



**ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС!
CHRIST IS RISEN!**

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXVIII

No.14

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2010

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov returns empty-handed from Moscow



Web-Portal of Ukraine's Government

Prime Ministers Mykola Azarov of Ukraine (left) and Vladimir Putin of Russia during their meeting in Moscow on March 25.

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov failed to persuade Moscow to lower the price of gas for Ukraine. Although Kyiv's offer of participation in a consortium to manage Ukraine's gas pipelines was not openly rejected, it was hinted that this might not be enough. More economic and political concessions are expected in exchange for cheap gas.

Mr. Azarov returned to Kyiv only with a promise that the talks will continue. This was a test for the new Ukrainian government, which many have labelled as pro-Russian. If President Viktor Yanukovich and his team do not agree to Russian conditions, Kyiv will have to turn for financial assistance to the West, which will insist on serious reform.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, during his talks with Mr. Azarov on March 25, flatly rejected Mr. Yanukovich's complaint that the January 2009 gas contracts were unfair as the price is too high compared to European prices. Mr. Putin said that the contracts, which were concluded by Mr. Azarov's predecessor, Yulia Tymoshenko, must be honored. Mr. Azarov grudgingly confirmed that Ukraine would continue to pay according to the contracts.

The only concession that Mr. Putin made was the promise that Russia would not punish Ukraine for buying less gas than agreed. In the first quarter of 2010, Ukraine imported 6 billion cubic meters (bcm) of Russian gas, rather than 8.4 bcm as it stipulated in the contracts (Interfax, March 25). Mr. Putin had made the same concession to Prime Minister Tymoshenko in 2009.

Gas talks to continue

Prime Ministers Putin and Azarov agreed that the gas talks will continue during April in Moscow. Gazprom said it could discuss a decrease in prices if Ukraine agreed to buy more than 33.75 bcm of gas in 2010 as set out in the contracts (Kommersant-Ukraine, March 26). Gazprom wants Ukraine to pump more gas into its underground storage facilities. Cash-strapped Ukraine, whose GDP fell by 15 percent in 2009, cannot afford such terms. Mr. Azarov said that Ukraine would buy only as much gas as needed for domestic consumption, since "we do not need redundant gas" (UNIAN, March 26).

Mr. Azarov had arrived in Moscow at Mr. Putin's invitation as talks between Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Boiko, and Gazprom CEO Aleksey Miller on March 23-24 produced no result. Mr. Miller was shown on TV telling Mr. Boiko that contracts should be respected (Channel 5, March 24).

Ukrainian officials were determined to persuade Moscow to lower the price of gas. Ukraine pays \$305 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas in the first quarter of 2010, and the average price for the year is expected to reach \$334 (RBK-Ukraine, March 24), compared to \$228 in 2009. Kyiv cannot afford this, especially as it is reluctant to increase domestic gas prices, which would be a very unpopular measure.

The state-controlled oil and gas behemoth Naftohaz Ukrainy continues to sell gas to end consumers with heavy discounts, while buying from Russia at mar-

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Ukraine's capital is battleground between residents and developers

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Among the biggest challenges facing the new administration of President Viktor Yanukovich will be coping with the escalating conflicts, sometimes violent, between Kyiv's real estate developers, the police and the city's residents.

Battles raged daily during the Orange era, as a result of a construction boom that emerged amidst inadequate laws, courts and policing to regulate building. Developers are widely believed to pay bribes to secure many of the required building permits, architectural reviews and court rulings.

The lack of regulation in the industry has led civic activists to launch both legal and illegal avenues of protests to combat what they view as unrestrained illegal construction. The conflicts haven't subsided with the new government, as brawls between activists and police erupted throughout March.

"The illegal steps are taken out of desperation," said Volodymyr Yavorsky, executive director of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union in Kyiv.

"In a civilized society, they could file a complaint in court and block illegal construction. In our legal system, that's practically impossible. It's rare that these conflicts can be decided in court," he explained.

About 100 activists of the Save Old Kyiv organization gathered in front of the Cabinet of Ministers building on March 20 to protest rampant illegal construction

projects that they say are ruining residential areas, parks and historic structures throughout the capital city.

Save Old Kyiv has gathered momentum and spawned similar organizations, as more residents have become directly affected by aggressive construction of skyscrapers, shopping malls and entertainment centers in their neighborhoods.

The peaceful protest on March 20 turned into a brawl when police officers attempted to stop the activists from activating a megaphone and speakers to enable their protests to be heard within the Cabinet building. Activists said they had no choice but to fight the police in order to defend their right to free speech.

"The police can't forbid us to play music or not play music, to speak into a microphone or megaphone," said Oleksander Buntusov, an activist with the Coalition of Participants in the Orange Revolution.

"That's interference in conducting a protest by a civic organization, as well as abusing authority and exceeding government authority by police," he said. "The police are so corrupt that they can approach you groundlessly and say, 'Boys, my head hurts today. Don't turn anything on.'"

The 10-minute fight resulted in the police surrendering and the protesters activating the speakers. Yet the willingness of the protesters to engage in a scuffle with police demonstrates just how little authority and respect they command from average Ukrainian citizens, observers said.

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Zenon Zawada

Activists with Save Old Kyiv, which fights illegal real estate activity, battles against a police attempt to confiscate their microphone and speakers at a March 20 protest at the Cabinet of Ministers.

ANALYSIS

Naftohaz management change indicates turn toward Russia

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor

On March 22, the new Ukrainian government completed the formation of the senior management team at Naftohaz Ukrainy, the state oil and gas company (Interfax-Ukraine, UNIAN, March 22; Kommersant, March 23). This team is directly answerable to Fuel and Energy Minister Yurii Boiko and, equally but informally, to RosUkrEnergo gas trader Dmytro Firtash, an industrial tycoon in his own right, closely allied with Boiko.

Mr. Boiko's appointment as minister was widely expected; and apprehensively so, outside the government's orbit. He had served in both previous governments headed by the newly elected Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. In the new government, an informal division of spheres has placed Mr. Boiko in charge of the oil and gas sectors, allowing interest groups associated with First Vice Prime Minister Andrii Kliuyev to control the electricity and nuclear sectors (Ukrainyanska Pravda, March 13).

Mr. Boiko is regarded as "godfather" to the "supply schemes" with Gazprom's offshoots, EuralTransGas and RosUkrEnergo, devised in 2002-2004. He was first vice minister of fuel and energy and chairman of Naftohaz Ukrainy in the first Yanukovich government at that time. He was also identified as a member of RosUkrEnergo's coordinating council in 2004, while holding those official posts (Dzerkalo Tyzhnia, March 13).

Mr. Boiko returned to government as fuel and energy minister in the second Yanukovich government during 2006-2007, by which time RosUkrEnergo was operating under then-President Viktor Yushchenko's dispensation.

Mr. Firtash headed the Ukrainian side of EuralTransGas in 2002-2004 and RosUkrEnergo from 2006 onward. Messrs. Firtash and Boiko have a close and continuing personal relationship. However, Mr. Firtash also established a temporary alliance with Mr. Yushchenko, whose energy team

actually implemented the RosUkrEnergo scheme that Mr. Boiko was instrumental in devising. Mr. Firtash owned 45 percent of RosUkrEnergo's shares, with his Ukrainian partner Ivan Fursin owning 5 percent, and Gazprom 50 percent. Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's government ultimately removed RosUkrEnergo from the Russian-Ukrainian gas trade in early 2009, by agreement with Moscow.

At present, Mr. Firtash seeks compensation for 11 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas, which he claims was taken from RosUkrEnergo's storage in Ukraine in 2009. Although removed from the inter-state gas trade, Mr. Firtash remains in control of a diversified industrial holding, Group DF (Dmytro Firtash). Furthermore, he is a major stakeholder in the Independent TV corporation, which includes Ukraine's top-rated Inter TV channel. This has made Mr. Firtash a key player in Ukrainian elections, with influence he can leverage on the post-election government. Inter TV's news coverage is supportive of the Party of Regions (EDM, March 18).

The new government has appointed Yevhen Bakulyn as chairman of Naftohaz Ukrainy. A protégé of Mr. Boiko throughout their careers, Mr. Bakulyn served as second in command to Mr. Boiko at the Lysychansk oil refinery, then as head of Ukraine's gas extraction and processing company Ukrhazvydobuvannia (a fully owned subsidiary of Naftohaz Ukrainy) in 2003-2004 and 2006, and finally as the chairman of Naftohaz in 2007, when Mr. Boiko was a minister in the second Yanukovich government (Interfax-Ukraine, March 15; Kommersant [Kyiv], March 16).

Returning to Naftohaz in the new Yanukovich administration, Mr. Bakulyn and two of his aides have published an article calling for shared control of Ukraine's gas transit system with Gazprom in an international consortium (2000 weekly magazine [Kyiv] cited by Interfax-Ukraine, March 19).

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Will Tymoshenko unite the opposition?

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Yulia Tymoshenko has found herself in the opposition after losing the February 7 presidential election runoff to Viktor Yanukovich. Her coalition in Parliament has ceased to exist, and on March 3 a new pro-Yanukovich majority dismissed her from the post of prime minister. Although Ms. Tymoshenko headed the opposition in 2006-2007, when Mr. Yanukovich was prime minister, and she undoubtedly remains the most popular opposition politician, Ms. Tymoshenko faces an uphill struggle in her efforts to consolidate the opposition. Several prominent opposition figures dispute her leadership credentials. Nationalist parties recently organized a consolidated attack against Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk, demanding his dismissal. This may become the starting point for a consolidation process.

Ms. Tymoshenko declared the goal of uniting "the real democratic national-patriotic forces" at a briefing on March 2. She listed the consolidation of Ukrainian independence, continuation of a pro-European course, and fighting corruption as the main tasks around which the opposition should unite (Ukrainska Pravda, March 2). At a

nationalist rally on March 9, Ms. Tymoshenko's allies proclaimed her the leader of a unified democratic opposition. However, the rally was ignored by such prominent oppositionists as former President Viktor Yushchenko and former Parliamentary Speaker Arseny Yatsenyuk, making it clear that Ms. Tymoshenko will need to make more effort to actually unify the opposition (UNIAN, March 9).

On March 17, Ms. Tymoshenko's bloc (BYT) and several groups from the Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense caucus (NUNS), which is the third largest caucus in Parliament after Mr. Yanukovich's and Ms. Tymoshenko's, signed a statement pledging to set up a unified opposition in Parliament and began to form a shadow cabinet (www.for-ua.com, March 17). However, the majority of NUNS refused to join Ms. Tymoshenko, so the shadow prime minister designate, BYT deputy Serhii Sobolev, admitted in a recent interview that currently the opposition in Parliament de jure consists only of BYT deputies (www.glavred.info, March 22).

Mr. Yatsenyuk, a member of NUNS, who came in fourth in the first round of the presidential elections on January 17, made

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NEWSBRIEFS

Preparations for Yanukovich's U.S. visit

KYIV - Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko held a meeting within the framework of the Brussels Forum with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasian Affairs Philip Gordon and U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Alexander Vershbow, it was reported on March 29 by the press service of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, the parties discussed topical issues of bilateral Ukrainian-American relations, including preparations for a visit by Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich for participation in the Nuclear Security Summit that will take place on April 12-13 in Washington. The readiness to continue development of bilateral relations in compliance with the Charter on Strategic Partnership of Ukraine and the U.S. was confirmed and interest was expressed in expansion of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine, Canada to set up free trade zone

KYIV - Ukraine and Canada are planning to reach agreement in 2010 on the creation of a free trade zone, the liaison department of the Cabinet of Ministers' secretariat reported on March 31. During his meeting with Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine Daniel Caron, Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov noted that in 2009 the bilateral trade turnover was reduced to \$382 million (U.S.). He called for the removal of barriers to intensification of economic relations, and he said Ukraine is ready to conclude a free trade zone agreement with Canada. Ambassador Caron said his country's government is ready to conclude this agreement, adding that the two countries may develop successful cooperation in agriculture, the pharmaceutical and aerospace industries, as well as in power engineering, including nuclear power. Mr. Azarov also noted that Ukraine has a stake in liberalization of visa regulations with Canada. He voiced hope for invigoration of bilateral relations and for boosting bilateral trade turnover, saying a five-fold increase is quite possible. A

high-level Canadian delegation will come to Ukraine in May for political consultations and talks on cooperation in various areas. (Ukrinform)

IMF to review forecast for Ukraine

KYIV - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is to review its forecast for Ukraine's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2010, the Finance Ministry's press service said in a statement following a meeting held between Vice Prime Minister Sergey Tigipko, Finance Minister Fedir Yaroshenko and IMF mission experts. The IMF review will take into account the updated macroeconomic figures approved by the Ukrainian government, it was reported on March 30. (Ukrinform)

Women sue prime minister

KYIV - The head of the Information and Advisory Women's Center, Olena Suslova, has filed a lawsuit in Kyiv's District Administrative Court against Prime Minister Mykola Azarov on the violation of the constitutional right to the equality of women and men, it was reported on March 30. A similar lawsuit was filed in Kyiv's Pechersk District Court by the president of La Strada Ukraine International Women Rights Center, Kateryna Levchenko. Women's organizations expressed indignation at the fact that there are no women in the new Ukrainian government. "I consider Mykola Yanovych Azarov's statement 'With all my respect for women, it's not a business for women to carry out reforms' to be direct discrimination against Ukrainian women and against me as a woman," reads the lawsuit by Ms. Levchenko. (Ukrinform)

Kravchuk criticizes Semynozhenko

KYIV - In an interview with the Delo newspaper, Ukraine's former President Leonid Kravchuk has lashed out at the stance of Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Semynozhenko, who said on the "Shuster Live" TV program that he supports the idea of creating a federal state of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. Mr. Kravchuk said the idea poses the threat of a total loss of

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY FOUNDED 1933

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

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

Periodicals postage paid at Caldwell, NJ 07006 and additional mailing offices.
(ISSN - 0273-9348)

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

Postmaster, send address changes to:
The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

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

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

The Ukrainian Weekly, April 4, 2010, No. 14, Vol. LXXVIII

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INTERVIEW: Former head of NATO Liaison Office in Ukraine, James Greene

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – James Greene, the head of NATO's Liaison Office in Ukraine between February 2004 and July 2009, was an eyewitness to the successes and failures in implementing key institutional reforms during the Orange era.

Unfortunately, NATO integration became more of a political symbol for former President Viktor Yushchenko, who claims to be Ukraine's leading pro-NATO politician, rather than a practical tool for implementing reforms, Mr. Greene told *The Weekly* in a February 10 interview.

"There were also many people around him who believed that Euro-Atlantic integration was all geopolitical, that it wasn't about reform, and that Ukraine could actually enter the alliance without changing," he said. "This attitude was a holdover from the Kuchma period."

It wasn't a total disaster, however. Mr. Greene said Ukraine did make progress toward NATO integration, and the nation's leaders demonstrated tremendous initiative.

Following is the conclusion of a two-part interview with Mr. Greene.

Part II

Ukraine's lack of commitment to reform, was that out of incompetence, a lack of interest or lack of political strategy?

All of the above. Ukraine is not a monolithic country. That's what's wonderful about it. It's a democracy. Different people have different views. Many people looked at Euro-Atlantic integration as a way to encourage reform and mobilize resources. This was particularly true within the state system, where patriotic officials understood that reform had to be made in the armed forces, defense industry, the security service. Yet other people had a very cynical view about NATO, and looked at it as a convenient issue to be played with in certain ways

for internal political reasons.

A good example of how we helped with needed reform was work with the National Security and Defense Council staff. If you go back and look at the kinds of things the NSDC was doing in the late 1990s, when [Volodymyr] Horbulin was the secretary, it really was trying to integrate national security and defense policy. Unfortunately, since then it has often been ignored and sometimes used in ways that it wasn't designed for. This weakened Ukraine's national security.

So for me, one of the high points of my time was a project we did with NSDC in 2006. Ukraine was developing a national security strategy for the first time, and the NSDC asked NATO countries for methodological support and advice. We helped the NSDC get information from countries that had recently updated their national security strategies. We sat down and helped them look at processes. Ukrainian experts went to Brussels and consulted with NATO nations.

In the end, Ukraine developed a good process that combined expert work, ministries' views and discussions at the political level. There were hearings in the Parliamentary Committee for National Security and Defense, which was chaired by [Anatolii] Kinakh at the time. And Ukraine's first National Security Strategy was approved in February of 2007 by the president after having been agreed at the NSDC. At that time, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Parliamentary Speaker [Oleksander] Moroz were part of that agreement. This was an example of how the NSDC as an institution can be used to develop common positions on vital issues despite political differences.

Even with pro-Russian politicians at the helm, they accounted for the most significant progress made with NATO during the last five years?

I had the pleasure of working with five governments, and I wouldn't measure the pace of work by the various prime ministers.

Throughout my five and a half years, we were able to always find common ground and make progress.

If I were to look for a litmus test on how reform and integration progressed over time, I would look at World Trade Organization (WTO) membership. It was a warning signal for a lot of people when the necessary laws failed to pass the Verkhovna Rada in the summer of 2005. The president [Viktor Yushchenko] was not willing – or able – to deliver his parliamentary coalition to achieve WTO [membership].

At that time the suspicion was that it was not about WTO itself, but about denying Prime Minister [Yulia] Tymoshenko a victory. That was an early signal that things were going in the wrong direction and that the opportunity that presented itself after the Orange Revolution was going to be wasted.

So you're saying the Presidential Secretariat essentially sabotaged WTO?

I don't know whether it was sabotaged. But it was clear when you looked at the voting that the people one would expect to vote in support were not.

Well the Communists were always opposed. We didn't have those factions set up until after the reforms of 2006. So back then there were leftovers from ...

There were. But if you go back and look at the names ...

The so-called national democrats?

If the president had wished to use his political capital to push it through, at a time when he was incredibly popular, that would have been it.

Let me tell you a story to illustrate the point about how important this was. In September 2006, I was at a conference in the U.K. at Wilton Park at which all the various factions from the Ukrainian political spectrum were present, as well as representatives from major international institutions and European governments. This was first week of September of 2006, and the new

governing coalition was just a few weeks old. Yanukovich had just been re-appointed prime minister and he hadn't gone to Brussels yet.

Among the international community, the consensus of all key players there was that WTO accession would be the biggest test for Ukraine's integration with the international community over the next 12 months. This underlines that European or Euro-Atlantic integration is not just about joining one institution or a three-letter acronym, like MAP. It is about joining a broad set of institutions that link together the world of democratic and prosperous countries. It's a comprehensive process, and Ukraine's WTO accession was an important step.

When you were working here, did it feel like it was NATO taking most of the initiative, and Ukraine was lagging and reluctantly going along with your suggestions? Meaning that most of the initiative was from your end?

No. There was a tremendous amount of initiative from the Ukrainian side. All the programs we had were ones that Ukraine was pushing. For example, in 2005 Defense Minister [Anatolii] Grytsenko identified a number of areas where he had priorities and requested assistance from the alliance. We were able to respond in practical ways.

We vastly increased the retraining of servicemen that were leaving the armed forces – up to 800 a year. We developed programs to train civil servants in modern defense management techniques. We reinvigorated the trust fund for destruction of munitions. We brought in additional expertise and helped with personnel management and planning. I wasn't teaching my Ukrainian counterparts; they were identifying what they needed, and I would try to find the resources and expertise to help make it happen.

Unfortunately, there was a disconnect in the system. We worked closely on practical

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NEWS ANALYSIS: Prime Minister Mykola Azarov takes a trip to Moscow

by Vladimir Socor

Eurasia Daily Monitor

On March 25 Ukraine's new prime minister, Nikolai Azarov, visited Moscow, seeking discounted Russian gas prices for Ukraine. Mr. Azarov's host, Vladimir Putin, suggested that Russia could consent eventually, if the new Ukrainian government starts trading off its assets and the country's European orientation.

Mr. Azarov carried to Moscow a political offer to share Ukraine's gas transit system with Gazprom in the form of a "consortium" with some European involvement. Kyiv has also announced that First Vice Prime Minister Andrii Kliuyev is completing draft legislation toward that end. However, the consortium formula seems far from fleshed out, and a decorative European presence – to make the proposed consortium more palatable in Ukraine and in Brussels – is not in sight.

At this stage, therefore, Moscow does not seem to take the consortium idea seriously as compensation for cutting the price of gas to Ukraine. Almost certainly, Moscow is waiting out the Ukrainian government, and industrial interests behind it, to make a clear and far-reaching proposal, so as to guarantee a dominant and irreversible presence of Gazprom in the Ukrainian transit system.

At the concluding news conference (Interfax, March 25), Mr. Putin barely mentioned the consortium and seemed to brush aside questions about it. Instead, he

said, "If we aim to reconsider the price of gas, the question is what we will get in return." In the archetypal negotiating tactic, he announced that Moscow would treat the gas issue "in linkage with our relationships. And we shall see the results in due course."

Moscow seems flexible on this account. According to Mr. Putin, "no issue is out of bounds" as compensation for cutting the price of gas. For example, Ukraine could enjoy a 30 percent gas price cut, as does Belarus, if Ukraine joins the Customs Union with Russia. "And here is your interest in integration on the post-Soviet space, in this case between Russia and Ukraine," Mr. Putin told Mr. Azarov in front of television cameras for the Ukrainian public's consumption (Russian TV, March 25). Mr. Putin had openly taunted ("Why don't you join the Customs Union then?") Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich recently in Moscow (EDM, March 6), knowing that such a move would stop and reverse Ukraine's European integration agenda. Moscow must also be well aware of potential differences within the Ukrainian government on the Customs Union issue. What sounds like a taunt to Mr. Yanukovich seems meant as an enticement to Mr. Azarov.

With the gas consortium proposal unsatisfactory to Russia in its present, inchoate form, Mr. Azarov apparently broached some other possible trade-offs. "We shall find other ways to compensate [Russia for low-priced gas]," he told

Moscow media. Under fire in Kyiv for "surrendering the pipelines in exchange for cheap gas," Mr. Azarov denied having made such an offer and asked Mr. Putin to confirm this for the press. "But he did make other offers," Mr. Putin volunteered (Interfax, March 25).

The gas issue (and any Russian linkages to it) remains undecided, at least until Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's visit to Kyiv, expected tentatively in May. In preparation for that visit, the gas price and possible Ukrainian offsets for a price discount are being referred to the economic committee, under the presidentially chaired Russia-Ukraine Interstate Commission. According to Mr. Azarov, the Moscow visit has merely "identified the issues where clarity was lacking" (Interfax-Ukraine, March 25).

The Russian prime minister denied that the Nord Stream and South Stream pipeline projects (on the seabed of the Baltic and Black seas) are intended to reduce the gas transit volume through Ukrainian pipelines. Mr. Putin insisted that both projects are designed to increase Russia's overall export pipeline capacity, thus implying that the two streams' implementation need not result in shifting transit volumes away from Ukraine. Other Russian officials have also advanced this argument from time to time.

The argument is almost certainly accurate regarding Nord Stream 1 (to be supplied by two specially dedicated Russian gas fields); it necessitates reassessment following the Shtokman project's shelv-

ing, which removed the resource base for Nord Stream 2; and it is an irrelevant argument with regard to South Stream, inasmuch as the latter remains a virtual project.

As a net effect, Ukraine can basically count on Russia continuing to use the Ukrainian transit system in the foreseeable future, without significant volume shifts to other transit corridors (with a possible exception for the Belarus transit pipelines). Furthermore, Moscow has prolonged the long-term agreement with Slovakia for continuing massive gas transit through the Ukraine-Slovakia corridor westward and has announced its intention to prolong supply agreements with Balkan countries, which are receiving Russian gas also via Ukraine.

Essentially, the only limitations on Russian use of the Ukrainian transit system in the foreseeable future are: Russia's export capacity, European demand for Russian pipeline-delivered gas; and the Ukrainian transit system's technical condition. The idea that Ukraine could be deprived of major transit volumes unless it allows Gazprom to control the Ukrainian transit system in some form is the new Ukrainian authorities' excuse for seeking a sweetheart price for Russian gas at the cost of national assets.

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Organizing Report for the year 2009

by Christine E. Kozak
UNA National Secretary

2009 was a year that surpassed all projections despite the economic downturn. Annuity and traditional life insurance premium income rose from \$12,741,403 in 2008 to \$35,675,180 in 2009 – reflecting an increase of \$22,933,777 or 182 percent.

Several key elements have helped to bolster the performance of 2009; sales initiatives, increased marketing, great products, a very dedicated Home Office staff, hard-working branch secretaries and the UNA's independent sales agents.

The UNA's sales force is a multi-pronged force employing branch secretaries who sell within their local communities, independent agents who are contracted to sell UNA products in various states where the UNA is licensed, the UNA professional agents working at the UNA headquarters and a very devoted staff working hard to answer and/or solve each and every question or issue raised by members. Each group complements the other to achieve a level of professionalism and personalized membership services that is reflected in the UNA's steady growth in its traditional life premium and annuity income.

In 2009, 190 life insurance policies were issued for a total of \$5,801,000 in face amount with an annual premium of \$70,985.00. The traditional life products make up 55 percent of the total life income versus 18 percent of term insurance. UNA permanent insurance is quality



Valentina Kaploun



Joseph Chabon



Lubov Streletsky

insurance with lower rates since the publication of the new 2010 rate book. The commitment made by the member to the UNA is a long-term commitment reflecting a confidence and loyalty the members have for the UNA as a viable and professional organization that is here to stay another 100 years.

The UNA's top producing branch secretaries are inducted into UNA's "Championship Clubs." The traditional Championship Clubs are based upon the number of members a branch secretary recruits to the ranks of the UNA or, in other words, how many policies a branch secretary or organizer sells for the UNA. Following the lines of this long-standing tradition, I am proud to announce the winner and top "Builder" of UNA membership and the 2009 "Club of UNA Builders" is Valentina Kaploun, who organized 20 members – 18 in the United States and two in Canada. Congratulations to Ms. Kaploun!

The following branch secretaries qualified for Honorary Membership in the UNA Builders and Dedicated UNA'ers clubs.

2009 Club of UNA Builders (enrollment of 10-24)

	Number of members	Insurance Amount
Valentina Kaploun (HQ, Br. 269)	20	\$240,000
Joseph Chabon (Br. 242)	18	\$415,000
*Lubov Streletsky (Br. 10)	16	\$453,000

2009 Club of Dedicated UNA'ers (enrollment of 5-9 members)

	Number of members	Insurance Amount
*Eugene Oscislowski (Br. 234)	8	\$168,000
Oksana Trytjak HQ, Br. 25)	6	\$158,000
*Myron Pylypiak (Br. 496)	5	\$90,000
Eugene Gulycz (Br.12)	5	\$30,000
Nadia Salabay (HQ, Br. 155)	5	\$220,000
Eli Matiash (Br. 120)	5	\$45,000
*Stephanie Hawryluk (Br.88)	5	\$125,000
Lyubov Shumylo (Br. 10)	5	\$125,000

*UNA Advisor

Other criteria used as a measuring tool is premium income. Each application for life insurance and/or annuity is accompanied by cash with application (CWA) or the first premium payment. For 2009 the top three individuals who brought in the most CWA premium were:

Oksana Trytjak (HQ, Br. 25)	\$6,632.00
*Lubov Streletsky (Br. 10)	\$5,544.43
Joseph Chabon (Br, 242)	\$4,647.45

Completing the new business sales criteria of life insurance for 2009 is the face amount sold by UNA branch secretaries. The face amount is the amount of insurance purchased by the member and the amount of money paid to the beneficiaries named on the policy. The following were the three top producers in the face

amount category:

Stephan Welhasch (HQ, Br. 172)	\$1,110,000
Barbara Chupa (Br. 325)	\$700,000
*Lubov Streletsky (Br. 10)	\$453,000

Life insurance is the sustaining and long-term product – the life blood of fraternal organizations. The UNA's independent agents contracted sold mostly annuity products, however, this is translating into a small increase in the sales of life insurance and endowment products. Independent agents, who previously sold annuities, are now increasing their share of UNA life insurance sales over their proportions of the total sold by 6 percent.

The UNA expresses gratitude to all individuals, branch secretaries, organizers and agents for their life insurance production for 2009, and wishes them every success in 2010.

In 2009, annuity production once again surpassed the projections for the year. Year 2008 ended with \$11,430,242 in annuity premium income; year 2009 ended with \$34,675,180 in annuity premium income.

In 2008, the UNA began a strong concerted effort in the recruitment of independent agents, which continued throughout 2009. The recruitment of independent agents is an ongoing process, opening new doors and opportunities for the UNA. Increased promotions in the UNA's publications and the expansion of advertising in other media, including radio, also have a positive effect.

The UNA's top producers of over \$100,000 in annuity premiums for 2009 were:

Oksana Stanko (HQ, Br. 37)	\$2,287,831
Steve Woch (HQ)	\$1,047,216
Oksana Koziak (Br. 47)	\$400,000
Oksana Trytjak (HQ, Br. 25)	\$145,000
Stephan Welhasch (HQ, Br. 172)	\$136,438
Gloria Paschen (Br.125)	\$117,500

The UNA's licensed branch secretaries and Home Office professionals sold \$4,867,123.00 in annuities – a 45 percent increase over 2008 annuity sales.

The total annuity amount sold by our field agents in 2009 was \$26,161,857. An additional \$3.6 million were rollovers and/or additional deposits to existing annuity accounts.

Congratulations and a thank you to everyone for an excellent year.

The UNA takes this opportunity to welcome all of its new members and thank them for joining the Ukrainian National Association, the oldest and largest Ukrainian fraternal organization in the world. For over a century, we have served the insurance needs of our members in the United States and Canada and we look forward to continuing to do so in keeping with the motto "UNA and the Community: Partners for Life!"

For product information and to see how the UNA can help in planning for your and your family's financial future, please contact your local branch secretary, or contact one of our professional agents at the Home Office by calling 800-253-9862.

Ukrainian National Association, Inc.

Organizer's Report By Annual Premium
January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009

Organizer's Name	Policy Count	Face Amount	Annual Premium
Oksana Trytjak	6	158,000	6,632
Lubov Streletsky	16	453,000	5,544
Joseph Chabon	18	415,000	4,647
Myron Pylypiak	5	90,000	4,445
Valentina Kaploun	20	210,000	3,583
Stephan Welhasch	4	1,110,000	3,440
Barbara Chupa	2	700,000	3,052
Eugene Gulycz	5	30,000	2,670
Nadia Salabay	5	220,000	2,117
Judith Hawryluk	4	75,000	2,106
Alexandra Dolnycky	2	10,000	2,075
Eugene Oscislowski	8	168,000	1,508
Irene Pryjma	4	40,000	1,293
Eli Matiash	5	45,000	1,276
Joseph Banach	3	15,000	1,044
Lubomira Szeremeta	3	15,000	900
Maya Lew	3	15,000	680
Oksana Stanko	2	10,000	600
Nina Bilchuk	4	70,000	600
Bohdan Hryshchshyn	2	20,000	592
Nicholas Fil	2	410,000	568
Marianna Cizdyn	2	10,000	520
Joyce Kotch	2	105,000	482
Myron Luszczyk	1	100,000	467
Myron Kuzio	2	99,000	457
Walter Kozicky	2	10,000	405
Stephanie Hawryluk	5	25,000	344
Gloria Horbaty	2	10,000	341
Nicholas Diakiwsky	2	10,000	327
Lyubov Shumylo	5	125,000	316
Zenon M. Holubec	1	5,000	300
Michael S. Turko	2	45,000	287
Marguerite Hentosh	2	10,000	248
Vira Krywyj	2	75,000	245
Genet H. Boland	1	50,000	219
Myron Groch	1	5,000	205
Yaroslav Zaviysky	2	24,000	201
Alice Olenchuk	4	28,000	182
Nadia Demczur	1	5,000	175
The Rev. Ihor Kutash	1	5,000	169
Michael Pastuszek	1	5,000	157
Bohdan Podoliuk	1	100,000	124
Myron B. Kuropas	1	10,000	50
Independent Agents	24	661,000	15,392
TOTAL	190	5,801,000	70,985

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

AGENT LIFE AND ANNUITY PREMIUM RECAP REPORT NEW BUSINESS - CWA ONLY January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009

Name	Life	Face Amt	Annl Prem	Sgl Prem	Life Prem	Annuity	Prem	Life & Annuity
Stanko, Oksana	2	10,000	600.00		600.00	32	2,287,831	2,288,430.74
Woch, Steven						30	1,047,216	1,047,215.68
Koziak, Oksana						2	400,000	400,000.00
Trytjak, Oksana	6	158,000	2,124.00	4,508.00	6,632.00	5	145,000	151,632.00
Derzko, Mark						1	100,000	100,000.00
Derzko, Sophia						1	100,000	100,000.00
Paschen, Gloria						8	117,500	117,500.00
Welhasch, Stephan	4	1,110,000	2,865.00	575.00	3,440.00	7	136,438	139,877.63
Misc						2	52,700	52,700.00
***Horbaty, Gloria	2	10,000	341.15		341.15	1	70,000	70,341.15
Ciapka, Lydia						1	65,000	65,000.00
Hawryluk, Judith	4	75,000	1,576.10	530.00	2,106.10	7	60,500	62,606.10
***Fil, Nicholas	2	410,000	568.00		568.00	1	35,000	35,568.00
Staruch, Lon						1	30,000	30,000.00
Matiash, Eli	5	45,000	95.50	1,180.00	1,275.50	4	37,000	38,275.50
***Serba, Eugene						3	28,624	28,623.61
***Oscislowski, Eugene	8	168,000	1,198.31	310.00	1,508.31	1	20,000	21,508.31
Brodyn, Christine						1	16,315	16,315.00
Chabon, Joseph	18	415,000	4,647.45		4,647.45	2	6,000	10,647.45
Salabay, Nadia	5	220,000	976.85	1,140.00	2,116.85	1	2,000	4,116.85
Bilchuk, Nina	4	70,000	599.85		599.85			599.85
Chupa, Barbara	2	700,000	3,052.00		3,052.00			3,052.00
***Holubec, Zenon	1	5,000		300.00	300.00			300.00
Banach, Joseph	3	15,000	408.75	635.00	1,043.75	1	60,000	61,043.75
Shumylo, Lyubov	5	125,000	316.00		316.00			316.00
Kozicky, Walter	2	10,000	405.00		405.00			405.00
*Kuropas, Myron	1	10,000	50.00		50.00			50.00
***Lew, Maya	1	5,000	205.00		205.00			205.00
***Streletsky, Lubov	16	453,000	5,544.43		5,544.43			5,544.43
Gulycz, Eugene	5	30,000	2,670.00		2,670.00			2,670.00
Kotch, Joyce	2	105,000	481.75		481.75			481.75
Cizdyn, Marianna	2	10,000		520.00	520.00			520.00
Turko, Michael	2	45,000	287.05		287.05			287.05
Hawryluk, Stephanie	5	25,000	343.55		343.55			343.55
Olenchuk, Alice	4	28,000	182.35		182.35			182.35
Zaviysky, Yaroslav	2	24,000	201.36		201.36			201.36
Diakiwsky, Nicholas	2	10,000	327.15		327.15			327.15
Krywyj, Vira	2	75,000	245.00		245.00			245.00
Hryshchshyn, Bohdan	2	20,000	591.60		591.60			591.60
Kaploun, Valentina	18	200,000	2,349.95	885.00	3,234.95			3,234.95
Kuzio, Myron	2	99,000	457.39		457.39			457.39
Pryjma, Irene	4	40,000	1,292.80		1,292.80			1,292.80
Hentosh, Marguerite	2	10,000	247.50		247.50			247.50
Podoliuk, Bohdan	1	100,000	124.00		124.00			124.00
Luszczak, Myron	1	100,000	467.00		467.00			467.00
***Pylypiak, Myron	5	90,000	4,445.40		4,445.40			4,445.40
Pastuszek, Michael T	1	5,000	157.30		157.30			157.30
Demczur, Nadia	1	5,000	174.75		174.75			174.75
Szeremeta, Lubomira	3	15,000		900.00	900.00			900.00
Boland, Genet	1	50,000	219.00		219.00			219.00
Bobeczko, Nicholas						2	40,000	40,000.00
Serba, Peter						1	10,000	10,000.00
Total	158	5,100,000	40,838.29	11,483.00	52,321.29	115	4,867,123	4,919,443.95
CANADA								
Kaploun, Vladimir	2	10,000	348.45		348.45			
Kutash, Ihor	1	5,000	169.00		169.00			
Dolnycky, Alexandra	2	10,000	164.55	1,910.00	2,074.55			
***Groch, Myron	1	5,000	205.00		205.00			
***Lew, Maya	2	10,000	476.00		476.00			
Total	8	40,000	1,363.00	1,910.00	3,273.00			3,272.00
US & Canada Total	166	5,140,000	42,201.54	13,393.00	55,595.82			4,922,717.48
Independent Agents	24	661,000	15,391.65		15,391.65	780	26,171,857	26,187,248.21
Total	190	5,801,000	57,592.94	13,393	70,985	895	31,038,979	31,109,964

*** Advisor UNA General Assembly

*Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Our postal delivery

Yes, we've previously discussed the issue of our newspaper's postal delivery with our readers. And, yes, we've asked you before for your help. At times it even seemed we'd succeeded in improving postal delivery of our publications – The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda. But then the complaints became more frequent and much louder after the new year.

Our circulation/subscription department (in the person of Maria Pendzola) has literally been inundated by phone calls from loyal readers upset to be receiving their papers late, receiving several weeks' issues at once or, in some cases, not receiving their papers at all. What's worse, it seemed that delivery was getting progressively poorer!

Our newspapers' administration (headed by Walter Honcharyk) contacted postal authorities on the local and regional levels to try and figure out the reason for the persistent delivery problems. Numerous contacts were made with officials at the U.S. Postal Service and "Publication Watches" were registered (by Ms. Pendzola) with the USPS on behalf of subscribers. Letters were mailed to regional officials noting, "We are experiencing great difficulty getting our newspapers delivered to our subscribers in a timely manner. some of our subscribers do not receive their copies for two, three, four weeks, or don't get them at all..." and asking for their assistance in remedying the problem.

We've also been working with our print shop – which labels, sorts and delivers our papers to the post office – to find a solution to our mailing problems. In fact, with the "blessing" of postal authorities, our printer has changed the addressing and packing method of The Weekly and Svoboda in hopes of speeding up processing and delivery.

Beginning with this issue and continuing for all the issues through April, The Weekly is publishing a "Survey Regarding Postal Delivery of The Ukrainian Weekly." (The clip-out form appears on page 13 of this issue.) An analogous form is being published in the Ukrainian language in Svoboda for Svoboda subscribers to fill out. We are asking subscribers to help us pin down where the problems with postal delivery arise by tracking the delivery of a month's worth of issues. We first ran such a survey about postal delivery in late 2007. By once again conducting such fact-finding, we hope to be able to give the USPS more concrete information about delivery problems. And, even if you get your paper regularly and you consider your delivery to be satisfactory, we still ask you to take the time to track delivery during April. Knowing that delivery is fine in some areas is useful information as well.

Just in case you're wondering, and to set the record straight, we must note the following. The Ukrainian Weekly is printed and mailed on Friday mornings. For example this issue, dated Sunday, April 4, was sent off to you on Friday, April 2. Svoboda, which bears a Friday date of issue, is actually mailed on that date. Thus, both papers are now mailed on the same day, a Friday, from Philadelphia, where we have been printing the paper since late November 2009.

Our new print shop uses new mailing imprints (instead of labels) that are bar-coded and which, in theory, work more efficiently with the U.S. Postal Service's automated systems. It was hoped this would also speed up mail delivery of our newspapers, but as of the end of the 2009 there still appeared to be glitches in the system as some readers reported erratic or delayed delivery. As 2010 rolled around, judging by the number of complaints received by our circulation/subscription department, things just got worse. At the same time, we hasten to add, the USPS has been closing down some of its facilities, putting a strain on others that have to take on the functions of now-defunct facilities.

Clearly there is a problem with second-class delivery of our newspapers – and it's a service on which we (and you) spend a significant amount of money. We at The Weekly and Svoboda are determined to improve mail delivery to our faithful readers. You deserve to receive your newspapers regularly and in a timely fashion. Please do help us help you by filling out the forms being published in both The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda. With your assistance, we hope to improve postal delivery and bring you the news while it's still fresh. There's no reason that The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda can't be delivered to your homes as promptly, efficiently and regularly as, say, Newsweek or Time.

April
6
2000

Turning the pages back...

Ten years ago, on April 6, 2000, Ukraine's Parliament, led by Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, passed the "Reforms for Prosperity" program. The measure passed with 261 votes for and 103 against.

The program consisted of a five-part plan with 21 end goals to revitalize Ukraine's economy. It envisaged an eventual 1.3- to 1.4-fold increase in incomes and an average growth rate of 6.5 percent beginning in 2002. The program called for vast reductions in the bureaucracy and the streamlining of government.

Mr. Yushchenko called the program one of Ukraine's last chances to develop a normal free-market economy. "This program is not unique because it is the best, we have never made such a claim," he said. "Its uniqueness lies in the fact that, for the first time since the independence of Ukraine, [such a document] has a historical chance to become a reality, to be given life. This is not the first reform program, but it is the first program that has a realistic chance of being given more than formal political support."

Only the Communist Party voted against the measure. The Social Democratic (United) and Regional Rebirth factions voiced concerns about social welfare issues and the restructuring of the energy sector, but voted for the program. Some of the pressure on energy issues, it was believed, came from oil and gas businessmen Oleksander Volkov and Viktor Medvedchuk, members of the Social Democratic (United) and the Regional Rebirth factions, which were aligned with President Leonid Kuchma.

(Continued on page 20)

NEWS AND VIEWS

What noted Holocaust historian Hilberg wrote about Ukrainians

by Askold Lozynskyj

Most historians would agree that one of the most eminent, if not the pre-eminent expert on the Holocaust was Raul Hilberg. Prof. Hilberg published a three-volume seminal study of this genocide under the title "The Destruction of the European Jews" and that publication remains one of, if not the single greatest achievement of Holocaust historiography. In fact the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Special Investigations has relied predominantly on the Hilberg's expertise in a large number of its denaturalization and deportation proceedings.

The last few years have witnessed an avalanche of anti-Ukrainian nationalist writings and accusations. This has been spearheaded by the Russians, but Jews and Poles have attempted to introduce their perspective as well. The object of this calumny has been the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), its leader Stepan Bandera, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and its leader Roman Shukhevych. To some degree this anti-Ukrainian nationalist campaign has been fueled by the posthumous honoring of Shukhevych in 2007 and Bandera in 2010 as Heroes of Ukraine.

However, this campaign against Ukrainian nationalism has not cited Prof. Raul Hilberg. In fact the new stream of revisionist historians has paid scant attention to Hilberg and for good reason: apparently, Prof. Hilberg does not agree with them.

Hilberg cannot be interviewed on this subject as he is no longer among the living, but his work remains. The underlying documentation and evidence for this work have not been contradicted by these new accusers and their scholars-revisionists. It has been ignored.

"The Destruction of the European Jews" does not mention the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, Bandera or Shukhevych. Certainly, had there been evidence of their complicity in the Holocaust, Hilberg's silence would be inexplicable. Hilberg's findings do impugn most nationalities on the Nazis' road to European dominance, with great specificity as to formations. Hilberg does mention Ukrainians, Ukrainian nationalists and the acronym OUN – the last only one time in a reference to an exchange of prisoners between the Einsatzgruppe and Romanians in Northern Bukovyna. Here he refers to "pro-German nationalist (OUN men)" but does not ascribe to them any killings or crimes and concludes "Einsatzgruppe D and Romanian police were jointly shooting thousands of Jews."

One of the more prominent recent revisionist accusations against Bandera and the OUN is that when the Nazis entered Lviv in June 1941, they utilized the services of the OUN in perpetrating a pogrom against the Jews in Lviv and other western Ukrainian cities. The subject of these "pogroms" is considered by Hilberg thusly:

"The southern pogrom area was largely confined to Galicia, an area that was formerly Polish territory and that had a large Ukrainian population. The Galician capital of Lvov [sic] was the scene of a mass seizure by local inhabitants. In 'reprisal'

Askold S. Lozynskyj, the son of an Auschwitz survivor, is a New York attorney and immediate past president of the Ukrainian World Congress.

for the deportation of Ukrainians by the Soviets, 1,000 members of the Jewish intelligentsia were driven together and handed over to the Security Police. On July 5, 1941, about 70 Jews in Tarnopol [sic] were rounded up by Ukrainians when three mutilated German corpses were found in the local prisons. The Jews were killed with dynamite. Another twenty Jews were killed by Ukrainians and German troops. In Krzeminec (Kremenets), 100 to 150 Ukrainians had been killed by the Soviets. When some of the exhumed bodies were found without skin, rumors circulated that the Ukrainians had been thrown into kettles full of boiling water. The Ukrainian population retaliated by seizing 130 Jews and beating them to death with clubs. Although the Galician pogroms spread still further, to such places as Sambor and Czortkow, the Ukrainian violence as a whole did not come up to expectations. Only Tarnopol and Czortkow were scored as major successes."

Prof. Hilberg makes certain pointed observations about these events. He concludes that spontaneous pogroms, free from Einsatzgruppen influence, did not take place, "All outbreaks were either organized or inspired by the Einsatzgruppen." Additionally, he concludes that the pogroms were not "self-perpetuating," that new ones were not started after things had settled down and that most of the pogroms "occurred in buffer territory, areas in which submerged hostility toward the Jews was apparently greatest and in which the Soviet threat of a return could most easily be discounted, for the Communist government had been in power there for less than two years."

As to the timing and role of the Ukrainian militia in this, Hilberg writes, "The Ukrainian auxiliaries appeared on the scene in August 1941, and the Einsatzgruppe C found itself compelled to make use of them because it was repeatedly diverted from its main task to fight the 'partisan nuisance.'"

In fact, Prof. Hilberg cites from a report of Einsatzkommando 6 of Einsatzgruppe C:

"Almost nowhere can the population be persuaded to take active steps against the Jews. This may be explained by the fear of many people that the Red Army may return. Again and again this anxiety has been pointed out to us...In order to meet the fear psychosis, and in order to destroy the myth which, in the eyes of many Ukrainians, places the Jew in the position of the wielder of political power, Einsatzkommando 6 on several occasions marched Jews before their execution through the city. Also, care was taken to have Ukrainian militiamen watch the shooting of Jews."

Hilberg concludes that the "deflation" of the Jews as being powerful did not have the effect that the Germans wanted. A few weeks later, the Einsatzgruppe C complained "that the inhabitants did not betray the movements of hidden Jews." Hilberg concludes, The "Ukrainians were passive, benumbed by the 'Bolshevist terror.'"

Revisiting Hilberg one cannot but question the conclusions of today's Holocaust "scholars-revisionists." Whom are we to believe? Given the credentials and the painstaking approach with documentary evidence particularly from German archives, one would have to go with Raul Hilberg.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help Ukrainians in Kazakhstan

Dear Editor:

Ukrainian Americans have generously provided for myriad needs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church throughout Ukraine. Much restoration and renewal of churches, monasteries, the Ukrainian Catholic University and community facilities has been achieved because of the sustained generosity of Ukrainian Catholic faithful in the U.S.

A significant portion of funds for the building of the Patriarchal Sobor in Kyiv has also come from the U.S. We encourage your continued donations for the completion of the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Resurrection in Kyiv, which is the center of our Ukrainian Catholic Church worldwide. This continues to be a priority for all of us.

Our special additional attention is needed to the development of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kazakhstan. Hundreds of thousands of our faithful were forcibly located there in the Soviet times, especially from 1939 to 1941.

There are significant numbers of Ukrainian Catholics scattered throughout the country. They have received little attention and assistance. The needs of these communities are significant. The descendants of the mass forced migrations by the Soviets have largely retained their religion and national identity as Ukrainian Greek-Catholics. These communities need assistance to build churches and community structures, and to support our Church missionaries being sent to minister to these communities.

Patriarch Lubomyr Husar has asked for our special financial assistance for the faith communities in Kazakhstan. The needs are urgent and critical to enable them to sustain and to grow in their faith and identity as Ukrainian Greek-Catholics. Please participate in the special ongoing efforts of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia to respond to this request for our help. Consider making a particularly generous gift this Easter as a sign of resurrected hope for the Ukrainian Catholic faithful of Kazakhstan. Consider setting aside a monthly support donation which could assist in the support of priests sent to mission to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Kazakhstan. Let us be creative and show innovation in considering how each of us may help. Let us say "yes" generously to offer them hope.

Please send your donations for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kazakhstan to: Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, 827 N. Franklin St., Philadelphia, PA 19123-2097.

**Metropolitan-Archbishop
Stefan Soroka
Philadelphia**

Take a stand for the truth

Dear Editor:

Too long have we proceeded with caution, remained respectfully apologetic, silent and afraid. There is no need for that when it is a matter of our national honor and dignity and the independence of Ukraine. The time has come to look ourselves in the mirror and take a clear stand on the truth, not with the eyes of those who prefer to remain silent, distort and demonize it for it discomforts

them, but with our own eyes. But, without self-confidence in ourselves to stand for the truth, it is impossible to have self-respect and expect respect from others.

The subject I am referring to is the relentless and hideous attacks sponsored by the imperial-minded Kremlin leadership and their international pro-Russian forces, who after 18 years of Ukraine's independence have found it difficult to accept Ukraine's independence. Distortions of facts and outright falsehoods directed against the Ukrainian nation, its liberation movements and their leaders testify to the shameful perfidy of those who have decided to combine their forces and are now remorselessly attempting to undermine Ukraine's independence in an effort to deliver a final blow, which they failed to deliver by the artificially sponsored Famine during the years of 1932-1933, when some up to 10 million Ukrainians were deliberately starved to death and their elite ruthlessly eliminated. The crimes committed during those years were aimed not only to starve Ukraine's peasant population and eliminate the nationally conscious elite, but also to deliver a final blow to Ukraine's aspiration to be free of its historic adversary.

Now, those hideous forces appear to be joining hands again in an effort to undermine Ukraine's independence and its desire to have its people live in a free and democratic Ukraine, free of imperial-minded Russia, or any other foreign occupiers. How painful and shameful it is that those forces that have joined hands with Russia, appear to value their economic and strategic interests more than the principles upon which their own countries were born.

Ironically, while the Ukrainian nation, its liberation movements and their leadership are being repeatedly demonized only because they fought for the restoration of Ukraine's statehood and freedom for its people, the crimes committed by the leadership of the Kremlin on an unimaginable scale during the Holodomor and after World War II against the Ukrainian nation continue to be hidden in the shadows. Why? Who is stopping it?

Let us face the facts. The Ukrainian liberation movements and their leadership, and all those who took weapons into their hands, fought for a just and honorable cause: an independent and free Ukraine. The minute they took weapons into their hands they fulfilled their childhood dreams and followed in the footsteps of all those before them who fought and sacrificed their lives for the same cause. They were proud to do so. Like it or not – this is part of our history!

As history teaches us, the truth always triumphs in the end. The truth is timeless.

**L.M. Pawlowych
Union, N.J.**

We welcome your opinion

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

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

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



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Watch the whacking willows...

The man ahead of me in line to receive the "loza" on "Kvitna Nedilia" (Flower, or Palm Sunday) looked bewildered. He got the "myrovannia" (anointing with oil on the forehead) and his fat pussy willow branch. Now, as he headed toward the exit, he watched the members of the congregation hitting each other (gently, of course) with the branches, and smiling and reciting something.

The people who already received the branches even went back through the pews to gently hit the ones who were still waiting in line. Then I did it to him, and he was really confused. He had no idea what was going on!

I explained to him that this was a special ritual for Ukrainian Palm Sunday, and that it meant that Easter and spring were coming, and also meant a wish for health. He smiled and thanked me for the information, saying that now he understood. The man was clearly not Ukrainian, but loves the service, the singing and the rituals, and comes every Sunday.

I'm not sure what he'll think about people bringing baskets of food to church on Easter.

He is not the first person to be confused and confounded about our old but new ways. There really is an explanation for all this. What is admirable and amazing is that these rituals, well modified to suit the present, are still carried out at all.

In the olden days, we had Ukrainians sleeping on the "pich" – stove/oven – an appliance/piece of furniture pretty difficult to explain in English. Then you have young folks dumping pails of water on each other on the second day of Easter (nowadays, the SuperSoaker works so much better). At Midsummer's Night (Kupalo to us) they also jump over bonfires, alone or holding hands with a significant other. On special feast days, rolling around in the early morning dew in your birthday suit was also very common and beneficial. The jumping over bonfires at Kupalo is no longer birthday-suit-obligatory, as it used to be extremely long ago (that wouldn't go over too well with summer camp directors, eh?).

Of course, in the weeks after Easter, there will be services in the cemeteries and food and drink, on the graves of the departed. This is reminiscent of El Día de los Muertos, the Mexican Day of the Dead, the

honoring of ancestors also from time immemorial. And I am sure many of us still follow our mother's ritual of burying the eggshells and other remnants of the Easter breakfast deep in the garden. With composting being so popular now, we're really "with it" – but then, we've always been, right?

These are all traditions and rituals from our ancient past, from pre-Christian times. They each had particular reasons, purposes and symbolism. The power of traditions has kept them alive through all the persecution and hardship our people experienced through the centuries.

The fact that these strange and often not well understood actions are still done so enthusiastically and so willingly by people far-removed by time and place from their ancestral homeland shows how powerful indeed tradition is.

We continue to write our pysanky and bake our paska and babka for Velykden (Great Day – a pre-Christian name that survived, and is still the Ukrainian name for Easter). We sit down to the Easter breakfast and share the slices of the one egg (a symbol of the togetherness of the family) and go to church to watch the hahilky (ritual spring round-dances).

At Christmas, we reverently sit down for the special "Sviata Vechera" (Holy Supper) of 12 dishes, leaving that empty chair and place setting for our ancestors.

At weddings today, the couple stands on a "rushnyk" (ritual cloth) and has its hands ceremonially bound with a rushnyk by the priest, and often the "crowns" on the couple's heads are wreaths of "barvinok" (periwinkle).

These rituals – and so many more – are practiced in Canada, the United States, Brazil, the Balkans and other countries in Europe, Australia, the far east of Russia in Zelenyi Klyn, as well as in the homeland itself. Some of the modifications that have emerged in Ukraine are quaint or even bizarre, but then some of the ones in the other places are pretty strange, too.

But the thought is there, as is the inherent desire to carry out an action that connects us to our distant, very distant ancestors. We are very rich indeed.

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

IN THE PRESS: Tabachnyk

"Tabachnyk's views are dangerous in classroom," by Katya Gorchinskaya, editor, *Kyiv Post*, March 18:

"Of all the truly bad government appointments throughout history, the decision to name Dmytro Tabachnyk as Ukraine's education and science minister ranks as one of the truly boneheaded decisions of our time. What was President Viktor Yanukovich thinking?"

"...Tabachnyk's name is associated with everything anti-Ukrainian, and there are good reasons for it. He is often referred to as having Ukrainophobia, and is quoted saying that the state of Ukraine is a historical mistake. Many of his radical views he published in his 2008 book, 'Duck Soup, Ukrainian Style,' which has already been reprinted three times since then.

"The book spells out many of his controversial views – in his own words. Tabachnyk

refers to Ukrainian nationalist leaders Roman Shukhevych and Stepan Bandera as 'Hitler's officers.' He claims they received the highest honors from Hitler. ...

"Tabachnyk also alleges in his book that all important decisions taken by former President Viktor Yushchenko were actually made by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, rather than by the president's administration. It criticizes Yushchenko's initiative to create an all-Ukrainian Orthodox Church as a policy that is directly derived from the Third Reich, a condemnation that he applies pretty much to all other policies of Yushchenko, whom he strongly dislikes.

"Also, Tabachnyk says that millions of people who came to Maidan Nezalezhnosti in 2004 during the Orange Revolution were a result of neuro-linguistic programming, a psychological technology to influence people, originating from the United States. ..."

Ukraine's capital...

(Continued from page 1)

"In a rule-of-law society, there is a general respect for law enforcement officials because they do their job," said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Institute of Statehood and Democracy in Kyiv. "Here, there is a significant lack of respect. The police are commonly called 'musor' [garbage] as a slang term, because they are seen to serve interests that aren't based on the law, but what their higher bosses want."

Among the most vicious fronts in Kyiv's real estate battles has been Lesia Ukrainka Boulevard, where Soviet-era residences and parks, built in the 1960s and earlier, have been bought up by developers and demolished to make way for luxury high-rise apartment buildings that cater to Ukraine's elite and foreigners.

The residents of 9 Lesia Ukrainka Blvd., many of whom are poor, elderly Ukrainians, have spent at least a decade trying to defend their property against encroachment. They allege their water well has been ruined by neighboring development and at least 20 trees have been cut down without replacement.

The construction of a neighboring 16-story apartment complex has created cracks in their building, residents alleged. An insurance company with an office on the first floor discovered new cracks in its walls in late March.

Activists allege haphazard construction is a deliberate ploy to drive neighboring buildings into such disrepair. Residents are then forced to evacuate, after which developers take ownership, demolish existing buildings and build new projects. Such schemes are commonplace in the anarchic conditions in Kyiv, protesters said.

"People are being chased away," said Tetiana Borysenko, an activist who was

aggressively taken into custody by police following a March 14 brawl in which she participated. "They're destroying our living space and native Kyivans so that they can build their American skyscrapers."

Yurii Komandyr, director of the legal department at ElitBud, the company building the neighboring structure, denied its construction had any negative effect on 9 Lesia Ukrainka Blvd. and its rear courtyard, where the wells are located. Government inspections have produced no evidence of harm, he said.

Cracks in the building emerged far earlier than construction started, he told The Weekly, citing government inspections. The company has no plans, capability or right to drive out several hundred residents from their homes, he said, denying the protesters' allegations.

Tensions between ElitBud and the activists reached a boiling point when the company set up a metal fence around its construction site at 7/9 Lesia Ukrainka Blvd. on March 3, without forewarning the residents of 9 Lesia Ukrainka Blvd., a nine-story brick apartment building with a few hundred residents that was built in 1964.

The fence is a temporary inconvenience that will be remedied with a new arch and driveway to be completed in the next year and a half, Mr. Komandyr said. But the fence is currently blocking one of two access roads to the boulevard from the building's courtyard. Residents complained the blocked road violates basic architectural standards requiring an entrance and exit road for residents and vehicles, creating hazardous conditions in case of a fire or other emergency.

Company officials said the fence is entirely legal, with government-issued permits in their possession, while protesters said it's illegal, obtaining government-issued statements of their own. Ukraine's massive bureaucracy has enabled both sides in the conflict to claim the moral



Yaroslav Debelyi

Berkut special forces officers on March 14 capture Natalia Miroshnichenko, an activist demonstrating against what protesters say is illegal construction on Lesia Ukrainka Boulevard in central Kyiv. Conflicts in Kyiv between police and protesters escalated in March.

high ground.

"Even if both sides show documents, it's clearly the police's function to keep the peace to prevent physical violence and destruction," said Mr. Lozowy. "That's why citizens take the law into their own hands. There's no legal recourse."

Armed with their document, civic activist Oleksander Hudyma acknowledged that he led a group of activists on March 6 in dismantling the fence, which riled officials at ElitBud, which is handling the construction for PozniakyZhylBud, among Ukraine's largest real estate development companies.

They alleged his act was an illegal infringement on the company property, while Mr. Hudyma and his supporters claimed the land was not the company's property and therefore they had the right to

remove the fence.

Mr. Komandyr claimed Mr. Hudyma struck a security guard on the head during the ensuing fight, while the activist denied he committed any assault, claiming he was injured himself, citing photographs distributed on the Internet showing him under attack and lying on the ground.

Mr. Hudyma returned to the same property a week later, on the morning of March 14, claiming to be leading a "subotnyk" (community clean-up) by 30 to 40 activists, at least half of whom were female pensioners, for which he gained permission from the city. They claim they were cleaning construction debris from the property, while Mr. Komandyr said they

(Continued on page 15)

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Ukraine and diaspora representatives attend women's conference at U.N.

by Irene Jarosewich

NEW YORK – Several thousand representatives from more than 100 countries, including government officials, several dozen ministers, as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide attended the international women's conference Beijing+15 at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on March 1-12.

Organized under the auspices of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, the two-week conference evaluated overall progress and reviewed global policy objectives established in 1995 at the international women's conference in Beijing that focus on issues of gender equality and women's development worldwide. Along with official proceedings, dozens of parallel events offered participants opportunities to network and share information.

At the invitation of Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, the delegation of five women from Ukraine, as well as three representatives from diaspora organizations, met at the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations on March 5. Representatives from Ukraine included Ella Lamakh, Kateryna Levchenko, Larysa Kobelyanska, Olena Suslova and Natalia Karbovska. Nadia Shmigel and Irene Jarosewich attended from the World Federation of Women's Organizations (WFUWO). Also at the meeting was Ulana Kekish of New York, who is working with the Permanent Mission of Qatar to establish an autism research and treatment center in Kyiv, as well as Olha Kavun, second secretary at the Permanent Mission of Ukraine.

A key focus of the discussion was recent legislative and government efforts to achieve gender equality in Ukraine. In terms of political achievements, changes, such as laws against sexual harassment in the workplace and paternity leave for fathers are proof of progress. However, the implementation and enforcement of policies that reflect gender equality still lags in many areas, as does general awareness among the public and many government officials about the purpose of gender balance.

Public awareness campaign

Despite setbacks, a particularly successful effort implemented in 2008-2009, explained Ms. Kobelyanska of the U.N. Development Program of Equal Opportunities and Women's Rights in Ukraine, was the public awareness campaign "Stop Violence!" directed at curbing domestic violence against women. Developed at the initiative of a network of women in Ukraine, and launched by a consortium of international organizations, government ministries and women's groups, the goal of the campaign was to raise awareness among men that violence against women is unacceptable, to convince women that domestic violence is not normal, and to educate law enforcement to prosecute and punish abusers.

Key to the campaign was the active participation of well-known personalities, such as Olympians Sergey Bubka and Denys Silantsev, as well as the public support of government ministers and legislators. Examples of public information materials used in Ukraine were brought by the delegation for distribution at the United Nations.

Ms. Levchenko of LaStrada, who is also a consultant to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, noted that the problem of domestic violence is closely related to the problem of alcohol abuse. She added that alcohol abuse is no longer

a problem just among adults, but is becoming more acute at younger ages. Children whose parents have gone abroad for work often have little or no supervision. Since Ukrainian law allows beer to be sold to minors, all the women concurred that it is not uncommon to see teenagers and even children as young as 12, purchasing beer at a kiosk near a school building.

This lack of supervision, underscored Ms. Lamakh, department head with the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports, has led to numerous other problems, including an increase in the number of abortions among girls as young as 14 and 15.

In February 2008, the U.N. Secretary-General announced a seven-year international plan to end violence against women. However, in Ukraine, the idea and the planning for a public awareness campaign to stop violence against women began before the secretary-general's announcement. Ambassador Sergeyev noted the prescience of efforts in Ukraine and noted that Ukraine's campaign could be highlighted as an example of "best practices" between U.N. goals and in-country efforts.

Since the United Nations is establishing a new committee dedicated to the issues related to gender equality, Ms. Suslova, director of the Women's Center consulting group, suggested that Ukraine should strive to become a recognized regional leader in gender equality programs.

Prenatal and reproductive health

Another of the issues of concern for the U.N., stated Ms. Kavun, is the topic of prenatal and reproductive health, also a critical topic for Ukraine. Ms. Kobelyanska noted that, on January 21, a delegation from Ukraine was in Geneva to present a multi-year report before the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. She added that the efforts of the diaspora in helping Ukraine – in particular fund-raising for the purchase of medical equipment, shipments of medications, direct aid to hospitals and training of doctors – were integral to meeting Ukraine's goals of improved maternal health and prenatal care.

Ms. Karbovska, director of the non-profit organization Women's Fund of Ukraine, offered the example of funds from a successful fashion show held by women's organizations in the U.S. and Canada several years ago that financed the purchase of mammogram equipment, as a result of which thousands of women in Ukraine have been screened for breast cancer.

Ambassador Sergeyev noted that, since he began his posting in New York, he has been extremely impressed with the work of diaspora organizations, whether organizing programs of awareness around the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and the Holodomor at the United Nations, providing direct medical aid to Ukraine, or networking around women's issues. There has been consistent cooperation among credit unions, religious organizations, community groups and officials, he added.

After the meeting at Ukraine's U.N. mission, WFUWO representatives had additional opportunities to meet with members of Ukraine's delegation. On March 9, WFUWO representatives Ms. Shmigel, Marta Kebalo, Natalia Sonevitsky and Ms. Jarosewich met to discuss the organization of parallel events by WFUWO for the upcoming year. Several members of Ukraine's delegation, as well as Iryna Koshulap, a graduate student from Central European University in

Hungary who is currently conducting research in the U.S., later joined them.

Women in Ukraine hard-hit

The topic turned to more in-depth discussions about the situation of women in Ukraine. The terrible state of the economy has hit women and children particularly hard, since 25 percent of women in Ukraine with children are single mothers. Furthermore, women outlive men in Ukraine by at least a decade and many women are widows for 10 to 15 years.

The level of sex trafficking has not decreased substantially in the past decade, though fewer older women are being deceived into accepting non-existent jobs abroad. Nonetheless, despite extensive public education, young women hoping to improve their lives continue to accept false offers of overseas employment, and Ukraine's weak judicial system and corrupt level of enforcement allows criminals to transport girls across borders, most frequently through Russia. Particularly vulnerable are 17- and 18-year-old women leaving orphanages and foster care with no realistic prospects for a higher education or good employment.

Since 2003, reports of domestic violence in Ukraine have increased by 10 percent each year. The initial reaction to this information could lead to the understanding that violence is increasing. However, authorities believe that this figure represents an increased willingness on the part of women to report domestic violence and the willingness of local militia to register such abuse.

The recent public awareness campaign has substantially raised consciousness, though without consistent follow up by law enforcement in coming years, such awareness may not hold.

Some 80 percent of all physical injuries reported at hospitals by women are the result of domestic violence. Current estimates are that only 10 percent of all cases are being reported. Last year local militia registered 94,000 incidents of domestic violence, so estimates for actual

occurrences are close to 1 million incidents per year.

Ukraine plans to expand the public education campaign and the Ukrainian delegation asked WFUWO representatives to help enlist the support of men from the Ukrainian diaspora to participate in the public information effort to stop violence against women. WFUWO participants also agreed to assist Ukraine's to the U.N. Permanent Mission in organizing a parallel event on women's issues in the fall.

The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO), established in 1948 in the United States, is an international federation of 27 non-profit organizations in 17 countries spanning four continents that supports cultural, educational, humanitarian and social programs, and advocates for the advancement of the status of women, their families and children.

WFUWO has been a member of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations since 1993. As of the beginning of 2010, WFUWO representatives at the United Nations include Ms. Shmigel, Ms. Kebalo, Daria Dykyj, Larysa Melnyk Dyrzka, Ms. Sonevitsky, Moki Kokoris and Ms. Jarosewich. Iryna Kurovychkyj, president-emeritus of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America also participates in NGO activities at the United Nations as a member of the International Council of Women.

Irene Jarosewich is the WFUWO's registered representative with the United Nations Department of Public Information. A comprehensive English-language summary of Ukraine's country report presented in Geneva on January 21 is available at: http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpNewsByYear_en%29/81B92D31E1C21204C12576B20052F6E2?OpenDocument. Further general information about Beijing+15 available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html>.

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Victor Tsaran: a special person with special talents

by Roman Cybriwsky

PHILADELPHIA – It has been 15 years since The Ukrainian Weekly wrote about musician Victor Tsaran, so it is time for an update – especially since the news is so good. I realize that not everyone remembers that April 1995 interview, or even read it, so let me introduce Victor again before telling you why the Ukrainian community in the United States should be so proud.

Victor would want me to say from the top that his accomplishments are not just because of any special talents that he may have been born with or developed, but also because of the generous help that he received from Ukrainian American community when he first arrived in Philadelphia from Ukraine in September 1994 as a young, blind student about to start a new life.

That first interview was conducted by Mark Andryczyk, a young Philadelphian with an interest in the music scene in post-independence Ukraine, who since introduced me to Victor. Mark himself has gone places in 15 years. He now has a doctorate in Ukrainian literature from the University of Toronto and teaches in the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute at Columbia University. (If you want to find the original interview, it is on page 11 of the April 30, 1995, issue of The Weekly; Victor's name is spelled there as Viktor Tseran.)

We learn that Victor was born in 1974 in Vilnohirsk, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, and lost his sight at age 5. He lived in orphanages and then in foster care, and moved to Drohobych in the Lviv Oblast with his adoptive family when he was 13. That's when he began speaking Ukrainian for the first time, as he explained to me

because "no adolescent wants to stand out among peers as a white crow."

He had a knack for music from as far back as he remembers, pounding as a child on a piano, and then mastered the bayan and later the acoustical guitar.

In Lviv, where he studied first at Gymnasium No. 100 for the blind and then at Lviv University where he took up philosophy, Victor joined up with other young musicians, most particularly singer and songwriter Andrii Panchyshyn, and began performing his own musical compositions and lyrics. In 1991, at age 17, Victor took second prize in the acoustic category at the Chervona Ruta Festival held before an audience of thousands in Zaporizhia. His first album recordings came in sequence in 1992, 1993 and 1994, the last of them with the Lviv rock-jazz band Dragline.

Victor's new life began when he received a one-year scholarship to the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia in 1994. He credits Areta Zakhariy and Myroslava Oryshkevych and their Cleveland-Ukrainian social services organization for that first break, and many others in North America's Ukrainian community for support afterwards. Philadelphia's United Ukrainian American Relief Committee was especially helpful, as was the Ukrainian National Association itself.

The February 26, 1995, edition of the Weekly (page 13) published a small boxed call for financial assistance for Victor along with a thumbnail photograph (He is Vitalij Tsaran in that notice, as his passport name appeared on his passport). On October 21, 2001, The Weekly (page 14) listed him among UNA scholarship recipients.

Our community's investments have



Roman Cybriwsky

Victor Tsaran performs at the Ukrainian National League bar.

been repaid multifold since. Victor Tsaran, now 35, is a successful musician and much more. I am personally proud to say that, after Overbrook, where he learned to read and write with the help of the computer, he entered Temple University where I have been on the faculty since before Victor was born. He majored in computer and information sciences and graduated with a B.S. degree in 2000.

I did not know him personally at the time, but have learned since from Victor that in addition to continued support from the Ukrainian American community, he was able to secure a multi-year scholarship from Temple itself thanks to the intercession of his freshman-year calculus professor, my good friend of many years, Prof. William Nathan. Bill himself has ancestors from Ukraine.

Also studying at Temple was Victor's wife, Karolina, a partially sighted student from Poland. They had met as students at Overbrook and married in January 2000 in Poznan in Karo's home country. A reception was hosted for them in Philadelphia by Mark Andryczyk's parents, Vera and Roman Andryczyk. Karo majored in Asian studies, by coincidence the program of which I am now director. I did not know her then either, although she confesses that she passed my office often and was tempted to knock because of the Ukrainian name on the door.

Some of Karo's professors were also among my closest colleagues, most notably Barbara Thornbury, who taught me Japanese and Karo Japanese literature. Karo Caran (her name is spelled differently because of a quirk in transliteration

from Polish documents) has since earned a doctorate in anthropology from George Mason University, published her dissertation as a book and is an aspiring professor. That she has a great sense of humor is evident from the working title of her forthcoming first novel, a story of forbidden love between two men in Communist-era Poland called "Roman and Julian."

Back to Victor.

He has risen to the top of his chosen profession, the development of computer technology and special software to assist people with disabilities. He works in Palo Alto, Calif. for the computer giant Yahoo, and holds the job title Senior Accessibility Program manager. He is responsible for making sure that the company's network and websites are accessible for people with disabilities regardless of where in the world they may be and what language they use.

His prominence in the field is confirmed easily on line, as we instantly turn up interviews with him and references to speeches that he has given about computer technology for disabled people, as well as at least two videos specifically about him. One is a nearly 30-minute-long demonstration by Victor called "An Introduction to Screen Readers" (<http://video.yahoo.com/watch/514676/2686894>), and the other a six-minute long production posted on YouTube by Yahoo called "Meet Victor Tsaran" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfHVHTRCxVU>). In that clip we see Victor at home and at work, meet Karo, and hear him on guitar. We also read about Victor on a CNN site at <http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/12/15/cnet.web>.

(Continued on page 22)



Karolina Caran

Victor Tsaran and his wife Karolina Caran.

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GENERATION UKE

Edited and compiled by Matthew Dubas and Yarema Belej

Montreal's Ukrainian student clubs engage community

MONTREAL – This city's Ukrainian student community is very active, with a full calendar of events, whether cultural, political or social.

Most recently, the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of New York and Montreal's Deadly Venoms had an opportunity to showcase their stuff in a more contemporary fashion on March 27 at the first "Hip-Hop Hopak Competition," dedicated as a fund-raiser for Help Us Help the Children. Held at the Ukrainian National Federation building in Montreal, the competition mixed traditional Ukrainian dance steps with break-dancing moves and was co-organized by the Concordia Ukrainian Students' Union (CUSU) and the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association (MUSA), with assistance from the Ukrainian National Youth Federation, the Taras Shevchenko Foundation and the Ukrainian Time radio program.

This is just one of the events held throughout the year for Ukrainian youth in this city, organized by the city's

Ukrainian student clubs at McGill and Concordia universities.

A delegation from Montreal attended the conference of the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SUSTA) held at Boston College on March 20-21.

Delegates from Concordia and McGill universities attended the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) 52nd national congress on February 12-14 in Edmonton, Alberta. This was the first time in a decade that the annual meeting was held in western Canada.

The CUSU and the MUSA work closely together with the University of Montreal (a French-speaking institution), which is in the process of renewing its Ukrainian club. Meetings are held jointly on Thursday evenings at the CUSU office, located at 2010 Mackay Ave., second floor, in downtown Montreal.

The clubs co-hosted "Many Tastes of Concordia" in September, with each club organizing cultural displays and prepar-



Members of the Concordia Ukrainian Students' Union, the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association and students from the University of Montreal carol during their annual "Koliada" at a Montreal-area residence.

ing traditional foods as a way to get to know each other.

The Montreal clubs co-organized weekly Ukrainian language classes for beginners and advanced students taught by Marta Olynyk, Yaryna Drabyna and Valentyna Golash, the current instructor. More than 20 years ago both universities offered Ukrainian language courses, but these are no longer available.

In November 2009 the clubs co-hosted the annual pre-Trembita Zabava Pub Night fund-raiser, held at L'Action Supper Club. Later that month, a week-long Holodomor exhibit was on display on November 16-20 in the Concordia library foyer. A rotating staff of club members, distributing materials and answering questions, manned the information table. A Cultural Fair was held on November 18 at Concordia's main Hall Building with displays from all clubs at the university.

On November 25 CUSU/MUSA organized a bus trip for members to Quebec City to witness the unanimous recognition of the Famine in Ukraine as genocide by the Quebec National Assembly. The

bill, introduced by Louise Beaudoin (Parti Quebecois) of Montreal's Rosemount riding, designated the fourth Saturday in November as Holodomor Memorial Day.

Other fund-raisers included a "Koliada" – caroling at Montreal homes and extending warm wishes, and a pre-Malanka pub night on January 22, featuring the Ottawa-based band Ukraina.

The CUSU club is led by: Vivan Zabuga, president; Stefany Stadnyk, vice-president of finance; and Marta Cybulsky and Alyssa Patterson, secretaries. The MUSA club is led by: Andreana Czurma, vice-president of external affairs; Adriana Luhovy, media director; and Tanya Bednarczyk, vice-president of McGill Relations.

McGill's club, which dates back more than 50 years and was revived in 2005-2006, has 250 members. Concordia's Ukrainian club has 450 members. Readers may find more information on the clubs' activities by visiting their websites, <http://orgserver.csu.qc.ca/~cusucon/CUSU/> or <http://www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/musa/>; or via e-mail, cusu.mtl@gmail.com or musa@ssmu.mcgill.ca.



Adriana Luhovy and Vivian Zabuga make varenyky for Concordia University's Cultural Fair.

Ukrainian skiers compete for their college teams



At the Mid-Atlantic Regionals of the U.S. Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (from left) are Chris Shumeyko of Lafayette College, Alex Dolgonos and Iryney Makarukha of the University of Pennsylvania, Maryanna Saenko of Carnegie Mellon University, and Yuri Kobziar, coordinator of the USCSA's New Jersey Conference.

PALMERTON, Pa. – Several Ukrainian skiers who are members of their college ski teams competed on February 19-20 at the Mid-Atlantic Regionals of the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSA).

The skiers included: Chris Shumeyko of Lafayette College, Alex Dolgonos and Iryney Makarukha of the University of Pennsylvania, and Maryanna Saenko of Carnegie Mellon University. Two other Lafayette skiers were unable to compete that weekend: Melanie Cybriwsky (who was ill) and Paul Hadzewycz (injured).

Joining the college skiers at the races was well-known Ukrainian American skier Yuri Kobziar, the coordinator of the New Jersey Conference of the USCSA, as well as the coach of the Lafayette team. Mr. Kobziar became involved with the USCSA four years ago, when he started coaching at Lafayette, where one of his daughters was attending school. He is also active with the Carpathian Ski Club (KLC), which holds annual ski races in the Hunter, N.Y., area.

The USCSA comprises ski and snowboard competitions that are scored by

team performance rather than individual times. The Mid-Atlantic USCSA Regionals are the championships of three conferences that send five teams each (their best from the 10 qualifying races in each conference). Of the 15 teams, three qualify for the USCSA Nationals. From the nationals, the top skiers and snow-

(Continued on page 21)



Lafayette College ski team members Melanie Cybriwsky and Paul Hadzewycz.

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Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak exhibits large-scale works in solo show

HOUSTON – “Hide and See,” an exhibit of large-scale works by Ukrainian American artist Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak, was on view from March 6 through March 28 here at Nau-haus Art Space.

Ms. Bodnar-Balahutrak has participated in several national and international exhibitions, and her work can be found in museum and private collections. Her current mixed-media paintings and drawings continue to explore collage, text and figuration. A monograph focusing on her art from 1979-2001 was published in 2005.

Since 1977, she has taught studio painting and drawing at the University of Houston at Clear Lake and the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts; she is currently on the faculty of the Glassell School of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

In 1985 Ms. Bodnar-Balahutrak was awarded a grant to participate in an international art symposium in La Napoule, France, the first of several artist invitations and residencies in Europe. In spring 1991, an IREX grant enabled her to travel to Ukraine, her parents’ ancestral homeland, for the first time. She was a guest lecturer at the Lviv Academy of Art.

In 1993 she participated in a two-month international artists’ symposium held in Ukraine, and received a Creative Artist Program Award in Visual Art from the Cultural Arts Council of Houston for her artwork that resulted from that residency. Two years later she was a visiting artist at the Art Academy of Kyiv, and her 1996 trip included a tour of the Chernobyl zone, site of the 1986 nuclear plant explosion. In



In Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak’s studio, (from left) are: “Tangles,” “Curtains,” “Snow,” “Snags” and “Hedge.”

2006, commemorating the 20-year anniversary of the Chernobyl cataclysm, a selection of her work was exhibited in a solo show at the University of Houston Art Gallery.

Ms. Bodnar-Balahutrak noted: “I recall my first visit to Ukraine, to my parents’ home. Upon my return to Houston, I was compelled to embed Ukraine’s ancestral story onto my own. I used copies of historic texts and photos to document the ravages of the little-known 1932-1933 Famine in Ukraine and the horrors propagated by the Soviet regime. I wove these into icon-like compositions, often shrouding the images with broken gold leaf. Fragments of embroidery and other handiwork were interlaced with images of my face and hands. Symbols of oppression were reconfigured or burned, and the charred remnants became grounds for new imagery. These were my first forays into collage.”

“In 1996, 10 years after the nuclear cataclysm of Chernobyl in Ukraine, I visited the zone, ground zero,” she recalled. “I was struck by the wildly overgrown abandoned buildings and grounds. Trees were breaking through concrete floors and taking root; apple trees were laden with golden ripe fruit. Nature was resolutely reclaiming her-

self, regenerating life and spreading her healing mantle over the dust and decay.”

The venue for Ms. Bodnar-Balahutrak’s latest solo exhibit, Nau-haus Art Space, is dedicated to the exploration of new and emerging talent, as well as to presenting

established work by Houston’s independent visual artists. For more information readers may visit Nau-haus.com, call 713-261-1409 or e-mail Dan Mitchell Allison, who owns and operate the gallery, at dan@nau-haus.com.



“Snow” (132 by 83 inches charcoal, chalks, gesso, collage/canvas) by Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak.



“For the Birds” (41 by 61 inches oil, resins, collage/canvas) by Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Ukraine's sovereignty. "Assuming that such a state can be created, it is a total loss of sovereignty by each of the three states. I repeat: a complete loss! In essence, we are talking about returning even not to the Soviet Union, but something stronger," Mr. Kravchuk commented. He urged President Viktor Yanukovich to explain to the members of his team the responsibility for such statements. "A member of the government is not just a Ukrainian citizen, he is burdened with responsibility, which is drawn up for him by the Constitution, laws and other regulations. And when the official is violating them, he must be held accountable," the former president said. News of Mr. Kravchuk's reaction to Mr. Semynozhenko's remarks was reported on March 30. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko on Hero of Ukraine title

KYIV – Speaking on March 23 with Channel 5 TV, former President Viktor Yushchenko said President Viktor Yanukovich has no legal power to cancel the awards given by past presidents. "It is beyond Yanukovich's legal powers to cancel my awards, like it was beyond my powers to cancel the awards given by all former presidents," Mr. Yushchenko declared, saying the past awards are within the responsibility of the past presidents. If his successor cancels the awards, "he will set a very dangerous precedent. What if a Communist president is elected after Yanukovich? He may cancel all decrees passed after the act on Ukraine's independence in 1991," Mr. Yushchenko argued. At his March 5 press conference in Moscow, Mr. Yanukovich pledged to revoke by Victory Day on May 9 President Yushchenko's decrees awarding the Hero of Ukraine title to nationalists Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych. (zik.com.ua)

Rada fails to dismiss Tabachnyk

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on March 30 failed to dismiss Education and Science Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk. A total of 202 national deputies voted in favor of dismissal, including 146 deputies of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and 56 deputies of Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense. The dismissal of Minister Tabachnyk was put on the agenda after a meeting of the Conciliation Council with the heads of the parliamentary factions. The anti-Tabachnyk campaign was linked to the fact that he actively popularized anti-Ukrainian tendencies in many of his works and articles. (Ukrinform)

Sumy students for Tabachnyk's ouster

KYIV – Students from Sumy have supported protests by Kyiv residents and students from Ukraine's western regions in support of the dismissal of Education and Science Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk, it was reported on March 25. The activists of student and youth organizations sent an effigy of the minister on the Sumy-Moscow train to Russia. (Ukrinform)

Tarasjuk: we cannot be non-aligned

KYIV – Ukraine cannot be a non-aligned state from a geopolitical point of view, the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on European Integration, Borys Tarasjuk, said at a roundtable called "Is neutrality profitable for Ukraine?" The roundtable was organized by the Democratic Initiatives Foundation, the Institute of Euro-Atlantic Cooperation and the Euroatlantica magazine, at Ukrinform headquarters on March 24. "We cannot talk about Ukraine in the current geopolitical realities as an isolated country. We were, are and will be subject to external influences. Therefore, Ukraine

cannot be a non-aligned country - we should be a party either to the European system of collective security, or the Collective Security Treaty Organization," a military-political union created by the Commonwealth of Independent States, Mr. Tarasjuk said. Otherwise, he said, Ukraine will continue to be subject to "external influences and internal destabilization, the source of which will be outside." Mr. Tarasjuk, who will most likely get the post of foreign affairs minister in the opposition's shadow government, said that the Ukrainian law of June 19, 2003, on the principles of national security clearly states that Ukraine's goal is to join the European Union and NATO. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko to remain in politics

KYIV – Former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said he is not planning to quit politics and added that he would head his party, it was reported on March 25. In an interview with the Kommersant-Ukraine newspaper Mr. Yushchenko said that the Our Ukraine Party would be reformed and that this would be decided at a party congress. Mr. Yushchenko said he is not planning to compete with his ideological "fellows." In his opinion, "there is only one way of retaining the patriotic movement - through consolidation." (Ukrinform)

Kyiv subway to install video cameras

KYIV – Kyiv officials said on March 30 that they are planning to install video cameras inside the city's subway cars. Kyiv Metro Director Petro Miroshnykov told journalists that he would ask city authorities to allocate funds for the purchase of video cameras and their installation. Mr. Miroshnykov said all of Kyiv's subway stations are already equipped with video-surveillance systems. He added that instructions would be drafted for subway workers and train conductors on how to act in emergency situations such as the bomb attacks in the Moscow subway on March 29 that killed 39 people and injured more than 70. Mr. Miroshnykov added that the booths and shops located in subway stations will be thoroughly inspected and unspecified changes "might be introduced." (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich meets with OSCE chief

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said that Ukraine has always supported a constructive level of cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and attached great importance to this. At a meeting with OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Kazakh Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev in Kyiv on March 31, Mr. Yanukovich supported the initiative by Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the OSCE to convene an OSCE summit and expressed Ukraine's readiness to work on the summit's agenda. He said that Ukraine was ready to actively participate in the discussion of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's initiative on a new European security treaty, which was supported by a number of European countries. He said that the OSCE was the most convenient forum for such discussions. Mr. Yanukovich said that the final document of the upcoming summit should reflect security guarantees for states that voluntarily gave up their nuclear arsenals, as well as for states, such as Ukraine, that are not members of any military bloc. He also said that another important element in the document should be the right of states to choose their own means of ensuring their national interests and national security. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine for OSCE chair in 2013

KYIV – Kazakhstan will support Ukraine as a candidate country for OSCE chairmanship in 2013, OSCE Chairman-in-Office and Kazakh Foreign Minister Kanat

(Continued on page 15)

Ukraine's capital

(Continued from page 8)

were stirring trouble and provoking security guards into a conflict.

What happened next depends on whom you believe.

Mr. Hudyma said he was assaulted by Pecherk District Police officers and thrown into a police jeep without any legal cause, while Mr. Komandyr said Mr. Hudyma instigated a fight, threw punches and injured a security guard, which got him arrested.

What is certain is that a fight broke out between Mr. Hudyma's supporters and police, which involved female protesters, including Mr. Hudyma's wife, Liudmyla, and daughter, Anna.

Some threw punches, while Anna Hudyma jumped on the police jeep to keep it from leaving with her father. Most of the pensioners went home.

Left without their leader, the group of 12 activists decided to walk to the Presidential Administration building to voice their protest, several of its participants told The Weekly.

Along the way, on Lesia Ukrainka Boulevard, about 20 Berkut special forces ambushed them, creating a shocking scene for bystanders and pedestrians.

Photos circulated on the Internet showed five Berkut officers and an undercover operative manhandling Natalia Myroshnichenko, a small-framed activist involved in the earlier brawl.

"Special forces work with detaining people," Mr. Yavorsky said. "What's interesting is the Berkut came, but not a common police patrol vehicle. Special forces

are supposed to react to serious crimes in which the suspects pose a threat to police."

Valentyna Baranova, a 71-year-old pensioner, said she was injured during the conflict and has to see a doctor for resulting back problems. She said she never saw such aggression by law enforcement authorities, only hearing about such things from those who witnessed the Stalinist era and World War II.

"The threw themselves at me like jackals on their prey," Ms. Baranova said, breaking into tears that bounced off her eyeglasses and rolled down her cheeks. "I am a very ill woman, and they pushed me against the asphalt, dirt and snow. I lost consciousness from the fright."

Of the 12 protesters, five were detained and transported to holding cells, including those who assaulted police officers at the construction site. By the evening, charges were dropped against four of them. Mr. Hudyma is charged with assault against a security guard on March 6, with a penalty of three to five years' imprisonment.

Protesters claimed the Berkut acted illegally by failing to abide by proper arrest procedures, including identifying themselves and stating the reason for the arrests. They alleged the police used excessive force, saying officers forcefully sat on them in the vehicles and choked Liudmyla Hudyma using her scarf.

They alleged the police also refused to inform Liudmyla and Anna Hudyma about the whereabouts of Mr. Hudyma, who was held for two nights and transferred between various buildings without being told where he was going.

The Pechersk District Police on April 1

declined to comment on the conflict at 9 Lesia Ukrainka Blvd. to The Weekly unless it followed standard procedures and received a formal letter of request, which its officials demanded nine days after The Weekly initially submitted an informal letter requesting an interview. (The Weekly was unable to satisfy this requirement in time for this week's deadline).

Activists blame the anarchy in real estate development on corrupt politicians and bureaucrats who have failed to improve the nation's law enforcement organs, courts and bureaucracies – all institutions subject to bribery from real estate developers.

"For money, a developer in Ukraine can do practically anything, including what's contrary to the law," said Mr. Lozowy, a Kyiv lawyer. "Since that's the case, and everyone knows it, people are encouraged to protest. If the law is clearly applied, as in rule-of-law societies in the West, people wouldn't have the moral high ground in protesting."

Mr. Komandyr of ElitBud said his firm fulfills all legal requirements and wouldn't have secured permits if the company didn't build quality buildings.

Activists are convinced that developers pay top police officials to have their underlings either deal aggressively with protesters, or stand by passively as private security brigades fight with them.

Igor Lutsenko, a prominent Kyiv journalist and civic activist, said he was illegally detained by police in October 2008 simply for being a reporter and shooting photos of a conflict between the brigades and protesters.

"The police had the intention of filing charges of malicious intimidation, but the rank-and-file officers declined to write false reports," he said. "They didn't want to falsely accuse us, and we had to be quickly released."

Mr. Komandyr dismissed claims that ElitBud pays any police authorities. He acknowledged that the firm's hired guards communicate with police as a means of keeping them informed of what's happening. Activists said that's proof the police are biased in favor of the builders.

"Police can cooperate with guards if it helps them ensure law and order and lawfulness," Mr. Yavorsky said. "But they don't have the right to defend one side and close their eyes to the illegal activities of private firms. The police have to ensure these sides don't exceed the limits of the law, but they never do that."

As the March 20 demonstration in front of the Cabinet was roaring, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov was meeting with Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi, reportedly warning him that he had three months to improve his government, including rooting out corruption.

Much blame is directed at Mr. Chernovetskyi, who has become so unpopular that a survey recently conducted by the Gorshenin Institute of Administration in Kyiv reported that 81 percent of Kyiv's residents want him to resign.

The mayor's reckless policy of privatizing and distributing valuable real estate – widely believed to be given to the highest bidder or used as political tribute – has even affected several foreign embassies in Kyiv, which learned their land was sold without their knowledge.

The sudden emergence of construction fences, both in areas not suited for building and on sites lacking government approval, has become commonplace for Kyiv's residents, who are growing angrier and losing patience.

"It's anarchy when police can't ensure law and order and people resort to mob law out of desperation to do what the government isn't capable of doing," Mr. Yavorsky said.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

Saudabayev said at a press conference in Kyiv on March 31. He said that "Ukraine supported the appointment of Kazakhstan for OSCE chairmanship, and, of course, Kazakhstan will support the intentions of Ukraine that correspond to the role and place of this important and influential country" in the OSCE. Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko told reporters that Ukraine would specify its program for the OSCE chairmanship by 2013. He expressed hope that by 2013 the OSCE would advance significantly on the issues that are currently important for most OSCE participating states in the field of security. Then it will be easier for Ukraine to develop new approaches within the organization, he said. (Ukrinform)

Moscow sees Tabachnyk-led party

KYIV – Russia wants to see the creation in Ukraine of a pro-Russian political party built around current Education and Science Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk, the head of the Ukrainian Barometer Sociological Service, Viktor Nebozhenko, said. "I think that the problem of Dmytro Tabachnyk is deeper than insults, accusations, the disregard of the interests of national-democratic intellectuals, or his own views," he said at a press conference on March 24. "Dmytro Tabachnyk's views have changed very often and he has looked very confident every time [they have]. Most likely, the Kremlin does not trust the Party of Regions. If the Party of Regions

and [its former leader and current Ukrainian President] Viktor Yanukovich had lost the [presidential] election, the Kremlin would have already formed a pro-Russian party. And, of course, it would need people like Dmytro Tabachnyk," the analyst said. In his opinion, this process has already begun, and the Party of Regions will be unpleasantly surprised if Tabachnyk gains his own voters and "fans" in eastern Ukraine. "This will be a completely unexpected stab in the back," Mr. Nebozhenko said. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Military parades for Victory Day

KYIV – The Defense Ministry of Ukraine is planning to hold a military parade in Kyiv on May 9, Victory Day, Defense Minister Mykhailo Yezhel said on March 30. He said intensive preparations for the parade are proceeding, for which 13 million hrv have been allocated. The minister also said that military parades are planned in the Hero Cities of Kerch, Odesa and Sevastopol. (Ukrinform)

Most proud of their nationality

KYIV – A total of 77.1 percent of the Ukrainians are proud that they are citizens of Ukraine, 17.9 percent are not, and 5 percent found it difficult to say. Those were the results of a telephone poll conducted by the Gorshenin Institute. The poll results were reported on March 20. The poll also found that 44.6 percent of respondents would like to see Ukraine 20 years from now as a separate independent state, 26.2 percent as part of a union with Russia and 21.1 percent as a European Union member. (Ukrinform)



It is with great sadness that we inform the Ukrainian community, our friends and family that on March 31, 2010, in Union, NJ

Rostyslav (Ross) Mykolayevych Wasylenko

passed away

Honored Artist of Ukraine
EDUCATOR, ACTOR, PRODUCER, AUTHOR, POET
born June 27, 1920, Kyiv, Ukraine

- graduated Theatre Arts - State Theatre Arts Company of Ivan Franko, Kyiv
- actor - Theatre Arts Company in honor of Volodymyr Blavatsky
- B.A. degree - Education and Science - Ottawa Teacher's College, Ottawa, Canada
- Master's degree in Education, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada
- over 20 years as principal in the Ottawa Public School System
- author, poet, producer, journalist

He leaves behind:

Wife:	Ija Wasylenko (Filipovich)
Grandchildren:	Larissa, Roxanne and Dmytro Smyk
Stepdaughter:	Roma Lisovich with Kira and Alexander Myskiw
Stepson:	Bohdan Lisovich
In Ukraine:	
Daughter:	Larissa Shved
Grandchildren:	Dmytro Shved and Tetiana Kulesha
Great-grandchildren:	Volodya Shved, Dmytryk and Nadiya Kulesha

Visitation: 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM, Monday, April 5, 2010

Panakhya: 6:30 PM, Monday, Lytwyn & Lytwyn Funeral Home, 1600 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, NJ 07083-4039

Funeral Service: Tuesday 9:00 AM Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 836 Lyons Avenue, Irvington, N.J. Interment follows at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery, South Bound Brook, NJ



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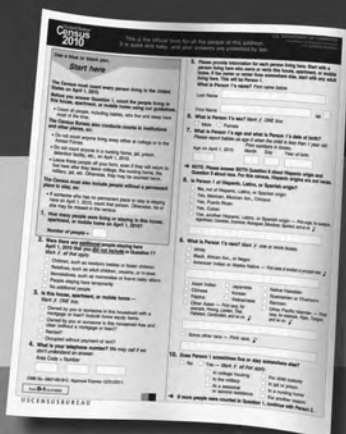
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Prime Minister...

(Continued from page 1)

ket prices. Consequently, Naftohaz's deficit equaled 2.5 percent of GDP in 2009, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Speaking ahead of Mr. Boiko's trip to Moscow, First Vice Prime Minister Andriy Kliuyev said that Ukraine could not afford current Russian prices. He said that, in exchange for lower prices, Russia would be offered participation in a consortium to manage Ukraine's gas transit network. He opined that Ukraine would lose Russian gas transit without a consortium as Moscow is set to use its new Nord Stream and South Stream pipelines to bypass Ukraine. Mr. Kliuyev said that the gas transport network would remain state-owned, while given as a concession to the consortium that should include not only Russia and Ukraine, but also the European Union (ICTV, March 21).

Consortium not enough

Mr. Putin made it clear that a consortium would not prove sufficient to lower the price of gas. He used the example of Belarus, which pays less than \$200 for Russian gas. "Why does Belarus buy gas for a price one-third lower? This is because we are building a union state and a customs union with Belarus," said the Russian prime minister (Interfax, March 26).

Former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said, commenting on the

talks, that Russia would offer a union state or a customs union in exchange for cheap gas (Ukrayinska Pravda, March 26).

President Yanukovich is not enthusiastic about a customs union with Russia, as it would contradict Ukraine's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO). However, some members of his team are ready to make concessions. Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Semynozhenko suggested that a union state with Russia and Belarus should not be rejected as an option along with EU membership (Ukraina TV, March 26).

If Messrs. Yanukovich and Azarov accept any kind of union as a condition for cheap gas, Ukraine would be firmly back within Russia's orbit. Otherwise, it will be difficult for Ukraine to survive without Western assistance. The Ukrainian Cabinet will eventually have to increase domestic gas prices, but not double them as the World Bank suggested. Such a move would badly damage the ruling party ahead of the local elections, which are scheduled to be held within several months.

In March 2009 the European Union pledged loans to rescue Naftohaz, on the condition that it would be reformed. The offer resulted in no action, as it vexed Mr. Putin.

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Web-Portal of Ukraine's Government

Ukraine's Prime Minister Azarov (second from left) with his delegation during talks in Moscow. Flanking Mr. Azarov are Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko (right) and Fuel and Energy Minister Yurii Boiko.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 287

Whippany, NJ – The annual meeting of UNA Branch 287 will be held on Friday, April 9, 2010, at 6:00 PM at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center, 60 N Jefferson Rd., Whippany, NJ 07981.

On the agenda will be election of a delegate to the 37th UNA Convention.

– Branch officers

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 257

As of April 1, 2010, the secretary's duties of Branch 257 were assumed by Mrs. Zoryana Natalya Keske.

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

Mrs. Zoryana Natalya Keske
5124 Penfield Ave.
Woodland Hills, CA 91364
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we send greetings to the Free and Independent people of Ukraine, the Bishops of the Ukrainian Churches in Ukraine and in the Diaspora, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (b), with their leader Stefan Romaniw and all their members, all community and political organizations, all organizations of the International Conference in Support of Ukraine, the World Congress of Ukrainians, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, members of the Board of ODFFU, the Branch Boards, all our members and their families, we wish you all a **Happy Easter!**



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Board of Directors of ODFFU

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Ukrainian pro sports update

by Ihor Stelmach

Vitali Klitschko's retirement plans

WBC world heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko announced in mid-February that he plans to retire from boxing by the end of the current year. Klitschko (39-2, 37 KO), owner of heavyweight boxing's highest ever knockout percentage (94.9 percent), expressed the desire to fight both WBA world champion David Haye (23-1, 21 KO) and Nikolai Valuev (50-2-0-1, 34 KO) before his retirement.

The older of the Klitschko brothers, he has never suffered a knockdown or received a standing eight-count as a pro boxer and has won seven consecutive bouts. At the not-so-young age of 38, Klitschko has not lost a fight since his controversial sixth-round TKO in June 2003, at the hands of Lennox Lewis. Heartbreaking loss aside, Vitali Klitschko earned tremendous respect from boxing experts and fans for the determined courage he showed against Lewis.

"Vitali is not an all-time great," said Ed

LaVache, owner of Boston Boxing Club in Allston, Mass., a world-famous boxing and fitness establishment. "However, he's a rough and tumble fighter. If it weren't for the various injuries he's had, he would have dominated for years. His brother (Wladimir) is more skilled. But, Vitali has more heart and sometimes heart is more important than skill."

In terms of his future opponents, the Russian Valuev is a physical beast whose mammoth size always creates obstacles for his adversaries. Pundits foresee Vitali Klitschko's skill and dexterity outclassing Valuev, leading to an easy victory.

Haye is supposed to defend his heavyweight title against John Ruiz on April 3 in England. Most predict "The Hayemaker" will outmaneuver Ruiz to easily retain his belt this spring. Assuming these scenarios, a Klitschko-Haye match could be arranged in the last quarter of the year.

Klitschko's main priority is a unification title fight against WBA champion Haye, which looms as perhaps his best and possibly his last big payday. Haye has said he would like to fight both Klitschko brothers in the hope of unifying all of the heavyweight titles before getting out in a couple of years. Given Vitali's age and his past history of training injuries prior to fights, Haye should take on the older Klitschko first.

In a battle with Vitali Klitschko, Haye would give up a great deal of height and weight. Haye's ring skills, including footwork and jabbing ability, could offset Vitali's huge size advantage. The prevailing opinion is that Klitschko's giant physique would eventually tire Haye out, creating a late-round victory.

If Klitschko were to defeat both Valuev and Haye and then retire, the momentum of nine consecutive victories and only two minor blemishes on his record would propel his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2016.

Shevchenko: ambassador

Former AC Milan and Chelsea star, current Dynamo Kyiv striker and renowned international soccer star Andriy Shevchenko is one of four dignitaries to accept an invitation to represent Ukraine and Poland as a tournament ambassador for the 2012 European Championships.

Joining Shevchenko as a Ukrainian ambassador for Euro 2012 is Oleh Blokhin, while Zbigniew Boniek and Andrzej Szarmach have accepted invitations to represent Poland.

By far the most famous of the foursome, Shevchenko is known as one of the best ever Ukrainian soccer stars who most recently returned to play for Dynamo Kyiv after stops in Italy and England. The gifted goal scorer is fast approaching his 100th cap for Ukraine.

Blokhin was selected European footballer of the year in 1975 and represented the USSR at two World Cups. After a promising playing career, he coached in Greece and managed the Ukrainian national team for four plus years.

Boniek helped Poland win third place at the 1982 World Cup, in addition to wearing the jerseys of Widzew Lodz, Juventus and Roma during his impressive career. He coached Poland's national team for several years.

The lesser known Szarmach tallied 32 goals in 61 matches with the national team. The Polish striker was one of the stars at the 1974 World Cup and the 1976 Olympic Games.

Women fall in Fed Cup

In its short history as an independent state, Ukrainian tennis has never been better. Sure, Andrei Medvedev once reached a No. 4 ranking in the world and made the French Open final one year. But last year's main draw at the Australian Open counted seven Ukrainian participants – a record number of players at a Grand Slam.

In the past four years, the Ukrainian women have risen from No. 26 to No. 6 in the Fed Cup Nations Ranking. The first weekend in February of this year, the Ukrainian Fed Cup team played Italy in a World Group match for the first time.

Leading the charge for the Ukrainian women were the Bondarenko sisters. Alona, two years older than Kateryna, has been a Fed Cup team member since her debut at age 17. It took the younger sister's arrival, however, to finally bring the Ukrainian team some success. Kateryna's debut in 2005 spearheaded the squad to victories in eight of their last nine matches.

Ironically, Ukraine's lone loss was against the same Italian team the Ukrainian women faced at the Lokomotiv Palace of Sports in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Old faithful Flavia Pennetta and Francesca Schiavone once again led the way for Italy.

Italian coach Corrado Barazzutti looked toward a serious encounter in some pre-match hype when he described the Ukrainian challengers: "Alona is a very solid player in very good shape, and Kateryna has improved. Every year she gets better, so this team is one of the best in the world."

Despite inclement weather which diverted their flight to Kyiv, forcing the Italians to continue their journey by bus instead of train and resulting in an arrival eight hours later than scheduled, the defending champions had no trouble prevailing. After a first match win by Alona Bondarenko (6-1, 6-4 over Schiavone), Kateryna Bondarenko (twice), Alona Bondarenko and the doubles team of Mariya Koryttseva/Viktoria Kutuzova went down to the Italian women, with a final tally of 4-1, Italy.



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Soccer

• Andriy Shevchenko scored his 100th goal for Dynamo Kyiv during a match against Vorskla Poltava on March 13 to bring another victory for Dynamo, with a final score of 1-0. Shevchenko scored his first goal for the Ukrainian club when he was 18 in 1994 and has played in 188 matches for the team.

• The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) ranked Ukraine in seventh place with 39.550 points, as reported by Ukrinform on February 26. The Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) ranked Ukraine's women's team in 19th place.

• Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk and Russia's CSKA Moscow shared a first-place victory at the Copa del Sol soccer tournament on February 12 in Marbella, Spain. Eight teams from five countries, including Norway, Sweden and Denmark, competed in 16 round-robin matches to claim the SEK (Swedish Kronor) 2 million prize (\$275,650 USD).

• Myron Markevych was named head coach for Ukraine's national soccer team, it was announced on February 1. Joining his staff will be manager's assistant Yuriy Kalitvintsev, the Dynamo-2 head coach. Markevych replaces Oleksiy Mykhailychenko, whose contract expired on November 30, 2009, after Ukraine failed to qualify for the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

• Two of Dynamo Kyiv's head coaches, Valery Lonanovsky and Viktor Maslov, were named among the "50 most influential managers" of the past 50 years in the January issue of World Soccer magazine. The International Federation of Football History and Statistics ranked Lobanovsky in 28th place for the All-Time Coach Ranking (1996-2009).

• Shakhtar Donetsk is the most expensive soccer club in Ukraine, as reported by the website transfermarkt.de about the 2009-2010 off-season. The club's market value exceeds 130 million euros, with 27-year-old Darijo Srna of Croatia topping the roster at 17.5 million euros. Dynamo Kyiv ranked in second place with a market value of 93.2 million euros.

Boxing

• The Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA) ranked Vasyl Lomachenko (57 kg) in first place in his weight class, with 3,900 points, as of January 1. Lomachenko's point totals are the highest in any weight division.

• Wladimir Klitschko (54-3, 48 KO) retained his WBO, IBO and IBF titles on March 20 in Düsseldorf, Germany, after he landed a left hook that sent challenger Eddie Chambers (35-2, 18 KO) to the canvas for a 12th-round knockout with five seconds to spare. Other highlights included Klitschko, 33, shaking up the 27-year-old Chambers with several right hand shots in the second round. More than 51,000 fans crammed Düsseldorf's soccer stadium to watch the bout. Chambers was Klitschko's former sparring partner, but the 16-kilogram weight difference favored Klitschko. President Viktor Yanukovich congratulated Klitschko on his victory, wishing him happiness, health, inspiration and inexhaustible energy. It is unclear who Klitschko's next opponent will be, but he indicated that he wants to fight Alexander Povetkin, the mandatory IBF challenger.

• Vitali Klitschko, the WBC heavyweight champion, is set to face Albert Sosnowski of Poland at Veltins-Arena in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, on May 29, Klitschko Management Group said in Germany. This is Klitschko's 12th world championship fight, and his record stands at 39-2 (37 KO). Sosnowski is the EBU (European Boxing Union) heavyweight title holder and his record of 45-2-1 (27 KO) is a testament to the 31-year-old's experience in the ring. Sosnowski cancelled his scheduled title defense against Olympic Gold Medalist Audley Harrison that was to take place on April 9 to fight Klitschko.

• A fight between Vitali Klitschko and Nikolai Valuev is tentative, based on the condition that the Valuev side would get the television rights in the United States and Russia, and Valuev's promoter Don King settled for \$2.5 million, versus the \$4 million requested. Klitschko said on February 17 that he intends to retire from boxing at the end of this year. The heavyweight champion announced on February 26 that he would leave K2 East Promotions and so did K2's CEO Alexander Krasnyuk. Vadim Bukhalov of K2 did not provide an explanation for Klitschko's decision.

Tennis

• Alona Bondarenko is in the second round of women's singles at the Sony Ericsson WTA tournament in Miami, which will conclude on April 4. She faced Greta Dulko of Argentina on March 25. Results were not available at press time. In the first round, Mariya Koryttseva defeated Kristina Barrios of Germany 2-6, 6-3, 6-3. In men's singles, Sergiy Stakhovsky defeated Jan Hajek of the Czech Republic 6-3, 5-7, 7-5.

• Sergiy Stakhovsky, Ukraine's top-ranked men's tennis player and a member of the ATP international professional tour, has been sued in Miami-Dade County Circuit Court for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and unjust enrichment. A companion suit has been filed for tortious interference with a contractual relationship against Global Sports Management Ltd. Filed by Renaissance Tennis Management (RTM), the player's former manager and its president, Dirk Hordoff, Stakhovsky's current manager, each lawsuit seeks damages of \$1 million. The lawsuits allege that Stakhovsky failed to pay RTM for its training and management services, and that Hordoff and Global Sports Management interfered with RTM's management of Stakhovsky while the player was still under contract with RTM. Stakhovsky is ranked 70th in the world and was scheduled to play at the Sony Ericsson Open in Miami. He is a Ukrainian citizen who resides in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Shooting

• Ukraine's men's team won three medals at the International Sport Shooting Tournament in Dortmund, Germany, on March 22-28. Ivan Bidniak and Ivan Rybovalon won second and third places, respectively, in the 50-meter pistol event. Oeksandr Petriv won second place in the 10-meter air pistol event. Kateryna Demkina won the gold medal in women's 50-meter pistol with 779.6 points. Ukraine finished in fourth place.

• At the European Championships in Meraker, Norway, on March 6-14, Serhiy Kudriya won second place in the 10-meter air pistol event. Vladislav Prisanishnikov won second place in the 10-meter running target event. Ukraine's junior men's team of Denys Kushnirov, Kyrylo Soyko and Yuriy Popruzhny won the gold medal in the



Ukraine's Paralympic Team with President Viktor Yanukovich.

10-meter air pistol event. The team scored 1,729 points to set a new European record. Sergiy Kasper won second place in the junior men's 10-meter air rifle event. Serhiy Kulish won second place in the junior men's 10-meter air rifle event. Ihor Matskevych won gold in the junior men's 10-meter running target mixed event. In team competition, Ihor Matskevych, Oleh Salamakha and Dmytro Causov won the bronze medal.

• Mykola Milchev won third place in skeet shooting at the first stage of the Shotgun World Cup event held in Acapulco, Mexico, on March 1-10. Milchev scored a total of 147 hits and finished with 24 points.

• Olena Kostevych won the IWK (Internationales Wissenschaftliches Kolloquium) Air Pistol competition at the ISSF World Shooting Cup stage in Munich on February 1. Kostevych, 25, won the 10-meter air pistol event with a total of 389.4 points.

Olympics

• Ukraine's Minister for Family, Youth and Sports said that Ukraine's performance during the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games showed the real state of winter sports in Ukraine. "There was an optimistic forecast indicating one or two medals, but unfortunately this failed due to many reasons to be analyzed in detail with a comprehensive report on the performance and an action plan on preparations for the 2014 Sochi Olympics, taking into account the Vancouver results," he said. Ukraine's Olympic Committee President Sergey Bubka blamed the poor result on a lack of funding and stagnation in the improvement of Ukraine's sports infrastructure.

• Olga Kotenko, known as the oldest long jumper in the world, was named as one of the 12,000 XXI Winter Olympic Game Torch Bearers. The 91-year-old Ukrainian carried the torch from Marine Drive in West Vancouver between 15th and 17th streets. Since 1997, she has competed in W80, W85 and W90 age categories and has been setting Canadian and World records in the process. She has collected five bronze, 12 silver and 600 gold medals in hammer throw, shot put, javelin, discus, long jump, high jump, triple jump and 100-meter, 200-meter and 400-meter races.

• Oleksandr Kondrashov, a native of Lviv, Ukraine, was selected to be an Olympic torchbearer by the Canadian Olympic Committee from among 1 million applicants. A Ph.D. student in social work and instructor at the University of Manitoba, Kondrashov expressed gratitude to Canada and the University of

Manitoba for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Paralympics

Ukraine finished among the top five teams at the 2010 Vancouver Paralympic Games, having won 19 medals – five gold, eight silver and six bronze medals. In the medal count Ukraine tied with Canada, but finished in fifth place. President Viktor Yanukovich met with the team on March 30 and delivered state awards to the athletes. "This is a great victory and, certainly, a great joy. You proved once again that Ukrainians can win," the president said.

Fencing

• Olha Kharlan won the gold medal in the individual saber at the Tunis Grand Prix event on March 19. Kharlan defeated Mariel Zagunis 15-6. Kharlan also won the individual event at the 2010 Women's Saber Grand Prix, held in Orleans, France, on February 9. Ukraine's women's team finished in fourth place. This is Kharlan's third individual win this year.

• Ihor Revutsky won the gold medal in foil and Stanislav Konopatsky won the gold medal in saber at the World Fencing Cup in Yazd, Iran, on March 1.

Wrestling

Olympic silver medalist Vasyl Fedoryshyn (under 60 kg) won the gold medal at the Ivan Yargin Grand Prix wrestling tournament held in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, on January 29-31. Teammate Andriy Stadnyk (66 kg) won the bronze medal.

Judo

• Nataliya Smal (70 kg) won the bronze medal at the World Cup in Warsaw, Poland, on March 1.

• Maksym Korotun (60 kg) won the bronze medal at the 2010 Judo World Cup held in Prague, Czech Republic, on February 27-28.

Athletics

• Viktor Shapoval won the bronze medal with a 2.28-meter high jump at the 17th Europa Shopping Center international high jump tournament in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia, on March 4.

• Andriy Makarchev won the gold medal in the long jump with 8.04 meters at the Russian Winter International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) Permit Indoor Meetings in Moscow on February 7. Viktor Kuznetsov holds the current IAAF record for long jump with 8.05 meters.

(Continued on page 22)

Former head...

(Continued from page 3)

matters with the executive level: department heads, deputy ministers, even ministers. But they were disconnected from the political process and from each other.

This is one of the things that Vice Prime Minister [for Euro-Integration Hryhoriy] Nemyria has tried to address. He refers to it as the gap between the administrative and the political. I think in the last few years, there have been some good efforts to try to do that. His work to establish a Coordination Bureau for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration at the Cabinet of Ministers was a very positive step.

I'm very positive about Ukraine, and my experience here was very good. Many of the civil servants that I worked with really wanted reform and understood that NATO has practical tools to offer. Ukrainian civil society is fully engaged in developing its vision of the country's future. Five years ago, if a think-tank developed a proposal, it was considered as an aggressive act by many people in the state apparatus. Now people are hungry; they want the ideas. That's very positive.

The business community has made tremendous steps in modernizing and moving towards international business methods. The real challenge is for the political elite and political processes to also modernize, so that they can meet the expectations of these other groups and develop the potential that their good work is creating.

When you say "political process," that is a very vague term. You mean the way these elites interact with one another?

The way they interact with one another, the way that political issues are discussed, the way that policy decisions are made. If political discussion is divided from the substance of policy, then political processes lose

touch with reality. For example, when the question that politicians and the press are focusing on is "Do we receive this symbol at the next summit or ministerial meeting?" – as opposed to "What would this decision mean?"

Let me give an example. In December 2005, former Defense Minister Grystenko called me in and said, "The decision about MAP is a political decision. It will be taken by other people, but I want you to work with my staff and tell me what it would mean for my Defense Ministry. What would the substance of MAP be?" We worked very hard with the Defense Ministry staff for two months and helped them do the necessary analysis.

In March 2006 they put a plan on the minister's desk that said: "If we get MAP, this is what we should do." A lot of things they were already doing, but there were some new areas. His answer was, "What's keeping us from doing those things now?" The answer was, "Nothing." He said, "Well, then let's do it."

I've had the pleasure of working with many Ukrainian officials who have tried hard to deliver on the substance of policy, despite the problems at the level of political elites. At the senior level, I would particularly highlight former defense minister – and parliamentary National Security and Defense Committee chairman – Grystenko and Vice Prime Minister Nemyria as the two people who stand out most, together with their teams, as trying hard to deliver on the substance of reform.

Former Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk has an image as a very pro-NATO politician.

I'm a good friend of Borys Ivanovych, and he is very pro-NATO. As the chairman of the [Parliamentary] Committee for European Integration, he has been very proactive in taking on Euro-Atlantic issues and acting as a force to help move reforms in a

positive way.

How would you assess the coordination between the various ministries and departments in terms of coordinating activities?

Coordination has always been a difficult issue. It's a challenge in any country, and Ukraine has the legacy of a Soviet system, in which every issue went all the way to the top of one ministry before it went over to another. Of course, in Soviet times you had the [Communist] Party, which served as the hidden grease which moved things around, and that doesn't exist now.

So improving horizontal coordination should be a priority. Not just at the level of ministers and deputy ministers, but also pushing it down to the level of department heads and civil servants. That is important so that the state apparatus as a whole can respond to political direction with coordinated proposals, and also so that there is continuity in the interagency process even when government changes.

Ukraine has made some progress in the past few years – I already mentioned the Coordination Bureau at the Cabinet of Ministers. But real challenges remain, not least the revitalization of the NSDC as a tool for coordinating national security policy and actions. I recently asked a friend in the Party

of Regions what he saw as the biggest challenge facing the new president, in terms of building institutions. His immediate response was that Ukraine needs an effective crisis management system, able to coordinate responses quickly.

Shouldn't the NSDC lead that crisis management?

If one looks at the constitutional roles of various institutions – and the NSDC's role is defined by the Constitution – then there is a clear role for it. And there is considerable room to use its potential more effectively.

How does Yanukovich becoming president affect things? Is fright or pessimism warranted?

People feel very strongly about their candidates here, as they do in many countries. The new president faces a number of difficult challenges: economic issues, foreign relations, repaying debt, rebuilding armed forces that have been devastated by the budget crisis. The question on dealing with challenges is not "Who?", but "How?" If Yanukovich as president is able to deliver on that, and do it in a way which helps build the Ukrainian state and sovereignty and its future as a democracy, then that will be the answer to the question. I certainly hope he and his team are up to it.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)


The passage of the pivotal legislation was stressed by then Minister of the Economy Sergey Tigipko, who often stated that should the program fail to pass in Parliament, the government would resign.

Economically, Ukraine was in a good starting point to implement the necessary reforms, but, Mr. Yushchenko explained,

that stumbling blocks remained, including the need to cajole businesses out of the shadow economy, where today they feel more comfortable, and to repay wage and pension arrears. The ultimate goal of the reforms, he said, was to fight poverty and create a middle class in Ukraine.

Source: "Verkhovna Rada overwhelmingly passes government's economic revival program," by Roman Woronowycz, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2000.

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Naftohaz...

(Continued from page 2)

Ukrtransgaz, the operator of Ukraine's vast system of transit pipelines and storage sites, will be headed by Serhii Vinokurov under the new government. Ukrtransgaz is a fully owned subsidiary of Naftohaz Ukrainy; but it will almost certainly be separated from Naftohaz, whether in the process of Western-recommended reform or by transfer to a Gazprom-dominated consortium. Mr. Vinokurov was chief adviser to Mr. Boiko when the latter headed Naftohaz. He was recently identified as a board member of Ostchem Holding, controlled by Mr. Firtash (Interfax-Ukraine, March 22).

Yurii Borysov is the newly appointed head of Ukrhazvydobuvannya, the gas extraction and processing subsidiary fully owned by Naftohaz. Mr. Borysov has been identified as director-general of Mr. Firtash's Ostchem Holding and as a board member of Mr. Firtash's Group DF (UNIAN, March 22; Kommersant, March 23).

Reflecting Mr. Boiko's and Mr. Firtash's political clout in the Party of Regions, each has successfully pushed through the appointment of a protégé as oblast governor. The new governor of the Kyiv Oblast is Mr. Boiko's confidant Anatolii Prysiazhniuk,

who had earlier headed Chornomor Naftohaz (offshore oil and gas activities) under Mr. Boiko as minister. Dismissed by the Tymoshenko government in 2009, Mr. Prysiazhniuk was appointed as the deputy head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) by then-president Yushchenko. In the Chernivtsi Oblast, Mr. Firtash has managed to have his local confidant, Mykhaylo Papiyev, appointed as governor. Mr. Firtash is not a native of Chernivtsi region, but made his business debut in that region, and retains a special relationship with it (Ukrainska Pravda, March 19).

Global Witness, the London-based NGO specializing in anti-corruption investigations, has issued a statement of concern in response to such appointments. Familiar with Ukrainian energy issues since its 2006 investigative report on RosUkrEnergo, Global Witness warns against a reversal of reforms in the Ukrainian energy sector and calls on the Yanukovich administration to show that Ukraine can be an open and reliable partner to the European Union (Financial Times, March 13).

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

Ukrainian skiers...

(Continued from page 11)

boarders can go on to compete with athletes of the U.S. Olympic and World Cup teams.

The three conferences competing in the Mid-Atlantic Regionals are: the New Jersey Conference (which actually encompasses schools in four states), the Allegheny Conference (mostly Pennsylvania) and the Southeastern

Conference (with schools as far south as Duke in North Carolina). There are 12 conferences nationwide.

Mr. Kobziar explains: "So, this is a national organization for college racing that can lead to competing against the best athletes on U.S.A. Olympic and World Cup teams." He adds that he is "passionate about ski racing" and wants to provide "a venue for college kids to continue to grow with the sport."

For information readers may log on to www.uscsa.com.

Will Tymoshenko...

(Continued from page 2)

it clear that he would not join the opposition camp forged by Ms. Tymoshenko. He said he would organize his own shadow cabinet. According to Mr. Yatsenyuk, there is no place for a unified opposition in a multi-party system. Mr. Yatsenyuk said that by proclaiming a unified opposition, Ms. Tymoshenko wanted to secure the right to appoint her people to chair several parliamentary committees, which are on the opposition's quota (Kommersant-Ukraine, March 17). NUNS' formal leader, Mykola Martynenko, also said that his caucus would not participate in Sobolev's opposition government. NUNS would not become BYT's junior partner, he said (Interfax-Ukraine, March 19).

Mr. Yushchenko, who did a lot to spoil Ms. Tymoshenko's election campaign, will not help Ms. Tymoshenko in her current endeavors. He and his ally, Vyacheslav Kyrilenko, one of the leaders of NUNS, will probably form their own opposition camp. Ihor Popov, a former deputy head of Mr. Yushchenko's office, suggested that the opposition would not be unified, because it consists of "parties and personalities that have been in a state of war between each other for years" (www.for-ua, March 17). As the underdog throughout the presidential campaign, Ms. Tymoshenko could have started to build bridges with future opposition partners long before her expected defeat. But this did not happen. There was no plan B, because Ms. Tymoshenko thought only about a victory, her right-hand man, Oleksander Turchynov, revealed in an interview with Zerkalo Nedeli on March 20. The lack of strategic planning several months ago now slows the consolidation of the opposition.

A common goal might make consolidation easier. Apparently, the only goal that

opposition parties jointly pursue at the moment is the dismissal of the Education Minister, Dmytro Tabachnyk. He does not share the official views on history and language issues and he has fiercely opposed Mr. Yushchenko's policy of forging a monocultural and monolingual nation state. Mr. Tabachnyk is reportedly backed by Moscow. This, and the fact that several prominent figures in Mr. Yanukovich's team, including Mr. Yanukovich's humanitarian aide, Hanna Herman, and Deputy Prime Minister, Borys Kolesnykov, openly dislike him, makes Mr. Tabachnyk an easy target for the nationally-minded opposition. However, the BYT joined the anti-Tabachnyk campaign only after it was launched by nationalist grassroots not directly linked to the BYT, which has further undermined Ms. Tymoshenko's credentials to unite the opposition.

Mr. Kyrilenko submitted to Parliament a draft no-confidence motion against Mr. Tabachnyk as early as March 12, the day after Mr. Tabachnyk's appointment. A number of nationalist student groups organized rallies against Tabachnyk across Ukraine on March 14-15, and the western Ivano-Frankivsk regional council demanded Mr. Tabachnyk's dismissal on March 15 (Ukrainska Pravda, UNIAN, March 12-15). The BYT caucus publicly joined the campaign only on March 16, calling for Mr. Tabachnyk's dismissal and claiming that he was appointed as a minister at the Kremlin's request (www.tymoshenko.ua, March 16). Mr. Tabachnyk dismissed the campaign against him as a "witch hunt" and said he would not resign (Interfax-Ukraine, March 17). If Mr. Tabachnyk could be ousted it would be a small, but real victory for a new unified opposition.

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Yara Arts Group to present "Scythian Stones" in NYC



Tom Brazil

Nina Matvienko will appear in Yara Arts Group's "Scythian Stones."

Sportsline...

(Continued from page 19)

Skiing

Ukrainian skiers won 15 medals at the first World Winter Masters Games, held in Bled, Slovenia, on January 26-31. Ukraine was represented by 33 athletes and collected six gold, six silver and three bronze medals. The competition, which included events such as cross-country skiing, biathlon, Alpine skiing, ski jumping and hockey, drew 499 skiers from 26 countries.

Biathlon

- Vita Semerenko won the silver medal in the women's 12.5-kilometer mass-start biathlon at the International Biathlon Union World Cup in Holmenkollen, Norway, on March 18-21.

- Oleh Berezhnuy won the silver medal in the 20-kilometer individual race at the International Biathlon Union Open European Championships (U26) in Otepaa, Estonia, on February 28 through March 7. Andriy Vozniak won the junior men's 15-kilometer race. Ukraine's women's team won silver in the 4 x 6-kilometer event.

Futsal

Ukraine's men's team won second place at the 2nd Sultat Shaab Cup 2010 held in Sebha, Libya, on March 2-6. Along the way,

Ukraine defeated Cameroon (12-5) and Jordan (3-1), and lost to the host team (Libya) in the final match (4-7).

Hockey

Liza Ryabkina, a junior forward with the Harvard women's hockey team, was among six athletes from across the country to be featured in the February 22 issue of Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd." Ryabkina, a native of Kharkiv, Ukraine, is a nominee for this season's Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, given to the nation's top collegiate women's hockey player. Ryabkina ranks second on her team with 11 goals, and is third on points with 17 this year. She is also ranked eighth in the nation with four game-winning goals to her credit. On February 9 she was named the Beanpot tournament's Most Valuable Player for scoring five goals, including the 1-0 victory over Northeastern and three goals (all in the third period) for the 5-0 victory over Boston College in the opening round of the tournament.

Sports miscellany

Ukraine's Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports granted national status on February 10 to the Baseball and Softball Federation, and the Gymnastics Federation. The ministry's collegium also recognized Spas close-combat fighting, miniature golf, aqua-bike, and compound bow shooting.

— compiled by Matthew Dubas

NEW YORK – Famed Ukrainian singer Nina Matvienko, her daughter Tonia and artists from Kyrgyzstan will appear in a new theater piece created by Virlana Tkacz. Yara Arts Group will summon ancient epics and rituals from Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan for "Scythian Stones," an original, experimental World Music Theatre piece with choreography, which will be presented by La MaMa from April 16 to May 2.

"Scythian Stones" constructs parallel journeys for two young women, from village life and nomadic tradition into the city. Their separate journeys become epic descents into the "Great Below" – the modern global desert where songs, skills and languages vanish, leaving behind only mute markers like the Scythian stones found today throughout the grasslands of Ukraine and Central Asia.

The production, staged by Ms. Tkacz and Watoku Ueno, will feature Ukrainian and Kyrgyz traditional music, as well as modern music, design and movement. Interweaving performances in Ukrainian, Kyrgyz and English, "Scythian Stones" remains completely accessible to American audiences.

Yara Arts Group has made multiple trips to both Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan to create interdisciplinary dramatic pieces based on regional epics. This piece will be developed in Kyiv on March 5-27, after which the company will return to New York and rehearse here with Yara artists.

"Scythian Stones" incorporates traditional songs from Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan into the structure of an ancient Sumerian epic about the Descent of Inanna (perhaps the oldest piece of literature on Earth, dating from 2000 BCE, about a goddess who goes to the Great Below).

Ms. Tkacz explained, "Epics are usually male stories about growing up, but not this one. We wanted to do an epic story about a woman, and examine how quickly so many cultures are disappearing today. The piece imagines an alternative ending, linking the past with a future in which poetry would carry the familial into the cosmos."

"Scythian Stones" is Yara's first pro-

duction to combine artists from Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. The piece will feature singers Nina Matvienko (who has been regarded as the "voice of Ukraine" and has appeared in Yara's "Waterfall/Reflections" in 1995); her daughter Tonia Matvienko, Kenzhegul Satybaldieva (who played the title role in Yara's "Janyl" in 2007) and Ainura Kachkynbek kyzy (who created the part of Bektoro, the Spirit Girl in Yara's "Er Toshtuk" last year).

Nurbek Serkebaev from Kyrgyzstan will perform on ancient instruments, including the kyl-kiyak (a small, bowed, unfretted fiddle with two strings and a plaintive tone), the chopo cho'or (a pottery ocarina), the temir o komuz (a metal jaw's harp) and the jygach ooz komuz (a wooden jaw's harp with one string, unique to Kyrgyz music, which sounds like throat singing).

The Greek Chorus in the Great Below will be portrayed by The Debutante Hour, a New York girl group with musical roots in American country, blues and the occasional Carpathian Mountain stomp.

Yara artists working on the piece include: Cecilia Arana, Eleanor Lipat and Meredith Wright. The production is designed by Mr. Ueno, who received the Edith Lutyens and Norman Bel Geddes Foundation Award for his work on Yara's production of "Er Toshtuk" last year. Movement is by Katja Kolcio, who teaches at Wesleyan University and previously worked with Yara Arts Group on its production of "Howling."

"Scythian Stones" was made possible in part by the Self-Reliance Federal Credit Union, public funds from the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, the New York City Department of Culture, the New York State Council on the Arts and the numerous friends of Yara Arts Group, a resident company of La MaMa Experimental Theater in New York.

La MaMa E.T.C. (First Floor Theater) is located at 74A E. Fourth St. For information readers may call the box office, 212-475-7710, or log on to www.lamama.org.

Victor Tsaran...

(Continued from page 10)

accessibility/index.html and the Associated Press at http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091215/ap_on_bi_ge/us_web_accessibility_3.

Some of Victor's music is also on the Internet on YouTube, including his songs that I like very much "Clouds" and "The Fog." The latter has lyrics by Karo (who writes all of his English-language lyrics), and is one of the seven tracks on his newest album, "Vanilla Fields."

I heard him perform that album recently at the bar of the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, when he returned to the city to accompany his wife to an anthropology conference. It is a cool, soothing jazz that we heard, with comforting lyrics and relaxing rhythms. The album can be downloaded off iTunes and at CD Baby (www.cdbaby.com/cd/VictorTsaran). It will soon be on Amazon as well. The historic bar at the Ukrainian League, meanwhile, has undergone a cultural resurgence and has become a popular venue for scheduled music, art and poetry readings by young Ukrainians and Ukrainian Americans.

Victor and Karo have been giving back to those in need. After finishing at Temple they both travelled to Asia, where they worked among the blind in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia, teaching computer skills to people who would never otherwise have had a chance. Our lives almost intersected in Phnom Penh, where I have also been working for several

years, and know the Association for the Blind in Cambodia (ABC), a truly inspirational NGO with educational programming links to Philadelphia's Overbrook School for the Blind and the Nippon Foundation in Japan.

In addition, Victor has been assisting blind students in Ukraine. Together with his former schoolmate Orest Stadnyk, Victor founded a computer center for the blind in Lviv affiliated with both the School for the Blind and Lviv University. Some time earlier, he had worked with Lviv-based computer programmer Yaroslav Kozak to develop a Ukrainian-speaking screen reader.

No one can tell, of course, what would have happened had Victor not had a chance to come to the United States, but I suspect that this smart and enterprising young man would have found success in Ukraine too, certainly in music if not in computer technology. But come to the U.S. he did, and he was met everywhere with kindness and generosity and open doors. The Ukrainian American community should be proud of Victor, as I know it is, but also proud of itself for its role as enabler in this man's life. Victor's is an inspiring story to be sure, but so is the help that we gave Victor.

The moral of that story is that we should continue to invest in young Ukrainians in need, not just because it is our duty before God to help others, but also because God finds ways to magnify those investments and make them pay dividends more widely than we ever imagined.

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OUT AND ABOUT

Through April 25 Chicago	Exhibit, "Ukrainian Universe," featuring works by Volodymyr Podlevsky and Svitlana Moiseyevna, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020	University, 617-495-4053
April 7 Carnegie, PA	Concert, "The Bayan Player," Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Andrew Carnegie Music Hall, www.kyivdance.net or 412-589-5559	April 20 New York Literary evening with Taras Prokhasko, "FM Galicia," Columbia University, 212-854-4697
April 8 Stanford, CA Stanford	Lecture by Adriana Helbig, "Brains, Means, Lyrical Ammunition: Hip-Hop as Empowerment Among African Students in Kharkiv, Ukraine," University, 650-723-3562	April 23-25 Stamford, CT Pysanka Workshop, St. Basil College, 203-356-0770 or 203-324-4578
April 11 Passaic, NJ	Church dinner, "Sviachene," St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 973-779-0249	April 24 Yonkers, NY Volleyball tournament, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Yonkers High School, 914-844-3606 or Samuel.warycha@ey.com
April 12 Cambridge, MA	Lecture by Mark von Hagen, Harvard University, 617-495-4053	April 24 through October 31 New York Exhibit, "Ukraine-Sweden: At the Crossroads of History (17th through 18th Centuries)," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110
April 12 Toronto	Lecture by David Marples, "Causes and Consequences of Holodomor: Famines in Ukraine in 1932-1933," University of Toronto, larysa.iarovenko@utoronto.ca	April 25 Shamokin, PA 125th anniversary of Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church, pontifical divine liturgy followed by dinner, 570-648-9898
April 14 Winnipeg	Lecture by Anna Fournier, "Ukraine: From 'Borderland' to 'Heart of Europe,'" Pony Corral, 240-474-7374 or 240-453-4041	April 25 New York Lecture by Hanna Kapustian, "Building Stages in the Construction of Ukrainian Statehood," Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences, 212-222-1866
April 17 Baltimore, MD	Spring Flea Market, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-870-1720	April 26 Cambridge, MA Seminar by Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, "World War II and Cultural Heritage in Ukraine: Questions Remain?" Harvard University, 617-495-4053
April 17 Passaic, NJ	Fund-raiser, "Casino Royale," St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, 973-471-0303	April 30 South Bound Brook, NJ Ukrainian Sacred Music and Choral Workshop, St. Sophia Theological Seminary, 610-882-2488
April 17 through June 12 New York	Embroidery workshop, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or edu@ukrainianmuseum.org	May 1 New York Workshop, "Baking Traditional Wedding Breads," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or edu@ukrainianmuseum.org
April 19 Cambridge, MA	Seminar by Rostyslav Melnykov, "The Godfather of the Red Renaissance: Serhiy Pylypenko and Ukrainian Literature in the 1920s," Harvard	

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 10

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a roundtable on the subject "Ukraine after the 2010 Presidential Election: Results and Perspectives." Participants: Adrian Karatnycky, Valeriy Kuchinsky and Dr. Alexander Motyl. The program 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, April 16

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The Morris County Branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Arts, Culture and Education Committee of the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey invite the public to view the award-winning documentary film "Bereza Kartuzka" by producer/director Yuriy Luhovy at 7 p.m. at the UACCNJ, 60 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981. There will be simultaneous showings in Ukrainian and in English in separate rooms. Tickets at the door: \$15; students, \$10; children, \$5. For information call the UACCNJ, 973-585-7175.

Saturday, April 17

CHICAGO: The Chicago Business and Professional Group invites members and the community to a presentation by Dr. Andrea M. Matwyshyn titled "Your Personal Data: The Online Risk." Dr. Matwyshyn, an assistant professor of legal studies and business ethics at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, will examine how we directly and indirectly share information about ourselves online through sites such as Facebook, the potential harm it poses and the legal recourse consumers have when their information is being mishandled. An internationally recognized expert in the fields of technology regulation and information security and privacy law, Prof. Matwyshyn has been cited in The New York Times, Forbes and CNN, and has presented at Oxford, Cambridge, Stanford, MIT and Singapore Management universities. The presentation will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave. at 7 p.m., followed by a book-signing and wine and cheese reception. Admission: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members.

Saturday, April 24

PALATINE, Ill.: The Ukrainian American Veterans 1st Lt. Ivan Shandor Post 35 and ACT for America invite veterans and members of the community to a viewing of a documentary "The Third Jihad." This is radical Islam's vision for America. Dr. Zuhi Jasser, a Muslim American and former physician to the U.S. Congress narrates the film. Interviews are conducted with Rudy Giuliani, Joe Lieberman and Tom Ridge. The docu-

mentary underscores the need for vigilance on the home front and elaborates on the goals of the jihadists. The presentation will be held at the Palatine Public Library, 700 N. North Court, at 2-4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information call Col. Roman Golash (ret.) at 847-910-3532.

Sunday, April 25

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.: The Ukrainian Dancers of Miami Inc., celebrating their 60th anniversary, present a whirlwind afternoon of Ukrainian folk dance, song and art, in their 18th annual "A Ukrainian Montage" concert, featuring the Ukrainian Dancers of Miami and Trio Maksymowich. The concert begins at 2 p.m. in the Amateurs Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave. Admission is \$20. Tickets re available at the Broward Center Box Office. To charge tickets by phone call 954-462-0222; to charge online log on to www.browardcenter.org.

Saturday, May 1

NEW YORK: "Between Ethnocentrism and Assimilation: Eastern Churches in North America," a roundtable discussion with the Rev. Prof. Petro Galadza, the Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak and Dr. Lubomyr Hajda, will take place at 2 p.m. at The Ukrainian Museum. The Ukrainian and English presentation will be followed by a general discussion. Moderator: Andrew Sorokowski. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St. The event is sponsored by the Ukrainian Patriarchal Society. Admission is free; donations are welcome. For further information call 203-261-4530 or e-mail to hayda.art@snet.net or samboritanus@hotmail.com.

Sunday, May 2

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian American Veterans 1st Lt. Ivan Shandor Post 35 in Palatine, Ill., invites all veterans, youth groups and members of the community to a presentation in Ukrainian by Prof. Peter Potichnyj on his experiences as the youngest member of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and later a member of the United States Marine Corps that included duty in Korea. Prof. Potichnyj obtained his doctorate in political science from Columbia University, where he studied on the G.I. Bill; he taught at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, for over 30 years. He recently published his autobiography, "My Journey," which will be available for purchase, and he continues to work on the UPA "Litopys" (Chronicle). The presentation and discussion will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center of Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church located at Oakley and Chicago avenues starting at noon. There is no charge for this event. Donations will be accepted. For additional information call Col. Roman Golash (ret.) at 847-910-3532.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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