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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Tymoshenko ally Ivashchenko receives sentence of five years



UNIAN/Vladimir Gontar

Valeriy Ivashchenko, Ukraine's defense minister in 2009-2010 in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, is seen in court on April 12.

KYIV – Another ally of jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, former Acting Defense Minister Valerii Ivashchenko, has been sentenced for abuse of office.

The Pechersky District Court of Kyiv on April 12 sentenced Mr. Ivashchenko, who served in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Tymoshenko between June 2009 and March 2010, to five years in prison. Prosecutors had asked the court to sentence the former acting minister of defense to six years in prison and deprive him of the right to hold public office for three years.

The Procurator General's Office (PGO) on

August 20, 2010, had opened a criminal case against Mr. Ivashchenko under Section 2, Article 364 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (abuse of power or office). Mr. Ivashchenko was found guilty of signing a financial readjustment plan regarding the sale of the integrated property complex of the state-owned Feodosiya Shipbuilding and Mechanical Plant in Crimea in November 2009. The land-privatization deal allegedly cost the state budget nearly \$10 million.

The former Cabinet official had been held in Kyiv's pre-trial detention center since his arrest on August 25, 2010.

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv reacted by releasing the following statement on April 13: "With respect to the conviction of former Acting Defense Minister Ivashchenko, we are deeply disappointed in this latest example of selective justice in Ukraine and call for his release, particularly given the state of his health after 18 months in pre-trial detention."

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, said in a statement: "Despite repeated calls on Ukraine to uphold international standards for fair trials, including that they are transparent and independent, this case, especially the hearing of 9 April, demonstrates significant shortcomings in these areas."

Mr. Ivashchenko said he considers the sentence "illegal and unfair." He is the third former member of the Tymoshenko government sentenced to prison on similar charges.

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Canadian minister visiting Ukraine concerned about "politically motivated prosecutions"



CIDA

Canadian International Cooperation Minister Bev Oda and some members of her delegation during their visit to Ukraine.

by Christopher Guly

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

OTTAWA – Canada remains concerned about Ukraine's state of democracy and its judicial system. In an April 17 conference call with reporters in Canada as she concluded a weeklong visit to Ukraine, Canadian International Cooperation Minister Bev Oda said from Kyiv that Ukrainian courts "are not truly independent of the government here."

She explained that, during a meeting with members of Ukraine's opposition parties held over the Easter weekend accord-

ing to the Julian calendar, she expressed Canada's concern about "a number of politically motivated prosecutions" in Ukraine and that country's need to establish both a "more independent" judiciary and "strong laws that will be enforced clearly."

A news release, issued a day earlier, used even stronger language. "Canada remains concerned about the apparently arbitrary and politically biased judicial proceedings against [former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia] Tymoshenko, and other individuals, which undermine the rule of law."

(Continued on page 4)

Chicago-area Plast members celebrate organization's centennial

by Marta Kolomayets

ROUND LAKE, Ill. – It was 100 years ago and thousands of miles away in Lviv that the first Ukrainian scouts took the oath of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, initiating a rich history that has survived the Soviet Union, two world wars, a famine, displaced persons camps, mass emigration, repression and assimilation, and has emerged to witness expansion and rebirth in an independent Ukraine.

The spirit of the event that took place a century ago was rekindled on Wednesday evening, April 11, on the outskirts of Chicago, as close to 200 members of Plast renewed their commitment to the organization that has played a significant role in their upbringing and has provided a plethora of precious memories through the years.

During a sunset ceremony on shores of Round Lake, a property recently acquired by the Ukrainian Youth Camping

Organization, Plast members of all ages agreed that the historic ceremony was romantic, emotional and symbolic.

The ceremony – which began with the

lighting of three torches, carried by Chicago's Plast leadership, Kathie Doliszny, Zoriana Remeniuk-Kolomayets and Andres Durbak – symbolized the three main pledg-

es of the Plast O3ath which guides youths to be faithful to God and Ukraine, to help others, and to live by the Plast Code and be mindful of Plast's leadership.

"We are gathered here as one large family, and the fact that so many of you came out on a Wednesday night to witness this historic event is testimony to the fact that the foundation of this organization is strong and deeply rooted," said Andrew Kolomayets, an active member of the Chicago Plast community and master of ceremonies for the evening.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Kolomayets also welcomed guests who may not have been in Plast, but who feel an allegiance to the organization through family and friends.

"One hundred years ago, 40 Ukrainian boy scouts from the First Academic Gymnasium, students from the seminary



Marko Pilecky

Fourteen plastuny light torches to symbolize the 14 points in the Plast Code.

(Continued on page 11)

ANALYSIS

Russian elections are over and Putin won: Now what?

by Jacob W. Kipp
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Russian parliamentary elections in December 2011 inspired a wave of demonstrations against graft corruption and a rigged vote, as well as political rumblings across the country. Yet, in spite of it all, Vladimir Putin won a resounding victory in Russia's March 4 presidential elections and will take office in May for a six-year term.

In the immediate aftermath of the election, the global press was full of speculation about where Russia was headed under Mr. Putin. Much of the discussion focused on whether and how Mr. Putin might adapt his version of managed democracy to changes in Russian society, especially the emergence of political demands in the two major urban centers, Moscow and St. Petersburg, for a more open and less authoritarian order. Some doubted Mr. Putin's ability to evolve, citing his background in the KGB and his many years already in power.

John Lough – an associate fellow of the Russia and Eurasia Program at Chatham House and vice president of BGR Gabara, a public affairs and strategic consulting company that supports pan-European government relations services, media relations across Europe, political campaign management and financial communications – wrote of Mr. Putin having lost his “Teflon coating.” Mr. Lough, who has spent years in Moscow, appreciates how Mr. Putin earned his “Teflon” and understands how he lost it. The absence of viable alternative candidates gave Mr. Putin his easy victory this time, but it did not end the underlying problems of Russian society, especially among the young and upwardly mobile, who do remember the decade of crisis that brought Mr. Putin to power but want more than minor political and economic reforms, which might turn “stagnation minus” into “stagnation plus” (The Moscow Times, March 13).

Anti-Americanism: Tactic, strategy or ideology?

The other major focus in the global press was on what direction Russian foreign policy might take. In the West, and especially in the United States, the focus was on the fate of the “reset” in U.S.-Russian relations, which had gotten rocky in November 2011 over Russia's objections to the further development of the U.S.-NATO European missile defense system in the absence of any agreement on NATO-Russian cooperation. Relations got worse as the situation in Syria moved from demonstrations to repression and approached civil war, with Russia and China vetoing an Arab League-sponsored resolution calling for President Bashar Assad to step down.

On the eve of the elections, National Public Radio interviewed Ambassador Michael McFaul on the future direction of U.S.-Russian relations. Dr. McFaul, an expert on Russia before he became a diplomat, had been involved in the formulation of the “reset” at the beginning of the Obama administration. He expressed surprise at the anti-American tone of Mr. Putin's presidential campaign and the current tensions between the U.S. and Russia over humanitarian intervention in Syria.

On the eve of the election – with public opinion polls predicting a Putin victory – Ambassador McFaul stated that the U.S. government would continue to follow the “reset.” “We think it's been successful. And

we plan to stick to our guns. And we look forward to having a partner on the other side that sees the value in continuing as well” (National Public Radio, March 3).

Nikolai Zlobin also commented on the anti-Americanism in Mr. Putin's electoral campaign but attributed it to a flawed ideology that affects Russians: “According to this line of reason, the only way to accomplish periodic attempts at modernization is to rally the people against an outside enemy.” Mr. Zlobin decries such efforts to convince the Russian people that the country's development – and even survival – depends on defeating an imaginary outside threat (The Moscow Times, February 16).

A British view of Russian foreign relations

Whether Mr. Putin's anti-Americanism was just election posturing or ideological manipulation to foster internal mobilization for transformation does not answer the question of just how will Mr. Putin, the geopolitical realist, guide Russian foreign policy over the next six years. Saying more of the same does not really provide a compelling answer because Mr. Putin has been adaptive to circumstances.

In the wake of 9/11, he was an open proponent of U.S.-Russian cooperation against terrorism. When the Bush administration decided upon military intervention in Iraq, Mr. Putin's government expressed its opposition to that course of action. Russia has cooperated in efforts to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons and has supported sanctions against Iran as it has warned against ill-considered military options. Allied forces in Afghanistan receive supplies via lines of communication crossing Russia.

Russia is not a superpower, but it is a regional power and claims to be one of the emerging regional great powers, which include Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). The BRICS are expected to exercise increasing influence over the next decades. In this context, the most effective prism for assessing Mr. Putin's post-election foreign policy is regional, as James Nixey made clear in a recent essay on “Russia's geopolitical compass.”

Mr. Nixey's essay is part of a Chatham House Report. He addresses four geostrategic axes for Russia: the West, Russia's many “souths” – the Black Sea region and the Islamic world – Russia's Far East and the Arctic North. Mr. Nixey emphasizes the enduring importance of the West to Russia as a point of orientation. But Russian analysis has shifted its focus and now does not perceive the West as “a monolith – and certainly not all-powerful.” This fact, in part, explains his subtitle: “Losing Direction.”

In his review of Russia's relations with Britain, Germany and the United States, Mr. Nixey underscores the diverse relations that Russia has with the West, but also suggests that U.S.-Russian relations under the “reset” have not achieved a qualitative breakthrough because the Russian elite continues to see the United States as a rival if not an overt enemy in spite of the “reset.” Mr. Nixey does recommend that the U.S. Congress should repeal Jackson-Vanik as a Cold War relic in the hope that after the U.S. presidential elections political stability will permit the administration to devise the means to deal with “a more assertive Mr. Putin.”

(Continued on page 3)

NEWSBRIEFS

European Court opens Lutsenko case

KYIV – The European Court of Human Rights on April 17 began hearings in the case of jailed former Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko, who has asked the court to rule whether his December 2010 arrest and subsequent detention were politically motivated. In February Mr. Lutsenko was convicted and sentenced to four years in prison for embezzlement and abuse of office. Mr. Lutsenko has appealed his conviction and sentencing with the Ukrainian appeals court. Mr. Lutsenko's lawyer, Valentyna Telichenko, said the case had “great significance” for the case of jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who was sentenced to seven years in prison in October 2011 on similar charges. Both Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Lutsenko claim they are the victims of politically motivated repression by the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich. (RFE RL, with reporting by UNIAN)

Former environment minister sentenced

KYIV – Former Ukrainian Environment Minister Heorhii Filipchuk has been sentenced to three years in prison. A judge of the Solomiansky District Court in Kyiv, Volodymyr Melnyk, announced the court ruling on April 5. “The court found Mr. Filipchuk guilty under Section 3, Article 365 of the Criminal Code, sentenced him to three years in prison and changed the measure of restraint for him from a travel ban to detention. He was taken into custody in the courtroom and sent to a detention center,” the former minister's lawyer, Mykola Shupenia, told reporters. He said that Mr. Filipchuk had been convicted for abuse of office and power over the signing of an agreement with the AstapovLawyers law firm on the provision of consultations to the Environment Ministry during the consideration of a dispute at international law institutes regarding the cancellation of an agreement signed between the Ukrainian government and Vanco International Ltd. on the energy development of the Black Sea shelf. The former minister's wife, Natalia Filipchuk, told reporters that her husband had been sentenced to three years

in jail for causing financial losses for the state: “Losses were inflicted on the state due to the fact that he transferred funds to AstapovLawyers for the rendered services, although there were all permits – from the Finance Ministry, the state treasury, etc.” His lawyer said he would file an appeal, because “it is a completely absurd court ruling... We have provided much evidence that Mr. Filipchuk acted in line with law,” Mr. Shupenia said. He added that Mr. Filipchuk had fulfilled an order of the Cabinet of Ministers, in particular, from former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. “There were some orders from the prime minister and repeated resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers. We brought all of these materials and the court studied them, but, unfortunately, they were not taken into account,” he said. (Ukrinform)

Vlasenko on Scherban murder

KYIV – The defense team of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko is ready to accept any information regarding the murder of National Deputy Yevhen Scherban from a former employee of the Directorate of State Protection, Mykola Melnychenko. According to the press service of the Batkivshchyna Party, Ms. Tymoshenko's lawyer, Serhii Vlasenko, said on April 17: “We are 100 percent sure that information from Mr. Melnychenko's records will fully confirm the innocence of Yulia Tymoshenko and reveal the names of those who ordered the killing.” Mr. Melnychenko earlier wrote on his Facebook page that he has information about the murder of Mr. Scherban and is ready to provide this information to the relevant parties. “In short, yes, Mr. Scherban's killing was discussed in the office of [former President Leonid] Kuchma. I'm ready to provide all the information available to me, first and foremost, to Mr. Scherban's son, for him to know the truth about the murder of his father. I'm also ready to provide this information to the Procurator General's Office and Ms. Tymoshenko's lawyers. In case of consent [preferably from the Procurator General's

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Ukraine's ambassador visits Connecticut

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Olexander Motsyk traveled on a working visit to Connecticut on March 21-22.

During his visit, he met with Connecticut State Sen. Kevin Witkos (R-8th District), Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra, New Britain Mayor Tim O'Brien, and Alderman Adam Platosz of the New Britain City Council.

Sen. Witkos discussed Connecticut's partnership with the Zhytomyr Oblast in Ukraine, specifically, the cooperation and implementation of projects in the cultural, education and law enforcement spheres. The two spoke about a proposed trip to Ukraine by a parliamentary and business delegation from Connecticut to further bilateral cooperation.

"I am pleased to welcome Ambassador Motsyk to the State of Connecticut," said Sen. Witkos. "Our meeting was an excellent opportunity to discuss how we can strengthen the cultural, economic and educational ties between our state and Ukraine. I look forward to working with the ambassador and representatives of local cultural organizations to find new areas of increased cooperation."

One idea discussed by the ambassador and Sen. Witkos was the formation of a sister-city partnership between Sen. Witkos' hometown of Canton, Conn., and a town in the Zhytomyr Oblast. The sister-cities issue was also raised with the Hartford and New Britain mayors; partnerships are proposed between Zhytomyr and Hartford, and Berdychev and New Britain. Mayor Segarra suggested arranging a number of art, music, drama and other cultural projects within the Envision Festival.

Other stops by the ambassador included the Lincoln-



During his visit to Connecticut on March 21-22, Ambassador Olexander Motsyk of Ukraine to the United States (center) meets with Bishop Paul Chomnycky (second from right), eparch of Stamford, of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and Msgr. John Terlecky (left), Lubow Wolynets (second from left) and the Rev. Bohdan Danylo (right) during a visit to the Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford.

Bassett School in New Haven, where students presented an art showcase of Ukraine. The New Britain Public Library, which hosts art exhibitions and other cultural events, was also a stop on the tour.

During a meeting with the Fermata Arts Foundation, which hosts international cultural projects with Eastern European countries, including Ukraine, the ambassador and foundation members suggested the creation of a network of cultural clubs to arrange art exhibitions and per-

formances by Ukrainian actors in New Haven. The non-profit organization aides in the preservation of peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation (www.fermata-arts.org).

Ambassador Motsyk met with Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Ukrainian Catholic eparch of Stamford, where he toured the Ukrainian Museum and the Library of Stamford, and held a discussion with the Ukrainian community of the New England area.

Russian elections are over...

(Continued from page 2)

In the Black Sea region and the Islamic world, Mr. Nixey focuses upon the Arab Spring and its impact upon Russian policy. He suggests that Russia's efforts to play the role of a great power have put it into a position of isolation with regard to the West and to the Arab states. Of course, Russia's isolation with regard to the veto of humanitarian intervention in Syria was not complete. Russia joined China in that venture and here Mr. Nixey takes note of Mr. Putin's desire to make Russia an Asian power, even as its underlying weaknesses in Siberia and the Russian Far East are evident.

Mr. Nixey agrees with Bobo Lo, senior research fellow at the Center for European Reform in London, that Russia's relations with China are nothing more than an "alliance of convenience" by which Russia seeks to leverage influence with the West to gain acceptance. In this context, China is only a "geopolitical counterweight to the West."

Turning to the Arctic, Mr. Nixey notes Russia's interest in this region because of its geo-strategic position, its energy potential and the emerging possibility of maritime navigation in the polar north. Mr. Putin has expressed a powerful vision of Russia's place in a dynamic Arctic region and has sought foreign assistance in getting access to the region's natural resources. But, there has also been much talk about the militarization of Russia's Arctic bastion to stake claims to sovereign access to the region's resources.

Beyond the individual regional directions, Mr. Nixey sees the underlying fact of Russia's control of considerable natural resources, especially oil and gas, making it a key player in the global economy. (James Nixey, Chatham House, 2012).

A geopolitical view from Paris

Other analyses of the impact of Mr. Putin's election on Russian foreign policy have emphasized the differences among leading Western powers in their approach to Russia. Marc Rousset, a French historian and political analyst and author of *La Nouvelle Europe: Paris-Berlin-Moscou* [The New Europe: Paris-Berlin-Moscow] (2009), commented that Mr. Putin's election was good news for "Old Europe." According to Mr. Rousset, Mr. Putin would bring "bravery, foresight and pragmatism" to Russian policy in the interest of creating a geopolitical order from the Atlantic to Vladivostok.

Mr. Rousset emphasized that Mr. Putin is a European from St. Petersburg working toward closer ties among Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. His conception of a Eurasian union had the possibility of creating an imperial order to rival that of the American empire and the emerging new orders in China and India (*Rossiiskaia Gazeta*, March 6).

Mr. Rousset was quoted in November of last year as seeing the emergence of an axis of Paris, Berlin and Moscow being the answer to the present crisis in the Eurozone and the

means to restore Europe's position as a major player in the international system (*Rossiiskaia Gazeta*, November 17, 2011). Sergei Karganov answered that line of thought in December of last year by calling on Russia to turn away from Europe and make its future with a dynamic Asia-Pacific region led by China (*Rossiiskaia Gazeta*, December 28, 2011).

"The German" is back in charge

The view of Mr. Putin's foreign policy from Berlin takes into account Europe's economic problems. Alexander Rahr, Mr. Putin's biographer and the program director of the Berthold Beitz Center for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Central Asia of the German Foreign Policy Association, stressed the need for Europe to cultivate economic ties with Russia. Mr. Rahr, who made the subtitle of his biography of Mr. Putin "Der Deutsche im Kremlin" ["The German in the Kremlin"], was quite optimistic about Mr. Putin's accomplishments during his third term as president.

He asserted, "I think the president will accomplish everything that he spoke and wrote about in his articles: the further strengthening of the social bases of the state, the country's military potential, democratic institutions, investment climate, the movement of Russia into the World Trade Organization and the global structures of the world economy. He will also shift the modernization of Russia, which will move away from dependence on oil and gas."

Mr. Rahr emphasized the need for the European Union to open its own window to Russia in order to survive and prosper in a new global situation. Liberal opinion in Europe has been very negative toward Mr. Putin and considered his election illegitimate. But European opinion had to overcome that view. Mr. Putin would remain committed to a strategic partnership with the European Union, even as Russo-American relations remained rocky over European missile defense and the crises in Syria and Iran. Changes in the rest of the world would enhance Russia's importance for the EU. America would have to face the economic rise of China as a true competitor.

In this context, Mr. Rahr presented Mr. Putin as a practitioner of Realpolitik, whom the EU would do well to cultivate as a partner. Mr. Rahr pictured a multi-polar world order where Western unity would be, at best, nominal (*Rossiiskaia Gazeta*, March 6). Mr. Rahr carried these points further in a piece on Mr. Putin's proposed Eurasian Union, in which he stated that the idea of a Eurasian Union based on cooperation among Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus held out the prospect for peace, economic development and stability for the region. If successful, it could be a suitable partner for the European Union, now going through its own troubles (*Alexander Rahr, Valdai Discussion Club*, March 14).

Once more, Eurasian dreams

In the aftermath of Mr. Putin's election, Aleksandr Dugin, the chief ideologue of anti-Western Eurasianism, stated that Mr. Putin stood at a moment of strategic choice: embrace the liberalism and Westernism of Russia's bour-

geois elite or the nationalism of the Russian common folk – historically the victims of the corruption of Russia's liberal elite, which champions Russia's subservience to the West.

Mr. Dugin wrote that by promoting a Eurasian Union, Mr. Putin had already spoken the word that defined his choice. This was the path to national revival and to an economy based upon the reconstruction of Russia's defense sector. Mr. Dugin states: "Both sides want reforms from Mr. Putin but they desire direct opposites. The elites want democratization, modernization, liberalization and growing closer to the West. The people want the national idea, a firm hand, a strengthening of sovereignty, a great power state, paternalism and social justice."

This choice for Mr. Putin comes at a particularly critical moment, according to Mr. Dugin. The hegemony of the U.S. and its allies is being tested in an emerging multi-polar world. The immediate challengers are Syria and Iran. But once those two states have been defeated by military intervention, Russia itself will have to face the threat of such intervention. "...after the prepared attacks on Syria and Iran, the logical next target will be Russia. Of course, Russia will not survive such a confrontation with the West alone. Therefore, it is necessary to quickly create a multi-polar coalition, doing everything so that China, India, the states of the Islamic World, Asia and Latin America would be on our side," Mr. Dugin writes (*Aleksandr Dugin, Argumenty i Fakty*, March 14).

Mr. Dugin sees an alliance with China as supporting both the domestic and foreign policy goals of Russia as understood by the creation of a Eurasian Union. Mr. Putin has articulated a different role for the Eurasian Union and sees Russian cooperation with China, as a necessary part of Russia's integration into the coming century of Asia. As seen from Eurasia, Mr. Putin would seek stability with the West, strengthen Russia's ties with its neighbors, be pragmatic toward Washington but expect no major breakthrough in relations, and cultivate ties with Beijing to ensure Russia's position in Asia. As Mr. Putin declared in his pre-election foreign policy program, "Russia needs a prosperous and stable China just as China needs a strong and successful Russia" (*Aziatskii Reporter: Delovye Khroniki Vostoka*, March 6).

There have been many rumblings since the March 4 presidential election about Russia's future relations with China, much of it informed by the perception of the dynamics governing the Beijing-Washington-Moscow triangle and the various forces acting upon it. Some of the comments envision a deepening of the strategic partnership between Moscow and Beijing, while others openly speak of China as an economic threat to Russia's interests. So far the geo-strategic re-orientation of the Obama administration does not seem to have impacted Russian strategy, which still sees U.S.-NATO missile defense as the decisive barrier to qualitatively different relations.

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OBITUARIES

Archbishop Michael Bzdel, 81, former metropolitan of Canada

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Archbishop Emeritus of Winnipeg Michael Bzdel, (CSsR), of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, died on April 3. He was 81.

Born in Wishart, Saskatchewan, on July 21, 1930, the archbishop began his theological studies in Roblin, Manitoba, at the future St. Vladimir's College, where he joined the Redemptorist Fathers. He completed his studies in theology and philosophy in Waterford and Meadowvale, Ontario (1948-1955) and was ordained to the priesthood on July 7, 1954.

He served as parish priest in Roblin, Manitoba (1955-1967), where he also taught at St. Vladimir's College. Later, he served as parish priest in Winnipeg, Manitoba (1967-1971), Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (1972-1981), and Yorkton and the surrounding area in Saskatchewan (1981-1984), at the same time serving as provincial superior for the Redemptorists' Yorkton province. A sabbatical in 1971-1972 allowed him to study pastoral counseling at St. Paul University in Ottawa.

On March 9, 1993, he was elevated to the episcopate, with the rank of archbishop of Winnipeg, and served as the Ukrainian Catholic metropolitan of Canada. He was appointed to the position by Pope John Paul II on December 29, 1992. He retired as archbishop in 2006 after reaching age 75, the age for retirement of hierarchs.

As metropolitan, Archbishop Bzdel served as one of four ex officio members of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and served on a number of the CCCB's committees and commissions, in particular the former ad-hoc Committee for Aid to the Church in Eastern and Central Europe and the Balkans. In 1997 Pope John Paul II named him a delegate to the Special Synod for the Assembly of Bishops for America.

Funeral services were held on April 11 and 12 at Ss. Vladimir and Olga Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Winnipeg and at St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Church, followed by interment at Holy Family Cemetery in Winnipeg.

Debut novel wins fourth Kobzar Literary Award



Shandi Mitchell holds the Kobzar Awards statue.

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – Shandi Mitchell's novel "Under the Unbroken Sky" became the winner of the fourth Kobzar Literary Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to Canadian literature through an author's presentation of a Ukrainian Canadian theme with literary merit.

Sponsored by the Shevchenko Foundation, the award was presented at the March 1 Kobzar Literary Award Dinner in Toronto. The winner of the \$25,000 biennial award is selected by a jury of Canadian writers. This year the jury included Nino Ricci, Denise Chong, M.G. Vassanji and Randall Maggs (winner of the 2010 award) who had chosen the award winner from a short list of five books. (See The Ukrainian Weekly, February 12.)

"Under the Unbroken Sky" tells a tale of family, survival, love and betrayal, and chronicles the experiences of a Ukrainian immigrant family affected by the bleak circumstances of the 1930s depression in prairie Manitoba, and both callous and loving relations within the family. Ms. Mitchell lives in Nova Scotia and this was her first

novel.

The actual bronze award statue, by the late Ukrainian sculptor Leo Mol, depicts a kobzar. Accepting the award from Andriy Hladyshevsky, president of the Shevchenko Foundation, Ms. Mitchell revealed that she was of Ukrainian heritage on her father's side. He had been in the Canadian military and had Anglicized the family name from Michaylyshyn.

Her grandmother had died when she was 12, and Ms. Mitchell said she tried to reconnect with her Ukrainian heritage on her own through a personal search for family secrets. She said she was extremely touched "to come back to a community you have missed and in many ways that you have lost."

The biennial award process is administered by Dr. Christine Turkevych, director of literary arts. In her closing remarks, Dr. Turkevych mentioned that, when the award was inaugurated in 2006, Geoffrey Taylor, director of the International Authors Festival, had told her that "no one will take you seriously until after at least three awards." As this was the fourth award presentation, Dr. Turkevych emphasized, "We are serious!"

Bishop Efraim Krevey, 84, former eparch of Curitiba

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Bishop Efraim Krevey, eparch emeritus of the Curitiba Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Brazil, died on April 3 after a long illness. He was 84.

Ordained to the priesthood in November 12, 1951, by Archbishop Ivan Buzko, he was elevated to the rank of bishop on February 13, 1971, by Cardinals Bernard Jan Alfrink and William John Conway, with the blessings of Pope Paul VI.

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Curitiba, Brazil, serves as the

eparchy's see.

On November 29, 1971, Bishop Efraim was appointed as coadjutor bishop of the Curitiba Eparchy. Bishop Efraim succeeded Bishop Jose Romao Martenez as eparch after his retirement on March 10, 1978.

One of the oldest bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Bishop Efraim's retirement was accepted by Pope Benedict XVI on December 16, 2006. Bishop Efraim was succeeded by Bishop Valdomira Koubetch.

Canadian minister...

(Continued from page 1)

Ms. Oda told The Ukrainian Weekly that she did not visit Ms. Tymoshenko in prison, but noted that Valerii Ivashchenko, who served as the former prime minister's acting defense minister, was sentenced to five years in prison, for abuse of office related to the privatization of a shipbuilding plant in the Crimean port of Feodosiya, on April 12, shortly after her arrival in Ukraine.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird warned that Mr. Ivashchenko's conviction "may call into further question" Ukraine's judicial independence. "A troubling trend is continuing in Ukraine," he said in an April 13 statement. "Like previous, apparently politically motivated prosecutions, this undermines the institutions upon which a peaceful, prosperous and democratic society depends."

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, which was represented on the delegation accompanying Minister Oda to Ukraine, later issued a news release noting that it would be "very difficult for the international community to accept the legitimacy" of the fall parliamentary elections.

Mr. Ivashchenko joins Ms. Tymoshenko's other ex-Cabinet colleagues Yurii Lutsenko, the former internal affairs minister, serving a four-year sentence for embezzlement and abuse of office, and former Environment

Minister Heorhii Filipchuk, who recently received a three-year prison sentence for hiring a law firm in a dispute over oil drilling in the Black Sea.

Ms. Oda did meet with Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, as well as several of his Cabinet colleagues, including Finance Minister Yurii Kolobov and Economic Development and Trade Minister Petro Poroshenko.

One of the highlights of those meetings was an invitation for Canada to send election monitors and observers before and during Ukraine's October 28 parliamentary elections. Ms. Oda also stressed how important it is for Ukraine to ensure there is an environment for "open and fair elections, democracy, human rights and the rule of law for all Ukrainians." Canada, it should be noted, helped Ukraine establish a central voter registry.

The minister's visit also focused on improving opportunities for Ukraine, which she noted lacks "the policies and framework based on a free and open economy."

In Kyiv, Ms. Oda held roundtable discussions on economic growth with Ukrainian government representatives that addressed

the importance of such issues as competition and property rights, along with a "predictable" legal environment that would make it "safe" and easy to do business in Ukraine, as well as a reduction in "state interference" in the national economy.

Yet, on the website of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Ukraine is "considered a fully functioning market economy." (Ms. Oda is responsible for Canada's overseas development assistance through the agency.) Three years ago, Ukraine was also chosen to be one of 20 countries "of focus" that would receive 80 percent of Canadian aid and, according to Minister Oda, Ukraine will not be affected by recently announced \$377 million (about \$380 million U.S.) in cuts over three years to Canada's \$5 billion foreign aid envelope.

During a visit to Dnipropetrovsk, she announced a new CIDA initiative, the Ukrainian Grain Storage and Marketing Cooperative, to support grain farmers in the southeast Ukrainian city, as well as Crimea, in forming co-ops. Ms. Oda also participated in a roundtable in Dnipropetrovsk that focused on the agricultural sector and the importance of increasing the competitiveness of small

and medium-sized enterprises. In the 2010-2011 fiscal year, CIDA increased the number of small-scale farmers receiving technical assistance to improve crop income by 2,010 over the previous year, resulting in more than 3,300 farmers benefiting from the program.

But Ms. Oda's most poignant remarks to reporters back home in Canada were about the "incredible honor" she felt in visiting the Kyiv memorial to Holodomor victims and paying tribute to the millions of Ukrainians who died during the Famine. "It was a powerful reminder of the need for vigilance and what happens when freedom is forsaken," she commented.

Ms. Oda traveled to Ukraine with a Ukrainian Canadian delegation that included Ukrainian Canadian Congress Executive Director Taras Zalusky; Taras Pidzamecky, president of the Ukrainian Credit Union and national president of the Ukrainian National Federation; and Borys Potapenko, executive director of the League of Ukrainian Canadians.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited Kyiv and Lviv during a two-day visit to Ukraine in late October 2010.

Eleven years earlier, former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien became the first Canadian head of government to visit Ukraine since it regained its independence in 1991 – the year Canada became the first Western country to recognize newly independent Ukraine.

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Young UNA'ers



Zachary, Abigail and Tatiana Matejko Lima, children of Christina and Luiz Lima of Lyndhurst, N.J., are new members of UNA Branch 234. They were enrolled by their grandmother Dr. Irene Matejko.

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

Do you have a young UNA'er, or potential young UNA'er in your family?

Call the UNA Home Office, 973-292-9800, to find out how to enroll.



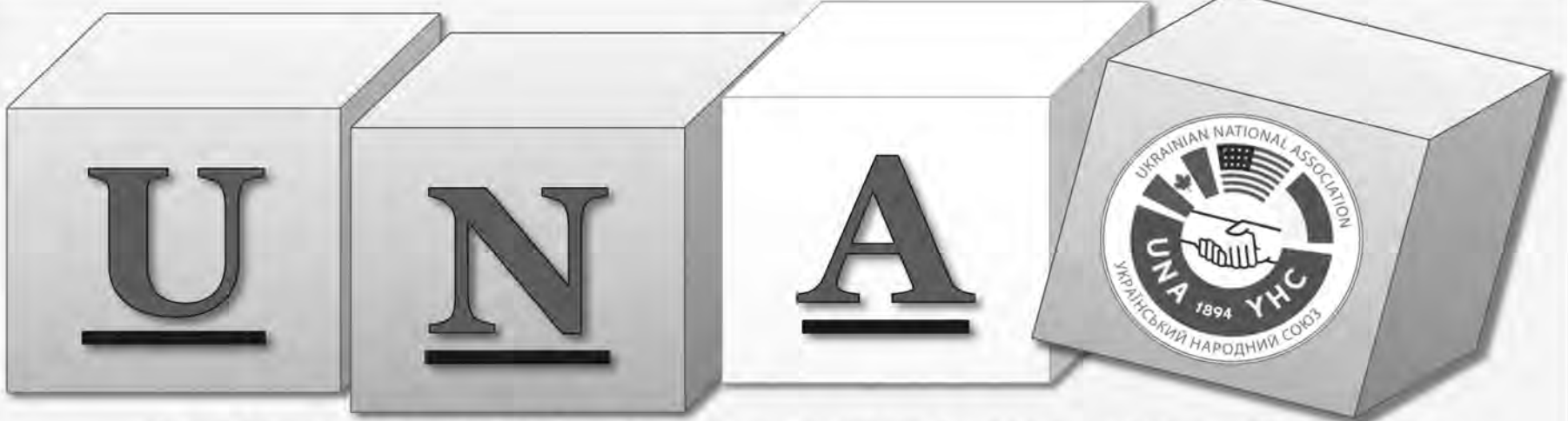
Xenia Anna Kaczurak, daughter of Esteban and Natalia Kaczurak of Ridgewood, N.Y., is a new member of UNA Branch 42. She was enrolled by her parents.



Lukas Pei Rondiak, son of Mark A. and Michelle Rondiak of Santa Monica, Calif., is a new member of UNA Branch 777. He was enrolled by his grandparents Roman and Ulana R. Rondiak.

Correction

In the story "Portion of Soyuzivka lands to be preserved as parkland" (UNA Forum, April 15), a typographical error in the UNA-issued news release gave the incorrect acreage of Soyuzivka before the sale of 233 acres to the Open Space Institute. Soyuzivka encompassed 366 (not 466) acres before the sale.



Is Your Child Or Grandchild A UNA Member?

20 Year Endowment*

- Issued to persons between the ages of 0-80
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- Premiums are payable for 20 years
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- Life insurance plan and systematic savings combined
- IRS: interest is taxable during accumulation period

*Not available in all states.

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- Issued to persons between the ages of 0-10
- Minimum policy size is \$5,000
- Premium payable until age 18
- No policy fee
- Full face amount paid at death or on maturity date at age 18
- Life insurance plan and systematic savings combined
- IRS: interest is taxable during accumulation period

*Not available in all states.



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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The Plast Oath

It was on April 12, 1912, that the first group of Plast scouts, or "plastuny," took the Plast Oath in Lviv, Ukraine, where the Ukrainian scouting organization, based on Robert Baden-Powell's "Scouting for Boys," was founded. The first Plast patrols were formed in 1911 by Dr. Oleksander Tysovsky, Petro Franko and Ivan Chmola, and in the spring of the following year the first patrol of plastuny at the First Academic Gymnasium (secondary school) took the Plast Oath, pledging "to be loyal to God and Ukraine, to help others, to obey the Plast leadership and to live according to the Plast Code."

The Day of the First Plast Oath is considered to be the highlight of the 100th jubilee year of Plast, which began last year with a North American Plast jamboree. In fact, Plast branches around the globe – in nine countries located on four continents – are celebrating this special day with appropriate ceremonies and gatherings all through the month of April. Here in the United States, the first such ceremony was held by the Chicago branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization at Round Lake, where Plast members renewed their oath and two young members took the oath for the first time (see story beginning on page 1); other U.S. branches will follow suit in the days to come. In Ukraine, the main commemoration of the historic Plast Oath of 1912 will be held on April 28-29 in Lviv.

All these events, we hasten to add, are leading up to the grand celebration of the centennial that will be held in and around Lviv on August 9-25, during the Jubilee International Plast Jamboree. (The jamboree's official website, <http://www.plast.org.ua/100/>, features a clock that counts down the days, hours, minutes and seconds to the beginning of the big event. As of the date of this issue there were 109 days to go.)

What's so special about the Plast Oath (Prysiaha) and why do we celebrate it 100 years later? Ever since the words of the oath were first uttered, they have remained the same, reflecting the enduring ideals of this extraordinary organization whose goal is to mold our youths into patriotic Ukrainians and future leaders. For the goal of Plast was never about Plast alone. The goal always was to nurture young people, to mold youth of exceptional character and worldview, and to encourage them to serve the Ukrainian nation, society at large and their community. The character of a Plast member is encapsulated in the 14 points of the Plast Code (Zakon), while the Plast worldview is reflected in the Plast Vow (Obit), which is recited during the very special ceremony at which young scouts are welcomed as full-fledged members of Plast.

Furthermore, as many Plast members note, "once a plastun, always a plastun." The Plast Oath taken by current and former members of Plast is something that remains with them, serving as the foundation of their lives and their activity in diverse fields of endeavor.

Adherence to the Plast Oath was and is in evidence whether those Plast members were members of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen or the Ukrainian Insurgent Army that fought for their country's independence; whether they were active in Plast when it functioned openly or operated in the underground under the Polish and German occupations; whether they were/are members of Plast in Ukraine, where it was founded in 1911 and reborn in 1991, or in the displaced persons camps and the diaspora, where it was transferred by emigrants from Ukraine and joined by new generations born beyond the borders of Ukraine.

A true plastun, you see, is ever faithful to the words and spirit of the Plast Oath. And that is something for us all to celebrate as we mark Plast's centennial.

April
25
2006

Turning the pages back...

Six years ago, on April 25, 2006, the Embassy of the United States in Ukraine released a statement by President George W. Bush on the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, which occurred on April 26, 1986.

"On the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, I join my fellow Americans in expressing our deepest condolences for this tragedy. Today we remember the victims of this horrible accident and recognize those who still suffer great hardship in its aftermath," the president stated.

President Bush commended the closing of the Chernobyl plant in 2001 by the Ukrainian government, and noted the ongoing commitment by the American government in the effort to improve the safety and security of Chernobyl by confining its nuclear reactor. Mr. Bush also acknowledged the work done by organizations that combat the ongoing suffering in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus in the aftermath of Chernobyl.

"On this solemn anniversary, we pay tribute to the lives lost and the communities hurt in the devastation following the disaster at Chernobyl. We are encouraged as the people of Ukraine and neighboring regions resolve to rise again and reclaim a future of hope and dignity," the statement concluded.

Last year, on the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton released a statement commemorating the event.

Source: "President Bush's statement on Chernobyl's 20th anniversary," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 30, 2006.

NEWS AND VIEWS

20 years of channeling support from California to Ukraine

by Anne Kokawa Prokopovych

LOS ANGELES – In March 1990, a community meeting was organized by Bohdan Mykytyn, Lubomyr Osadca and Zenon Zachariasevych to coordinate a grassroots response to the news of developments in Ukraine that later led to that nation's independence. With overwhelming community response, the three organizers spearheaded the formation of the California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU).

With support first coalescing in the Ukrainian diaspora community, then extending into the local Southern California community and beyond, CAAU's commitment has been based on a belief in the resourcefulness and spirit of the men, women and children in the emerging democratic nation of Ukraine. By targeting unmet needs, CAAU continues to facilitate broader development of social and economic infrastructure for current and future generations.

Initially, CAAU was actively engaged in promoting democracy by supporting organizations such as Rukh and the Sabre-Svitlo Foundation, as well as coordinating humanitarian aid relief efforts that included shipments of clothing, and medical equipment and supplies.

Over the past 20 years, CAAU's efforts have expanded to include projects that leverage modest investments from the local community into lasting positive results for the people in Ukraine.

International Healthcare Fellowship

During her visit to Los Angeles in June 2006, the head of the Supervisory Council of Ukraine 3000 and then First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko shared her vision for the Children's Hospital of the Future as a state-of-the-art institution in Kyiv to provide medical care to critically ill infants and children in a country where such services have not kept pace with the rest of the world.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (CSMC) in Los Angeles responded through its interest in international collaboration and technology transfer to develop the International Healthcare Fellowship program in conjunction with Ukraine 3000 and support from CAAU.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of America's best hospitals, is the largest academic medical center in the western United States. Physicians and scientists at Cedars-Sinai are engaged in basic and clinical research to bring medical advancements directly from the laboratory to the bedside.



CAAU Wheelchairs for Ukraine delivers the gift of mobility, independence and dignity to needy children and adults in Ukraine.

The first session of the fellowship program for physicians from Ukraine was held in November 2008, followed by about one session annually. Each session is tailored to the special interests of the participants, ranging from oncological hematology to build diagnostic skills that will guide effective treatment procedures, to administrative and operational disciplines, including finance, logistics and record-keeping.

Wheelchairs for Ukraine

For the past 15 years, CAAU and UCP/Wheels for Humanity have been working in partnership to bring the gift of mobility to needy children in adults in Ukraine. Together, the partnership has completed over 10 deliveries of wheelchairs and other mobility aids to needy people in regions including Lviv, Rivne, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Khmelnytsky, Volyn, Zakarpattia, Chernivtsi and Kharkiv.

The success of the Wheelchairs for Ukraine partnership has been largely due to the countless hours of volunteer work to refurbish wheelchairs at the UCP Wheels for Humanity facility in North Hollywood and to assist with the customized seating and distributions in Ukraine, with volunteers traveling on their own time and expense.

(Continued on page 18)

Kateryna Yushchenko thanks CAAU

Following is an excerpt of the remarks delivered by Kateryna Yushchenko, head of the Supervisory Council of the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation and former first lady of Ukraine, at the 20th anniversary celebration of the California Association to Aid Ukraine.

...Twenty years. Is that a lot, or a little? In the life of a person, it's a lot, an entire generation. In the life of a nation, it's only a second of time. But in the life of a new country, it is a great deal.

Thank you for being there for Ukraine in her first 20 years – for coming immediately upon her rebirth, for helping her to grow. Thank you for teaching her doctors, which has meant saving the lives of thousands of those doctors' patients. For giving wheelchairs to those who had no way of leaving their homes before. For teaching scientists, who may go on someday to make discoveries which will not only affect Ukraine, but may even change the world. For publishing books for our children, and helping our orphans and old people to live better lives. ...

FOR THE RECORD**Remembering Akcja Wisla:
ethnic cleansing of April 1947**

Following is the text of a statement issued by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America to mark the 65th anniversary of Akcja Wisla.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the forced resettlement of 150,000 Ukrainians from their indigenous territories (the Lemko, Sian, Kholm and Pidliashia regions) to territories in northern Poland. This forced deportation was a deliberate attempt by Soviet and Polish authorities to destroy the identity and culture of Ukrainians residing in the Lemko and surrounding regions in Polish-occupied Ukraine.

The official purpose of the military operation, codenamed Operation Vistula, or Akcja Wisla, was to incapacitate the active units of Ukraine's liberation force, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), in the Lemko region, and deny it a source of local support. In fact, the action was a premeditated plan conducted by Soviet and Polish authorities during and after World War II "to resolve the Ukrainian question in Poland once and for all."

Ukrainians in the affected areas, regardless of their political beliefs and affiliations, were forcefully deported by swift and often violent means. Given only two hours to pack their belongings, they were forced to wait at train stations for days, sometimes weeks, before being herded onto overcrowded boxcars and relocated to territories in northern Poland. Many of the elderly

died en route due to malnutrition and inhumane sanitary conditions.

Those who survived the journey were dispersed over a wide area, with the decree that no more than five families should be settled in any given location. The ultimate goal of Polish authorities was the total assimilation of Ukrainians into Polish society. Those who resisted the deportation, or were suspected of assisting the UPA, were interned in the Yaviriya (Jaworzno - in Polish) prison camp in Poland.

Until 1956, the resettled Ukrainian community was not recognized by Polish authorities, and deportees who attempted to go back to their ancestral lands were promptly imprisoned. Only after 1957 were some deportees allowed to return to their homeland. Today, the Lemko region of Polish-occupied Ukraine remains largely under-populated, and many of its unique Ukrainian churches, cemeteries and national monuments have fallen into disrepair or have been demolished.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America solemnly remembers this dark page in Ukraine's history and commemorates the memory of the 150,000 Ukrainians forced to endure mass deportation and harsh discrimination as a result of Operation Akcja Wisla. Let us all be cognizant of the tragic effects of prejudice and discrimination, and honor the memory of those who fell victim to this ruthless policy of ethnic cleansing.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR**Ukraine's direction:
toward catastrophe**

Dear Editor:

Please, no more conferences on "Ukraine at the Crossroads" (April 8) Ukraine has not been "at the crossroads" for quite some time. The direction in which it is heading is absolutely clear: it is well on its way to a new historic catastrophe.

If Ukrainians in Ukraine, and its friends in the West, do not take radical, imaginative and effective countermeasures, Ukraine most certainly will - in the not very distant future - lose its independence and statehood, and again become a colony of Russia. And all that countless generations of Ukrainian patriots gave their lives for, and that the diaspora worked for, will be lost.

Ukraine has already been turned into a mafia state, belonging to and serving the needs of a small Ukrainophobic, criminal "elite," the regime of Viktor Yanukovich and his family, the oligarchs and the Party of Regions. Ukraine's societal and state institutions and systems - the economy,

education, the "power" agencies, the armed forces - have been, for practical purposes, destroyed, or are under the control of agents of the Kremlin. The political opposition - even if it unites - is impotent. The coming parliamentary elections will change nothing; the regime will stop at nothing - not at, again, falsifying the results, not at sending tanks against opponents - to remain in power. Ukraine is defenseless against the lethal assault that Russia launched against it years ago. Russia has, from many different mouths, arrogantly declared its intent to swallow up Ukraine. Does anyone doubt that it has the will and the resources to do so?

No need to continue discussing what happened, when and why. Any regular reader of The Weekly, anyone who has followed developments in Ukraine, understands that the country stands over a precipice. What is left is for every one of us to whom Ukraine is dear to resolve to do whatever it takes to help bring it back from oblivion and onto the road to true independence, democracy and prosperity.

George Sajewych
Silver Spring, Md.

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

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

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas

**"Reset" rerun**

The first U.S. "reset" of relations with Russia was not initiated by the Obama administration. No. The Obama reset is a rerun.

Here's the story. Soon after Russian Tsar Nicholas II abdicated in 1917, the Russian people established a Provisional Government headed by Alexander Kerensky. Democracy had finally come to Russia. As the war economy deteriorated and hardship mounted, however, a handful of Bolsheviks, headed by Vladimir Lenin, staged a coup. They promised peace, bread and land. The totalitarian, genocidal Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was born. By 1929, it was led by Joseph Stalin, a mass murderer and the most viciously brutal dictator the world has ever witnessed.

Many new nations were recognized by the United States at the end of World War I. Russia was not one of them. President Woodrow Wilson, a progressive Democrat, believed that the Bolsheviks were a gangster regime, not representative of the true will of Russia's people. Convinced that an international Communist revolution was just around the corner, Lenin couldn't care less. In 1919, he established the Communist International (Comintern). Its avowed purpose was to fight "by all available means, including armed force, for the overthrow of the international bourgeoisie and for the creation of an international Soviet republic as a transition stage to the complete abolition of the state." Attending the first Comintern Congress in March of 1919 were socialists from the United States who returned to America to found the Communist Party of America (CPA) in Chicago that same year.

All three Republican presidents who succeeded President Wilson - Warren G. Harding (1921-1923), Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929) and Herbert Hoover (1929-1933) - followed President Wilson's lead regarding Russia. The illegal Soviet Union had become increasingly depraved and heinous, and the U.S. government saw no need to change its non-recognition policy. That changed with the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933-1945), the most pro-Soviet president in the history of our nation. It was FDR who was responsible for the first "reset" with Russia.

Urged on by the likes of New York Times Moscow correspondent Walter Duranty, President Roosevelt approached the Soviets as early as October 1933, with a letter suggesting recognition was possible under certain circumstances. Stalin sent Commissar for Foreign Affairs Maxim Litvinov to the United States for negotiations. Sailing aboard the U.S.-bound Soviet ship with Mr. Litvinov was Duranty, who briefed the Russian commissar on American political affairs.

Following a series of one-on-one conversations (FDR's preferred style of negotiation), the so-called Roosevelt-Litvinov Agreement was concluded. The accord included guarantees from Litvinov that the Soviets "would refrain from interfering in any manner in the internal affairs of the United States." The United States formally recognized the USSR on November 17, 1933, during the height of the Holodomor in Ukraine. William C. Bullitt became President Roosevelt's first choice for the U.S. ambassadorship to Stalin's Russia.

The Soviets never honored the so-called "gentlemen's agreement," which ultimately opened the floodgates to Communist infiltration of the U.S. government, including the White House. Remember Alger Hiss? With

heavy financing from Moscow, Comintern agents worked closely with American Communists to undermine the United States. A well-orchestrated defamation campaign was launched against the Ukrainian American community by the increasingly powerful and influential Communist network in America.

In Moscow, meanwhile, Ambassador Bullitt was becoming thoroughly disillusioned with Stalin's Russia. "We are staggering along here, not only meeting disappointments in major matters but having to endure a thousand petty vexations..." wrote the ambassador. Mr. Bullitt later informed Washington that the Soviets had broken their pledge to refrain from subversive activities against the United States. By 1936, he wrote to Secretary of State Cordell Hull that it was "an illusion that it is possible to establish friendly relations with the Soviet Union..." Communism was a militant faith, he explained, "determined to produce world revolution and the 'liquidation' of all non-believers."

Mr. Bullitt was quickly recalled by Roosevelt and replaced by Joseph E. Davies, who was passionately pro-Soviet. Ambassador Davies and his glamorous wife remained indifferent to the disappearance of thousands of Russians and Americans during his days in Moscow. He refused to meet with American workers demanding the return of their passports by the Soviets. He wrote of his admiration of Soviet citizens for their "contentment in building socialism." Mr. Davies attended the Moscow show trials and concluded that the proceedings were fair and just; all of those executed (some of whom he had met personally) were guilty of treason. In his last memorandum to Washington in 1938, he wrote that "Communism holds no threat to the United States."

Appearing on the March 15, 1937, cover of Time magazine, the ambassador and his wife remained a popular item in both the U.S. and the USSR. In 1941, soon after his return to America, Davies penned "Mission to Moscow" which became a best-seller. In 1943, at the specific behest of President Roosevelt, Warner Bros. made the book into a Hollywood movie starring Walter Huston. Davies himself introduced the film by declaring: "No leaders of a nation have been so misrepresented and misunderstood as those in the Soviet government..."

We know what happened next. At Yalta, Roosevelt gave in to most of Stalin's demands, including a secret understanding regarding the future of Poland. He only asked that the Polish protocol remain secret until after the next election, explaining to Stalin that he needed the Polish American vote. In the end, Roosevelt's reset with Russia was a disaster for the United States and the world.

President Barack Obama's recent reset with Russia doesn't seem to have accomplished much either. It is interesting that two American presidents asked Moscow to wait until after the next election when their "flexibility" would be enhanced.

How has Europe responded to Mr. Obama's initiatives with Russia? As in the past, European leaders yawned and looked the other way.

Is President Obama aware of the consequences of President Roosevelt's historical folly regarding Russia? If not, history will repeat itself.

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is kuropas@comcast.net.

REFLECTIONS: "The photo"

by Frank E. Sysyn

As I spent St. Nicholas eve in Mshanets amidst the winter wonder of the first major snow fall in the Carpathians this December, I once again encountered "The Photo."

My cousin Olya brought out a large color photo from the early 1990s of my grandmother, my father and four of his brothers and sisters. Beneath it was a weather-worn snapshot. As I turned it over, I saw in my mother's neat hand, rather incongruously in English, "June 6, 1952." So that was when it was taken.

I still do not know the route by which it was sent to my grandfather's home village during the Stalin years that brought so much death, destruction and deportation to the little world of Mshanets. Certainly my grandfather's surviving siblings and their families lived in the terror and fear that most western Ukrainians with families abroad experienced in those years.

Indeed, around the table my family recalled a neighbor who has broken into a smile when informed of Stalin's death at school in 1953, but fortunately had quickly lain her head down and been consoled by a teacher for her grief. Pictures of the North Korean obsequies brought this story out.

But back to The Photo. There we are: my patriarchal grandfather Mykhailo/Mike in a white shirt and tie, his three sons and me, his grandson. Daughters Mary, Olga and Anna do not appear in this picture staged for the old country kin. We can still imagine my grandmother patting the head of infants saying "nice baby, boy baby."

Behind my grandfather is my father, Frank. Really he was named Fedir, and until his 16th year went to school as Theodore and was called Ted. But when he went for documents to get a job, he found that his official birth certificate was made out as "Frank," presumably one of the homonymous transfers such as all the Vasyls who became Williams and Paraskas who became Pearls in Ukrainian immigrant communities.

Next to him is my Uncle John, son of my grandfather's first wife. He is 44 years old at the time, but he does not look it. He was an example of the genetic difference of centenarians from the rest of us that must have come from his mother's family, the Mshanets Buniis. After all, his Aunt Tekla Myhal in Manchester, N.H., lived into her late 90s and was a lively little dynamo

when my Harvard student Sue Ellen Weber interviewed her in writing a history of the Manchester Ukrainian community. Uncle John, who was born in Manchester, was raised in Mshanets after his mother's death in childbirth. He only came back to the U.S. in 1924 at the age of 16 to join the family my grandfather had begun with my grandmother in Clifton, N.J. He became somewhat grey in his 80s, visited Mshanets when he was 96, and lived to 100.

Sitting is my Uncle Mike. He was a son born late in the life of a father already 50 – really a generation apart from his brothers and sisters.

And in the center, almost squealing in delight, am I. I was around because we lived in the same house as my grandparents, and my father and mother worked alongside them in their tailoring and cleaning store that was at the front of the house with its four apartments, one originally a hall with a billiards room and an after-hours community school for drilling children to write Cyrillic.

Back then Van Houten Avenue in Athenia (our neighborhood) was dotted with grocery stores and bakeries serving the various Slavs, East Europeans and some Italians who worked in the textile, rubber and manufacturing factories on the Passaic-Clifton line. On every corner and often in mid-block were the gin mills that made us all believe that our avenue was in the Guinness book of records for the most bars on a mile of U.S. road.

Looking at the bright shirt I am wearing, I assume it was sewn for me from the pieces the ladies brought from the textile and sewing shops. My mother still fondly remembers the elegant coats my grandfather tailored for me. In my Sunday best, I, my grandparents, and my mother would be driven by my father to look at property my grandfather dreamed of buying or to spend time with the "krayany" (fellow villagers), during which my poor mother would have to sit uncomprehending amidst the Ukrainian chatter about the old and new country.

Soon it would all change. We would move to our own house the next year, three or four blocks away, built on land my grandfather owned (if only we had let him buy all the land he wanted to we would now be sitting pretty). In 1956 my grandfather would pass away and soon afterwards the store would be closed.



"The Photo" taken on June 6, 1952, of three generations of Sysyns in New Jersey.

Owing to the feats of modern technology, The Photo exists in various forms. Enlarged and in a Hutsul encrusted frame (one must admit the Hutsuls had higher artistic sensibilities than the practical Mshanets Boykos), the picture hangs in my mother's house. Now she and my Aunt Olga are the only adult witnesses to the world of The Photo.

My mother is of Dutch and Irish descent and came to live in her in-laws' house in 1946. This daughter-in-law was appalled the first time she saw "studynyna" (jellied pigs' feet) brewed but tried to please her father-in-law by cooking up "kapusta" (sauerkraut) earning the award of "baika" (Boyko dialect for OK) for what she now assumes was an ill-tasting mess. But by now she has pinched tens of thousands of pyrohy (perogies).

Aunt Olga left her parents' house to marry at about the same time my mother arrived, but returned years later. She took care of her mother in her final years and now lives in the former billiard hall-cum-apartment.

A fragment of The Photo, with me and my grandfather encased in part of a pear tree limb, is a paperweight on my desk in Toronto. Before he died, our grandfather planted pear trees in his grandchildren's yards. When ours came down, my father fashioned a piece into the paperweight for me.

The Photo affected me most decisively in 1967, when I spent a summer taking Russian-language courses in Leningrad. I was really collecting material for my senior thesis on the Ukrainian intelligentsia after World War II for the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. I selected the group that would also go on the Sputnik tour to Kyiv and Odesa.

My Uncle John gave me the address of my grandfather's sister Tekla who had been deported and resettled in the Odesa Oblast (in 1950 Poland and the Soviet Union had exchanged territories and Ustryki raion was given to Poland and its population was deported to Eastern Ukraine).

My summer consisted of many adventures and breaking rules. I even gained access to the Saltykov Shchedrin Library in Leningrad, though I was the only American student to do so and all who went after me were refused. In the Soviet period one was forbidden to go more than 40 kilometers from a city (in western Ukraine the restrictions were even more severe).

I went 90 kilometers by bus to

Tsebrykove. I found the house. The old woman was confused as to who I was and then I looked at the wall and there it was, The Photo. I merely had to point at the laughing kid and all was clear.

I might add that getting back to Odesa was not easy, and the truck they arranged was stopped by a road block. I had some time in Odesa, so I requested to visit my family. Sputnik said they would arrange it, but later claimed there was an epidemic in the region. The Sputnik guide at the end let me know that they had found out I had gone on my own, but no consequences ensued.

But seeing The Photo so far away in place and time certainly made for a bond with family and Ukraine.

A number of writers of Ukrainian descent in North America have dealt with the questions of family stories in a world separated by ocean and politics. They have tried to weave back together separated strands and diverse narratives. Myrna Kostash is working on such a topic now and Janice Kulyk Keefer has given us "Honey and Ashes." I have followed similar paths, though I fear the opinionated Sysyns have left little mystery.

I still remember encountering a bevy of Sysyns in Lviv in 1978 and a brother-in-law of my grandfather and a veteran of the Ukrainian Galician Army of 1918 telling me I had eyes and ears so I should understand what the Soviet Union was. But I do have a story rounded out. The many generations of our family in the U.S. (my grandfather came in 1905) may know little of Eastern European geography and history, but they know grandfather took considerable funds home to buy land before the first world war and that the money was lost.

When the Soviets finally fell, and I got to Mshanets, my relatives confirmed that great-grandfather had not changed the money in time with the fall of the Habsburgs. They had played with the banknotes as children. Great-grandmother Sysyn had said they would never suffer this again and so in the interwar period they bought land as soon as they had money. She is reputed to have said, "Ne hynesh na hlyni" (literally "you won't perish on clay" – let's face it, Carpathian land is not black earth). Of course, the Soviets did take the land and kill so many who tried to defend it.

Meanwhile Mykhailo/Mike in the New World was trying to make up for this by buying land in New Jersey, often encountering the resistance of his American family.

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“UKRAINE AT THE CROSSROADS”: CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

James Sherr

Following is a slightly abridged text of the keynote speech delivered by James Sherr, senior fellow of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, on March 8 during the luncheon and plenary session on “The Russian Question.”

... I suspect that the question foremost on your minds is clearly the following: What can we expect from Russia-Ukraine relations after Putin’s “victory” – with a “victory in what” being a big side question?

The first thing we need to understand is what is not going to change. Unless and until there is a revolution in thinking and practice in Ukraine, Russia is going to remain a country which, by and large, regards Ukraine’s independence as a historical aberration and as an anti-Russian geopolitical project. Ukraine for Russians – Ukraine for Russia – is part of Russia’s identity. The notion that “St. Petersburg is the brain, Moscow is the heart and Kyiv is the ‘mother’ of Russia” is deeply embedded in the Russian psyche and, therefore, regardless of how Ukrainians may view the relationship, Russians generally do not understand the charge of neo-imperialism; they regard Ukrainians, Byelorussians and Russians as essentially a single people. This is not a sentiment confined to the current regime or the president-elect, [Vladimir] Putin, although he feels these things, as does current President [Dmitry] Medvedev, with a particular passion and intensity. Let there be no doubt about that.

It is a sentiment that is shared with a very large number of Russian liberals who have long hated the “system,” but are absolutely faithful to Vernadsky’s axiom that “democracy in Russia ends where the question of Ukraine begins.” It was Alexey Navalny who said recently in Ukraine on public TV that “we are, practically speaking, one and the same narod.”

Russia, under Putin, has been devoting itself in Ukraine, first and foremost, to identity politics. It is multidimensional, it is focused and it is very aggressive; it has recently felt very little pushback in Ukraine and it has been very little noticed abroad. It is something that certainly will not diminish in the foreseeable future. If there was a revolution in thinking and practice in Ukraine, you could almost tangibly



James Sherr

sense what substantial implications this would have on the character of Russia itself and, knowing that, you could understand that Ukraine’s future course is almost as vital an interest for Russia as it is for Ukraine itself. Do not underestimate, now that Mr. Putin is coming back to the presidency, what the stakes are and the risks that may be run.

That is my first point. Secondly, the geopolitical framework – the atmospherics, if you will – in Europe, as the Russians see it, has become darker, tougher, more Darwinian. In the 1990s, the Russians generally had a positive view of the strengthening of the European Union because they saw the European project as a counter to NATO and the U.S. But over the last 10 years, they have come to correctly understand that the EU, before all else, is a project or mechanism of integration on the basis of a political and socio-economic model that is, in most respects, incompatible with that which is developing and maturing in Russia and, for that matter, in most of the post-Soviet space.

That model – the post-Soviet construct – is network driven rather than market driven; it is not motivated by an ethos of competitiveness, but rather a desire for monopoly; it is not founded on property rights and judicial integrity, but on patron-client relations, an incessant need for order

and on privileged relations between business structures and power structures on every level. It is also based on money – lots of money – which is used not only to keep certain networks where they are or strengthen them, but also to expand them abroad, outside the former Soviet Union, so as to undermine the ethos and regulatory structures and mechanisms of the European Union.

And therefore, this relationship – between these two very different models of economics – is not simply confined to bilateral relations with Ukraine; it effects all of Europe. The Russians fear that the European Union is building a new Iron Curtain that is moving east; they seek to move it back West. And the fact that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are part of EU and NATO is not seen by them, at this point, as much of a deterrent.

All of this is the second reality – and that reality is magnified by the fact that the just described economic system is also Ukraine’s economic system. The failure of the Orange tandem to understand, to address it – indeed to make it the top priority, preserved Ukraine’s greatest vulnerability when the tandem was in power; now, [Viktor] Yanukovich is strengthening the construct. Is he strengthening it to help Russia? No! He is strengthening it to help himself.

President Yanukovich is doubtless someone who would prefer that Ukraine have an association agreement with the EU than that it be a member of a Russian-dominated CIS Customs Union. But he would rather be president of a Ukraine that is joining the Customs Union than not be president of a Ukraine that is joining EU. And that preference needs to be understood.

Now, let’s look forward. Today, Vladimir Putin feels very strong – and with good reason. And – I hate to say it, though we will likely soon have to accept it – as unsettling as the precipice was, the present wave of opposition has crested.

But, at the same time, even Putin knows – and we should know as well – that the next presidential term is not going to be like the last one was. One, he knows that “the teflon has worn off”; the illusions are gone. Two – and one of the world’s principal experts will be speaking to this issue in the next session – the dynamics of the economic trends of Russia, at present, are not favorable, they are not good. Thirdly, the entire economic construct/model will find itself under economic threat if, as is quite possible in

(Continued on page 16)

Walter Zaryckyj

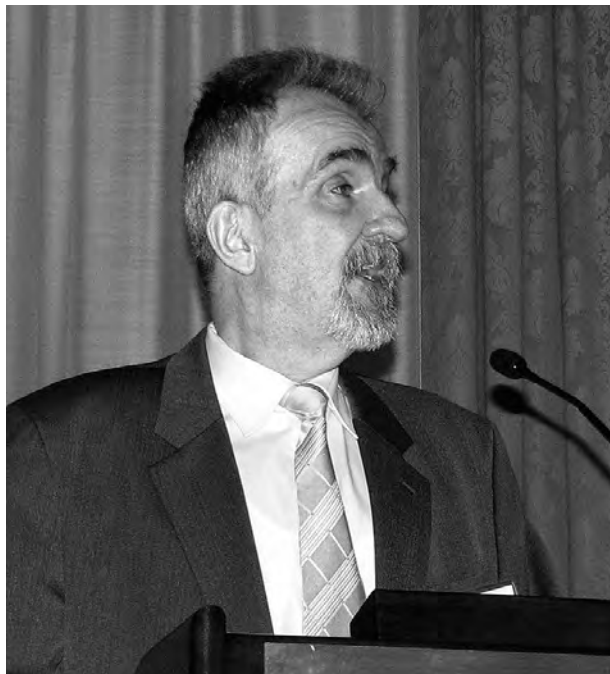
Following are excerpts of the conference summary delivered by Walter Zaryckyj, Ph.D., executive director of the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations, on March 8.

...The forum, as it appeared to me, divided into two parts or phases. The first part/phase involved an effort to assess Ukraine’s internal dynamics or, more practically, to provide Ukraine with a report card in four categories: (a) democratic elections and governance, (b) economic development and social cohesion (c) energy security and (d) general security. The second part/phase was a focused effort to divine external factors impinging on Ukraine’s internal dynamics; in real terms, the speakers attempted to tackle the “Russian Question and Ukraine” – particularly in light of Vladimir Putin’s recent “re-election victory” as president (or supreme leader) of Russia.

The first effort proved quite a sobering affair. The speakers tasked to assess Ukraine’s internal processes clearly indicated that the sunny, if overly anarchistic, democratic years under the Orange administration (2005-2009) ground to a halt in 2010. At first, many interested parties in the West prayed that the regress would not be noticeable – given newly elected President Viktor Yanukovich’s professed Euro-integration aims. But by 2011 it appears that such hopes were misplaced.

Mr. Yanukovich first consolidated the “power vertical” by placing a lock-hold on all three branches of government and then launched a campaign to secure that vertical through the 2012 parliamentary elections campaign by making certain that the political opposition would be partially, in not fully, leaderless. Yanukovich’s apparent single-minded efforts to secure his political future and the future of his Regions party left him badly neglecting Ukraine’s social, economic, energy and security needs. In each just mentioned category, the speakers noted sizable regress.

All of this has weakened the Ukrainian state immeasurably. Yanukovich’s own situation presently – his house of cards – resembles that of the old Turkish sultans at the



Walter Zaryckyj

beginning of the early 20th century (to borrow an image first proffered by my friend Alex Motyl) or the failed Arab leaders of the early 21st century (Mubarak, Qaddafi and Assad come to mind).

The second effort – looking at the external factors impinging on Ukraine – proved no less sobering. The audience of the forum (like anyone interested in the fate of democracy globally) was probably hoping that Putin’s re-election campaign and eventual “inevitable” electoral victory would elicit a greater set of question marks in the international mass media centers – especially in the Euro-Atlantic community. Apparently, that has not happened. If so, that is if Putin now feels good about his “victory” and proceeds to consolidate his situation in Russia, then Ukraine, badly weakened by Yanukovich’s sultan-like activities, is in for the ride of its young life.

Putin will certainly play the energy card, but it will not

end there. His interest will extend to Ukraine’s food, metals, chemicals, machinery, aerospace and information technology sectors. “Tsar” Vlad and his oligarchic/ “silovky” allies will move in on everything in Ukraine that is not nailed down (and, as the joke goes, “being nailed down will not guarantee anything either”). At that point, Ukraine’s national sovereignty would be at fundamental risk.

Given the outlined inferences provided by both efforts during the several forum sessions, it might be easy to come away from our gathering sensing nothing except a bleak landscape ending with a scenario in which Ukraine would slip back into its terrible unwanted colonial past – and such an assessment would not be altogether beyond the pale. There is, however, a very large “however” that each speaker, without fail, seemed to provide as a subtext and a source of great solace (regardless of phase of analysis). That however could be summarized in three words: Ukrainian civil society.

From the looks of it, Ukrainian civil society is quite alive (the Orange Revolution did have an impact on that level) and is not planning to disappear anytime soon (it is rooted among young urban middle-class Ukrainians). It has spread from the strictly political sphere (the political opposition or the original “maidan”) to the socio-economic sphere (small and medium businesses or the economic maidan) and possibly on to the religious/cultural sphere; on the last, one of the audience members during a Q & A made an excellent point: Ukraine has a rich variety of religious denominations that under the right circumstances could become a religious maidan.

Equally important, the said civil society has a real support base around the world. First, it can depend on a network of friends in the governments of the Euro-Atlantic community; a number of those were with us during our forum the last two days. Second, it can depend on a network of NGO policy shapers the likes of James Sherr, and Ariel Cohen, and Anders Aslund, and Amanda Paul, and Nico Lange, all of whom took active part in our proceedings. Finally, it can depend on the global Ukrainian “Hromada,” in North America alone, the hromada numbers over 2.2 million. ...



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Roma Pryma Bohachevsky

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Roma Pryma Bohachevsky

Ukrainian Dance Camp

Session 1: 7/22-8/4 • Session 2: 8/5-8/18

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Chicago-area Plast...

(Continued from page 1)

and members of the Sokil Association, under the leadership of Dr. Oleksander Tysovsky took the oath of allegiance on April 12, 1912," explained Roman Zavadovych, who heads the Chicago branch of Plast.

Visibly moved by the emotional evening, Mr. Zavadovych also welcomed two young girls ("yunachky"), who were taking the oath that evening.

Surrounded by Plast members who lit torches to symbolize every one of the 14 points of the Plast Code, the two girls pledged aloud their commitment to the organization. They were joined by all Plast members present in reciting the Plast Vow.

The head of the Chicago Plast chapter also quoted the late Dontsia Gorchynsky, who for many years was the head of Plast in Chicago and who lived an exemplary life steered by the rules of the Plast Code. "She always said that there is no such person as a former Plast member: 'Once a plastun, always a plastun,'" he recalled.

As the sun set on the horizon, Plast members gathered around a bonfire and sang the Plast version of the prayer "Our Father." As the night grew colder, they sang their hearts out in a few choruses of favorite Plast campfire songs, including the haunting "Sirily u Sumerku."

"I, along with most of those present, renewed my commitment and dedication to Plast by reciting the Plast Oath that evening in front of a blazing campfire with the sun setting across the lake. This evening was an important commemoration of a simple, yet extraordinarily meaningful act



Marko Pilecky

The sunset ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the first time the Plast Oath was administered in Lviv on April 12, 1912.

by a group of idealistic plastuny on April 12, 1912," said Christine Charkewycz Dziuk, who joined the organization in Chicago in the 1960s and remains active to this day.

"Plast has always played an important role in my life, first as a young 'novachka' and now as a 'seniorka.' The friends I met at camps and at other Plast events are still my closest friends to this day. Plast's ideals are timeless and universal," she added.

As is tradition at the end of every Plast evening, every-

one present stood in a large circle, holding hands to sing "Day is Done" (Taps) and pass along the "spark" that is a part of every Plast member's life.

After the hourlong ceremony, many of the Plast members stayed on in the canteen of the Round Lake resort to warm up with hot borsch and coffee/tea, and munch on delicious snacks prepared by Mrs. Remeniuk-Kolomayets, as they shared memories of what Plast has given them through the years.

Tymoshenko ally...

(Continued from page 1)

Two other ministers in her government, Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, and Environment Minister Heorhii Filipchuk, have also been given prison terms for similar offenses. Mr. Lutsenko was convicted in February of embezzlement and given four years in jail; Mr. Filipchuk on April 6 received a prison term of three years because of a contract with a legal firm over a Black Sea exploration deal.

Mr. Ivashchenko earlier claimed that his prosecution had been initiated by "influential people" whom he helped remove from the Defense Ministry back in 2009. Mr. Ivashchenko's wife told journalists on April 12 that she believes her husband's sentence was "revenge by one of the deputy defense ministers" who acted "in cooperation with one of the procurator general's deputies."

Mr. Ivashchenko has complained of serious health problems. Ukrainian TV said that he was unable to stand up to hear the sentence because of ill health. On April 9 he arrived in the courtroom on a stretcher.

Ms. Tymoshenko, a leader of the 2004-2005 Orange Revolution who lost the 2010 presidential runoff to the current president, Viktor Yanukovych, is serving a seven-year prison term for abuse of office – charges she has denied. Western observers consider her case to be politically motivated. The prosecution of the opposition leader and her allies has strained Ukraine's relations with the West and stymied its integration with the European Union.

Sources: Ukrinform, U.S. Embassy Kyiv, RFE/RL, BBC, RIA Novosti.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Office] or at least from one of the parties, I'm ready to make it public," he said. (Interfax-Ukraine)

PACE sees no progress in Ukraine

KYIV – Mailis Reps, the co-rapporteur on Ukraine of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), said she does not see progress regarding the imprisoned leaders of the opposition in Ukraine. Speaking with reporters on April 14, she said PACE has hardly noticed progress in the condition of the imprisoned opposition leaders and their health is not taken into account sufficiently, even though there is a corresponding decision by the European Court of Human Rights. She also added that there are concerns about the unjust judicial examination and the lack of independence of the judiciary. At the same time, Ms. Reps said that Europe does not want to impose sanctions on Ukraine, but this possibility is not excluded as a last resort. Ms. Reps added that she hopes Ukraine will try to improve the situation for the benefit of the people. (Ukrinform)

German doctors on Yulia's trial

KYIV – The chairman of the Berlin-based Charite Clinic, Prof. Karl Max Einhaupl, said upon arrival in Kharkiv on April 13 that he doubts the condition of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko will allow her to participate in the judicial process. "We examined Ms. Tymoshenko as part of an international commission in February this

year. At that time, her condition was accompanied by acute pain in the spine that complicated her movement activity. We now know nothing about Ms. Tymoshenko's current condition, but at that time she could have not participated in the judicial process with such a diagnosis," Prof. Einhaupl said. When asked whether negotiations were held regarding the treatment of the former prime minister in Germany, he said, "The Charite Clinic is always ready to receive Ms. Tymoshenko." According to German doctors, her treatment in Kharkiv or in Germany would last for several months. Ukrainian First Vice-Minister of Health Raisa Moiseyenko, in turn, said that during Ms. Tymoshenko's treatment, Ukrainian doctors would definitely cooperate with their German colleagues, adding that videoconferences are scheduled to take place between Central Clinical Hospital No. 5 in Kharkiv and Germany. (Ukrinform)

Deputy accused of embezzlement

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has accused National Deputy Oleksander Shepelev of being involved in the embezzlement of the refinancing funds of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) worth over 300 million hrv. The head of the SBU's main investigation department, Ivan Derevianko, said at a press briefing on April 11 that "The SBU has evidence of a national deputy's involvement in the embezzlement of public funds." When asked to name the deputy, he said, "It is Oleksander Shepelev." Mr. Derevianko said that the deputy was suspected of conspiring with Pavlo Borulko, the owner of three banks – Yevropeysky, National Standard and Volodymyrsky –

"who organized in March-May 2009 the embezzlement of public refinancing funds of the National Bank of Ukraine worth 315.3 million hrv." He noted, "A criminal case on this fact against Mr. Borulko was opened as part of the investigation into the case on the embezzlement of public funds of the Individuals Deposit Guarantee Fund in the amount of 620 million hrv." Mr. Derevianko expressed hope that the Ukrainian president's initiative on the cancellation of deputies' immunity would be realized, "then the SBU will make a respective decision with respect to Mr. Shepelev." Mr. Shepelev was elected to the Verkhovna Rada on the list of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. On September 21, 2010, he was formally expelled from the Tymoshenko-Batkivschyna faction, along with other 28 national deputies. On October 5, 2010, Mr. Shepelev became a member of the Party of Regions faction in Parliament and on December 9, 2011, he quit that faction. (Ukrinform)

Justice Ministry: 1,500 corrupt officials

KYIV – Almost 1,500 persons are currently on a government register of corrupt officials, Justice Minister Oleksander Lavrynovych told the press on April 5. "As of early April 2012 a single state register of persons who committed corrupt acts included almost 1,500 judgments against those who committed acts of corruption, and whose guilt was proven by court," Mr. Lavrynovych emphasized. He said that over the two months of the registry's operation the ministry has received 9,219 requests for carrying out a special check on persons who have applied for positions related to performing public or local government functions. As a result, the Ministry of Justice provided information about the availability of information with respect to 42 persons who were examined. The minister noted that the register went into effect on February 1. (Ukrinform)

Poll reveals top five parties

KYIV – The Research & Branding Group has named five parties that have a real chance of winning seats in Parliament in the upcoming elections, according to a survey conducted by the company from March 22 to April 1. "If the elections to the Verkhovna Rada were held this Sunday [April 15], the winners in multi-member national constituencies (under party lists) would be the Party of Regions (18 percent), Batkivschyna (15 percent), Front for Change (9 percent), UDAR (8 percent) and the Communist Party (6 percent)," accord-

ing to the survey. The Svoboda Party would be in sixth place with 3 percent of the vote. Researchers also found that two-thirds (63 percent) of Ukrainian residents assessed the political situation in the country as unstable, and only 9 percent hold the opposite view. Nearly two-thirds of Ukrainians (61 percent) are interested in the upcoming election campaign, and more than a third (36 percent) are not interested in it at all. With seven months remaining before the election day, 73 percent of potential voters expressed a certain degree of readiness to participate in the vote, Research & Branding Group said. (Ukrinform)

People don't believe elections will be fair

KYIV – People do not believe that elections to the Verkhovna Rada will be held fairly, Iryna Bekeshkina, the director at the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation, told reporters at a news conference on April 11. "People do not believe that the elections will be fair – 30 percent believe the election will be relatively fair, 37.1 percent believe that the results will be twisted and 24 percent believe that all will be surely rigged. This is already a stereotype of the previous elections," Ms. Bekeshkina noted. According to the sociologist, people do not believe that they can influence developments, regardless of whether they will take part in the elections or not. The majority also believes that the elections will change nothing. "This pessimism," she said, "is deeply ingrained in our people... The feeling of personal failure, in my opinion, is probably the main factor that hinders the promotion of our country or changing things for the better, because if a person believes that nothing will change, he will do nothing," Ms. Bekeshkina underscored. The survey, conducted March 30-April 4 in all regions of Ukraine, also found that only 13 percent of citizens believe that with their participation in the elections they are certainly capable of influencing the situation in Ukraine, 38 percent think there will be some impact, while 39 percent see no impact at all. (Ukrinform)

President on Olympic Hope 2022

KYIV – Ukraine should make every effort to ensure the implementation of the Olympic Hope 2022 project, President Viktor Yanukovich announced in Lviv on April 12 at a meeting on the preparation of Ukraine's application to host the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2022. "Our country is developing, and we will use

(Continued on page 13)

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Friday, May 4, 7:30 p.m. (AFA)
The Other Chelsea (2010) PREMIERE! *

Saturday, May 5, 2 p.m. (AFA)
The Woman with the 5 Elephants (2009)

Saturday, May 5, 5 p.m. (AFA)
Post-Soviet Film Shorts (10)

Saturday, May 5, 8 p.m. (AFA)
Land of Oblivion (2011) PREMIERE!

Sunday, May 6, 2 p.m. (UM)
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 The Ukrainian Museum's film series is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

every opportunity to implement the national Olympic Hope 2022 project," Mr. Yanukovich said. The president instructed government agencies to develop the relevant infrastructure. "Olympic infrastructure has to be developed at a high pace. This will give new jobs and income to people. Therefore, it's necessary to look at these projects more thoroughly," Mr. Yanukovich said. He said the construction of modern roads is a top priority. He also said that an Austrian company that has experience in hosting Winter Olympics is already working in the Lviv, Zakarpattia and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts. At the end of the second quarter of 2012, it will provide a feasibility study that will include all forecasts, including natural and weather forecasts. "Then we will see the amount of

work, what we need to do and where," Mr. Yanukovich explained. (Ukrinform)

Footsteps of Apostle Andrew?

KYIV – Footsteps imprinted in solid stone have been discovered on the territory of the Chersonese Museum Reserve. Representatives of the Crimean Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate stated on April 10 that the footprints might belong to St. Andrew, the first-called apostle. According to Church sources from the 16th century, the apostle spoke with the people about Christ's teachings as he was standing on a stone on the seashore when suddenly the stone turned soft as wax and the feet of the saint left an imprint. After that miracle, many people believed in the teachings of Christ. People touched the footprints and were healed. After the invasion of Crimea by the Tatars, Chersonese was abandoned and the shrines were forgotten. The senior priest of

St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Chersonese, Protopriest Serhii Khaliuta, heard about the two footprints from a parishioner. "I myself came to have a look at the footprints and immediately reported to Bishop Lazar of Crimea, who came to Chersonese and saw for himself that these were human footprints. We brought forensic experts and ordered a medical examination. According to its results, the footprints appear to be human. Most importantly, people touch the footprints and get healed," said the parish priest. A geological examination has been conducted. Its results will soon be made public. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Ukraine to apply to European Space Agency

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has instructed the State Space Agency and the Foreign Affairs Ministry to take measures concerning the country's membership application to the European

Space Agency (ESA), according to April 9 news reports. This is stipulated in a plan of priority measures for 2012 on Ukraine's integration into the European Union that was approved by Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 184. "Measures should be taken regarding the acquisition of membership in the European Space Agency, taking into account national interests," reads the document. In addition, in order to ensure Ukraine's accession to the European Research Area, the Cabinet instructed the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports, the Foreign Affairs Ministry and other central executive government agencies to hold negotiations with the European Commission by September 1 regarding Ukraine's participation in the EU's Seventh Framework Program for Research and Technological Development. Under the program, Ukraine also plans to become an associate member of the European Organization for Nuclear Research by 2013. (Ukrinform)

ПОДЯКА

Проживши благородне чесне довге життя, 10 грудня 2011 р. відійшла до свого Творця наша найдорожча МАМА, БАБУНЯ та ПРАБАБУНЯ,

бл. п.

МАРІЯ ЕМІЛІЯ (ЛЮНЯ) ГІРНЯК

Сердечну подяку складаємо Преосвященному Владиці Іннокентію, ЧСВВ, за молитви та св. Літургії в часі затьожної немочі Покійної та після її смерті.

За похоронні відправи щиро дякуємо о. каноніку Андрієві Гановському, о. Клаудію Мельницькому, нашому племінникові о. Маркові Гірняку, та п. Ярославу Завадівському; а зокрема о. каноніку Гановському та о. Гірняку дякуємо за зворушливі, змістовні прощальні слова.

Невимовно вдячні ми о. каноніку Гановському що в останніх годинах Покійної життя уділив їй святі таїнства елеопомазання та покаєння. Зокрема вдячні ми о. Каноніку за його відвідини дорогої нам Мами та уділювання св. таїнств продовж її довголітньої немочі; а о. Гірняку за численні св. Літургії спершу за здоров'я своєї стріянки, а опісля за її душу.

Нашим дорогим рідним і приятелям, та шановним знайомим, сердечно дякуємо за їхні молитви, розраду, вислови співчуття, та участь в похоронних обрядах. Дуже дякуємо нашим родичам та друзям що своєю щедрістю на громадські цілі вшанували пам'ять Покійної; що чудовими квітами відкрили її могилу; що святими Літургіями дбають про вічний упокій її благородної душі.

Хай вселаскавий Господь винагородить Вас щедрими благодаттями та довголіттям.

Вдячні,

Христина і Ярема Раковські
Марта і Ігор Воевідки

Квіти прислали:

Родина Боднаруків та Дрогомирецьких; Ігор та Віра Вальницькі з родиною; Адріян і Проф. Марта Галяревичі; Микола і Дзвінка Голяни; Любомир і Рома Квасниці; Родина Кришталовичів; Ксеня Кузьмич з родиною; Др. Андрій і Дарія Левицькі; Др. Юрій і Марта Саї; Др. Роман і Мотря Слоневські з родиною; Юрій та Ірена Хухри; Родина Хухрів; Мирон і Люба Чолгани

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Shevchenko honored in Baltimore

by Khrystyna Horbachevska

BALTIMORE – The hall of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church of was completely full on March 11. Baltimore was honoring Taras Shevchenko that day.

The youngest members of the local branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA), supervised and directed by Halyna Zhezlo, presented a medley poems and songs dedicated to the great Kobzar.

Next, the choir of St. Michael Church, directed by Dr. Nazar Kalivoshko, performed Shevchenko's works set to music.



Andriy Portyanko

The youngest members of the Baltimore branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association.

Then the UAYA youth performed. The Ukrainian bandura sang in the hands of Vasil Stoliar and the dance duo of Alisa Hetsner and Nusia Kerda captivated the audience.

Young Plast members Bozhena, Maria and Daryi Kulchytsky recited a carefully prepared presentation of Shevchenko's poetry. The deep and thoughtful recitation by Martusia Chaban of Shevchenko's "Subotiv" made a great impression on the audience.

Then came the debut of a vocal octet under the direction of Dr. Kalivoshko. The well-known lyrics resounded in the hearts of the people in attendance. The sounds of Shevchenko's "Testament" crowned the concert.



The choir of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church directed by Dr. Nazar Kalivoshko.

Pysanky presentations held at the University of Illinois

by Volodymyr Chumachenko

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – University of Illinois students on the Urbana-Champaign campus had a rare opportunity to see how to make a traditional Ukrainian pysanka. Vera Samyca, a renowned pysanky artist from Chicago, gave two pysanka art presentations in Champaign, IL on Wednesday, April 4.

About 100 students enjoyed the two-hour presentation by Mrs. Samyca during which she not only told them about the history and significance of Ukrainian Easter eggs in Ukrainian cultural tradition, but also showed how to make pysanky using the traditional technique.

During the presentation students asked many different questions and had an opportunity to see masterpieces of the traditional Ukrainian art. Mrs. Samyca put on display about 100 of her pysanky with their dazzling ornamentation and colors. There were pysanky that represented the

most ancient ornamental patterns and very elaborate pysanky that were representative of the artist's individual style.

On the same day Mrs. Samyca also gave a presentation for local children at the Champaign Public Library, where children and their parents could see the process of making a pysanka.

During the presentations, the artist displayed several eggs at different stages in the dyeing and designing process, thus making the audiences aware of specific techniques at different moments of a pysanka's creation.

Both events were very much appreciated by those attending them, and local media reported on the events.

The presentations were organized by the Ukrainian Research Program at the University of Illinois, and the Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Center of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in partnership with the Champaign Public Library.



Volodymyr Chumachenko

Vera Samyca with University of Illinois students during her presentation on pysanky.

Ukrainian school students honor Shevchenko with concert



Lev Khmelkovsky

Students and teachers of the School of Ukrainian Studies in South Bound Brook, N.J., with the Rev. Yuriy Siwko of St. Andrew Memorial Ukrainian Orthodox Church (seated), and the school's director, Roman Hirniak (back row, far right).

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – Students of the School of Ukrainian Studies here celebrated the life of Ukraine's bard, Taras Shevchenko, with a concert on March 10 at St. Andrew Memorial Orthodox Church's parish hall.

The concert was coordinated by teachers Lesya Moroz and Jaroslava Danyschuk, accompanied by teacher and pianist Tatyana Shestakova, and assisted by Roman Borsa, a parent of a student who ran the sound system.

Students, including the school's pre-kindergarten ("sadochok") class, read Shevchenko's poems and sang his verses set to music, as well as works by other Ukrainian poets and composers.

Selections of Shevchenko's works were recited by Alexi and Mark Stadnitski, Timothy and Viktoriya Varshavskiy, Vlad Rudyy, Yuriy Prots, Julia Pavlyuk, Yana Myhal, Nicholas Bykov, Oksana Kit, Christina Kalni, Victor Fedysbyn, Darek Wojtowicz, Yevgen Bogutskyy, Julia Kritsak and Nicholas Kovalenko.

Singers, in solos, duets and in choral groups were Veronika Nalyvayko, Markiy Danyschuk, Daryj Borsa, Adriana Zaviysky, Marta Galagoza, Ivanka Voloshchak and Julia Kritsak.

James Sherr...

(Continued from page 9)

the next five years, the price of oil falls below \$80 a barrel and stays there.

So the initial question is: When will these strains become apparent to those who today feel so strong?

The follow-up uncertainty we have to consider is how the system will react when it is under strain. And here we have to be worried about it because there is a history in Russia and in the Soviet Union regarding how you react under pressure and it is not a course of incremental retreat. It is, rather, a course of resourcefulness and maneuver and using retreat to regain the offensive and unbalance/divide opponents.

So what do I mean? Putin himself not only understands but positively thrives in this work; he is a master not only of penetrating the opposition, but of creating opponents who can later be co-opted – thus confusing the issue. ...

All of this leads us to a still larger uncertainty – and reality – that exists. The system in Russia is much bigger than Putin – just as it was bigger than any leader during the Soviet Union with the arguable exception of Joseph Stalin. There are a hundred billionaires in Russia; look at the organizational charts of power provided by Russian political scientists and you will see 50 to 100 individuals. Half or two-thirds of those on the charts are people of whom the West has never heard, but they are there. They are there and many are thinking about themselves and their futures – they want

the system preserved for them and their offspring. In doing so, they are also thinking that, if Putin is unable to sustain the initiative and maintain it, they have to think beyond him. ...

Now, to my last point. What are the implications for Ukraine? We know perfectly well, for starters, several things. One, Ukrainians understand better than most that Gazprom is not a business, but a power. Two, from the beginning, that power – or the “energy card” – has been linked, most conspicuously under Putin’s rule, to enhancing geopolitical and geo-economic positions. Because the Russians have pursued a well-thought-out strategy on this account and because Yanukovich and Ukraine before him generally have compiled such a dismal record of malpractice in the energy sector that they have managed to convince the world that any problems they may have are all of their own making. Here I simply want to add that Yushchenko must openly bear respon-

sibility for some of this if you look at 2006. The Russians have managed to maintain the image – and, yes, even the reality – of being solid players in all of this.

But there is one exception of note. If you look just outside Ukraine, you will find it: the South Stream pipeline. Please recount that what we all thought of as a virtual project, is now looking like something that will be built. And it will be built because of the energy and resources that an individual like Putin knows how to concentrate on the impossible, the ineffective and the unworkable – through inducement, through bullying and through sheer force of will.

How is Russia going to respond to events in Ukraine as the strains inside Russia mount and become more serious – as the unworkable becomes the unpalatable? A serious expert would not make a rash prediction. But I will be rash and make one: I think there is a very strong chance that, in this presidential term, when it comes to Ukraine, Russia will go for closure. ...

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Ukrainian pro sports update: tennis

by Ihor Stelmach

Bubka Jr. hopes to vault up tennis rankings

Sometimes the mere mention of an accomplished athlete's offspring can be enough to elicit a negative reaction, as if the young hopeful has been automatically anointed a future star. It is as if the youngster is entitled to career stardom based on the parent's achievements. In most cases, junior follows senior in the same sport: Ken Griffey and Junior in baseball, Bobby and Brett Hull in hockey, Joe and Kobe Bryant in basketball.

Unlike the above three examples, Sergei Bubka Jr. competes in a different sport from the one in which his father became famous. This has not always made the name game or the fame game easier for the young tennis player, a member of Ukraine's Davis Cup team. Junior's father, the great pole-vaulter Sergei Bubka rates as arguably one of the greatest sportsmen of all time, an athlete who could propel himself more than six meters into the air to an Olympic gold medal, a world record and into international sporting stardom.

What with his name and those genes he inherited, more than a few observers figured the 24-year-old Bubka would own a full row of championship trophies by now. Instead, Junior has a ranking of No. 152 as the 2012 tennis season serves off, with a lot of his matches still being played on the second-tier challenger level. Those who win titles on this circuit usually don't celebrate by leaping, vaulting or jumping over the net. His career earnings as of late January totaled almost \$200,000.

Sergei Bubka Jr. was never interested in pole-vaulting – he was 9 years old when he beat his father in tennis for the first time, although it is widely believed the father

allowed him to win in an attempt to build confidence in his son. There is no doubt the younger Bubka has pressure to live up to his name. The key is for the youngster to be himself and build his own resume.

He cannot escape the Bubka brand. "I sometimes find it a bit difficult when everyone is asking me whether I am going to be as great as my father," Bubka Jr. said in fluent, eloquent English on his first trip to Scotland, speaking with Mark Hodgkinson of The Telegraph.

"By now, I am pretty used to the attention I get because of who my father is, as I have had that from a young age. But the attention is much more than other players get at my level, much more than what is 'ordinary.' I wish that there is going to come a time when I am recognized for something I have achieved, when I'm 'Sergei Bubka the tennis player' rather than 'Sergei Bubka, the son of the great athlete.' That is my goal in tennis, to be famous for being me," he said.

To create an all-round sports DNA, it doesn't get much better than Sergei Bubka Sr. and his wife, a celebrated gymnast.

Bubka Jr. recognized his father was special from a very young age. He reasoned he would have been under even more pressure to succeed had he decided to pursue pole-vaulting. The expectation level was high enough once he took up tennis.

"I think I can go high up the rankings, as I have some good qualities. What I have to do is to put it all together and to be more consistent. My results have been up and down. I think a lot of it is psychological. My serve is the best bit of my game and I am fast around the court," the young Bubka told The

Telegraph. "One of the things I learned from my father is how important it is to work hard. Whenever I am on the practice court, I put everything into my training."

Father and son speak regularly on the phone. Bubka Sr., the president of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, is limited in his abilities to travel to his son's tennis tournaments.

"Sergei's strengths are his serve, his return and his volley," the elder Bubka told the Telegraph. "I think that the family background in sport has had an influence on him. We tried to teach him that success will never come without hard work. I think he can move up the rankings. Everything depends on him. His success is in his hands."

Wins first grand slam match

All things considered, the young man who had just won his first grand slam match at the 2011 U.S. Open should have jumped over the net. Considering his inherited genes and his famous name, it was incredibly odd that he resisted the urge. A more modest celebration was the choice for Sergei Bubka Jr., who walked to the net, leaned over and shook the hand of his fallen opponent, Andreas Haider-Maurer of Austria, beaten by scores of 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

Being the son of Sergei Bubka, one of the world's greatest athletes, a former Olympic and world champion, Bubka Jr.'s first appearance at a grand slam event was going to get much attention, no matter what. After he won his match, the attention grew.

It is customary for most low-ranked winners to walk off the court pretty much unrecognized by the vast crowds attending the U.S. Open at Flushing Meadows. The young Ukrainian's victory drew an instant response, and he was quickly escorted away to the

international media center for a round of interviews that would last several hours.

No big deal for the aspiring tennis hopeful. Since a young age he has been accustomed to a lot of attention from fans and media alike. At age 15, Bubka played his first grand slam juniors match in the 2003 Australian Open. After losing in straight sets, he nonetheless was whisked away to the largest press conference room, an expansive theater in the bowels of Melbourne Park, an unseen venue for most senior players. It was then that the young Bubka realized how famous and respected his father is in the sports world.

Most agree the younger Bubka shares a physical resemblance to his father. Born in Donetsk, Ukraine, he was raised in Monte Carlo, where he still resides. A good friend and neighbor is another tennis player, Novak Djokovic.

He was too young to see his father win a gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, but was present in Athens in 1997 when he won his sixth and final world championship. Their relationship has evolved over time from Junior watching his father compete when he was young, to dad watching his son's tennis matches when his schedule permits.

Bubka's main asset is his huge serve, though he has struggled with injuries since being in a car crash in 2010. His low ranking necessitates his advancing into major tournaments through qualifying play.

Wherever the tennis tour takes him, he's always asked if he is the son of the famous pole-vaulter. He hopes as he improves he will be known for being Sergei Bubka the tennis player – not the son of an Olympic and world champion.

Ihor Stelmach can be reached at iman@sfgsports.com.



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Third annual Kinofest NYC to feature diverse selection of international films

by Andrij Witiuk

NEW YORK – The third annual Kinofest NYC – New York City's only festival for independent Ukrainian and other post-Soviet countries' films – is scheduled for May 3-6.

So far, for the 2012 festival, volunteers have pre-viewed nearly 100 films, ranging from a couple of one-minute shorts to several dozen in the 90-minute range. Most films fall in the 10-, 20-, 30- to 50-minute range.

Out of these films, 24 have been selected for the Kinofest NYC 2012 program. Many excellent films didn't make the final cut simply because they couldn't be fit into this year's program (several of these excellent films will certainly be the first considered for the Kinofest NYC 2013). The amazing and diverse fare of narratives, documentaries, animations and experimental films included submissions from Ukraine, Chechnya, Poland, Russia, Germany, France, Israel, the United States and Bashkortostan.

Three of the feature films will have their New York City premieres, and over 15 short films will be U.S. premieres, including Maryna Vroda's "Cross Country," which placed first for short films at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival.

Feature length films to be screened at the festival include the following.

On opening night, Jakob Preuss will present the New York premiere of his film "The Other Chelsea – A Story from Donetsk." Just in time for the frenzied excitement of Ukraine co-hosting the EURO 2012 soccer championship this summer, this riveting documentary digs behind the scenes and shows the links between sports, business and politics, and impoverished miners to

Donetsk's winning soccer team, Shakhtar. Mr. Preuss has a gift, essential to a participatory documentarian, of disarming his subjects. This opens windows on life and politics in Donetsk. A memorable scene is when a young up-and-coming spin-master politician realizes he's disclosed too much, but it's too late.

"Woman with the 5 Elephants," directed by Vadim Jendreyko, shows Kyiv-born Svetlana, a sweet and charming world-renowned Dostoyevsky translator whose father perishes during Stalin's purges in the 1930s. Young Svetlana escapes the Soviet Union after the Nazis invade Kyiv, and only now returns to visit her birth city at age 86. This film will be preceded by a tense short drama, "1937," directed by Svetozar Golovlev, wherein a young Russian couple seeks a priest to baptize their infant.

"Land of Oblivion," directed by Franco-Israeli Michale Boganim, stars alluring Ukrainian actress Olya Kurylenko, a Bond girl in the recent "Quantum of Solace." Ms. Kurylenko gracefully portrays a bride robbed of her husband who dies as a Chernobyl liquidator in this haunting, moving narrative set during and after Ukraine's biggest nuclear disaster. This high-budget film was superbly shot in the exclusion zone of Chernobyl and neighboring Prypiat, the city of 50,000 that mostly housed Chernobyl nuclear power plant workers and became a ghost town after the meltdown. This is a New York premiere for "Land of Oblivion," which is currently playing theatrically in France and has won numerous international awards.

"Chronicle of Severe Days," seven minutes of riveting, rough footage immediately fol-

lowing Chernobyl's disaster and the doomed "liquidators," precedes and sets the mood for "Land of Oblivion." "Chronicle's" filmmaker Vladimir Shevchenko died from radiation exposure soon after shooting the footage.

"Firecrosser," directed by Mykhailo Illienko, features Ivan Dodoka, a heroic Ukrainian survivor based on a true character. After being released from a German prisoner of war camp, Stalin banishes Ivan to the gulag. Ivan escapes to Canada, where he becomes a chief of an Indian tribe. "Firecrosser" is showing now in Ukraine to box-office success. It will be screened on the film festival's closing night.

The short films to be shown are phenomenal as well.

Sunday's 2 p.m. "Goodbye, Ukraine!" program – seven high-quality films in the Ukrainian language – will be introduced by Kyiv filmmaker and producer of the series Volodymyr Tykhyy. Since 1991, over 6 million Ukrainians have emigrated seeking temporary work or looking to relocate permanently. "Goodbye, Ukraine!" depicts this phenomenal population-drain in very human, sometimes heart-breaking stories.

Saturday's 10 post-Soviet short films are a delectable, intriguing potpourri of viewing entertainment: a Chechen Robinson Crusoe forages to survive in Grozny's apocalyptic landscape ("Home"); an 11-year-old beguiling Kyiv girl dreams of playing saxophone in the U.S. ("Boyarka Serenade"); two amusing, elderly Polish brothers, equipped with a metal detector, travel to Lviv in search of their parents' buried wartime treasure ("Treasure Seekers"); a pick-pocket on the lam wrestles with his con-

science when he finds an abandoned infant ("To Be Human"); a nightmarish couple and their coin-operated television ("Ave.AVI," in stop motion animation); a sassy boy in a remote Bashkir village who's an ardent fan of Bollywood films ("Ambitious").

At its kickoff, or pre-opening night on Thursday, May 3, at The Ukrainian Museum, guests will get the chance to meet filmmakers from this year's festival and listen to a roundtable as they discuss filmmaking trends and independent filmmaking developments in Ukraine today. The filmmakers will include: Jakob Preuss (Berlin), "The Other Chelsea"; Volodymyr Tykhyy (Kyiv), "Hamburg," and producer of the "Goodbye Ukraine!" series; Julia Shashkova (Kyiv), "Almost Love"; Dmytro Zakharevych (Kyiv), Kinofest's film coordinator in Kyiv, and possibly "Firecrosser's" director, Mr. Illienko, and its producer, Andriy Suyarko.

A very special treat and addition to the roundtable will be Ms. Vroda, who won the 2011 Palme D'Or at Cannes Film Festival for Best Short Film. Her winning film "Cross Country" and another of her superb films, "The Rain," will screen that evening followed by a reception catered by the Veselka restaurant.

Kinofest NYC truly is a unique opportunity to see some of the hottest contemporary films from or about Ukraine in a film-festival setting. Tickets may be purchased online at www.KinofestNYC.com.

Andrij Witiuk, a program coordinator for Kinofest NYC, was assistant managing editor at Maxim magazine from 1996 to 2005. Several of his screenplays have recently won or placed at film festivals throughout the U.S.

20 years...

(Continued from page 6)

Donations and proceeds from CAAU's 20th anniversary celebration reception are designated for the Wheelchairs for Ukraine program, with the next distribution targeted for fall.

Aid to orphans

The range of CAAU's projects for orphans during the past 20 years exemplifies the broadening range of the organization's efforts. Initially providing basic items, such as clothing and medical supplies, CAAU support has expanded to target specific projects. Most of these projects involve education, especially the education that can lead to higher education or training in practical skills that can lead to jobs and self-sufficiency after the children graduate from the orphanage.

A special project for orphans that deserves mention is the Little League Baseball Championships for Orphans in Ukraine. CAAU has been a partial or full sponsor of the annual Ukrainian Little League Baseball Championships for children age 11-12 for the past three years.

Founded by Basil Tarasko, a scout for the San Diego Padres professional baseball team and coach for the National Baseball Teams of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Little League is dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged youth in Ukraine through the sport of baseball. Only one team wins each championship, "but all of the children are winners," Mr. Tarasko emphasizes.

Aid to needy seniors

Since Ukraine re-established its independence, the social and economic changes that created opportunities for young and resourceful individuals also adversely affected seniors on fixed pensions. Social

benefits have declined in real terms, and seniors have been left with less and less on which to survive.

Helping the disadvantaged and socially vulnerable seniors in Ukraine is one of the ways CAAU contributes to the well-being of the entire population. CAAU supports the development of regional organizations in Ukraine that have organized local programs to provide food, housing, medical and other services to needy seniors.

CAAU has provided assistance with various senior homes and residences with basic requests, such as medications, kitchen utensils, refrigerators, stoves and furniture items. CAAU has also provided funding for a soup kitchen to maintain nourishing meal service for needy seniors.

Research saves lives

As a part of the "Research Saves Lives" initiative, CAAU continued its support of research scientists with a \$5,000 travel grant for Ukrainian scientists to attend the sixth annual Bridges in Life Sciences Conference of the Regional Cooperation for Health, Science and Technology (RECOOP HST) Consortium in Debrecen, Hungary, in April 2011. The consortium inspires young scientists and clinical researchers from Ukraine toward creative thinking and helps them make decisions related to publication of their scientific work.

Starting in 2012, the RECOOP HST Consortium will begin transitioning to a member organization, with each participating institute paying an annual membership fee. CAAU has committed to assist the five actively participating Ukrainian institutes to become fully self-sufficient members within two years.

More projects

CAAU has also participated in several other partnerships to maximize the impact of its support. CAAU has partnered with the Children's Medical Care Foundation to train

medical doctors and deliver medical services, with a particular focus on neonatology. CAAU has sponsored a printing by Smoloskyp of "Ukrainske Doshkillia," a children's book for free distribution to needy children to promote linguistic and cultural literacy in all regions of Ukraine. CAAU has joined with the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine to support the rebirth of sports in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Olympic team and the publishing of Ukrainian-language books for schools in Ukraine, as well as technical books and manuals. CAAU has also joined with the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) to support the "Eye Project for Ukraine."

CAAU has coordinated several fund-raising programs to channel support through organizations such as the Children of Chernobyl Foundation, International Education Program, Direct Relief international, and the Sabre Foundation.

CAAU has also coordinated direct support to the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and several other educational institutions, International Center of Physics in Kyiv, Cerebral Palsy Clinic in Kyiv, Western Regional Biomedical Research Center, Lysenko Museum and other institutions. CAAU has helped to underwrite a multi-national conference organized by the Young Diplomacy Center to foster democratic ideals and communication. CAAU has also coordinated direct support for educational resources to implement the Ukrainian language as the official language of the Ukrainian military.

CAAU events

To provide a social venue to raise awareness of CAAU and its projects, CAAU has organized a variety of community events. The initial events were primarily meetings with visitors representing newly independent Ukraine. In 1991, CAAU hosted meetings with Dr. Nadia Diuk and Adrian Karatnycky (co-authors of "Hidden

Nations"), Vyacheslav Chornovil (head of the Lviv Council) and poet Atena Pashko. In 1992, CAAU organized a community meeting with Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Hennadii Udovenko, and joined with other Ukrainian American organizations to host weeklong festivities celebrating the first anniversary of Ukraine's independence, including a gala celebration featuring Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Oleh Bilorus.

In 1994, CAAU held its first charity ball to raise funds for Ukrainian-language educational materials for publication in Ukraine. Subsequent balls have benefited other educational publications and programs, orphans, needy seniors, and several medical and health care delivery projects. The presentation of debutantes and silent auctions were added in later years to enhance the festive atmosphere and fund-raising potential.

In October 2011, CAAU hosted the "Ukrainian Stories: A Day in Film" film festival on the campus of UCLA, featuring two films that represent the contemporary Ukrainian experience from two different perspectives. Filmmaker Roxy Toporowych was present to introduce her film "Folk: Finding Our Roots in Red Dancing Boots," one month before her film was screened by invitation at the American Film Festival in Kyiv. The second film was the Los Angeles premiere of "Klitschko" about the brothers Wladimir and Vitali, who overcame hardship with hard work to become boxing champions, while never forgetting their Ukrainian identity.

CAAU is a non-profit 501 (3) (c) corporation. Contributions and inquiries may be addressed to CAAU, c/o Roman Wasyllyn, 4645 Noeline Ave., Encino, CA 91436, by e-mail to caaukraine@gmail.com, on the web at www.CAAUkraine.org, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/caaukraine.

(A story about it's 20th anniversary celebration appeared in last week's issue.)

OUT & ABOUT

- April 24
Union, NJ Panel discussion, "Why Is It So Difficult to Define Genocide," Kean University, 908-737-0387 or rgriffit@kean.edu
- April 24
New York Lecture by Marco Carynnyk, "The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and Jews, 1930-1942," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu
- April 25
Washington 35th anniversary reception, Ukrainian National Information Service, Rayburn House Office Building, 202-547-0018
- April 25-26
Washington "Ukrainian Days" advocacy event, Ukrainian National Information Service, 202-547-0018 or unis@ucca.org
- April 25-May 6
New York Art exhibit, "Code of Light," featuring works by Galyna Moskvitina, Arcane Art Foundation, Alexandre Gertsman Contemporary Art Gallery, www.galynamoskvitina.com or 646-344-1325
- April 26
New York Presentation by Edward Kasinec, "Ukrainian Treasures into Tractors: The Fate of the Kyivan Lavra's Sacred Art," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu
- April 27
New York Lecture by Tetiana Pavlova, "Borys Kosarev and Ukrainian Photography," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or info@ukrainiamuseum.org
- April 27
Chicago Concert, "Unforgettable Kvitka," Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 or info@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org
- April 27-May 13
New York Performance, "Dream Bridge," Yara Arts Group, La MaMa Experimental Theater, 212-475-7710 or www.lamama.org
- April 28
Yonkers, NY Volleyball tournament, Ukrainian American Youth Association - Yonkers branch, Yonkers High School, 914-844-3606 or Samuel.warycha@ey.com
- April 28
Mississauga, ON 30th anniversary banquet, Mississauga branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association in Canada, Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church, 416-237-1833 or 905-502-5510
- April 28
North Phoenix, AZ Wild West Ukie Fest, featuring the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and the Vechirka Band, Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Embassy Suites, chrystia@cox.net or 480-991-4656
- April 28
Cheektowaga, NY Bazaar and garage sale, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 716-684-0738
- April 28
New York Lecture by Oksana Yurkova, "The Kyiv Historical School of Mykhailo Hrushevsky: The Fates of the Scholars," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- April 29
Fort Lauderdale, FL Performance, "A Ukrainian Montage," Ukrainian Dancers of Miami, Gerdan vocal ensemble and Trio Maksymowich, Amaturo Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 954-462-0222 or 954-434-9753
- April 29
Scranton, PA Parish dinner, "Sviachene," St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, 570-346-2414
- April 30
Cambridge, MA Presentation by Olga Onuch, "When 'Ordinary People' Join In: Understanding Moments of Mass Mobilization in Argentina (2001), Egypt (2011) and Ukraine (2004)," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu
- May 3-6
New York Kinofest NYC film festival, The Ukrainian Museum, Anthology Film Archives, www.kinofestnyc.com
- May 4-6
Toronto Conference, "Ukrainian Schooling in Canada: Be Canadian but Stay Ukrainian," Ukrainian National Federation building, <http://shkola.ucc.ca/2011/08/ukrainian-schooling-in-canada/>
- May 4-6
Lehighton, PA Annual meet, Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society, Ukrainian Homestead, 610-377-4621 or www.ukrainianhomestead.com

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

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, April 24

NEW YORK: Please join the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, for a lecture by independent scholar Marco Carynnyk titled "The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and Jews, 1930-1942." The lecture is free and open to the public and will take place at 6 p.m. in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. For more information contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk, 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu.

Thursday, April 26

NEW YORK: Please join the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, for a lecture by Edward Kasinec titled "Ukrainian Treasures into Tractors: The Fate of the Kyivan Lavra's Sacred Art." Mr. Kasinec is curator emeritus, Slavic and East European Collections, New York Public Library. He presently holds appointment as a research scholar and staff associate at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University. Mr. Kasinec has also served as a staff advisor to the Education, Programming and Exhibitions Department of the New York Public Library. The lecture is free and open to the public and will take place at noon in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. For more information contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk, 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu.

Friday, April 27-Sunday, May 13

NEW YORK: Yara Arts Group presents "Dream Bridge," an original, experimental theater piece based on Ukrainian poetry by Oleh Lysheha. The production, created by Virlana Tkacz, features music by electronic music composer Alla Zahaykevych from Kyiv. Our dreams can bring to light the mystery which swirls silently inside. At night, our brains, freed of their burdens, soar like music. Space turns fluid, as we swim through the universe and through time. Tickets are \$18; \$13 for students and seniors. La MaMa Experimental Theater is located at 74 E. Fourth St. Show times are Thursday through Saturday, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, 2:30 p.m. For more information call 212-475-7710 or visit www.lamama.org.

Saturday, April 28

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Oksana Yurkova (Kyiv) on the subject "The Kyiv Historical School of Mykhailo Hrushevsky: The Fates of the Scholars." Ms. Yurkova is a candidate of historical sciences and a leading scholar at the Institute of Ukrainian History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Presently she is a Carnegie Fellow for 2011-2012. The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets), at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

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. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**.

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

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