader



Sister Lydia Anna Sawka

in Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and its camps, and taught at Immaculate Conception Elementary School in Hamtramck, where she returned to teach many years later.

For the past eight years, Sister Lydia has been served as the personal secretary to Metropolitan Soroka. One of her greatest passions is working with the youth of the Ukrainian community in greater Philadelphia, particularly through the Ukrainian American Youth Association and Plast.

"Notes on People" is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian community. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person's UNA branch number (if applicable). Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt.

Basilian sisters...

(Continued from page 12)

es the lives and families of the many who grew to adulthood under the loving and watchful eyes of the Basilian Sisters.

The memorable evening started with a brief prayer ceremony led by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, with co-celebrants Msgr. Peter Waslo and the Rev. George Worschak. This event, as noted by Sister Laura Palka, OSBM, provincial superior in her welcome and introduction was

held on the feast of Our Lady of Pochayiv, who is honored in the sisters' grotto and shrine. The evening concluded with a book-signing and a brief reception with casual conversation with Dr. Lushnycky.

The Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great are a worldwide religious community. In leading uniquely effective and innovative ministries in education, spiritual direction, evangelization, and lay collaboration, they bring the rich traditions and mysteries of the Eastern Church to those they encounter. For more information readers may call 215-379-3998 or visit www.stbasils.com.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

ance would change its stance in working with Russia.

Prior to the meeting, officials stated that NATO would suspend joint activities with Russia, including military exercises and some political-level meetings, until Russia's troops withdraw from Georgia, whereupon such joint activities would resume.

The temporary loss of these exercises and meetings favored Russia more than NATO, and it was believed that the suspension of these collaborations would not affect Russian behavior in the least.

One of the major casualties of the Russia-NATO fallout was the annual Operation Active Endeavor in the Mediterranean with Russia's Black Sea Fleet, based in the Crimean port city of Sevastopol. During the war, that same Russian flotilla, based on Ukrainian territory, was used to block Georgian ports and helped to land thousands of troops on Georgian territory, in violation of

Ukraine's neutral status. And Russia's attack on aspirant NATO countries could bar it from participating in future joint exercises.

A permanent Georgia-NATO commission was created out of the meeting in Brussels to focus on post-conflict reconstruction in Georgia. It was believed that such a social project would dilute the alliance's core mission and dissipate its resources.

Dmitry Rogozin, Russia's envoy to NATO, reacted to this development with scorn, calling NATO's statement "empty words" and saying that "a mountain gave birth to a mouse."

Sergei Lavrov, Russia's minister of foreign affairs, warned the United States, which pledged military support for Georgia, and NATO that they need to make a choice between working with Georgia or Russia.

Source: "NATO ministers deal gingerly with Russia's war on Georgia," by Vladimir Socor (Eurasia Daily Monitor), The Ukrainian Weekly, August 31, 2008.

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Medvedev blasts...

(Continued from page 1)

Policy Research Institute in Kyiv.

Moscow understands only a show of power, he said, interpreting President Yushchenko's response as a reciprocal force admirable enough to earn the long-awaited ambassador.

"The key, from Russia's perspective, is to react in a worthy, strong-headed fashion," he said. "If Ukraine wants to maintain good relations with Russia, it must stay this course."

A day earlier, Vira Ulianchenko, head of the political council of the pro-Yushchenko Our Ukraine party, issued a stinging response on the party's website, denouncing Mr. Medvedev's letter as offensive and intrusive, and claiming it was an attack on the Ukrainian nation as

a whole.

"Unfortunately, the young Russian leadership is turning into a hostage of old imperial complexes, and it constantly needs to cultivate the idea of a foreign enemy and substitute neutral dialogue with its neighboring countries with a language of threats and insults," she wrote.

The Cabinet of Ministers led by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said it would refrain from responding to Mr. Medvedev's message, claiming instead that foreign relations are the president's prerogative.

Throughout the conflicts between President Yushchenko and the Kremlin, Ms. Tymoshenko has remained on the sidelines as part of what some political observers allege is a strategy to better accommodate Moscow and expand her electoral support in eastern and southern Ukraine. Most notably, she refrained from

condemning Moscow's actions in the South Ossetian War.

A year after the war, the Kremlin remains fiercely critical of the Yushchenko administration's decision to support Georgia during the conflict, characterizing such policy as an attack on Russia itself.

"A year after those tragic events, once again the question of why civilians and Russian peacekeepers in Tskhinvali were killed with Ukrainian weapons has arisen," the letter said. "Those in Kyiv who supplied the Georgian army with weapons and, by the way, do not intend to stop doing so, fully share with Tbilisi the responsibility for the committed crimes."

President Yushchenko's response on August 13 attempted to dispel such distortions and many others, pointing out that Georgia, a state without any international embargos placed upon it, obtained

Ukrainian weapons legally through the global free market of armaments. (Editor's note: Russia is by far the largest buyer of Ukrainian-made armaments, acquiring billions of dollars' worth annually.)

Mr. Medvedev accused Ukraine of "incessant attempts to complicate the activities of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, in violation of the fundamental agreements" between Russia and Ukraine.

Yet the recent diplomatic row surfaced because of Russia's violations, as Ukrainian authorities alleged, in which its sailors were caught twice by Ukrainian authorities illegally transporting naval missiles through Sevastopol.

After Ukraine expelled Russian diplomat Vladimir Lysenko from Kyiv on July 28, Russia expelled Ukraine's General Consul in Moscow, Ihor Berezkin, three days later. He left on August 10.

Mr. Medvedev's criticisms extended to European leaders for "bypassing Russia" in deals with Ukraine to supply Russian natural gas, signing a document that "completely contradicts the Russian-Ukrainian agreements reached in January this year."

The European Union, Ukraine and international lending institutions reached a July 31 agreement on gas sector reforms that include \$1.7 billion in loans to provide for winter natural gas deliveries.

Mr. Medvedev's statements carried particularly critical timing – about a year after the South Ossetian War, on the eve of the presidential campaign and on the heels of high-profile visits to Kyiv by U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill.

Thus, a geopolitical tug-of-war was ignited when the two dignitaries visited – Mr. Biden in late July and Patriarch Kirill in early August – to tout their visions for Ukraine.

"Ignoring the views of Ukrainian citizens as well as Russia's well-known position, the political leadership of Ukraine stubbornly continues to pursue accession to NATO," the letter said. "And, as a so-called argument, you hint at a 'Russian threat' to Ukrainian security, something which, as you are well aware, does not and cannot exist."

As Mr. Biden voiced full U.S. support for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration, Patriarch Kirill expressed the desire for closer political and economic ties with Ukraine on behalf of his Church, which enjoys the Kremlin's backing.

"These struggles all began from the moment Ukraine gained independence," Mr. Perepelytsia said. "But Russia simply can't live with Ukraine acting as its own sovereign entity. Today, the Kremlin sees a historical chance to once and for all correct its mistake of letting Ukraine go."

Viktor Yanukovich, leader of the pro-Russian Party of Regions of Ukraine, wasted no time in capitalizing on Mr. Medvedev's statement, stating on August 11 that Russia won't see an improvement in relations with Ukraine while Mr. Yushchenko remains in office.

He assured the public that relations would improve upon his election as president. Mr. Yanukovich would certainly fulfill Moscow's desire for a "political marionette" as president of Ukraine, Mr. Perepelytsia commented.

Mr. Medvedev's letter indicated his government would continue to stir Ukraine's domestic tensions by harping on sensitive language and cultural issues.

"Russian-Ukrainian relations have been further tested as a result of your administration's willingness to engage in historical revisionism, its heroization of Nazi collaborators, exaltation of the role played by radical nationalists, and imposition among the international community of a nationalistic interpretation of the mass famine of 1932-1933 in the USSR, calling it the 'genocide of the Ukrainian people,'" the Russian president wrote.

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

St. Andrew's Church in Sacramento celebrates 25th anniversary

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The parishioners of St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church in Sacramento, Calif., celebrated the 25th anniversary of their parish on June 7.

The day began with divine liturgy celebrated by the pastor, the Rev. Petro Kozar, with the help of altar boys Victor Nezhura and Michael Oskolovskiy. Following the liturgy, the over 130 people in attendance enjoyed a dinner prepared by several women of the parish.

The dinner celebration was opened by Ola Olinyk, who introduced Alex and Joanne Kachmar as some of the first parishioners of St. Andrew. Mr. Kachmar then gave a report on the history of the parish, which began in 1982, when a handful of Ukrainian families decided to leave the local Ruthenian Catholic church.

At that time, several ethnically Ukrainian parishioners, including Ted Wroblickyj, Steve Yastyshok and Mr. Kachmar, decided the time had come to build a Ukrainian parish in northern California. Mr. Kachmar and Mr. Wroblickyj, along with their wives, traveled over 200 miles south to Santa Clara to enlist the Rev. Andrew Mykyta, the priest who served the Ukrainian Catholic parishes in San Francisco and Santa Clara. Despite the long distance, the Rev. Mykyta agreed to serve the start-up parish. The parish celebrated its first divine liturgy on June 3, 1984.

After the Rev. Mykyta was transferred to San Diego in 1986, the parish was

served by a dozen other priests, among whom was the Rev. John Lucas of the Ruthenian Eparchy, whose motto, despite poor attendance at liturgy, was "as long as there is one soul present I will be here."

The success of St. Andrew Church was also made possible, in part, by the Rev. Edward J. Kavanagh, a local Irish priest who allowed the parish to use his property in Sacramento for liturgies from 2001 until the parish bought a two-acre lot in 2008. The Rev. Kavanagh cited the similarities between Irish and Ukrainian histories as the reason for his generosity and willingness to help by allowing the Ukrainian Catholic parish to use the converted farm garage on the property.

Following Mr. Kachmar's report, his wife, Joanne, gave a report on the priests who had served St. Andrew Church during its 25-year history.

Fedir Shvet then read an original poem about the Ukrainian people's love and struggle for their Church. Then, Walter Gerlach, one of the attendees of the first liturgy at St. Andrew, expressed his pride about his role in the building of the parish.

After the presentations group photos were taken and a collection for the construction of a new church to be built on the two-acre property was taken.

The dinner was prepared by Oksana Buvanyk, Lydia Girak, Halyna Dlugan, Mrs. Kachmar, Tetania Kryvyj, Olesia Kuzo, Halyna Parashchak, Olha Shevchyk, Lessia Sokolovich and Antonia Doroshivska.



Some of the original parishioners of St. Andrew's Church in Sacramento (from left): Taras Kachmar, James Kachmar, Yuriy Oliynyk, Joanne Kachmar, Alex Kachmar, Mychajlo Kachmar and Walter Gerlach.



Parishioners of St. Andrew's at the church's 25th anniversary celebration.

Michigan veterans unveil monument to all who served their nation

by Ihor Kunynskyj

HOLLY, Mich. – On a calm but overcast Saturday morning, June 20, members of Ukrainian American Veterans (Michigan) Post 101, The Ladies Auxiliary, the Brotherhood of Veterans of the 1st Division of the Ukrainian National Army (UNA) and members of the Greater Detroit community assembled at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Mich., to unveil a memorial monument dedicated to all who served the nation.

Richard Anderson, director of the Great Lakes National Cemetery, welcomed everyone to the dedication, after which the colors were posted.

Opening remarks were made by Commander Oleh Cieply, who stated in that this is a landmark event, both in the history of the post, as well as in the history of the American and Ukrainian communities of Metropolitan Detroit.

Myroslav Pryjma, immediate past commander of UAV (Michigan) Post 101 and the current UAV national welfare

officer was the keynote speaker, delivering the remarks of UAV National Commander, Brig. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk, on behalf of the UAV National Executive Board.

When the granite monument, which reads "Dedicated to the memory and honor of all men and women who served in the armed forces. We salute those who laid down their lives to protect the democratic ideals, traditions and integrity of our country" was unveiled, the sun broke through the clouds, a fitting and uplifting tribute to such a meaningful event.

The dedication ceremony continued with a prayer and memorial service (panakhyda) delivered by the Rev. Mario Dacechen, OSBM, pastor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church of Warren, Mich. and the Very Rev. Paul Bodnarchuk of St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Southfield, Mich.

Concluding the ceremony, Richard Anderson highlighted the contribution of all service men and women make to our country and thanked the members of UAV



Michigan's Ukrainian veterans at a memorial to their comrades.

(Michigan) Post 101 for their contribution and service to our nation.

The ceremony was supported by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 154 Color Guard, commanded by Mike Brink,

and a seven-man rifle squad who volleyed a 21-gun salute. Bagpiper Mike Jacoby performed a solemn tribute during the ceremony and taps were played by bugler Joann Foster.

UCC national...

(Continued from page 1)

which I wish to disassociate myself. These prejudices are wrong and I reject them absolutely. I believe that the Ukrainian people are a great nation and support the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine."

Mr. Ignatieff, who aspires to become the next prime minister of Canada, also stated: "I look forward to an ongoing dialogue with the Ukrainian Canadian community about important issues to them and to all Canadians. The UCC can be assured of the Liberal Party's and my personal support for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration and in particular, Ukraine's admission into NATO."

"I have a clear appreciation of the challenges Ukraine has faced in the past, and may face in the future, concerning its sovereignty and territorial integrity. I am already on the record for saying that no one but the Ukrainian people should decide their nation's destiny," he added.

Mr. Grod commented: "We had a very fruitful discussion about immigration from Ukraine and were delighted that Mr. Ignatieff has pledged his support for a Canadian Consulate in Lviv to facilitate greater numbers of immigrants from Ukraine, which is the homeland of many prominent Canadians, including the late Justice John Sopinka, former Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn and Alberta's Premier Ed Stelmach."

The Liberal Leader expressed dismay about funding cuts to Radio Canada International, which resulted in the cancellation of broadcasting in the Ukrainian language. "It is unfortunate that Ukraine was singled out. This flies in the face of Canada's commitment to the democratic development of Ukraine. In a country where many parts of the population have access only to Russian media, this will deprive many Ukrainians who listened to this broadcast of a valuable source of independent information," Mr. Ignatieff said.

During the meeting, the following topics were also addressed: development of mutually beneficial bilateral relationships between Canada and Ukraine; the strategic, geopolitical and economic impor-

tance of Ukraine to Canada; and an affirmation of the fundamental principles of the Multiculturalism Act, to ensure that, in its implementation, this legislation meets the needs of all of Canada's multicultural communities and that all communities receive the benefit of this legislation in proportion to the size of their community in Canada.

"We were particularly pleased to receive Mr. Ignatieff's assurances of the deep affection and respect he has for the Ukrainian people," said Mr. Grod.

The UCC reported that both Mr. Ignatieff and Mr. Grod said they agreed that the July 31 meeting in Toronto has enabled them to move forward in a positive spirit of cooperation.

Pittsburgh's Ukrainian Technological Society awards scholarships

PITTSBURGH – The Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS) of Pittsburgh presented its 2009 scholarship awards to undergraduate students from Western Pennsylvania in ceremonies at Posvar Hall on the University of Pittsburgh campus on Sunday, July 26.

Students, family members, UTS members and guests were welcomed by UTS Executive Board President Rokhsana Korchynsky, who provided an overview of the UTS – now in its 40th year – and its activities.

Dr. Korchynsky thanked the many donors who have continuously offered their financial support to the scholarship program. She noted that the society was especially grateful for all the donations received this year given the challenging economic environment that many are facing.

Dr. Korchynsky gave special thanks to long-time UTS patrons, Mrs. Kateryna Dowbenko, for making arrangements for the use of Posvar Hall for the day's event and to Michael Komichak, director of the Ukrainian Radio Program, for promoting the society's activities.

Dr. Korchynsky noted that the scholarships awarded for 2009 will likely cover only a fraction of the cost of a year in college, but represented the support of an entire community that shared a common

belief in the importance of higher education in an increasingly competitive and demanding world.

Dr. Korchynsky introduced the featured speaker for the awards ceremony, Vitaly Cherednichenko, a three-time recipient of UTS scholarships and 2009 graduate of Carnegie Mellon University. Mr. Cherednichenko completed his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical and computer engineering and has accepted a position with the National Security Agency.

He spoke to the young scholars about his own experiences and lessons learned and encouraged them to take full advantage of the excellent education opportunities at their fingertips and to relish this unique time in their lives when they can "learn to learn" and find their passions.

He also reminded the awardees that their Ukrainian heritage is one of hard work, determination, discipline and responsibility; each individual is a vital contributor to his or her community and should strive to impart a lasting positive impact on others through their actions.

Nickolas C. Kotow, UTS secretary, along with Motria Hodowanec, UTS board member, then awarded the nine scholarships totaling \$5,500.

This marked the 37th year of the UTS Scholarship Program, with 361 separate



At the Ukrainian Technological Society's scholarship awards presentation (from left) are: Christine Wachnowsky, Arianna L. Rock, Eryna Y. Honchar, Maryann Kokus, Janel Sudiak, Zachary Kapeluck and George S. Honchar.

awards made totaling \$159,500 to 247 different students.

- The Korchynsky Family Scholarship, underwritten by Dr. Korchynsky, Marina Korchynsky Morari, and Michael Korchynsky Jr., was awarded to Maryann Kokus, of Ebensburg, Pa.

- The Chester Manasterski Memorial Scholarship, underwritten by Olga Manasterski and her sons, Myron and Gregory, was awarded to Arianna L. Rock of Butler, Pa.

- The Ukrainian Selfreliance of Western Pennsylvania Federal Credit Union Scholarship was awarded to George S. Honchar of Carnegie, Pa.

- Receiving Akim and Tatiana Kutsenkow Memorial Scholarships, underwritten by Dr. and Mrs. Michael Kutsenkow, were Eryna Y. Honchar of Carnegie, and Christine Wachnowsky of Oakdale, Pa.

- Ukrainian Technological Society

Scholarships were presented to Amy Dolnack of Verona, Pa.; Zachery Kapeluck of Carnegie; Anastasia Markiw of Pittsburgh; and Janel Sudiak of Pittsburgh.

Following the awards presentation, entertainment was provided by a trio of sisters – Nadiya Andreyev, Diana July and Lybov Zolotov – and their mother, Olga Didik, who sang Ukrainian melodies a cappella. Refreshments and a social hour followed the program in the Posvar Hall Galleria.

To learn more about the UTS, its scholarship program and other activities, readers may visit the website at www.utsphg.org. Donations toward the 2010 scholarship program are being accepted. Donations are tax-deductible, as provided by law, as the UTS has Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) designation. Donations or inquiries may be sent to the UTS at P.O. Box 4277, Pittsburgh, PA 15203; e-mail, uts@utsphg.org.

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Dmitry Medvedev's...

(Continued from page 3)

Ukraine's agreement to allow the European Union to have a say in the main Ukrainian pipeline which brings gas to Europe.

Mr. Medvedev did not fail to include historical issues such as the role of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and its struggle for Ukrainian independence against both the fascist invaders and the Red Army during World War II, which he characterized as the "glorification of Nazi collaborators" and his rejection of the Stalin's man-made Famine in Ukraine as "genocide."

That same day, Mr. Medvedev met with veterans of the "Great Fatherland War" at a roundtable and went out of his way to praise Ukrainian Red Army veterans.

The Russian president's video blog site received a number of comments by visitors on Mr. Medvedev's letter to Mr. Yushchenko on the site, and they reveal a stark microcosmic view of Russian attitudes towards Ukraine.

"We can get a knife in the back from

Ukraine anytime. History has not taught Russia anything."

"Ukraine is an artificial state" [Vladimir Putin once whispered this same theory into the ear of former U.S. President George Bush] "something created by the Bolsheviks after their coming to power..."

"I am a Russian citizen unfortunate to be living in Odesa... I was against the collapse of the USSR and observed the era of Gorbachev-Yeltsin which was very strange... I am very grateful to you, Dmitri Anatolevich about what concerns Ukraine..."

Ukraine's acting Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Khandogiy's response to Mr. Medvedev's letter was low-key: "I am not personally upset by this, but it does evoke a somewhat disappointing feeling."

The article above appeared on the Jamestown Foundation blog (<http://jamestownfoundation.blogspot.com/>) on August 12. Roman Kupchinsky is an analyst for the Jamestown Foundation in Washington. The article is reprinted here with the author's permission.

Virtual gallery for Ukrainian artists is launched at UkrainArt.com

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – A joint U.S.-Ukrainian effort on July 17 launched UkrainArt.com, a unique website that serves as a virtual gallery for Ukrainian artists in Ukraine, as well as many diaspora countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia and most European Union member-states.

The product of a joint effort by LvivArt LLC, based in Alexandria, Va., and the LvivArt Gallery in Lviv, the site allows Ukrainian artists to promote and sell their works in a fully bilingual English-Ukrainian environment that pre-calculates for buyers shipping costs and applicable duties/taxes for their individual countries of residence.

Payments are rendered through the popular PayPal, a secure service used by online merchants worldwide that also allows for regular credit and debit card transactions. Shipping to most countries is by UPS. All shipments are insured with tracking numbers provided to customers.

Individual artists' pages in both languages, complete with biography and a personal

picture, if an artist opts for them, are created free of charge. However, a \$189 annual fee (\$99 semi-annual or \$59 quarterly) is charged for site maintenance, artist page changes/updates and promotion.

Artists are free to use their pages for independent online marketing of their works, such as on social networking sites, with no financial obligation to LvivArt.



The painting "Kozak Mamai" by Merited Artist of Ukraine Orest Skop is among the hundreds of artworks displayed on UkrainArt.com.

Brzezinski...

(Continued from page 12)

foreseeable future, believing overly ambitious efforts in getting Ukraine to join NATO will only antagonize Moscow even further. After all, he reasons, NATO was the mortal enemy for decades and this struggle easily plays into the siege mentality.

Despite the arduous situations in which the U.S. finds itself on many fronts, Dr. Brzezinski, Mr. Scowcroft and Mr. Ignatius remain optimistic. Not only is

the U.S. a society that has thrived on diversity, ingenuity and a natural can-do spirit, but also these meetings show that politics can stop at the water's edge, that we can unite when facing common troubles.

Leading political figures can "get outside of the narrow party lines and limits, and talk together to try to come up with new ideas about very tough problems," concludes Mr. Ignatius, addressing the two foreign policy experts. "And if the two of you can do it, I hope the new president and the Congress can do it too," he adds.

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U.S.-Ukraine...

(Continued from page 2)

Atlantic integration" (upholding any country's right to opt for it) and made only one direct reference to NATO: "The United States also supports Ukraine's deepening ties to NATO and to the European Union. But again, we recognize that they are your decisions, not ours, whether you choose the EU and NATO. ... How far and how fast to proceed is, again, a uniquely Ukrainian choice, not ours."

Among the top politicians, President Yushchenko alone spoke out for Ukrainian membership in NATO during Vice-President Biden's visit, describing this as the only real protection against a Russian sphere of influence (Interfax-Ukraine, UNIAN, July 22). Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko avoided the subject altogether. Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich alluded to NATO

negatively by saying that "between war and peace, I have chosen peace." While the other presidential aspirant, Front for Change leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk, calling for a "new agenda" in Ukraine-U.S. relations, announced that he discussed economics, not NATO with Mr. Biden (Interfax-Ukraine, UNIAN, July 21-22).

Support for closer relations with NATO has become an internal political liability in Ukraine. Among the potential candidates in the January 2010 presidential election, Mr. Yushchenko – with a popularity rating in the low single-digits – no longer has anything to lose; Ms. Tymoshenko has everything at stake; Mr. Yanukovich and his party are on record against a NATO membership track; and Mr. Yatsenyuk has been removed from the Parliament's chair, in part for having co-signed last year with Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko the application letter for a Ukrainian Membership Action Plan (MAP) with NATO.

Shortly before Mr. Biden's visit, the United States and more than a dozen NATO member-countries had to cancel the U.S.-led Sea Breeze-2009 exercise in Ukraine. The Verkhovna Rada declined to grant the necessary authorization for the participating troops' entry to Ukrainian territory (EDM, June 23). Awaiting the presidential election, and with a defense ministry lacking a minister and other top officials, there seems to be no movement on Ukraine's Annual National Plan, the substitute for MAP.

Any real progress in Ukraine-NATO relations will be contingent on the presidential election's outcome. Unlike the previous election in 2004, Russia and the United States do not seem to support any particular candidates in the upcoming election.

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

International assistance...

(Continued from page 2)

ndpoors.com, July 31).

Finally, Ms. Tymoshenko's efforts to borrow money to help the debt-ridden Naftohaz pay for Russian gas have proven successful. The EC declared on July 31 that international financial institutions were ready to lend a total of \$1.7 billion to Naftohaz: \$750 million should come from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, \$450 million from the European Investment Bank and \$500 million from the World Bank. The E.C. said that the loans should allow Ukraine to ensure the uninterrupted transit of Russian gas to Europe (Kommersant-Ukraine, August 3). Ukraine asked Russia last winter for a \$5 billion loan for Naftohaz, but Prime Minister Vladimir Putin following the March Ukraine-E.C. accords on gas sector reform, with which he was unhappy, advised that Ukraine should turn to the European Commission. Ms. Tymoshenko did so, but she asked for less (\$4.2 billion). The E.C., however, decided that \$1.7 billion would suffice to ensure that Naftohaz buys enough gas for storage in the winter.

This does not solve all of Naftohaz's problems as it will have to redeem its \$500 million Eurobond on September 30. Here the IMF came to rescue again: the entire \$3.3 billion third tranche can be used by the Ukrainian government to service foreign debts, including Naftohaz's Eurobond as well as payments for Russian gas deliveries, the IMF said (www.imf.org, July 29).

Support from international financial bodies is very important for Ukraine ahead of the peak of payments on its foreign debts this year, which is expected in August and September. In particular, Ukraine will have to redeem sovereign Eurobonds worth \$500 million and \$250 million worth of Eurobonds of the state-controlled Ukreximbank in August, and sovereign Eurobonds worth 768 million Swiss francs (\$720 million) in addition to Naftohaz's Eurobonds in September (Zerkalo Nedeli, August 1).

Another issue to note is that Ukraine should boost Russian gas purchases later in the year to compensate for low purchases in early 2009 when gas was more expensive, so payments to Gazprom are also set to grow possibly up to \$1 billion per month.

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The Russification...

(Continued from page 7)

Firtash's involvement through Inter have led to Mr. Yatsenyuk being described as either a "television project" or a "big business project."

Secondly, Mr. Pinchuk's preference for using Russian election and political consultants over Ukrainian or Western consultants ultimately sheds light on his disposition and ideological orientation. Why do Mr. Pinchuk and many other members of Ukraine's elites fetishize Russian political consultants as if they could perform voodoo magic?

Mr. Pinchuk has been cultivating a "pro-Western" image for the last six years through his NGO, Yalta European Strategy, and most recently in his financial contributions to the Brookings Institution and Institute for International Economics in Washington. The Russification of the Yatsenyuk campaign, at the insistence of Mr. Pinchuk, shows Mr. Pinchuk's pro-Westernism to be opportunistic and vacuous.

Who then is the "pro-Russian" candidate in the January 2010 elections? If we use political consultants as a guide, we have to conclude it is Mr. Yatsenyuk.

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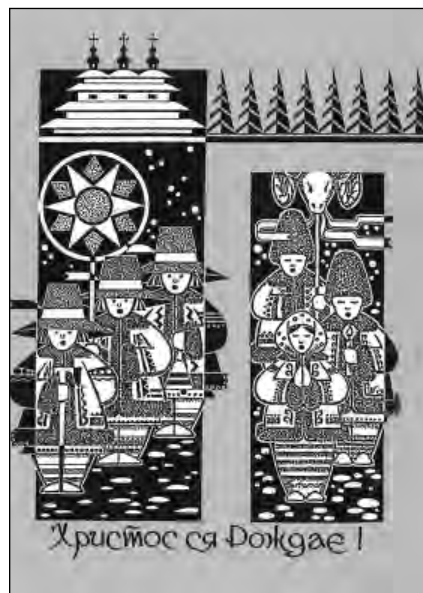


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OUT AND ABOUT

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| August 21
Philadelphia | Beer pong and pool benefit tournament, Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, 215-684-3548 | Chicago | Modern Art, 773- 227-5522 |
| August 22
Sunny Isles Beach, FL | Ukrainian Independence Day celebration, Ukrainian Cultural-Educational Center of Miami, Town Center Park, 305-798-0190 or 954-893-5288 | September 18-20
Toronto | Ukrainian Festival in the Bloor West Village, 416-410-9965 |
| August 22
Toms River, NJ | Ukrainian Festival, St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church, 732-505-6053 | September 19-20
Silver Spring, MD | Ukrainian Festival, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church, standrewuoc.org |
| August 22
Emlenton, PA | Bandura Camp final concert, All Saints Camp, amurha@aol.com | September 26
Chicago | Uketoberfest, St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral hall, kloplitband@yahoo.com |
| August 22-23
Chicago | Ukrainian Festival, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America - Illinois Division, Smith Park, 773-772-4500 | <p><i>Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.</i></p> | |
| August 22-23
Glen Spey, NY | Eurasia Arts Festival, Eurasia Dance Society, Mountain View Manor, zenia@eurasiadance.org or 202-841-8325 | | |
| August 22-23
Buffalo, NY | Ukrainian American Day Festival, with concert and dance, Ukrainian Cultural Center Dnipro, 716-847-1281 | | |
| August 23
Horsham, PA | Ukrainian Independence Day Festival, Ukrainian American Sports Center - Tryzub, 215-343-5412 | | |
| August 23
Virginia Beach, VA | Ukrainian Independence Day picnic, Tidewater Ukrainian Cultural Association, First Landing State Park, 757-692-6881 or www.tuca.us | | |
| August 23
North Port, FL | Ukrainian Independence Day celebration, St. Andrew Cultural Center (Oseredok), 941-613-5923 | | |
| August 23
Union, NJ | Ukrainian Independence Day, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America - Essex/Union counties of New Jersey, Union Township Municipal Building, 973-375-0156 | | |
| August 28
Wildwood Crest, NJ | All-ages dance, Kmelnychenky Plast fraternity, Wildwood Crest Pier Recreation Center, Adrian@telligys.com | | |
| August 29
Hamilton, ON | Concert, featuring Vasyl Popadiuk and Papa Duke, Hamilton Place Studio Theater, www.ticketmaster.ca or 905-527-7666 | | |
| August 29
Jewett, NY | Alexander Slobodyanik memorial concert, featuring Larysa Krupa, Natalia Khoma, Volodymyr Vynnytsky and the Leontovych String Quartet, Grazhda Music and Art Center of Greene County, 518-989-6479 | | |
| August 30
San Francisco | Ukrainian Day, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council of Northern California, Golden Gate Park, 650-363-1476 | | |
| August 30
Toronto | Concert, featuring Vasyl Popadiuk and Papa Duke, Assembly Hall Theater, 416-521-9555 or encore1@rogers.com | | |
| August 30
Edmonton, AB | Ukrainian Music Fest, Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society, Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, www.ukrainianvillage.ca | | |
| September 4-5
Chertsy, QC | Volleyball tournament weekend, Oselia Verkhovyna, WerchowynaVball@cym.org | | |
| September 5-6
Kerhonkson, NY | Swim Meet, Ukrainian Sports Federation of U.S.A. and Canada, Soyuzivka Heritage Center, 908-851-0617 | | |
| September 6
San Diego, CA | Ukrainian Festival, House of Ukraine, Balboa Park, housandiego@aol.com | | |
| September 12
Ottawa | 26th annual golf tournament, Ukrainian Golf Association, The Meadows Golf and Country Club, 913-834-9935 or 613-599-5310 | | |
| September 12-13
Baltimore, MD | Ukrainian Festival, Patterson Park, 410-967-0501 | | |
| September 12-13
Chicago | Ukrainian Village Festival, Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church, 312-829-5209 | | |
| September 13 through
October 25 | Art exhibit, featuring works by Wasil Kacurovsky and Alexanra Kowerko, Ukrainian Institute of | | |



Olvin Vladyka



Pavlo Lopata

ATTENTION ARTISTS

by Oksana Trytjak, UNA National Organizer

It does seem a little early to be thinking about Christmas cards, when we are just entering the glorious summer season and just experienced a very successful 3rd Annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka. But the Ukrainian National Association is already preparing for the next Christmas card project. As you well know this project is multifaceted- it encourages and popularizes Ukrainian artists, the proceeds are allocated to support the renaissance of Soyuzivka, and last but not least it promotes and recognizes the spirit of Christmas and goodwill. In the past few years the community has been very supportive and this UNA project has received funds averaging \$40,000 a year that have been allocated to Soyuzivka and its rebirth, specific donations to Svoboda, The Ukrainian Weekly and the UNF foundation. UNA will continue this project as long as we are fortunate enough to have artists participate and the community share in supporting the project.

We encourage and invite Ukrainian artists to join in this year's UNA Christmas Card Project. Over the years, UNA was very pleased to have had very many talented Ukrainian artists participate such as: Jaroslav Adamovych, Anatoli Balukh, Krystyna Baransky - Nana, Bohdan Borzemsky, Anatolij Burtovij, Marta Cisyk, Mykhajlo Dmytrenko, Tatianna Gajecy, Maria Harasowska-Daczyszyn, Jacques Hnizdovsky, Petro Holovatyj, John Jaciw, Natalia Josypchuk, Oleksander Kaniuka, Andriy Khomyk, Moki Kokoris, Danylo Koshtyra, Natalia Kovalenko, George Kozak, Yarema Kozak, Zenowia Kulynych, Zoya Lisowska, Pavlo Lopata, Oksana Lukaszewycz-Polon, Vitaliy Lytvyn, Andrij Maday, Roman Markovych, Marta Anna Shramenko-Rondazzo, Luba Maksymchuk, Liudmyla Mosijchuk, Leo Mol, Natalka, Chrystyna Nykorak, Lydia Palij, Rev. Serhij Pastukhiv, Aka Pereyma, Lidia Piaseckyj, Orest Poliszczuk, Myron Ryzhula, Christina Saj, Martha Savchak, Ilona Shyjiuk, Ivan Skolozdra, Roman Smetaniuk, Christine Sobol Jaroslav Stadnyk, Olena Stasiuk, `Youlia Tkatchouk, Yuriy Trytjak, Irene Twerdochlib, Halyna Tytla, Markijan Vitruk, Yuriy, Viktiuk, Olvin Vladyka.

This year, again, the UNA will be publishing approximately 150,000 cards. We encourage artists to submit their works. The theme of the art should be Ukrainian Christmas in diversified genres; oil, watercolor, tempera, computer graphics, gouache, woodcuts, mixed media or others. Please participate and submit either a slide, photo, original work or forward copy of art by e-mail that can be reproduced by September 30, 2009 to:

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280
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Attn. Oksana Trytjak
OKSANAUNA@COMCAST.NET
973-292-9800 x3071

Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|---|---|
| August 9-22 Dance Camp session 2 | September 11-13 Salzburg Reunion |
| August 21-22 Friday evening: Hrim unplugged on the Tiki Deck
Saturday: Dance Camp Recital, 3pm; Zabava with Hrim, 10 pm | September 14-17 Berchtesgaden, Karsfeld, Landshut, Regensburg, Bayreuth Reunions |
| August 23-29 Joseph's School of Dance (Ballroom Dance)
Friday: recital, 8 pm | September 18-19 Wedding weekend |
| August 27-30 Church of Annunciation Weekend | September 25-27 Wedding weekend |
| August 29 Wedding weekend | September 28-30 Mittenwald Reunion |
| August 31-September 7 Labor Day week
Weekend entertainment to be announced | |



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
216 Foordmore Road P.O. Box 529
Kerhonkson, NY 12446
E-mail: Soyuzivka@aol.com
Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

Being Ukrainian means:

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

Saturday-Sunday, August 22-23

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Illinois Division, presents Ukrainian Festival 2009 at Chicago's Smith Park, 2526 W. Grand Ave. (corner of North Campbell Street) from noon to 10 p.m. both days. This is the largest Ukrainian festival in the Midwest; it featured performers from Ukraine and Canada, as well as local talent. Festivities include: Ukrainian food, crafts, music, dance groups and much more. Pony rides and children's attractions add to the entertainment for the whole family. The celebration of Ukraine's Independence Day will begin on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. For more information contact Pavlo T. Bandriwsky, 773-772-4500.

BUFFALO, N.Y.: A concert and zabava (dance) will be held Saturday evening at the Ukrainian Cultural Center Dnipro, 562 Genesee St. Tickets are \$5; proceeds benefit the historic restoration of the Dnipro building. On the program: Myron & the Id (rock, polkas, indie, Ukrainian folk), 6 p.m.; John & Mary and the Valkyries (national recording artists, formerly with 10,000 Maniacs), 9 p.m. The concert will be held outside, under a tent. Food and Euro refreshments will be available. The Ukrainian American Day Festival will be held on Sunday beginning at 1 p.m. Traditional Ukrainian food (holubtsi, pyrohy), pastries and beverages will be available. Featured will be games, raffles, and arts and crafts for the children. The cultural program will include performances by the Ukrainian American Youth Association and the local School of Ukrainian Studies, plus music by Karpaty. Admission is free; there is ample parking. The event is sponsored by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Buffalo branch, and the Ukrainian Home Dnipro

Federal Credit Union. For more information call 716-847-1281 or visit www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com.

Monday, August 24

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The Ukrainian Community Committee to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine is sponsoring a gala concert marking Ukrainian Independence Day at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC), 700 Cedar Road. The program will include: keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. Taras Lonchyna; the Prometheus Ukrainian Male Chorus, singer Lidia Bychkova; the Holubka Female Vocal Ensemble; and Vira Hubitska, recitation. Doors open at 7 p.m. Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Soroka and Archbishop Antony will deliver prayers. Mayor Michael Nutter of Philadelphia will personally welcome the Ukrainian community of Philadelphia on this occasion. For more information call the UECC, 215-663-1166.

Saturday, September 5

LA MESA, Calif.: The House of Ukraine will screen the newly released short film "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1833" on Saturday at 6 p.m. at St. John the Baptizer Ukrainian Catholic Church, 4400 Palm Ave. For more information see www.houseofukraine.com or call 619-460-5733.

Sunday, September 6

SAN DIEGO, Calif.: The Ukrainian Family Festival will be held from noon to dusk at the House of Ukraine in Balboa Park. The Chervona Kalyna Dance Ensemble from Los Angeles will perform at 2 p.m.; food sales begin at noon. For more information see www.houseofukraine.com or call 619-460-5733.

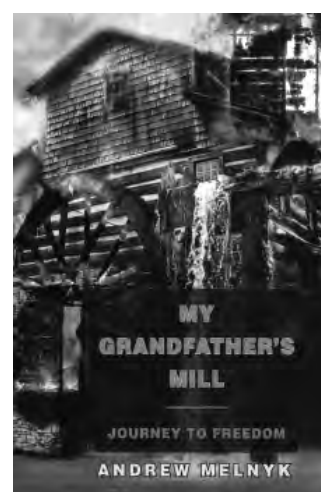
PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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



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