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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Yushchenko meets with Ukrainian community on the sidelines of his visit to United Nations



Lev Khmelkovsky

President Viktor Yushchenko speaks at The Ukrainian Museum.

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEW YORK – While visiting New York to participate in the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly, President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine addressed some 200 Ukrainian community representatives gathered on September 22 at The Ukrainian Museum and presented state awards to nine distinguished Ukrainian activists.

In his address to the gathering, the president spoke of the challenges facing Ukraine, especially in view of the approaching presidential elections, and the need for constitutional reform to set the country on the right track. (See page 6 for the president's op-ed commentary, "Why does Ukraine need constitutional reform?") He commented on the current problems in the Verkhovna Rada, which is unable to function.

The president laid out his vision for

Ukraine at a crucial period in its history and noted that the Ukrainian language, history and restored memory are essential for the Ukrainian nation. He also thanked Ukrainian Americans for helping Ukraine in its national development and for their strong support of Ukrainian statehood.

The president, First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko and diplomats from Ukraine's Embassy to the United States, its Mission to the United Nations and its Consulate General in New York were welcomed to the museum by Prof. Jaroslav Leshko, president of the museum's board of trustees.

Prof. Leshko noted that President and Mrs. Yushchenko had first visited The Ukrainian Museum in 2005, when they viewed the inaugural exhibit at the museum's new building that presented the works of renowned sculptor Alexander

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Auction of Odesa plant mired in scandal as sale is overturned

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The attempted sale of the Odesa Portside Plant on September 29 concluded in scandal after the State Property Fund's Auction Commission overturned the results of the auction, which was won by Ukrainian oligarchs Igor Kolomoisky and Oleksander Yaroslavskyi for 5 billion hrv (about \$610 million U.S.).

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko ignored a presidential decree and two court decisions to auction the plant in

order to raise desperately needed revenues for the government, which faces mounting payments and debts. Yet she invalidated the very auction she fought so hard to execute.

Minutes after the auction, commissioners met behind closed doors and afterwards cancelled the results because the price was too low. Observers speculated Ms. Tymoshenko ordered the commissioners to cancel the results during that meeting. She fueled the scandal with her own accusations.

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UNIAN

Protesters outside the State Property Fund during the auction of the Odesa Portside Plant underscore their concerns about environmental issues at the plant. Their placards read: "Beware: chemical danger."

Obama nominates Tefft as ambassador to Ukraine

KYIV – John Tefft, who served as U.S. ambassador to Georgia at the time of the 2008 war between Russia and Georgia, was nominated by President Barack Obama on September 30 as the new U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

The White House Office of the Press Secretary reported that Ambassador Tefft has been a career Foreign Service officer for 37 years. He most recently served as U.S. envoy to the Republic of Georgia in 2005-2009.

Prior to that assignment Mr. Tefft served as deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs and was responsible for U.S. relations with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and



U.S. State Department

Ambassador John Tefft

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Official Website of Ukraine's President

Dr. Myron B. Kuropas receives the Order for Merit from the president of Ukraine.

ANALYSIS

Whom will Washington support in the Ukrainian election?

by **Taras Kuzio**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Ukrainian media have started to debate whom the United States might support in the January 17, 2010, presidential election. This issue is closely related to the question of which "political technologists" the presidential candidates will employ: American or Russian. On August 31 Alyona Getmanchuk, the editor of the weekly magazine *Glavred*, discussed "Washingtonski Stavky" – how the U.S. administration looks upon the three main presidential candidates.

Ms. Getmanchuk characterized Viktor Yanukovich, who leads in the polls, as someone about whom Washington still has reservations, because of his background in the regime of Leonid Kuchma, his low intellectual capabilities, and his authoritarian and Soviet cultural attributes. Washington also looks negatively at Mr. Yanukovich's support for separatism in Georgia.

Similarly, Ms. Getmanchuk found that "in the U.S. they do not see in a President Yanukovich any threat to Ukrainian independence" because no Ukrainian leader will willingly give up Ukrainian sovereignty. This is a reference to the fact that Mr. Kuchma came to power with "pro-Russian" slogans in 1994, but quickly became a Ukrainian *derzhavnyk*.

However, what this comparison of Messrs. Yanukovich and Kuchma ignores is that Mr. Yanukovich was born in Belarus and grew up in the highly Sovietized Donetsk, where he was twice imprisoned and as the Donetsk governor in 1997-2002 oversaw the corrupt transition to a market economy that created oligarchs. In the USSR, Mr. Kuchma was head of Dnipropetrovsk's Pivdenmash (Yuzhmash), the world's largest producer of nuclear weapons and, therefore, a member of Ukraine's Communist *nomenklatura* (*Glavred*, August 31).

Ms. Getmanchuk analyzed Yulia Tymoshenko, who will most likely face Mr. Yanukovich in the second round of the election. Ms. Getmanchuk developed the familiar canards about Ms. Tymoshenko's "populism" that dominated Western coverage of her first government in 2005, but qualified this by saying that she is no longer seen in Washington as a "populist." Any analysis of

Ukrainian party and presidential programs will show that they include "populist" promises, including Mr. Yushchenko's 2004 program.

Ms. Getmanchuk pointed to one area where Washington might consider Ms. Tymoshenko as positive: her role in reforming and tackling corruption in the energy sector. Ms. Tymoshenko closed the corrupt gas intermediary RosUkrEnergo, which resulted in 2009 becoming the first year that Ukraine's gas trade is not managed by a corrupt intermediary. Ms. Tymoshenko retains a larger number of skeptics versus supporters in Washington, Ms. Getmanchuk believes, because of her alleged "authoritarian" tendencies, and her unwillingness to compromise. However, Washington's views of Ms. Tymoshenko (like its views about Mr. Yanukovich), Ms. Getmanchuk suggested, are also in the process of changing.

Finally, she assessed Arseniy Yatsenyuk (interestingly the analysis ignores President Viktor Yushchenko, who received a rapturous welcome during his April 2005 visit to Washington, where he was accorded the rare privilege of speaking to both houses of Congress). Ms. Getmanchuk wrote that few in Washington know much about Mr. Yatsenyuk, a factor that is unlikely to change before the election. Washington's interest in Mr. Yatsenyuk is in decline, Ms. Getmanchuk believes, in a comparable way to the plateauing of his support in Ukraine over the last four months after his meteoric rise in the previous six.

Mr. Yatsenyuk's support in Ukraine and in the West has grown as a consequence of domestic disillusionment with Mr. Yushchenko, Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yanukovich. One of his drawbacks, Ms. Getmanchuk believes, is that Mr. Yatsenyuk has little charisma, appears arrogant and little is known about him or his policies (for example, it is now understood that he is less pro-Western than at first it was assumed). Another factor contributing to this declining interest is the widely held view that Mr. Yatsenyuk will fail to enter the second round.

Ms. Getmanchuk's analysis is complicated by the fact that Mr. Yatsenyuk is the only main candidate using Russian "political technologists." The Ukrainian team of consultants, led by Prof. Rostyslav Pawlenko of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, was replaced by Russian consultants in June (www.proua.com, July 3). These Russian consultants were involved in preparing the anti-Yushchenko and anti-American propaganda in the 2004 elections for the Yanukovich campaign. They have also been blamed for the hugely unpopular Yatsenyuk billboards and campaign tents in the center of most Ukrainian cities that use military camouflage colors to portray an air of crisis (www.arseniy.org).

Mr. Yanukovich, Ms. Tymoshenko, and Mr. Yushchenko use American election consultants (information about which is easy to find because U.S. companies working for foreign governments have to register with the Department of Justice's Foreign Agents Registration Unit) (FARA). Mr. Yanukovich draws on political consultants linked to the Republican Party who, unlike others working in Ukraine, have never registered with FARA.

Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko have drawn upon election consultants who have worked for Democratic election campaigns, including those of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. The Tymoshenko team hired AKPD Message and Media, which

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NEWSBRIEFS

Ukraine's first astronaut dies at 79

KYIV – The first astronaut from Ukraine, Maj. Gen. Pavlo Popovych – who was awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union, the highest honor of the USSR – has died of a stroke at the age of 78, it was reported on September 30. During the past few years he lived in Hurzuf, Crimea. Popovych spent almost 60 years of his life in Moscow, but never forgot Ukraine. For several years he headed the Slavutych Society of Ukrainian Culture, and made a great contribution to the opening of the Ukrainian Cultural Center on Staryi Arbat in Moscow. "I am proud that I am a Ukrainian. Addressing an audience, I always say that I am the first Ukrainian astronaut," he used to tell the press. Popovych was born in Uzyn, Bila Tserkva district, Kyiv region, on October 5, 1930. His first time in orbit was in 1962 – a year after Yuri Gagarin became the first man to travel into space – when he was the pilot of the Vostok-4 spaceship; his second flight took place 12 years later, when he headed the crew of Soyuz-14. He was the Soviet Union's fourth cosmonaut. He completed his service as the deputy head of the astronaut-training center in charge of research work (1982-1988). Before the collapse of the USSR Popovych was a member of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR. (Ukrinform, RFE/RL)

29,000 obtain citizenship, 4,671 renounce

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has signed a decree on the granting of Ukrainian citizenship to 289 persons, including three teenagers, the Presidential Secretariat's Citizenship Service reported on September 29. Representatives of 39 nationalities obtained citizenship: Russians (29 percent), Armenians (23 percent), Azerbaijani, Georgians, Koreans (6 percent each) and Moldovans (4 percent). As a result of the president's decisions, a total of 2,561 aliens have been naturalized this year. Overall, based on the decisions of the president, internal affairs agencies, diplomatic missions and consular establishments, about 29,000 persons have obtained Ukrainian citizen-

ship in 2009. At the same time, 4,671 persons have renounced Ukrainian citizenship. (Ukrinform)

Germany provides data on WWII prisoners

KYIV – German NGO Saxon Memorials to the Victims of Political Terror has delivered to the archive of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) electronic databases for 60,000 Ukrainian prisoners of war of World War II, the SBU press-service reported on September 30. The electronic database contains information from individual records that were kept in POW camps. These records contain personal data of prisoners, in most cases with photos, as well as information about the camp and transfers to other camps. The information received will be given to citizens upon their request. Many still do not know anything about the fate of their relatives, former Soviet prisoners of war that were imprisoned in German camps. The SBU and Saxon Memorials to the Victims of Political Terror signed a protocol of cooperation that is in effect for five years. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine confirms second case of H1N1

KYIV – The virology and AIDS laboratory of the Central Sanitary-Epidemiological Station of Ukraine's Health Ministry on September 30 confirmed the second case of the H1N1 influenza virus. The virus was discovered in a person born in 1970 who is temporarily residing in Kyiv. From July 25 to August 3 he was in Indonesia (Bali) on a holiday. He returned to Kyiv by plane via from Istanbul. Indonesia was not on the list of countries with cases of H1N1. In June, according to information from the Ukrainian Center of Influenza and Acute Respiratory Infections, confirmation came from the reference laboratory of the World Health Organization in London that a 24-year-old patient from Ukraine had tested positive for H1N1. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich, Tymoshenko hold lead

KYIV – If the presidential elections

(Continued on page 14)

Clarification

Thank you for publishing the story and the text of the letter from the Commission on Human and Civil Rights of the Ukrainian World Congress to Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany regarding John Demjanjuk (September 6). However, the headline "Ukrainian World Congress appeals for Demjanjuk" is misleading. The letter was not from the Ukrainian World Congress (in which case it would have been signed by UWC President Eugene Czolij and/or Secretary General Stefan Romaniw). The Commission on Human and Civil Rights does not have the authority to write on behalf of the Ukrainian World Congress (and does not wish to have such authorization). The commission, though created by the Ukrainian World Congress, is an "arm's length" institution, which acts independently. As far as I know the Ukrainian World Congress has made no statements or appeals regarding Mr. Demjanjuk recently.

– *Jurij Darewych, chair of the Commission on Human and Civil Rights.*

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3041

Maria Oscislowski, advertising manager

e-mail: ukradmin@att.net

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040

Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions

fax: (973) 644-9510

e-mail: adukr@optonline.net

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042

e-mail: ukrsubscr@att.net

NEWS ANALYSIS: Russia's new Ukrainian disinformation campaign

by Roman Kupchinsky
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Disinformation, or the planting of false information to deceive or smear an enemy, is now being regularly used by both government and non-governmental players in Russia and Ukraine in the fierce battles for control of power and assets in these countries.

During the January 2009 "gas war" between Ukraine and Russia, the Russian leadership accused Ukraine of preventing Russian gas from reaching customers in the European Union. The charges were shown to be blatantly false, but were repeated by Russian spokesmen in order to discredit Ukraine as a gas transit country, while building up support within Europe for the North Stream and South Stream pipeline projects.

In what might have been a possible retaliation for this, Ukraine launched its own stealth campaign, claiming that the Russian Consulate in Crimea was handing out Russian passports to Russians living on the peninsula. Ukraine was never able to prove these charges, but the idea took hold and many Ukrainians seemed convinced that these "passports" were meant to stir up the Crimean population and were a prelude to the forcible separation of Crimea from Ukraine by Russia's armed might.

In September a new and apparently more elaborate disinformation campaign began. This time it was between compet-

ing Ukrainian political parties, one of which seemed to be aided by the Russian media. The campaign is centered on the poisoning of Viktor Yushchenko in 2004 during the hotly contested presidential election in Ukraine, which Mr. Yushchenko eventually won.

Members of the pro-Russian Party of the Regions, led by Viktor Yanukovich, have long claimed that the poisoning of Mr. Yushchenko was concocted and that the United States played a key role in this "hoax," meant to win sympathy votes for the pro-Western Mr. Yushchenko and discredit Russian politicians who openly supported Mr. Yanukovich in 2004.

This conspiracy-disinformation attempt did not gain a significant following at first, and was apparently shelved. But with new presidential elections scheduled to take place in Ukraine in January 2010, the old charges surrounding the poisoning were resurrected, and new lurid details were added and set in motion.

On September 18 the Ukrainian newspaper *Segodnya* published a sensational report stating that Larysa Cherednichenko, the former head of the department for supervision over investigations into criminal cases of the Ukrainian Procurator General's Office, claimed that high-ranking officials from the Presidential Secretariat and family members of Mr. Yushchenko had falsified evidence in his poisoning case (www.kyivpost.com, September 19).

"As [Davyd] Zhvaniya [a member of

the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense faction of the Ukrainian Parliament, who has more than once denied Yushchenko's poisoning] said, the victim had blood samples taken from him in September-October 2004 with help from an Austrian doctor. However, the samples were not studied in Ukraine or another European country. They were secretly taken to the U.S., where they were enriched with dioxin and were later taken to the U.K. with help from the U.S. special services."

The scenario provided by Mr. Zhvaniya was elaborated upon in the Russian newspaper *Kommersant Daily* on September 24. *Kommersant* quoted a report in its possession that Ms. Cherednichenko ordered a forensic test of a conversation recorded between two persons speaking primarily in English interspersed with occasional Ukrainian.

The conversation was about an unnamed American intelligence service whose agents were due to take Mr. Yushchenko's blood sample to Austria. Furthermore, the investigation claimed that one of the voices on the recording belonged to Kateryna Yushchenko, Mr. Yushchenko's wife, and the other voice to Roman Zvarych, a former Ukrainian justice minister and close supporter of Mr. Yushchenko (*Kommersant*, September 24).

What the paper failed to mention was how and where this alleged recording was made and by whom.

Both Mrs. Yushchenko and Mr. Zvarych were born in the United States

and belonged to the same Ukrainian nationalist organization until moving in the 1990s to Ukraine, where they eventually obtained Ukrainian citizenship. After Mr. Yushchenko's election as president, his wife was often accused in the Russian media of being a CIA agent.

According to a report on the BBC on January 28, 2005, "In 2001, the Russian television presenter Mikhail Leontiev, known for his controversial pro-Kremlin sympathies, accused Kateryna Yushchenko of being a 'CIA agent' sent to Ukraine to bring her husband to power. Kateryna Yushchenko subsequently won a libel case in a Ukrainian court against Leontiev and his 'Odnako' [However] program."

Austrian doctors responsible for examining Mr. Yushchenko several months after the poison was reportedly administered said the Ukrainian politician had ingested a concentrated dose of dioxin. The powerful toxin caused bloating and pockmarks on Mr. Yushchenko's face, giving his skin a greenish hue and adding a macabre note to a tumultuous political season culminating in the mass Orange Revolution protests in December 2004.

For unexplained reasons, the current disinformation campaign fails to name who poisoned Mr. Yushchenko and why.

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

FOR THE RECORD: Yushchenko addresses the U.N. General Assembly

Following is an excerpt from the statement delivered on September 23 by President Victor Yushchenko of Ukraine at the General Debate of the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The English-language text was released by the president's press office.

...We in Ukraine live in the atmosphere of strengthening freedom.

This process is both grand and complex. Its difficulties discourage idealists, nurture authoritarian forces, yet they render another alpine peak for all enlightened minds and hands to move upwards.

The milestone of our nation today is the basis for moving forward to live a free and safe life, to revive our own millennium-old tradition, its interrupted ties and to be again an active part of global civilization and its future.

Our democratic choice is irreversible.

As a free nation, we shall not accept any forms of interference into internal affairs of sovereign states, any pressure on them or manifestations of authoritarian thinking in international relations.

We remember the price paid by our fathers for our freedom, for the freedom of Europe and the world, for the future independence of Ukraine.

We shall soon commemorate the 65th anniversary of the victory over fascism. This joint victory of [the] anti-Hitler coalition is sacred.

The mission of all countries which remember the horrors of fascism is to avert a single hint at restoration of totalitarian ideology and its derivative: the policy of imperial ambitions, neglecting the value of human life and violating the right of peoples to sovereign national existence.

I am raising this issue, because we are witnessing very disconcerting re-emerged signals from the past: ranging from questioning the very existence of newly independent states to denying the nations' own views on their past and future.

We are concerned about substitution of

concepts and approaches: cooperation, openness and friendship among nations are being explicitly confronted by aggressive national egotism, ignoring the interests of close partners, and by dictating the right of the powerful.

Unconcealed information wars, energy and economic blackmail, interference with sovereign affairs fall outside the civilized framework.

And, most importantly, we strongly condemn and we shall not accept any violations of the fundamental international principles, in particular territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers of all sovereign states.

It is an axiom for us that all the U.N. member-states and especially the permanent members of the Security Council must be exemplary in abiding by the principles of international law, equality of nations and neighborliness.

For our Charter remains unshattered, entrusting the Security Council with the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

Ukraine acts in strict compliance with the goals and principles of the United Nations and expects the same from its partners and neighbors.

Today, I have the honor to confirm Ukraine's resolve to become a U.N. Security Council member in 2016-2017.

Our country has been and will always remain a reliable partner of the U.N. in all matters of peace and security and in collective actions fostering stability in every region, especially in Africa. ...

Almost 15 years ago Ukraine voluntarily gave up the third largest nuclear potential and acceded to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state.

We welcome the steps taken by the United States and the Russian Federation to elaborate a new agreement to replace the Treaty between the USSR and the USA on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of 31 July 1991, which expires this year.



Official Website of Ukraine's President

President Viktor Yushchenko addresses the U.N. General Assembly.

At the same time, Ukraine persistently counts on the support by the Security Council permanent members of our proposal to enhance security assurances for non-nuclear states, in particular for those which had voluntarily renounced nuclear weapons or their development. ...

I wish to dwell on the issue of the utmost importance for Ukraine. It is the global fight against the maritime piracy.

We value all efforts of the United Nations and the International Maritime Organization in this regard.

Still, the measures so far have not been sufficient.

Almost 70 000 Ukrainian citizens are employed on ships under foreign flags. Any developments on the high seas affect us directly.

In the last seven years only, pirates attacked 18 vessels with Ukrainian sailors on board. In the last nine months only, 35 Ukrainian sailors were taken hostages.

It is not a local problem anymore. It has become very dangerous and threatening [to] all of us. We shall not turn a blind

eye on it.

Ukraine was among the co-sponsors of the IMO Resolution "Piracy and armed robbery against ships in waters off the coast of Somalia," which laid the ground for further respective U.N. Security Council resolutions. ...

We are convinced that the General Assembly has to become a coordinating body for the efforts of all specialized institutions in this field. ...

On behalf of Ukraine I propose to examine carefully an idea of establishing in one of the African countries a regional center under the U.N. aegis which would bring under its umbrella specialized agencies programs and funds as well as political offices to counter piracy. ...

I am convinced that one of the most acute problems for all of us is the global financial crisis. Ukraine welcomes decisions of multilateral fora, in particularly those of the Group of 20 as the leading instrument to counter the crisis.

(Continued on page 22)



Roma Hadzewycz
Sculptor Igor Grechanyk explains his work to President Viktor Yushchenko.

Yushchenko meets...

(Continued from page 1)

Archipenko.

"Your presence in our museum assured our Ukrainian community that its generosity in building the new museum has resonance amid the highest levels in Ukraine and it facilitated closer contacts and cooperation with cultural institutions in Ukraine," Prof. Leshko said of the visit four years ago.

He added that, in its new home, The Ukrainian Museum is continuing its 33 years of work in "presenting to the world the rich historical and cultural heritage of Ukraine," and noted that the museum is now preparing for the exhibit "Ukraine-Sweden: At the Crossroads of History," which President Yushchenko and the king of Sweden had opened in Kyiv earlier this year.

Members of the Ukrainian delegation attending President Yushchenko's meeting with the community at The Ukrainian Museum were: Ambassador to the United Nations Yuriy Sergeyev, Ambassador to the U.S. Oleh Shamshur, Consul General Serhii Pohoreltsev (New York), Ambassador Valeriy Kuchynsky, First Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Khandogiy, Deputy Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Presidential Secretariat Chair Vira Ulianchenko and others.

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Yushchenko presented state awards to Ukrainian activists involved in various fields of endeavor as Ms. Ulianchenko read the official decree.

Andrew Fedynsky, director of the Ukrainian Museum-Archives of Cleveland, and Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, community activist from Chicago, were awarded the Order for Merit, III class. (Both men, it should be noted, are columnists for The Ukrainian Weekly.)

Halyna Woskobijnyk, president of the Ivan Bahriany Foundation; Natalia Danylenko, honorary member of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations; Roxolana Horobowj, vice-president of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations; Nadia Matkiwsky, co-founder of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund; Sonya Soutus, community activist; and Ulana Mazurkevich, president of the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee; were honored with the Order of Princess Olha, III class.

The Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise, IV class, was bestowed on Eugene Stakhiv, community activist.

While at The Ukrainian Museum, President Yushchenko was given a private tour of an exhibit of sculptures by Igor Grechanyk from Kyiv. The exhibit was dedicated to the 18th anniversary of Ukraine's independence and arrived in New York from Washington, where it was on display at the Embassy of Ukraine. Also on display in the second-floor gallery toured by the Ukrainian president were the works of the late Mychajlo Moroz. Mr. Grechanyk gave Mr. Yushchenko a tour of his works, and Prof. Leshko spoke briefly about the Moroz paintings.

Maria Shust, director of The Ukrainian Museum, told The Weekly that Mr. Yushchenko knows Mr. Grechanyk and that the artist had been commissioned to do two monumental sculptures of Taras Shevchenko – one in Baku, Azerbaijan, and the other in Sofia, Bulgaria.

According to the Official Website of the President of Ukraine, during his September 21-23 visit to New York and the United Nations (excerpts of his speech to the General Assembly appear on page 3), Viktor Yushchenko held meetings with the leaders of Lithuania, Finland, Sweden, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil and other countries, as well as with the President of the 64th session of the U.S. General Assembly, Ali Abdussalam Treki. In addition, the president

(Continued on page 17)



Official Website of Ukraine's President
Halyna Woskobijnyk receives the Order of Princess Olha.



Lev Khmelkovsky
Sonya Soutus receives her state award.



Official Website of Ukraine's President
Andrew Fedynsky is recognized by the president.



Oksana Trytjak
Honoree Natalia Danylenko is flanked by the Yushchenkos.



Roma Hadzewycz
Recipients of the Order of Princess Olha (from left) Ulana Mazurkevich, Nadia Matkiwsky and Halyna Woskobijnyk.



Oksana Trytjak
Honoree Myron B. Kuropas, a longtime officer of the Ukrainian National Association and an honorary member of its General Assembly, is congratulated by UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich (right) and his wife, Lesia.



Official Website of Ukraine's President
Dr. Roxolana Horbowj is congratulated by Ukraine's president.



Lev Khmelkovsky
President Viktor Yushchenko presents the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise to Eugene Stakhiv.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Seniors hold annual conference at Soyuzivka

by Oksana Trytjak

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The explosive growth of the senior population is affecting the whole world: more people are living longer, in better health and with more resources than ever before. This is also true of the Ukrainian population. With this reality in mind, the UNA Seniors held yet another annual UNA Seniors' Conference at Soyuzivka from Sunday, June 14, through Friday, June 19.

Soyuzivka has been the recreational and cultural center of the Ukrainian community for many years. Recently it has experienced a revival, with increasingly more activities and events marked on its social calendar. The summertime is a particularly exciting time when both the young and the old enjoy visiting Soyuzivka's relaxing atmosphere and reconnecting with friends from both far and near. There are children's camps, family reunions, weddings, film festivals and, of course, the popular Ukrainian Cultural Festival, which this year was headlined by Ukrainian pop star Ruslana and attracted over 6,000 guests.

Seniors are a big part of Soyuzivka's revival. Since 1975 the UNA Seniors Club has held annual conferences at Soyuzivka. This year 104 seniors attended the conference, and eight guest speakers participated.

On the first day of the conference, Myrosia Hrab, the seniors' special exercise guru, led everyone in an exercise and dance regime. In the days that followed, Prof. Alexander Motyl read from his book "Whiskey Priest" with great passion; financial adviser Zorianna Stawnychy spoke at length about the vulnerability of the aged and how to prepare for various financial issues related to aging that may occur; Soyuzivka Manager Nestor Paslawsky welcomed all the seniors and eagerly answered questions and concerns about the heritage center; Ihor Hayda spoke about the importance of nutrition, especially for the aging population; attorney Myron Smorodsky explained the difficulties that can occur with bequests and wills, especially as they pertain to Ukraine; Dr. Bohdar Woroch spoke about health and medications, and answered many questions from the audience; and Prof. Jaroslaw Leshko spoke about The Ukrainian Museum in New York and the value of expanding its membership base.

Oksana Trytjak is UNA national organizer and president of the UNA Seniors.



Participants of the 2009 UNA Seniors Week at Soyuzivka.

Oksana Trytjak

In between, the evenings were filled with song, dance and reminiscences. Rostyslav Wasylenko was always ready to lead conference participants in song with the aid of his mandolin. Alexander Redko entertained one evening with his recitations and humor. With wit, patience and determination George Soltys, along with Halia Redko, Wolodymyra Bilaniuk, Gloria Horbaty and Marijka Soltys, took charge of Auction Night and made sure that every item was auctioned off to a happy buying audience. Tamara Huryn led a brief stretch and exercise program that kept all of the attendees fit and nimble.

The Soltyses were instrumental also in the successful Bingo afternoon, which helped fill the UNA Seniors' coffers. Yet another moneymaker (other than the conference registration fee of \$10 per person) was the raffle of a beautiful Trypillian vase that was brought from Toronto by Ivan Skrypukh. This vase came from a collection of Trypillian works collected by his late wife, Lydia Skrypukh. Alexandra Stasiuk and Gloria Horbaty sold tickets for the raffle.

As always, Thursday evening was reserved for a group photo, cocktails and a super banquet prepared by Soyuzivka's talented chef, Andrij Sonevytsky. Most guests attended in their best embroidered garb, and all enjoyed a fashion walk around the banquet hall.

Ukrainian National Association executives were present, including President Stefan Kaczaraj, National Secretary Christine Kozak and Treasurer Roma Lisovich. Mr. Kaczaraj greeted the



A view of the daily sessions held in the Veselka Hall at Soyuzivka during UNA Seniors Week.

seniors on behalf of all the UNA executives at the beginning of the banquet.

Mr. Wasylenko presented a brief reading from "Memoirs of a Spy during World War I" published by Olha Trytjak and written by her father, Ivan Wyslotsky. The evening continued with singing and dancing to the sounds of "Hurt Udech."

During the business portion of the session, the following were elected as UNA Seniors officers: Maria Tomorug, treasurer;

Olha Trytjak, secretary; Ihor Hayda, vice president; and Oksana Trytjak, president. Ija Wasylenko, the outgoing treasurer, did not seek re-election and she was thanked her for her services to the organization.

The program for next year's UNA Seniors' Conference is already in the works (all over age 55 are welcome). The all-inclusive fun week – promising a good time at a very reasonable price – is scheduled for June 13-18, 2010.



Conference participants listen to Alexander Motyl's presentation on his book "Whiskey Priest."



In the Veselka hall, Myrosia Hrab leads the seniors in an exercise program.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Nihilism in Ukraine

The Odesa Portside Plant affair offers a glimpse into the nihilism of Ukrainian politics and business that the post-Orange Revolution era will be remembered for.

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko fought tooth-and-nail to ensure that the auction take place, only to invalidate it afterwards. At the same time, billionaire oligarch Igor Kolomoisky filed one of the lawsuits that forbid the auction, yet he vowed to defend his winning bid in the courts.

The disgraceful conflict between President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko, which, we hope, will end with the presidential election, continues to wreak havoc upon Ukraine. With Odesa Portside, they've done a remarkable job in restoring Ukraine's image as an investment nightmare.

Consider the legal nihilism – the auction was held despite a presidential decree and two court decisions forbidding it. As a result, of 13 potential competitors, only three opted to bid. After all, few legitimate businessmen will invest in a country in which the president insists an auction is illegal and will be voided, while the prime minister tells everyone to ignore him.

And, while these two continue to claw at each other, Ukraine's industrial resources, built by generations of Ukrainians, continue being sold down the river to post-Soviet oligarchs. Consider the three bidders – a firm affiliated with Gazprom, Vladimir Putin's chokehold on Ukraine; Russian oligarch Konstantin Grigorishin; and Ukrainian oligarchs Mr. Kolomoisky and Oleksander Yaroslavskyi.

The Odesa Portside Plant mustn't fall into Russian hands, Mr. Kolomoisky claimed afterwards in trying to muster public support for his winning \$610 million bid – a sweet deal considering the factory was valued at between \$1 billion and \$2 billion a year ago. That's hollow patriotism coming from the Dnipropetrovsk native who lives in Switzerland, is raising his children there and has never been heard to speak Ukrainian.

"Kolomoisky wants to buy this factory at 'beztsin' [an absurdly low price] in order to sell it later," said Petro Burkovskiy, an economist at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. "It's a business he always did, with oblast energy companies and his manganese assets and ferroalloy assets. These people bought state assets at 'beztsin' from the people, returning nothing to them."

Ukraine's state-owned assets should be sold not only to raise revenue, but to allow the private sector to do what the government can't do – improve the efficiency and profitability of an enterprise. Instead, Ms. Tymoshenko initiated the Odesa Portside auction because her government is surviving hand to mouth, bereft of revenues.

Rather than taking cost-cutting measures to reduce spending, Ms. Tymoshenko has spent the last several weeks unveiling new spending initiatives. Mail carriers and librarians will get raises; \$9 million was earmarked for the Kharkiv metro; another \$1.2 billion was found for the Euro 2012 (or printed by the National Bank, her critics allege).

Accusations of populism are legitimate. Not offering any long-term strategic vision or priorities for Ukraine, Ms. Tymoshenko has staked her political success on handing out goodies. The Odesa Portside auction confirmed one of the biggest criticisms of Ms. Tymoshenko: her handling of politics as short-term deal-making regardless of long-term consequences.

The president, too, deserves criticism. He blocked the Odesa Portside auction last year when it could have earned at least \$1 billion, if not twice that. He claims he's motivated by Ukraine's long-term interests, but the fact that he's competing against Ms. Tymoshenko in the presidential election can't be ignored. His statements insisting the factory won't be sold frightened off one of the best potential investors, Norway's Yara International.

Conspiracy theories are supposed to be the domain of society's skeptics, rebels and malcontents. In Ukraine, they're spun by the nation's leaders. The three bidders conspired together, Ms. Tymoshenko claimed. Tymoshenko wanted to sell the plant to the Russians, said Mr. Kolomoisky. Tymoshenko and Kolomoisky are in it together, claimed another rival for the presidency, Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

At the heart of the matter are morals and ethics, Mr. Burkovskiy properly noted. "Political and economic decline comes with the degradation of morals," he said. "Changing owners and politicians won't change anything as there isn't a foundation to hold everything together."

Let's hope Ukraine's leaders find something to hold the nation together before it's torn apart.

COMMENTARY

Why does Ukraine need constitutional reform?

by Viktor Yushchenko

Ukraine is currently in an extremely difficult political and economic situation, which poses a threat to its stability and is fraught with the loss of sovereignty. The economic difficulties, instability and other crisis phenomena primarily result from our political elite's inability to run this country, to respond to external challenges in a swift and adequate manner, to reach a consensus on the fundamental principles of the state's development and to bear responsibility for the results of their activities. Such stability and responsibility should be based on adherence to democratic principles and procedures in everyday political life.

Economic consequences of the political crisis

A thorough analysis of the current situation has produced a disappointing conclusion: in order to find a way out of the crisis and to avert similar crises in the future, Ukraine should first solve its internal political problems, which are the root of evil and the cause of the present woes.

For example, at the beginning of this year, under pressure from neighboring countries, the Ukrainian government showed a selective approach to the defense of Ukrainian interests during the signing of the gas accords, which jeopardize our energy security. In this context, proper management of our strategic assets in this area is increasingly becoming a matter of utmost importance for the whole European community. Such vital issues as the need to improve relations with the European Union and other foreign partners of Ukraine also require solutions.

The worsening of the domestic political situation amid a global economic and financial crisis has caused GDP to shrink by 22 percent, also bringing about rising inflation, an unstable rate of the national currency and higher debt to foreign creditors.

Even though Ukraine has managed to avoid economic collapse thanks to international assistance, we are still hanging in limbo.

Public demand for a revamped mechanism of power

Constitutional reform is the key and only way of forming responsible and effective authorities. Society has long developed an acute need for reform of the fundamental law (Constitution), which would eliminate the inconsistencies brought into the constitutional realm by the ill-conceived and hasty changes made to the Constitution before the presidential election in 2004.

As a result, we had the scene set for harsh social and political conflicts and instability in institutions of power. The present Constitution as a product of political compromise has resulted in a widening gap between the authorities and the people and has begun to serve the interests of the elites instead of meeting public needs and aspirations. We need a viable Constitution of freedoms, which would effectively safeguard human and civil rights and liberties.

In this context, I see my task as head of state in making irreversible at the constitutional level the democratic changes that have drastically transformed Ukraine after the Orange Revolution of 2004. I am convinced that a revised Constitution must become the fundamental law of a free, just and protected society, which is governed by law and democracy.

My stance is consistent and unchanged: the amendments to the Constitution should not be tailor-made for specific personalities or political forces. They should be based on

society's political and legal need for changing the existing system of power.

Main principles of a new Constitution of Ukraine

As president of Ukraine, I will work to meet the public demand for a revamp of the system of power via direct dialogue with the citizens, who are the only source of state power. I have recently signed a decree on a nationwide discussion of the text of the new Constitution that was submitted to Parliament early this year.

The numerous unsuccessful attempts to achieve unity among parliamentary factions and bodies of power only highlighted the need for such public examination to be launched. This is precisely why I proposed that not only lawmakers but also all Ukrainian people be involved in a joint discussion on the subject. I also invite other experts and interested European organizations to comment on the draft new Constitution, which has recently received a positive assessment from the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe. The draft is based on international and national constitutional experience and is guided by universally recognized European standards and the requirements of international agreements in the field of human rights.

The key provisions of the revised Constitution are about creating an effective system of checks and balances in the state mechanism, widening the political rights of Ukrainian citizens and boosting their ability to directly influence state decision-making. In particular, one novelty in Ukrainian constitutionalism is the introduction of the right of the people's legislative initiative. This right is provided for by the Constitutions of a whole number of European states, such as Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, etc., and it is in place in 22 states of the U.S.A., 20 constituent parts of the Russian Federation and a range of states in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Under the new fundamental law, the political regime must hinge on free political competition and respect for democratic values.

A provision of principle is the stipulation of the Ukrainian state's international position as an inalienable part of the European community.

The new Constitution should become a foundation for a free, just and affluent Ukrainian society and should be based on such principles and premises as:

- democratic distribution of powers, duties and responsibilities among all branches of power;
- direct election of leaders, who are accountable to citizens;
- ensuring that parties are accountable to voters by introducing open election lists;
- re-orientating law-enforcement bodies towards protecting human rights and state laws by ridding pre-trial investigation of its incriminatory bias.

Under the new Constitution, everyone will be entitled to protect their interests and contest anti-constitutional laws in the Constitutional Court.

The new Constitution is a safeguard of Ukrainian statehood's development

Society's current need for a revamped mechanism of power creates high expectations for an active, broad and public discussion on the main provisions of the draft amendments to the Constitution and for constructive proposals, which will be collected and considered. The reworked and finalized text will take account of the proposals made during the nationwide public

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Oct.
10
2006

Turning the pages back...

Three years ago, on October 10, 2006, more than 100 mourners protested in front of the Russian Embassy in Kyiv to honor the memory of Anna Politkovskaya, an investigative journalist of Ukrainian descent who was murdered in Moscow

on October 6, 2006.

Politkovskaya, who worked for Novaya Gazeta in Russia, was murdered in the elevator of her own residence and the gunman left the murder weapon at the crime scene – a clue that the murder was an assassination.

She was known for her book "Druha Cechenska" (Second Chechen War), which describes the horrors of the war, exposing its absurdity, brutality and inhuman cruelty.

During the protest, organized by Ukrainian journalists and the international information agency Yevropeyska Khvylia (European Wave), protesters placed flowers and lit candles at the Embassy's tall metal fence, holding Ms. Politkovskaya's photo and a copy of her book.

A placard was unveiled by the Citizens Opposition of Ukraine that read, "Putin – Murderer." Activists read aloud Politkovskaya's works, including "Why I don't like

(Continued on page 11)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wrong message to Russia's neighbors

Dear Editor:

Can someone explain to me why President Barack Obama would abandon Poland, Ukraine, the Czech Republic and other countries on the 70th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland?

Are President Obama and his administration that ignorant of history, or is this a much more sinister message? Is that message that we will no longer defend the former Soviet states and surrounding sovereign countries that have been dependent upon the United States to stand up to Russia's aggressive tendencies?

When Iran has long-range missile capability and nuclear warheads to ride, Israel and our Eastern European friends had better beware. It makes me sick to see Mr. Obama breaking promises to those who have sacrificed so much for freedom.

What is interesting is that two days after Mr. Obama made his announcement, Russia's top general said that plans to deploy missiles in Kaliningrad, an enclave next to Poland had not been shelved, despite a decision by the United States to rethink plans for missile defense in Europe.

I'm sure the next few months will reveal some backdoor deal struck with Russia.

At the end of the day all we did was empower the Russians, make Iran happy and make the people in Central and Eastern Europe wonder who we are as Americans.

Walt Zalisko
Port Orange, Fla.

At worst, an act of civil disobedience

Dear Editor:

I was both surprised and disappointed by the editorial "Lenin fades democratically" published in The Ukrainian Weekly (August 30).

Would you have published such an editorial if the statue was of Hitler or of Stalin? After all, Lenin was the one who established the infamous political police CheKa (later renamed OGPU, NKVD, MVD and KGB), he was the initiator of the use of terror against those he considered to be a threat to the dictatorship of the Communist Party, he was the founder of the Communist system of concentration camps (later known as the GULAG), and the person who sent Communist armed forces to invade Ukraine, overthrew the Ukrainian National Republic and subjugated Ukraine to Communist Russian rule. Lenin's brutality has been

revealed not only through his deeds, but also in many documents, among them those published in the book "The Unknown Lenin" (Richard Pipes, Yale University Press, 1999).

You characterize Mykola Kokhanivskyi's deed as a "political provocation" and "vandalism." At worst, it was an act of civil disobedience, little different from what was done with Lenin's statue in Lviv and many other places in Ukraine nearly 20 years ago. It is the continuing existence of statues of leaders of the criminal Communist regime in many locations in Ukraine that is a provocation. I applaud all those Ukrainians who are not willing to put up with this insult to the nation's dignity any longer.

Jurij Darewych
Mississauga, Ontario

Ukrainian programs on our radios

Dear Editor:

Upon moving to the southernmost part of New Jersey, over an hour from the closest Ukrainian community I was very happy to hear that the Philadelphia Ukrainian community has several Ukrainian radio programs that can be "streamed" on my computer.

I'm sure that other Ukrainian communities have radio programs that in this digital age can also be "streamed" on the computer. It would be great if any of the Ukrainian communities around the U.S. and Canada would send their information to our hub of happenings in the Ukrainian community – The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda – so all of us Ukrainians scattered across the States and Canada can keep up with happenings in the larger enclaves of Ukrainian communities where many of our friends and families live.

The Philadelphia area has four radio shows that can be listened to "live" or "streamed" on the computer at your convenience anytime during the week. They play live on Saturdays at 9-10 a.m. – "The Ukrainian Cultural Center Program"; at noon-1 p.m. – "Ukrainian American Youth Association Program"; at 1-1:30 p.m. – "The Ukrainian Baptist Program"; and on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – "The Ukrainian Catholic Hour."

My mother, who was very sick and bed ridden the last few years, enjoyed listening all day Saturday to all the Ukrainian and other community shows (there also are several Polish and Russian shows) and felt closer and informed. We would have loved to have more radio shows about community happenings, cultural and religious topics, and news from Ukraine, to listen to.

Stepha Hryckowian
Woolwich Township, N.J.



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

A chance encounter in Kyiv

Summer is over, and we're all back to the grind. Many of you have visited Ukraine during the last few months. Regrettably, I did not go this year, but hope to lead my tour again next August. Most probably, those of you who went had a grand old time. Of course, it depends with what attitude you travel – will your beer "stakan" or wine glass be half full or half empty? You will see what you want to see.

Now to backtrack a bit. The Ukrainian Weekly has power – people do read it, clip the articles and take them along when they travel. I experienced this in Kyiv a few years ago, while visiting the Ivan Honchar Museum for the first time.

The previous time I had been there, the building had been a shell, totally gutted, and workmen were plastered, really plastered, as they feverishly worked to get the structure ready for its first exhibition in the newly granted facility. Petro Honchar, the director of the museum, was one of many splattered with plaster as he labored away.

So, to see the museum so elegantly done with its permanent and special exhibitions was a real treat. The new exhibition was exquisite linen and hempen fashion inspired by medieval Kyivan-era clothing and treasures, by designer Valentyna Sazonova. A guide approached me and proceeded to show me through the exhibition. He introduced me to the petite, elegant designer. Since I had told the young man that I was from Canada, when we entered the second hall of the exhibition, he pointed to a man sitting on a bench, then to me and said, "Kanada – Kanada."

As this man looked at me, he leapt up and ran over, exclaiming, "Orysia, Orysia

Tracz!" He grabbed me in a bear hug and gave me a kiss. I had never seen him before. He was a Ukrainian with a smile that could light up the known and unknown universe. This was Roman Karpishka of Montreal.

Out of his blazer pocket he took out the clipping of The Weekly article I had written the year before on wandering the streets of Lviv, with suggestions on where to eat and places to go. He told me he and his wife were leaving for Lviv the next day and would be following my suggestions for that city.

We spent a lovely few hours over coffee, discussing Ukraine, Canada, Montreal and Winnipeg, then went our separate ways. It was truly a memorable and serendipitous meeting. I later remembered that I knew this lawyer from Weekly articles on his work in teaching English in Ukraine, volunteering and translating Ivan Franko's "Lys Mykyta" into "Fox Mykyta."

So, to provide others with clippings to keep in their pockets for their trips to Ukraine (and maybe we'll run into each other in Kolomyia or Kosiv? Hugs and kisses welcome...), I am compiling suggestions for a future column. I am also asking for your contributions based on your travels and favorite places in Ukraine.

Some places have closed, new ones have reopened. We could have a really useful and interesting collection of where to go for shopping, dining, viewing and whatever else is out there. Please indicate if you want to be mentioned along with your suggestion.

Orysia Tracz may be contacted at orysia.tracz@gmail.com.

COMMENTARY: The people act to remove Lenin from Kyiv

by Yevhen Sverstiuk

Nowhere in the world was so much attention paid to symbols as in the "first socialist state." Red flags, portraits of leaders, slogans, stars – all this amazed foreigners and supposedly convinced everyone of "the unity of the party and the people." However, the Ukrainian diaspora knew better. And it knew that Communist symbols were despised by the majority of people.

Of course, these symbols were legally protected and had to be respected. But when Ukrainians abroad would hear that somewhere some young person had raised a blue-and-yellow flag during the night they were all excited and happy, even though they knew that these acts were against the law. The illegal smuggling abroad of political poetry was condemned by the KGB, but not by the people. The world came to accept that, on the ideological canvas, legality was a rather blurred concept.

The "evil empire" has fallen, but its symbols are still everywhere, like scabs on flesh. It was one thing when Lenin's statue stood because people believed in his righteousness, but quite another when everyone became aware of what he really was: a murderer, a brutal enemy of

Ukraine, an executioner of peasants and the clergy.

Monuments to murderers are pathogenic. They create social schizophrenia. Young people despise state authorities which, contrary to presidential decrees, tolerate monuments to tyrants.

The first president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, had issued a decree calling for the replacement of Communist symbols. During Leonid Kuchma's presidency there also was a decree calling for the removal of Communist symbols. And now we have a decree by President Viktor Yushchenko.

Almost everywhere in Ukraine Communist idols were pulled down due to the initiative of concerned individuals. Everywhere, there were defenders of these idols. Inspiration to protect these idols comes from neighboring Moscow, where even the communist names of newspapers and magazines have been retained. And little wonder – over in Moscow they crave the return of the Empire.

Individual attempts to remove monuments to Communist leaders were frequently successful. But an attempt to pull down the Lenin monument on Shevchenko Boulevard in Kyiv was stopped by the

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IN THE PRESS: Obama's decision on missile defense

"Why Europe Needs Star Wars," by A. Wess Mitchell and Jamie M. Fly, *Foreign Policy*, September 9 (http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/09/09/why_europe_needs_star_wars?page=0,1):

"...what are a few hurt feelings among two small allies compared with improved relations with Moscow? Isn't the prospect of a 'reset' relationship with Russia worth the cost of U.S. disengagement from Central Europe in general and backpedaling on missile defense in particular?"

"Actually, no. ..."

"Moscow is unlikely to interpret a repositioning of missile defense the way [President Barack] Obama hopes — as a trust-building measure to incentivize Russian cooperation on other fronts. Instead, Russian leaders will learn a simple lesson: that when America and its allies are threatened, Washington backs down. Already, Russia has watched as the Obama administration has softened U.S. support for Georgia and backed off the push for Ukrainian membership in NATO. A third retreat in less than a year would likely trigger the typical Russian response to retreat: additional aggression.

"...relocating missile defense away from Central Europe would not serve U.S. interests. ...Nothing would do more to erode America's international credibility than the appearance of the U.S. president alongside Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at the U.N. meeting later this month in New York announcing a gentleman's agreement to relocate missile defense.

"Like every other occasion in which the United States has forsaken Central Europe in pursuit of great-power bargains, such a move would set in motion geopolitical consequences that U.S. dip-

lomats will still be working to undo a decade from now. ..."

"Missile Sense," editorial, *The New York Times*, September 17:

"President Obama made a sound strategic decision, scrapping former President George W. Bush's technologically dubious plan to build a long-range missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic. ..."

"Still, managing the diplomacy — particularly the disappointment of the Central Europeans — and the politics in this country will require a very deft hand.

"Neither Poland nor the Czech Republic was ever worried about Iran or particularly committed to the need for missile defense. What they fear is Russia. And what they wanted was the security of a closer relationship with Washington — and the American military personnel — that came along with the interceptors and radar.

"President Obama called the leaders of both countries before the announcement. Speaking at the White House on Thursday, he reaffirmed this country's commitment to the common defense of all NATO members. It will take a lot more reassurance in the weeks and months ahead to calm their anxieties. ..."

Mr. Obama will meet in New York next week with President Dmitri Medvedev of Russia. He must make clear that this decision is not a payoff for Moscow's bullying — and that an improved relationship will depend on Russia's willingness to treat its neighbors and its people better. ..."

"Missiles realism," editorial, *Financial Times*, September 17:

"...the plan for installations in central Europe was flawed. Abandoning it makes

sense, provided that the US manages the change wisely. Above all, Mr. Obama must find other ways of underlining the US commitment to Poland and the Czech Republic. This should include stepped up contingency planning for any future fight with Russia. The administration has called for such planning, over objections from some NATO partners. Other measures might include military exercises and base reinforcements. US feet on the ground in central Europe would go far to reassure Poles and Czechs that Mr Obama is not inching away from them.

"Russia needs to get that message too. Responding to the US move, it signaled that no concessions on its part were called for. The Obama administration had merely come to its senses, with Russia's muscular assertion of its interests helping to clarify matters. The U.S. must now check the idea that Russia will always get its way if it is a big enough bully."

"Of Polish Angst and NATO," op-ed commentary by Roger Cohen, *The New York Times*, September 20:

"How could Obama choose such a day?"

"That was the anguished outburst of a senior Polish officer attending a meeting of NATO chiefs of defense here when asked what he thought of the U.S. president's cancellation last week of plans to place missile interceptors in Poland and a radar station in the Czech Republic.

"The officer was referring to the fact that the announcement came on September 17, the 70th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland. A gesture to Russia on this date — a "brave" decision said Vladimir Putin — was the rough equivalent for the Poles of their announcing concessions to a U.S. foe on 9/11.

"Poland is now one of the very few places in Europe that prefers former President Bush to Obama.

"Now I'm sure Obama had no desire to insult Poland, even if the announcement also came as Russia conducted large-scale military maneuvers with Belarus, an exercise on its western flank that summons the darkest specters of post-Soviet Polish and Baltic-state angst. As U.S. timing goes, this was pitiful. ..."

"Now, 'Reset' with the Poles and Czechs," op-ed commentary by Mark Brzezinski, *The New York Times*, September 21:

"President Obama's decision to revise the Bush administration's plan for missile defense in Europe has been greeted with anxiety and alarm in the Czech Republic and Poland.

"The fear in these countries, and elsewhere in Central Europe, is that the strategic relationship with the United States is being marginalized, and that relations with Russia are being "reset" at the region's expense.

"Part of the problem is that rhetorically at least, the Bush administration seemed to make the strategic partnership with the Czech Republic and Poland synonymous with placement of missile defense radars and interceptors on Czech and Poland soil respectively.

"As a result, even though placement of this hardware met with some public opposition in both countries (in the Czech Republic more than in Poland), backing away from the system's implementation

is interpreted broadly as a diminution of the strategic relationship. ..."

"Placating Russia Won't Work," by David J. Kramer, *The Washington Post*, September 18:

"... the administration's capitulation to Russian pressure is a serious betrayal of loyal allies in Warsaw and Prague whose governments pursued politically unpopular positions at the request of the Bush administration to help confront a rising threat from Iran. (Announcing this policy change on Thursday, the 70th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland, added unnecessary insult to injury.) ..."

"Whatever the official explanation now for not moving forward, many — including the Kremlin — will read this shift as an effort to placate Moscow. Announcing the decision ahead of Obama's meetings with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev next week reinforces such thinking.

"...Obama's efforts to placate the Russians come at the expense of U.S. relations with Eastern and Central European governments that are already uneasy about the U.S. commitment to their region. Worse, rewarding bad Russian behavior is likely only to produce more Russian demands on this and other issues. ..."

"Shattered Confidence In Europe," by Ronald D. Asmus, *The Washington Post*, September 19:

"President Obama's decision to shelve the Bush administration's missile defense plans has created a crisis of confidence in Washington's relations with Central and Eastern Europe. ...The roots of this crisis lie less in missile defense than in policy failures over the past decade. ..."

"Our first mistake was being overly optimistic about what would happen when these countries joined NATO and the European Union. We basically checked the box 'mission accomplished.' We assumed that Russia would finally accept that Central and Eastern Europe were gone from its sphere of influence and stop trying to interfere in their regional politics. But ... [Russia] still wants to create a zone of special Russian interest, influence and lesser security.

"The second mistake was poor handling of our commitment to defend Central and Eastern Europe countries under Article 5 of the NATO Treaty. ... we decided NATO did not need to station troops in those countries' territory and pledged instead to create a reinforcement capability that could be used in times of crisis. ... But that NATO corps-size reinforcement capability never materialized. ..."

"Central and Eastern Europeans have watched as one ally after another has prevented NATO from acting over the past decade. NATO was AWOL during the August 2008 war between Russia and Georgia. ..."

"While they are loath to say it publicly, [Central and Eastern European] leaders have told me that they are no longer certain NATO is capable of coming to their rescue if there were a crisis involving Russia. ..."

"We must take real steps toward solving this problem by providing strategic reassurance to Central and Eastern Europe through the front door of NATO and not the back door of missile defense. ..."

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GENERATION UKE

Edited and compiled by Matthew Dubas and Yarema Belej

Eleven college-age missionaries head to orphanages in Ukraine

by Bishop Daniel

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – A group of 11 college-age missionaries of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. (UOC of the U.S.A.) traveled to Ukraine from July 30 through August 15, visiting two orphanages that are sponsored by the Church. The children and the administration of the orphanages in Znamianka (Kirovohrad Oblast) and Puhachiv (Zhytomyr Oblast) welcomed the missionaries from the moment they arrived to the minute they left. Whether they were playing with them or just bringing food to the table in dining room, they never stopped assuring the young missionaries: “Come back! You are welcome again and again.”

The days were spent praying with children, doing arts and crafts, assisting nannies with their daily responsibilities and painting – these are a few of the activities that the 11 mission team members were involved this past trip. From a healthcare perspective, the team was able to learn and share information with the staff regarding preventive measures, diet,

hygiene and medication. All learned how much culture influences healthcare. The staff workers and the administration of both orphanages in Znamianka and in Puhachiv do a remarkable job of being sensitive to the individual needs of children while integrating poorly available modern healthcare skills and medicine into their practices.

This writer and Carol Skocypec, a member of St. Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church in Mesa, Ariz., led this year’s Mission Team to orphanages in Ukraine. The mission journey was organized by the Consistory of the UOC of the U.S.A. – Offices of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (Natalie Kapeluck-Nixon, director, and Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay, director of Missions and Christian Charity).

This year’s mission team consisted of nine students: Andrea Komichak and Oksana Mahlay of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio; Mark Meschishen of Holy Archangel Michael Parish in Woonsocket, R.I.; Joseph and Andrew Zimmerman of St. Mary Cathedral, Allentown, Pa.; Lara Haluszczak of St. Vladimir Parish,



Members of the 2009 mission team, led by Bishop Daniel (center), provide fellowship to Ukraine’s orphans.

Pittsburgh; Subdeacon Vasyl Pasakas and Seminarian Vasyl Dovgan of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Bound Brook, N.J.; and Olesya Komichak, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Parma.

Almost 11 years ago, the UOC of the U.S.A., in partnership with the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF), adopted two orphanages in Ukraine. Orphanages in Znamianka, Zaluchia, (Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast), and, later, a third orphanage in Puhachiv were

selected because these institutions were in particularly deplorable condition for the housing and care of children with physical and mental birth defects.

A mission trip is planned to return to Znamianka from December 27 through January 3, 2010, and to celebrate the life of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. For more information, readers may visit http://www.uocofusa.org/news_090923_4.html or contact Protodeacon Mahlay, by e-mail: imahlay@yahoo.com. The deadline for applications is October 20.

First-time member of Mission Team describes her experience in Ukraine

by Olesya Komichak

Love is a very powerful emotion. The word “love” conveys many meanings – the affection for a husband or wife, the ability to give everything for a child, and the care for parishioners. God tells us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. However, when we walk down the street or watch the evening news, do we really feel compassion for another’s pain or sorrow? Sometimes we do, but often we remark on his misfortune and then move on with our lives.

Personally, it will never be easy to turn away from the unfortunate. Visiting the children at the orphanages in Znamianka and Puhachiv taught me to love deeper than I had ever imagined possible.

The children at Znamianka run through my mind every day. The younger children were easy to please with simple hugs and games. Their genuine excitement from signs of affection gave us the opportunity to love them as our own children for those five days. Knowing I was able to make their day a little bit brighter makes the memory of the boys and girls that much sweeter.

A nine-year-old boy named Serhiy is extremely bright, and already knows how to read and write in Ukrainian. He has learned with the help of a teacher who comes to the orphanage. When I met him on Sunday evening, Serhiy told me that he was looking forward to class the following morning, all while he figured out how to use our digital cameras. I enjoyed the time that I spent with him that night as I sat on the floor of the hallway so I could be the same height as he is in his wheelchair. Serhiy is unable to use his legs.

My team members and I often reflected on how different some of these children’s lives could be if given the chance to develop outside of the orphanage. Serhiy has the intelligence to become something great, but it is limited due to the attitudes held by many Ukrainians against mentally and physically handicapped children.



Olesya Komichak in Ukraine.

One of the saddest and most heart-wrenching moments for me happened when we took some of the older kids to the town of Znamianka to experience life outside the walls of their orphanage. Each child smiled warmly and greeted passers-by with a hello and wave. Out of the dozens of people they said hello to, only a handful acknowledged their greetings. I was pushing Serhiy’s wheelchair down the dirt sidewalk as a young couple approached us. Serhiy waved and enthusiastically said hello. The couple turned their heads away and continued down the street. I tried to ignore their rudeness, but I looked down to see Serhiy turn around in his wheelchair, look up at me, then asked, “Why won’t anyone say hello to me?”

How do you tell a child that you love that people do not want anything to do with the handicapped? You do not, because there is nothing that can be said. Even in Puhachiv, where working with severely mentally disabled girls was an enormous

(Continued on page 21)

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Soyuzivka hosts Labor Day weekend swim meet

by Marika Bokalo

KERSHONKSON, N.Y. – Another fantastic swim meet took place over the Labor Day weekend at Soyuzivka. The beautiful blue sky, the warm weather and the appealing water enhanced the enthusiasm of the competing swimmers. There were 30 swimmers, a lower number than usual, perhaps due to the earlier beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

The official opening of the swimming and tennis competition, held under the aegis of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (known by its Ukrainian acronym as USCAK), took place at the pool with the raising of the American, Canadian and Ukrainian flags and the singing of the respective anthems. Participants and viewers were greeted by George Sawchak, USCAK tennis chair; Roma Lisovich, Ukrainian National Association treasurer; Omelan Twardowsky, USCAK representative; and Marika Bokalo, USCAK swim chair, who expressed words of gratitude to all the participants and wished all the competitors good luck.

The swimmers represented Chornomorska Sitch, based in Whippany, N.J.; the Tryzub Sports Club headquartered in Horsham, Pa., and the Ukrainian

American Youth Association (UAYA).

The swim meet ran smoothly due to the support and cooperation of many volunteers. The meet was organized and led by Ms. Bokalo. John Makar was stroke and turn judge, while Roman Hirniak was the starter. Participating as timers were Myron Olesnysky, Peter Prociuk, Ivan Kozak, Angie Kozak, Taras Kozak, Frank Centore and Orest Lebed. Scorers were Chris Peters, Marusia Makar and Nick Prociuk.

After the swim meet, medals and trophies were presented in the Veselka Hall. Ms. Bokalo thanked the swimmers and their parents for their participation. She expressed gratitude to the Soyuzivka management and staff for the use of the facility and their congeniality.

Ms. Lisovich and USCAK President Myron Stebelsky added their words of congratulations for the successful swim meet and gratitude to the participants and their parents, who brought them to the meet.

Medals and trophies donated by the UNA were presented to individual swimmers and teams. Cheers were heard throughout the hall when winners of the individual events were announced and a great cheer resounded when the team points were announced: Chornomorska



Roman Hirniak (left) instructs swimmers during the meet.

Sitch – 225, Tryzub – 48 and UAYA – 46.

It should be noted that \$5 of the registration fee (a total of \$150) was donated to the Soyuzivka Heritage Center for pool

renovations.

At the end of the ceremonies, there were hugs and kisses, and promises to meet again next year.

Results of 2009 swim meet

Boys 10 and under

25 m. freestyle

1. Dmitri Shlapnikov, Sitch, 17.20
2. Daniel Centore, Sitch, 19.14
3. Mark Mikuta, Sitch, 21.99

50 m. freestyle

1. Oles Polishchuk, Sitch, 46.38
2. Mark Mikuta, Sitch, 53.39

25 m. backstroke

1. Oles Polishchuk, Sitch, 23.20
2. Daniel Loukachouk, Sitch, 24.07
3. Anthony Napreev, Sitch, 27.58

25 m. breaststroke

1. Dmitri Shlapnikov, Sitch, 21.58
2. Daniel Sosiak, Sitch, 50.71

25 m. butterfly

1. Oles Polishchuk, Sitch, 21.00
2. Daniel Loukachouk, Sitch, 21.58
1. Dmitri Shlapnikov, Sitch, 24.51

4 x 25 m. relay

1. Dmitri Shlapnikov, Anthony Napreev, Daniel Sosiak, Daniel Loukachouk

Boys 11-12

50 m. freestyle

1. Pavlo Kozak, Sitch, 35.33

25 m. backstroke

1. Darrick Girardi, Sitch, 18.40

25 m. breaststroke

1. Pavlo Kozak, Sitch, 20.25
2. Darrick Girardi, Sitch, 23.86

25 m. butterfly

1. Darrick Girardi, Sitch, 18.18
2. Pavlo Kozak, Sitch, 19.15

4 x 25 m. relay

1. Pavlo Kozak, Oles Polishchuk, Garrick Girardi, Mark Mikuta

Boys 13-14

100 m. individual medley

1. Michael Tershakovec, Tryzub, 1:27.03

50 m. freestyle

1. Michael Tershakovec, Tryzub, 33.48
2. Stefan Olesnycky, Sitch, 33.96
3. Daniel Centore, Sitch, 34.26

100 m. freestyle

1. Andrew Tarasiuk, Tryzub, 1:38.32

50 m. backstroke

1. Stefan Olesnycky, Sitch, 40.10

50 m. breaststroke

1. Michael Tershakovec, Tryzub, 42.61
2. Daniel Centore, Sitch, 43.95
3. Nick Maselko, Sitch, 48.00

50 m. butterfly

1. Daniel Centore, Sitch, 38.65
2. Stefan Olesnycky, Sitch, 39.20
3. Nick Maselko, Sitch, 49.95

Boys 15 and over

100 m. individual medley

1. Luke Kuryluk, UAYA, 1:11.95
2. Pavlo Tershakovec, Tryzub, 1:16.67
3. Basil Stolar, UAYA, 1:19.35

50 m. freestyle

1. Luke Kuryluk, UAYA, 27:17
2. William Makar, Sitch, 27:18
3. Mark Makar, Sitch, 27.29

100 m. freestyle

1. Gregory Fat, Tryzub, 1:02.10

50 m. backstroke

1. Gregory Fat, Tryzub, 39:13

50 m. breaststroke

1. Mark Makar, Sitch, 37.08
2. Basil Stolar, UAYA, 37.77
3. Pavlo Tershakovec, Tryzub, 38.42

50 m. butterfly

1. Gregory Fat, Tryzub, 28.73
2. William Makar, Sitch, 28.78
3. Luke Kuryluk, UAYA, 30.39

4 x 50 m. relay

1. Mark Makar, Stefan Olesnycky, William Makar, Daniel Centore, Sitch, 2:23.20.
2. Pavlo Tershakovec, Gregory Fat, Michael Tershakovec, Nick Maselko, Tryzub 2.29.73

Girls 10 and under

25 m. freestyle

1. Carolyn Rokicki, Sitch, 21.72

50 m. freestyle

1. Arianna Centore, Sitch, 42.70

25 m. backstroke

1. Arianna Centore, Sitch, 21.16
2. Carolyn Rokicki, Sitch, 25.40

25 m. breaststroke

1. Arianna Centore, Sitch, 29.88
2. Carolyn Rokicki, Sitch, 32.68

25 m. butterfly

1. Sofiyka Polishchuk, Sitch, 26.54

Girls 11-12

25 m. freestyle

1. Maya Lopatynska, Sitch, 20.70

50 m. freestyle

1. Maya Lopatynska, Sitch, 47.33

25 m. backstroke

1. Sofiyka Polishchuk, Sitch, 22.89

25 m. breaststroke

1. Sofiyka Polishchuk, Sitch, 25.29

4 x 25 m. relay

1. Sofiyka Polishchuk, Carolyn Rokicki, Maya Lopatynska, Arianna Centore, Sitch, 1:27.52

Girls 13-14

100 m. individual medley

1. Alexandra Teniuch, UAYA, 1:52.30

50 m. freestyle

1. Larissa Pywowariw, Sitch, 41:44
2. Alexandra Teniuch, UAYA, 42:91

100 m. freestyle

1. Melissa McPhillips, Sitch, 1:34.38
2. Larissa Pywowariw, Sitch, 1:35.04

50 m. backstroke

1. Melissa McPhillips, Sitch, 46.33

50 m. breaststroke

1. Melissa McPhillips, Sitch, 51.54
2. Alexandra Teniuch, UAYA, 52.11

Girls 15 and over

100 m. individual medley

1. Lesia Olesnycky, Sitch, 1:21.00
2. Bohdanna Stolar, UAYA, 1:32.81
3. Lida Apostoliuk, UAYA, 1:33.53

50 m. freestyle

1. Lesia Olesnycky, Sitch, 30.71
2. Lida Apostoliuk, UAYA, 35.92
3. Bohdanna Stolar, UAYA, 36.76

100 m. freestyle

1. Lesia Olesnycky, Sitch, 36.76
2. Lida Apostoliuk, UAYA, 1:24.28

50 m. backstroke

1. Bohdanna Stolar, UAYA, 46.90

50 m. breaststroke

1. Larissa Pywowariw, Sitch, 55.79



Swimmers of Chornomorska Sitch, who won the team trophy.

Bandura Camps mark 30th anniversary in Emlenton, Pa.

by Andriy Matlak

EMLENTON, Pa. – The year 2009 marks the 30th anniversary of bandura seminars sponsored by the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus and held at the All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church Camp in Emlenton, Pa.

Thirty years ago a group of young bandura enthusiasts visited the recently purchased property in western Pennsylvania. Impressed with the excellent facilities for such a music workshop, and with the beauty of the ever-green forests along a mountain river, the chorus established these bandura seminars.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. had bought the former YMCA camp, which encompassed 90 acres of land and 15 buildings, all along the Allegheny River, in 1978. During the next decades many improvements were made to the facilities, additional sports fields, a pool and a large heated building with a hall and classrooms were added. In 2008 a wooden chapel in the Carpathian style was constructed and completed with iconography. Every summer, the camp hosts various church and non-church camps, including the bandura workshops.

The music director of the early bandura camps was Hryhory Kytasty, a well-known bandurist, composer and conductor of the famous Ukrainian Bandura Chorus. The administrator of the first camps was Maestro Kytasty's student Ihor Mahlay.

During these 30 years, hundreds of youth and those young at heart have participated in the bandura seminars. Students of the bandura did not just learn how to play a musical instrument, but this love of music and the Ukrainian heritage was nurtured at was to become known as "Kobzarska Sich." Bandura enthusiasts from various countries and continents ventured to this beautiful



Instructors, staff and students of Bandura Camp and Ukrainian Sacred Music Seminar after the divine liturgy on August 16.

corner of the world. Students from Western Europe and Australia, and even from Ukraine, joined the participants from the United States and Canada.

This year, the general two-week course was held on August 8-22. A separate special one-week seminar was given for young children ages 8-12. Held daily were classes of level-appropriate instruction, singing, music theory, music history and ensemble rehearsals.

Beyond the eight hours of instruction, time was set aside for sports, swimming and relaxation. This year the total number of participants was 67 – students, staff and instructors.

During the two-week encampment at All Saints Camp, a five-day Ukrainian

Sacred Music Seminar was held under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus in conjunction with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. Sixteen participants were enrolled in the course.

This year's music co-directors of the bandura camps were Taras Lazurkevych and Oleh Sozansky, well-known bandura performers from Lviv and Merited Artists of Ukraine. The two frequently commented that this is the only bandura camp to be held anywhere in the world. Mr. Lazurkevych noted that these "courses are on a high professional level among natural beauty and we are happy to be a part these children's bandura future."

The administrator of all bandura and sacred music courses was Anatoly Murha,

president of the Ukrainian Bandura Chorus.

The bandura seminar concluded with a concert on Saturday, August 22, with all the students participating. The program included instrumental and vocal pieces of various genres. Participating in the concert were students that just two weeks earlier did not know how to hold a bandura.

Thirty years ago Hryhory Kytasty had a dream to share the bandura with others far away from his native land. At "Kobzarska Sich" generations of young bandurists are fulfilling these dreams.

For further information about the bandura camps or general information about the bandura readers may log onto www.bandura.org

"The Year in Pictures" at The Ukrainian Museum

NEW YORK – The New York Press Photographers Association (NYPPA) is holding its annual "The Year in Pictures" Exhibit at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City from September 30 to November 8.

The exhibit features the contest-winning images from the historic and pivotal year 2008, which were selected from more than 2,000 entries by a three-member panel of judges from across the country.

Based in the New York metropolitan area, NYPPA members cover news and feature stories from around the globe.

The NYPPA has taken advantage of the new space we have been given through the generosity of the board of trustees of The Ukrainian Museum to showcase not only the images, but the technology that allows photographs to be combined with text and graphics in huge photographic prints. The exhibit is underwritten by a grant from Con Ed.

The Ukrainian Museum is open from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. The museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St., New York, NY 10003; telephone, 212-228-0110; website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Putin" from her book "Putin's Russia."

Similar protest events were held at the Russian Consulates in Lviv and Symferopol.

At the time, 12 journalists had been murdered during Vladimir Putin's six years as president of the Russian Federation. A report by the International Committee to Defend Journalists ranked Russia third in the number of murdered journalists, behind Iraq and Algeria.

Yegor Sobolyev, a prominent Ukrainian journalist, said the Politkovskaya murder demonstrated just how far Ukraine had progressed ahead of Russia since the Orange Revolution. Russia's democratization "can't be evolutionary," he said. "It will always be revolutionary. And revolutions in Russia have unpredictable

results."




Both Ukraine and Russia delayed releasing official statements on the journalist's murder, which drew criticism from protesters.

Ivan Andrusiak, who translated "Druha Chechenska" into Ukrainian, remembered Politkovskaya as a gentle, fragile woman, who was simultaneously fearless.

"She absolutely didn't fear anything, although she understood well that she could be killed at any moment," he said. "There is no journalist of such caliber in today's Ukraine."

Politkovskaya's murder remains unsolved, and Russian authorities have reopened the case after three suspects were acquitted of the murder.

Source: "Crusading journalist Politkovskaya remembered in Kyiv," by Olena Labunka and Zenon Zawada, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, October 15, 2006.

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The Recovery Act also provides a deduction for State and Local sales and excise taxes paid on the purchase of new cars, light trucks, motor homes and motorcycles through 2009. Complete information, including eligibility requirements can be found at: www.irs.gov.

TRAVELS: Adventures up high –a trek to Everest base camp

by Ulyana Nadia Horodyskyj

It is hard to imagine that just a few months ago, I was on the other side of the world, fighting my way through frigid temperatures and blowing snow to the base of Mount Everest.

Before my journey to Nepal, I had followed many accounts about climbing Mount Everest, which, at over 29,000 feet (8,850 meters), is the tallest mountain on Earth. Two that captured my imagination were Jon Krakauer’s bestseller “Into Thin Air” and David Breashears’ film “Storm over Everest.” These works documented the 1996 tragedy in which eight people, including two guides, perished on the mountain during a deadly storm.

These accounts increased my fascination with climbing, mountaineering and the people who risked everything, even their own lives, for a chance to reach the summit of this legendary mountain.

Visiting Mount Everest is not a trip taken on a whim. It requires diligent physical preparation and expert help. For my first high-altitude trekking experience, I joined a British group called KE Adventure. After pulling an all-nighter to finish my semester finals, I traveled from Boston to Los Angeles to Hong Kong and, finally, to Kathmandu, eager to begin my explorations of a new country and culture.

Having arrived two days before the start of the trek, I spent those days with a new-found friend from Australia, another member of the group. Together, we hired taxis and explored the city, including the must-see Monkey Temple. We also witnessed a funeral pyre and chaotic driving in the streets where cars, trucks, motorcycles, cows and people battled it out. Oddly enough, there is a method to the madness and people managed to get where they

need to go without (much) tribulation.

Our official Everest adventure began when we boarded a tiny plane, operated by Yeti Airlines, to get to Lukla, Nepal, the start of the base camp trek. The flight was breathtaking (and a bit hairy), as we soared away from the polluted skies of Kathmandu and into the pristine Himalayas, before landing on a tiny runway carved into the side of a mountain. I was relieved that we landed without incident, as there had been two crashes at the airstrip in the last six months.

We began trekking on the afternoon of our arrival, even though now we were at 9,000 feet (2,700 meters) in elevation. After getting gear sorted, meeting our Sherpa team and loading up our dzos (yaks that have been cross-bred with cows), we set out towards the Himalayan giants of Everest, Lhotse, Ama Dablam and Pumori.

We crossed a couple of suspension bridges along the way that sometimes did not seem as if they would hold our weight. We made way for Sherpas hauling 100-pound packs of wooden planks, food and mattresses on route toward higher and more remote Himalayan destinations. And we watched in amazement as the dzos hauled our gear up steep passes without so much as a grunt or a snort.

Over the next 10 days, we trekked for miles and miles – a total of 75 miles (125 kilometers) round-trip – climbing higher and higher, making stops along the way at teahouses, where our Sherpa teams would set up camp for the night. We huffed and puffed our way up to Namche Bazaar, the Sherpa capital at 11,000 feet (3,350 meters), which served as an acclimatization stop and, believe it or not, had a high-speed Internet cafe. We learned that going

(Continued on page 16)



The Ukrainian flag, at 18,000 feet, with Nuptse in the background.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

were held in late September, Viktor Yanukovich and Yulia Tymoshenko would have the highest support among voters, shows a survey conducted by the Ukrainian Democratic Circle at the request of the Institute of Politics. A total of 28.9 percent of voters said they would back Mr. Yanukovich, and 20.8 percent said they would support Ms. Tymoshenko. Other politicians have substantially lower support. In a runoff election, Mr. Yanukovich would get 41 percent and Ms. Tymoshenko 35.1 percent of the votes. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine and USAID sign MOU

KYIV – Ukraine's Economy Minister Bohdan Danylyshyn and the director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission to Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, Janina Jaruzelski, on September 25 signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Ukrainian and U.S. governments regarding basic directions and objectives of the assistance program of USAID for 2009-2010. Mr. Danylyshyn noted that the USAID-funded projects are an important instrument in supporting Ukrainian reforms, including strengthening the financial sector, developing market-oriented agriculture, supporting small and medium-sized business, and addressing social problems. "The conclusion of the memorandum will become a measure needed for gradual development of proper conditions for technical and economic cooperation between Ukraine and USAID in 2009-2010, as well as an active mechanism of attracting and using U.S. technical assistance," the Ukrainian minister said. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine seeks higher role for CE

KYIV – Ukraine is interested in strengthening the role of the Council of Europe in the European political architecture, President Viktor Yushchenko said at a meeting with members of the Verkhovna Rada's Permanent Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, it was reported by the presidential press service on September 28. "We back a leading role of the Council of Europe as a unique pan-European political forum that should maintain a leading role in the system of European institutes in the area of democracy, human rights and rule of law. The Council of Europe should remain the only source of law-making and Europe's main expert for human rights standards," Mr. Yushchenko noted. He underlined that Ukraine's participation in the Council of Europe, including the activity of the Verkhovna Rada's Permanent Delegation, is an important direction of the country's foreign policy. (Ukrinform)

Birthrate up in Ukraine

KYIV – During the first half of 2009, birthrate indices in Ukraine increased as compared to 2007 and 2008, said Vice-Minister of Family, Youth and Sports Tetiana Kondratiuk. According to Ms. Kondratiuk, in 2007 over 472,000 babies were born in Ukraine, in 2008 – 510,500, and in the first six months of this year – over 297,000. In addition, an increase in the number of marriages and a reduction of divorces were reported. "Presently, there are 15 children per each 10 families," the vice-minister said. She explained, that among families with children, 70 percent have one child, 25 percent have two and 5 percent have three or more children. "What is very important is that the number of adoptions is growing. Parents who have their own children are taking orphaned children into their families, and setting up children's homes of the family type. This

year alone Ukrainians adopted 1,528 children, and about 1,500 Ukrainian families are engaged in drawing up documents for adoption," Ms. Kondratiuk stated. (Ukrinform)

China vice-consul dies after accident

KYIV – The vice-consul of the Chinese Consulate General in Odesa, Zhou Xin Wei, who sustained heavy craniocerebral injuries during a road accident outside Yalta, Crimea, has died in hospital. The 35-year-old diplomat died on September 29 despite all medical efforts, said Oleksander Dvorskyi, deputy head of the Crimean emergency aid center. The accident occurred when a Mercedes car in the motorcade carrying the Chinese delegation to the sixth summit of the Yalta European Strategy collided with a VAZ car, which ran to the wrong side of the road. The VAZ driver was killed, and his two passengers were injured. Four people in the Mercedes were injured, including the military attaché of the Chinese Embassy in Ukraine, and two Ukrainian citizens. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine, U.S. commission to meet

KYIV – The statutory meeting of the Ukraine-U.S. commission for strategic partnership is due to be held in Washington in late October. Ukraine's acting Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Khandogiy and U.S. Undersecretary of State William Burns reached an agreement on the meeting in New York, the MFA press service reported on September 25. The focus of their talks was to search for ways of strengthening the strategic partnership relations between the United States and Ukraine on the basis of the Strategic Partnership Charter signed in December 2008. The Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ukraine noted that the United States confirmed its readiness to work toward implementation of the political decision made at the Bucharest summit regarding Ukraine's future membership in NATO and to render relevant support in this connection, particularly with regard to implementation of the national target program of preparations for accession to NATO. Agreement was also reached on regular exchanges of information about a new strategic concept for NATO, taking into account Ukrainian interests. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine, Canada agree on roadmap

KYIV – Ukraine's acting Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Khandogiy met with Canada's Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon within the framework of their participation in the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The roadmap of Ukrainian-Canadian relations was signed during the meeting. This document takes cooperation between Ukraine and Canada to a new level, codifying their mutual wish to deepen bilateral relations and determining their priorities in the fields of economy, policy, security, humanitarian affairs and culture. Canada confirmed its support for Ukraine's possible accession to NATO, and pledged to work together with Ukraine and member-countries of the alliance to meet this target. During the meeting Mr. Khandohiy raised the question of gradual liberalization by Canada of its visa requirements for Ukrainian citizens. He also suggested holding political consultations between the two countries' foreign offices soon, and renewed the invitation to Mr. Cannon to visit Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Secretariat challenges NATO referendum

KYIV – The Presidential Secretariat has appealed to Kyiv's Administrative Court of Appeal against a judgment of Kyiv's Administrative Court that obliges

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

President Viktor Yushchenko to hold a referendum on Ukraine's membership in NATO, the deputy head of the Presidential Secretariat, Maryna Stavnyichuk, said at a briefing on September 25. In July, Kyiv's Administrative Court obliged President Yushchenko to hold a referendum regarding Ukraine's accession to NATO and its participation in the CES along with Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. (Ukrinform)

External factors and Ukraine's election

KYIV – The current presidential campaign will be the first in the history of Ukraine in which an external factor will not play any role, said the director of the Horshenin Institute of Management Problems, Kost Bondarenko. "The present campaign will have several peculiarities," he said. "First, it will be a blitz-campaign that will last only for three months. Today, the majority of contenders have neither a concept as to how to conduct a campaign, nor extended headquarters, nor an understanding where to get finances for the election. Second, it will be the first campaign in the history of Ukraine where an external factor will not play a role, neither the U.S.A., nor Russia, nor the EU will substantially influence the election process. Third, during the campaign, resources of Ukrainian oligarchs will not be actively involved; the majority of presidential contenders are seeking finances among representatives of the second echelon of Ukrainian financiers. Today the oligarchs do not support a single first-level politician." Speaking about the favorites in the pre-election campaign, Mr. Bondarenko said that two contenders have a real chance: the leader of the opposition Party of Regions of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Mr. Yanukovich is a bright representative of Ukraine's east and an eastern concept of

development that envisages relying on the country's export and industrial potential, as well as on the electoral environment, based mainly on the Russian language and Russian culture. Ms. Tymoshenko's campaign is based mainly on the western-central Ukrainian concept of development with an accent on Eurointegration processes (mainly contacts with France and Germany). (Ukrinform)

Ukrainian, Russian foreign ministers talk

KYIV – Ukraine's acting Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Khandogiy held negotiations with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, in New York within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly's 64th session. The two ministers discussed the current state of Ukraine-Russia relations and agreed on a plan for further ministerial consultations, the MFA press-service reported on September 24. Messrs. Khandogiy and Lavrov confirmed their readiness to hold talks on the foreign-minister level in Kharkiv on October 6-7, involving heads of border agencies, representatives of relevant ministries and agencies of the two states. (Ukrinform)

Presidents of Ukraine, Lithuania meet

KYIV – During his meeting in New York with President Dalia Grybauskaitė of Lithuania, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko spoke highly about trade, and economic and energy cooperation between the two countries. The two leaders discussed the creation of the Caspian-Black-Baltic sea energy transit space, including the Eurasian oil transportation corridor, the Odesa-Brody-Plock-Gdansk oil pipeline and prospects for extending a branch to Lithuania. The parties pointed out the importance of coordinating joint efforts for the sake of effective implementation of the roadmap for the development of a strategic partnership between Ukraine and Lithuania in 2009-2010, as well as intensification of cooperation

between Ukraine and Lithuania in the context of European and Euro-Atlantic integration. They also touched on the importance of fighting piracy, particularly in the context of the debates on this problem within the framework of the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the president's press service reported on September 24. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko on integration with NATO

KYIV – Addressing Ukrainian reporters in New York on September 23, President Viktor Yushchenko expressed confidence that integration with NATO is the essence behind which Ukraine's territorial integrity and independence stay. The president emphasized that during his meeting with the NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, they confirmed the policy declared at the two latest NATO summits regarding Ukraine and the perspectives for its membership in the alliance. The agreements reached at the Bucharest summit were fully confirmed as the basis of bilateral relations and cooperation prospects, Mr. Yushchenko stated. The two men also focused on implementation of the Ukraine-NATO target plan, and the operation of NATO's communications office and information documentation center in Kyiv. Regarding the policy the alliance pursues with non-member countries, including Russia, this policy in no way blocks the development of normal, promising relations between Ukraine and NATO, Mr. Yushchenko said. (Ukrinform)


Aslund: European countries ready to help

KYIV – European countries are ready to help any Ukrainian government in overcoming the effects of the global financial and economic downturn and carrying out necessary reforms. That was the opinion expressed by Dr. Anders Aslund of the Peterson Institute for International Economics during a roundtable involving Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. According to news reports of September 28, Dr. Aslund

underlined that Ukraine has been experiencing a payment crisis that hit Eastern European countries in 1997-1998. He said that the policies of the National Bank of Ukraine amid the crisis has weakened people's confidence in the national currency; the government, he said, acted efficiently amid the crisis, and this could be seen in an almost balanced budget. (Ukrinform)

Ambassador Taylor has new post

WASHINGTON – The United States Institute of Peace has named William B. Taylor, Jr. to be vice-president of the Center for Post-Conflict Peace and Stability effective October 1. Mr. Taylor served as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine from 2006 to June 2009. In his new capacity at USIP, he will lead the institute's efforts in societies emerging from conflict, including overseeing institute operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Until February 2006 Mr. Taylor was the U.S. government's representative to the efforts by the Quartet (United States, European Union, United Nations and Russia) to facilitate the Israeli disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank, led by Special Envoy James Wolfensohn in Jerusalem. Ambassador Taylor served in Baghdad as director of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office (2004-2005), in Kabul as coordinator of U.S. government and international assistance to Afghanistan (2002-2003) and in Washington with the rank of ambassador as coordinator of U.S. government assistance to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe (1992-2002). He previously served in Brussels as deputy defense adviser at the U.S. Mission to NATO, in Washington on the staff of Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.), at the National Defense University and in the U.S. Department of Energy. As an infantry officer in the U.S. Army, he served in Vietnam and Germany. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. (United States Institute of Peace)

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Adventures up high...

(Continued from page 13)

slowly is the key to staying healthy at higher altitude.

It is from Namche that I caught my first good view of Mount Everest, the mountain of dreams, hopes and ambitions of many climbers, and armchair climbers alike.

Interacting with the locals along the trail, as well as in the various teahouses, was an interesting cultural experience. These people are so well-adapted to a simple life, up high near the "roof of the world." Their cheerful faces, day and night, served as a reminder to me that, yes, indeed, life is simple. Life is joyous. You really do not need much to survive.

Spending Christmas day in the company of newfound friends, Westerners and Sherpas alike, halfway across the world from my family and friends, was a surreal experience. Even at 14,000 feet (4,270 meters), I managed to muster up enough energy for singing and dancing in the foothills of the Himalaya range.

As we trekked higher, I experienced some symptoms of altitude sickness, such as headaches, nausea and loss of appetite. On top of that, I unfortunately came down with a cold and a bad "Khumbu cough" as well (due to the very dry air). I attribute the cold to spending a night out in a tent when it was below zero, in a place called Lobuche, about a day's hike to base camp.

My night of misery began when I first tried arranging gear in my tent. I sat on my legs, cutting off circulation, and it took nearly half an hour to walk normally again: think pins and needles, but five times worse. Then, in the middle of the night, after an excursion to the (cold) toilet tent, I dropped my headlamp while back in my tent and the batteries rolled out, not to be found again until the next morning. And, as if that wasn't enough, I busted the zipper on my sleeping bag looking for the batteries, and was not able to get warm the whole night.

The following day was a three-hour trek into Gorak Shep, site of a base camp in the 1950s. Here, I really struggled as I was not consuming enough calories to give me the energy to climb higher. When I finally arrived at the teahouse, I remember thinking: "How am I going to get up Kala Pattar this afternoon, and then onward to base camp, on so little food and sleep, and a bad cough/cold? Can I do this? Should I do this?"

Many people on the trek thought I was a "bit mad" for attempting to climb higher. But, after a long and arduous trek up Kala Pattar (with plenty of glucose pills), I smiled with satisfaction, eye-to-eye with Mount Everest, in all its glory. Seeing it from the clear air, at 18,500 feet (5,640 meters) was, literally, breath-taking.

However, soon the clouds rolled in and my "Kala Pattar summit time" was reduced to only five minutes. I cherished those five minutes with the mountain, though. Tired as I was, the joy at seeing the mountain I had read so much about was intoxicating and helped propel me back down safely to Gorak Shep, where a warm meal awaited me.

Later that night, my condition worsened. I was nauseated, vomiting, and had a wrenching pain in my side from incessant coughing. As I lay in bed, I forced myself to sleep, and when I could not, I stuffed chocolate and crackers down my throat, in an attempt to have some energy for the next morning's base camp haul.

At 5 a.m., we, a team of only seven (out of 16 people, as some were down with altitude sickness or simply too tired), set out with our headlamps, in the sub-zero temperatures, and with only a bowl of porridge to sustain us, for the final four-hour round-trip trek to base camp. Though I made it and proudly hung a prayer flag that I had gotten friends from back home to sign for me, the trek back down to a safe altitude was a long 10-hour ordeal. I could not walk or see straight, due to my weakened condition. Fortunately, a Sherpa friend stayed with me and guided me back.

Our final days of the trek ended with an emergency helicopter evacuation of a friend who fell and threw out his back. He is doing well now, but it was a long difficult road to recovery. I brought my cough home with me, and it eventually subsided after a few weeks. I have since gained back the weight I lost due to the illness.

Having come back and had time to reflect on this trip for a few months now, I can say that it humbled me to a great extent. I now understand from personal experience how simple mistakes under challenging, high-altitude conditions, as well as foolish ambition, can quickly claim lives.

Seeing the Sherpa memorial cairns on the way to base camp reminded me of all the good men who have perished on the slopes of the mountain. Even the experienced (like Rob Hall and Scott Fischer, guides who perished in the 1996 tragedy) are not spared. Someday, I wish to climb this special mountain all the way to the top, but after this experience, I realize that being physically capable of doing it will not be enough. A strong will, good judgment and favorable weather also will be essential to reaching the summit.

Walking in the footsteps of my heroes, like Tenzing Norgay, Sir Edmund Hillary, Ed Viesturs, David Breashears and Scott Fischer, made the journey a very special one for me, and one I will cherish. Of course, I hope this trip is only the beginning of my explorations of the mystic Himalayan giants. Currently, I work part-time on a Himalayan glacier research project with Mr. Breashears, world-renowned mountaineer and Emmy award-winning filmmaker. We are preparing a visually stunning presentation on the impact of climate change in these vast ice fields.

Climate change in the Himalayas is a very real problem and awareness of changing conditions is crucial for implementing action. If you would like to help spread awareness about climate change, consider helping out on October 24, the International Day of Climate Action. For more information, please see the website www.350.org for your chance to get involved.



Ulyana Horodyskyj, tired and sick, finally making it to the base camp of Mount Everest. The Khumbu glacier is in the background.



Ulyana Horodyskyj, getting to know a friendly nak (a female yak).



The beautiful, cloud-filled valleys of the Himalaya range. Pictured from left are Everest, Lhotse and the "tooth-like" Ama Dablam.

The people act...

(Continued from page 7)

police. Old communists complained, young people laughed. The case was referred to the courts for violation of the law.

Of course, everyone understands that this individual initiative was illegal. Yet also everyone understands that this state of affairs cannot persist. The "populist" government will become a laughing stock. Is it absolutely necessary to suffer Communists, to leave them with their privileges and benefits? Or should it be remembered that they are complicit in the

heinous crimes of the Communist Party? Where should patience end and spontaneous activity begin? That is the present urgent question.

If it can not be done by the government and the Parliament, then it will be done by the people themselves. For what can one expect from a Parliament, a part of which has been forcibly blocking parliamentary sessions for months?

So I was quite surprised to learn that The Ukrainian Weekly called for the supremacy of legal methods, and sharply rebuked the actions of Mykola Kokhanivsky. I wish you were right,

ladies and gentlemen. The article is full of well-known ideas about democracy. But there are also some useful ideas about democracy in action: "Organizing a single-minded grassroots initiative with the simple, straightforward goal to remove the capital's Lenin monument would have proven far more effective. Internet petitions signed by tens of thousands of Kyiv residents, followed by periodic and consistent demonstrations involving a cross section of society, could go a long way to stir Kyiv's otherwise indifferent political leadership. Persistent phone calls, letters and public marches to maintain pressure

could prompt certain politicians and parties to make the issue a key platform."

But you should meet with the hotheads and share with them their experience of pressuring the government: This, rather than condemning activists, would make more sense.

What obligations are placed upon us by our historical experience? What threat does indifference pose to us? Why is Ukrainian youth unwilling to put up with the schizophrenia of incompatibles?

Translated by Jurij Darewych and Andriy Oliinyk.

Auction of Odesa...

(Continued from page 1)

"The conspiracy of three planned participants to buy the Odesa Portside Plant for an unreasonably low price was apparent on live television today," the prime minister alleged that afternoon.

Yet her claims drew ridicule from political opponents and impartial observers alike, who wondered how the government could cancel an auction, on the basis that the price wasn't high enough, when the final bid was 20 percent higher than the starting price of 4 billion hrv (about \$488 million).

President Viktor Yushchenko called the episode "shameful." Conspiracy theories abounded afterwards.

Presidential candidate Arseniy Yatsenyuk alleged that Ms. Tymoshenko had reached a backroom deal with Mr. Kolomoisky, then cancelled and criticized the auction to save face before the public.

The respected Ekonomichna Pravda news website speculated that Ms. Tymoshenko had a backroom deal with Gazprom, the Russian natural gas monopoly, to let its affiliated company Sibur win the auction.

Sibur backed out of the bidding, according to another theory, because it reached a deal with Mr. Kolomoisky, who made agreements with his competitors either with or without Ms. Tymoshenko's knowledge.

In his public statements, Mr. Kolomoisky said he believed Ms. Tymoshenko blocked the sale because his winning bid undermined a deal she allegedly struck with the Russian contenders – Sibur and Frunze-Florida, owned by Konstantin Grigorishin.

"Obviously there was a conspiracy and intent by the government to sell the factory at an unreasonably low price," said Oleksander Paliy, an expert at the Foreign Policy Research Institute at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Kyiv.

"I just don't know with whom she [the prime minister] conspired – Kolomoisky, the Russians or all of them. She set up very convenient conditions for Kolomoisky. He will win in court, and she will remove the shame of this privatization."

President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko have waged a tug-of-war over the Odesa Portside Plant ever since she took office in December 2007.

The president has wanted to prevent the prime minister from gaining the revenues from the sale, even more so in the current conditions when she's in a difficult financial position. President Yushchenko would prefer that the prime minister fail and her government default ahead of the elections, political observers said.

During their conflict, Ms. Tymoshenko tried numerous times to dismiss State

Property Fund (SPF) Chair Valentyna Semeniuk-Samsonenko, an ally of the president, and even created a separate SPF with her own appointed chair, Andrii Portnov.

She eventually mustered a parliamentary majority to dismiss Ms. Semeniuk-Samsonenko in December 2008 and the following month appointed acting Chair Dmytro Parfenenko, who has acted as her proxy at the State Property Fund.

In July, Presidential Secretariat First Deputy Oleksander Shlapak had said the president didn't oppose the Odesa Portside Plant's sale, but Mr. Yushchenko's attitude changed with the arrival of the presidential election campaign season.

"He says this factory can't be sold out of national interests, and maybe Yushchenko is merely covering his actions with that," said Dr. Oleh Soskin, director of the Institute of Society Transformation in Kyiv. "But he doesn't want her [Ms. Tymoshenko] to pay the debt because that will strengthen her. He wants to push her out of government."

The Odesa Portside auction was organized hastily, within a few weeks, and didn't fulfill all the legal requirements, such as parliamentary approval, a privatization program and even a legally determined starting price, said Dr. Soskin.

The closed-door meeting, which occurred minutes after the auction concluded, was in violation of the SPF's regulations, Ms. Semeniuk-Samsonenko said. "It was a farce," she said. "We can't speak of any transparency when the commission stood during the competition and went off somewhere. Commissioners can't even walk around the hall during the auction according to regulations, let alone walk out."

The price of the Odesa Portside Plant was estimated as high as \$2 billion (U.S.) in the summer of 2008, when Ukraine's economy was still growing. But the fall 2008 global financial crisis caused fertilizer prices to plummet by more than 75 percent.

The depressed fertilizer market combined with Ukraine's higher prices for natural gas, which is critical to the plant for producing ammonia and carbamide, erased much of the plant's luster and value.

In light of the plant's both past and future potential price, the auction's sale at 5 billion hrv (about \$610 million) drew widespread criticism, particularly from the president, who has fiercely criticized the prime minister's current fiscal policy, which he characterized as selling strategic state assets to pay for debts.

On September 30, Naftohaz Ukrayiny, the state's natural gas distribution monopoly, defaulted on a \$500 million loan taken in 2004 by the government of

Viktor Yanukovich. Government officials are still negotiating with international creditors and said they're confident the loan will be restructured.

"If Naftohaz won't be balanced, no privatization will help it," President Yushchenko said at a September 30 press conference. "The Odesa Portside Plant's privatization will cost us a month's debt for natural gas. So we'll survive another month, and then what? Sell Crimea?"

In turn, Ms. Tymoshenko was upset with the president for issuing a decree on September 17 to forbid the sale, which scared off many legitimate international buyers whose involvement could have boosted the sale price.

Among those lucrative buyers was Yara International ASA of Norway, the world's largest producer of fertilizers. Yara was among 12 companies to file documents for a potential auction with Ukraine's Anti-Monopoly Committee but stopped its registration process after the presidential decree, said Ildar Hazizulin, an economist at the International Center for Prospective Studies in Kyiv.

"The president practically scared off the main investor and the competition's favorite," he said.

Following the auction, Ms. Tymoshenko revealed her rage when demanding the dismissal of the judges who ruled to block the auction, thereby repelling interested investors.

Yara International would have been the best candidate to buy Odesa Portside, said Petro Burkovskiy, an economist at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. "The best investors were the Norwegians because they're farther off and we wouldn't have the same strategic antipathy with them as with Russia," he said. "And they wouldn't have used this purchase for political pressure in the future."

The factory's fate remains unclear. The company that won the auction, Nortima,

is a partnership between Mr. Kolomoisky and Oleksander Yaroslavskiy, industrial magnates who own two of Ukraine's other biggest ammonia and carbamide producing plants.

Mr. Kolomoisky, a Dnipropetrovsk billionaire who resides in Switzerland, controls DniproAzot, while Mr. Yaroslavskiy, Kharkiv's wealthiest resident, owns CherkasyAzot. (Azot is the Ukrainian word for nitrogen, a key ingredient in fertilizer products along with ammonia.)

Company executives vowed a legal battle to secure their auction victory.

"The issue of price surfaced after the commissioners returned from the deliberation room," said Timur Novikov, deputy chairman of Privat Bank, which is controlled by Mr. Kolomoisky.

"They went there in one mood, and one of them even shook our hands and congratulated us. And then a surprise. I think an element of the Cabinet's control of the [State] Property Fund occurred in that room," he added.

It's possible the courts could uphold the State Property Fund's decision to block the sale, observers said.

A precedent was set in 2005 when mega-millionaire Kostyantyn Zhevago won a court ruling that upheld his 2001 purchase of a majority stake in the LuhanskTeploVoz factory for a meager \$8.6 million – a fraction of its true value, Ms. Semeniuk-Samsonenko said. Mr. Zhevago bought the factory at an auction whose results also were rejected, she said.

"A show took place in which the issue wasn't resolved, but the next day a court ruling gave the factory to the [auction] winner," she said. "This matter will be done in such a way that the [State] Property Fund and the state lose everything."

Not everyone is as pessimistic. The factory ultimately will remain as state property and sold when the market conditions improve, Mr. Burkovskiy said.

Yushchenko meets...

(Continued from page 4)

gave an interview to the Associated Press.

During his meeting with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Mr. Yushchenko discussed Ukraine-NATO cooperation and underscored that the new strategic concept of NATO must take into account Ukraine's security interests. He was assured by Mr. Rasmussen that NATO's moves to strengthen cooperation with Russia will not be at the expense of the interests of Ukraine.

While in New York, President Yushchenko also spoke about U.S.-Ukraine relations in an address to the Council on Foreign Relations. Ukrinform reported that he emphasized that the special nature of relations between the two countries was sealed in the Ukrainian-American strategic partnership charter signed in 2008.

Mr. Yushchenko expressed hope that Russia would pull out its Black Sea Fleet

before May 2017, as was previously agreed. He reminded his audience at the Council on Foreign Relations that Ukraine and Russia in 1997 signed an agreement in accordance with which the Russian fleet would be based in Crimea for 20 years.

He stressed that Ukraine's integration with NATO and its future membership in the alliance pose no threat to anyone. Ukraine has no alternative but to follow the path of international security policy and join the European collective security system, he said. Ukraine's NATO membership and its independence are almost synonymous, the president emphasized.

According to the president's website, Mr. Yushchenko also attended a working lunch on climate change that was hosted by U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, took part in the opening ceremonies of the fifth anniversary meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative and met with leaders of influential Jewish organizations.

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NEW RELEASE: Compositions for piano by Ihor Sonevtsky

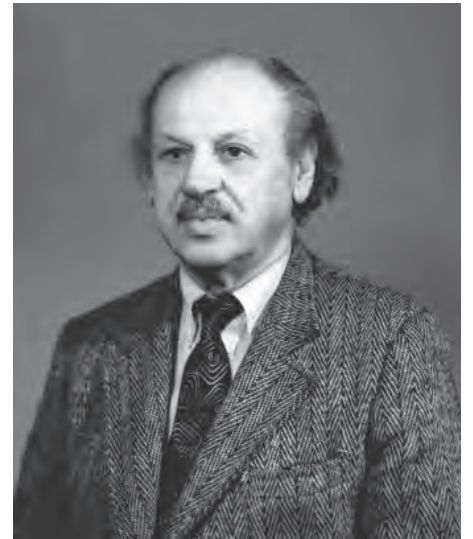
WOODBIDGE, N.J. – Duma Music Inc. has released "Ihor Sonevtsky: Selected Works for Piano," a collection of 22 heretofore unpublished compositions for piano solo by the late composer, musician and educator.

Born in Hadynkivtsi, near Chortkiv in western Ukraine, Maestro Sonevtsky began his musical studies at the Lysenko Institute in Lviv, Ukraine. At 18, upon the recommendation of the renowned Ukrainian composer Vasyl Barvinsky, he was accepted into the composition class of Josef Marx at the Vienna Music Academy.

However, the Communist occupation of Vienna forced the Sonevtsky family into a displaced persons camp in Munich. There, in 1950, Sonevtsky completed his musical studies with a diploma in composition, conducting and piano performance from the Hochschule für Musik. He emigrated to the United States later that same year, but returned to Munich a decade later to earn a doctoral degree in musicology from the Ukrainian Free University in 1961.

Settling in New York, Sonevtsky co-organized the Ukrainian Music Institute and served as its director from 1959 to 1961. In the next two decades he conducted five different Ukrainian choirs, organized and directed a Ukrainian string orchestra and opera ensemble, taught private students, wrote over 500 music-related articles for various newspapers and periodicals, wrote several books, edited many others, and accompanied a number of singers, recording several LPs of vocal music with them.

In 1983 he organized and became pres-



Dr. Ihor Sonevtsky

ident of The Music and Art Center of Greene County, where every summer world-class artists perform in an idyllic setting in the Catskills. He has written incidental music to 29 productions of the acclaimed Theatre Studio of Lydia Krushelnytsky, an opera, a ballet, some chamber music, a series of piano works and an impressive catalogue of choral and vocal music.

When Ukraine became independent in August 1991, almost immediately, leading Ukrainian musicians began to seek out and champion Sonevtsky's works. In 1993, with the publication of a collection of his solo songs by the Ukrainian State Publishing House Muzychna Ukraina, Sonevtsky became the first Ukrainian émigré composer to be published in his

(Continued on page 19)

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Compositions for...

(Continued from page 18)

homeland. Two years later, his one-act opera "The Star" was published by this same firm.

Dr. Sonevtsky's works continue to be championed by world-renowned artists such as Oleh Chmyr, Oksana Kroyvtska, Paul Plishka and Volodymyr Vynnytsky.

Duma Music's newly released collection is the first publication of these 22 piano works. The first four were written in 1944 while Sonevtsky was studying at the Vienna Music Academy. Seven originated as incidental music to the productions of the Theater Studio of Lydia Krushelnytsky, with whom the composer enjoyed a 35-year collaboration. Five are from Sonevtsky's ballet "Cinderella," premiered in 1967 by the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky School of Ballet.

Sonevtsky's piano writing is characterized by an elegant clarity – the works are eminently playable, even for students. Often drawing inspiration from Ukrainian folk music, the composer employs adventurous, atypical harmonization schemes. The pieces drawn from the theater and ballet productions are imbued with programmatic color and wit, as befits their dramatic origin. All 22 works, however, stand firmly on their own as welcome additions to the solo piano repertoire, and are particularly well suited for intermediate to advanced piano students.

"Ihor Sonevtsky: Selected Works for Piano" can be purchased at sheet music retailers, Ukrainian gift stores or directly from the publisher by visiting <http://dummusic.com> or calling 732-636-5406.

Obama nominates...

(Continued from page 1)

Moldova. In 2003-2005 Mr. Tefft was the international affairs advisor at the National War College in Washington.

He served as U.S. ambassador to Lithuania in 2000-2003. He was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in 1996-1999 and served as chargé d'affaires from November 1996 to September 1997. His other Foreign Service assignments include Jerusalem, Budapest and Rome.

Mr. Tefft holds a bachelor's degree from Marquette University (Milwaukee) and a master's degree from Georgetown University.

The nomination is expected to be approved by the U.S. Senate.

While visiting Kyiv this week, Alexander Vershbow, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, said that a new ambassador to Ukraine might arrive in Kyiv in a couple of weeks. Ukrinform reported that, addressing the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine on September 29, Mr. Vershbow said a new head of the U.S. diplomatic mission to Ukraine would soon arrive, but he did not say who the new envoy would be.

Klitschko defends WBC title against Arreola

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Vitali Klitschko (38-2, 37 KO) retained his WBC heavy-weight title after a 10th-round TKO against Mexican American Chris Arreola (27-1) at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on September 26.

Arreola's trainer, Henry Ramirez, stopped the bout in the 10th round after the challenger's face was a bloody mess from taking over 300 blows from Klitschko (151 of which were right-handed shots).

"He was taking too much punishment," Ramirez said. "When I told him I was going to stop the fight he was irate."

Arreola attempted to get inside Klitschko's long reach, but the strategy did not pay off.

Klitschko, 38, was unable to drive Arreola to the canvas with his shots, and never landed enough big punches to make the challenger want to quit.

"I know I was hurting him a lot, but he has a great, great chin," Klitschko said. "I was surprised he did not come out [for the 11th round]."

Ringside judges tallied 802 total punches thrown by Klitschko, of which 301 landed, and Arreola was credited



Vitali Klitschko pounds Chris Arreola.

with landing 86 of 331 thrown.

Klitschko told the website Sports Club ISD that he would soon be ending his boxing career after two or three more bouts: "I'm not going to beat George Foreman's record and be in the ring up to 45 years. Two to three more fights and I'll wind up my boxing career. As for the

next duel, I hope it will take place before the end of the year."

Details on Klitschko's next fight are unconfirmed, but a preliminary date was announced by his management for December 12 in Germany against either American Kevin Johnson or Russia's Oleg Maskaev.



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Whom will Washington...

(Continued from page 2)

played a central role in Mr. Obama's successful public relations campaign. This undermined Mr. Yatsenyuk, believed by many (up to the culling of Ukrainian consultants) to be "Ukraine's Obama" (see the picture of Mr. Yatsenyuk as "Ukraine's Obama?" on the front cover of the May issue of Business Ukraine magazine).

The AKPD contract became public knowledge with a lengthy analysis titled "King Makers for Tymoshenko" in Ukrayinska Pravda (September 2-3). One of the firm's first steps has been to re-fashion Ms. Tymoshenko on the Internet (www.tymoshenko.ua and www.blog.tymoshenko.ua) and to have input on Ms. Tymoshenko's billboards, widely seen as the best produced by all of the candidates that portray her competitors as arguing or undermining her, while she as head of government is busily working to extricate Ukraine from the impact of the global financial crisis. "They quarrel. She works," one of the billboards declares (Ukrayinska Pravda, September 10).

Ms. Tymoshenko has also managed to find support from Ukraine's most well-known rock bands, such as Druha Rika (which backed Mr. Yanukovich in 2004)

and Vopli Vidoplyasova (a famous band in Ukraine that supported Mr. Yushchenko in 2004 and helped to popularize the Orange Revolution). The first of many rock concerts was held on Independence Square on September 12; it was attended by Ms. Tymoshenko and 50,000 spectators (Kyiv Post, September 17).

In Ukraine, discussions of "Washington" wrongly lump together the present administration, which officially will not support any candidate, think-tank experts and private consultants employed by Ukrainian candidates or political parties. The Bush administration did not support a Ukrainian candidate in the 2004 elections – unlike Russia, whose then President Vladimir Putin twice traveled to Ukraine to support Mr. Yanukovich.

Russian political consultants on loan from Mr. Putin, such as Gleb Pavlovsky, worked for the Mr Yanukovich campaign. U.S. political consultants working for three Ukrainian candidates represent private companies, not the Obama administration. Nonetheless, this distinction appears lost on Ukrainian observers of U.S. foreign policy.

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

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The UABA was formed 32 years ago, at the first national convention of Ukrainian American attorneys in Cleveland, Ohio. The UABA was forged out of a desire to work more closely on a national level with the Ukrainian community and its organizations, and to stand in defense of its Ukrainian brethren.

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Yavorivsky, Hunczak to be featured speakers at 20th anniversary commemorations of Rukh

WHIPPANY, N.J. – Among the dramatic political changes that transformed Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union during the late 1980s was the establishment of Rukh – the Popular Movement of Ukraine for Perebudova – in September 1989.

In Ukrainian American communities in Whippany, N.J., New York City and Jenkintown, Pa., special programs commemorating the 20th anniversary of this important event will be held this October. Along with local organizers and sponsors, the Ukrainian National Association is also a sponsor of these commemorative programs.

Featured speakers at the commemorations include the chairman of the organizing committee of the first congress of Rukh, National Deputy Volodymyr Yavorivsky, as well as a participant in the congress, Taras Hunczak, professor emeritus of history at Rutgers University. Both speakers, eyewitnesses to Rukh's founding congress will offer their insights to the dynamic changes that were under way at the time in Ukraine and in the region, as well as the essential role played by the establishment of Rukh in subsequent developments that culminated in

the declaration of Ukraine's independence two years later.

The commemorative programs will also include a video montage of excerpts from the First Congress of Rukh. Unique moments from now historic speeches that helped mobilize a new generation of activists to work for the independence of Ukraine will be showcased.

The first commemorative evening will be held on Saturday, October 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) in Whippany. In addition to the featured speakers, the renowned Dumka choir will perform at the close of the evening. The Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA) in New York City will host the commemorative events the following day, Sunday, October 18. In Jenkintown, the program will be held at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center on Tuesday, October 20 at 7 p.m.

To obtain ticket information for the event at the UACCNJ readers may call 973-590-8026; for the UIA call 212-288-8660; for the event at the UECC call 215-663-1166.

First-time member...

(Continued from page 9)

challenge, I still could not help but want to make them smile, to let them feel loved.

The motherly and neighborly love I feel for these children has not stopped for a moment since I left the orphanages. The hundreds of hugs and kisses, along with the thousands of smiles I received will be with me forever.

My personal mission was to give as

many hugs as I could and to love these children as much as possible. Never could I have imagined that they would hold such a special place in my heart, nor did I ever believe I could be loved so unconditionally by children I barely knew. My thoughts and prayers are with all the children of Puhachiv and Znamianka. My only wish is that everyone has an opportunity to love a child, or children, the way God allowed me to love those two weeks this summer.

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Preview of events...

(Continued from page 24)

made the film inspired by the famous story by Nikolai Gogol (Mykola Hohol) about love, betrayal and revenge. Released in Ukraine last April and widely distributed there, this film provoked a small storm among the Ukrainian public due to its unapologetic neo-colonialist politics and ideology. Still, it is worth seeing as a document of post-Soviet Russian revanchism made fascinating by the enthusiastic participation of Ukrainian talent in the project, including the actors Bohdan Stupka, Ada Rohovtseva, Les Serdiuk, the artist Serhiy Yakutovych, to name but a few. Notes Russian reviewer Roman Volobuev, "Bortko, known for his pedantic treatment of literary texts, in this case, chopped Gogol up into a salad and made use of only those its pieces that will insult the greatest number of inhabitants of sovereign Ukraine." Insult or not, the film reveals quite a lot about present-day Russia and Ukraine. Prof. Frank Sysyn, University of Toronto, and Prof. Catherine Nepomnyashchy and Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, Columbia University, will discuss the film after the screening. The screening is at 7:30 p.m. in 702 Hamilton Hall, Columbia University. The film is in its original Russian-language version with English subtitles. The event is free and open to the public.

Sunday, November 1

NEW YORK: The New York Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation invite you to "UCU Today & Tomorrow: A Reception, Presentation & Celebration." Enjoy a complimentary sit-down meal as special guests from the Ukrainian Catholic University – including an accomplished vocalist who will perform – update and

thank you for the support that allows them to shape souls and educate minds for the good of Ukraine and beyond. The event will take place at the Ukrainian National Home, 140 Second Ave., at 1 p.m. For details contact Nell at nell@ucef.org or 773-235-8462.

Saturday, November 7

FOX CHASE MANOR, Pa.: The Philadelphia Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation invite you to "UCU Today & Tomorrow: A Reception, Presentation & Celebration." Enjoy a convivial and informative experience as special guests from the Ukrainian Catholic University – including an accomplished vocalist who will perform – update and thank you for the support that allows them to shape souls and educate minds for the good of Ukraine and beyond. The event takes place at the Basilian Spirituality Center, 710 Fox Chase Road in Fox Chase Manor, Pa. For details, contact Nell at nell@ucef.org or 773-235-8462.

Sunday, November 8

CHICAGO: The Chicago Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation invite you to "UCU Today & Tomorrow: A Reception, Presentation & Celebration." Enjoy a convivial and informative experience as special guests from the Ukrainian Catholic University – including an accomplished vocalist who will perform – update and thank you for the support that allows them to shape souls and educate minds for the good of Ukraine and beyond. The event will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave. For details contact Nell at nell@ucef.org or 773-235-8462.

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**.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published.

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



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Why does Ukraine...

(Continued from page 6)

discussion.

I am convinced that the Ukrainian people are capable of creating a law that would be fully in line with the national interests of Ukraine rather than the interests of individual politicians. There is a great tradition behind us. The Ukrainian Constitution of the 18th century by Pylyp Orlyk was one of the first democratic laws in the world.

It is only the new Constitution that will enable Ukraine to develop as a strong, democratic state guided by the people's

interests. It will consolidate the democratic achievements of recent years and will make it impossible for our state to slide back into its totalitarian past. Ukraine's response to modern challenges is strengthening democracy as a safeguard of our great public and economic development. I strongly believe that Ukraine as a state has promise and prospect of existence in the context of democratic development only.

President Viktor Yushchenko's op-ed article was released in Ukrainian and English versions by the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States on September 24.

Yushchenko addresses...

(Continued from page 3)

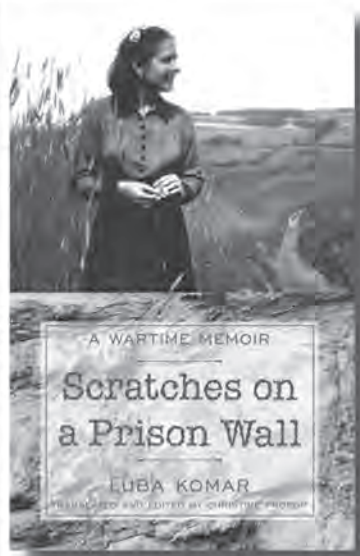
In this process, our organization can and should play its role in preventing the financial perturbations from spinning out into social upheavals.

Perhaps, it is time to revisit the idea previously expressed by Ukraine and recently by a number of other countries. I mean the creation of the U.N. Economic Security Council. The large scale of this

proposal should not prompt us to shelve or reject it altogether. ...

The principal and most important objective for our universal organization and for each of our countries is to protect common people from the crisis and to prevent the decline of their living standards. ...

We are capable of great achievements. I am firmly convinced of our strength to move forward confidently for the benefit of the world, our peoples and countries.



The Ukrainian Museum
Shevchenko Scientific Society
Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the US
invite you to a book launch


Scratches on a Prison Wall
A Wartime Memoir
by Luba Komar-Prokop
translated and edited by Christine Prokop

Saturday, October 17, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
at The Ukrainian Museum

The book will be introduced by
Prof. Alexander Motyl

Christine Prokop
will read excerpts from the book

The evening includes a video presentation
of Luba Komar-Prokop telling her story
and a slideshow of photos and documents.
Free admission.
Limited seating. RSVP: 212.228.0110



The Ukrainian Museum
222 East 6th Street
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www.ukrainianmuseum.org

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OUT AND ABOUT

<p>Current through October 23 New York</p>	<p>Art exhibit, "The Saturated Palette" by Taras Borovyk, Agora Gallery 212-226-4151</p>	<p>October 17 Palatine, IL</p>	<p>Dance, featuring Klopit, Ukrainian American Youth Association - Palatine Branch, 773-414-5949</p>
<p>October 9-11 Philadelphia</p>	<p>Philadelphia Open Studio Tours, Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, 215-684-3548</p>	<p>October 17 Whippany, NJ</p>	<p>20th anniversary of Rukh, "Quiet Revolution of Ukraine," with Volodymyr Yavorivsky and Taras Hunczak, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-585-7175</p>
<p>October 10 Washington</p>	<p>60th anniversary concert, featuring Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble, Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine, 202-526-3737</p>	<p>October 17 Winnipeg, MB</p>	<p>Fashion show, featuring Ukrainian clothing and tapestry, Ukrainian Museum of Canada - Manitoba Branch, 204-663-6242</p>
<p>October 10-11 Glen Spey, NY</p>	<p>Oktoberfest, Mountain View Manor, 845-856-1105</p>	<p>October 17-18 Ottawa</p>	<p>60th anniversary of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 613-422-0163 or 613-596-5906</p>
<p>October 11 Parma, OH</p>	<p>Luncheon and Fashion Show, Ukrainian National Women's League of America - Branch 12, St. Mary Protectress (Pokrova) Hall, 440-449-3456 or 440-884-1647</p>	<p>October 18 Hartford, CT</p>	<p>Annual dinner-concert, featuring Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble and Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 860-296-5702</p>
<p>October 13 Toronto</p>	<p>Book presentation, "My Grandfather's Mill - Journey to Freedom" by Andrew Melnyk, Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group, St. Vladimir Institute, 905-841-6707</p>	<p>October 18 Alexandria, VA</p>	<p>Concert, featuring violinist Zino Bogachek and Friends, The Washington Group Cultural Fund, 301-299-2615 or 703-838-4994</p>
<p>October 15 Ottawa</p>	<p>Concert, "Ukrainian Music with a World Sound," featuring Sofia Bilozor and Damien Sawka, AvantGarde Bar,</p>	<p>October 18 Winnipeg, MB</p>	<p>Film screening, "Okradena Zemlya" by Yuriy Luhovy, Manitoba Museum, 204-586-3445</p>
<p>October 15-18 Venice, FL</p>	<p>62nd Ukrainian American Veterans National Convention, UAV Post 40, Best Western Hotel, 941-536-1490 or 941-480-9898</p>	<p>October 18 Silver Spring, MD</p>	<p>Ukrainian Food Festival, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 301-384-9192 or 301-593-5316</p>
<p>October 16 Washington</p>	<p>Conference, "Countering Democratic Regression in a Newly Divided Europe and Eurasia," Johns Hopkins University, 202-663-5796</p>	<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>	
<p>October 17 Whippany, NJ</p>	<p>USCAK Chess Tournament, Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, http://uscak.blogspot.com</p>		

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

October 2-4 Carpathian Ski Club (KLK) 85th anniversary celebration	October 30-November 1 Halloween weekend
October 9-11 Wedding weekend	November 6-8 UNA General Assembly
October 16-18 Plast USA (KP Zyizd)	November 13-15 Plast Orlykiada
October 24 to be announced	November 21-22 Private function
	November 26 Thanksgiving



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, October 9

WHIPPANY, N.J.: Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and Academy invites everyone to a gala concert of Ukrainian folk dance featuring the ensembles Veselka from Prudentopolis, Brazil, and Iskra from Whippany, N.J. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 60 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany NJ 07981. Tickets are \$20; \$10 for students and seniors. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the UACCNJ. For tickets or more information call 973-895-4868 or e-mail syzo63@optonline.net.

Saturday, October 10

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society and Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU) invite all to a presentation of the translation of a part of the report to the U.S. Congress on the testimonies of eyewitnesses to the Holodomor of 1932-1933 before the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, which was active in the years 1986-1988. Participating in the presentation: Bozhena Olshaniwsky, president of AHRU; Dr. Myron Kuropas, scholar, civic leader, publicist and public member of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine; Dr. Leonid Heretz, professor of history, compiler of eyewitness accounts of the Holodomor for the commission. The presentation will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Friday-Sunday, October 9-11

PHILADELPHIA: The Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, located at 800 N. 23rd St., will be participating in the POST – Philadelphia Open Studios Tour. The opening reception is Friday evening at 7-9 p.m. in the hall, followed by a performance by the Kruno Spisic Gypsy Jazz Band at 9 p.m. in the lower club. Viewing hours on Saturday and Sunday are noon-6 p.m. Featured artists: Mykhailo Danylowych, Dorian Fedkiw, Andriy Korchynskij, Lusia Oleksyuk. Admission is free. For information call Ihor, 215-656-8521 (weekdays).

Sunday, October 11

PHILADELPHIA: As a part of the "Literature in the Booth" series, the Ukrainian Federation of America in conjunction with the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia located at 800 N. 23rd St., will be co-sponsoring a presentation and book signing of a recently published book "Culture and Customs of Ukraine" by Adriana Helbig, Oksana Buranbaeva and Vanja Mladineo. The presentation and book-signing will take place in the lower club starting at 3 p.m. Dr. Adriana Helbig will discuss the challenges of writing this book and how she and her co-authors researched the material for it. Admission is free. For information call Ihor, 215-656-8521 (weekdays)

Tuesday, October 13

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University invites all to a lecture titled "Gogol and His Contemporaries: The Price of Admission to Russian Culture," to be delivered by Dr. Edyta Bojanowska (Rutgers University). The lecture will take place at noon in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 212-854-4697, or write to ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu.

Thursday, October 15

NEW YORK: A screening of "The English Surgeon" (2007, documentary; in Ukrainian and English, with subtitles) with a personal appearance by Dr. Henry Marsh will take place at The Ukrainian Museum at 7 p.m. Filmed in a Ukrainian hospital full of desperate patients and makeshift equipment, "The English Surgeon" is an intimate and uplifting portrait of one man's struggle to do good things against formidable odds. This moving and often humor-

ous film tells the remarkable real-life story of Dr. Marsh and Ukrainian physician Ihor Kurylets, who works around the clock to get through the endless lines of people who look upon the visiting English surgeon as their last hope. The museum's film series is supported in part by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Donation (includes reception): \$15; members and seniors, \$10; students, \$5. RSVP by calling 212-228-0110 or e-mailing info@ukrainianmuseum.org. Reservations are recommended.

Friday, October 16

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America is pleased to present a major solo exhibition by artist Ilona Sochynsky titled "Fragments. Fetishes. Capriccios" from October 8 through November 1, with an artist's opening reception on Friday, October 16, at 6-8 p.m. The exhibit features over 25 oil paintings on canvas in varying levels of abstraction. Exhibit hours are: Tuesday-Sunday, noon-6 p.m. For additional information call 212-288-8660.

Saturday, October 17

NEW YORK: A book launch of "Scratches on a Prison Wall: A Wartime Memoir" by Luba Komar-Prokop, translated and edited by Christine Prokop, will take place at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St., New York, NY 10003, at 7 p.m. The book will be introduced by Prof. Alexander Motyl; Christine Prokop will read excerpts from the book. The evening includes a video presentation of the book's author telling her story and a slideshow of photos and documents. Copies of "Scratches on a Prison Wall" will be available for sale. Admission is free; limited seating. RSVP by calling 212-228-0110 or sending an email to infor@ukrainianmuseum.org.

NEW BRITAIN, Conn.: A Ukrainian Harvest Festival will take place at 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 54 Winter St. (behind Newbrite Plaza). The event is in celebration of the church's 100th anniversary. Featured will be a giant tag sale, Christmas items, a large collection of costume jewelry, Ukrainian breads, a raffle, cake and dessert table, as well as a Ukrainian Kitchen with Ukrainian foods plus hotdogs and hamburgers. Again available will be the church's famous nut rolls. Parking is available behind the church. For further information call 860-229-3833 or 860-677-2138.

Sunday October 18

HARTFORD, Conn.: The board of directors of the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford invites you and your family to its Annual Fall Dinner-Concert at 5 p.m. The Ukrainian National Home is located at 961 Wethersfield Ave. The program will include performances by the Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble and the Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, and a buffet dinner by Joanna's Creative Cuisine. For tickets – \$25 for adults, \$10 for students – call the UNHH office, 860-296-5702.

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Washington Group Sunday Music Series will present Zino Bogachek, violinist with the Washington National Opera, joined by musicians from the WNO Orchestra for an afternoon of classical chamber music featuring romantic and contemporary composers, including pieces for violin, cello, viola and piano. The Lyceum is located at 201 S. Washington St. The concert begins at 3 p.m.; seating is unreserved; suggested donation is \$20, free for students. For information call 301-229-2615.

Wednesday, October 21

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University will hold a viewing and discussion of the new and controversial Russian historical drama "Taras Bulba" (2009). Kyiv-born Vladimir Bortko

(Continued on page 22)