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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXIX

No. 23

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2011

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Moscow-directed Orthodox Church tries to gain control of historic site

## Government erects obstacles on Ukraine's grain market



Protesters seeking to protect the historic site where the 10th century Church of the Tithes once stood hold placards saying they will not allow the history of Kyiv to be destroyed by new construction.

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) advanced its crusade to conquer Ukraine's holiest sites, arranging for construction trailers to be unloaded the night of May 25 on the territory of the Church of Tithes (Desiatynna Tserkva), one of

the first churches built in ancient Kyivan-Rus'.

A week earlier, Kyiv city officials were supposed to announce the results of a two-month competition held to select the best architectural proposal for the site. But the vote was undermined by the absence of a jury member and the refusal

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by Volodymyr Musyak

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – The first shipment of Chinese buckwheat arrived in Odesa's port on April 27, consisting of 500 tons. It marked an unprecedented event for the breadbasket of Europe to be receiving a basic staple from a far corner of the world.

"I won't buy it," Odesa shopper Artur Vasylychenko told the STB television network that day. "It's a disgrace for an agrarian country like Ukraine to buy Chinese hrechka (buckwheat). I'll wait for the next harvest. Let [Prime Minister Mykola] Azarov eat the Chinese product."

Employing tactics reminiscent of the Stalin era, officials in the Azarov government blamed shortages and high food-price inflation on a poor 2010 harvest. Yet, Ukrainian economists said the harvest was just fine. Instead millions are suffering as a result of alleged government corruption on a shocking scale.

"The government created artificial obstacles, from which officials gained their own personal bribe and benefit," said Andriy Novak, chair of the Committee of Economists of Ukraine. "It's all quite primitive, like relations at a bazaar. But that's how our government works."

Those artificial obstacles are grain export quotas that were imposed in October 4, 2010, and renewed twice since then. It was no coincidence that the biggest beneficiary of the quotas was a company called Khl

Investbud, which became a player on the grain market only after Viktor Yanukovych was elected.

The export restrictions severely disrupted the market and wrecked havoc on national supplies and prices of wheat, barley, corn, rye and buckwheat.

Within months, Khlb Investbud gained monopoly-like status, dictating domestic prices and sending at least 800,000 tons, and possibly more, overseas.

In recent months, officials revealed plans to entrench and widen Khlb Investbud's market domination even further, which would threaten the Ukrainian agricultural market as a whole.

### Alleged corrupt schemes

Khlb Investbud was formed in 2004, but rose to prominence only when the State Agrarian Fund announced on August 11, 2010, that the company won its tender competition to provide 5 million tons of grain worth \$875 million through the year's end.

The tender was held hastily without the required transparency, alleged an author of a series of articles published in the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia (Weekly Mirror) newspaper. The author identified himself as an insider in Ukraine's agricultural industry, writing under the pseudonym Volodymyr Chopenko.

"Try to buy 5 million tons of grain from a single [market] participant!," "That's more than a third of Ukraine's grain

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## Philadelphia's Ukrainian and Japanese communities mark Chornobyl anniversary

### Event raises funds for Japan relief

by Andrea Zharovsky

PHILADELPHIA – The Ukrainian community of the Greater Philadelphia area, in solidarity with and support from the local Japanese community, commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear catastrophe on Tuesday, April 26, at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception located in the heart of Philadelphia.

Organized by the Philadelphia Ukrainian Community Committee, an umbrella committee of community organizations and cultural institutions in the Philadelphia area, this event marked the solemn milestone of a horrific human and ecological tragedy, honored those who perished as a result of the catastrophe at Chornobyl and those who suffered and continue to suffer the repercussions from this disaster, and lended support and aid to the people of Japan in their time of crisis.

Representatives of the Japanese community, along with members of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, led a somber procession to the altar and opened the program with a wreath-laying ceremony.

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A group photo of Ukrainian and Japanese community members with Archbishop-Metropolitan Stefan Soroka.

## ANALYSIS

## Ukraine drifts away from Customs Union

by Pavel Korduban  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukraine has sent Russia a clear signal that it is unconvinced it would benefit from membership in the Russian-dominated Customs Union more than from free trade with the European Union.

The Ukrainian Parliament instructed the government to prioritize the association and free trade talks with the EU over relations with the Customs Union one day after Russian President Dmitry Medvedev urged Ukraine to choose between Russia and the EU.

This was a rare occasion when the pro-government majority and the opposition in the Verkhovna Rada shared the same point of view. It is becoming increasingly difficult for Russia to draw Ukraine back into its orbit.

Mr. Medvedev, during his press conference on May 18, made it clear that if Kyiv hoped to play on the differences between him and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin ahead of next year's presidential election in Russia (Eurasia Daily Monitor, May 4), it would be a wasted effort. There are apparently no differences as far as Ukraine is concerned.

Like Mr. Putin, Mr. Medvedev believes it would be difficult for Ukraine to cooperate with the Customs Union members — Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus — if the country chose “the European vector.” “Be either here or there. One cannot sit on two stools, one must make a choice,” said Mr. Medvedev (Interfax, May 18).

On May 19, Ukraine's Parliament, which is dominated by the allies of President Viktor Yanukovich, viewed by many as pro-Russian, showed Mr. Medvedev that a pro-European choice was made. It passed political recommendations to the government “on the current state and prospects of development of economic relations with the EU and the customs union,” which states that the completion of the political association and free trade talks with the EU is the short-term top priority.

As for the Customs Union, the document only advises the government to develop cooperation with the organization

and its member-states according to World Trade Organization (WTO) principles ([www.rada.gov.ua](http://www.rada.gov.ua), May 19). While Ukraine is a WTO member, none of the Customs Union members have joined it yet, complicating interactions with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Of the 385 deputies registered in the session hall, 289 voted in favor of the recommendations. These included representatives from all of the caucuses except the Communist Party.

Moreover, none of the Communists viewed as the most pro-Russian party in Parliament, actually voted against the resolution. They simply did not vote. This showed that Ukraine's political elite, like the majority of the population, is rather pro-European.

Furthermore, the richest businessmen in Ukraine, who are either national deputies themselves or have delegated legislative representatives, do not see many advantages from a close economic union with Russia. This is not surprising. Gas price discounts have thus far been the only carrot offered by Russia, but neither Mr. Medvedev nor Mr. Putin have been convincing enough (EDM, April 22).

Commenting on the vote, Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Mykola Tomenko, who belongs to the opposition caucus of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, said all the i's were now dotted in the discussion of Customs Union membership (UNIAN, May 19).

National Deputy Arseniy Yatsenyuk, a former Rada chair, former foreign affairs minister and moderate oppositionist, said the vote showed that Ukraine would not join the Customs Union. He added that in the future any Ukrainian official who dared to speak about joining the Customs Union would effectively break the law ([www.frontzmin.org](http://www.frontzmin.org), May 19).

On May 20, U.S. Vice-President Joseph Biden telephoned President Yanukovich to express U.S. support for Ukraine's plans to complete the association talks with the EU. Mr. Biden said this was important for building a bridge between Russia and

(Continued on page 8)

## FOR THE RECORD: Obama on political prisoners in Belarus

Following is the full text of a statement by President Barack Obama on the recent convictions of political prisoners in Belarus. The text was released by the White House Office of the Press Secretary on May 27.

I strongly condemn the conviction and sentencing of opposition presidential candidates Uladzimir Nyaklyaeu, Andrey Sannikau, Vital Rymasheuski, Mikalay Statkevich and Dzmitry Us in Belarus. The United States considers these candidates and the other courageous activists and candidates arrested and charged in conjunction with the crackdown on December 19 [2010] as political prisoners. In a major step backward for democracy in Belarus, their trials were clearly politically motivated and failed to meet even the most minimal standards required of a fair and independent judiciary. We welcome the broad international consensus condemning the actions of President Alyaksandr

Lukashenka and the government of Belarus in this matter.

Consistent with our values and principles, the U.S. government will pursue new sanctions against select Belarusian state-owned enterprises, in addition to the sanctions, travel restrictions and asset freezes announced on January 31. These measures are targeted against those responsible for the repression, particularly President Lukashenka, and are not directed against the people of Belarus. We are coordinating with other concerned governments to ensure that through the implementation of a flexible international sanctions regime we hold accountable those Belarusian officials responsible for these repressive actions.

We have also increased our assistance in support of democratic reform in Belarus. We join the European Union and our other allies and partners in supporting the aspirations of the people of Belarus for a modern, democratic and prosperous society within Europe.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Komorowski on Ukraine's EU prospects

KYIV – Leaders of European countries who attended the 27th summit of Central and East European heads of state in Warsaw have common views on the European future of Ukraine, Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski said, according to May 30 news reports. “The idea is to create chances for Ukraine's rapprochement with the integrated Western world, with Europe,” Mr. Komorowski said. He added that some pessimistic statements had not proved true and that Ukraine was not the subject of discussion at the summit, but its active participant. “There were far-fetched statements concerning Ukraine's meeting the requirements of European integration and the issues of Polish-Ukrainian and Ukrainian-U.S. relations in the important issue of developing democracy in this country,” Mr. Komorowski said, noting that Warsaw took it as acknowledgement of “Poland's significant commitment to continuing to work on Ukraine's approximation to the standards of the Western world.” Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich attended the summit, during which he held bilateral talks with the presidents of Germany, Austria and Poland. In addition, during a formal dinner in honor of the summit participants, Mr. Yanukovich had a conversation with U.S. President Barack Obama. (Ukrinform)

### Parliament nixes jury trials issue

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada has refused to put a draft law to create jury trials in Ukraine on the agenda of this session, it was reported on June 1. The issue received only 101 votes in favor. The draft law was tabled in Parliament in March by opposition lawmakers Hennadii Moskal, a former vice-minister of internal affairs, and Serhii Vlasenko, one of the country's most famous lawyers, who is now defending Yulia Tymoshenko in a criminal case filed against her. The authors of the draft insist that Ukraine in 1996 proclaimed in the Constitution the principle of direct popular participation in justice through the establishment of jury trials, but that this provision of the Constitution has not been

implemented in law. The draft proposed to define the legal framework for the organization and activities of jury trials, as well as guarantees of their independence. Talks about the introduction of jury trials in Ukraine have gained new urgency in recent days in connection with a series of proceedings against senior officials of the government of former Prime Minister Tymoshenko and Ms. Tymoshenko herself. In particular, ex-Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko has demanded that a jury decide his case because he does not trust the current courts. On May 21 Ms. Tymoshenko declared her intention to assert her right to a jury trial. Meanwhile, Justice Minister Oleksander Lavrynovych said the prospects for introducing jury trials in Ukraine are problematic, although this is stipulated in the Constitution. Mr. Lavrynovych commented that jury trials do not function everywhere, but only in countries with relatively high general level of culture, including legal culture. “To our society this is premature, as it's not so much a court of law as of emotions,” he said. (Ukrinform)

### Kuchma: reopen Melnychenko case

KYIV – Former President Leonid Kuchma, against whom the prosecutors had opened a criminal case related to the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze, filed a complaint with the Procurator General's Office (PGO) on the closure of the criminal case against former security officer Major Mykola Melnychenko, one of the organizers of the so-called “tape scandal 2000.” The criminal case against Mr. Melnychenko, who was granted political asylum in the U.S., was closed in 2005. At that time the PGO found that Mr. Melnychenko, while conducting unauthorized recordings in the office of the president, was acting during a state of emergency and therefore his actions were not criminal. As reported by his press office on June 1, Mr. Kuchma insists that the PGO had no legal grounds for such a decision, especially because Mr. Melnychenko not only failed to eliminate any danger to the state, but also his actions led to

(Continued on page 14)

### 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](http://www.ukrweekly.com); e-mail: [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com)

The Ukrainian Weekly, June 5, 2011, No. 23, Vol. LXXIX  
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### ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

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## WINDOW ON EURASIA

# Poll shows Russians 'categorically against' de-Stalinization and de-Sovietization

by Paul Goble

The population of the Russian Federation is "categorically against" the de-Stalinization and de-Sovietization that the Presidential Council for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights says are preconditions for the modernization of the country, according to the results of a massive poll.

On the Rosbalt.ru portal on May 6, sociologist Yuliya Krizhanskaya says that the poll makes clear that "despite all 'the dark places' of the Soviet past, [residents of the Russian Federation] do not want to disown it" at least in part because "everyone understands that the Soviet past is what unites us" now ([www.rosbalt.ru/main/2011/05/06/846408.html](http://www.rosbalt.ru/main/2011/05/06/846408.html)).

Ms. Krizhanskaya says the poll was taken because the Presidential Council's call for "de-Stalinization" and "de-Sovietization" includes numerous controversial ideas such as equating the USSR with Hitler's Germany, accusing the Soviet government of genocide against Russians, and declaring "the entire Soviet period" a criminal one.

The council, she continues, declared that such steps are needed because in its view, "the modernization of the country"

would be "impossible without 'the modernization of the consciousness of its citizens' in a 'de-Sovietized direction, and also because of the necessity of uniting society" in the process.

Such an assertion, Ms. Krizhanskaya says, means that "they want to modernize the consciousness of the citizens of Russia, that is, all of us, supposedly in our own interests but without asking us" if that is something Russians in fact want.

The Essence of Time Public Movement, she says, decided "to find out" what the public thinks about this idea. Some 1,500 of its activists during April queried more than 36,000 adults, in some 1,700 population centers in 77 "oblasts, krays and republics." The "main" finding, she says is that "Russia said a decisive 'no' to the program of 'de-Sovietization'."

Nearly 90 percent of those surveyed said they would vote against any referendum on the conducting of a program "which would presuppose the recognition of the Soviet Union as a criminal state, which conducted genocide against its own people and was guilty of unleashing World War II."

As far as backing for a program of de-Stalinization, "only 10 percent" backed that as "correct and useful," while 20 percent said they were "indifferent," and "70 percent" were completely opposed. "But even among those who reacted 'positively,' 40 percent 'voted' against its realization in the country."

This pattern held for all social, regional, ethnic and age groups, Ms. Krizhanskaya continues, and that permits only one conclusion: "Everyone understands that the Soviet past is what unifies us. And correspondingly, everything that is directed against it divides us" and won't be supported, if people in fact have a choice, as Ms. Krizhanskaya says.

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

## IN THE PRESS: Ukraine's Putin

"Ukraine's Putin?" by Anders Aslund, *The Washington Post*, May 2:

"...[Viktor] Yanukovich appears to be following the prescription of his political model, Russia's Vladimir Putin, by swiftly concentrating power in his own hands and wealth among a small circle of associates.

In October, the Constitutional Court suspended the Ukrainian Constitution of 2004, returning to the 1996 Constitution, which granted greater presidential powers. The country is no longer regarded as a democracy; Freedom House downgraded Ukraine to being only partially free, and Reporters Without Borders ranks Ukraine 131st out of 178 countries in press freedom. ...

"The authorities defend their roughness as necessary to achieve reforms. Last summer, these statements had some credibility. In June, Yanukovich presented an ambitious economic reform program. ...The ensuing 'reforms,' however,

did not boost Ukraine's competitiveness or market freedom but instead benefited a few businessmen close to the president. ... major infrastructure projects connected with the Euro 2012 soccer championship were excluded from competition and appear reserved for a couple of the president's closest associates. ...

"The most sinister aspect of Yanukovich's rule is the use of the judicial system to repress opponents and the media. ...

"In a year, the popularity of Yanukovich's party has fallen by two-thirds, to 14 percent, and his approval rating has fallen to 17 percent. A large majority of Ukrainians, including in the Russian-dominated east, believe their country is going in the wrong direction.

"Yanukovich does not seem to recognize what his Russian example does: To survive politically, even under light authoritarianism, requires remaining overwhelmingly popular."

# OSCE human rights office celebrates 20th anniversary

OSCE

WARSAW – The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) on May 17 celebrated its 20th anniversary with a ceremonial event at the office's new premises in Warsaw.

Speaking at the ceremony, ODIHR's director, Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, said the office has played an important role over the past two decades in helping with the transition to democracy in many countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"Although there have been many success stories, our work is far from complete. Sadly, we continue to witness serious violations of human rights and democracy standards in the OSCE region," he said.

Mr. Lenarčič stressed that ODIHR's activities are not limited to transition countries: "For many years now we have been working across the entire region, recognizing that democracy is a process that is not immune to setbacks and can always be improved, even in countries with long-standing democratic traditions."

OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut said ODIHR has earned a reputation as a leader and a center of excellence in helping participating states adhere to the rigorous standards they themselves have set. "In implementing its mandate, however, ODIHR can at times face obstacles. Some participating states are increasingly open in challenging long-established

commitments and practices in areas such as electoral standards and freedom of expression," he added.

Speaking for ODIHR's host country, Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski linked the office's presence in Warsaw with Poland's foreign policy goals: "During the last 20 years Poland has become one of the most important promoters of democracy and human rights." He highlighted in particular the role of ODIHR in combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia and hate crimes.

In a message delivered by the Polish democracy activist and presidential adviser Jan Lityński, Poland's President Bronisław Komorowski stressed the important role ODIHR played in the democratic transition process in Central and Eastern Europe. He said it was no coincidence that ODIHR is located in Warsaw: "We are considering the choice of Poland as host country for the office as the international community's recognition of the Polish transition."

Created by the 1990 Charter of Paris, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights began its work in Warsaw in the spring of 1991. Its mandate, initially focused on elections, was broadened in subsequent years. Today, ODIHR works to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law across the entire OSCE region and employs about 150 staff from over 30 countries.

In April, ODIHR moved to a new premises in the historic Młodziejowski Palace in Warsaw's Old Town.

## UCCA condemns Yanukovich regime's anti-Ukrainian, anti-democratic policies

*Following is the text of a statement issued on May 26 by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.*

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the umbrella organization representing the over 1 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, strongly denounces the continuous backsliding of democracy in Ukraine, as evidenced by the recent prosecution of political opponents, blatant harassment of civic activists, the constant curtailing of freedom of speech and the desecration of Ukraine's cultural heritage by the Yanukovich regime.

Since the first year of Viktor Yanukovich's presidency, his administration has consistently targeted members of the opposition and civic activists who uphold the preservation of Ukraine's national identity. The continued harassment and recent May 23 detention of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, as well as the detention and trumped-up charges against former government and opposition officials, suggests nothing more than the selective and political motivation of the current regime. By not adhering to the principles of the rule of law, the Yanukovich government instead has violated and infringed upon an individual's constitutional rights. The government of Ukraine must respect the rule of law by adhering to fair, transparent and impartial judicial processes for it to be fully accepted and truly integrated into the community of democratic nations.

Recent maneuvers by Ukraine's Security Services have unlawfully interfered with the work of civic organizations, in particular the Kyiv city organization of the Vasyl Stus

Memorial Society. In addition, the Yanukovich regime is endangering Ukraine's cultural and architectural remnants and religious relics by its flagrant disregard for their historical and spiritual significance. Moreover, the current regime seems to endorse the sanitized version of Soviet history propagated by the Kremlin. Not only has President Yanukovich publicly denied that the Holodomor was a genocide, but his own minister of education, Dmytro Tabachnyk, who is openly anti-Ukrainian, has suggested that Ukraine's textbooks be rewritten together with Russian pedagogical specialists and has worked towards reducing the use of the Ukrainian language in schools.

The UCCA strongly condemns the Yanukovich regime's abhorrent and unconstitutional treatment of its citizens and the desecration of Ukrainian history and national identity, and calls for an immediate halt to human and national rights violations in Ukraine. The regime's encroachment upon the rule of law in Ukraine and the resulting danger to Ukraine's national identity and budding democracy must not be tolerated.

As Americans of Ukrainian descent, we appeal to the government of the United States, that, as a strategic partner of Ukraine, the U.S. take appropriate measures to champion the defense of liberty in Ukraine, as well as the rights of those whose civil liberties are flagrantly being trampled on and violated. Such deliberate national and human rights violations not only demonstrate the current regime's anti-democratic and authoritarian tendencies, but also severely threaten Ukraine's ongoing transformation into a modern European democracy, which respects the rule of law and honors its history.

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## Spirit Lake internment center to open to general public

LA FERME, Quebec – The Spirit Lake Internment Interpretive Center will be opening to the general public by the Camp Spirit Lake Corp. (CSLC) on Saturday, June 25. The official opening with dignitaries and special guests will be held in July.

The Spirit Lake internment camp was the second largest internment camp established between 1915 and 1917 during Canada's first internment operations in 1914-1920.

Spirit Lake was unique among the other 24 internment camps established across Canada for several reasons. With 1,200 interned, the overwhelming majority of those interned were Ukrainian; it was one of only two camps that held families; one of only two camps with barbed wire fencing and one of a few internment camps with an existing cemetery where prisoners who died at the camp are buried. It is located 370 miles northwest of Montreal.

Many of those unjustly interned were taken from the Montreal area, including 60 families removed from the young Ukrainian Catholic parish of St. Michael's, and some were taken from the Ukrainian Bukovynian parish of St. John Suchawsky of Lachine, which was under the jurisdiction of the Russian Church.

As the Rev. Ihor Oshchipko, pastor of St. Michael's noted, "This was a major and painful blow to the early development of our young parish of St. Michael's at that time. It took many years to recover from this loss, both in terms of diminished members and psychologically, as over half our parish members were suddenly gone."

Volodymyr Hayduk, head of St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church Committee added: "In 1945, 50 parishioners of



Yurij Luhovy

**Andriy Hladyshyevsky (left), president of Shevchenko Foundation and interim chair of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund with James Slobodian, Camp Spirit Lake Corp. board of directors chairperson.**

Lachine's St. John's Parish, no longer wanting to be under the Russian jurisdiction, began to form St. George Parish in Lachine. The first president of the executive board of St. George was Heorgiy Towstiyuk, who had carried an Austro-Hungarian passport, and was himself shipped off to Quebec's northern internment. After his release, he apparently travelled to Quebec City many times to negotiate for the land on which St. George Church was to be built. Towstiyuk later became an outspoken councilman of Ville St. Pierre."

The idea of the Spirit Lake project, costing over \$1 million, has been under development for the last 10 years. However, for the past three years the

board of directors of the Camp Spirit Lake Corp. (CSLC) – all voluntary workers – have worked intensely to build this center, with its interpretive museum, to be opened to the general public.

James Slobodian, chairperson of the CSLC board of directors, stated, "Opening to the general public this June is a historic event, with an important educational factor, remembering all affected communities, particularly Ukrainians."

"This center will forever honor the memory of those unjustly arrested as 'enemy aliens' bringing awareness to the internment story at Spirit Lake throughout Quebec and beyond," he continued. "The center will also show the impact the internment had on our local area then and today. Numerous bus tours have already booked for tourists visiting this area, with this unique center as one place to visit. We had to open to the general public first, as information about our center was already printed in over 800,000 tourist brochures distributed across Canada. Everyone must be welcomed."

In May, the CSLC launched its official newsletter called *Le Barbelé* (The Barbed Wire), a bilingual, French-English, newsletter about activities planned at the Spirit Lake Internment Interpretive Center throughout the year. It will be published six times yearly.

The newsletter welcomes stories directly linked with Spirit Lake. It invites anyone who might have artifacts, documents or photos connected with Spirit Lake to consider donating them to this center.

The Camp Spirit Lake Corp. received a major grant from the federally funded Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund, administered under the Shevchenko Foundation. This grant, along with other grants received from local businesses, donations and a grant from the Quebec Provincial government, made the realization of this project possible.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Quebec Provincial Chapter and Montreal branch, has supported the Spirit Lake project over the years, maintaining close ties with its CSLC board.

Recently, UCC delegates from all organizations in Montreal unanimously passed a resolution reaffirming UCC Montreal's continued support.

"We are very proud of James Slobodian and his team, their determination in completing the Spirit Lake project, overcoming many obstacles. This opening will coincide with the 120th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, thereby remembering the many hardships the community overcame in being accepted in their new homeland," stated UCC Montreal President Zorianna Hrycenko-Luhova.

The internment story is depicted in the award-winning documentary film "Freedom Had a Price, Canada First Internment Operations 1914-1920," and the recently re-mastered documentary "Ukrainians in Quebec."

For further information about the progress of Spirit Lake Internment Interpretive Center, readers may contact Mr. Slobodian at 819-727-2267, e-mail [campspiritlake@cablenet.com](mailto:campspiritlake@cablenet.com) or visit the website [campspiritlake.ca](http://campspiritlake.ca).

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## UCC welcomes Canada's commitment to nuclear safety at Chernobyl

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) on May 27 welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the G-8 summit in France of an additional \$30 million contribution by Canada to help complete safety and stabilization work at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine.

"Our government remains committed to helping the people of Ukraine deal with the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear accident," Prime Minister Harper said. "It is fitting on the 25th anniversary of this tragedy, to join the international community in closing this sad chapter for once and for all."

UCC President Paul Grod echoed

those sentiments. "The Ukrainian Canadian community, along with the Japanese Canadian community recently commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster as well as the events in Fukushima, Japan," he noted.

"We are pleased that Canada continues to provide leadership on the world stage on the issue of nuclear containment and safety," stated Mr. Grod. "We commend this investment announced by the prime minister on behalf of the government of Canada."

It has been reported that Canada's newest commitment of \$30 million over the next four years brings its total contribution to the work at Chernobyl to approximately \$105 million.

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## Chicago's Ukrainian National Museum opens exhibit "Chornobyl + 25"

by Orest A. Hrynewych

CHICAGO – The Ukrainian National Museum (UNM) in Chicago on April 8 opened the exhibit "Chornobyl + 25," commemorating the 25th anniversary of the tragic accident of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant, the worst nuclear accident in history. This was a very well-attended event with representatives of Chicago's Japanese community, Ukrainians, American friends of the museum, and the Chicago and local Ukrainian press.

This commemorative event was organized by the curator of the UNM, Maria Klimchak, with the assistance of the UNM staff. The exhibit's focal point was the symbolic construct titled "The Chornobyl Woman's Shadows." Eighty photographs were selected from over 300 that were sent to the UNM from friends in Ukraine, the United States and Holland. Paintings, from the UNM permanent collection by artists from Los Angeles (Yuri Viktiuk), Kyiv (Petro Yemetz) and Chicago's well-known artist Anatole Kolomayets, depicting the physical, emotional and spiritual damage caused by the accident, were also included in the exhibit.

In the center of the exhibition hall, the numinous construct included mannequins dressed in embroidered costumes of Polissia, Kyiv, Chernihiv, Volhyn and Zhytomyr – symbolic shadows of women from the regions surrounding Chornobyl. Their arms were linked in a symbolic encirclement of the faux Chornobyl sarcophagus under which is buried the radiation-damaged 20th century. Above the sarcophagus, a bird, with wings made of embroidered ritual cloths, hovered in a life-giving rain of pink and white cherry blossoms that evoke the image of life, love, hope and the 21st century rebirth of the radiation-damaged lands of Ukraine, Japan and the world.

To emphasize the tragic consequences of this event, an exhibit of medals and awards given to the firefighters and liquidators who died in the line of duty fighting the fires and containing the spread of radiation, was placed nearby. These items were donated by Dr. Yuri Podluskyy, a UNM benefactor.

The exhibit's evocative photographs portrayed the devastated landscape surrounding the Chornobyl site, the eerily empty streets and city scenes of Prypiat aban-



A view of the exhibit at the Ukrainian National Museum.

doned clean-up equipment and compelling images of the remaining old residents ("samosely," on self-settlers) still living in the exclusion zone.

Vera Byy, one of the three main speakers at this commemorative event, provided many of the exhibited photographs. Myroslav Hanushchak and Anton Vlaschenko from Kyiv, Halina Klyashko from Holland, Alex Nazarenko from Chicago, Konstyantyn Vorona from Ukraine's Consulate General in New York and from the office of the Consulate General in Chicago, all contributed photographs for the exhibit.

Orest Hrynewych, first vice-president of the UNM,

opened the program with a request for a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of Chornobyl and the more recent Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear plant accident in Japan.

Ms. Klimchak explained the symbolism and purpose of the exhibit.

Mr. Hrynewych, a registered nuclear engineer, explained in easily understood non-technical terms, the background and cause of the Chornobyl accident. He emphasized the role played by Soviet hubris in the cause and consequences of the accident.

(Continued on page 17)

## Philadelphia's...

(Continued from page 1)

Archbishop metropolitan Stefan Soroka, Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S., welcomed the Japanese and Ukrainian communities and, accompanied by Ukrainian Catholic clergy, prayed through special petitions in excerpts from the Jerusalem Matins for the souls of all those who perished as a result of the tragic events in Chornobyl, Ukraine, and Fukushima, Japan.

The chairperson of the Philadelphia Ukrainian Community Committee, Ulana Mazurkevich, in her opening remarks stated: "On behalf of the community committee to commemorate the anniversary of Chornobyl, I welcome you to this commemorative concert. We are honored that the American Japanese community is here in solidarity with us. Twenty-five years ago plumes of destructive radioactivity descended on parts of Ukraine and Europe. Today, we mark this tragic anniversary. Today, we stand in remembrance of this horrific event. ...As we commemorate this tragic anniversary, we bow our heads to the people of Japan in their hour of need."

The somber program included musical performances and remarks by the Men's Choir of the First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church, under the direction of Volodymyr Maykut with accompanist Olha Sawchuk; a musical presentation on piano by Wataru Miimori with a dance interpretation of the piece by a Japanese performer; "Chornobyl Remembered," a statement read by Maria Vengrenyuk, representative of the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (SUSTA); the Prometheus Ukrainian Male Chorus under the direction of Roman Kucharsky with accompanist Irena Pelech Zwarych; statements; the Bell Choir of the First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church under the direction of Iryna Shelikhov; and the Accolada Chamber Choir under the direction of Bohdan Henhalo read by Andriy Mikitov, Counselor, Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S., and Kostyantyn Vorona, vice-consul, Consulate General of Ukraine in New York.

Tomoko Torii, executive director/president of the Harmony for Peace Foundation, delivered the main

remarks as a representative of the local Japanese American community. Established in 2009, the foundation aims to promote world peace and support nuclear non-proliferation through the unifying art of music.

In introducing Ms. Torii, Ms. Mazurkevich said, "Twenty-five years ago when the nuclear disaster happened in Chornobyl, Japan was the first country to send its experts to Ukraine to help deal with this disaster. Today Japan and Ukraine continue working together on the after effects of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster."

Ms. Torii stated:

"We want to thank everyone attending and performing tonight for your compassionate decision to donate the proceeds from this anniversary gathering to HICARE through Harmony for Peace Foundation in their work to aid the victims of Japan's earthquake, tsunami and resulting radiation exposure. As you know all too well, it will be years before the staggering social, economic, and ecological impact of this current disaster will be fully understood. Having the generous support of everyone here tonight – you who 25 years later still hold the horrors of 1986 close to your hearts – touches me deeply and gives me hope that people exposed to radiation in 2011 will suffer less because of the medical lessons learned at Chornobyl and because of the generosity and global responsiveness of the Ukrainian people.

"From Hiroshima to Chornobyl, and from Chornobyl to Fukushima, there is a bridge that spans generations and countries. It is a bridge of human suffering and immeasurable loss shared by all of us. But it is also a bridge of understanding and compassion that can link different cultures, diverse faiths and even conflicting political beliefs. We can strengthen that bridge by remaining vigilant about the danger of nuclear arms proliferation. We can close the gaps that separate us by rethinking global standards for control as well as the care for victims when nuclear catastrophes occur."

The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center organized buses which departed from the Center in Jenkintown, Pa., for the cathedral in Philadelphia. Borys Pawluk, president of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, remarked, "It is fitting that all of our community today has gathered at the Ukrainian Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disas-

ter brought on by the incompetence of the Soviet Russian regime on April 26, 1986. We stand in solidarity with the Japanese people as they battle to control the Fukushima nuclear reactors and recover from the recent earthquake and deadly tsunami."

Mr. Pawluk thanked Ms. Tomoko Torii, her performers and the Japanese American community for participating in "this solemn event in solidarity with the Ukrainian American community. God bless us all and help us recover from these tragic events."

Buses provided many with an opportunity to attend and participate in this event. Organizers thanked the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union for its generous donation and sponsorship of the bus rental.

When asked why it is important for the Ukrainian community to commemorate this sad event, Ihor Kuznir, president of the Philadelphia branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, who served as vice-chair of the Philadelphia Ukrainian Community Committee, stated: "As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the disaster at Chornobyl, we also want to underscore the deceitful and delusional reaction of Soviet authorities, which did not report the accident until three days later. It amounted to nothing short of criminal negligence, and showed a wanton disregard for the welfare of the Ukrainian people. It is something we want the world to be aware of. The effects will be felt for many generations to come. Apart from the obvious ecological consequences, which some experts say can last thousands of years, the toll on human lives is immeasurable."

Mr. Kuznir added, "Today, as we pray for the victims of Chornobyl, we also stand united with the people of Japan as they suffer the aftereffects following one of the strongest earthquakes on record, the ensuing tsunami, and a nuclear threat from the damaged Fukushima reactors. Ukraine will always be grateful to Japan for its unwavering support following the tragedy of Chornobyl in 1987, being one of the first to provide technical, humanitarian, and medical assistance, which continues today."

All proceeds raised during the commemorative concert were designated for victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. After the program, Metropolitan Archbishop Soroka hosted a reception in the church hall.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### To our loyal readers

Beginning September 1, the price of our newspaper is going up by \$10 per year as a result of today's economic realities. Thus, a yearly subscription to The Weekly will cost \$55 for members of the Ukrainian National Association and \$65 for non-members. The prices for subscriptions to our sister publication, the Ukrainian-language weekly Svoboda, are going up by the same amount.

The last time The Ukrainian Weekly raised its prices was 10 years ago, in April of 2001, when the price went up \$5, from \$40 per year for UNA members to \$45 and from \$50 for non-members to \$55. And, prior to that, there was a price increase back in 1995. So, Dear Readers, these necessary cost adjustments are few and far between. (For those who may not realize this, the discount on subscriptions for members of the UNA, our publisher, is one of the benefits of membership, along with discounts at the UNA's Soyuzivka Heritage Center, scholarships for students, etc.)

The new pricing follows recommendations made by the Publications Committee of the UNA General Assembly, and subsequently approved by the entire General Assembly, at its first post-convention meeting on December 4-5, 2010.

The Publications Committee recommended the modest increase of \$10 in the price of print-only or online-only subscriptions. And it recommended a new marketing strategy for the UNA's publications, which would sell subscriptions to both the print and online editions of The Ukrainian Weekly or Svoboda at a price of \$60 for UNA members and \$70 for non-members. That translates into a mere \$5 more for unlimited access to all the current year's issues via our website located at [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com). (A word to the thrifty: you can renew or subscribe now to avoid the September price increase.)

To be sure, the new subscription prices will not cover our expenses or those of Svoboda. The support of advertisers, as well as donations to our press funds, help support these newspapers. But if it weren't for the Ukrainian National Association's sizable subsidy, Svoboda and The Weekly would not exist. The UNA, as a fraternal benefit society, publishes both as a service to its members and the community at large.

The UNA General Assembly's Publications Committee also proposed that the UNA's marketing expert devote special attention in this year to promoting our newspapers, so you are sure to see some new advertising efforts. That, we hope, will help increase the number of our subscribers, strengthen the connections within our community and, in the process, improve our bottom line.

For our part, we pledge to continue serving as a source of news about our hromada in North America as well as Ukraine, as the voice of the Ukrainian community, as a forum for our community members' news and opinions, and as a network for our increasingly scattered communities, organizations and individual Ukrainians.

An interesting postscript for the historians among us: When The Weekly was founded in 1933 it was considered a supplement to Svoboda, then a daily newspaper. The first subscription price for The Weekly alone was set in 1945. The cost: \$2 per year or 3 cents per issue on newsstands. Two years later, the \$2 price remained in effect for non-members, but UNA members were granted a 50 percent discount and paid only \$1 for a year's worth of Weeklies. After several intervening price adjustments, in 1980 – four years after The Weekly became physically independent of Svoboda as a 16-page tabloid-size newspaper – the price was set at \$5 per year for members and \$8 for non-members.

June  
8  
2010

### Turning the pages back...

Last year, on June 8, 2010, a Kyiv district court stripped two Ukrainian TV channels – Channel 5 and TVi – of their new broadcast frequencies. The court thus annulled the January 2010 results of a tender held by Ukraine's National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting that allocated those frequencies.

Ukrainian media experts claimed that Channel 5 and TVi are among the few Ukrainian TV channels that provided independent news coverage. The move came a day after the editorial board of Channel 5 sent an open letter to Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich asking him to intervene. The board claimed that the court hearing was being influenced by the chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), Valeriy Khoroshkovsky.

Mr. Khoroshkovsky owns the rival Inter Media Group, which asked for a new tender for frequencies. He strongly denied exerting pressure on Channel 5 and demanded proof of the allegations made by its editorial board.

Opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko said on June 8, 2010, that the petitioners never had a chance of success because of political interference. "Now to count on the letter of journalists having an impact would be utopian since it was Yanukovich who gave such orders," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "I am convinced that to address the courts is utopian because today they function not according to the law and the Constitution, but under orders from one person, from Yanukovich."

Ukraine's National Council on TV and Radio Broadcasting on June 8, 2010, issued a statement calling for separately treating the questions of press freedom, development of media business and adherence to the law. The council noted that its January 2010 decision to grant Channel 5 and TVi broadcast frequencies was adopted without a quorum and contrary to court rulings. The composition of the council had changed since its January ruling.

Natalya Lihachova, editor of [Telekritika.kiev.ua](http://Telekritika.kiev.ua), said she believed that the dispute reflected efforts by the Ukrainian authorities to increase their control over the country's media.

Channel 5 and TVi have since returned to regular broadcasting and programming.

Source: "Two opposition TV channels stripped of frequencies," (RFE/RL), *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 13, 2010.

## COMMENTARY

### Robbing Ukraine's grain market

by Leo Krasnozhan

The last eight months offered ample evidence of how alleged corruption in the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich has drastically affected the life of the average Ukrainian, while devastating the Ukrainian economy and wrecking havoc in the nation's markets in the process.

The Yanukovich administration, with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers led by Prime Minister Mykola Azarov and Ukraine's Parliament, imposed ruinous grain export quotas that sent consumer prices surging for basic food staples such as flour, buckwheat, sunflower oil and corn oil.

The ripple effects on the economy are still being felt months after the quotas were introduced in October 2010. Prices for bread, sunflower and corn oil increased by 12 percent just since January, the State Statistics Committee reported. Grain prices overall rose 15 percent in the first quarter alone.

Shortages in flour and buckwheat outraged consumers, many of whom are pensioners who receive around \$100 per month to survive on. The aftershocks have plunged millions of elderly Ukrainians straight below the poverty threshold.

Naturally, the quotas fell into the hands of the well-connected, allegedly linked to the president himself. Mr. Yanukovich on May 25 announced plans to replace these quotas with customs duties, possibly as a diversion to the mounting attention he was attracting.

But the mechanisms nevertheless remain in place for his entourage to allegedly reap outrageous profits at the expense of an entire nation.

The plundering of the nation began on October 4, 2010, when the Cabinet of Ministers passed a resolution imposing grain export quotas and licenses. The official reason cited was to stabilize food prices and prevent shortages caused by an alleged poor harvest in 2010.

In the reality of economics, however, quotas are usually imposed to limit the quantity of a product and thereby raise its price.

In this case, the Ukrainian government granted grain export licenses for the purchase of grains from domestic farmers at the domestic price which was then resold at the world market price to foreign buyers. Since world prices are significantly higher than domestic prices, whoever receives the export license is guaranteed the handsome profit of a middleman.

Moreover, grain export quotas limit the quantity of export, which produces yet another price mark-up. The result of several mark-ups is billions of dollars in potential profit to be reaped at the expense of free markets.

Thus, a licensed company with a quota makes a profit, while the public is forced to deal with monopolization and the resulting market inefficiencies and waste of societal resources.

It should come as no surprise that among those licensed companies was Khliv Investbud, a company created soon after the election of the new administration with links to top government officials, allegedly including the president.

Ukraine's small- and medium-sized farmers were particularly hurt by the quotas, forced to sell their grain at lower-than-expected prices because Khliv



Leo Krasnozhan

Investbud used its market power to dictate prices.

The remaining independent grain traders fought over the leftover crumbs. The Ukrainian government didn't much care that the corruption hurt both sides of the international trade – exports and imports.

Lower profit margins subsequently limited the ability of cash-strapped farmers to purchase essential machinery and fertilizers that are mostly imported from Russia, Belarus and the United States.

Meanwhile, higher food prices devoured the income of Ukrainians, who spent less on other imported goods, such as food, apparel and gas.

The closed quota system reinvigorated oligarchic values, such as nepotism in the Ukrainian economy, and sent a clear signal to foreign companies that the economy would remain firmly in the hands of a small group of well-connected oligarchs.

Quotas were distributed in opaque fashion, upsetting foreign grain traders who were shut out. Companies had only seven days to apply for the export quotas after the Cabinet of Ministers resolution was enacted. As a result, most companies were unable to receive the necessary licensing while Khliv Investbud, virtually unknown at the time, received the lion's share.

This protectionist policy hurt everyone except Khliv Investbud, which seems to be the only winner from the whole situation.

Foreign observers criticized the quotas, recognized as inefficient and restrictive of investment inflows, said Martin Raiser, the World Bank's country director for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

Morgan Williams, president of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, estimated that losses in the domestic food industry could reach \$5 billion, taking into account decreased income for farmers and surging prices for consumers.

Even amidst sharp foreign criticism, the Ukrainian delegation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) defended the quotas by referring to provisions in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the WTO Agriculture Agreement that refer to the use of temporary export restrictions to relieve critical shortages of food.

The delegates assured the WTO that "an export quota system was introduced in order to prevent a critical shortage in the domestic market resulting from a poor harvest in 2010 of certain agricultural products, and to eliminate a significant imbalance in the domestic grain market that is essential for food security and stability in the grain market."

(Continued on page 15)

Leo Krasnozhan is a visiting assistant professor of economics at the University of Texas at Arlington.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Philly school's appeal for help

Dear Editor:

St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic School in Philadelphia is in need of urgent financial help. This year's budget was based on a student enrollment of 200 children. The difficult economic problems facing many families resulted in the loss of 30 children during the year. This loss has made it impossible to meet monthly mortgage payments of \$1,677.54.

A \$225,000 mortgage was taken to do a needed roof replacement. We are already five months in arrears. The next year's budget is based on an enrollment of 150 and provides for a tuition increase to ensure that the mortgage payment can be met beginning in the fall months.

We ask our brothers and sisters in Christ of our other parishes in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia for their urgent assistance. Help us in this time of unexpected shortfall in revenue. You will help to ensure that the only Ukrainian Catholic grade school will continue to serve our community in Philadelphia. We pray and hope for your understanding and generous help for St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic School. God bless you!

Please send donations (tax deductible) to: St. Josaphat School, 4521 Longshore Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19135.

**Rev. Ihor Bloschynskyy  
Christine McIntyre**  
Philadelphia

*The letter-writers are, respectively, parish administrator and principal of St. Josaphat's.*

### A mother's sacrifice and a graduation

Dear Editor:

Those familiar with Ukrainians know the tradition of extraordinary sacrifices by parents for their children. In my personal experience, in 2007, I brought a smart Ukrainian girl to attend private school in the United States. Her widowed mother – a doctor in Ukraine – works legally as a domestic servant in London, earning money to support her daughter, as well as her widowed sister and pensioned parents in Ukraine. This week, the student graduated; next year, she will attend college in the U.S.

When her mother applied for a U.S. visa to attend the graduation of her daughter, whom she has not seen since 2009, the Embassy in London turned her down. She was entitled to reapply, and for her second interview we made sure she had more than ample documentation – even a paid-for round-trip ticket from London to Ukraine in July.

I also contacted the office of Sen. John

Kerry, despite advice to go elsewhere. As a newspaperman, I had never asked my government for anything other than my constitutional rights. But when you need help you have to trust somebody, and Sen. Kerry is, after all, my senior senator.

My request was turned over to a pleasant intern who said a letter would be sent to London on the mother's behalf. But she did not work every day, had to be reminded what country it was and never replied to my request for a copy of the letter. Ten days passed before I reached a paid staffer who told me the letter had been sent but was classified.

On May 4, the Embassy told the mother there was no record of any letter and again denied the visa. I complained to the staffer, who is himself a refugee from a former Soviet satellite. He instructed me to "calm down." When I said that in 20 years I would not calm down, he hung up on me. I ordinarily fly the Ukrainian and American flags in front of my house in Boston every day. For three weeks I did not fly the American flag.

Sen. Kerry's office may have done its best and sent a letter, or it may have been giving us a line of bull. There is no way of knowing. The larger lesson for both Ukrainians and Americans is that we make a great mistake when we make the pursuit of happiness subject to the good will of politicians.

At graduation, the student received the character prize. The teacher presenting it broke down, could not continue and had to be relieved. The college advisor then read the citation in Russian to the girl's grandmother, who had been granted a visa and was present. There was not a dry eye amongst the 600 attending.

There were teary telephone conversations with the mother, who will get a video. But she takes the loss as something that wasn't meant to be. I am more upset about it than she is. Those familiar with Ukrainians know how they have survived 1,000 years of capricious oppressors, foreign and domestic: the strength of their women.

**David A. Mittell Jr.**  
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

*The letter-writer covers Ukraine, which he has visited 19 times, for a number of U.S. newspapers. He is also a member of the board of advisors of the Eugene Kinasevich Fund, which supports Ukrainians studying in the United States and Canada.*

### 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.**

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

## Children's painting competition to celebrate Ukraine's independence

WASHINGTON — In celebration of the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence and its Flag Day, The Embassy of Ukraine to the United States has announced a children's painting competition called "Happy Birthday Ukraine!"

Children of all nationalities age 6-14 are encouraged to participate. Drawings and paintings of all styles will be accepted, however, they must be original artwork. On the back of the painting, please

include: child's full name, age and contact information (including address, phone number and e-mail). The deadline for submitting entries is August 19.

Entries should be mailed to: Embassy of Ukraine Culture and Information Center, 3350 M St., NW, Washington, DC 20007.

For additional information, readers may e-mail [ukrinfocentre@gmail.com](mailto:ukrinfocentre@gmail.com) or call 202-349-3360.



## The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

### Enjoying culinary Lviv

Many of you, dear readers, will be traveling to Ukraine this summer, and you will be eager to shop and dine. Here are some suggestions – freely and enthusiastically offered. (Hey, a guide would charge you big bucks/hryvni for this information!)

We'll start with Lviv, and in future articles go on to Kyiv and a few other places. Please remember that things change frequently, and some spots from last year or the year before may not be there this year.

Lviv is a real gem of a city. Perfect for walking, taking your time, photographing, enjoying the city's history, architecture and all-around beauty. And don't forget the outdoor cafés for people-watching. And it's a fairly "new" city – for Ukraine – founded by King Danylo in 1256.

People use a few spots in Lviv as the central points for meeting people or starting their city expeditions: the Shevchenko statue, just down the way from the Lviv Opera – itself also a meeting spot, the Viennese Café near the Shevchenko monument, or one of the statues (Neptune, Diana, Adonis and Amphitrite) or restaurants at the Ploscha Rynok – the square surrounding Lviv City Hall. During Independence Day week, these statues are dressed in Ukrainian "sorochky," or embroidered shirts.

The whole Ploscha Rynok, or Market Square, is a UNESCO Heritage Site, and architecture and art buffs will be in their glory. The square is now a pedestrian mall, having been renovated and closed to traffic, with the trolleys using only one side. The cafés all around the "ratush" (City Hall), as well as in the building facing it on all four sides, are wonderful. One of my favorites is Kentaur/Centaur, elegant and very tasty – a fine place to sit and enjoy the passing show. Kryivka, the UPA-theme restaurant is across the square. There are some new shops carrying embroidered shirts and souvenirs (including witty T-shirts) all around.

Along both sides of Independence Boulevard Prospekt Svobody, from the opera house to the statue of Adam Mickiewicz, with the park promenade in the middle, there are many outdoor cafes to enjoy.

The Viennese Café near Shevchenko is the place to see and be seen. No matter when I'm there, I run into folks from Winnipeg, Toronto, New York and Kyiv. The beer is much more expensive than in the other pubs, but worth it for the ambience.

U Pani Stefisi, a bit down the street, is a delicious and reasonable Ukrainian restaurant, with traditional village décor and beautiful serving staff dressed in folk costumes. Here you will also meet your friends from all over the world. If you like potato pancakes, "pliaty" (as we know them) – ask for "deruny" – you can't go wrong. The mushroom "nalys-

nyky" (crepes) are also delicious.

There are many cafes on Shevchenko Boulevard including Veronika's, a pastry shop and restaurant. This place is so with-it that the patrons sitting in the outdoor café just seem to ooze wealth.

For a treat for you and those back home, don't miss the Chocolate Shop at 3 Serbska Street. The shop lets you watch chocolate bon-bons being made and dipped, and there is a café. You can then select from an enormous assortment of individual and boxed truffles, bars and figurines – made from various kinds of chocolate – in the shop on the second floor. There are even some anatomically correct chocolates (white and dark) behind the counter (I wasn't looking for them, honest, they are just there).

Coincidentally, next door is the Leopold von Sacher-Masoch Museum, with his "interesting" statue at the door (remember masochism?).

The Muzei Idei (Museum of Ideas) at 18-a Valova, in a 17th century restored church, contains art galleries, holds events, and has a pub and restaurant in the depths of the stone building.

And, if you like Ukrainian beer, take in the tour of the Lviv Brewery museum – Lvivske 1715 Pyvo. This is the oldest active brewery in Ukraine, with a pub and restaurant on the lower levels. You can include this as part of your cultural and educational tours.

Of course, very little of culinary Lviv has been covered here. You would need weeks to enjoy all the top restaurants, cafés and pubs. A very good guide book – hopefully it is still in print – is the thorough and well-illustrated bilingual "Lviv – Turystychny Putivnyk/Lviv – Sightseeing Guide" by Liliia Onyshchenko-Shvets and others (Lviv: Vydavnytstvo Tsentru Yevropy, 1999).

Also check out Linda Hodges' "Language and Travel Guide to Ukraine" (Hippocrene Books, fifth edition). It was featured in the May 1 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly in the supplement called "A Ukrainian Summer."

Next time: the shopping. (I would have liked to go on and on but, for some reason, the editor does not permit 3,000-word columns...)

### Correction

Re: my column "Kvitka Long Ago" (May 8), even though I tried many sources, I was wrong in writing: "I was told that Irena Biskup and Miroslav/Myron Mahmet are deceased." Thanks to Halia Redko and her son Peter Redko for informing me that Irena Biskup is not deceased, but living in the southern U.S. My deepest apologies to Mrs. Biskup and her family for this inadvertent error.

Orysia Tracz may be contacted at [orysia.tracz@gmail.com](mailto:orysia.tracz@gmail.com).

### Opinions in The Ukrainian Weekly

**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.**

## FOR THE RECORD

## Freedom House sounds the alarm on protecting democracy in Ukraine

Following are excerpts of the Freedom House report titled "Sounding the Alarm: Protecting Democracy in Ukraine." The report is dated April 2011 and was authored by David J. Kramer, Robert Nurick and Damon Wilson with Evan Alterman. It is the result of a special visit to Ukraine in February of this year by Mr. Kramer, who heads Freedom House, and two independent analysts, Messrs. Nurick and Wilson, whose purpose was to assess the state of democracy and human rights in Ukraine one year after the inauguration of President Viktor Yanukovich. (The full report may be read at [http://www.freedom-house.org/uploads/special\\_report/98.pdf](http://www.freedom-house.org/uploads/special_report/98.pdf).)

## Foreword

One year after Ukrainian citizens elected Viktor Yanukovich as their new president, Freedom House sent an independent team of experts to Kyiv, Kharkiv and Lviv to assess the country's democracy and human rights situation. The assessment was conducted one month after Freedom House downgraded Ukraine from free to partly free in its Freedom in the World 2011 rankings. Until that point, Ukraine had been the only non-Baltic former Soviet state ranked in the free category; it was one of only two countries worldwide to be downgraded to partly free for developments in 2010.

Freedom House, with support from the Open Society Foundations, decided to conduct this assessment for several reasons. With a population of 46 million and shared borders with the European Union (EU) and NATO member-states, as well as with Russia, Ukraine is a country of vast importance.

If it becomes a more established, demo-

cratic, market-oriented member of the Euro-Atlantic community, it will have a positive effect on the wider region and become a success story for its neighbors to emulate. If it moves in a more authoritarian direction, Ukraine will not only set back its own future, but also damage hope for reform in Eurasia as a whole.

Finally, the debate about Ukraine both inside the country and in the West has become rather polarized, breaking down roughly into pro- and anti-Yanukovich camps.

These concerns were reinforced by what we heard and saw during our visit. In our view, there is no question that President Yanukovich has consolidated power at the expense of democratic development. The president and his defenders credibly argue that this centralization of power is necessary if the administration is to have any chance to govern Ukraine effectively and pursue long-overdue economic reforms.

While the discipline of Mr. Yanukovich's government is a welcome change to some, representing a departure from the paralyzing and endless bickering of the Yushchenko-Tymoshenko period, it has also revealed authoritarian tendencies.

The negative effects have included a more restrictive environment for the media, selective prosecution of opposition figures, worrisome instances of intrusiveness by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), widely criticized local elections in October 2010, a pliant Parliament (Verkhovna Rada), and an erosion of basic freedoms of assembly and speech. Corruption remains a huge drain on the country, and there is significant room for the situation to get even worse.

Indeed, if left unchecked, the trends set by Ukraine's current leadership will move the country toward greater centralization and consolidation of power – that is, toward authoritarianism. The checks, if they come, must be both domestic and foreign in origin. But while civil society remains rather vibrant, it is also dispirited, depressed after the letdown by the Orange Revolution's leaders, and despondent over the current government's direction. The formal opposition offers little hope, as longtime political figures fail to inspire much public confidence.

This dynamic places even more pressure and responsibility on the West to deepen its engagement, both with the Yanukovich government and with Ukrainian society, by encouraging and rewarding good performance and pushing aggressively against backsliding on democracy. Our visit reaffirmed our belief that Ukraine's leaders do care about what the West thinks; they seek support and approval for their policies. And yet both the EU and the United States seem to have disengaged from Ukraine or narrowed the bilateral agenda to a few issues of strategic importance, such as non-proliferation. This is the wrong approach.

## Executive summary

The assessment team reached three broad conclusions:

1) Ukraine under President Yanukovich has become less democratic and, if current trends are left unchecked, may head down a path toward autocracy and kleptocracy.

2) Yanukovich and his government value their domestic standing and international reputation, and remain responsive to outside pressure. Therefore, domestic actors as well as the West retain a capability (and have a responsibility) to check anti-democratic tendencies and support constructive initiatives both inside and outside the government.

3) Ukraine's political and cultural diversity is a bulwark against any one force dominating political space throughout the country.

Most disturbingly, the assessment team found a Ukrainian elite disillusioned with their democratic choices and dispirited about their country's and their own personal futures. In brief, the shortcomings of Ukraine's democratic experience to date are putting its future democratic development at risk. Indeed, the assessment team found an unhealthy political environment in Ukraine, characterized by:

- consolidation of power, with a narrow ruling group under President Yanukovich,

intent on restoring political order and implementing policy using a more intrusive and visible SBU presence, as well as an increasingly malleable judicial system;

- a ruling group that is equally interested in dividing spoils and protecting its own (though egregious corrupt behavior has also been associated with prior governments);

- lingering resentment over the failure of the Orange Revolution leaders, in power from 2005 through 2009, and the continued fragmentation of the political opposition;

- the effects of the financial crisis, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout, and ensuing economic reforms; and

- enervated civil society groups and independent media that are increasingly under pressure from government authorities, including the security services, with particularly difficult conditions in the regions.

Having come to power through a democratic process, Mr. Yanukovich's Party of Regions inherited a polity suffering from infighting, a lack of effective governance and widespread corruption. The party's officials are systematically centralizing authority with the stated goals of bringing order to this chaotic situation, implementing difficult reforms, and advancing national aspirations to join the EU.

Given Ukraine's recent tumultuous political history, this narrative is credible and compelling. However, there is no clear sense of limits to the push for centralization. In fact, the effort has led to policies that have degraded the capacity of civil society and the political opposition to enforce such limits.

The result is a weakening of checks and balances in Kyiv and the signaling of a permissive environment for the pursuit of local political agendas in the regions. Moreover, history shows that undermining institutional checks and balances inexorably leads to less transparency, more corruption and a greater risk of authoritarianism, a trend seen in most of the former Soviet Union.

Regardless of the government's motivations, the process under way in Ukraine today is eroding its democracy. Such deterioration runs counter to Western interests as well. Accordingly, Europe and the United States must deepen their level of engagement with the Yanukovich government and with Ukrainian society, tap into their presently underutilized influence and leverage, and do what they can to stanch the current trends.

## Ukraine drifts away...

(Continued from page 2)

Europe ([www.president.gov.ua](http://www.president.gov.ua), May 20).

A free trade agreement with the EU should be part of a broader political association agreement. Kyiv hopes to form free trade areas with both the EU and Russia, including the CIS, but without joining the Customs Union. Kyiv wants to achieve both aims this year, though each target has uncertain prospects. The free trade talks with the EU have been difficult both because the EU is reluctant to open its market to cheap Ukrainian exports and because many in Brussels suspect that Ukraine would eventually prefer the Customs Union with Russia. At the same time, free trade with the CIS may never materialize because Russia does not want Ukraine to simultaneously integrate into the EU.

Kyiv hoped to sign a free trade accord in the CIS framework at the meeting of

CIS prime ministers in Minsk on May 19, but this did not happen. Citing its sources in the Ukrainian government, the Kommersant-Ukraine business daily reported on May 23 that Uzbekistan and Russia derailed the talks. In particular, Uzbekistan reportedly rejected a provision on the regulation of disputes over non-tariff barriers and did not agree to any compromises proposed by Ukraine. Kyiv representatives in the talks said Russia was behind Uzbekistan's demarche.

"Unexpectedly" for Kyiv, Moscow insisted that consensus should be reached on all provisions of the accord, the newspaper said. Kommersant's sources explained this as stemming from Russia's disappointment with Ukraine's decision to prefer free trade talks with the European Union over the Customs Union.

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, [www.jamestown.org](http://www.jamestown.org).

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## REFLECTIONS

# How American students react to the story of the Holodomor

by Volodymyr Chumachenko

During the spring semester 2010, I taught the course on Ukraine, its history and culture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It was the largest general education class in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures with 65 students enrolled in UKR 113.

One of the important topics I discussed with my students was the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide and its tragic consequences for Ukrainian society in all aspects of its economic, social and cultural life.

It was important for me not only to familiarize my audience with one of the worst crimes and tragedies in world's history, but also to observe and analyze my students' reaction to the subject.

The problem of the Ukrainian Holodomor thus was introduced in different ways, including a historical survey of the problem, the documentary "The Soviet Story," and via poetry and fiction.

In addition, the Ukrainian Research Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign set out a big display in the main hallway of the Main Library with approximately 70 posters containing visual and textual information on the Holodomor. I asked my students to write a short essay about it with an emphasis on their personal reflections on the problem. They took the assignment seriously, and I was pleased and often surprised to read their straightforward opinions.

The students proved one more time that the problem of Holodomor should be an important subject in the study of world's history. Some of my Korean students quite unexpectedly for me made interesting parallels between the greatest Ukrainian tragedy and the Korean history, which means that the problem of Ukrainian Famine-Genocide can be effectively studied in a comparative mode. Many students said the way that world history is taught in this country should be changed.

Below is a selection of quotations from students' essays that reflect on the problem in different ways.

\*\*\*

**Alec:**

I was shocked as I stood in the hallway of the university's main library, staring at the exhibit that covered the entire wall on Friday night. Countless people strolled by without giving it a second glance. I kept thinking to myself, "How could something this horrific ever happen... and how have I never heard of it before." Statistics of the death counts seemed to me to be unbelievable. The genocide that took place in Ukraine in 1932-1933 was truly a sad moment in history and embarrassment to humankind. ... I recall staring at the exhibit in the library, being hit with several emotions at once. Being blown away by the insurmountable loss, sadness for those that went through such an event, utter disgust for the people involved, and thankfulness that I was born into such a different world (or part of the world and time). After hearing, researching, and learning about this genocide I can truly say that this is an event that I will never forget.

**Katrina:**

As a future history teacher, I strongly feel that this is a topic that needs to be addressed. So much is said about the Holocaust, and yet American students hear nothing of the Holodomor or half of what

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Dr. Volodymyr Chumachenko discusses the Holodomor with his students.

Joseph Stalin did to dissidents in the USSR. This Famine is just as important as what happened to the Jews in Nazi Germany and I will take special time out of our World War II unit to learn about and study what happened in Ukraine.

**Michael:**

The Holodomor has many similarities to the mass genocide of Jews during World War II. The Holocaust, meaning "sacrifice by fire," was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler and his collaborators. As a person of Jewish faith myself, I think that the Ukrainian genocide really hits home. It is disgusting to hear of such cruelty, brutality and immorality. Hopefully, the world has learned from these terrible and tragic events and nothing like these atrocities ever occurs again.

**Jack:**

When I finished looking at the exhibit, I left feeling several different emotions – sorrow, disgust, but mostly frustration. To explain the origins of my frustration, I will compare the Famine to the Holocaust. Although the Holocaust was a tragedy, the victims and their families can at least have some resolution because the entire world knows and understands what they went through. The victims of the Ukrainian Famine, on the other hand, do not have this. To this day, the majority of the Western world has no idea that this ever happened. I will admit that I did not know about this genocide until the video that we watched in class. This makes me [feel] extremely guilty. In the future, I would like to see this part of the Soviet history taught along with the Holocaust. If we do not make this event known to the world, then we are letting the Soviets win.

**Josh:**

In American history books they talk about how Hitler is the worst man ever to live, and say how Stalin is bad, but do not make him seem as bad. After seeing this exhibit, it is obvious that Stalin was just as bad as Hitler and that they were both very evil men. It was horrific how frail everyone looked in the pictures, and I could not even imagine the feeling of starving to death. It is hard even to imagine two days without food living in modern-day America. I cannot believe that nobody knows about the Famine like everyone knows about the Holocaust.

**Luke:**

I did not know about the Ukrainian

Genocide until I took this class. However, I knew in the back of my mind that Communist Russia had done horrible things to its people. My only real young exposure to these ideas was from the book "Animal Farm." ...The Ukrainian Genocide killed 10 million people. It did not kill people by vaporizing them in an atomic bomb, or in a gas chamber. They killed them over a long painful period of starvation. Yet we do not debate in class about the Ukrainian Genocide the way we do about the atomic bomb. We do not bring in survivors from the Ukrainian Genocide the way we do with the Holocaust. Schools and citizens of the United States have ignored this genocide, and, at best, it has been turned into another history lesson.

**Mathew:**

It is vitally important that public displays such as the exhibit at the University of Illinois continue. It is through displays such as this and other public remembrances that the memory and honor of the Ukrainian peasants will be kept alive. These acts of remembrance are critical not only to honor the victims of the genocide, but also to remind the world of these atrocities so they are never inflicted again.

**Roman:**

...survivors had to live with these events for the rest of their lives, never being able to even openly acknowledge the existence of the source of their suffering because the government simply said that nothing happened in Ukraine in 1932-1933 more than natural crop failures. Communist officials tore through villages in Ukraine afterwards confiscating books and records from branches of the registry of births and deaths for 1932-1933 to ensure that no records remained as evidence. History was covered up under a blanket, but the witnesses to it saw the horror that a dictatorship can produce – and could do nothing about it. And one of the main victims of these events was the Ukrainian identity and how it was crippled. The local traditions and cultural make-up contained within villages on the countryside disappeared with its inhabitants. ... one can only hope, and actively campaign, that history will not repeat itself with such occurrences.

**Jordan:**

The visuals at the exhibit truly captured a time of suffering with little hope capturing many of my sympathetic and sad emotions. In the world we live today it is hard to imagine how such events went unnoticed for so long and it makes me extremely disappointed that I had to

take a college course to realize that this had occurred. I feel that, unlike the Holocaust, no one, in the United States at least, is aware of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 and we all should be.

**Min:**

Before I took this class, I had no idea about the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide of 1932-1933. I have taken about 25 pictures of those posters, and had many thoughts after looking at the photographs. After learning about the tragedy that Ukraine went through, I felt that Ukraine has a similar history to my own country's history. I am a Korean, and Korea went through a very similar path as Ukraine. Like Ukraine, Korea has a history of being invaded by many foreign forces... Working on this assignment meant a lot to me because it made me think about my origin and my country's history.

**Patrick:**

While I have taken a few world history classes, up until this semester, I never heard anything about the genocide that took place in Ukraine during 1932 and 1933. This topic is extremely interesting, not only because of the actual events that took place, but also because of the fact that it was covered up so well.

**Frank:**

The Holodomor goes down in history as one of the worst cases of human genocide. Before learning about this tragic event, I was completely unaware that this genocide ever even occurred. It is shocking to me that this event has been kept so secretive, and that so many people have never heard of this. The information and the images from the exhibit were very moving, and opened my eyes to the historical cruelty those Ukrainians suffered from.

**Josh:**

The horror of this tragedy is still not widely known. In fact, I have to admit my ignorance of this until taking this class. The fact that I, at the age of 22, had never heard of this tragedy shows that there is a problem in the teaching of history in this country.

**Daniel:**

The atrocities that occurred during the Famine in Ukraine strike a resemblance to several different crimes against humanity that took place in the history of the world. From among them, North Korea is one particular situation that stands out simply for the fact that it still exists today. ... The similarities that occur to me are very apparent: First, there occurred famines that could have been prevented with actions by the ruling authority. Second, there is a deliberate stripping of all liberties and rights in North Korea as it was in the Soviet Ukraine. Third, there are places in North Korea where the primary objective is to systematically kill North Koreans, experiment on them, or use them for labor. This mentality is analogous to the objective of the Soviet Union in Ukraine to extract as much resources from them as possible and then systematically murder them.

**Amy:**

What happened in Ukraine in the beginning of the 1930s was a horrible tragedy that should never be forgotten. It is a tragedy in itself that many people are not even aware that it occurred. It even angered me how it is not even mentioned in our history classes, yet we spend so much time on the Holocaust (which of course deserves time). Though, how are we supposed to have a better future when we don't learn from and remember our mistakes from the past?

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# GENERATION UKE

Edited and compiled by Matthew Dubas

## SUSK congress in Ottawa elects new executive committee

OTTAWA – The Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) held its 53rd national congress here at the University of Ottawa on May 5-8. The congress was hosted by the local Ukrainian Students' Club at the University of Ottawa. Session speakers included Taras Zalusky and Paul Grod, executive director and president, respectively, of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress; Borys Potapenko, executive director of the League of Ukrainian Canadians; James Temerty, chairman of Northland Power; Ihor Ostash ambassador of Ukraine to Canada; and John Vellinga, president of Multiculture Marketing.

"Over 60 delegates from post-secondary institutions from all across Canada and the United States descended on the nation's capital for informative sessions, professional development and, of course, song and dance," said Danylo Korbabicz, immediate past president of SUSK.

"SUSK has experienced exponential growth since its rebirth in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 2007. We have seen attendance at our conferences double and triple. Ukrainian Canadian students are showing our community that they take their responsibilities as future leaders seriously," he added.

The four-day congress culminated with the election of the 2011-2012 executive committee of SUSK. Incoming officers include: President Olena Kit (McMaster University); Executive Vice-President Daniel Kostruba (University of Western Ontario); Vice-President (West) Mila Luchak (University of Alberta); Vice-President (Central) Deana Drozdowsky (University of Western Ontario); Vice-



Members of the 2011/2012 SUSK executive — front row: Olena Kit, Augustine Krawchenko, Tamara Caris, Daniel Kostruba; middle row: Deana Drozdowsky, Larissa Schieven, Nadia Demko; back row: Danylo Kobabicz, Anda Hirceaga, Michael Hrycak, Roman Storoshchuk.

President (East) Tamara Caris (University of Ottawa); Secretary Nadia Deko (McGill University); External Relations Director Mike Hrycak (McMaster University); Internal Relations Director Augustine Krawchenko (McMaster University); Project Director Larissa Schieven (Carleton University); Media Director Anda Hirceaga (University of Ottawa); Alumni Director Roman Storoshchuk

(University of Calgary); and Mr. Kobabicz (Carleton University), immediate past president of SUSK.

More than 200 people attended the SUSK alumni banquet and dance that featured a keynote address by Borys Sirsky of the National Arts Center, titled "Ukrainian Students and Community Leaders – Yesterday, Today and in the Future – A Voice to be Reckoned With!"

Other diversions for the students included a private tour of Parliament Hill, a seminar on the history of vodka, which included a tasting, a pub-crawl in the Ottawa Byward Market district and a session on personal finance.

"It was nice to see a balance between professional and social activities. Our club was very glad to make the trip to Ottawa and we look forward to the next congress," said Ann Zalucky, a delegate from the University of Calgary.

After being elected SUSK president for 2011-2012, Ms. Kit said: "I would like to thank the outgoing SUSK executive and the immediate past president Danylo Korbabicz, for their commitment to preserving and promoting the Ukrainian Canadian heritage. They have inspired students nationwide and offered them tremendous support. A warm thank you to the University of Ottawa Ukrainian Student's Club for its generous hospitality in our nation's capital. The success of the 53rd National SUSK Congress would not have happened without your dedication and hard work."

SUSK is a national student organization in Canada, comprising Ukrainian student organizations and post-secondary institutions across Canada. It was formed in 1953 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and became inactive in 2001. During the 22nd Congress of Ukrainian Canadians in 2007, SUSK was revived in Winnipeg, with the mandate to "advocate concerns relevant to Ukrainian Canadian students."

For more information visit [www.susk.ca](http://www.susk.ca), call 613-783-9608 or 905-518-3596, or e-mail [info@susk.ca](mailto:info@susk.ca).

## BC's Ukrainian Society hosts annual pysanka workshop

by Olena Savytska

BOSTON – On Thursday, April 14, the Ukrainian Society of Boston College (BC) hosted its annual Easter egg decorating workshop. This event was a great getaway from the stress of schoolwork as well as an opportunity to get into the mood for upcoming Easter celebrations. Approximately 60 BC students joined the club officers in a spacious art room, many of them writing pysanky for the first time.

Pysanky specialist Sonia Kowal, who was on hand to share her craft with the workshop participants, learned how to write pysanky from her grandmother. Ms. Kowal explained that, while children are typically taught the pysanka art form in youth organizations, college students, as adults, are able to appreciate this intricate process on a higher level. Writing pysanky is an engaging activity for people of all backgrounds and ages, albeit one that takes a great deal of patience and delicacy.

Students first learned about the origins of pysanky, which came into popular use around the 10th century as pagan gifts adorned with special symbols, and eventually became an indispensable part of Ukrainian Easter celebrations.

Then the work began in earnest. The students looked at books on traditional Easter egg decorating techniques as well as diagrams depicting traditional designs as a point of departure; they used pencils to carefully divide their eggs into quadrants and fill each one with geometric patterns, from rhombuses to stars. Some were more adventurous, drawing hearts and flowers on their eggs. The room bustled with praise, laments and questions as the students began to work on their eggs. Pysanky-making veterans Andrea Dzwinyk, president of the BC Ukrainian Society, and Mark Liber, treasurer, walked around the room, providing encouragement and helpful tips.

Ms. Kowal manned an intricate coloring process with almost a dozen jars of different colors into which the eggs were submerged. She explained the traditional color combinations, such as yellow, red and black, and guided the students in their color selections. Using wax to create the multicolor patterns, the students worked patiently for three hours, submerging their eggs into a coloring jar, then tracing the desired design with wax, then moving on to the next color. The colors proceeded from white to yellow to orange to various shades of red to green to blue to violet to black. Ms. Kowal

warned that not all colors "like each other" but was quick to provide a solution – green foliage was applied onto an egg with a cotton swab and covered with wax before the egg was submerged into red dye.

After many layers of color and wax, students would hold their eggs next to a

candle, carefully melting off the wax to reveal brilliant blue, red, turquoise and black masterpieces.

At the end of the night, the students left the room in high spirits, with their work close to their hearts, planning to present their pysanky to parents, siblings or loved ones.



Boston College students work on creating pysanky.

The "Generation Uke" page accepts photo submissions for the photo of the month space, which features Ukrainians being Ukrainian.

Send photos to: [design@ukrweekly.com](mailto:design@ukrweekly.com) or The Ukrainian Weekly, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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Roma Pryma Bohachevsky

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Session 1: 6/26-7/2

Session 2: 7/3-7/9

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To register your child, please watch for registration forms appearing in the Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly in March and April, or for further information, please contact Neonila Sochan at (973) 984-7456.

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Roma Pryma Bohachevsky

## Ukrainian Dance Camp

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# NEWSBRIEFS...

(Continued from page 2)

Gongadze's death, sparked social and political crisis, and caused considerable damage to the credibility and reputation of Ukraine in the world. Moreover, for years Mr. Melnychenko did not give his records to law enforcement authorities, did not inform the people about the dangers allegedly threatening them and used the recordings for commercial purposes. "Espionage, betrayal of the homeland, the sale of its secrets, blackmail, slander and fraud are not allowed to go unpunished. I, therefore, the second president of Ukraine, demand the resumption of criminal proceedings against Melnychenko," reads Mr. Kuchma's appeal to the prosecutors. The former president has been charged with abuse of power and official authority, which led to the Gongadze murder. (Ukrinform)

### PGO: Kuchma had no intent to kill

KYIV – Ukraine's Procurator General Victor Pshonka is sure that ex-President Leonid Kuchma had no intent to kill journalist Heorhii Gongadze and that is why he is charged only with abuse of office, it was reported on May 27. "A criminal case has been opened on abuse of authority. Kuchma had no intent of the final tragic outcome," Mr. Pshonka said in an interview with the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia weekly newspaper. Mr. Pshonka noted that the Gongadze case has always had a political background, including the protest action "Ukraine Without Kuchma" and behind it all "stood different people interested in a particular outcome of this case." He added, "Finally, we have collected all the materials related to Leonid Kuchma, in one case... The investigation has examined all that is associated with Kuchma. Let the court weigh all the pros and cons and answer, finally, this question." The Procurator General's Office has completed its investigation into the criminal case against Mr. Kuchma, which was filed on March 21. (Ukrinform)

### Kuzmin denies bias in Tymoshenko case

KYIV – The Procurator General's Office (PGO) has refuted accusations made by the opposition that investigators are biased in the investigation of a criminal case opened against former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. First Deputy Procurator General Renat Kuzmin, speaking in the Verkhovna Rada on June 1, said, "Excessive politicization and accusations against investigators that some of the investigators or the leadership of the Procurator General's Office are implementing political orders are nonsense." Mr. Kuzmin noted that the investigative unit of the PGO was fulfilling its duties legally, professionally and effectively, despite the huge pressure on it. He also said he was surprised that the PGO's actions in the Tymoshenko case were not understood by some Ukrainian politicians. At the same time, he noted that in the first four months of 2011, during which the investigation of the Tymoshenko case has continued, the investigative unit had received 115 requests from national deputies to call the former prime minister to account. "The Procurator's Office is working in a very intense mode on this case. And the only task for the investigators is to gather evidence of both guilt and innocence, as well as to analyze and present it to the Ukrainian courts for the endorsement of a final decision," Mr. Kuzmin said. He said that only the courts had the right to decide the guilt or innocence of a citizen. At the same time, he noted that investigators had already gathered enough evidence to bring charges against Ms. Tymoshenko for crimes allegedly committed during her premiership. (Ukrinform)

### McFaul to be envoy to Moscow

WASHINGTON – The Reuters news service reported on May 29 that President Barack Obama plans to nominate Michael McFaul, his top adviser on Russian policy, to be the next U.S. ambassador to Moscow. Reuters cited an administration official as the source of the news. Dr. McFaul, 47, is the senior director for Russian and Eurasian affairs on the White House's National Security Council staff. He was an advisor to the Obama campaign in 2008 and, as Reuters reported, "was a leading architect of the reset of U.S. relations with Moscow, one of Obama's top foreign policy moves after taking office." Dr. McFaul would replace Ambassador John Beyrle, who was appointed in 2008 by President George W. Bush. The New York Times reported that President Obama had informed his Russian counterpart of his choice for U.S. envoy to Moscow during the G-8 meeting in France. Foreign Policy magazine commented: "This is an inspired choice. McFaul will bring a compelling set of attributes to the position, including a deep knowledge of Russia, a close relationship with President Obama, experience in high levels of government and national security policy, and a long-standing commitment to democracy and human rights promotion. That last quality will be of particular importance, as Russia's grim and deteriorating record on democracy will be in the international spotlight with its presidential transition in 2012." The Washington Times noted in its "Embassy Row" column: "State-owned media in Moscow are reacting warmly to the news that President Obama plans to appoint his top adviser on Russia as the next U.S. ambassador to the Kremlin." The newspaper reported that Alexander Kononov of Moscow's Institute of Strategic Studies and Analysis told RIA Novosti, an official Russian news agency: "McFaul is a young man, very close to Obama and a devoted supporter of his policy" and that, "Since McFaul is a person from the presidential staff, his appointment would show that Washington pays special attention to Russian politics." (Reuters, The New York Times, Foreign Policy)

### Diaspora on Radio Ukraine broadcasts

KYIV – The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) has sent a letter to President Viktor Yanukovich, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov and the chairman of the State Committee on Television and Radio Broadcasting, Yuriy Plaksiuk, in connection with the cessation of broadcasts of Ukrainian-language programs of the world service of Radio Ukraine. By order of the National Radio Company director general, on May 25 Radio Ukraine ceased to broadcast abroad. The UWC, speaking on behalf of the 20 million-strong Ukrainian diaspora, called on authorities in Ukraine to cancel the decision to cease broadcasts of Ukrainian-language programs, which met the informational and spiritual needs of Ukrainians across the globe. According to the UWC, such a decision is contrary to the fundamental public documents on providing for the national-cultural and linguistic needs of Ukrainians residing outside of Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

### AUR will not be liquidated

KYIV – The Association of Ukrainians in Russia (AUR) will not be liquidated, the press secretary of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oleksander Dykusarov, said. He noted that on May 21 the sixth special congress of the Association of Ukrainians in Russia took place and that it was dedicated to bringing statutory provisions of the association into conformity with Russian legislation. According to the

(Continued on page 17)

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## Moscow-directed...

(Continued from page 1)

of several commission members to announce the results.

A diverse coalition of opponents to building a church at the site has emerged in recent months, which includes archaeologists, historical preservation activists, anti-development activists, as well as Ukrainian patriots and nationalists who oppose allowing one of Ukraine's holiest sites to fall under Moscow's control.

Top officials, such as Culture Minister Mykhailo Kulyniak and Kyiv's chief architect, Serhii Tselovalnyk, also recently expressed their opposition to a cathedral on the historic site. Another hearing was planned soon to resolve the conflict and choose a winning proposal, said Mr. Tselovalnyk, the contest commission chair.

The mounting opposition, and expectations that the church proposal would be defeated, may have prompted the UOC-MP's priests to stage the May 25 raid, fearing their plans for a cathedral would be derailed.

An eyewitness account offered by National Deputy Sviatoslav Oliinyk of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc showed all indications of a raid – an unlawful seizure or occupation of property.

At about 11 p.m. six trailer-bed trucks arrived with a crane, which lifted the trailers onto the grounds of the historic site.

"A squad of police officers arrived at the site, but no one presented them any documents at their request," Mr. Oliinyk reported, adding that a trucking crew member assaulted his colleague, who was taking photographs. Among the absent documents was a permit for the crane, he reported.

A UOC-MP priest also witnessed the events.

"When asked what was happening, he explained in a boorish manner that the trailers were brought to begin construction of the Desiatynna Church," Mr. Oliinyk told the Ukrayinska Pravda website.

## Robbing Ukraine's...

(Continued from page 6)

In fact, the "poor harvest in 2010" was a big fat lie. The harvest was above-average when compared to Ukraine's annual average grain production of 36.1 million tons during the last two decades.

Ukrainian agriculture hit bottom in 2003 with a harvest of 20.2 million tons of grain, then peaked in 2008 at 53.2 million tons. The "poor harvest of 2010" was 39.2 million tons, which exceeded the average by 3 million tons, without even taking into account 6 million tons of grain rolled over from the harvest of 2009.

With the president's announcement of duties replacing quotas, it will be amusing to see what the Ukrainian WTO delegation comes up with as a new sales pitch to extend the scheme. The targeted grains are those most produced by domestic farmers: wheat, buckwheat, corn, barley and rye.

Meanwhile, government officials remained indignant as the Ukrainian public grew more informed of its corruption. In his controversial interview with the Kyiv Post, Ukraine's Minister of Agriculture Mykola Prysiazhniuk stuck to his guns and reiterated that the main reason for the quotas was Ukraine's grain shortage.

Media criticism of the trade policy or questioning the role of the Khlib Investbud is swiftly addressed by the key

The next day, Mr. Tselovalnyk told the press the trailers were brought for archaeological work, not construction – a claim that was refuted by Vitalii Koziuba, an archaeologist at the Institute of Archaeology at the National Academy of Sciences who has performed work at the site.

Protests were held in the following days, drawing only about 50 demonstrators on May 27 and about 300 opponents on May 28.

Ukraine's other leading church, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) made no statements on the May 25 statements and has yet to organize any demonstration at the site.

Instead its leader, the 82-year-old Patriarch Filaret, said in an interview published on June 1 in the Ukrayina Moloda daily newspaper that the Yanukovich administration in fact "secretly supports" the UOC-KP.

"Filaret thinks he's outfoxing them," said Dr. Oleh Soskin, director of the Institute of Society Transformation in Kyiv and an avid member of the UOC-KP. "Instead he's justifying this government in saying it supports him. Filaret is only interfering nowadays and demoralizing the Ukrainian Orthodox community."

The UOC-MP has long sought to gain control of the site of the Church of Tithes, built by Prince Volodymyr the Great between 988 and 996.

The Moscow-directed Church established a chapel on the territory in 2007, which critics said was done illegally, without the necessary permits. The chapel has doubled in size since then, serving as a residence for priests and drawing worshippers.

Since the election of President Viktor Yanukovich in February 2010, the UOC-MP announced its intentions to expand its control of Ukraine's holiest sites, including the Monastery of the Caves (Pecherska Lavra) National Museum Complex, the Khersones Tavriyskyi National Historical Reserve Complex near Sevastopol and St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, which currently is under state control.

players, who put pressure on the privately owned media. (State-owned media is virtually silent on these schemes.)

Kyiv Post Chief Editor Brian Bonner led his staff in going on strike after the Ukrainian government tried to prevent the release of the revealing interview in which the agriculture minister avoided answering whether a close associate of the president, Yuriy Ivaniushchenko, controls Khlib Investbud.

A first draft of legislation approved by the Verkhovna Rada on April 21 calls for quotas to be replaced with export duties of 9 percent to 14 percent. Mr. Yanukovich said on May 25 that he expects this legislation to be implemented.

Replacing export quotas with export duties is an old trick in post-Soviet politics. The export duty is essentially a sales tax on exports that has the same effect as quotas. The duties discourage exports and reduce their quantity, and raise grain prices.

The grain industry generates 15 percent of Ukraine's exports – or \$7.5 billion – that is ripe for raiding by corrupt officials. Khlib Investbud has already bought up 2 million tons of grain, or 5 percent of the market, at an estimated value of \$375 million.

Extending the current policy could not only destroy the agricultural sector of Ukraine, but cause capital, both foreign and domestic, to flee the agricultural sector for other industries or abandon the Ukrainian economy altogether.

## Government erects...

(Continued from page 1)

export," the insider wrote. "Yet the Agrarian Fund was sure that Khlib Investbud would sell that amount for 7 million hrv (\$875 million U.S.). This company emerged suddenly, without competition or alternatives."

An audit conducted by the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine in 2011 confirmed that the Agrarian Fund failed to uphold fair competition in state purchasing in 2010, as well as effectively spend budgetary funds.

"A structure created to stimulate production of agriculture and develop the agrarian market acted practically in the opposite direction," the whistleblower wrote.

The "latest swindle that destabilized the grain market" proved to be a misdemeanor compared to the alleged crimes that ensued in its grain export activity in the following months, as reported by the whistleblower in an article, "Pirates of the Grain Sea," published on March 11 in Dzerkalo Tyzhnia.

The outlined scheme bore all the essential elements of a classic Ukrainian oligarch heist of the Kuchma era, including corrupt tenders, bribery, distorted pricing, tax evasion, deception before global authorities and an international network of fake off-shore companies, linked by a single bank.

Among the more scandalous revelations was that Khlib Investbud's only three clients were three companies with barely any statutory funds, scattered across the globe: Victoria Alliance in Birmingham, England, Alteron Limited in Auckland, New Zealand, and Restex Alliance in the British West Indies.

The main shareholder in the New Zealand company was listed as a representative of a local native tribe, the whistleblower reported. In Birmingham, the single shareholder was an individual named Andrii Ostapka.

Moreover, Victoria Alliance and Alteron Limited reported to have sold their grain to Restex Alliance, the only firm of the three claiming to sell the grain on a real market.

"Three different offshores companies in different corners of the earth," the insider wrote. "But do you know what links them? Settlement accounts in the same bank, Regional Investment Bank in Riga. Moreover they were opened within small gaps in time. And it can be assumed that they're monitored by one person, for convenience. One more detail: Riga and Cyprus figure in the majority of offshore schemes on the post-Soviet sphere."

The other striking fact was the alleged profit made from buying grain cheaply on the Ukrainian market and then selling it offshore at world market prices.

For example, corn bought at \$235 per ton in Ukraine was sold for \$305 per ton abroad, a profit of \$70 a ton, the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia whistleblower reported. Thus, 400,000 tons of corn exports produces \$28 million in untaxed profit.

### Behind the schemes

Observers knew from the early origins of the alleged grain scheme that Khlib Investbud was a subdivision of a state-owned enterprise, State Food-Grain Corp. of Ukraine, created on the ashes of another defunct state company.

It wasn't until January that the public learned from company representatives – State Food-Grain Corp. General Director Oleksandr Lavrynychuk and Khlib Investbud Chair Robert Brovdi – that Khlib Investbud was a private company created within the state-owned structure.

Ukraine's Agriculture Minister Mykola Prysiazhniuk said on January 27 that Khlib Investbud was 61 percent state-owned. He declined to name its private partners.

The March article in Dzerkalo Tyzhnia stated that Mr. Prysiazhniuk's claim was false, and that as early as August 2010 a private company, Kalasar, took a 51 percent stake in Khlib Investbud.

The two identified partners in Kalasar are the Cyprus-based Genetechma Finance Ltd. and Oleksandr Kozyriev. Russia's VneshEkonomBank, a state monopoly tightly controlled by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, acknowledged that one of its Cyprus-registered affiliates also is a Kalasar partner.

Yet all these structures are believed to be fronts for the real players involved.

The Kyiv Post confirmed with anonymous grain traders and diplomats in Kyiv that among the main players in Khlib Investbud is Yuriy Ivaniushchenko, a long-time associate of President Yanukovich and fellow native of Yenakiyev in the Donetsk Oblast.

Also known as "Yuriy Yenakiyevskiy," Mr. Ivaniushchenko is a Donbas oligarch whose wealth was estimated at \$102 million by the Kyiv-based Focus magazine in its March issue.

Mr. Prysiazhniuk granted the Kyiv Post an interview on April 12, during which he didn't deny or confirm that Mr. Ivaniushchenko was a partner in Khlib Investbud.

Afterwards, government officials made attempts to prevent the interview from being published by contacting the newspaper's publisher, Mohammed Zahoor, who has extensive ties with businessmen of the Party of Regions of Ukraine.

Chief Editor Brian Bonner refused to pull the interview, resulting in his dismissal on April 15 and a subsequent strike by his fellow staff members at the Kyiv Post, after which he was reinstated. These events led Mr. Ivaniushchenko to hire a public relations team that launched a campaign to clean up his image.

As part of the effort, he granted an interview to the newly launched Forbes-Ukrayina magazine, in which he acknowledged his involvement in the Ukrainian agricultural market but continued to deny an ownership role in Khlib Investbud.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: For more on Ukraine's grain market, see the commentary on page 6.*



**Arkadij Oceretko MD**, 87, of Sun City West, AZ, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 23, 2011, with his family by his side. He was known to many as "Dr. O" during his 27-year medical practice as a general surgeon in Bath, ME. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Gloria in 1998, and is survived by sons Peter of West Bath, John of Fort Pierce FL, Steve and his wife Carrie of Phoenix, AZ, daughter Lydia and her husband Arcadio Morales of Tacoma, WA. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Ian and Derek Butcher and Emily and Nicholas Oceretko.

A graveside service took place on Thursday, May 26, 2011, at Sunland Mortuary in Sun City, AZ. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be sent to Hospice of the Valley Sherman Home, 5801 E Mayo Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85054.



The divine liturgy at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church.



Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel, the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., during the divine liturgy at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church.

## Thousands make annual pilgrimage for Providna Nedilia services



The procession to the memorial cross at the spiritual center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – On the first weekend after Easter, it is tradition for many Ukrainians throughout the diaspora to visit the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Cemetery located in South Bound Brook, N.J. On St. Thomas Sunday, or the Provody Pilgrimage, families gather at the gravesites of their loved ones to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The pilgrimage began on the Saturday before Providna Nedilia, when Bishop Daniel, the hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., served divine liturgy with clergy of the New York/New Jersey Deanery.

Later in the day, the board of trustees of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary held its annual meeting at the seminary.

Meanwhile, St. Andrew Cemetery, which is located behind the Church, was a place of spiritual reunions for many visitors.

On Sunday morning, families arrived at the crack of dawn at the cemetery, where they were welcomed by members of the Ukrainian Orthodox League.

The divine liturgy on Providna Nedilia was celebrated by Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel with the dozens of concelebrating clergy.

The children of Ukrainian Language and Religion School at the Metropolia Center greeted the bishops with flowers and the president of the Protection of the Birth-Giver of God Sisterhood, Maria Konyk, welcomed them with the traditional bread and salt. The pastor of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church, the

Very Rev. Yuriy Siwko, welcomed the bishops to the church.

Bishop Daniel delivered a sermon praying for “the peace and freedom of God’s creation.”

After the divine liturgy, the hierarchs of the Church, along with the clergy and the Ukrainian American Veterans of the U.S. armed forces, led a procession to the main cross of St. Andrew Cemetery, where a memorial service was held for the victims of the Holodomor, the victims of Chornobyl, those who served in the armed forces of both Ukraine and the U.S., and those who gave their lives for Christ.

Following the memorial service, the procession moved to the Holy Resurrection Mausoleum, where Mstyslav I, the first patriarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, is interred. The memorial service was offered for the patriarch and other hierarchs interred in St. Andrew Cemetery.

The memorials continued throughout the day, as Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel offered their prayers at the graves of the deceased hierarchs and clergy of the Church.

All the points of interest of the Spiritual Center remained open for the weekend so that visitors had an opportunity to partake in the day-to-day life of the national headquarters of the UOC-U.S.A.

The Ukrainian Cultural Center was packed with people. Numerous Church organizations come on this day to display their ministry and dozens of vendors offer Ukrainian folk art and other cultural, religious and historical items for sale.

The Ukrainian Cultural Center was also the site of an ice cream social event, which was an opportunity for the youth to meet with the three hierarchs of the Church.

In addition, the Ukrainian Orthodox Museum provided hundreds of visitors with the opportunity to come in contact with their historical, spiritual and cultural roots. Natalia Hocharenko, curator, answered numerous questions regarding the progress of construction at the museum.

This annual pilgrimage has seen many generations of Ukrainian immigrations visiting the Metropolia Center. This tradition allows older generations to share stories of their deceased family members with the younger generations.



The memorial service at the great cross in South Bound Brook, N.J.



# Chicago's...

(Continued from page 5)

The Rev. Myron Panchuk, a doctoral student in psychology, explained the psychological effect of the Chernobyl accident and the legacy of Russian colonial oppression of the Ukrainian people. He indicated that he truly understood the impact of the accident only after visiting and discussing with the survivors still living illegally in the Chernobyl restricted zone the residual damage to the body and the mind of this tragic event. He spoke of the two-edged sword presented by technology and the human need to cautiously control and use this powerful gift in improving our lives. He warned that mankind's hubris is perhaps the greatest danger to the successful use of technology.

Ms. By, a photojournalist who flew in from Kyiv for this exhibit, shared with the audience her impressions of the people living in the exclusion zone around Chernobyl. She provided numerous photographs included in the exhibit and explained the thoughts and lifestyle of the survivors.

These people, she explained, do not

fear radiation and could not tolerate to be away from their ancestral homes. They grow their own food, pick mushrooms, dig up potatoes, take care of the chickens and livestock, and make a potent moonshine from the berries and fruits. They are generous, optimistic and full of life. They accept their circumstances stoically and enjoy their unique lifestyle. Because of their current age, within 20 years there will nobody left in this radiation-damaged land. It is our responsibility to learn from them the true spirit, resilience and love of life that is characteristic of all Ukrainians, said Ms. By.

The last few words were presented by David Tanimura, archivist for the Japanese-American Museum in Chicago. He explained that he never imagined the great similarity between the Ukrainians and the Japanese, and their shared experience of damage by nuclear radiation. He noted that his family perished in the atom bomb attack on Hiroshima and that we are all, to some degree, victims of radiation.

Mr. Tanimura thanked the UNM for remembering the Japanese and asked for help for Japan in its hour of need, just as the Japanese sent their experts to Chernobyl 25 years ago to help the Ukrainians.

# NEWSBRIEFS...

(Continued from page 14)

Russian Ministry of Justice, the AUR's lack of conformity with Russian legislation was the reason for the suspension of its activities back in November 2009. Mr. Dykumarov added that congress delegates representing 45 Russian regions approved amendments to the AUR statutes and elected a new council. "The congress

results create new favorable possibilities" for the intensification of Ukrainian community's work through the AUR, Mr. Dykumarov noted. At the beginning of this year, the Russian Justice Ministry had approached the Russian Supreme Court, requesting liquidation of the Association of Ukrainians in Russia due to non-observance of provisions of the applicable law and the association's own statutes. The Russian Supreme Court later suspended proceedings on AUR's liquidation. (Ukrinform)

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## Bandura Programs

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### Bandura Course and Junior Bandura Workshop Teaching Staff

- Ola Herasymenko
- Andrij Birko
- Yurij Petlura
- Irene Kytasty-Kuzma
- Irene Zawadiwsky
- Oleksander Petlura
- Sara Cholyway

**Junior Bandura Workshop**  
August 6 - 13, 2011

This one-week workshop covers the basics of playing bandura and bandura history. Participants are introduced to ensemble playing and singing, music lectures, elementary music theory (as needed). This workshop is designed for children ages 9 - 11.



## Bandura and Choral Programs August 6—20, 2011 All Saints Camp—Emlenton, Pennsylvania

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Kobzarska Sich Music Director



**ROMAN HURKO**  
Ukrainian Sacred Music  
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## Choral Programs

**Ukrainian Sacred Music Workshop**  
August 10 - 14, 2011

This four-day workshop provides an opportunity to sing sacred works by Ukrainian master composers and provides practical pointers for church singers, cantors, and conductors alike relative to common areas of church singing. Listening lectures will open up many hidden aspects of sacred music tradition. This workshop is designed for older teenagers (ages 15 and older) and adults of all ages.

### Ukrainian Sacred Music Workshop Teaching Staff

- Roman Hurko
- Bohdan Heryavenko
- Oleh Mahlay
- Protodeacon Ihor Mahlay

### Ukrainian Vocal Workshop Teaching Staff

- Halyna Heryavenko
- Bohdan Heryavenko
- Oleh Mahlay

**Ukrainian Vocal Workshop**  
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This one-week intensive and enjoyable workshop will focus on individual vocal development by instructors with extensive backgrounds in vocal music training. Participants will take part in daily one-on-one vocal coaching sessions along with choral ensemble singing. This one-week workshop is designed for older teenagers (ages 15 and older) and adults of all ages.

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## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

### Houston Ukrainians organize second annual pysanka workshop



Nestor Dub

HOUSTON – In order to share a Ukrainian tradition that has been practiced since ancient times, the Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston organized its second annual pysanka Workshop on April 9. Olia Palmer and Olia Dub, both active members of the club, led the workshop, sharing their expertise and showing examples of their professional designs. After a brief 20-minute crash course on designs and symbolism, 17 Houstonians picked up their “kistky” (styluses) and began creating their own pysanky. Some attendees had never heard of a pysanka while others had vague childhood memories of their grandparents making pysanky. After picking a design, workshop participants got to work; some chose traditional shapes and symbols, while others created their own artwork. Club President Andriy Lytvynchuk organized and promoted the event.

– Andrea Matla

### Holodomor survivor meets with sponsor of Massachusetts bill



BOSTON – Holodomor survivor Anna Raniuk (left) met on April 22 with State Rep. James E. Vallee, sponsor of a bill on the teaching of the Ukrainian Genocide in the state of Massachusetts. Mrs. Raniuk told him a little of the history of Ukraine and what she experienced as a survivor of the Ukrainian Genocide. She and Maria Walzer showed him the complete report of the U.S. Commission on the Ukrainian Famine, whose executive director was the late Dr. James Mace, and left him a copy of a bibliography about the Holodomor, an excerpt of the Famine Commission report, a booklet about the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 prepared for the Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies and the pamphlet issued by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. A hearing on the Ukrainian Genocide bill (S 234), which is sponsored in the Senate by State Sen. Karen E. Spilka, will be held on June 14 at 10 a.m. in Room A-2, at the Massachusetts State House. Ukrainian community members are encouraged to attend in order to support passage of the bill.

– Maria Walzer

### Making contact with The Weekly

Readers/writers who send information to The Ukrainian Weekly are kindly asked to include a daytime phone number and a complete mailing address. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact correspondents regarding clarifications.

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*The Ukrainian Weekly announces a special section*

### Congratulations, Graduates!

Every year tens of thousands of students throughout North America receive undergraduate and graduate degrees at colleges and universities, cresting a pinnacle of personal achievement.

**The Ukrainian Weekly's special section – Congratulations, Graduates!** – offers readers of The Ukrainian Weekly the opportunity to place a note congratulating family members and dear friends on their recent achievements. This annual section will be published on July 3, 2011.

To place an ad congratulating a recent graduate, please send us the following by June 20:

- your note of congratulations, in Ukrainian or English, which should be no more than 50 words, including names;
- in English, the full name of the graduate, the degree completed or diploma received, along with the date it was presented, a list of awards and honors given to the graduate, and the name and location of the school;
- a photo of the graduate (optional);
- payment for the ad;
- your daytime phone number.

The ad sizes for the greeting are a 1/8 page horizontal for \$100 or a 1/4 page ad for \$180.

Please make checks payable to The Ukrainian Weekly and mail along with above information to:  
The Ukrainian Weekly – Congratulations, Graduates!  
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For further information, please call 973-292-9800 ext. 3040 or visit [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com)

## NOTES ON PEOPLE

### Earns doctorate in pharmacy

PHILADELPHIA – Diana K. Serba graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia on May 13 with a doctorate in pharmacy.

Dr. Serba is the daughter of Eugene Serba, an auditor of the Ukrainian National Association, and granddaughter of Peter Serba, long-time secretary of UNA Branch 173. Peter Serba first enrolled his granddaughter in the UNA when she was a baby.



Dr. Diana K. Serba at her graduation with her father, Eugene Serba, and grandfather, Peter Serba.

### Scientist to receive honorary degree

QUEENS, N.Y. – On June 2 Dr. Leo M. Chalupa will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Queens College in New York, in recognition of his exceptional contributions in the field of science, specifically in the field of visual neuroscience.

Having earned his bachelor's degree in physiological psychology from Queens College, Dr. Chalupa will receive this honorary degree from his alma-mater based on his research on how environmental and genetic factors are complementary in the process of shaping the wiring of the visual system.

The Queens College Commencement Book of 2011 noted that, with his hard work and dedication, Dr. Chalupa is devoted "to furthering [the] understanding of how the brain works, educating and mentoring generations of students and scientists here in the United States and abroad, and serving the larger scientific community."

Dr. Chalupa has been acknowledged for his accomplishments at many universities and programs across the United States. His works have been published in several distinguished scientific journals.

A Queens native, Dr. Chalupa graduated from Queens College. He then

Dr. Serba was a four-time recipient of UNA scholarships. She earned a B.A. in biology from Rutgers University in May of 2007.

She has attended various camps and social events at Soyuzivka through the years. In 2002 she was a debutante in Philadelphia at the Ukrainian Engineers Ball.

Dr. Serba enjoys running and outdoor activities in her spare time. She is currently trying to qualify for the New York Marathon.

Dr. Serba will be a pharmacist in Hoboken, N.J., with CVS after completing her board certification in June.

earned his doctorate in neuropsychology at the City University of New York. He proceeded to work as an educator and administrator at the University of California-Davis, where Dr. Chalupa joined the faculty to become "a Notable Professor of ophthalmology and neurobiology." He became the chair of neurobiology, physiology and behavior in the College of Biological Sciences. Dr. Chalupa also taught at the Institute of Neurophysiology in Pisa, Italy.

Currently, Dr. Chalupa is a prominent neuroscience researcher and professor of pharmacology and physiology at George Washington University, where he was also named vice-president for research in 2009.

Dr. Chalupa has received many honors, one of the most notable being a Guggenheim Fellowship at Cambridge University. He was also elected a fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Association for Psychological Science. He has secured grants from the National Science Foundation, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Guggenheim Foundation and many others.

In his younger years, Dr. Chalupa graduated from St. George Ukrainian Catholic School and Stuyvesant High School. He spent his summers at the Ukrainian Gold Cross camp in Leighton, PA. Dr. Chalupa was also a member of the student organization Zarevo.

### Activist cited by legislator

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – Doug Martindale, Member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly for Burrows, made a statement to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly before the provincial legislation on April 28 honoring Lesia Szwaluk, a woman who has worked in Ukrainian education and cultural development her entire life. She has won many awards, including the Shevchenko Medal.

Ms. Szwaluk was born in 1950 to Ukrainian immigrant parents. At a young age, she became involved in the Ukrainian community by educating herself about her heritage. As she got older, she worked with children in the Ukrainian Youth Association, which is an organization that she belonged to as a child. Ms. Szwaluk was devoted to teaching young children what she learned.

Ms. Szwaluk became an executive assistant to the Multicultural Secretariat Department and was involved in the Ukrainian Kyiv Pavilion for many years. She has been working with the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Center organization for 20 years and is currently the chair of the board.

With her dedication and hard work, Ms. Szwaluk has helped many Ukrainian Canadian organizations in Manitoba. Ms. Szwaluk was president of the Manitoba Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress for 20 years. Since 2001, she has been the executive director of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko.

In 2007 she received the Shevchenko Medal for her community involvement, both nationally and internationally. The Shevchenko Medal, awarded by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), is among the highest form of recognition that can be awarded to individuals for their valuable contributions to the development and organization of the Ukrainian Canadian community. This can be awarded to individuals of Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian descent and also to organizations and institutions.

In 2009 Ms. Szwaluk was awarded another medal for her noble work by President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine.

As noted by Mr. Martindale, "Ms. Szwaluk's dedication cannot be fully accounted for on paper, but the countless people whose lives are better for it are living testaments to her work. She has many contributions that have helped shape the character of the community."

### Elected to lead Missionary Sisters

STAMFORD, Conn. – Sister Evhenia Prusnay was elected mother general during the General Chapter of Elections of the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God (MSMG) convened in the Sisters' chapel here on Tuesday, April 26.

The following sisters also were elected: first councilor – Sister Yosaphata Litvenczuk, MSMG; second councilor – Sister Ann Binkowski, MSMG; third councilor – Sister Timothea Konyu, MSMG; and general secretary – Sister Antonia Kudlick, MSMG.

Archbishop Stefan Soroka celebrated the divine liturgy to the Holy Spirit and afterwards presided at the elections.

Mother Evhenia was born in Ligacao-Parana, Brazil. She entered the

Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Mother of God in 1957, at the tender age of 13. After graduating from Mother of God Academy, she earned an associate's degree in early childhood education and later a bachelor's degree in theology.

Sister Evhenia taught pre-school and kindergarten children at the Nursery of the Infant Jesus in Philadelphia, from 1966 to 2002. She continues to instruct parish youth as a catechist and has been a curator at the Treasury of Faith Museum, owned by the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, since its institution.

The new mother general is known for her compassionate, gentle and sincere personality. Sister Evhenia said that, with complete trust in God's Holy Will, she will strive to accomplish her six-year office as a mother general of the Missionary Sisters of Mother of God.



Sister Evhenia Prusnay, MSMG, and Archbishop-Metropolitan Stefan Soroka in the chapel of the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God in Stamford, Conn.

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

**“Settling on an entirely new place is always hard. Having our own house was a dream that seemed to never be accomplished. But thanks to the help of the consultants from Ukrainian National, we got the mortgage and we got our home! It’s huge and bright and warm... But what’s more important, it’s full of a child’s laugh and happiness!”**



Ihor T. and Tetyana T. with their son, Andriyko.  
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4th of July Weekend : : Oselia CYM - Ellenville, NY

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# OUT AND ABOUT

- Through June 26  
Chicago Art exhibit, featuring works by Roman Vovk, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 or info@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org
- June 9  
New York Benefit concert for victims of Chornobyl and the Fukushima nuclear disasters, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660
- June 11  
Warren, MI 50th anniversary of the Ukrainian Future Credit Union, featuring the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 586-757-8130 or www.ukrainianculturalcenter.com
- June 11  
Ambler, PA Golf tournament, Ukrainian American Sports Center - Tryzub, Limekiln Golf Club, 215-914-1251 or www.tryzub.org
- June 11-12  
Wisconsin Dells, WI Golf tournament, Camp Baraboo - Ukrainian American Youth Association, Trappers Turn Golf Club, 773-456-0956 or ukimario@gmail.com
- June 14  
Philadelphia Book presentation, "The Jew Who Was Ukrainian" by Alexander Motyl, Soyuzivka Heritage Center, oksanauna@comcast.net
- June 17  
Perry Hall, CT Crab feast, Baltimore Ukrainian Festival Committee, Columbus Gardens, 410-967-4981
- June 17-19  
Yonkers, NY Ukrainian Festival, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, www.brama.com/yonkersukrainianfest
- June 18  
Houston Exhibit, "Ancient Ukraine," Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston, Houston Museum of Natural Science, www.hmns.org or 713-639-4629
- June 19  
Horsham, PA Father's Day Ukrainian Fest, featuring stage performances and the U.S. Amateur Soccer Association National Cups, Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub, 215-362-5331 or www.tryzub.org
- June 19  
Carteret, NJ Father's Day pig roast, St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 732-485-7681 or 732-619-3259
- June 23  
Ottawa General Meeting and Barbecue, Ukrainian Canadian Professionals and Businesspersons - Ottawa Branch, home of Bob Seychuk and Ilonka Bogish, 613-228-0990
- June 25  
Woonsocket, RI Parish picnic and festival, St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 508-883-9952 or 508-883-7902
- June 26  
Ottawa Taras Shevchenko monument unveiling, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine, 613-723-1673 or www.st-john-baptist-shrine.ca
- June 26  
Ottawa "Historical Train of Ukrainian Pioneers," from Halifax to Edmonton, arrives in Ottawa, 613-230-2961 or train@ukremb.ca

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](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com).

## PREVIEW...

(Continued from page 24)

the Trypillian and Scythian eras, along with ancient icons from the Pecherska Lavra Monastery. For information visit [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org), or call 713-639-4629 (museum) or 713-306-2874 (Cultural Club).

### Sunday, June 19

**HORSHAM, Pa.:** The popular Father's Day Ukrainian Fest will commence at 1 p.m., at Tryzubivka (Ukrainian American Sport Center, County Line and Lower State roads). A 2 p.m. stage show will feature the Voloshky School of Ukrainian Dance, the Svitlychka School's Children's Performing Group and the Karpaty Orchestra. A zabava-dance to the tunes of the orchestra will follow. Tryzubivka will also host the U.S. Amateur Soccer Association National Cups (Open and Amateur, Men's and Women's) Region I Championship Tournament from 10 a.m. through 7 p.m. (on both Saturday, June 19, and Sunday, June 20). Some of the best amateur soccer teams in America will compete for the U.S. Open and Amateur Region I Cups. There will be plentiful Ukrainian homemade foods and baked goods, picnic fare and cool refreshments. Admission on Sunday: \$5 for adults; children age 14 and under: free. Admission on Saturday: free. For more information call 215-362-5331, e-mail [eluciw@comcast.net](mailto:eluciw@comcast.net), log on to [www.tryzub.org](http://www.tryzub.org), or check out Tryzub Ukrainian Club on Facebook.

### Saturday-Sunday, June 25-26

**ELLENVILLE, N.Y.:** The Organization for Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine invites all to the 11th Lemko Vatra in the U.S.A., at the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) resort. The program includes: dances on Saturday featuring Halychany and Mosaic from Toronto; concerts on Saturday (5 p.m.) and Sunday (2 p.m.) presenting artists from Ukraine, Lemkivschyna, Canada and the United States, dance groups, comedians and more; a pig roast (Saturday, 3:30 p.m.); arts and crafts exhibitions and other attractions, Ukrainian cuisine. The vatra/bonfire lighting is on Saturday at 5 p.m. A pontifical divine liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday at 10 a.m. by Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM. For more information, e-mail [VatraUSA@aol.com](mailto:VatraUSA@aol.com) or call 973-772-3344, 203-762-5912, or 845-647-7230. The UAYA resort is located at 8853 Route 209, Ellenville, NY 12428.

### Friday-Sunday, July 1-3

**LONDON, Ontario:** Zustrich 2011 ODUM Reunion will take place at the Ukraina grounds. Join us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of camps of the Ukrainian Democratic Youth Association (known by its Ukrainian acronym as ODUM). The agenda for the weekend activities includes a dance with the band Solovey reuniting, bonfire, concert, golf tournament, assembly and children's activities. Check out the website <http://www.odum.org>, which links to ODUM Camp Reunion for more details or call Lisa Petrusa Hawkins, 434-841-2973.



## Help Us Build a New Playground at Soyuzivka

As many of you know, the Soyuzivka playground is in need of replacement! It is the central "gathering place" for all our young guests and is used by many of our young campers. With your help and support, we can have a new one in place for the 2011 Summer Season!

**100% of your donations will go to the project!  
No donation is too small!**

Your **tax-deductible donation** can be accepted at the Soyuzivka Main Office or via mail:

The Ukrainian National Foundation  
UNF - Soyuzivka Playground Fund  
P.O. Box 280, 2200 Route 10  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Please make checks payable to:  
UNF - Soyuzivka Playground Project

Questions? Please contact  
Tanya Soltys ([ukiewebmistress@comcast.net](mailto:ukiewebmistress@comcast.net)) or  
Bohdana Puzyk ([bpuzyk@optonline.net](mailto:bpuzyk@optonline.net))

\*This project is an independent group effort by friends of Soyuzivka. More information is available on [www.soyuzivka.com](http://www.soyuzivka.com).



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soyuzivka@aol.com

June 6 - June 9 - Retreat

June 12 - June 17 - UNA Seniors Week

June 19 - Father's Day

June 26 - Beginning of summer season

June 26 - July 2 - Tabir Ptashat session 1

June 26 - July 7 - Tennis Camp

Fourth of July Weekend - Zabavas to be announced

July 3 - July 8 - Tabir Ptashat session 2

July 3 - July 16 - Dance Workshop

July 8 - To be announced

**July 15 - July 17 - Ukrainian Cultural Festival**

July 17 - July 22 - Heritage Camp session 1

July 17 - July 23 - Discovery Camp

July 22 - July 24 - Adoption Weekend

July 23, 9:30 pm - Zabava - to be announced

July 24 - July 29 - Heritage Camp session 2

July 24 - July 30 - Sports Camp session 1

July 24 - August 6 - Dance Camp session 1

July 30, 9:30 pm - Zabava - Luna

July 31 - August 6 - Sports Camp session 2

August 6, 3 pm - Dance Camp Recital

9:30 pm - Zabava - Na Zdorvya

August 7 - August 20 - Dance Camp session 2

August 13, 9:30 pm - Miss Soyuzivka - Zabava - Svitanok

August 20, 3 pm - Dance Camp Recital

9:30 pm - Zabava - Fata Morgana

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, June 15

**MONTREAL:** The Montreal premiere of "Genocide Revealed," the multi-award winning feature documentary produced and directed by Yuriy Luhovy will take place at 7 p.m. at the Ukrainian Youth Center, 3270 Beaubien Est. Narrated by actor Grahame Greene, the film exposes Moscow's policy of genocide against the Ukrainian nation. The film focuses on the 1932-1933 Famine in Soviet Ukraine and the accompanying decimation of the national elite; it is based on testimonies of survivors, commentaries by historians, recently uncovered archival documents. The film screening is sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Montreal branch. The filmmaker will be present. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for stu-

dents, with proceeds to offset cost of the documentary. For more information contact Marika Putko, 514 725-0812, visit the website [www.yluhovy.com](http://www.yluhovy.com), or e-mail [mmlinc@hotmail.com](mailto:mmlinc@hotmail.com).

Saturday, June 18

**HOUSTON:** Join the Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston for coffee and a brief lecture at 11 a.m. by museum docents on "Ancient Ukraine - Golden Treasures and Lost Civilizations," an exhibit at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. A guided tour of the exhibit will follow the lecture. The exhibit covers 6,000 years of history of various cultures that once inhabited the territory of modern-day Ukraine and features artifacts of

(Continued on page 23)

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



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