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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

EURO 2012

Ukraine: Friendlier than you think!

by Daisy Sindelar
RFE/RL

It may be hard to imagine the average soccer fan harboring a passion for 11th century ecclesiastical architecture.

But that's just what Roman Kharchenko hopes will tempt European visitors to take a detour from the Ukrainian host cities of Kyiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv and Lviv during this summer's European soccer championship in favor of a more tranquil stay in his hometown of Chernihiv, site of the country's oldest church, the Cathedral of the Savior built in the 1030s.

"The cities that don't have any matches will probably be chosen last," concedes Mr. Kharchenko, a 28-year-old graphic designer who shares a comfortable flat with his girlfriend, Yulia, and a sleek ginger cat named Rudy. "But all the same we hope that Chernihiv will be interesting for someone. We have a very quiet, very green little city compared to Kyiv, which is noisy and filled with enormous buildings. Life here is more measured."

Mr. Kharchenko is one of hundreds of Ukrainians flooding online to offer free lodging to Euro 2012 guests looking for an alternative to pricey hotels or a chance to mingle with the locals. The Rooms4Free website that features Mr. Kharchenko's ad is part of Friendly Ukraine, a grassroots initiative organizing everything from personalized tours to an army of volunteer translators for the tens of thousands of foreign guests treading gingerly through the Cyrillic alphabet and local customs.

Friendly Ukraine's organizers say the scheme is meant to counter a growing wave of bad publicity washing over Ukraine ahead of the June 8-July 1 tournament, with Western headlines about price gouging, racism, dog culling and political boycotts dampening what was meant to be a triumphant European debut for the post-Soviet country.

The program has drummed up droves of eager participants in the tournament cities. But it has also seen surprising turnout in more remote pockets of Ukraine, where residents in towns like Lutsk, Kherson and Kremenchuk are eager to show off their private corner of a country they say is more hospitable and open-minded than many foreigners realize.

Dmytro Grigoryev, a 30-year-old entrepreneur, has received only a handful of offers from Euro tourists to visit his family home in the northern city of Sumy, which is 170 kilometers from the nearest match site and even he admits "is scarcely of any interest to tourists." All the same, he says, he's eager to play host.

"I'd like to travel in Europe some day, and I'd like people to treat me the same way," says Mr. Grigoryev, who lists among his city's attractions the fortress where Peter the Great lived in preparation for his 1709 victory over Swedish forces in the battle of Poltava. "For me, it's just a pleasure to spend time with people."

(Continued on page 3)

Rada OKs first reading of law on language Bill negates primacy of the Ukrainian language



Opponents of the language bill march up Hrushevsky Street toward the Verkhovna Rada on June 5. The banner reads: "Language, Fatherland, Ukraine."

by Zenon Zawada
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – Ukraine's ruling coalition in the Verkhovna Rada on June 5 gave initial approval to a bill that would dismantle remaining safeguards on the state use of the Ukrainian language, thereby enabling Russian to replace Ukrainian in the state institutions of most of the country's cities and oblasts.

Opposition deputies said they planned to block the vote but claimed that Rada Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn tricked them by switching the bill to being the first agenda item from third. Coalition deputies snuck through 234 votes in favor without friction in the session hall, whereas two weeks ago fists flew in the chamber.

Only 172 coalition deputies were registered in Parliament that morning however, which means they cast the remaining 54 votes – 226 votes are necessary for a simple majority – on behalf of their absent colleagues by using their voting cards. Such a practice violates the Ukrainian Constitution.

National deputies thus approved the bill in its first reading. Its co-sponsor, the Ukrainophobe provocateur Vadym Kolesnichenko of the Party of Regions of Ukraine, said the coalition will pass the second reading within a month. Generally, bills are signed by the Ukrainian president after the second passage.

The legislation's intention – five months ahead of the October 28 parliamentary elections – is to mobilize Russian-speaking citizens to support the Party of Regions of Ukraine, whose popularity has plummeted amidst dete-

riorating socio-economic conditions and rampant corruption, critics said.

"They're losing their electorate, and they needed to cement their nucleus, which is Russian nationalist. They have nothing else," said Oles Doniy, a national deputy with the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc. "This process has to be prolonged to disburse the information. They will pass a second reading during the course of the election campaign so as to rein in their Russian nationalist electorate. Unfortunately, it's an effective mechanism that can be employed every election."

Outside the Verkhovna Rada building, more than 3,000 protesters were greeted by a similar number of Party of Regions supporters, who surrounded the Parliament behind metal barricades and received the protection of hundreds of helmeted Berkut special forces equipped with tear gas.

The Party of Regions bused its supporters from the southern and eastern regions, including Odesa, and reportedly paid them \$17 each, though days later media reports surfaced that they did not receive the promised compensation. Some opposition protesters also received similar payments, media reports said.

Blows to the economy

Besides mobilizing its electorate, political observers said the renewed language debate served to ignite social intentions in order to distract the public's attention from several blows to the Ukrainian economy in recent weeks.

For the first time in several years, the hryvnia fell about

(Continued on page 3)

ANALYSIS

Party of Regions again plays Russian language trump card

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Several Ukrainian national deputies had their faces bruised and their shirts torn in a fistfight in Parliament on April 24. The opposition caucuses of Our Ukraine and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc provoked the brawl in order to disrupt voting on a controversial language bill, which the ruling Party of Regions (PRU) wanted to pass in order to increase its chances of victory in the parliamentary elections scheduled for October 28.

The fighting forced Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, to close the session early. Yet, the PRU is as determined to push through its bill as the nationalist opposition is determined to prevent this. Both are actually concerned about mobilizing their electorates rather than about linguistic rights.

The PRU's opponents were not shy about using non-parliamentary methods to derail the vote on the language bill. While one of them snatched the chair from under Mr. Lytvyn, another one broke his microphone (Ekonomicheskije Izvestia, May 28). Rada Vice-Chairman Mykola Tomenko, who is from the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), said the opposition was ready to physically block the parliamentary rostrum for a month if needed so that President Viktor Yanukovich would be forced to legally disband the Parliament (Channel 5, May 25).

According to the bill that was drafted by Vadym Kolesnichenko and Serhii Kivalov from the PRU, the native language of at least 10 percent of the population in every Ukrainian region will be given the status of a regional language. Under the new law, minorities would thus be able to use their languages in education and in dealing with the state. The PRU argues this is in line with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and would bring the country closer to European standards of democracy. The opposition fears that the bill, if passed into law, will introduce de-facto Russian-Ukrainian bilingualism, said Volodymyr Yavorivsky from the YTB (Inter TV, May 24).

Ms. Tymoshenko claimed from her prison cell that passing the law would be a "crime" (Ukrayinska Pravda, May 24). The nationalists believe that neighboring Russia uses its language as a tool for domination and subjugation – hence their staunch opposition.

If the PRU takes the upper hand, Russian may become the regional language in 13 out of the country's 25 regions, along with Hungarian in the Transcarpathian region, Romanian in the Chernivtsi region and Crimean Tatar in Crimea (glavcom.ua, May 14). This may improve Ukraine's relations with Hungary and Romania, whose governments often claim that Ukraine does not respect its minorities. Mr. Yanukovich will also try to use the law to improve relations with Russia, spoiled by recent bilateral trade disputes and Moscow's siding with the West to condemn Ms. Tymoshenko's imprisonment (Zerkalo Nedeli, May 26).

The head of the Russian Federal Agency for Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Countries and

International Humanitarian Cooperation, Konstantin Kosachev, said the current situation in Ukraine – with the Russian language discriminated against – is "absolutely unacceptable," and that Russia expected changes in this respect (UNIAN, May 26).

However, at least one large minority, the Crimean Tatars, traditionally allied with Ukrainian nationalists, is not happy about the PRU's initiative. Their leader, Mustafa Dzhemilev, warned that the law would split the country in two. He also said that Crimean Tatars want their children to learn Ukrainian. But if Russian obtains an official status, they will have no incentive to do so (for-ua.com, May 28).

Russian is the preferred language for 35 to 37 percent of Ukrainian citizens, while 45 to 47 percent prefer Ukrainian, according to a recent survey by Research & Branding Group (Ukrayinska Pravda, September 6, 2011). Another local pollster, the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, found that 47 percent of Ukrainian citizens are in favor of giving some status to Russian, which currently has none under the Constitution – Ukrainian is the country's only official language (zn.ua, March 18, 2012). Nevertheless, Russian dominates the print media and the Internet, while there is more Ukrainian on television, which is more strictly regulated by the state. Ukrainian also dominates in education, including in many Russian-speaking areas such as Kyiv.

Russophones make up the majority in eastern Ukraine, which is the PRU's stronghold. For this reason, the PRU has used the Russian language card in all elections during the last decade. The party's program calls for giving Russian the status of an official language on par with Ukrainian. However, this is impossible; it would require the backing of two-thirds of national deputies to pass such a constitutional amendment. The current PRU-dominated Parliament lacks that level of support, as Mr. Kolesnichenko said in a recent interview (TVi, May 16). Furthermore, there are many opponents of bilingualism even within the PRU's ranks, including President Yanukovich's key adviser on humanitarian issues, Hanna Herman.

Consequently, the PRU has instead chosen to support the law on regional languages, which can be passed by a simple majority. The law will not make Russian equal in status to Ukrainian, but it can make it the dominant language in half of the country while depriving Russian speakers of the incentive to learn Ukrainian. Both the PRU and the opposition agree that, if the law is passed, the popularity of the PRU is likely to rise by about 5 percentage points – up from the current 16 to 20 percent (zn.ua, May 26; ICTV, May 28).

The united opposition is currently running only 2 to 4 percentage points ahead of the PRU. Thus, the language law may decide the election race, and the rival camps in Parliament are unlikely to back down in their fight over this bill.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Thousands protest language bill

KYIV – Thousands of protesters demonstrated outside the Ukrainian Parliament after lawmakers gave initial approval to legislation that would make Russian an official language in some regions alongside Ukrainian. The bill was passed in the first of two readings on June 5 – with 234 deputies in the 450-seat chamber voting in favor – in the face of vehement protests by opposition lawmakers. Following the vote, opposition factions vowed to set up a tent camp outside the Verkhovna Rada as part of a long-term protest against the measure. A debate on the proposal last month led to a fistfight between lawmakers that left one deputy hospitalized. Under the bill, Ukrainian would remain the only official language in the country, but Russian could be used in courts, hospitals and other institutions in majority Russian-speaking regions in the eastern part of the country. (RFE/RL, with reporting by AP and UNIAN)

Yatsenyuk: Opposition's plans failed

KYIV – The opposition cannot explain why it failed to realize its plan to resist the adoption in its first reading of the law on the principles of state language policy. "I know that 30 [voting] cards were to be removed [from voting machines] and I know that we had to fight. And I know that today the opposition did not act in the best way. This is a very serious lesson for us," Front for Change Party leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk said at a press briefing on June 5, when asked why opposition lawmakers, on the order of Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc-Batkivshchyna faction leader Andrii Kozhemiakin, failed to remove 30 voting cards of majority national deputies from voting machines. The deputy leader of the YTB-Batkivshchyna faction, Oleksander Turchynov, in turn, said that Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn had violated an agreement on the procedure for the consideration of this issue in the Parliament's session hall. Mr. Turchynov noted that the language bill was to be the third issue submitted for consideration in the session hall, but that, immediately after

opening the morning session, Mr. Lytvyn had put this issue to the vote. He said that this order of the consideration of this issue should have served as a signal for opposition deputies to start blocking the Parliament's work. "Mr. Lytvyn, under agreement with his owners, has moved this issue, and national deputies simply did not understand that its consideration had already begun," Mr. Turchynov said. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Lytvyn: No time for bill's second reading

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn told reporters on June 5 that he believes the Verkhovna Rada will have no time to consider the bill on languages at a second reading this session. He noted that, according to the procedure, national deputies have 14 days to amend the bill and another 10 days to examine the document and that only after that could the document be submitted for consideration. "Everyone understands that the number of amendments to the language bill will not be less than to the Criminal Code," the chairman said. Mr. Lytvyn added that he had committed no violations during the adoption of the bill in its first reading. "I acted according to the rules of procedure, and I should not explain anything to anyone. Everything is clear and understandable. There were no treacherous actions on my part," he said. Mr. Lytvyn also said that he was personally against this bill. "I understand that, if adopted, it will not be observed," he commented. (Ukrinform)

PRU suggests a national roundtable

KYIV – The parliamentary faction of the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) has proposed to convene a national roundtable discussion to debate the bill on the principles of state language policy, which was passed in its first reading on June 5. "The Party of Regions, the group of authors [of the bill], proposes holding a national dialogue, a national roundtable discussion, [to which] we could invite interested media and work on each article of the bill,"

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Editor: Matthew Dubas

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3041
e-mail: admin@ukrweekly.com

Walter Honcharyk, advertising manager

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
fax: (973) 644-9510
e-mail: adukr@optonline.net

Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042
e-mail: subscription@ukrweekly.com

Ukraine: Friendlier...

(Continued from page 1)

Low budget, high impact

For other Ukrainians, the chance to host foreign guests is an appealing break from the everyday. Dnipropetrovsk native Larisa Kozynaya, who already has two sets of guests passing through during the tourney, says she and her husband, Dmytro, are always eager for company now that their adult daughter has moved to Kyiv.

"For one thing, we love people. We're an open family," says 43-year-old Ms. Kozynaya, whose lush backyard and promises of homemade borsch and shashlyk could prove a welcome antidote after a night of beery soccer chants. "It's a kind of adventure for us. I don't speak English very well, but on a basic level I think we'll understand each other."

Dnipropetrovsk, an industrial city that sits roughly midway between Donetsk and Kharkiv, has proved a popular hub for soccer fans making the long-haul drive between the two cities. (A recent series of trash-bin explosions also briefly catapulted it into the headlines as the focus of Euro 2012 terror scares.)

French soccer fan Isabelle Carvalho-Goncalves and her Portuguese husband, Jose, will be staying with Ms. Kozynaya during a two-week road trip through Ukraine that involves four soccer matches and five host families, all found on Rooms4Free.

Ms. Carvalho-Goncalves, 42, says many of her friends bought tickets for the tournament but later canceled their trips, dismayed by the prospect of paying up to \$1,000 a night for a hotel. Punishing price schemes and a threatened EU boycott over jailed ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko may have cooled some Europeans' enthusiasm for Ukraine's Euro games. But Ms. Carvalho-Goncalves says it wasn't enough

to deter her and her husband from making their first trip to Ukraine.

"I think when you go to the Euro it's for the sports, and you don't pay political matters much mind," she says. "What we want is to see the matches and to speak with the local people. We've already made contacts with some locals, and they're very happy to meet foreigners. It's the best way to get to know a country."

Fighting stereotypes

In its tumultuous 700-year history, Vinnytsia has been fought over by Lithuanians, Tatars, Poles, Turks, Kozaks, and Russians, and in World War II served as the site of Hitler's easternmost Werwolf headquarters.

Today, the central Ukrainian city of 300,000 is better known as the birthplace of Nataliya Dobrynska, the heptathlete who won gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, as well as the site of Europe's tallest illuminated musical fountain, located on the banks of the bucolic Southern Buh River.

Vinnytsia native Lena Chernaya, a 23-year-old engineering graduate, is eager to show guests the fountain and other sites in the leafy, low-key city. (She has yet to tempt guests to Vinnytsya, perhaps because the two nearest match sites, Kyiv and Lviv, require drives of three and six hours apiece.)

But at the same time, she acknowledges that her country's future is in many ways as rocky as her city's past. Ms. Chernaya was just a toddler when Ukraine declared independence and a teenager when the Orange Revolution briefly raised the prospect of Ukraine becoming a Western-style democracy.

Now, with the country's economy flailing and the state once again in the grip of Moscow's gravitational pull, she says she's hoping to use Euro 2012 as a chance to prove to visitors that "not everything in Ukraine is as terrible and sad as everyone says."

"A lot of what they say about our country now in Europe is true," Chernaya says. "But not all of it. It's like someone wants to sabo-

tage the Euro tournament. It's in somebody's interest to do so."

Ukraine - uncomfortably wedged between Russia and the European Union, and now sharing hosting rights with its more prosperous European Union neighbor, Poland - has seen its Western overtures repeatedly thwarted.

This has been particularly true since the 2010 election of its Soviet-style leader, Viktor Yanukovich, a period that has been accompanied by a vicious legal crackdown on Ms. Tymoshenko, his charismatic rival.

'Real Ukrainians, real Ukraine'

Ms. Tymoshenko's jail term, punctuated by a recent hunger strike and complaints of ill-treatment, were behind the threatened European boycott and are likely to indefinitely stall Kyiv's Western integration.

Add to that the wave of stories over garbage-can bombs, football racism, and unfriendly suggestions about visiting pedophiles and Ukraine, locals say, is facing an image crisis that may be impossible to surmount.

"The problem is that European journalists don't even have to make things up," says Anna Trepalyuk, an NGO worker in the idyllic Black Sea city of Odesa who is offering to house up to three people in a seaside cottage during the tournament month. "It's all right there. Prices have gone up, there was that scandal with the dogs."

But Ms. Trepalyuk says there's far more to her country than scandal - and points as an example to Odesa's summery forecasts, historic neighborhoods and a beach season already in full swing.

"I wouldn't say that everything has been ruined by the bad publicity, not at all," says Ms. Trepalyuk, 31, who adds she's been in e-mail contact with potential visitors from Poland and St. Petersburg. "Maybe some people won't come. But others will come in their place."

Ukraine, which was co-awarded the right to co-host the Euro tournament with

Poland in 2007, may no longer be viewing the tournament as an automatic stepping-stone to membership in the European community. Despite an estimated \$5 billion spent on hotels and infrastructure, Ukrainian authorities have responded churlishly to Western criticism over pricing scandals and the Tymoshenko case.

Even on a public level, enthusiasm for the EU has dwindled, with a poll in December 2011 indicating that fewer than half of Ukrainians - most of them in the western half of the country - still want their country to enter the bloc.

But that doesn't mean they don't want to show their guests a good time. In his Rooms4Free ad, Anton Yevsyushkin, a 29-year-old resident of Mariupol on Ukraine's southeastern Azov Sea coast, offers his potential guests airport or train-station pick-up, seaside accommodations, high-speed Wi-Fi, a widescreen plasma TV and simply "good company."

"Just as they say that Moscow isn't all of Russia, I can say that the host cities aren't all of Ukraine," says Mr. Yevsyushkin, who plays down his city as "industrial and young," but praises the spotless Azov coast that stretches beyond the city limits. "And I'd like foreigners to understand that this image they're getting from our government on the one hand and this hysteria in the Western press on the other, about racism and so on - it's got nothing to do with us."

"Real Ukrainians and real Ukraine are a completely different thing," Mr. Yevsyushkin insists. "In our basic values and outlook, we're the same Europeans as the rest of the citizens of the European Union. And not only in western Ukraine, but in eastern Ukraine as well."

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Rada OKs...

(Continued from page 1)

seven kopyyky to an exchange rate of 8.1 hryv per \$1 U.S. on May 24, the same day the language bill was first scheduled for a vote, reported Igor Lutsenko, a Kyiv-based economics journalist. The exchange rate has since stabilized to 8.05 hryv per dollar.

When the hryvnia loses value, Ukrainian institutions, businesses and individuals have a harder time paying dollar-denominated debt, Mr. Lutsenko pointed out. Moreover, more than half of Ukrainian consumption is on imports, which makes them more expensive and contributes to inflation.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian stock market has plunged 33 percent year-to-date, despite a global upswing in equities. The Ukrainian Exchange Index declined 7 percent during just the June 6 session of trading. The Ukrainian bond market hasn't fared much better, with the National Bank of Ukraine struggling to find foreign buyers for its debt, despite interest rates for five-year notes as high as 13.95 percent.

On the tax front, authorities have intensified their pressure on small- and medium-size businesses in an effort by the government to find money for its populist measures, such as restarting the initiative of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko of returning bank deposits lost during the Soviet Union's collapse.

The government of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov will need to find about \$16 billion in additional revenue to pay for these initiatives and make debt payments this year, estimated Volodymyr Lanovyi, director of the Kyiv-based Center for Market Reforms.

Aggressive actions

The aggressiveness with which the parliamentary coalition and its supporters pursued the language bill - police applied tear gas to protesters on June 5 and coalition deputies bloodied their opponents during a brawl in Parliament on May 24 - prompted some observers to suggest the legislation could be a key Ukrainian concession in the government's current natural gas negotiations with the Russian government.

"The Russians like to tie asymmetrical things together in their talks, such as the Russian language, natural gas and the Black Sea Fleet, so I don't rule it out," said Oleksander Paliy, a veteran political expert in Kyiv.

The bill "On the Foundations of State Language Policy," sponsored by Mr. Kolesnichenko and 2004 election falsifier Sergei Kivalov of the Party of Regions, is similar to legislation registered in Parliament in September 2010 by coalition deputies but never voted upon. The biggest distinction is that any references to the Russian language were replaced in the current legislation with the term, "regional or minority languages." The new bill also includes a clause that defines one's native language as "the first language that an individual mastered in earlier childhood."

The Kivalov-Kolesnichenko bill would give Ukrainian citizens the right to use the Russian language in place of Ukrainian - instead of alongside the official language as stipulated by the Ukrainian Constitution.

At present, the Russian language is used extensively throughout state organs, including courts, medical institutions, law enforcement and banks. The Ukrainian lan-

guage is most protected in such state institutions as schools, universities and the army, as well as in advertising in the mass media. The proposed bill would dismantle these remaining safeguards, allowing Russian to dominate education and the mass media in most cities and oblasts, Mr. Paliy said. It would enable the nation's Russian speakers to avoid the Ukrainian language from cradle to grave, he said.

"In practice, the Kivalov-Kolesnichenko bill means a forceful dissolution to an already vulnerable mass media that is just being born, which in current conditions means the practical preparation for the country's disintegration," Mr. Paliy said. "All this for the illusory gain - pleasing a small percentage of voters who still don't consid-

er Ukraine their homeland."

Critics also pointed out that the last language legislation approved and currently binding - the "Law on Languages in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic" of 1989 - already provides adequate opportunities for the nation's Russian speakers. This includes mandatory teaching of the Russian language in schools and the ability to use Russian in state organs and courts.

"Before going after language, laws or protests, legal order has to be brought to the state, which hasn't been able to establish functioning courts for 20 years and hasn't learned to implement its own language law for 23 years," said Yurii Svirko, chief editor of the newspaper Obzor (Survey) in Kyiv.

Freedom House warns about risk of 'Putinization' for Hungary, Ukraine

RFE/RL

WASHINGTON - U.S.-based rights watchdog Freedom House has warned that Hungary and Ukraine are at the forefront of an anti-democratic drive that could lead to what the group calls the "Putinization" of young European democracies.

The group said in its "Nations in Transit 2012" report that steps away from democracy in the two states have raised questions about the strength of Europe's post-communist democracies.

Freedom House singles out Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich for "systematically breaking down critical checks and balances" and pursuing the "Putinization" - referring to the strongman-style of longtime Russian leader Vladimir Putin - of their governments.

The report said democratic reforms have stalled over the past years in most Balkan states.

Declines were also noted in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan and in Russia, where Putin recently was inaugurated for a third presidential term after spending four years as prime minister.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Organizing Report for 2011

by **Christine E. Kozak**
UNA National Secretary

Congratulations to Eugene Oscislawski, Lubov Streletsky and Stephanie Hawryluk for recruiting the most new members to the Ukrainian National Association, a fraternal organization established in 1894 and still going strong today!

These three individuals are not full-time professionals, but volunteers who believe in what the UNA stands for and believe in the support the UNA provides its members through the sale of life insurance and annuities. We thank them for their dedication!

The number of new members recruited is but one criterion used to measure life insurance and annuity production within the fraternal system of the Ukrainian National Association. An additional criterion utilized is the aggregate amount of premium income during the reporting year. Each application for life insurance and/or annuity is accompanied by a premium payment or cash with application (CWA). For 2011, the top three branch secretaries who brought in the most life insurance premiums are:

Lubov Streletsky – \$8,328.20 UNA advisor (Branch 10 secretary)

Eugene Oscislawski – \$6,105.80 UNA second vice-president (Branch 234 secretary)

Christine Brodyn – \$4,740.00 Branch 27 secretary

The top two branch secretaries who sold the most life insurance or face amount are:

Christine Brodyn – \$750,000 Branch 27 secretary

Eugene Oscislawski – \$400,000 UNA second vice-president (Branch 234 secretary)

Each year the UNA honors its top producing branch secretaries. And, once again, the top producing branch secre-

taries are also members of the UNA General Assembly. A sincere thank you and congratulations are in order for the hard work and dedication it takes to continue producing new life insurance and annuities despite the various issues and challenges presented in today's economic and regulatory climate. A total of \$2,452,526 in life insurance was sold by the branch secretaries (excluding branch secretaries who work at the UNA Home Office) for a total of \$54,284.70 in life premium.

There are several avenues through which the UNA sells life insurance and annuities: the traditional branch secretary, as mentioned above; the independent field agents; and the Home Office professionals and branch representatives.

The UNA continues to grow and develop a separate production arm utilizing contracted independent agents. This, however, is a constant revolving door; it is a system that must be carefully fostered in order to build a loyal core of agents who will sell UNA products. By utilizing the professional agents, we are able to tap into markets that would otherwise be very difficult to access. UNA annuity products are the steppingstone to the agents. And, as proven by other fraternal organizations, once an agent is familiar and comfortable with an organization, there is a tendency to migrate from selling annuity products to selling life insurance. As with any fraternal, the mainstay and business core of the organization is the sale of life insurance; this is our number one goal. The UNA must sell life insurance in order to grow, thrive and continue serving its members. We have seen an increase in the production of life insurance sold by field agents. As of yearend 2011, 24 percent of the UNA's life insurance was sold by field agents as compared to 10 percent in 2010.

The Home Office professionals and branch reps also play a large part in this picture, for not only do they have their full-time responsibilities, but they also sell life insur-

ance and annuities. The Home Office staff, which also includes employees who are branch secretaries, sold a total of \$2,420,083 life insurance for annual premiums of \$36,463.65. Premium income for annuities (first year) is \$1,581,158.14 as of December 31, 2011.

With all working toward the same goal, life insurance premium income reported as of December 31, 2011, is \$1,395,473 as compared to \$1,341,215 – a slight increase over 2010. The UNA is continuing on the right path as our life insurance first-year premium income increased from \$117,083 in 2010 to \$200,682 as of December 31, 2011 – a new business growth indicator.

In today's difficult regulatory environment, most states are requiring the use of professionally licensed sales agents to sell life insurance and annuities. Some states require annuity-specific courses and companies to give product-specific courses. Some states have limitations as to how much or to how many individuals a non-licensed person, such as a branch secretary, may sell; thus, the UNA has been restricted by New York for all sales. It is within this difficult structure that the UNA is constantly striving to strike a balance between its fraternal structure and the regulatory requirements.

So once again, kudos are due to, not only our top producers, but to all of the UNA's branch secretaries, Home Office employees and professional agents who help increase our membership, but most importantly for helping the individuals in their communities commit to ensuring the future of their families.

2011 was a challenging year for all insurers, fraternal and the UNA. The low interest rates, the continued economic slowdown and rising costs impacted the sale of life insurance and annuities. Annuity and traditional life insurance premium income decreased from \$50,465,577 to \$41,487,293. Although premium income from life insurance increased, annuity premium income as of December 31, 2010, was \$49,093,324 as compared to \$40,077,334 in 2011.

(Continued on page 5)

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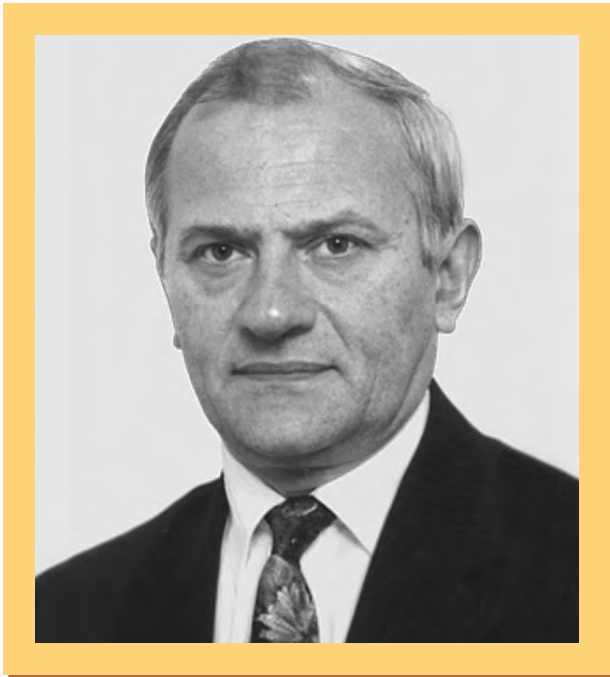
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2011 Club of UNA Builders



Eugene Oscislawski

UNA Second Vice-President (Branch 234 Secretary)
19 Members \$400,000 Insurance Amount



Lubov Streletsky

UNA Advisor (Branch 10 Secretary)
13 Members \$205,000 Insurance Amount



Stephanie Hawryluk

UNA Advisor (Branch 88 Secretary)
9 Members \$45,000 Insurance Amount

UNA Organizing...

(Continued from page 4)

In 2010 and through the third quarter of 2011 UNA witnessed much growth in our short-term fixed-annuity product. Because our products are competitive, the UNA must continually re-evaluate the investment strategies to ensure a profitable margin. Short-term interest rates continue to decline and remain historically low. Therefore, the UNA must carefully manage our product exposure as to the yields we can achieve in our investment portfolio. To reach this goal, we must adjust our product offerings periodically as market forces dictate.

In October 2011, the UNA decreased short-term annuity rates, which reflect a concerted effort to reduce short-term annuity sales as part of controlled growth. Concurrently the UNA encourages the sale of long-term annuities by offering extremely competitive interest rates to new members. Loyal member rates are offered to those who convert their short-term products to longer term products.

93 percent of the UNA's annuity product is sold by field agents, while 7 percent is sold by licensed branch secretaries and the home office. With various regulations, tighter controls and requirements, the UNA has been discouraging the branch secretary who is not licensed from selling annuities. We do encourage branch secretaries to refer individuals who are interested in purchasing annuities to contact the Home Office and speak to an annuity specialist.

In 2011 a total of \$6,892,237 of life insurance was sold for an annual premium of \$374,652.30. The traditional life insurance products make up 60 percent of the total life premium; 20 percent comes from term insurance and 20 percent from endowments. UNA products are high-quality secure products with competitive rates. The commitment made by the members to the UNA is a long-term commitment, as reflected by the purchase of traditional life products. It is a testament by UNA members as to their confidence and loyalty toward the UNA. The UNA is grateful for each and every opportunity to welcome every new member and grateful to the members who have continued with the UNA throughout its long history.

With the introduction of new products, the continued development of the UNA's agency and the recruitment of new branch secretaries, the UNA is looking forward to further growth. The UNA is showing a stronger position in the production of life insurance and annuities, and we must move forward while keeping in step with the competing world. Complacency has no room within our organization, and it is through professionalism and knowledge that we acquire the foundation, the power and strength to build upon, survive and prevail during these challenging times.

Our most sincere gratitude to all who make the UNA a viable and forward-moving organization; from the Home Office employees and the branch secretaries to the district heads, UNA General Assembly members and the Executive Committee. However, the UNA would especially like to acknowledge and thank you, our members, for your loyalty and support of this fine organization. The UNA and the community are partners for life!

UNA New Business Recap Report (CWA only)

January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011

BRANCH SECRETARIES

Name	Life	Face Amt	Annul Prem	Sgl Prem	Life	Annuity	Prem	Life & Annuity
**Streletsky, Lubov	13	205,000	6,908.20	1,420.00	8,328.20			8,328.20
*Oscislawski, Eugene	19	400,000	6,105.80		6,105.80			6,105.80
Brodyn, Christine	1	750,000	4,750.00		4,750.00			4,750.00
*Koziupa, Michael	3	60,000	1,989.00		1,989.00			1,989.00
Platosz, Adam	2	25,000	1,184.65		1,184.65			1,184.65
**Fil, Nick	4	194,000	1,171.69		1,171.69	2	20,000.00	21,171.69
Palaschenko, Olga	2	125,000	1,153.25		1,153.25			1,153.25
Fedorijczuk, George	3	150,000	841.50		841.50	1	50,000.00	50,841.50
Kuzio, Myron	3	20,000	839.00		839.00			839.00
Kotch, Joyce	4	26,000	796.06		796.06			796.06
†Matiash, Eli	3	15,000	676.85		676.85			676.85
Krywyj, Vira	2	125,000	544.75		544.75			544.75
**Hawryluk, Stephanie	9	45,000	473.00		473.00			473.00
Milanytch, Motria	1	10,000	463.00		463.00			463.00
Staruch, Longin	1	50,000	386.50		386.50			386.50
Diakiwsky, Nicholas	4	22,000	357.68		357.68			357.68
Shumylo, Lyubov	1	10,000	347.50		347.50			347.50
Gulycz, Eugene	1	5,000		290.00	290.00			290.00
Chupa, Barbara	2	40,000	267.60		267.60			267.60
*Horbaty, Gloria	2	55,000	263.75		263.75			263.75
Sawkiw, Michael	1	5,000	260.00		260.00			260.00
Koziak, Oksana	1	5,000	220.00		220.00			220.00
Keske, Zoryana	1	5,000	220.00		220.00			220.00
Dziuba, Christine	1	10,000	216.60		216.60			216.60
Hawryluk, Judith	1	4,526	200.00		200.00	3	57,000.00	57,200.00
Kuropas, Roman	1	10,000	42.50		42.50			42.50
Chabon, Joseph	1	5,000	35.55		35.55	2	20,000.00	20,035.55
Turko, Michael	1	5,000	29.50		29.50			29.50
Pryjma, Irene	1	5,000	24.25		24.25			24.25
MISC	5	66,000	21,215.52	591.00	21,806.52	5	141,377.39	163,183.91
***Serba, Eugene						3	7,000.00	7,000.00
Paschen, Gloria						4	40,000.00	40,000.00
Felenchak, Michael						1	5,000.00	5,000.00
TOTAL	94	2,452,526	51,983.70	2,301.00	54,284.70	21	340,377.39	394,662.09
Home Office	60	2,420,083	28,083.65	8,380.00	36,463.65	48	1,581,168.14	1,617,631.79
Field Agents	51	1,629,628	100,221.11	178,600.44	278,821.55	954	34,292,609.15	34,750,031.14
U.S. Total	205	6,502,237	180,288.46	189,281.44	369,569.90	1,023	36,214,154.68	36,762,325.02
Canada								
Name	Life	Face Amt	Annul Prem	Sgl Prem	Life	Annuity	Prem	Life & Annuity
**Osidacz, Eugene	1	300,000	4,034.00		4,034.00			4,034.00
Dolnycky, Alexandra	1	5,000	172.70		172.70			172.70
*Groch, Myron	2	50,000	129.75		129.75			129.75
Misc	1	10,000	325.00		325.00			325.00
Home Office	1	25,000	420.75		420.75			420.75
Total	6	390,000	5,082.20		5,082.20			5,082.20
Grand Total U.S. & Canada	211	6,892,237	185,370.66	189,281.44	374,652.10	1,023	36,214,154.68	36,767,407.22

* UNA Executive Committee Member ** Advisor, UNA General Assembly *** UNA Auditing Committee

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The language debate

The election season is kicking into gear and the Party of Regions of Ukraine is desperate. Its tax code has ruined the small business climate. Its political persecution of the opposition has ruined its global image and foreign investment. Corruption is rampant at every level of society. State revenues have dried up as a result of such economic policies, so spending has to be cut. Among those losing their social payments are veterans of the Afghanistan war and the Chernobyl clean-up, many of whom live in the eastern and southern regions that most supported the Party of Regions.

As a result, for the first time since the Orange Revolution, Ukraine's most popular political force is not the Party of Regions, but the newly enhanced Batkivshchyna party, according to an April poll released by the Razumkov Center in Kyiv.

With its own electorate disillusioned, the Party of Regions needs something to get their voters' blood boiling, stirring them off their sofas and into the voting booths. They're doing it by reanimating Ukraine's age-old language debate and passing such legislation in its first reading at the June 5 session.

The legislation, "On the Foundations of State Language Policy," clearly violates the Constitution of Ukraine, which allows for the Russian language to co-exist alongside the official state language of Ukrainian. The bill would replace the Ukrainian language entirely in most regions of Ukraine.

Ukraine's language norms operate strictly on a de facto, situational basis, both in the private and public spheres. Rarely are the laws on the books – including the last language legislation approved in 1989 – enforced by the courts. The few exceptions are the army, schools and universities. Otherwise, the Russian language is alive and well in most regions of Ukraine. Court hearings are often held in Russian, and much of the documentation is in Russian. Practically all of the medical documentation in most of Ukraine's oblasts is in Russian.

The "Law on Languages in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic," passed in 1989, provides for wide use of the Russian language in state organs and even requires that the Russian language be taught in all schools. It would satisfy most citizens, if only it were enforced.

So, Ukraine doesn't need a new language law, and Ukraine's citizens have learned to get along without the involvement of politicians. That's when the trouble starts.

The official status given to the Ukrainian language by the Constitution serves as a general safeguard, which is more or less adhered to in those regions where it most matters. The true aim of the Kivalov-Kolesnichenko bill is to remove that basic safeguard for Ukrainian-speaking citizens in most oblasts and cities, thereby sealing their second-class status on the same lands where they are the indigenous population, surviving more than three centuries of Russian colonialism and 72 years of Soviet totalitarianism and genocide.

The legislation maintains the Ukrainian language's de jure official status, but throws open the last floodgates for Russian to dominate Ukrainian life on a de facto basis. It does this with remarkable subtlety, creating a linguistic utopia on paper in which citizens of Ukraine can educate their children, submit documents and receive medical treatment in the language of their choice.

Just as the nation's fiscal policy makes it impossible for the state to fulfill laws that guarantee free medical care, it will be impossible fiscally to create a comfortable linguistic bubble for each citizen. Schools don't have enough money to offer lessons in mathematics in as many languages as there are linguistic minorities of at least 10 percent in a given school district, which is the threshold established by the bill.

In the absence of safeguards for the Ukrainian language, all state employees – whether teachers, doctors or judges – will simply rely on the language used by the majority population, which is Russian in most regions of Ukraine. Political expert Oleksander Paliy summed it up best: "In essence, the bill has one goal: to disdain Ukraine within Ukraine."

It's too bad the Party of Regions' appreciation for Russian values and culture doesn't extend to that country's own law on languages. Certain clauses of the Russian law deserve particular attention. The state language of the Russian Federation is required for use in both federal and local government organs. In cases where the local language is employed, the Russian language must be provided alongside in audio and visual formats. Russia's federal organs are responsible for providing for the functioning of the state language on all of Russia's territory, taking measures to ensure the rights of Russian citizens to use the state language and providing for a system of teaching Russian as a foreign language.

In comparison, Ukraine's existing laws – the 1989 "Law on Languages" and the Ukrainian Constitution – are astonishingly indulgent. Yet this indulgence has been stretched beyond reasonable limits. Perhaps it's time for legislation similar to what Russia has. What would Sergei Kivalov and Vadym Kolesnichenko have to say about that?

June
10
2002

Turning the pages back...

Ten years ago, on June 10, 2002, the presidents of Ukraine, Germany and Russia signed a statement of understanding and cooperation in St. Petersburg, Russia, on the continued use of Ukraine's natural gas pipeline for transporting Russian natural gas to Germany. The agreement was expected to guarantee unimpeded flow of gas through Ukraine to Western Europe for the next decade.

The agreement also outlined European participation in a multinational consortium that would guarantee the gas supply. In 2002, 80 percent of European gas supplies that came from Russia passed through Ukraine.

The signing of the agreement came a day after Presidents Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and Vladimir Putin of Russia signed a separate declaration of strategic cooperation in the natural gas sector, with Russia gaining influence over Ukraine's natural gas pipeline in exchange for Russia's agreement to abandon a gas transport project that would circumvent Ukraine in favor of a route through Belarus. It was expected that the presidents of Ukraine and Russia would draw up details of a 10-year agreement of cooperation in gas storage and transporta-

(Continued on page 15)

KEYNOTE SPEECH: Assessing NATO-Ukraine relations

Following are excerpts of the keynote speech delivered on May 19 by former Foreign Affairs Minister of Ukraine Volodymyr Ohryzko at the conference on "Assessing Ukraine-NATO Relations" in Chicago.

... I am convinced that our conference today is also a very serious step on the road to deepening discussions about and around Ukraine, which will therefore foster a better understanding of our country and its problems. ...

On the eve of the 20th century Ukraine was a gloomy province of the Russian Empire. After having made the greatest educational, intellectual, cultural and, finally, simply physical contribution to the creation of this very empire, Ukrainians eventually became, through the efforts of their own leaders, "expendable material," a kind of "imperial humus." The question of whose fault this was is not entirely rhetorical.

For us, Ukrainians, it is unpleasant and painful because, despite all our attempts to put the blame for our problems on someone else, the answer is utterly simple: in reality, it is we, Ukrainians, who are at fault.

When I reached adulthood and finally had an opportunity to read the truthful history of Ukraine, I kept catching myself thinking that our knightly ancestors frequently defended foreign kings, tsars and khans, but for some reason they rarely asked themselves the following straightforward questions: Who are we? Where is our state? How should we build and safeguard it? Why should we serve others and not ourselves? Rephrasing the writer Volodymyr Vynnychenko's famous phrase that the history of Ukraine cannot be read without a sedative, I would add that sometimes it cannot be read without a sense of shame.

Having said this, in no way do I wish to diminish the deeds of our glorious ancestors, from Prince Yaroslav the Wise to the heroic chieftains of the Kozak era. But facts are facts: we did not manage to save and maintain even the historic nucleus of Ukrainian statehood around Kyiv and Lviv.

Therefore, the response to the lack of an answer to the question of our statehood became the period in our history known as the "Ruin," which was marked by mental ruin, political ruin and the destruction of our statehood. During the period of Russian colonization, Ukraine seemed to disappear from history; it entered a frozen, semi-living state. In my opinion, by far the worst consequence of the centuries spent under the brutal Russian yoke was that the spirit of liberty, independence and impulse to rebel eroded among many Ukrainian leaders and was supplanted by "Little Russian" views of Ukraine's history and destiny.

At the turn of the 20th century it was not a martial spirit aimed at achieving independence that was paramount in the minds of our numerically small intelligentsia but pseudo-liberal views of the future of Ukraine as an autonomous part of Russia, views that were intermingled with socialist chimeras and blatant political impotence.

Therefore, as of the early part of the 20th century, Ukraine as a political factor did not exist either for the West or for Russia – or even, unfortunately, for the majority of the intellectual stratum in Ukraine, which should have formulated for all Ukrainians clear-cut goals and tasks necessary for state-building. To the world and, in fact, to our very selves, we were "a thing apart." Among Ukrainian leaders, practically no one since Ukraine's national poet Taras Shevchenko called upon the nation to metaphorically "grab hold of an ax."

Under these circumstances, could we have demanded special treatment from anyone when we ourselves refused to lift a finger on behalf of our very own future? Were not the first three universals of the Central Rada in fact more of an attempt to evade responsibility for the fate of our own people rather than a desire to take this responsibility upon ourselves? Could the Ukrainian nation have wrested its independence with this kind of elite? My answer is: no. Not because we know that this is indeed what happened, but because without a clearly formulated goal and decisive actions to achieve it, a positive result could hardly be expected.

Therefore, there is a very straightforward answer to the question of who we were for the outside world even after the Fourth Universal. For Russia, Ukraine was a rebellious province that had to be put in its place, including by means of direct intervention and the occupation of the Ukrainian lands. For the West, Ukraine was a giant mystery, an incomprehensible phenomenon, to which it had simply to accustom itself first, understand it and then develop its own standpoint.

Unfortunately, the West was incapable of understanding Ukraine's special role within the spectrum of possible changes to the geopolitical map of Europe, and was not able to adopt adequate and far-reaching decisions to use a chance to put an end to Russia's hegemonic, imperialistic plans. Instead, the West's policies turned out to be short-sighted and strategic failures. Imagine what the history of Europe would have been like if an independent – and consolidated – Ukrainian state had appeared at that time on the map of Europe. ...

What was the true nature of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk? On the one hand, it appeared to be a show of formal support for Ukraine. On the other, it was above all a solution to Germany's economic problems. Do you remember how many millions of poods of grain and other kinds of agricultural products Ukraine shipped to Germany? I would call the Germans' approach to the "Ukrainian question" during that period "consumerist." ...

What can one say about the countries of the Entente? They slept and reflected on how to topple Hetman Skoropadsky's "pro-German" – as they saw it – government as quickly as possible. Ukraine never ended up obtaining any real assistance to counteract the overt aggression of Bolshevik Russia. At a critical moment Ukraine was not only not offered any help, once again it was divided up between communist Russia and "democratic" Europe, which simply forgot about a nation called Ukraine, not to mention its statehood. ...

The window of opportunity for Ukraine remained shut until 1991, with the preceding 70 years of the "Communist paradise" having brought untold suffering to the Ukrainian people. By this I mean the 1932–1933 genocide against the Ukrainians, which took the form of the Holodomor – organized murder by famine; the mass executions of Ukrainian intellectuals in 1937–1938 – which may also be qualified as genocide; the horrific losses of 5 million combatants and 5 million civilians during the second world war; the persecutions of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) soldiers who heroically fought on two fronts: against the Nazis and against the Communists for a free and independent Ukraine, the persecution of Ukrainian intellectuals during the postwar period; and the notorious gulag.

(Continued on page 15)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Loss of Ukrainian art treasures

Dear Editor:

Recently, several situations arose in our Florida community that shocked and upset me. These situations happen all too often here in Florida, because many Ukrainian retirees live in the Sunshine State. Realizing that this probably occurs in other communities as well, I wish to bring this horrific situation to the attention of The Ukrainian Weekly readership.

Paintings by well-known Ukrainian artists, icons, embroideries and wood-carvings are being given to various "donation" organizations. Such treasures are also sold at garage sales, where works of art are sold for \$20 or \$30, and unique, one-of-a-kind and priceless cultural items are often sold as cute trinkets at thrift shops. Or, as happened last year when a house was sold, the contents, including many artifacts, are placed curbside for trash pickup and hauled off to a landfill. Also hauled off was a videographer/photographer's 30+ year collection of videos and photos of Ukrainian concerts, events and celebrations.

These tragedies occur because surviving sons, daughters or relatives do not know the value of the possessions that the deceased leave behind. When a retiree dies, the children and relatives often live far away; most have little time to travel and liquidate the belongings accumulated by the deceased.

As our communities age, these scenarios will occur more often. We must find a way to prevent such things from happening.

I welcome other thoughts and ideas on this matter.

Orysia Nazar Zynycz
Venice, Fla.

The diaspora and Yushchenko

Dear Editor:

George Sajewych's letter, "Ukraine's direction towards catastrophe" (April 22) was sobering and refreshing to read.

A lot of damage was done by the diaspora's cover-up of ex-President Viktor Yushchenko. I was told, "You cannot criticize the president."

Mr. Yushchenko gave immunity to Leonid Kuchma for theft and apparently

planned the beheading of a journalist. He chose Viktor Yanukovych for his prime minister and brought enemies of Ukraine into his government (2005-2010). The diaspora did not get it!

Mr. Yushchenko and his protégés traveled to western Ukraine to tell people to vote for no one. A few days earlier Mr. Yushchenko said Stepan Bandera, whom he never praised before, was a hero. Now his Soviet education reared its head to confuse people when they voted. Mr. Yushchenko set the stage for a return to the Soviet past. He was a fraud in the Orange Revolution.

The diaspora made Mr. Yushchenko think he was glorified with all its fawning. It would be ridiculous, if it wasn't so tragic.

Conferences will not help! They're a waste of time and money.

Pearl Holubowsky
Toronto

About graves and history

Dear Editor:

According to the Canadian national daily, The Globe and Mail, of October 17, 2000 ("85-year-old battles to save Holocaust graves" by Kim Lunman), "...an estimated 60 Ukrainian prisoners of war were also executed and buried in the Jewish Cemetery by the German Gestapo in 1944." These were not Sichovi Striltsi (the Ukrainian warriors of World War I) as Meylakh Sheykhet claims in the interview which appeared on page 4 of The Ukrainian Weekly of May 20.

Furthermore, according to the Sambir-born Jewish Canadian Jack Gardner, who spent \$250,000 of his own money to resurrect the Sary Sambir Cemetery (see The Globe and Mail, May 9, 1987), no Holocaust victims were buried in this cemetery since, "The entire Jewish population was shipped off in 1942-1943 in cattle cars to the extermination camp, Belzec, where they perished."

Consequently, to terminate these decades-long Jewish-Ukrainian hostilities regarding a chunk of land, presently designated as parkland, wouldn't it be rather rational, firstly, to arrive at the historical facts concerning it, and then divide the disputed area in such a manner that would prevent the corpses from daring to attack each other?

Myroslaw Prytulak
Windsor, Ontario

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Bucharest to Chicago

If Ukraine ever had a chance to join NATO, it was at the 2008 NATO summit in Bucharest. The primary focus at the 2012 NATO summit in Chicago was the future of Afghanistan. Ukraine wasn't even on the radar screen.

In his presidential memoir "Decision Points," George W. Bush wrote:

"At the NATO summit in Bucharest, both Georgia and Ukraine applied for Membership Action Plans, (MAPs), the final step before consideration for full membership. I was a strong supporter of their applications. But approval required unanimity, and both Angela Merkel and Nicholas Sarkozy, the new president of France, were skeptical. They knew Georgia and Ukraine had tense relationships with Moscow, and they worried NATO could get drawn into war with Russia. They were also concerned about corruption... I thought the threat from Russia strengthened the case of extending MAPs to Georgia and Russia."

President Bush also believed that a step toward NATO membership "would encourage them [Ukraine and Georgia] to clean up corruption." A compromise was reached when "a statement announcing that they were destined for future membership in NATO" was issued.

That destiny was never fulfilled. Prodded by the Bipartisan Commission on U.S. Policy toward Russia - chaired by the former senators, Gary Hart and Chuck Hagel - the Obama administration pushed the "reset" button and began schmoozing with Moscow. Last March our president met with then-Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and promised "more flexibility" on missile defense after the election.

Two questions beg to be answered: how did the Hart-Hagel commission come to be, and what are the prospects of a mellowing Russia, especially its relationship with the so-called "near abroad."

The Bipartisan Commission on U.S. Policy toward Russia is the brainchild of Harvard's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. The principal findings of the commission were released at the National Press Club in March of 2009. Bemoaning the fact that U.S.-Russian relations had deteriorated in recent years, the commission suggested that Russia and the U.S. had common interests in Iran and in missile defense. The commission recommended "a new look" at missile deployments in Poland and the Czech Republic, and the acknowledgement that neither Ukraine nor Georgia was ready for NATO membership. The result was President Barack Obama's "reset" with Moscow.

So who were the players on the commission? Sen. Hart, a Democrat, ran for U.S. president in 1984 and 1988. His second run ended abruptly, you will recall, when he was exposed by the press for having an extramarital affair with Donna Rice. Sen. Hagel, a decorated Vietnam veteran, voted for the Iraq war. In 2007, however, he was one of three Republican senators to support legislation demanding troop withdrawal from Iraq within 120 days. After deciding not to run for re-election, he suggested he was open to the possibility of running for vice-president on the 2008 Obama ticket. So much for his Republican bona fides.

The driving ideologue of the commission was Russian-born Columbia University professor Dmitri Simes who consistently

pushed for improved relations with Russia as a way to advance America's vital interests. This meant toning-down our criticism of Russia's authoritarian domestic policies, forgetting the Bush administration's "Freedom Agenda" and abandoning support for further NATO expansion. All this in return for Moscow's support for curbing Iranian nuclear ambitions and cooperation in other spheres of common interest.

So, how well has the reset worked? Newly re-elected President Vladimir Putin disrespected President Obama's invitation to attend the G-8 summit at Camp David. Moscow refuses to support sanctions on Iran. Mr. Putin continues to support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad with arms and supplies. The START treaty has expired while Russian negotiators are resisting U.S. inspections. The reset has earned us nothing but the conviction in Mr. Putin's mind that the U.S. is "a paper tiger," and this is the real danger for the United States.

A professor at the New School in New York City, Nina L. Khrushcheva, Nikita Khrushchev's great granddaughter, has a different take on Russia today from that of Prof. Simes. "There is one important thing to keep in mind in talking about Russia," she recently wrote, "it doesn't change. Russia's problem is that it is an 'absolutist country.'" Messrs. Putin and Medvedev, she continued, "continuously evoke an image of Russia as a supremely ordained nation, a global power, destined to withstand on its own the decay and destruction of the West... With this grand reason in mind Putin feels completely justified returning to Russia's authoritarian past - silencing critics, manipulating elections, sending its military across international borders, and appointing friends and cronies to high government and business positions... To him, Moscow remains the 'Third Rome' it declared itself to be in 1472..."

Unlike many Russians, Ms. Khrushcheva is especially erudite with regard to Ukraine. "The Orange Revolution of 2004 which overturned a rigged presidential election proved that Ukraine was no longer a Malorissiya (Little Russia), an inferior and subordinate Slavic brother," she wrote. "Ukraine is not a threat to the security of Russia - even if Kiev [sic] were to join NATO at some point... But Ukraine can be even more dangerous: as a real threat to the Putin model of the corporate, authoritarian state, unfriendly to the West. For the Kremlin occupants now and in the future, it is a matter of life and death that the experience of their former communist neighbors, who chose a different model of development, should never become attractive to Russian citizens... Thus if Ukraine succeeds over the next 25 years, it may herald the political death of Putinism..."

"The best way to help Russia today," concluded Ms. Khrushcheva, "is to help Ukraine over the coming decades support its claim that it belongs within the European fold, among European institutions. This will influence Russian thinking like nothing else."

Hopefully it will soon become obvious to the foreign policy establishment in Washington that helping Ukraine is definitely in America's strategic interest. It's time to undo the reset!

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

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials - feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. - we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- Persons who submit any materials must provide a complete mailing address and daytime phone number where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Ukrainian Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
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Participants in discussion on the topic of leadership styles.



Participants of the Youth Leadership Seminar visit the Taras Shevchenko monument.

UAYA Youth Leadership Seminar hosted at Ukrainian Embassy

by Lida Mykytyn-Voronka

WASHINGTON – The imposing historic Georgetown mansion that is home to the Ukrainian Embassy set the tone for the annual Youth Leadership Seminar organized by the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA), as the participants began their two-day intensive training.

A few select high school juniors and seniors from across the United States who have proven their leadership potential and dedication within the ranks of the UAYA, were invited to participate in this scholarship-based seminar. These participants were selected based on their nomination and support by their local UAYA branches, a very competitive screening process and approval by the organizing committee.

Participants attended from geographically dispersed branches, such as Palatine, Ill., Cleveland, Chicago, New York, Passaic, N.J., Yonkers, N.Y., and Philadelphia. The invited participants were: Matviy Sklaski, Chrystyna Melnyk, Svitlana Mykulynska, Dana Kurylyk, Anastasia Koval, Marta Kotsubaeva, Anna-Maria Bagan, Solomiya Chuyko, Petro Chudolij, Marusia Surmachevska, Antonina Luszczak, Natalka Midzak and Alex Drobot.

The seminar, which was held at the Ukrainian Embassy on April 20-22, focused on leadership, marketing and public relations, project management, and motivation in non-profit organizations. These topics, presented in experiential sessions,



Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Olexander Motsyk poses with the participants of the Youth Leadership Seminar in the Washington Room of the Ukrainian Embassy.

equipped the participants with first-hand exposure and formed the base the participants will then transform into practice, not only at the seminar, but back in their communities upon their return.

The architect of the program was Nelya Lavrynenko, head of the educational council of the world executive of the Ukrainian Youth Association, who has a certificate degree in leadership training.

During the two-day seminar, participants were exposed to thought-provoking discussions, challenging teamwork exercises and even a moonlight tour of the nation's capi-

tal. The goal of the seminar was twofold: to equip the future leaders of the UAYA and the Ukrainian community with an understanding of true leadership, and to help them personally evolve and grow.

The itinerary included a tour of the Ukrainian Embassy, which has a deep historic meaning to both the American government from the times of George Washington, and to the Ukrainian government. The participants had the unique opportunity to meet with a representative of the Ukrainian government, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States,

Olexander Motsyk. The group was also attended to during its stay at the Embassy by the Second Secretary and Cultural Attaché Oresta Starak.

The activities did not end with discussions on Saturday. After a long day of intense work, the group was rewarded with a several hour tour of historic Washington, visiting many famous architectural and historic landmarks under moonlight.

The Sunday session focused on extending and applying the principals of leadership and organization learned during earlier sessions. The participants were charged with organizing a project from concept building through execution. This hands-on workshop, crafted by Lida Mykytyn-Voronka, Genya Kuzmowycz-Blahy and Maryka Drozd, crystallized the individual facets of concept building, target marketing, public relations, organizing logistics, budgeting and financing, program development, project management, etc. The participants had to work together, under the pressure of time, to formulate and present their project: a new camp.

Upon completion of the intensive two-day program, several themes emerged from the seminar. The participants came to the conclusion that a good UAYA leader should be: honest, approachable, patriotic, patient, reliable, confident and Christian. They understood the need to evolve to become more efficient, productive and alluring, without compromising the vision, ideals and missions of organizations.

FOR THE RECORD: Canadian MPs recognize centennial of Plast

During 2012 Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization worldwide is marking the 100th anniversary of its founding. In Canada, the centenary was marked also with statements in the Senate and the House of Commons. Following are excerpts of some of the statements. (An earlier item published on May 13 cited the statement of MP Ralph Goodale of Saskatchewan.)

Sen. A. Raynell Andreychuk, May 3:

... I rise today to recognize the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization on its centenary. Created by Dr. Olexander Tysovsky on April 12, 1912, Plast was founded on the values of service to God and one's country, helpfulness to others, leadership and citizenship. Plast has a proud history in Canada. Ukrainian Canadians kept the Plast tradition alive in Canada through the years of the Soviet occupation of Ukraine when Plast was banned behind the Iron Curtain.

Following the collapse of the USSR, Ukrainian Canadian volunteer organizations, with the support of the Canadian government, played a critical role in fostering the re-emergence of Plast in Ukraine.

Today, Plast is active in all the provinces of Ukraine, in eight countries around the world, and in eight Canadian cities. This August, Plast will celebrate its 100th anniversary at a worldwide jamboree at its birthplace in Lviv, Ukraine. Some 400 Canadians age 12 and up will attend that celebration.

I applaud them for making what promises to be a life-changing voyage and encourage them to carry the Plast tradition in Canada into the next generation. ...

MP Peggy Nash (Parkdale-High Park, Ontario; New Democratic Party), May 1:

...This year the Ukrainian youth organization Plast celebrates the hundredth

anniversary of its founding. Taking inspiration from the scouting movement founded by Robert Baden-Powell, Olexander Tysovsky saw that Ukrainian youth could only benefit from an organization that would help them learn the value of teamwork, honesty, community-building and good works.

For the last 100 years, the Ukrainian community has seen the benefits of the teachings and experiences gained through Plast, with active chapters in eight countries, including six cities throughout Canada. I am proud to represent a riding in the city of Toronto which is home to Plast's largest Canadian chapter.

I stand united with my New Democrat colleagues in wishing Plast members, past and present, heartfelt congratulations. [The MP then spoke the words of the Plast greeting] Sylno, krasno, oberezhno, bystro!

MP Robert Sopuck (Dauphin-Swan

River-Marquette, Manitoba; Conservative Party of Canada), April 23:

...I join with the entire Canadian Ukrainian community in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Ukrainian scouting organization, Plast.

...Plast is a Ukrainian youth organization that fosters not only leadership and teamwork skills but also a remarkable connection between youth and Ukrainian values, culture and history. For a century now, Plast has motivated Ukrainian youth around the world, including here in Canada.

Ukrainian Canadian plastuny and plas-tunky will be celebrating this important milestone all year, including at summer camps and jamborees this August.

As the chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, I am proud to celebrate the invaluable contributions made by the Plast scouting organization and the Ukrainian community as a whole to building our country.

GENERATION UKE

Edited and compiled by Matthew Dubas

Passaic men's team wins eighth annual volleyball tournament in Yonkers

by Samuel Warycha

YONKERS, N.Y. – The Yonkers branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association held its eighth annual volleyball tournament on April 28 at Sacred Heart High School in Yonkers. The tournament is an annual spring tradition in Yonkers, and turnout for players was once again high.

This year, six teams competed in the adult division, four teams in the boys' division and two teams in the girls' division. Over 80 players competed in the all-day tournament, which featured great volleyball action. Teams came from Boston, Brooklyn, Hartford, Conn., New York City, Passaic and Whippany, N.J., and Yonkers.

In the adult division, team Passaic UAYA (1), led by Christian Hyra, won the championship match against a very strong Hartford UAYA team with the score of 21-17 and 21-18. Team Yonkers won third place over Passaic UAYA (2) in a one-game playoff with the score of 22-20. MVP for the men's division was Christian Hyra for his great play and consistency.

In the boys' division, Chornomorska



The girls' division teams, Chornomorska Sitch and Yonkers Krylati (UAYA), with coaches Alex Hladky (Sitch) and Roman Kozicky (Yonkers).



The boy's division teams: Passaic, Yonkers and Chornomorska Sitch.

Sitch won first place, Yonkers placed second and Passaic placed third. MVP for this division was Stefko Maksymowych from Sitch.

In the girls' division, there were two participating teams: Sitch and Yonkers. Sitch won the best-of-seven series, 4-0 (25-15, 25-12, 25-22, 25-13). The MVP of the girls' tournament was Katia Tomko from Sitch.

After the tournament's conclusion, there was an awards ceremony and dinner at the Ukrainian Youth Center in Yonkers, where teams and players were awarded trophies and individual medals.

The tournament was organized by Sammy Warycha, with help from the Yonkers UAYA young adults (druzhynnyky). A special thank-you was extended to everyone who helped set up and also referee the matches. The Yonkers UAYA branch will host its ninth annual tournament in 2013.

Embassy of Ukraine in U.S. hosts diplomatic mini-soccer tournament

WASHINGTON – More than 500 people, including foreign diplomats, mass media and friends of the Embassy of Ukraine attended the Diplomatic Mini-Soccer Cup on May 26 at Wakefield High School in Arlington, Va., hosted by the Ukrainian Embassy. The event attracted nine teams and marked the Euro 2012 soccer tournament, which is co-hosted this year by Ukraine and Poland.

Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Olexander Motsyk made the ceremonial "first kick" to start the tournament. The team from the Embassy of the Netherlands defeated the team from the Embassy of Russia and became the champion of the tournament. The team from the Embassy of Norway won third place. The Embassy of Ukraine team made it to the quarterfinals, but lost to the Embassy of Turkey.

Ambassador Motsyk presented the trophy to the Netherlands team. Following the tournament, the participants were invited to the Embassy of Ukraine, where they enjoyed a variety of Ukrainian traditional foods.

Volleyball phenom earns college scholarship, high school award

KEY WEST, Fla. – Ukrainian-born Olha Morekhodova, 18, was awarded a full scholarship to Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, Fla., for her promising volleyball career at Key West High School at an awards ceremony on May 10. She is the first person to be awarded a full scholarship for volleyball from the high school.

Coach Jessy Hulme Archer recalled their first meeting. "It was during tryouts in August and the first time she hit the ball in the hitting line, all the girls' faces lit up and they looked at me for my reaction," she told the Key West Citizen. "My face lit up, too, and we knew we had something special."

During the fall season, the 5-foot-10 Ms. Morekhodova excelled as a scorer, setter and defender, and was equally impressive off the court, greatly improving her English language skills through a special academic program. Ms.

Morekhodova won over her teammates, not only with her on-court skills, but her personality as her English improved.

In addition to volleyball, Ms. Morekhodova was involved in the school's track team to supplement her conditioning. She competed in 400-meter races, high jump and pole vault.

In a June 5 Division 16-4A match against Gulliver Prep, the Key West team lost three matches to its rivals, 25-13, 26-24, 25-15. The second match was closely contested, with Ms. Morekhodova opening the scoring with a 3-0 ace; at 16-14, she scored yet another ace, but the Key West team could not sustain the lead.

Ms. Morekhodova's family moved from Ukraine to Argentina (date not known) and then late last summer to the United States.

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BOOK REVIEW: "Winter Letters" across time and space

"Winter Letters and Other Poems," by Vasyl Makhno, translated from Ukrainian by Orest Popovych. New York: Spuyten Duyvil, 2011. 129 pp. \$15. ISBN: 978-0-923389-86-4.

by Oksana Lutsyshyna

"Winter Letters," the title of Vasyl Makhno's new collection, suggests an epistolary. This makes sense, as travel serves as the salient theme and organizing principle of the book. These epistolary poems are dispatched from New York, Ukraine, Colombia, Germany, Romania and half a dozen other places.

It is tempting to say that "Winter Letters" is full of contrasts; for instance: recollections from a Ukrainian – or, rather, Soviet past – are placed next to portraits of a New York winter; Bombay, the author's own Kryvyi Rih and Ternopil all co-exist in space, rolling in and retreating like waves. And yet through Vasyl Makhno's poetry they become more than just spaces but also the markers of time: the historical time of the Ukrainian letters, as well as the elusive personalized time that is preserved by poetry.

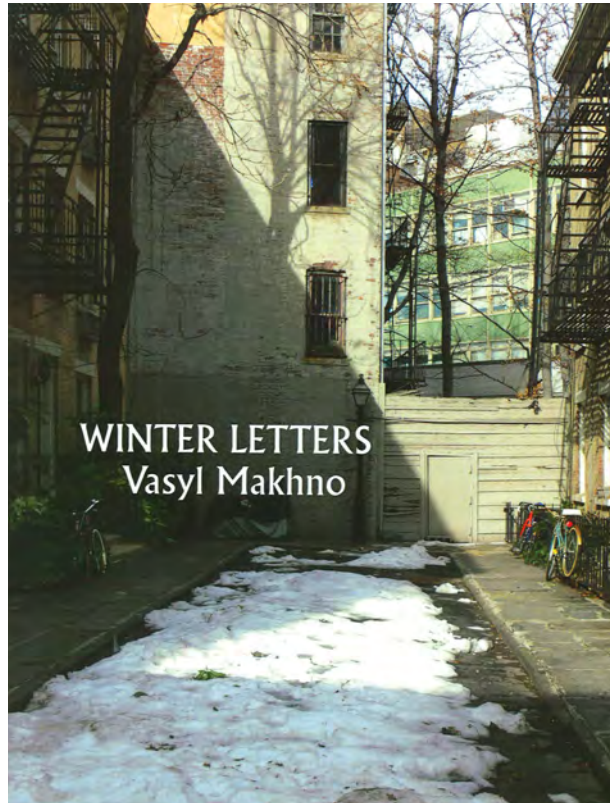
To recreate the atmosphere of each place visited, Mr. Makhno is generous with details: the poems effectively render views, smells, associations, faces and comparisons. The poems pay keen attention and seem to fully engage with their surroundings: "Taxi drivers doze off waiting in line/ a torn ad is ripped from behind a building/ they're paving the road – cars dash about/ and the lights are extinguished on lighters and windows" ("Berlin/Berlin Autumn").

Mr. Makhno continues in another poem, "Sighetu Marmatiei": "And Sighetu Marmatiei also smelled of squashed plums/ with their pits resembling the brown eyes of a dead cow/ with flies and ants crawling all over/ and it was obvious that the train was approaching the station."

In "Bombay," he writes: "at a New Jersey gas station Hindus in Shell company uniforms /reek of gasoline – Through the earphones Ravi Shankar is coaxing from his sitar shrill sounds/ that resemble – the squeal of temple rats which chase away the mice/ And the cackles of awakened monkeys/ A portly male – the local raja and sheik – slowly descends down the stones of the temple wall."

"Winter Letters" contains so many people and places that it stuns the reader as a revelation of just how well memory can serve us.

It is essential to note the work of the translator, Orest Popovych, who masterfully renders the combination of the lyrical and the ironic that constitute Mr. Makhno's style. Dr. Popovych carefully navigates both, striking a delicate yet confident balance between them. Mr. Makhno's poetry in English sounds just as rich and tangible as in the original, no matter whether we come across an elaborate metaphor or a slang expression.



Mr. Makhno has demonstrated with his earlier work that he is a poet of the city – a quality that distinguished him among his contemporaries in Ukraine and marked territory for the generation of poets to follow. New York, overwhelming like the Pacific or the Himalayas, has been a recurrent character in his poems since Mr. Makhno's immigration to the United States in 2000.

A quick and thoughtful study of this New World's poetry in which he found himself immersed, Mr. Makhno became a sieve for this contact and subsequently enriched Ukrainian poetics and literary culture.

What is not necessarily obvious to an Anglophone reader is that in Ukraine and in Poland, for example, "poet" was historically the nation-maker, the one whose immediate task was to preserve the national identity. The George Washingtons and Benjamin Franklins of such nations were writers, not politicians or military leaders. As examples, one could name the Ukrainian Taras Shevchenko and the Pole Adam Mickiewicz. Each of them is not only revered as a man of letters, but also as a prominent figure of the project of national liberation, so much so that to analyze their poetry as poetry, without its political platform (or perceived political platform), was for centuries considered blasphemy.

Such a stand was, perhaps, a necessity for the colonized nation, but, in the long run, proved to be detrimental to the project of national poetry, which would get fixated on the theme of national liberation.

The struggle of the Ukrainian language and Ukrainian contemporary poets for the "new language" was (and is) complicated by a number of factors, and the Eastern European (as well as simply European) propensity to nostalgia over the lost Golden Age is just one of them; post-colonial syndrome, with a fixation on the theme of liberation and neglect of other themes and thus the development of poetic language itself, is another. This same syndrome is to blame for the Ukrainians being largely ignorant of their literary history – for example, of the poetry of the beginning of the 20th century, the avant-garde which already explored a lot of the themes that are only now being re-discovered by the contemporaries.

What Mr. Makhno accomplishes in Ukrainian letters is no small feat: he was a member of a cohort of the artists who questioned the relationship of poet to prophet and redefined the notion of poet in Ukraine, with reverberations throughout the Slavic world.

Mr. Makhno, however, landed in the "capital of the world," New York, and there he revives the flâneur of the New World, and every coffee shop was a sentence, every bookstore – a stanza, every meeting – a communion. His poetry suddenly became "a place" – moreover, "an urban place" expressed without judgment and the traditional Ukrainian dichotomy of the city and the village (the latter always favored).

He did not judge New York as a terrified newcomer, nor did he excessively praise it, like a similar terrified (yet awed) newcomer. Mr. Makhno's New York is just New York. However, the fact that the poet dared to simply see it, without telling his reader what to feel (as the tenets of his Soviet-era maturation stressed) must be considered nothing short of groundbreaking.

In "Winter Letters," New York remains as in Mr. Makhno's earlier collections the New York of a thousand and one details. We see Coney and Staten islands: snow, pizza, chocolate muffins, parked cars, "puffed up seagulls" and the Verazzano bridge. We see Manhattan and its famous Broadway.

But as soon as readers acclimate to New York – or, rather, the city-scapes – they are suddenly transported to the unexpected Sighetu Marmatiei in a sleepy, timeless corner of Eastern Europe, with its "odor of wormy apples," a "railroad built back in the Austrian days," its "restored synagogues" and "tired gypsies."

(Continued on page 13)

BOOK NOTES: Poetry by Pavlo Tychyna in translation

"The Raspberry Eyelash: Selected Poems," by Pavlo Tychyna, translated and edited by Steve Komarnyckyj. Salzburg, Austria: Poetry Salzburg at the University of Salzburg, 2012. Softcover, 120 pp., \$18.

Pavlo Tychyna (1891-1967) grew up near Chernihiv, the son of a village deacon who enjoyed playing the clarinet and oboe. In 1910 he met the author who would become his artistic mentor, Mykhailo Kostiubynsky, whose is best known for his work "Tini Zabutykh Predkiv" ("Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors").

Tychyna flourished during the Ukrainian rebirth of the 1920s, but was one of only a few members of the Ukrainian intelligentsia who weren't victims of the Stalinist purges. He survived by writing hideous Soviet doggerel, but as the political climate relaxed after the death of Joseph Stalin, Tychyna was able to rediscover his talent and produce work that was both supreme poetry and acceptable to the regime.

Steve Komarnyckyj is a British Ukrainian writer and linguist who combines a career working for Britain's National Health Service with his literary and translation work. A native and resident of Yorkshire, his translations and poems have appeared in The Echo Room, Modern Poetry in Translation, The North, Poetry Salzburg Review and Vsesvit, Ukraine's most influential literary journal.

Mr. Komarnyckyj first discovered the works of Tychyna, who he describes as "the major Ukrainian poet of the 20th century," on a market stall in Ivano-Frankivsk. "I do not know why my hand reached towards the yellowed and dilapidated book," but "when I opened the pages I was

struck by the contrast between the coarseness of the paper and the quality of the poetry."

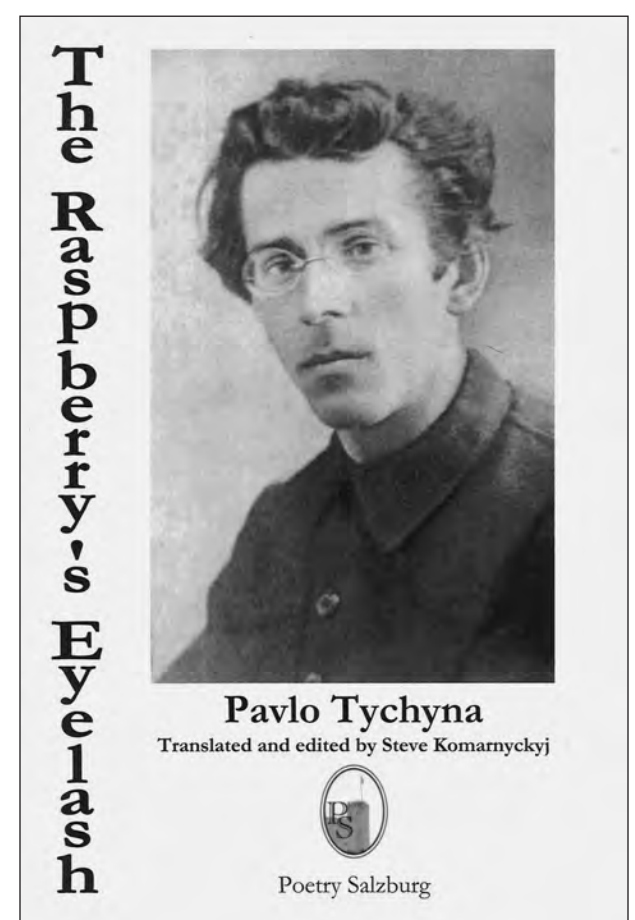
Tychyna's poetry, in Mr. Komarnyckyj's view, "mirrors the trajectory of [Ukraine's] national revival and suppression with the exuberant collections published between 1918 and 1924, being followed by the banal versification of the 1930s."

John Gosslee, an author and editor of Fjords Arts and Literary Review, has praised Mr. Komarnyckyj's translations of Tychyna's poetry, saying they "read like a symphony."

"The transcendent ideals of a 20th-century poet's struggle during Eastern Europe's transition into Communism are channeled through Komarnyckyj's keen ear," Mr. Gosslee noted. "Tychyna's themes are adapted to an English audience through a patient sensitivity to word choice with a rhythm that makes the poems resonate long after they have been read."

The Komarnyckyj translations "portray Tychyna's desire for peace and open criticism of a changing country's identity through a dialogue that outlines consequence and celebrates being. He succeeds in sharing Tychyna's sympathetic depth of character, while remaining linguistically buoyant. These translations skillfully embody the beauty and endurance of nature coupled with the human spirit. Prepare to be moved."

Readers interested in purchasing "The Raspberry Eyelash" (\$18, plus \$3 for shipping) may contact the publisher, Poetry Salzburg at the University of Salzburg, by e-mail at editor@poetrysalzburg.com or visit their website at www.poetrysalzburg.com.



Pavlo Tychyna

Translated and edited by Steve Komarnyckyj



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

National Deputy Vadym Kolesnichenko of the PRU, who is one of the authors of the document, said at a briefing in Kyiv on June 5. He added that all proposals and amendments to the document would be considered during the bill's second reading. The bill strengthens the position of Russian and other national minority languages in regions where the number of native speakers of such languages is higher than 10 percent. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Rada moves against discrimination

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on June 5 adopted in its first reading a draft law on prevention and countering discrimination in Ukraine. The bill proposes to define discrimination as decision, action or absence of action aimed at restrictions or privileges

regarding certain persons or groups of persons based on race, skin color, political, religious or other convictions, sex, age, ethnic or social origin, family or property status, place of residence, language or other signs, if they prevent the recognition and realization on an equal basis of human rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen. Forms of discrimination are proposed to be recognized as direct discrimination, indirect, instigation of discrimination or infringement. The Verkhovna Rada, Verkhovna Rada Commissioner on Human Rights, the Cabinet of Ministers and other state bodies, as well as authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local self-government bodies and public associations are proposed to be recognized as subjects, invested with authority to prevent and counter discrimination. (Ukrinform)

Hopes for \$1.5 B profit from Euro 2012

KYIV – Ukrainian officials say their

country could make up to \$1.5 billion in profit during the Euro 2012 soccer championship that runs from June 8 to July 1. Ukraine is co-hosting the championship with neighboring Poland. Ukraine's Infrastructure Minister Boris Kolesnikov told local media on May 28 that authorities want Ukrainian businesses – including restaurants, cafes and hotels – in Ukraine's host cities to start operating at full capacity. Mr. Kolesnikov said the Euro 2012 will be a "very good promotion" for Ukraine, in which he said Ukraine invested some \$5 billion for hotels and infrastructure. The 16-country tournament will take place in four Ukrainian cities – Kyiv, Lviv, Donetsk and Kharkiv – and four Polish cities – Warsaw, Gdansk, Wroclaw and Poznan. (RFE/RL)

Verkhovna Rada passes smoking ban

KYIV – Acting before the start of the Euro 2012 soccer championship, Ukraine's Parliament has banned smoking in most public places. Lawmakers on May 24 approved a law to make smoking in schools, colleges, hospitals, restaurants, museums and public places, such as buses, illegal. Smoking in airports, hotels, dormitories and company offices will be allowed only in special smoking zones. President Viktor Yanukovich signed the bill into law on June 1. Some 22 percent of Ukrainians over age 12 are smokers, according to the Health Ministry. Ukraine is co-hosting the championship with neighboring Poland and is striving to bring its laws into line with European standards. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by ITAR-TASS and AP; Interfax-Ukraine)

Ukrainians sentenced in Libya

KYIV – On June 4, a military court in Tripoli sentenced 19 Ukrainians, one Russian and three Belarusians to 10 years in prison. Another Russian was sentenced to life imprisonment. The court found them guilty of involvement in the repair of military equipment for the regime of former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi. The director of the Information Policy Department of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry, Oleh Voloshyn, announced at a briefing in Kyiv on June 5 that Ukraine will use all possible levers of pressure on Libya in order to secure the release of 19 Ukrainians. Mr. Voloshyn said a meeting was held with the Libyan ambassador to Ukraine, during which the Ukrainian side explained its position concerning the detention of its citizens. The Foreign Affairs Ministry said the verdict given by a court in Tripoli was "unacceptable" and called on the Libyan ambassador to help ensure the rights of all Ukrainians. The Foreign Affairs Ministry also expressed hope that, during the process of the appeal, the Ukrainian citizens will be able to return to Ukraine as soon as possible. At the same time, Mr. Voloshyn described the situation of the imprisoned Ukrainians as difficult. (Ukrinform)

Patriarch Sviatoslav arrives in Canada

CALGARY – Patriarch Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church arrived on May 31 at the Edmonton Eparchy within the framework of his first pastoral visit to Canada. Patriarch Sviatoslav was met at the airport in Calgary by the eparch, Bishop David Motiuk, along with representatives of the clergy, monastics and laypeople of the eparchy, reported the Information Department of UGCC. On June 2 the primate of UGCC was to participate in celebrations of the 100th anniversary of establishment of the Parish of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God in Calgary. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Lviv street named after holy martyr

LVIV – Deputies of the Lviv City Council on May 24 renamed Vynnytsia Street as Father Omelian Kovch Street. Sixty-three deputies voted for the measure. According to the resolution, the Shevchenko District Administration is to produce and install plates with the new name within a month's time. On May 11, in the town of Peremyshliany, a monument to the Blessed Omelian Kovch was unveiled. Father Kovch, who was imprisoned by the Nazis for rescuing Jews, died on March 25, 1944, three months before the liberation of the Majdanek camp. Some 80,000 people were killed in the camp over 34 months, including about 59,000 Jews. For many prisoners, Father Kovch was their pastor. On January 9, 1999, The Jewish Council of Ukraine proclaimed him a "Righteous of Ukraine." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Yushchenko inquiry could be closed

KYIV – The inquiry into the poisoning of Viktor Yushchenko when he was a presidential candidate in 2004 could be closed by the end of 2012, Procurator General Viktor Pshonka said on June 1. "I myself would like it to be over one day. There is every reason to discontinue the investigation, because he would not do the blood test. But time will come and they will say: the blood test was not done, but the case is closed already, and the whole process will start again. So we shall be patient until the end of the year, following which it is most likely to be closed," the procurator general said in an interview with Focus magazine. On September 5, 2004, Mr. Yushchenko met with senior Ukrainian security officers, after which he fell ill and on September 10 was hospitalized in Vienna. Doctors said Mr. Yushchenko was poisoned with dioxin and that the poison had gotten into the patient's system approximately five days before he was hospitalized. A number of tests were carried out later. In late May 2006, Mr. Yushchenko again tested positive for dioxin. More recently, Mr. Yushchenko has ignored prosecutors' requests to undergo another blood test as part of an inquiry into his poisoning. (Interfax-Ukraine)

UOC-KP may canonize Prince Askold

KYIV – On May 15 in the Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP), a national scholarly theological and historic conference on the 1,150th anniversary of the establishment of the Kyivan Metropolitanate and the Baptism of the Kyivan state under Prince Askold was held. The conference was attended by secular scholars, teachers of educational institutions, clergymen and bishops of the UOC-KP. The event was led by Patriarch Filaret. Introductory addresses were made by Ukrainian National Deputy Petro Yushchenko and Pavlo Zhuk, vice-chair of the Holoiv District State Administration of the City of Kyiv and head of the Society of Prince Askold's Memory. A greeting was given by the head of the presidium of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada, Protopresbyter Stepan Yarmus, who is also a professor at St. Andrew's Collegium in Winnipeg. The head of the UOC-KP Synodal Committee on the Canonization of Saints, Metropolitan Dymytrii (Rudiuk) of Lviv and Sokal, told the audience that the committee will study the possibility of canonizing the first Kyiv prince, Askold-Mykolai, as "a blessed martyr for the Orthodox faith" who was killed by pagans 1,130 years ago. The participants of the conference expressed a wish that events like this should be conducted

(Continued on page 13)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

by the two largest Ukrainian churches, the UOC-KP and the UOC – Moscow Patriarchate. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Yanukovich on Ukraine-EU pause

ISTANBUL – Ukraine will use the existing pause in its relations with the European Union to build Europe inside the country, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said on June 5. “The enlargement [of the EU] is a long-run prospect. We are all for the prospects, both for Ukraine and Europe. We will use this pause to build Europe in Ukraine,” the president said at a plenary session on the future of European integration held within the framework of the World Economic Forum in Istanbul. According to Mr. Yanukovich, Ukrainians realize European integration doesn’t equate to joining an elite club. “First of all, this is our homework, and we realize that much depends on Ukraine,” the president said. He added that Ukraine also understands that EU integration has stalled not only for Ukraine, but also for Turkey. “In our opinion, this is an incorrect decision, but the existing pause may well benefit both Ukraine and Europe,” he said. Speaking about building Europe in Ukraine,

Mr. Yanukovich emphasized the issue of boosting the country’s investment attractiveness for international partners. “We are well aware that only the investment and innovation development pattern in Ukraine will give us the prospect and opportunity to raise the level of our economy, and hence living standards, and to reduce the gap between rich and poor,” he explained. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Tymoshenko faces more criminal probes

KYIV – Ukraine’s procurator general said investigations have been launched into four additional criminal cases against jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Speaking to the Kyiv-based Fokus magazine, Procurator General Viktor Pshonka on May 31 said, “it has been proven that \$2 million were transferred from Tymoshenko-controlled bank accounts to organizers of the 1996 murder of lawmaker Yevhen Shcherban.” The wealthy Mr. Shcherban and his wife were gunned down in Donetsk in November 1996, in a case prosecutors linked to a struggle over control of energy resources. Mr. Pshonka said another case concerns debts owed the Russian Defense Ministry by an energy firm led by Ms. Tymoshenko in the mid-1990s. Ms. Tymoshenko was sentenced to seven years in prison in October for abuse of power. Her supporters say she is a victim of politically motivated prosecutions. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by focus.ua and UNIAN)

“Winter Letters”...

(Continued from page 10)

We visit Maine, then Bombay in India, then Medellin in Colombia, then we find ourselves on board the train Kyiv-Berlin, with all its passengers – half-criminals, petty merchants and others; it is an in-between space of nowhere, a dynamic space between spaces where all one can do is to listen to the voices near and far and to “press against the window pane of the railroad car.”

At this point, Mr. Makhno writes: “Bro – life is one big pile of crap – the onslaughts of emigration/within – for your own sake,” reporting, as it seems, a voice of this “bro,” a disillusioned tough guy, possibly a Ukrainian mafiosi, who probably rides on the train with the speaker of the poem. The train becomes a symbol of “inner emigration” and at the same time of letting go of a space.

To me, “The Train Kyiv-Berlin” is one of the most important poems in this book because it ties together space and time. The train moves between countries, but also between epochs: the new one, of course, with the borders open, and the old one, the bygone Soviet-era where everything is much slower, everyone is sleepy, because going anywhere is an impossibility.

Mr. Makhno’s train is the ideal time machine, with the destination and departure cities having an associative temporal component of meaning: at the start of line we see Kyiv, now a new Ukrainian city with Ukrainian (not Soviet) vodka labels (“with the silver image of Bohdan-Zynoviy” – that is, the Ukrainian military hero Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky) – and yet an older place, too; Kryvyi Rih, an important industrial city in central Ukraine, even more so during Soviet times, which are referenced here – a city plagued by all the evils of industrial cities (high crime rate, deaths, pollution, etc.)

At the end of the line is, Berlin, signifying the West in its new globalized ways (“In this city the coffee houses are scattered – like coffee beans” – “Berlin/Charlottenburg”), with all their freedom and alienation. And

of course, the best place for an (immigrant) poet is the train between these two centers of the world(s): time in it stays still and yet, as Einstein would say, moves quicker than usual.

Mr. Makhno’s images of the reality of his homeland are combined with his striving for new discoveries, and together they create rich and poignant poetry.

* * *

Mr. Makhno is a Ukrainian poet, essayist and translator. He is the author of seven collections of poetry: “Skhyma” (1993), “Caesar’s Solitude” (1994), “The Book of Hills and Hours” (1996), “The Flipper of the Fish” (2002), “38 Poems about New York and Some Other Things” (2004), “Cornelia Street Café: New and Selected Poems” (2007) and most recently, “Thread and Selected New York Poems” (2009).

He has also published a book of essays, “The Gertrude Stein Memorial Cultural and Recreation Park” (2006), and two plays, “Coney Island” (2006) and “Bitch/Beach Generation” (2007).

He has translated Zbigniew Herbert’s and Janusz Szuber’s poetry from Polish into Ukrainian, and edited an anthology of young Ukrainian poets from the 1990s. Makhno’s poems, essays and plays have been translated into a dozen languages. In recent years volumes of his selected poems were published in Poland, Romania and the United States.

Dr. Popovych, the translator, is professor-emeritus at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York and the president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society U.S.A. He is the author or editor of four books in English and one in Ukrainian. A collection of 33 of his English translations of Mr. Makhno’s Ukrainian poetry has been published as part of their bilingual book “Thread and Selected New York Poems” for which the translator was awarded the American Association for Ukrainian Studies prize for best translations from Ukrainian into English. His individual English translations of Mr. Makhno’s poems have appeared in AGNI, Poetry International, Interlitq (U.K.), International Poetry Review and Mad Hatters’ Review.

“Winter Letters” is Mr. Makhno’s eighth collection of poetry.

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USCAK - EAST 2012 Tennis Tournament



Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles

Dates: June 30 - July 1, 2012

Place: Soyuzivka Heritage Center, Kerhonkson, NY

Starting Times: Singles will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 30.
Doubles will start at 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 30.

Entry: **Advance registration is required for singles.** Entry fee is \$30.00 for adults individual or a doubles team; \$15.00 for juniors. Send registration form including the fee to:

George Sawchak
724 Forrest Ave., Rydal, PA 19046
215-576-7989

Singles registration must be received by June 25th. Doubles teams may register at Soyuzivka by 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 30.

DO NOT send entry form to Soyuzivka

Rules: All USTA and USCAK rules for tournament play will apply.
Participants must be Ukrainian by birth, heritage or marriage.
Players may enter up to two groups of either singles or doubles.

Awards: Trophies will be presented to winners and finalists in each group.
Host Club: KLK, USCAK Tennis Committee will conduct the tournament.

Registration Form
Make checks payable to KLK

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Women _____ Sr. Women _____ Girls _____ Age Group _____
Doubles _____ Partner _____ Mixed Doubles _____ Partner _____

“Woman in Exile” gets warm reception in Chicago

by Anna Golash

CHICAGO – The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art recently hosted an afternoon with Marie Chmielewsky Ulanowicz, who translated the book-memoir “Rozkazhu Vam pro Kazakhstan” written by Juliana Starosolska.

The memoir – published in English as “Woman in Exile” – is a series of vignettes describing the author’s journey to exile in Kazakhstan in 1940 and the six years she spent there until her release in 1946. Ms. Starosolska describes the ordeal of everyday life in the harsh Asian climate and under Soviet rule.

The book appeals to a variety of readers as it tells a story of a woman’s life deprived of its basic needs: the love of the family, the place she could call home, the sense of security, the ability to develop intellectually. It is also a moving account of new friendships and a search for human warmth. Its journalistic style is characterized by the economy of word and, at the same time, by its ability to evoke empathy.

At the February 19 event at the UIMA, Anna Bohoniuk Golash introduced the guest. Ms. Ulanowicz was born in Ivano-Frankivsk. Her family left Ukraine in 1944 and joined other refugees in displaced persons camps in Germany. Eventually the family settled in Maryland, where Marie started attending school. She completed a B.A. degree in music at the University of Notre Dame, an M.A. in historical musicology, and recently acquired another M.A. degree in theology (2002). Her interests, beside music, are in the area of Ukrainian folk culture with emphasis on the art of the pysanka, in theology, and in interfaith dialogue.

Ms. Ulanowicz shared the story behind her translation project. Even before the translation of the book was formally commissioned she translated portions of the book for her American friends who were very interested in the memoir but unable to access it in Ukrainian. She soon realized that she would like to translate the book. She contacted Ms. Starosolska, who informed her that a translation was already under way. However that project was never



At the book launch in Chicago (from left) are: Daria Jarosewicz, Anna Bohoniuk Golash, Marie Chmielewsky Ulanowicz and Orysia Cardoso.

finished. Ten years passed and the author contacted Ms. Ulanowicz, who agreed to translate the entire book. “Woman in Exile” in 2011 and was warmly received by critics.

The translator introduced the book by intertwaving the historical background and the personal histories of the late Ms. Starosolsky’s family. She began her presentation with a brief summary of the fate of western Ukraine at the time of the collapse of Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires, and the efforts on the part of patriotic Ukrainian to establish an independent polity there. Much success had been achieved with declarations of independence in 1918 in Lviv Kyiv followed by the declaration of unification in 1919. However the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 put an end to the short-lived period of Ukraine’s independence.

As a result of Versailles treaty, Halychyna was annexed to Poland, which soon enforced denationalization policies on Ukrainians. Ms. Starosolska’s parents, who lived in Lviv, were known for their patriotism and for the active role they played in defending the rights of Ukrainians. Juliana was born into this family in 1912. She completed higher education at the University in Poznań, Poland, and began her career as a journalist in Lviv in mid 1930s.

When World War II broke out in 1939, the Soviets took over Lviv and Halychyna as a result of Molotov- pact. In December 1939 Juliana’s father, Volodymyr, was arrested by the Soviet authorities and deported to an unknown location. She did not know of his fate until much later. He was sent to a labor camp, where he starved to death and was buried in a mass grave, which was subsequently paved over. A few months later, in April of 1940, Juliana, her mother and brother were exiled to Kazakhstan. Juliana became separated from her brother, who went to work in a mine. Fortunately he was able to locate Juliana and join her in exile.

Ms. Ulanowicz’s talk was accompanied by a selection of photographs and maps projected on the screen. She briefly narrated the author’s life story, showing photos of her parents, siblings and Juliana herself as a young woman in horse-riding garb, and a photo of a her as a mature woman on the streets of Lviv shortly before World War II.

The tragic period for the Starosolsky family, the imprisonment and exile, was not documented in photographs. At this point Ms. Ulanowicz showed the map of the Soviet empire. On the map the audience could trace the 3,000-mile train ride the

Starosolsky family made from Lviv to Kazakhstan. They covered that enormous distance in the cold of April in an unheated rail car.

In the introduction to her memoir, Ms. Starosolsky confesses that the memories of that trip haunted her all her life. Although she lived to tell her story, Kazakhstan became the resting place for her mother, whose health deteriorated. She never recovered from the hardships of the journey and died soon after arriving in Kazakhstan. Ms. Starosolska managed to bring her mother’s remains back to Ukraine; her final resting place is at the Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv.

The memoir consists of several chapters. They were written as separate essays and subsequently collected into a book, “Rozkazhu Vam pro Kazakhstan.” The first edition appeared in Toronto in 1969, the second in New York in 1976. An expanded edition of the book, to which the author added two chapters and an afterword, was published in Lviv in 2001.

Ms. Starosolska wrote an introduction in which she provides the reader with a reason for writing about her experiences. She said that upon her return she felt a great sense of discontinuity between her pre- and post-exilic life not only because she was absent from the lives of her friends for many years but also because she was unable to tell her story in its entirety. Writing became a cathartic experience for her: as she was narrating her life in Kazakhstan she was able to give expression to the pain, grotesqueness and at times the goodness of heart of the Kazakh people that accompanied her life there.

The translator poignantly recognized the intricate structure of the memoir. Individual chapters, or vignettes, each tell a story centered around an event or a motif. The motif that binds the vignettes together is one of mirroring or reflecting. For one thing, the account of the journey, the people and the circumstances of life in Kazakhstan reflect the author’s personal experiences. For another thing, the “mirroring” appears in

(Continued on page 15)

Audience relives émigré experience via “The Ukrainian Dentist’s Daughter”

by Orysia Cardoso

CHICAGO – In a darkened gallery at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art transformed by inventive lighting into a minimalist stage setting, a young playwright and actress recently offered up a tale of immigration, anticipation and love.

Through flashbacks between early school days and a bride’s wedding day, the play, presented on March 17, transcended time and unfurled a tableau drawing on

Ukrainian heritage, cultural identity and the price of adjustment. The play was inspired by the playwright’s conversations with family members who recalled memories of family events over several decades.

Yana Kesala, as she is familiarly known, is a promising young actress, playwright and director who currently resides in Seattle. Her extensive training in theater – which includes a B.A. in drama from Stanford University, as well as studies with the London Academy of Music and Dramatic

Art and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art – is evident in her recent writing and performances. And, through her personal experiences, she endeavors to communicate to North American audiences the story of her mother’s childhood and youth as a Ukrainian émigré to the United States.

Plot points include a missing groom, an unexpected snowstorm, and assorted intrigues, which give rise to an accounting of the bitter yet everyday events that culminate in a confusion of expectations. Relived memories of displaced persons camps, of the long and tedious sailing to America, of straining to learn English while fearful of grammar school nuns, all enrich the play’s dramatic rendering of the émigré’s ultimate attainment of self-worth through wit, tears and hope.

The play opens with an anxious bride awaiting her groom outside the St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City on New Year’s Eve in 1967. As the minutes, then hours go by, with no news and no groom in sight, the young woman relives memories from her past through flashbacks to childhood and young adulthood. In the final scene, as a single stage light gives way to darkness, an anxious bride hears the sounds of distant tires screeching to a halt in front of the church.

A grateful audience awarded the actress



Adrianna (Yana) Kesala

a standing ovation and, at a champagne reception afterwards, guests met and congratulated Ms. Kesala on her exciting performance and heartwarming play.

“The Ukrainian Dentist’s Daughter” was previously performed by Ms. Kesala at Seattle’s Solo Performance Festival and at the Victoria Fringe Festival in Canada.



Yana’s parents, Dr. Adrian and Larysa Kesala.

Assessing...

(Continued from page 6)

And what was the reaction of the West? I will be so bold as to say: nothing, or, to be more precise, it was a pro-Bolshevik response. For what else can one call the United States' recognition of the Soviet Union in the very year that Moscow was destroying between 6 and 10 million Ukrainians by means of the Famine-Genocide that it had deliberately organized? To this day, there are no exact figures of the death toll. I remind you that the U.S. recognized the USSR in November 1933. Did the leaders in Washington not know what was happening in Ukraine at that very time? Having worked in the foreign policy sphere for more than 30 years, I can assure you that this does not happen. People knew, but they closed their eyes to the truth.

Did France or Great Britain not know about the Bolsheviks' concentration camps, which existed before the second world war? Of course, they knew. But whereas Nazism was condemned and punished in Nuremberg, for some reason the crimes of communism have been forgotten. Once again the political dimension trumped the moral one.

... People in the West may have thought that after the second world war Bolshevik Russia would change, become different — democratic. If that is the case, then one can only wonder at their naïveté and short-sightedness. Fortunately, however, there were some political figures in the West who recognized the essence of Russian policies and sought to counteract them. ... However, most Western leaders were absolutely different.

Three weeks before the proclamation of Ukraine's independence U.S. President George H. W. Bush, speaking in Kyiv, called on Ukrainians to support Mikhail Gorbachev, preserve the USSR and not seek independence.

And what about the Germans? After the gift of Germany's reunification, they were ready to kiss the ground that Gorbachev walked on, having quickly forgotten about their moral obligations vis-à-vis the Ukrainians, even though hardly anyone experienced such horrors during the second world war as the Ukrainian people.

Is it not telling that in the first years after the restoration of our independence the chief goal of both the United States and Russia was Ukraine's nuclear disarmament? ...

I would not like it if my listeners, particularly the non-Ukrainians present here, got the impression that in the last 20 years nothing has changed in the West's attitude to Ukraine. Such a claim would be erroneous. In a consistent fashion the leaders of the top Western countries are beginning to understand that Ukraine should not be looked at through Moscow-tinted glasses. In this respect, the U.S. and Canada are playing a special role.

An extraordinarily important role in the fact that this has happened was played by the powerful Ukrainian community in these countries. ... Even during the most difficult periods under the Russian colonial yoke, especially in the 20th century, your position, your voice and your will inspired those who remained behind the Iron Curtain. Your contribution to the victory of Ukraine's independence is special, and it will be duly analyzed and assessed by our contemporaries.

... Today, 20 years after the restoration of Ukraine's independence, the question of our real independence is once again critically acute, especially because of the policies of the current government in Kyiv. ...

Those politicians and scholars who thought that, with the collapse of communism, peace and calm would rule the North Atlantic region were naïve to think so. It turned out that there is a factor in this space,

which, regardless of the form of its social order, generates tensions. This factor is Russia. The history of the USSR has borne out numerous times that communist ideology was merely a cover, a form that concealed the imperialistic essence of the Russian state. Although the communist system has receded into the past, Russian chauvinism, Russian imperialism and Russia's efforts to grab what does not belong to her and to establish the limits of her "special interests" have not disappeared.

The Russian intellectual, Igor Chubais, wrote the following about Russia after the collapse of the USSR: "The state in which we landed after the collapse of the USSR is not a new Russia but a post-Soviet system; this is a new type of nomenklatura/totalitarian regime. This is a new USSR ... The essence of the state machine that was preserved for 90 years lies in the fact that it has changed only on the outside, superficially, but at its foundation it is not subject to reform; it can only be dismantled."

... While forms of governance change, the essence of Muscovy does not. It remains unchanged — imperialistic, aggressive, merciless.

Is this understood by contemporary Western leaders? It is my profound conviction that either they do not understand, or underestimate the threat, or pretend not to understand. The latter case is the most unacceptable one because it is simply amoral.

So, I would like to believe that they don't understand, because if they did, would the leaders of Germany and France have then objected to offering Ukraine the NATO Member Action Plan at the Bucharest summit? If they did, would NATO and the EU have reacted as they did to Russia's aggression against Georgia in August 2008? Would there have been the same reaction to Russia's open support for the Syrian and Iranian regimes? These are just a few examples.

Is it not time for Western leaders finally to understand one very simple truth? Appeasing an aggressor only encourages him to further aggression. ...

Here I would like to give U.S. President George W. Bush and his administration their due for having worthily upheld the policy of protecting democracy and freedom, including with respect to Ukraine. A key role in turning Ukraine toward democratic values and deepening Ukrainian American relations was, of course, also played by President Viktor Yushchenko. It was he who laid the foundations for the democratization of contemporary Ukraine. I am pleased to recall that in December 2008 U.S. State Secretary Condoleezza Rice and I signed the U.S.-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Charter, whereby we took another step in the direction of strengthening Ukraine's security; of course, it was not as big a step as we, Ukrainians, might have desired, but it was one that in the final analysis would lead to success.

What I call success is Ukraine's membership in NATO as the sole collective security organization in the North Atlantic today, which unites democratic countries and is capable of protecting them from external aggression. I am deeply convinced that only NATO membership will offer an answer, on the one hand, to the security challenges that Ukraine is facing today and, on the other, will impede the realization of the restoration of the Russian empire in its new, Eurasian, form. In the 21st century there is no place for empires in any form!

A powerful North Atlantic center of power should be created, with actions closely coordinated along the line of North America-Europe and NATO-European Union — and Ukraine should of course be a part of both. Only this kind of power center can respond to the threats and challenges that the North Atlantic community is already facing today. ...

Contemporary Russia does not fit into this construct, but not because it is traditionally ruled by non-democratic leaders.

The question concerns more than just these leaders. The question is the society itself which elects this kind of non-democratic government. The last presidential elections clearly confirmed this: a mere 5 to 7 percent of Russian voters voted for the democratic opposition, although it is rather difficult to call those voters democratic.

... Historically, Russia and its society have different values from the West. I would strenuously advise Western leaders, despite their pressing schedules, to read a true history of Russia, beginning with the reign of Prince Andrei Bogoliubsky.

I am not an anti-Russian politician, of which I am accused in Russia and by pro-Russian forces in Ukraine. In fact, I am a realist, and therefore I am speaking about what I know very well. For example, I am not alone in realizing that Russia is seeking to put an end to Ukrainian independence as quickly as possible. It is seeking to remove Ukraine from the roadmap as a possible undesirable example for its own society in the event that we succeed on the path to membership in the EU and NATO. Because the success of democratic Ukraine spells the collapse of authoritarian Russia.

In conclusion I would like to note, that the situation today is very reminiscent of the one that I mentioned at the beginning of my remarks. Will the West understand the new opportunity — even for itself — which is opening up with Ukraine's entry into Western civilization? In my opinion, the prospects for both the North Atlantic space and Russia for many decades to come are being defined today precisely in Ukraine. Not seeing this, not comprehending this means demonstrating once again either incompetence or amorality.

We would very much like to hope that Western leaders will rise to the heights of

their special responsibility. It is necessary to help not just with words and messages but also actions — actions that are accurate, verified and effective. Here in the West you must finally tell yourselves: turning Ukraine toward Western values is our, the West's, moral duty. This is not complicated at all. You must simply recall what happened not so long ago with regard to, for example, Poland, Slovakia or Lithuania. We are no less European than the representatives of those countries. Therefore, it is crucial to adopt decisions and act!

Having said this, I am in no way shifting the main responsibility for the future of Ukrainians from Ukrainians themselves. I sincerely believe that changes are not far off. I am referring to October of this year. In the event of the opposition's victory in the elections — and I believe in this wholeheartedly — key changes will also be made to foreign policy. We will overturn the law that turned Ukraine into a "gray security zone." We will revive our course and aim to join NATO; we will eliminate the obstacles to Ukraine's membership in the European Union.

But the most important changes must take place in our domestic policies. Once and for all, we should put an end to the Soviet past: the corruption, the shadow economy, the selective nature of jurisprudence, the dichotomy within society. Ukraine must finally become Ukrainian, democratic and European.

Therefore, both we and the West must travel along our path. But we will cover it considerably faster if we join our efforts, if there is no ambiguity in our relations, if Ukraine is perceived as an independent factor of international life, not a zone of someone else's interests. Only then will we have a chance for success. ...

"Woman in Exile"...

(Continued from page 14)

the structure of the book.

As Ms. Ulanowicz pointed out the epilogue of the book is the reverse of the introduction. The book begins with an image of a box car traveling eastward, carrying the disoriented young woman into the unknown. In the epilogue, the same woman, now six years older, sits in another box car carrying her westward. The initial despair and hopelessness give way to hope and cautious optimism about the future just as the direction of the author's journey is reversed.

Mirrors appear throughout the story as effective symbols. In one of the stories, "Mirror, mirror on the wall," the author catches herself staring into a mirror in a Soviet administrator's office. Having been deprived of a mirror since her arrival in Kazakhstan, she stands there examining the reflection of her body as if it belonged to someone else. She can hardly recognize her

frost-bitten and pale face, and her thinned out body in shabby clothes. In another story a Kazakh guard is caught off guard contemplating his face in the mirror. As he has never owned a mirror before, his own face surprises him. Perhaps to him, as to the author, the face in the mirror is the face of a stranger.

After the presentation Ms. Ulanowicz answered questions from the audience. She also signed copies of the book "Woman in Exile." Guests who purchased books at the signing received a very special bonus in the form of a book plate with the reproduction of an illustration from the original book, and the signature of Juliana Starosolska. The book is available in hardback (\$26.95), softcover (\$16.95) and e-book format (\$9.99) from the following online booksellers: iUniverse: <http://www.iuniverse.com/Bookstore/BookSearchResults.aspx?Search=starosolska>; Barnes and Noble, <http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Woman-in-Exile/Juliana-Starosolska/e/9781462003730>; and Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com> (search for "Juliana Starosolska").

Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

tion in the following month, that would further the agreement signed in St. Petersburg.

German President Gerhard Schroeder expressed full support for the bilateral natural gas partnership between Ukraine and Russia, and called it "a brilliant idea."

For Ukraine, the agreement provided European oversight to guarantee Russian deliveries of gas to the West, with Ukraine almost entirely dependent on Russian natural gas imports and fees generated by transport through Ukraine's pipelines. Russia had repeatedly accused Ukraine of siphoning off gas that moved through Ukraine's pipeline network. "Russia and our Central Asian partners can now be sure that the gas markets will be secured, and those who own the natural gas distribution system can be sure that

natural gas will be available at favorable prices and on time," explained Mr. Putin. "All this can only lead to positive results."

It was expected that \$2.5 billion would be invested toward the reconstruction and modernization of Ukraine's gas pipeline network in the near future, with a 10-year projected total of \$15 billion. Mr. Kuchma said that the upgrades would allow Ukraine to handle 1.5 times its current pipeline capacity.

Almost immediately after the agreement's signing, European energy companies — including Germany's Ruhrgas AG, British companies Wintershall AG and Shell, the Italian firm Eni S.p.A., and France's Gaz de France — began to express readiness to participate in the international consortium.

Source: "Ukraine, Germany and Russia agree to cooperate on gas supply," by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 16, 2002.

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OUT & ABOUT

- June 15 Nottingham, MD Shrimp Feast, Baltimore Ukrainian Festival Committee, Columbus Gardens, 410-591-7566 or daria.kaczaniukhauff@vzw.com
- June 15-17 Yonkers, NY Yonkers Ukrainian Heritage Festival, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, <http://yonkersukrainianfestival.org>
- June 16 Lorraine, QC Golf tournament, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Club de Golf Lorraine, plastgolf@gmail.com or 514-744-9648
- June 16 Lehigh, PA Martini and Mingle Night, Ukrainian Homestead, 610-377-4621 or ukrainianhomestead@aol.com
- June 16-17 Horsham, PA Father's Day Ukrainian Fest, stage show, soccer tournament and dance, Ukrainian American Sports Center - Tryzub, 215-362-5331 or eluciw@comcast.net
- June 16-August 5 Chicago Art exhibit, "Achilles and Vera Chreptowsky Collection," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, www.uima-chicago.org or 773-227-5522
- June 17 Burlington, ON Golf tournament, Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Indian Wells Golf Club, St. Volodymyr Cultural Center (dinner), 416-766-9288
- June 17 Ottawa Father's Day Ukrainian dinner, concert and silent auction, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 613-728-0856 or stmaryuocc@sympatico.ca
- June 19 New York Mets vs Orioles, Ukrainian Heritage Night at Citi Field, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, 212-228-6840 or uccany@ucca.org
- June 23 Ellenville, NY Dance, featuring music by Holosni Susidy, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Oselia resort, 845-647-7230 or www.cym.org/us/ellenville
- June 23 Welland, ON Golf tournament, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Sparrow Lakes Golf Club, Ukrainian Black Sea Hall (dinner), www.sparrowlakes.com or 905-378-2917
- June 23 Chicago Lecture by Maria Rubchak, "Mapping Difference: The Many Faces of Women in Contemporary Ukraine," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522 or www.uima-chicago.org
- June 24 Chicago Book presentation by Myron Kuropas, "Encyclopedia of Ukrainian Diaspora- the Second Book of the American Volume," Illinois branch of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 773-489-1339 or encukrdiaspora@gmail.com
- June 25 Hamilton, ON Golf tournament, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Chedoke Martin Golf Course, 905-547-2414 or 905-639-4425
- June 25 East Meadow, NY Free concert, Ukrainian American Night, Lakeside Theater at Eisenhower Park, odomooska@gmail.com
- June 26 Carlisle, ON Golf tournament, Buduchnist Credit Union, Dragon's Fire Golf Club, golf@bcufoundation.com or www.dragonsfiregolfclub.com
- June 29-July 1 Ellenville, NY "Naidya Yel!" Festival, featuring Mandry, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Oselia resort, 845-647-7230 or www.cym.org/us/ellenville
- June 30 Jewett, NY 50th anniversary parish festival, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, www.ukrainianmountaintop.org or 201-238-3006
- June 30 - July 1 Kerhonkson, NY Tennis tournament, Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (East), Soyuzivka Heritage Center, 215-576-7989

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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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Minneapolis Ukrainian school presents a spring concert



The teachers and children perform hahilky.

by Svitlana Uniat

MINNEAPOLIS – The students of the School of Ukrainian Studies at St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Church presented a spring concert honoring Taras Shevchenko on April 29.

The concert began with Halia Voronchak and Aleksa Tataryn, who welcomed the audience. The students then recited Shevchenko’s poetry and the school choir, under the direction of Yurii Ivan, performed a medley of unforgettable songs to his poems.

The drama club, under the direction of Svitlana Uniat, Ivan Luciw and composer Volodymyr Ilemsky, performed the musical “The Ukrainian Turnip.” A variation on a traditional story, it told the story of an old farmer whose turnip grew so large that he had to ask for the help of his wife, granddaughter, two dogs, a cat, two roosters and six mice to pull it out of the ground. The audience rewarded the actors

with a round of very loud applause.

The next part of the concert was hahilky. The children joined the audience, formed a large circle, and sang traditional Ukrainian spring songs.

For the finale, the children, with blue-and-yellow flags in hand, marched onto the stage and sang “We are Ukraine’s Children,” composed by Volodymyr Ilemsky, followed by a number of other songs.

The children made their parents and grandparents proud with their concert. The parents of the school children expressed thanks to Dmytro Tataryn, school director; the Very Rev. Michael Stelmach for teaching religion and for his strong support of the school; and teachers Helen Tataryn, Tetiana Drobot and Alla Khan. Everyone in the audience congratulated Father Michael on his birthday, and all enjoyed refreshments prepared by the parents.

Translated by Zenon Stepchuk



Students of the School of Ukrainian Studies at St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Church with teachers and clergy.

Sixth-grader helps children in Ghana through shared love for soccer

PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif. – Timmy Kihiczak, a sixth-grader at Seven Arrows Elementary in Pacific Palisades, is teaming up with Coaches Across Continents (CAC) to unite children from Seven Arrows Elementary and Ghana through soccer.

Coaching Across Continents is an organization that uses soccer to teach life lessons to children who come from underprivileged communities.

Timmy hopes that through their similar passion for soccer, the children can develop friendships. Children have their own pen pals and communicate by sending and receiving pictures, letters and videos from California to Ghana and vice-versa.

Brian Suskiewicz, CAC on-field strategist, stated, “Timmy and Seven Arrows have started a great relationship with Dzita, Ghana. Timmy’s

initiative to give back through the great game of soccer is thrilling to see. We are excited to continue this cultural exchange and watch these global friendships develop.”

On May 6, Timmy organized a soccer fund-raiser in Pacific Palisades with a parents’ team playing against teachers at Seven Arrows. The parents won against the teachers in a very close, hard-fought game, 2-1. The children’s team then played against a combined parent-teacher team and ultimately won on penalty kicks 4-3.

On June 1, Timmy sent another batch of Seven Arrows pen pal letters to their new friends in Dzita, Ghana, along with a memory card filled with video highlights from the soccer game they played.

Donations to Coaches Across Continents can be made at <http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/SevenArrowsCares/sevenarrowscares>.

Mishanyna

June is all about celebrating the end of school and the warm summer weather fast approaching. This month’s Mishanyna challenge is to find the names of things that can be found on a beach trip.

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| BATHING SUIT | SANDCASTLE | SUNSCREEN |
| BOAT | SAND | SWIMMERS |
| BOOGIEBOARD | SEASHELLS | TOWEL |
| LIFEGUARD | SUN | WAVES |

W	E	A	H	S	L	R	K	A	L	E	E	V	L	A
S	E	A	S	W	I	M	M	E	R	S	W	W	E	H
E	T	N	E	O	F	I	A	W	T	H	I	A	W	I
A	S	D	O	W	E	Y	M	V	E	B	I	L	O	E
S	N	P	O	I	G	M	S	E	N	A	T	T	T	X
H	N	E	S	E	U	L	A	M	O	T	L	N	T	A
E	E	A	C	L	A	A	E	E	D	H	E	I	E	A
L	E	L	Q	D	R	A	O	B	E	I	G	O	O	B
L	R	S	A	N	D	V	E	E	H	N	E	O	Y	A
S	C	E	W	M	I	E	L	B	T	G	S	S	U	B
S	S	T	M	A	N	M	H	A	I	S	I	E	B	O
O	N	M	Y	A	A	U	U	K	U	U	K	M	U	A
O	U	E	I	R	K	R	S	S	B	I	S	A	I	T
L	S	E	H	Y	A	B	P	O	Z	T	Y	I	T	M
S	A	N	D	C	A	S	T	L	E	W	A	V	E	S



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2012 Summer Events

- June 10 June 15**
UNA Seniors Week
- June 17**
Father's Day
- June 22 June 24**
Official Start of the Summer Season
St. George School reunion & Soyuzivka 70s Bash
- June 24 June 30**
Tabir Ptashat Session 1
- June 24 July 5**
Tennis Camp
- June 29**
Tiki Deck Entertainment TBA
- June 30**
Zabava with Oberehy
- July 1 July 7**
Tabir Ptashat Session 2
- July 1 July 14**
Dance Workshop
- July 6**
Pub Night Tiki Deck
Zuki & Mike
- July 7**
Zabava with Luna
- July 12 July 15**
Ukrainian Cultural Festival
- July 15 July 20**
Heritage Camp Session 1
- July 15 July 21**
Discovery Camp
- July 20 July 22**
Adoption Weekend
- July 20:**
Tiki Deck Zuki & Mike
- July 21:**
Zabava with Fata Morgana
- July 22 July 27**
Heritage Camp Session 2
- July 22 July 28**
Sports Camp Session 1
- July 22 August 4**
Dance Camp Session 1
- July 27**
Tiki Deck Zuki & Mike
- July 28**
Zabava with Na Zdorovyia
- July 29 August 4**
Sports Camp session 2
- August 3**
Pub Night with Svitanok
- August 4**
Dance Camp Recital (3pm)
Zabava with Svitanok
- August 5 August 18**
Dance Camp session 2
- August 11**
Miss Soyuzivka
Zabava to be announced
- August 17**
Tiki Deck Kagero
- August 18**
Dance Camp Recital (3pm)
Zabava with Tempo
- August 19 August 25**
Josephs School of Dance

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, June 15-17

YONKERS, N.Y.: The Ukrainian Heritage Festival is celebrating its 27th year this Father's Day weekend. The festival takes place at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 21 Shonnard Place, Yonkers, NY 10701. It is three days of Ukrainian food, music, dance, carnival rides, attractions, games of chance and craft sales, along with entertainment by dancers, singers, comedians and bands. There will be carnival rides for the children and one-price bracelets for continuous rides at 1-4 p.m. on Saturday. For more information go to yonkersukrainianfest.org or call 914-310-0551.

Saturday, June 30

JEWETT, N.Y.: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church kicks off its 50th jubilee season with a fun community festival for all. Join us for Ukrainian folk arts and traditions, crafts, dancing, entertainment, refreshments, food, kids' activities and much more! Volleyball tournament gets under way at 9 a.m., and the official opening ceremony begins at 11 a.m. St. John's is located on Ukraine

Road, off Route 23A in Jewett, N.Y. Admission is free. For more information visit <http://ukrainianmountaintop.org> or call Joanne Iwaskiw, 201-358-1846.

Sunday, September 2

JEWETT, N.Y.: St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church concludes its 50th jubilee season with a pontifical divine liturgy, banquet and anniversary program. Please join us

as we commemorate and celebrate a half-century of worship and cultural heritage in this unique Ukrainian enclave of the Catskills. Liturgy begins at 10 a.m. with banquet and anniversary program to follow. St. John's is located on Ukraine Road, off Route 23A in Jewett, N.Y. Tickets may be purchased prior to the event. For more information visit <http://ukrainianmountaintop.org> or call Michelle Hewryk, 917-885-2241.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions are subject to editing.

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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