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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

UWC broadens mission of election observers

TORONTO – The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) announced that the Canada Ukraine Foundation/ Ukrainian Canadian Congress (CUF/UCC) and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) will merge their respective international election observation missions for the October 28, parliamentary elections in Ukraine under aegis of the UWC.

The UWC previously appointed Tamara Olexy, UCCA president, and Paul Grod, UCC president, as co-heads of the mission; Ambassador Derek Fraser will serve as chief observer. The mission will incorporate the long-term observation efforts of the CUF/UCC mission.

"The Ukrainian World Congress is pleased to incorporate the excellent work done to date by the CUF/UCC and is proud that Ambassador Derek Fraser will serve as chief observer," stated UWC President Eugene Czolij. "I have tremendous confidence in the observer mission which will be led by Tamara Olexy and Paul Grod, who have led many effective observer missions in the past."

"CUF/UCC was one of the first international election observer missions in Ukraine," stated CUF Chairman Bob Onyschuk. "We have issued two important reports and established solid ties with the other missions, embassies and political parties. I'm pleased we can increase the effectiveness of our current mission by joining the UWC mission together with our American counterparts."

"Observers from every corner of the world including Dubai, Spain, Canada, the U.S., Russia and Australia have committed to join the UWC mission, including many parliamentarians and Senators from various countries," noted Mr. Grod. "As each of our organizations has tremendous experience and credibility in monitoring elections in Ukraine, this is a natural evolution that will maximize our effectiveness."

Ms. Olexy underscored, "As international election observers, our most important role is to be objective and professional." All our observers sign a strict code of conduct that is modeled on that of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The mission is not permitted to be involved in the political process but only to observe and report on whether the pre-election and election processes meet the laws of Ukraine and international norms. Ultimately we want to ensure that the will of the Ukrainian people is heard and respected."

The UWC and all of its constituent organizations are calling upon people around the world to register as election observers. They are also seeking financial support to ensure the effectiveness of the mission. To make a donation or register to observe the elections in either Ukraine or at any registered polling station outside Ukraine readers may log on to www.ukrainianworldcongress.org.

The UWC is an international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has member-organizations in 32 countries and ties with Ukrainians in 14 additional countries. Founded in 1967 as a non-profit corporation, the UWC was recognized in 2003 as a non-governmental organization (NGO) by the United Nations Economic and Social Council with special consultative status.

Kyiv's relations with the West reported to be worse than ever

by Zenon Zawada

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – Never in Ukraine's 21 years of renewed independence have relations with the West been worse than they are today, in the view of foreign policy experts both in Ukraine and abroad.

The only time they could recall relations being close to this bad was the Kolchuha scandal of 2002, when the U.S. government accused the Ukrainian government of selling a Kolchuha electronic warfare system to the Iraqi government. Yet, key figures believe that pales in comparison to current events.

Though the scandal 10 years ago prompted Western leaders to isolate former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, it did not derail the Ukrainian government's stated goals of integrating with the European Union and NATO. These plans have been scuttled under the presidency of Viktor Yanukovich.

"Today I see quite a few similarities with the situation during the times of Kuchma, particularly on the issues of oppressing freedom of speech," Andreas Gross, head of the election-observing delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), told the Ukrainian Week magazine in an interview published on September 27. "After the revolution, many believed that freedom of speech was impossible to restrict, yet today it's practically destroyed."

The Yanukovich administration's relations with the U.S. slid to an unprecedented nadir on September 22, when the U.S. Senate adopted a resolution calling for the release of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko from prison and a visa ban on all those responsible for imprisoning her.

Then, on September 27, the European Commission (EC) announced that the next Ukraine-EU summit, which had

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Former Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko comments on Ukraine's foreign policy



Zenon Zawada

Former Foreign Affairs Minister of Ukraine Volodymyr Ohryzko is running in the parliamentary elections as a closed-list candidate for the Sobor Ukrainian Platform party.

by Zenon Zawada

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – Former Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko is running for Parliament as the third candidate on the closed list of the Sobor Ukrainian Platform, a political party financed by Zhytomyr Oblast businessman Pavlo Zhebrivskyi, who is currently a national deputy.

Sobor's closed list (proportional) of candidates is a collection of Ukrainian intellectuals. Its single-mandate (majoritarian) candidates are refugees from the Our

Ukraine party, including National Deputies Volodymyr Viazivskyi and Taras Stetskiv, both of the Lviv Oblast, as well as former national deputies such as Kyiv property rights activist Oleksander Hudyma.

Mr. Ohryzko is best remembered for his firm support of Georgia during the 2008 South Ossetian War, when his counterpart in the Cabinet of Ministers, Vice Prime Minister for Euro-Integration Hryhoriy Nemyria, remained silent, a position adopted by his close party ally, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Mr. Ohryzko is also remembered for his uncompromising patriotism in defending Ukraine against Russian denigration, which is what got him dismissed from his post in March 2009.

About two weeks earlier, he invited to the ministry the Russian ambassador to Ukraine, the late Viktor Chernomyrdin, and expressed to him personally his protest over "his unfriendly and extremely undiplomatic assessments, comments and utterances against Ukraine and its leadership."

Besides pro-Russian politicians, among those voting for Minister Ohryzko's dismissal were 49 national deputies of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, who had been offended by some of his actions against the prime minister, including an internal memo distributed among Ukrainian embassies criticizing Ms. Tymoshenko. Tymoshenko Bloc deputies also cited the minister's anti-Russian rhetoric as they voted to dismiss him.

Mr. Ohryzko gave the following interview on August 28, while returning on a bus from a campaign event held by the Sobor Ukrainian Platform at the Kholodnyi Yar national reserve in the Cherkasy Oblast.

How would you describe the foreign policy of President Viktor Yanukovich? There are such terms as "pro-Western" and "pro-Russian", but it seems as though it can't be described that way.

(Continued on page 17)

ANALYSIS

Belarus vote totally shuts out opposition

RFE/RL

Parties loyal to President Alyaksandr Lukashenka have swept weekend legislative elections in Belarus, according to preliminary results posted by the Central Election Commission.

Most opposition parties had withdrawn their candidates and urged voters to stay away from the polls, saying political prisoners should be released and the conditions for a fair contest had not been met.

Some 109 deputies were elected with clear majorities, according to RFE/RL's Belarus Service. One seat will be contested in a second round, as neither candidate secured the necessary 50 percent.

Jailings and the ballot box

Several opposition figures had been denied registration on technical grounds, and a number of dissidents remain in jail.

The new Parliament will include three deputies from the Communist Party of Belarus and one from the Agrarian Party, both of which ran on platforms supporting President Lukashenka.

Official turnout for the September 23 vote was 74.3 percent, though the opposition says actual turnout was half that figure.

Earlier, opposition leaders had cast serious doubt over official turnout figures.

"The election commission is unscrupulously lying, as these figures are so radically different from those of observers," Vitaly Rymashevsky, co-chairman of the Belarus Christian Democracy Party, told AFP.

The voting is the first in Belarus since a disputed election in late 2010 handed Mr. Lukashenka a fourth term as head of state and sparked street protests that were met with a swift and brutal clampdown.

Ahead of the latest vote, state-run television and radio made no mention of the boycott call.

Mr. Lukashenka, a former Soviet collective farm manager who has run Belarus with an iron fist since 1994, slammed the opposition for its boycott while speaking to journalists in Minsk after casting his ballot on September 23.

"These [election boycotters] are people who are simply cowards and who have nothing to tell the people. That is all

because, as you know, the political struggle is developing according to some particular laws," Mr. Lukashenka said. "All political processes are developing according to the laws which are typical only for this political campaign and everybody knows about that. You, as monitors, who have seen all the parliamentary elections, know about it. I know about it, and those who get involved in this political struggle know about it as well."

Poor election record

Western officials have dismissed all of Belarus' elections since the early 1990s, when Mr. Lukashenka came to power, as seriously flawed.

RFE/RL's Belarus Service reported early on September 24 that authorities had rounded up "around 20 young people" and taken them to a police station in central Minsk. All of them reportedly had been taking part in an independent effort to monitor activities at polling stations.

President Lukashenka denounced opposition leaders as "cowards" for urging people to boycott the election to protest the continued detention of political prisoners and alleged election fraud.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) had some 300 observers to monitor the election and was expected to present an assessment later on September 24.

Sergei Lebedev, head of the monitoring mission of the Russia-led Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), said the day after the voting that the elections were "free, democratic and compliant with national laws."

Human rights organizations say the lead-up to the poll was marked by arrests and detention of opposition activists.

Opposition groups were barred from holding street protests or handing out leaflets to support their boycott call.

Based on reporting by RFE/RL's Belarus Service, Interfax, and belta.by.

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OSCE/ODIHR opens observation mission for parliamentary elections in Ukraine

OSCE

KYIV – The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on September 12 formally opened an election observation mission for the October 28 parliamentary elections in Ukraine. The mission's deployment follows an invitation from the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The mission is led by Dame Audrey Glover, a human rights lawyer from the United Kingdom, and consists of 20 experts based in Kyiv and 90 long-term observers to be deployed across the country. In addition, ODIHR will request 600 short-term observers to monitor election day proceedings, counting and tabulation of election results.

The mission will assess the entire election process for compliance with principles for democratic electoral processes, including OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections, as well as with national legislation. Observers will

monitor campaign activities, media coverage, the legislative framework and its implementation, the work of the election administration and relevant government bodies, and the resolution of election disputes.

In the course of observation, the mission will meet with representatives from relevant authorities and political parties, as well as with candidates, and with representatives from civil society, the media and the international community.

On election day, observers will monitor the opening of polling stations, voting, the counting of ballots and the tabulation of results at all levels. For election day, the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission will join efforts with the delegations of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other parliamentary partners.

The day after the election, the mission will issue a statement of preliminary findings and conclusions. A final report on the observation of the entire electoral process will be issued approximately two months after the end of the electoral process.

NEWSBRIEFS

Senate passes Tymoshenko resolution

KYIV – The U.S. Senate on Saturday, September 22, passed a resolution calling for release of Ukraine's former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, The Hill newspaper reported. At 3:30 a.m. on Saturday, the Senate unanimously adopted by a voice vote more than 40 bills and resolutions before adjourning for the period before the November elections. S. Res. 466, which calls for the release from prison of Ukraine's former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, was introduced on May 17 by Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on September 19 [as reported in last week's issue of The Ukrainian Weekly – ed.]. The resolution "calls for the government of Ukraine to release Ms. Tymoshenko, to provide her with timely access to medical care, and to conduct the October parliamentary elections in a fair and transparent manner consistent with OSCE standards." (Ukrinform)

Media watchdog cites threat to freedom

PARIS – Reporters Without Borders on September 19 firmly condemned the Ukrainian Parliament's approval on first reading on September 18 of a bill that would recriminalize defamation, and urged lawmakers to reverse this decision by rejecting the bill on second reading. "Ukraine will go back 11 years if defamation's re-inclusion in the criminal code is confirmed," Reporters Without Borders said. "It would run counter to the worldwide trend and would clearly violate the international conventions Ukraine has ratified, starting with the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Such a return to the past would have a major impact on freedom of information in Ukraine. Journalists already have to confront many dangers and an increase in self-censorship inside news organizations. Now they would have to fear judicial harassment as well. The resulting intimidatory effect would threaten the very existence of independent journalism."

Reporters Without Borders called on Stefan Füle, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy, to make it clear to the Ukrainian government that adoption of this bill would be incompatible with closer association with the European Union. Passed on its first reading by 244 votes out of 450, Draft Law No. 11013 re-establishes criminal responsibility for media offenses and makes them punishable by up to five years in prison (Reporters Without Borders).

Call for defamation law's withdrawal

KYIV – Journalists from several professional associations are urging lawmakers to withdraw a bill by Party of Regions National Deputy Vitalii Zhuravsky "On Amendments to the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code to Toughen Responsibility for Infringement of Honor, Dignity and Business Reputation." This decision was taken during an extraordinary meeting of the interagency working group to analyze the compliance of legislation on freedom of speech and protection of journalists' rights. The executive director of the Institute of Mass Information, Viktoriya Siumar, expressed surprise that the bill appeared before the parliamentary elections. "It does not meet European standards, because during the elections we would have to ensure political pluralism, but not to scare people with prisons for speaking out," said Ms. Siumar, according to September 20 news reports. The president of the Association of Media Lawyers, Tetiana Katiuzhynska, proposed to send the bill by Mr. Zhuravsky for examination to the Council of Europe Directorate General on Human Rights and Rule of Law for compliance with Council of Europe standards. "Moreover, we demand that the Verkhovna Rada chairman, heads of parliamentary factions... that voted for this bill in its first reading, do not consider it in a second reading until the Council of Europe issues its conclusions," said Ms. Katiuzhynska. (Ukrinform)

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NEWS ANALYSIS

After APEC summit in Vladivostok, Moscow declares war on EU

by Pavel Felgenhauer
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit in Vladivostok, which concluded September 9, has been declared to have been a resounding success in Moscow. The Kremlin has been criticized by the Russian press for spending well over \$20 billion on hosting the APEC forum to show off to foreigners. At the same time, local authorities have been accused of massive misappropriations of funds to build roads, bridges, hotels and a brand new local university campus on Ruskyy Island opposite of Vladivostok, used to accommodate delegations and journalists during the forum (Vedomosti, September 3).

At a press conference after the APEC summit in Vladivostok, President Vladimir Putin dismissed accusations of overspending as false, announcing that some \$10 billion were spent to build a gas pipeline from Sakhalin Island to Vladivostok; the rest was used to build much-needed infrastructure in Vladivostok itself (Kommersant, September 10). Indeed a lot has been built in Vladivostok recently, though the quality of the newly erected infrastructure has been questionable: according to journalists in the Ruskyy compound, which will soon be handed over to the university, roofs leaked and doors refused to open properly (Izvestia, September 9).

U.S. President Barack Obama skipped the APEC summit because of the Democratic National Convention and sent US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton instead, who had private meetings with President Putin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Both sides seemed to have tried to put some positive gloss on their bilateral relationship: Contentious issues like the proposal to introduce a targeted visa ban and the asset freeze for Russian officials "responsible for the detention, abuse or death of Sergei Magnitsky" were not, according to Messrs. Putin and Lavrov, discussed in talks with Secretary Clinton (Kommersant, September 10).

Last month, Russia has officially become a member of the WTO, and in public state-

ments both Mr. Putin and Ms. Clinton emphasized the need to fight protectionism in international trade. This was something of a novelty, since for many years Mr. Putin has been a champion of protecting the Russian internal market against foreign competition by levying hefty tariffs (Kommersant, September 10).

The overall theme of the commentary in the Moscow press was that Russia is turning away from the West, which is in crisis, and reorienting toward the Asia-Pacific region, where the economy is growing (Kommersant, September 10). At the APEC summit, Mr. Putin accused the European Union of attempting to force Russia to subsidize Central European (former Communist) nations by cheap gas "to maintain United

(Kommersant, September 12).

The Kremlin has decided to fight the European Union on Gazprom's behalf, and this week President Putin apparently hurriedly signed an ukase forbidding Gazprom or any other state-controlled Russian corporation, officially listed as "strategic" and performing business abroad to cooperate with foreign regulators or provide them with any information. The decree also prevents such "strategic" Russian companies from changing the prices it charges and buying or selling any assets without the Russian government's official approval. According to the ukase, the Russian authorities may forbid these "strategic" corporations "or their subsidiaries" from giving out information, changing contracts, and selling or buying assets, "if this could

Gazprom but many other state-controlled "strategic" corporations like Rosneft, Zarubezneft, Transneft, the airline company Aeroflot, VTB bank, the Sovcomflot shipping company and many others that apparently now cannot reply to any information requests by foreign regulators or comply with their demands without specific government approval. Former Deputy Finance Minister and First Deputy Central Bank Chairman (now member of the board of Aeroflot) Sergei Aleksashenko has written in his blog that Mr. Putin's ukase is unreasonable; that the cumbersome Russian government will drag its feet to approve the prompt release of any information, not knowing how Mr. Putin may react; and that VTB or Aeroflot foreign operational licenses may soon be in jeopardy (<http://saleksashenko.livejournal.com/162185.html>). Mr. Putin's ukase apparently disregards international agreements signed by Russia, as well as its own national legislation (Kommersant, September 12).

For President Putin, Gazprom's monopoly over gas supplies to Europe, and specifically to neighboring former Soviet republics he evidently hopes to once again dominate, is essential. The abuse-of-dominance probe is apparently seen in the Kremlin as part of a bigger conspiracy to undermine Gazprom as a tool of Russian dominance and is seen in conjunction with plans to channel Turkmenistani and Azerbaijani gas to Europe through the South Caucasus and Turkey (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, September 11).

Mr. Putin seems ready to severely push back. Gas supply shutoffs to Europe may follow, as may an invasion of the South Caucasus to change the regime in Georgia and, by implication, take over control of all existing or prospective oil and gas pipelines from Central Asia or the Caspian leading into Europe that bypass Russia.

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

For President Vladimir Putin, Gazprom's monopoly over gas supplies to Europe, and specifically to neighboring former Soviet republics he evidently hopes to once again dominate, is essential.

Europe's political influence." Gazprom's gas export chief, Alexander Medvedev, followed the president's statement by branding the European Commission as "thieves."

The commission had announced on September 4 an official probe into the natural gas giant Gazprom for alleged abuse of its dominance of the European gas market. The commission suspects Gazprom of hindering the free flow of gas by dividing markets, of "[preventing] the diversification of the supply of gas," and linking oil and gas prices in long-term contracts. If Gazprom is found guilty, which is highly probable, the gas monopoly may face a multi-billion-dollar fine and may be forced to abandon its abuse-of-dominance practices, which may in turn be costly. Linking gas prices to oil and not to the natural gas spot market allows Gazprom to charge extremely high prices under long-term contracts that force consumers to buy or be penalized

harm Russian economic interests." Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller announced that European companies asking Gazprom to discount the price of gas "must not ask us anymore," while Mr. Putin declared: "Asia is awaiting us" (Kommersant, September 12).

A de facto gas war on the EU seems to have been declared. The Russian government intends to directly negotiate export gas prices and demand political concessions for any discounts. Minister of Energy Alexander Novak has demanded that Moldova officially denounce its ratification of EU energy agreements, or no gas price discount will be possible. Moscow wants Chisinau to join the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan and get a gas price discount "as Belarus [did]," or else face the present price of \$392 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas – much higher than present spot prices in Western Europe (Kommersant, September 13).

Mr. Putin's ukase concerns not only

the traumatic experiences of Poland during World War II.

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Documents indicate U.S. helped cover up Soviet role in Katyn

RFE/RL

New evidence appears to lend weight to the belief that the U.S. administration helped cover up Soviet guilt for the 1940 Katyn massacre of Polish officers.

The Associated Press reported that documents made public by the U.S. National Archives on September 10 support the suspicion that the United States did not want to anger its wartime ally, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin.

The documents, seen in advance by AP, reportedly show that American prisoners of war sent coded messages to Washington in 1943 to say they had seen corpses in an advanced state of decay in the Katyn Forest in western Russia.

The group of Americans had been taken by the Nazis to witness the scene.

The information shows that the deaths could not have been carried out by the Nazis, who had only recently occupied the area.

According to the AP report, the testimony about the massacre was suppressed at the highest levels in Washington.

AP quoted Katyn expert Allen Paul, who saw the documents ahead of the public release, as saying the finding was "potentially explosive."

Churchill memo

Mr. Paul said some of the material did not appear in the record of Congressional hearings in 1951-1952 held to investigate the massacre, suggesting it had been deliberately kept hidden.

The new evidence includes a report sent to U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, which also pointed to Soviet guilt.

AP said the report was written by Owen O'Malley, Britain's ambassador to the Polish government-in-exile in London.

"There is now available a good deal of negative evidence," O'Malley wrote, "the cumulative effect of which is to throw serious doubt on Russian disclaimers of responsibility for the massacre."

It has long been thought that Roosevelt did not want to question the version of events presented by Stalin, an ally whom the Americans were counting on to defeat Germany and Japan during World War II.

More than 20,000 members of the Polish elite, including military officers, doctors, lawyers and teachers, were killed with shots to the back of the head and their bodies dumped in mass graves.

The April 1940 killings were carried out at Katyn and other sites by the Soviet secret police on Stalin's orders.

The Soviet Union only admitted to the atrocity in 1990 after blaming the Nazis for 50 years.

Sergei Fridinsky, Russia's chief military prosecutor, said he had not been informed about the contents of the declassified material.

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said the documents would allow future generations to better understand

Quotable notes

"...The countries of Central Europe have been eager to collaborate with us in expanding the zone of democracy, prosperity and stability to the former Soviet Union. Since 1990 the U.S. has provided approximately \$6.2 billion in assistance to Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus to promote democratic and economic reform, health, education and regional security. Each of these countries presents unique challenges. As I said last night in my remarks to the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations, Ukraine has enormous potential, but its economic development has been hampered by barriers to trade and investment. Furthermore, its European integration efforts are on hold because of politically motivated prosecutions of opposition leaders. Moldova continues to have the lowest per capita GDP in Europe, but it is making progress on political and economic reforms needed for closer ties with the EU. Belarus remains an outlier in the region due to the government's brutal suppression of human rights. But we continue our efforts to support to Belarusian civil society even while we have imposed sanctions on regime leaders. ..."

– Remarks by Assistant Secretary of State Philip H. Gordon, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, at the U.S.-Central Europe Strategy Forum, Center for European Policy Analysis, in Washington on September 20.

New York protesters say "Yanukovych must go"

NEW YORK – "Yanukovych must go" was the theme of the protest that attracted nearly 100 representatives of the local Ukrainian diaspora to the street outside Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations on September 25.

The demonstrators chanted slogans and carried posters protesting against the regime of President Viktor Yanukovych. The group called for the president's ouster



A participant of the protest makes his message clear.



Ronya Lozynskij

Young protesters sing patriotic Ukrainian songs.

in view of his anti-democratic policies, including selective prosecution of the political opposition, curtailment of civil liberties, moves against freedom of the press and human rights abuses.

The protesters also pointed to Mr. Yanukovych's war against the Ukrainian nation via policies directed against the primacy of the Ukrainian language and heritage, and referred to him as a dictator and a puppet of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The protest was organized by the Ukrainian Congress

Committee of America. It was held on the occasion of Mr. Yanukovych's participation in the 67th annual session of the U.N. General Assembly.

U.S.: relations with Ukraine 'on hold'

RFE/RL

WASHINGTON – Washington says relations with Ukraine are "on hold" due to Kyiv's prosecution of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and other leaders of the Orange Revolution.

Philip Gordon, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, made the statement at the U.S.-Central Europe Strategy Forum of the Center for European Policy Analysis on September 20 in Washington.

A day earlier, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously passed a resolution urging the State Department to impose a visa ban on Ukrainian officials "responsible for the imprisonment and mistreatment of Ms. Tymoshenko." [The full Senate passed the resolution on September 22 – ed.]

Mr. Gordon told RFE/RL that the U.S. administration "shares the concerns of Congress," but added, "It is not our policy at present to cut off ties with the Ukrainian government as part of an effort to get them to do the right thing on elections or prosecutions. We don't believe that that would be effective."

Senate resolution passed

In its resolution (S. Res. 466), passed on September 22, the Senate:

"(1) condemns the selective and politically motivated prosecution and imprisonment of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko;

"(2) expresses its deep concern that the politicized prosecutions and continued detention of Ms. Tymoshenko and other members of her party took place in a country that is scheduled to assume chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2013;

"(3) expresses its deep concern that the continued detention of Ms. Tymoshenko threatens to jeopardize ties between the United States and Ukraine;

"(4) calls for the government of Ukraine to release Ms. Tymoshenko, to provide her with timely access to medical care, and to conduct the October parliamentary elections in a fair and transparent manner consistent with OSCE standards; and

"(5) calls on the Department of State to institute a visa ban against those responsible for the imprisonment and mistreatment of Ms. Tymoshenko and the more than dozen political leaders associated with the 2004 Orange Revolution."

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Insurance MATTERS...

by Irene Jarosewich

Annuities – Part 1: What makes them so great?

Annuities, from the Latin word “annua,” which means yearly, traditionally provide a guaranteed income over a specific period. An annuity contract is purchased either with a series of payments over several years, or with a lump sum upfront. Then, in return, at a future date the money is received back, again either through a series of payments, or also in a lump sum, but this time with interest. Annuities are tax-deferred, therefore they offer a way to pay forward now in order to get back later, but with a bonus.

Annuities and life insurance products frequently are offered by the same company, as is the case with the Ukrainian National Association. Annuities and life insurance both offer guarantees of payment, and both offer flexibility. Often heirs can inherit money in an annuity, and in turn, a policyholder can take out the cash value in a whole-life insurance policy. So, people wonder, what makes the two products that different? Why not use life insurance as an annuity, or an annuity as life insurance? The short answer is that the products best serve different purposes.

The key difference between the two is that the basic purpose of an annuity is to be a savings vehicle that will provide income for you and loved ones during your lifetime – most often for retirement, while the purpose of life insurance is to provide income for your beneficiaries after your lifetime.

Then, you may wonder, with so many ways to save - what makes the annuity so great?

A simple way to remember the advantages offered by annuities is the popular mnemonic phrase “Annuities have STYLE!”

S is for safety, a hallmark of annuities. Fixed annuities, the only type sold by the UNA, have guaranteed rates of interest (different from variable and indexed annuities, which are not offered by the UNA). So, no matter what happens in the stock market, the money in a fixed annuity is safe, earning compound interest. Additional safety comes from the strict laws that regulate the companies that sell the annuities, as well as the financial strength of the insurance industry, all of which helps protect the annuity.

T is for tax deferral, which goes hand-in-glove with compound interest. Since taxes on earned interest are deferred, annuity savings grow in three ways: the interest earned on the principal, the interest earned on accumulated interest and the interest earned on the money not paid in taxes. Although taxes are

paid on earned interest when money is withdrawn, the annuity offers the chance to build up a substantially larger account in the meantime than savings plans that do not offer tax-deferral. Moreover, since annuities do not have

income or contribution limits, as do many other tax-advantaged savings plans, there is no annual limit on the amount that can be contributed to an annuity.

Y is for yield, the amount of money the account makes. Annuities consistently outperform CDs, as well as many other taxable savings plans. Fixed annuities, historically, offer a one-to-two percentage point advantage over CD rates. These higher yields, when aligned with the benefits of tax deferral, make annuities an excellent choice to accumulate savings.

L is for liquidity, the ability to access to your money in ways not available in other savings plans. Generally, annuities have provisions that offer penalty-free access to some of the value in an account. Most annuities also offer bene-

fits that provide access to all or part of the annuity’s value in the event of terminal illness, nursing home care or extended unemployment.

E is for estate planning, the cost and time of probate is avoided since most annuities allow for the immediate transfer of benefits to designated beneficiaries.

With more than a century of service as a fraternal benefit society, the UNA continues to live by its motto “The UNA and the Community: Partners for Life.” Let a UNA representative help you choose an annuity option for you and your family. Contact the UNA Home Office at 1-800-253-9862 or the UNA sales staff directly at 1-888-538-2833, or find your local UNA branch secretary through the UNA website at www.ukrainiannationalassociation.org.

Tax-deferred annuity vs. taxable account (CD) \$10,000 Deposit										
Tax-deferred annuity					Taxable Account CD (Certificate of Deposit)					
Year	Beginning Value	4% interest	Interest	Value	Beginning Value	4% interest	28% tax bracket	Net Interest After Tax	Value	Taxable vs deferred
1	10,000.00	400.00	0%	10,400.00	10,000.00	400.00	112.00	288.00	10,288.00	112.00
2	10,400.00	416.00	0%	10,816.00	10,288.00	411.52	115.23	296.29	10,584.29	231.71
3	10,816.00	432.64	0%	11,248.64	10,584.29	423.37	118.54	304.83	10,889.12	359.52
4	11,248.64	449.95	0%	11,698.59	10,889.12	435.56	121.96	313.61	11,202.73	495.86
5	11,698.59	467.94	0%	12,166.53	11,202.73	448.11	125.47	322.64	11,525.37	641.16
6	12,166.53	486.66	0%	12,653.19	11,525.37	461.01	129.08	331.93	11,857.30	795.89
7	12,653.19	506.13	0%	13,159.32	11,857.30	474.29	132.80	341.49	12,198.79	960.53
8	13,159.32	526.37	0%	13,685.69	12,198.79	487.95	136.63	351.33	12,550.12	1,135.58
9	13,685.69	547.43	0%	14,233.12	12,550.12	502.00	140.56	361.44	12,911.56	1,321.55
10	14,233.12	569.32	0%	14,802.44	12,911.56	516.46	144.61	371.85	13,283.41	1,519.03
11	14,802.44	592.10	0%	15,394.54	13,283.41	531.34	148.77	382.56	13,665.97	1,728.57
12	15,394.54	615.78	0%	16,010.32	13,665.97	546.64	153.06	393.58	14,059.55	1,950.77
13	16,010.32	640.41	0%	16,650.73	14,059.55	562.38	157.47	404.92	14,464.47	2,186.27
14	16,650.73	666.03	0%	17,316.76	14,464.47	578.58	162.00	416.58	14,881.05	2,435.71
15	17,316.76	692.67	0%	18,009.43	14,881.05	595.24	166.67	428.57	15,309.62	2,699.81
16	18,009.43	720.38	0%	18,729.81	15,309.62	612.38	171.47	440.92	15,750.54	2,979.27
17	18,729.81	749.19	0%	19,479.00	15,750.54	630.02	176.41	453.62	16,204.16	3,274.85
18	19,479.00	779.16	0%	20,258.16	16,204.16	648.17	181.49	466.68	16,670.84	3,587.32
19	20,258.16	810.33	0%	21,068.49	16,670.84	666.83	186.71	480.12	17,150.96	3,917.53
20	21,068.49	842.74	0%	21,911.23	17,150.96	686.04	192.09	493.95	17,644.91	4,266.32

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine's foreign policy fiasco

As is evident from the top story and interview on the front page of this issue, Ukraine's foreign policy under the Yanukovich administration is a fiasco.

As Zenon Zawada reports from Kyiv, Ukraine's relations with the West are the worst they have ever been in the 21 years since the country re-established its independence. And, former Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko says that in the last two years, i.e., since President Viktor Yanukovich assumed office, "...we've come to a dead end. Ukraine today is not a serious player in European politics, global politics or Eurasian politics." (Even Kyiv's dealings with Russia are problematic, according to Mr. Ohryzko. "We are accepted neither in the West, nor in Russia, nor in the U.S. Nowhere," he stated.)

In fact, just this past week it was announced that the next European Union-Ukraine summit, originally planned for this year, might take place in 2013 – but only if Ukraine's parliamentary elections are found to have been conducted in keeping with European standards. Brussels has also made it clear that the political conditions are not right for the signing of an Association Agreement with Ukraine.

That Ukraine's ties with the U.S. are strained was illustrated most recently when the Senate – via a unanimous voice vote – passed a resolution calling for the release from prison of Ukraine's former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and for a visa ban "against those responsible for the imprisonment and mistreatment of Ms. Tymoshenko and the more than dozen political leaders associated with the 2004 Orange Revolution." The Senate expressed its concern that "the continued detention of Ms. Tymoshenko threatens to jeopardize ties between the United States and Ukraine." The strongly worded resolution also called on the government of Ukraine "to conduct the October parliamentary elections in a fair and transparent manner consistent with OSCE standards."

Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) reacted by pooh-poohing the Senate resolution, claiming that it did not reflect the views of the entire Senate and commenting that it was hard to take seriously something that, "with all diplomatic restraint, can be called doubtful, at minimum." The MFA emphasized the "non-binding" character of the resolution and maintained – in what was an outright lie – that other senators protested the resolution, which reflected only the views of its authors "known for sympathizing with the Ukrainian opposition." (For the record, those authors are Republican James Inhofe of Oklahoma and Democrat Dick Durbin of Illinois.) Furthermore, the MFA suggested that "friends of Tymoshenko's team" were trying to discredit Ukraine's parliamentary elections.

As one RFE/RL analyst noted, "the [Senate] resolution must have affected Yanukovich's mood ahead of his visit to New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly session this week." Indeed, according to the Voice of America, President Yanukovich inexplicably cancelled a planned press conference that had been announced in advance to the news media. Meanwhile, a group of Ukrainian activists gathered near Ukraine's Mission to the United Nations to demonstrate against the Yanukovich regime. Their message was unambiguous: "Yanukovich must go."

Clearly, President Yanukovich and his corrupt cronies have succeeded in alienating Ukraine's staunch supporters. Europe is shunning Kyiv, Washington says relations with Kyiv are on hold, and the Ukrainian diaspora is in protest mode. Is this really what Kyiv hoped to achieve?

CONFERENCE ADDRESS

The importance of the Rada elections to Ukraine's future: the U.S. perspective

Following are excerpts of remarks, as prepared for delivery, by Philip H. Gordon, assistant secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. State Department, on September 19 at the roundtable conference organized in Washington by the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations. The full text was released by the State Department.

...In the 21 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States has worked with its European partners to build a Europe that is whole, free, democratic and at peace. Today, this aspiration has been achieved across much of the continent as Central European countries have become valued members of NATO and the European Union, while significant progress has been made in furthering Euro-Atlantic aspirations in the Western Balkans. Indeed, the United States looks to Europe as our partner of first resort in confronting global challenges because of what these countries bring to the table: shared values of democracy and human rights, strong market economies and valuable military capabilities.

Despite these successes, we recognize that this historic project is far from complete. Included in this category of "unfinished business" in Europe is the goal of the Ukrainian people to develop a more democratic and prosperous state, which the United States strongly supports. ...It remains deeply in America's interest to see an independent, prosperous and irreversibly democratic Ukraine; a Ukraine that is modernizing as a European state; a Ukraine where all citizens enjoy the full protection of the rule of law; and an inclusive Ukraine where all citizens can contribute to public life.

Over the last two decades, the U.S. has sought to strengthen and deepen our partnership with Ukraine. The U.S.-Ukraine Charter on our Strategic Partnership, which was signed in 2008, outlines the breadth of our relationship and clearly enumerates our shared interests and common goals. These include protecting Ukraine's security and territorial integrity, supporting innovation and technology, and strengthening rule of law, economic freedom and democratic institutions. ...

The United States has long put its money where its mouth is in terms of support for Ukraine, as we have been the largest bilateral contributor of assistance over the last 20 years. To support Ukraine's goal of Euro-Atlantic integration, our assistance programs promote the development of sustainable institutions that advance democracy and human rights, increase the interoperability of the Ukrainian military, diversify options for energy independence, encourage nonproliferation and improve conditions for economic investment.

We believe that enhanced engagement with the European Union offers Ukraine the best guarantee of prosperity and stability, as it has for so many of its neighbors. The U.S. supports the EU's Eastern Partnership program that promotes security, stability and prosperity in six partner countries including Ukraine. ...we welcomed the initialing on March 30 of the text of the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine, as well as the initialing on July 19 of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area agreement. While initialing these agreements was an important milestone, the EU has said that it will not sign

or ratify them until political circumstances are appropriate. We support that approach and remain in close contact with our European colleagues regarding developments in Ukraine.

Let me be clear: we have not and will not ask Ukraine to choose between East and West, between the United States and Russia. That is a false choice that ignores Ukraine's history and geography. Rather, we want a strong and stable Ukraine that achieves its own goal of European integration and enjoys close relations with all of its neighbors. The U.S. has been striving under the Obama administration to improve its own relationship with Russia. We do not expect the government of Ukraine to do otherwise. ...

Ukraine is now in the midst of another key event in the development of its democracy – the campaign leading up to parliamentary elections on October 28. When Ukrainian citizens last went to the polls in 2010 to choose a new president, the election reflected the peaceful expression of their political will. That election provided a clear choice among candidates in a calm atmosphere that was followed openly by the media and engaged citizens who turned out in high numbers. And that presidential election was judged by international observers to be free and fair. I was proud to be part of the U.S. delegation that attended President Yanukovich's inauguration. ...

The United States is providing approximately \$5 million in funding for activities to promote free and fair parliamentary elections. We are supporting long-term observation by over 260 Ukrainian and international monitors and short-term monitoring by 3,500 domestic observers, as well as a Parallel Vote Tabulation and exit poll. We are strengthening the capacity of Ukraine's Central Election Commission to train election management bodies, training lawyers and administrative court judges to ensure the protection of voters' and candidates' rights, and encouraging the promotion of public debate and engagement in the electoral process through voter education campaigns.

It is worth stressing that free and fair elections extend beyond activities on election day to the three-month campaign that precedes voting. Media freedom is a key component of this process. We are therefore concerned by reports of harassment of independent and opposition outlets by local authorities, tax inspectors and prosecutors' offices. The disappearance of independent television station TVi from cable operators in multiple cities has the appearance of a deliberate effort to silence one side in the pre-election debate. We urge the government of Ukraine to address these problems.

We deeply regret that two imprisoned opposition leaders – former Prime Minister Tymoshenko and former Interior [Internal Affairs] Minister Lutsenko – have been disqualified from participating in the election. As [U.S.] Secretary [of State Hillary] Clinton stated on May 1 of this year, we "call for Ms. Tymoshenko's release, the release of other members of her former government and the restoration of their full civil and political rights." We also urge the government of Ukraine to cease further prosecutions against them and other political opposition leaders. ...

(Continued on page 17)

Sept.
30
2011

Turning the pages back...

Last year, on September 30, 2011, the Pechersky District Court in Kyiv adjourned the trial of former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko until October 10, 2011, when a verdict was delivered.

Ms. Tymoshenko stood accused of abuse of power in the signing of the controversial 2009 gas contracts with Russia and faced seven years in prison for her role in the deal. It was widely believed that the trial was politically motivated as President Viktor Yanukovich and his team tried to eliminate her from the parliamentary elections scheduled for October 28.

Western leaders warned Mr. Yanukovich the previous month that Ms. Tymoshenko's conviction would spoil bilateral relations, while smoother European Union integration was offered if Ms. Tymoshenko was freed. Other items on the table included a free trade agreement with the European Union.

Letters were sent by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton to President Yanukovich, warning him about pursuing selective justice. Other warnings came during the Yalta European Strategy (YES), held on September 16-17, 2011, where EU officials made it clear that the Ukraine-EU association and free trade agreements could be blocked at the stage of ratification this year, even if the accord was finalized.

During the YES forum, at meeting held with EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fule, Swedish Foreign Affairs Minister Carl Bildt and European Parliament Deputy Elmar Brok, Mr. Yanukovich agreed that the Tymoshenko case was a problem, but blamed outdated laws as the main cause and promised to change them. Mr. Yanukovich failed to clarify whether or when Ms. Tymoshenko would finally be freed.

While at the Eastern Partnership summit in Warsaw on September 29-30, 2011, EU leaders delivered more warnings to the Ukrainian president. German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with Mr. Yanukovich during the summit and spoke via telephone prior to the summit to express her concern about the Tymoshenko case.

The response from Kyiv, as claimed by Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, was that the EU and Russia were defending Ms. Tymoshenko because she helped them attain their goals during the 2009 gas crisis at Ukraine's expense.

(Continued on page 7)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correctly assessing Ukraine's standing

Dear Editor:

In a recent issue of The Ukrainian Weekly (August 26), on the occasion of Ukrainian Independence Day, four prominent specialists were asked to assess where Ukraine stands today and where it is headed. In my view, only Prof. Dominique Arel came close to providing a realistic appraisal.

All discussed Ukraine's prospects from a purely political standpoint. None addressed the basic underlying problems of economics and governance – i.e., basic administration and delivery of public services and the inevitable collapse of Ukraine's economic system that will cause much greater dangers on the horizon, comparable to that of Greece and Spain's difficulties, where there is a Depression-like situation, with 25 percent general unemployment and 50 percent unemployment for youths under the age of 25. Is it unrealistic to consider such a scenario for Ukraine in light of the fact that it does not have either the European Union or the United States bailing it out?

There are objective and quantitative analyses that exist in the form of various indices compiled by Freedom House, the World Bank, the U.S. State Department and other institutions, which provide a basis for comparing Ukraine's social, political and economic progress over the past 20 years of independence.

We should compare Ukraine's progress to its peer group – former Soviet-bloc nations that have made considerable progress in achieving many of the goals and objectives associated with good governance: rule of law, regulatory quality, accountability and transparency, political stability and government effectiveness in providing the basic services required by the populace. Several nations, including Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Georgia, Romania and Bulgaria, routinely outperform Ukraine on a wide array of indicators – from level of corruption to human development, human rights and governance. In fact, Ukraine has regressed on many of the indices since 2000. Instead, Ukraine is more often found in a cluster of disreputable countries with mafia-like oligarchies, such as Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Belarus and Tajikistan.

Ukraine started with more advantages than most other former Soviet republics, and it squandered many of those advantages during the past two decades. That is the real story of the past 20 years of independence.

If we, Ukrainian diasporan citizens, cannot honestly appraise Ukraine's status within the world community and insist that Ukraine's leadership and political parties develop programs and platforms to address those deep deficiencies, then the effectiveness of our community is dimin-

ished in advocating for reforms in Ukraine.

We should demand of each political party in Ukraine that they develop political platforms that explicitly address fundamentals of governance and economic growth that form the basis of a strong, resilient democratic nation, and set as targets concrete measurable goals and objectives that can measure progress quantitatively, rather than relying on outside "expert" opinion that neither addresses the core issues, nor explains in what direction Ukraine, as a nation, ought to be heading, and how to achieve those goals.

Right now Ukraine is on a path to joining the Central African Republic and Zimbabwe on the corruption index. Look it up.

E. Zenon Stakhiv, Ph.D.
Fairfax Station, Va.

The formerly great Republican Party

Dear Editor:

When the smart reader works her/his way through Dr. Mryon Kuropas' list of 50 putative beliefs of the American "left" (September 16), I am confident she/he will see them for what they're worth. I have in mind particularly point No. 3 ("The United States is no longer a Christian nation") and point No. 13 ("The Catholic Church should drop its silly notions regarding ...").

I do congratulate the good professor for having "no [current] affiliation with the Republican Party," which – I'm supposing – is because he recognizes the president he served so many years ago, Gerald R. Ford, was arguably the last normal Republican in the White House. My heartfelt condolences to Dr. Kuropas on the passing of a once truly great GOP. It must be rather difficult to deal with that real absence.

Matthew-Daniel Stremba
Baltimore

We welcome your opinion

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

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

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

country improved. Other suggestions during the summit included that the visa regime could be lifted for Ukrainians sooner than planned and that financial assistance to Ukraine could be increased if Ukraine took convincing steps toward democratization.

Source: "EU offers carrots for Ukraine to free Tymoshenko," by Pavel Korduban (Eurasia Daily Monitor), The Ukrainian Weekly, October 9, 2011.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Kyiv Mohyla Foundation establishes endowment program



Viacheslav Briukhovetsky, honorary president of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, speaks about the need to prepare for the future.

by Marta Farion

CHICAGO – The board of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America has implemented a program to seek and create endowments to support the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA). Donations are fully tax-deductible for U. S. residents, the principal of the endowments will remain in the United States, and the annual income will go to Kyiv Mohyla Academy to be spent in a manner designated by the donor.

To assure financial safety and to maximize the annual return from these endowments, the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation has joined the Agency Endowment Program of the Chicago Community Trust (CCT). The CCT, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1915 to support community philanthropy, has assets of nearly \$1.6 billion. It allows Chicago-based, non-profit organizations to combine their endowments, thus taking advantage of experienced investment strategies and reducing risk.

In addition to managing endowments, the trust also enables the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation to offer to donors the advantages of receiving lifetime payments through charitable remainder annuities, as well as testamentary trusts. Because the Chicago Community Trust is a non-profit organization, the investment and administrative fees are less than the commercial alternatives. The benefit of professional management and reporting is also a factor that donors will appreciate.

Despite the challenges faced by a nation in transition, since its establishment in 1991 the NUKMA has enjoyed many successes. The quality of its students and faculty is excellent, its alumni are highly sought after, and a surprising number of them have assumed leadership positions in business, government, academics and civil society.

One reason for the university's success is the educational philosophy it embraces. Admission to the university relies in large part on objective entrance examinations, the education is broadly based with an emphasis on teaching students how to think, and there is an international perspective to the curriculum.

Kyiv Mohyla Academy has survived and thrived in the current turbulent political environment. The university sought and received national university status in 1994.

Marta Farion is president of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America (www.kmfoundation.com).

Becoming a national university provides Kyiv Mohyla Academy with basic government financial support, but it is important to note that such support falls far below an adequate funding level. The academy's recognition as a national university empowers it as a key player in Ukrainian higher education.

For Kyiv Mohyla Academy to achieve the necessary level of excellence, additional funding through endowment is crucial. Endowments are needed for scholarships so that all qualified students, regardless of their financial means, can receive an education of the highest quality. Endowments are needed for faculty enrichment, both to attract and to retain the very best professors and lecturers. Endowments are also needed for library resources and facilities, particularly electronic resources from Western Europe and North America. Because there are many historic buildings at the university, endowments are also needed to renovate and maintain them. Finally, general, unrestricted endowments are needed to allow the university to innovate, and to respond to changing situations in Ukraine and around the world.

The Kyiv Mohyla Foundation Endowment Program represents a new phase for the university and the foundation. The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy has the potential to become one of the leading universities in the world and the leading university in Ukraine. But to achieve that, it needs to build a financial base to assure its future quality and independence.

Building a large endowment will take time. It has taken generations for the great universities of the world to achieve the financial stability they enjoy, and they have done this largely through endowments from individual donors who understand the benefits of education for the future of a nation and from companies that understand the value of education for their competitiveness.

With a strategy for the future and the support of donors, a financial base for educational excellence and university autonomy at Kyiv Mohyla Academy can be achieved for future generations. The university and the foundation invite donors to become partners in this venture. Ukraine needs Kyiv Mohyla Academy and Kyiv Mohyla Academy needs the support of people who care about its academic and intellectual leadership and about the future of Ukraine. For further information, readers may contact this writer at 773-490-9797 or mail@kmfoundation.com.

Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

Diplomatic "carrots" were offered by the EU during the summit in Warsaw for the release of Ms. Tymoshenko. Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira, head of the EU representative office in Ukraine, said that the Association Agreement could include a provision on possible future membership for Ukraine if the political situation in the



Christine Syzonenko

(From left) Michael Koziupa, head of the Whippany, N.J., branch of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union (one of the sponsors of the tournament); Walter Syzonenko, USCAK volleyball director and president of Lys Sports Academy; Myron Bytz, USCAK eastern U.S. regional vice-president; and Irenaeus Isajiw, president of USCAK.

Walter Syzonenko

The 2012 USCAK National Beach Volleyball Tournament adult division champions (from left): Ollie Hladky, Mike Zawadiwsky, Dr. Andrew Chuma and Peter Teluk.

USCAK holds inaugural beach volleyball tournament in Wildwood Crest

by Walter Syzonenko

WILDWOOD CREST, N.J. – After being canceled due to Hurricane Irene in August 2012, the first USCAK National Beach Volleyball Tournament was held in Wildwood Crest, N.J., on Friday, August 24, Ukrainian Independence Day, during “Ukrainian Week” The tournament, held on the beach behind the Pan American Motel, is planned to be an annual event.

The USCAK (Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada) tournament was organized and hosted by Lys Sports Academy of Whippany, N.J., and was sponsored by the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union (www.selfreliance.com) and the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union of Philadelphia (www.ukrfcu.com).

Registration began on Thursday, August 23, with a registration table located prominently on the beach and flying a volleyball flag. In order to participate, teams needed to be affiliated with USCAK member clubs. The tournament included two divisions, with five adult teams and three youth teams participating.

The tournament began at 9:30 a.m. on Friday with opening ceremonies. National anthems of the U.S., Ukraine and Canada were played. Walter Syzonenko, director of volleyball for USCAK and president of Lys, introduced Irenaeus Isajiw, president of



Christine Syzonenko

Hartford UAYA sets up for a spike against Odum Hawks at Wildwood Crest, N.J., during the first USCAK National Beach Volleyball Tournament on August 24.

USCAK, who officially opened the tournament with words of welcome, encouraging participants to play their best and especially to have fun. Roman Bulawski, USCAK beach volleyball organizer, reviewed the rules of play, and Myron Bytz, USCAK vice-

president, introduced the referees.

The adult division included the following teams: Sitch A, Beat Ollie (Sitch), Odum Hawks (Lys), Hartford UAYA (Ukrainian American Youth Association), and NJ/NY UAYA. The youth division included the fol-

lowing teams: Sitch A (Purple Kobras), Sitch B (Setters) and Sitch C (Sidewinders).

The play format was round-robin, with each team having the opportunity to play all others. The teams were then ranked by their number of wins and losses, with the top three teams qualifying for the final. In the final, the second- and third-place teams played each other, with the winner then playing the first-place team for the championship.

In the adult division, Beat Ollie (third place) outlasted Hartford UAYA (second place) to earn the spot in the finals against first place team Sitch A. In the final, Sitch A proceeded to sweep Beat Ollie to become the 2012 USCAK Beach Volleyball Champions. Most Valuable Player (MVP) for the adult division was Dr. Andy Chuma.

In the youth division, Setters (third place) beat the Sidewinders (second place) in the semifinals, qualifying them for the final against first place team Purple Kobras. In an upset, the Setters beat the Purple Kobras in a series of exciting come-from-behind games. The Setters won the youth division to become the 2012 USCAK Beach Volleyball Youth Champions. The MVP for the youth division was Stefan Stasiuk.

After the matches, trophies were awarded to the winning teams, and the MVPs of each division received Beach Volleyballs.

The tournament was pronounced a success by all involved, and plans are already being made for next year's event.

UAYA softball weekend

ELENVILLE, N.Y. – Six teams from Yonkers, N.Y., Passaic, N.J. (two teams), Philadelphia, New York City, and Astoria, Queens, participated in the annual softball tournament held on August 18 at the Ukrainian American Youth Association resort. In the final, Krylati (Yonkers) defeated New York City 4-3. The tournament was organized by Denys Dlaboha and Johnny Wilshynsky. Pictured are the finalists (from left), Krylati and New York City.

USCAK's annual swim meet held at Soyuzivka

by Marika Bokalo

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Opening ceremonies of the annual swim meet and tennis championships of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (known by its Ukrainian acronym as USCAK), held over Labor Day weekend at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center, began with the playing of the national anthems and raising of the flags of the United States, Ukraine and Canada.

George Sawchak, tennis chair, Irenaeus Isajiw, president of USCAK, and Roma Lisovich, treasurer of the Ukrainian National Association, welcomed everyone to the 2012 competitions and wished everyone good luck.

What a difference from last summer's swim meet, when hurricane Irene ravaged the East Coast and left its mark on Soyuzivka. This year the weather welcomed everyone – especially around the pool.

Although there were less participants than usual, it was great to see new swim-

The winners of the team trophy at the 2012 swim meet: Chornomorska Sitch.

Results of 2012 swim meet

Boys 10 and under

25 m. freestyle

1. Sean Kay, Sitch, 16.57
2. Zachary Nepogoda, Plast, 17.00
3. Christian Petrenko, Sitch, 24.11

50 m. freestyle

1. Sean Kay, Sitch, 37.06
2. Christian Petrenko, Sitch, 57.82

25 m. backstroke

1. Sean Kay, Sitch, 20.89
2. Zachary Nepogoda, Plast, 22.75
3. Christian Petrenko, Sitch, 31.44

25 m. breaststroke

1. Zachary Nepogoda, Plast, 23.63

4 x 25 m. relay

1. Leo Hotsko, Sean Kay, Christian Petrenko, Zachary Nepogoda, 1:21.12

Boys 11-12

25 m. freestyle

1. Nick Tkachanko, UAYA, 18.43

50 m. freestyle

1. Nicholas Neporanny, UAYA, 30.84
2. Leo Hotsko, Sitch, 40.88

25 m. backstroke

1. Nicholas Neporanny, UAYA, 16.93
2. Leo Hotsko, Sitch, 19.93
3. Aiden Kay, Sitch, 21.63

25 m. breaststroke

1. Nicholas Neporanny, UAYA, 18.28
2. Aiden Kay, Sitch, 23.34
3. Roman Holiat, Sitch, 25.95

25 m. butterfly

1. Aiden Kay, Sitch, 18.18
2. Leo Hotsko, Sitch, 19.43

4 x 25 m. relay

1. Aiden Kay, Sofia Polishchuk, Nicholas Neporanny, Nick Tkachenko, UAYA/Sitch, 1:08.73

Boys 13-14

100 m. individual medley

1. Oles Polishchuk, Sitch, 1:29.93

50 m. freestyle

1. Daniel Loukachouk, UAYA, 32.69
2. Roman Korniat, Sitch, 52.19

100 m. freestyle

1. Oles Polishchuk, Sitch, 1:17.19

50 m. backstroke

1. Daniel Loukachouk, UAYA, 37.17

50 m. breaststroke

1. Oles Polishchuk, Sitch, 40:97

50 m. butterfly

1. Daniel Loukachouk, UAYA, 39.11

4 x 50 m. relay

1. Roman Korniat, Sofia Polishchuk, Oles Polishchuk, Daniel Loukachouk, Sitch/UAYA, 2:39.88

Boys 15 and over

100 m. individual medley

1. Pavlo Kozak, Sitch, 1:13.73
2. Stefan Olesnyckyj, Sitch, 1:17.64
3. Danylo Centore, Sitch, 1:20.12

50 m. freestyle

1. Darick Swydorenko, Sitch, 28.34
2. Stefan Olesnyckyj, Sitch, 29.43
3. Danylo Centore, Sitch, 31.50

100 m. freestyle

1. Pavlo Kozak, Sitch, 1:07.09

50 m. backstroke

1. Stefan Olesnyckyj, Sitch, 35.55
2. Darick Swydorenko, Sitch, 37.75

50 m. breaststroke

1. Pavlo Kozak, Sitch, 39:87
2. Taras Petrenko, Sitch, 44.91

4 x 50 m. relay

1. Danylo Centore, Darick Swydorenko, Stefan Olesnyckyj, Pavlo Kozak, Sitch, 2:02.21

Girls 10 and under

25 m. freestyle

- *1. Maya Naumenko, Plast, 15.22
2. Andrea Neporanny, UAYA, 17.59
3. Eva Kovaliuk, Plast, 20.03

50 m. freestyle

1. Andrea Neporanny, UAYA, 39.06
2. Natalia Kay, Sitch, 51.59
3. Alexa Nozhenko, Sitch, 53.36

25 m. backstroke

1. Eva Kovaliuk, Plast, 22.05
2. Cecilia Kay, Sitch, 23.05
3. Julia Loukachouk, Sitch, 24.14

25 m. breaststroke

1. Maya Naumenko, Plast, 20.68
2. Andrea Neporanny, UAYA, 22.59
3. Alexa Nozhenko, Sitch, 29.31

25 m. butterfly

1. Maya Naumenko, Plast, 17.19
2. Eva Kovaliuk, Plast, 23.02
3. Natalia Kay, Sitch, 27.87

4 x 25 m. relay

1. Eva Kovaluk, Alexa Kovaliuk, Maya Naumenko, Julia Loukachouk, Plast/UAYA, 1:24.25
2. Alexa Nozhenko, Cecilia Kay, Natalia Kay, Andrea Neporanny, Sitch/UAYA, 1:36.59

Girls 11-12

25 m. freestyle

1. Sofia Kocur, UAYA, 21.36
2. Natalia Kay, Sitch, 21.90
3. Cecilia Kay, Sitch, 25.57

25 m. backstroke

1. Sofia Polishchuk, Sitch, 19.65
2. Sofia Kocur, UAYA, 23.73

25 m. breaststroke

1. Sofia Polishchuk, Sitch, 20.59

25 m. butterfly

1. Sofia Polishchuk, Sitch, 19.53

Girls 13-14

100 m. individual medley

1. Nina Oryshkewych, Plast, 1:17.25
2. Alexandra Kay, Sitch, 1:24.75
3. Arianna Centore, Sitch, 1:27.83

50 m. freestyle

1. Nina Oryshkewych, Plast, 29.85
2. Olena Kocur, UAYA, 33.95
3. Emily Szpynda, UAYA, 33.96

100 m. freestyle

1. Alexandra Kay, Sitch, 1:17.22
2. Olena Kocur, UAYA, 1:17.44

50 m. backstroke

1. Alexandra Kay, Sitch, 33.75
2. Emily Szpynda, UAYA, 39.50
3. Adrianna Centore, Sitch, 39.55

50 m. breaststroke

1. Oksana Korniat, Sitch, 51.53

50 m. butterfly

1. Nina Oryshkewych, Plast, 30.34
2. Adrianna Centore, Sitch, 37.55

4 x 50 m. relay

1. Nina Oryshkewych, Sofia Kocur, Emily Szpynda, Olena Kocur, UAYA /Plast, 2:32.66

Girls 15 and over

100 m. individual medley

1. Kateryna Nozhenko, Sitch, 1:37.91

100 m. freestyle

1. Kateryna Nozhenko, Sitch, 1:29.07

50 m. breaststroke

1. Kateryna Nozhenko, Sitch, 50.61

4 x 50 m. relay

- *1. Adrianna Centore, Kateryna Nozhenko, Alexandra Kay, Sitch, 2:26.37

* **New meet record**

mers from Canada. Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization seemed to have increased the number of its swimmers, though there were less from the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) and none from the Tryzub sports club. The demographics change every year, but Chornomorska Sitch always manages to have the most swimmers in the competition.

The swimming competition began when Marika Bokalo, the swim chair of USCAK, expressed greetings to all present. Ms. Bokalo was also the meet organizer and director.

The swim meet would not be possible without the participation of many volunteers: Taissa Bokalo and Angelina Kozak, scorers; Roman Hirniak, starter; Nicholas Prociuk, place judge; Christine Peters, stroke and turn judge; and Peter Prociuk, Myron Olesnyckyj, George Oryshkewych, Adrianna Szpynda and Natalia Swydorenko-Girardi, timers.

Throughout the meet, the crowd was very enthusiastic, loudly applauding and cheering the swimmers.

The results of all events are printed on the left. It should be noted that there were two record-breaking events: Maya Naumenko broke her previous record for girls age 10 and younger with a time of 15.59 in 25-meter freestyle; the 15-year-old girls' Sitch relay team, consisting of Adrianna Centore, Alexandra Kay and Katerina Nozenko, set a record of 2:26:37 in the 4 x 50 meters.

Team scores were: Sitch – 208 points; UAYA – 81 points; and Plast – 57 points.

After the official meet, groups of the "old boys" joined together and created a few teams to see who was still in shape. With much encouragement from the spectators, all the swimmers in the relay made it across the pool.

The presentation of the medals and trophy was next. Marika Bokalo, Mr. Isajiw, Sitch President Omelan Twardowsky and Ms. Peters handed out the medals and trophies to the smiling recipients. Trophies and medals were donated by the Ukrainian National Association in keeping with its tradition of supporting Ukrainian youth.

Swimmers, families and volunteer staff thanked Soyuzivka for the use of pool and the congeniality of all the workers, which made for another successful meet.



Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund Completes its Mission in Ukraine: In Final Months, \$1,005,709 Worth of Aid Distributed

by: Alexa J. Milanytch, CCRDF Country Director

Before concluding its humanitarian mission and medical programs in Ukraine, CCRDF worked over the past several months to ensure that its commitment to programs and various on-going projects was either completed or passed to partner organizations.

Telemedicine Program. On November 21, 2011, CCRDF President and Chairman Dr. Zenon Matkivsky announced the closing of CCRDF and the launch of the final program – telemedicine. Since that date, all 11 select partner hospitals have been equipped with the necessary equipment. CCRDF further supplemented the final program by organizing and hosting a 2-day international conference on telemedicine in Kyiv, Ukraine [see corresponding article]. The telemedicine program is CCRDF's final legacy in the medical field and is valued at **\$721,064**.



CCRDF would like to especially thank all the donors who made a contribution to the telemedicine program to bring Ukraine's healthcare into the 21st century. 100% of your gift – a total of \$101,064 – was earmarked for the completion of the program.

Neonatal Program. Over the past 22 years, CCRDF's mission has been to save the lives of children in Ukraine and the goal was accomplished by procuring medical equipment and donating it to partner hospitals located throughout Ukraine. The most valuable and critical piece of equipment for any neonatal intensive care department is a respirator which saves the lives of approximately 80



infants per year. Over the years, CCRDF purchased 52 respirators which will save a total of approximately 33,280 lives. Of these respirators, 9, valued at **\$208,500**, were purchased in the final months and were donated to children's hospitals and perinatal centers in Chernihiv, Chernivtsi, Kherson, Kyiv, Lutsk, Poltava, Rivne, and Volodymyrets.

Women's and Children's Health Initiative. In the Spring of 1998, CCRDF published its first booklet on prenatal care. It became the first of 3 pamphlets distributed throughout Ukraine to ensure healthy pregnancies. In 2011, as a continuation of this initiative, CCRDF sponsored a **\$22,000** project to translate, publish, and distribute *Premies: The Essential Guide for Parents of Premature Babies*, 2nd edition, © GEFFÉIV@:À à [\Á:ÁæÁ•c^] à^ •c^]Á *zà^Ác[Á@ [, Á]æ!^}c^Á can best care for their premature infant. 700 copies have been distributed to perinatal centers, medical and public libraries, and NICU wards across Ukraine. This initiative was supported by the Maria Hulai Lion Foundation and Stefan Wuernitzer.



Pediatric Oncology Program. In July 2009, CCRDF began partnering with Live Tomorrow and Project Lifeline to provide oncology medicine to children battling cancer. The program continues to be funded by Live Tomorrow and is currently being administered by the Krona Foundation. For further details, visit www.krona.niko.ua/en/.

Chernobyl Museum. One of CCRDF's founding objectives was to provide public information about the Chernobyl disaster as well as the medical and environmental consequences of radiation exposure. To ensure that this objective was met, CCRDF worked with the Chernobyl Museum for several years. Most recently, CCRDF sponsored a **\$10,000** audio guide project to purchase audio guide equipment and to update, translate, and record the script into 8 languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Russian, and, most notably, Japanese. With this project, both the national and international public are encouraged to visit the National Chernobyl Museum to learn about what happened over 26 years ago and what the stagger-

ing statistics are today. The museum is located in Kyiv's Podil area at Khorevyi Alley, 1 or can be visited online at www.chernobylmuseum.kiev.ua.

Shchuklin Twins. Since 2006, CCRDF purchased and delivered life-saving medicine to Ivan and Oleksandr Shchuklin who suffer from a rare genetic immune disorder called *agammaglobulinemia*. This \$288,000 program was made possible thanks to an anonymous donor from Ukraine who provided the funds to finance the costly, monthly IV treatments for the boys. Since May 2012, the program continues to be administered thanks to the efforts of His Eminence Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and, in Kyiv, thanks to former CCRDF employee Marta Stetsyk.

Orphanage Program. CCRDF has been working over 10 years with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to improve the quality of life for orphans in Ukraine. In May, CCRDF donated **\$30,000** to the UOC of the USA for the benefit of the orphans in Ukraine. The project continues to be coordinated by former CCRDF volunteer Maryana Voronovych. To continue supporting the Orphanage Program or for more information, please contact Bishop Daniel Zelinsky at VladykaDaniel@aol.com.



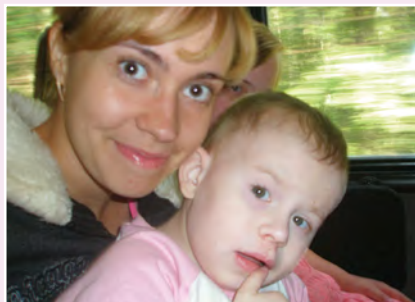
EURO 2012. UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) President Michel Platini, who remembers the Chernobyl tragedy, invited a group of 100 children (accompanying persons included) affected by the disaster to the EURO-2012 game – France vs. Sweden – on June 19. CCRDF was selected as UEFA's charity-of-choice to organize the group and represent UEFA's RESPECT campaign, which aims to improve access for soccer to all. The children who attended were pediatric oncology patients in remission, infant cardiac surgery patients, orphans from Znamyanka, and former participants of the *Scholarships for Orphans* program. A \$22,400 grant was provided and the remaining balance of **\$14,145** was donated by UEFA to purchase medical equipment for partner hospitals.



Over the lifespan of the organization, CCRDF distributed a total of **\$64,350,000** worth of aid in Ukraine.

To all who believed in our mission and contributed, we say **"thank you"** – your generosity has given hope to generations of Ukrainians.

We are certain our collective efforts will continue to impact Ukraine for decades to come.



CCRDF Hosts International Conference on Telemedicine: Connecting Ukraine to the Global Medical Network



On November 21, 2011, CCRDF President and Chairman Dr. Zenon Matkivsky announced the closing of CCRDF and the launch of the final program – telemedicine. Since that date, all 11 select partner hospitals have been equipped with the necessary technology. To supplement the final program, CCRDF organized and hosted a 2-day international conference on telemedicine in Kyiv, Ukraine. CCRDF believes it is vital to not only provide the equipment but also to educate today's medical professionals so that they may better familiarize themselves with current medical approaches to treating patients and to learn how to work with the sophisticated equipment procured for their respective hospitals.

The April conference, titled "Connecting Ukraine to the Global Medical Network," was held at the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center in Kyiv, Ukraine. The objectives of the conference were to create a forum for doctors to recognize and understand the maximum potential of telemedicine within various fields of medicine; to provide a comprehensive understanding of what telemedicine is and how to use it; and to provide various examples of how telemedicine is coordinated and managed in international medical communities with the potential to adopt these protocols in Ukraine.

Focusing on effective ways for the Ukrainian medical community to apply telemedicine, the main goal of the program was to provide better quality medical care to patients. Created with healthcare professionals in mind, the conference was designed to offer a venue for learning and networking, as well as foster discussions about advancements in medical technology.

More than 50 neonatologists, obstetricians, pediatric cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, ultrasound specialists, and IT technicians arrived from Chernihiv, Chernivtsi, Donetsk, Kherson, Kyiv, Lutsk, Lviv, Poltava, Rivne, and Volodymyrets. These participants represented the hospitals that received the telemedicine equipment from CCRDF.

The immediate former Chairman of the Board of the American Telemedicine Association, Dr. Dale Alverson, attended the conference as the keynote speaker and lecturer. Due to his expertise as the Medical Director of the Center for Telehealth & Cybermedicine Research at the University of New Mexico and his experience in helping to set up telemedicine systems throughout the world, including Ecuador and Nepal, Dr. Alverson informed the physicians of the benefit of telemedicine and the maximum potential for telemedicine as the leading healthcare tool of the future.

International lecturers also included Michael Manley, RN, the Outreach Director of the Center for Distance Health from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Jonathan Linkous, CEO of the American



Dale C. Alverson, MD, Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics and Medical Director, Center for Telehealth and Cybermedicine Research, University of New Mexico, USA, advises thoracic surgeon Dr. Roman Kovalsky from Lviv Regional Children's Clinical Hospital.



By consulting an infant cardiac surgery in real-time, Director of the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center Dr. Illya Yemets lectures how telemedicine is used as an educational tool in order to provide the best care for the patient.

The second day of the conference was dedicated to the practical aspect of using telemedicine. All the participants of the conference were transported to the nearest beneficiary of CCRDF's program – the Kyiv City Children's Hospital #2. There, CCRDF organized a hands-on training seminar for the doctors, which was conducted by the equipment manufacturer.

To add to the comprehensive approach of the conference and program, CCRDF planned a supplementary program for IT engineers from all partner hospitals in order for them to understand the technical aspects of telemedicine and to speak with experienced engineers about troubleshooting the sophisticated equipment.

Dr. Alverson reflected on the conference by saying, "I very much appreciated the opportunity to participate in the conference and to share our passion for the value that telehealth can bring in serving the health needs of people around the world. I was very impressed by so many things in Ukraine, including the telemedicine activities already put in place, in large part due to your efforts through CCRDF."

With the help of existing institutions which can become exemplary models for constructing the telemedicine sphere in Ukraine, CCRDF is confident that this telemedicine program will play a leading role in advancing the healthcare system in Ukraine.

The conference was made possible thanks to the CCRDF National Office, Rochester Chapter of CCRDF, and in-kind services and products provided by InterContinental Kyiv, Coca-Cola, Kimberly-Clark, and Guliev Wine.

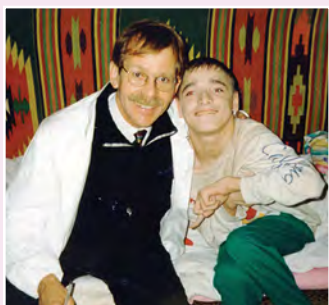
The equipment provided for the telemedicine program was made possible thanks to the CCRDF National Office and the final donations made by CCRDF constituents of which 100% was earmarked for the completion of the telemedicine program valued at a total of \$721,064.



The practical training on the equipment at the Kyiv City Children's Hospital #2 taught the doctors how to use the telemedicine equipment in their respective hospitals.

Telemedicine Association who was connected to the conference in real-time via telemedicine capabilities.

Dr. Illya Yemets, a renowned infant cardiac surgeon and director of the Ukrainian Children's Cardiac Center, addressed the physicians about his experience working with telemedicine at the Center and demonstrated how telemedicine benefits the continuing medical education programs. Dr. Yemets performed surgery which was broadcast live via telemedicine equipment to the physicians in the conference hall. This presentation of modern technology allows for doctors, nurses, and medical students to monitor, consult, and observe real-time medical procedures.



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Opposition parties concerned about bill

KYIV – Ukrainian opposition parties sounded the alarm on September 19 over a move to reinstate defamation as a crime, saying it was aimed at further curbing the free press ahead of the parliamentary elections scheduled for October 28. The law would apply to anyone, including the media, who spread “deliberately untrustworthy information” which denigrated a person, hurt their honor and dignity or undermined their business reputation. “It is crystal clear that the authorities will use the law to suppress the remnants of democracy in the Ukrainian media,” said a statement by the united opposition. “This is the death of Ukrainian journalism, and President Viktor Yanukovich, with his paranoid fear and thirst for power, is personally responsible for this,” it said. Vitali Klitschko, leader of the UDAR (Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform) party, said the move was an attempt to “shut journalists’ mouths and force them to work in conditions where the authorities are either doing well, or doing very well or great, and all the rest is slander.” He added, “If today’s compromised and degraded Parliament supports it (the law) we will change this shameful act in the first session of the newly-elected Parliament.” The Party of Regions, which supports the bill, said criminal liability for defamation was provided for in the legislation of many Western countries. It added that it was following the example of Russia, which has also returned defamation to the statute books as a criminal offense. (Reuters)

PRU puts defamation law on hold

KYIV – According to September 26 news reports, Ukraine’s ruling party has put plans to reinstate defamation as a crime punishable by jail on hold after criticism by the opposition and independent media. Ukraine’s opposition and independent media denounced the move as another crackdown on freedom of speech in the run-up to parliamentary elections on October 28. President Viktor Yanukovich on September 25 also criticized the timing of the proposal, calling the move an error. The United States and other Western governments have criticized Mr. Yanukovich for backsliding on democracy and a trend toward greater authoritarianism since he came to power in February 2010. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by UNIAN and Reuters)

Zhuravsky calls off controversial bill

KYIV – Vitalii Zhuravsky, a member of the parliamentary faction of the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), has registered in the Verkhovna Rada a draft resolution to call off his bill criminalizing libel, which had been adopted in its first reading last week, the Parliament’s official website reported on September 26. “After weighing all the circumstances and given the public interest, I have decided to withdraw the bill. I understand that on the eve of the parliamentary elections any initiative will be perceived at least with fear and mistrust,” Mr. Zhuravsky said, according to the PRU. The lawmaker noted that he hopes the Parliament will support this decision. At the same time, he said he believes that responsibility for libel should have been toughened long ago: “I have decided today to remove the issue legally, but not politically. I adhere to the same political positions and beliefs: in a society there has long been a need of strengthening responsibility for an attack on the honor and dignity of each person, not just politicians.” He added

that, “After the elections, I am going to organize a series of roundtable meetings involving journalists, human rights activists and scholars. After an extensive discussion and development of a joint vision for the future of the bill, I intend to submit it to Parliament.” (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich: defamation bill was mistake

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich called the consideration in the Verkhovna Rada of a bill criminalizing defamation a mistake by its author, National Deputy Vitalii Zhuravsky. Speaking with reporters in New York, where he was participating in the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Yanukovich commented on the withdrawal of the controversial law criminalizing libel: “Zhuravsky did not take the decision to call it off by accident. He heard my point of view, the point of view of his fellow party members. These kinds of decisions cannot be taken hastily.” According to the president, the author of the bill “now wants to correct his mistake.” Mr. Yanukovich said such laws should be evaluated also by European experts. “If we say that we are creating for journalists and the media all the conditions, and doing the opposite – no one will understand that,” he stressed. (Ukrinform)

Rada registers bill on Russian language

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on September 24 registered a bill granting the Russian language an official status. Its author is Party of Regions National Deputy Oleksander Chernomorov. This draft law, No. 11243, seeks to amend the “Law of Ukraine on State Language Policy.” According to the explanatory memorandum to the bill, its purpose is “specification of the fundamentals of the state language policy to ensure the constitutional rights of the Russian and Russian-speaking population to a free use of their mother tongue and language of everyday conversation – Russian, as the language of the indigenous people, the language of interethnic and international communication, the language spoken if not by a majority then at least by a half of the population in the state.” The bill also proposes introducing into the basic language law the concept of “indigenous people” as it is used in the Constitution, and also defines as indigenous people the Russians living in the lands within the present state of Ukraine. “And if the Ukrainians enjoy the right to be a ‘titular nation,’ the Russians have every right to be called an ‘indigenous people,’ not an ‘ethnic minority,’ considering their number and the contribution they have made in the development of our common civilization,” Mr. Chernomorov said. (Ukrinform)

Kherson residents applaud Klitschko

KYIV – Kherson residents who attended the election meeting of UDAR Party leader Vitali Klitschko, held on September 18 on the square near the Yuvileiny cinema and concert hall, gave a standing ovation to the politician and world-renowned athlete when he said that the Ukrainian language should be the state language in Ukraine. “As concerns the language issue. Why is the German language the state language in Germany? Why is the French language the state language in France? We can speak any language in Ukraine, because we understand each other. But this is an issue of the nation’s identity. I am convinced that Ukrainians should have the Ukrainian language as the state language,” said Mr. Klitschko, who is running for the Verkhovna Rada. This statement received more applause than any other part of the candidate’s speech. According to body-

(Continued on page 13)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

guards, over 1,000 persons attended the meeting with Mr. Klitschko; most were young and middle-aged people. The Russian language is a regional language in the Kherson Oblast and in the city of Kherson, in accordance with decisions of oblast and city councils, that were adopted in August. (Ukrinform)

Tigipko: Ukraine needs pragmatism

KYIV – Ukraine should build its foreign policy on the basis of tough pragmatism, and at this stage it should not make a categorical choice between the European Union and the Customs Union, said Sergey Tigipko, deputy chairman of the Party of Regions and vice prime minister and social policy minister. Speaking on the ICTV channel on September 18, he said: "At one of the sections in Yalta it was discussed where Ukraine should move – either to the European Union or the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. I am unalterably opposed to putting the question in the form 'either/or.' I think that we should stand on the tough basis of pragmatism. How can we make some peremptory steps, if a third of our exports go to the European Union, and slightly more than one third to the CIS countries." Mr. Tigipko expressed his opinion that, "no matter how strange it may seem to anyone," the Customs Union right now is more advantageous for Ukraine. He cited such reasons as the fact that Belarus buys gas at less than \$170 per thousand cubic meters, whereas Ukraine buys gas at \$521; and that Ukrainian goods traditionally go to the markets of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. At the same time, Mr. Tigipko noted that the crisis on the European Union market is fivefold larger than on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) market. At the same time, he added, "if one looks at the level of democracy, where people feel that they influence the situation, undoubtedly it is in the European Union." In this context, he also noted that it is also important how quickly the formerly Soviet-bloc countries developed, in particular, the Baltic countries, as well as Romania and Bulgaria, and how quickly they boosted their wages and pensions, having become European Union members. "Therefore, I think that we need the Association Agreement with the EU,

which includes a free trade area, and we need the free trade area without exceptions with the CIS countries, and in the long-term perspective, we should strive toward the European Union," Mr. Tigipko said, adding that this is his personal viewpoint. (Ukrinform)

Tigipko proposes cutting taxes

KYIV – The government has prepared a bill to reduce the number of taxes and fees in Ukraine, and it is envisaged to cut their number from 23 to nine, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Social Policy Sergey Tigipko announced on September 18, at an international conference on improving the business environment. He cited this as the main factor in creating a competitive economy. "We must continue work on the Tax Code... It is needed to move on. The first thing we can do is to cancel tax invoices. We can also reduce the amount of taxes and fees. Today their number is 23, but we already have a bill cutting them to nine. In the near future I will present this at a government meeting," Mr. Tigipko said. Mr. Tigipko noted that the number of permits for business activities would also be reduced. "The Parliament has bills reducing the number of permissive documents from 140 to 80. Twenty-seven permissive documents set by special laws are cancelled. In addition, another 15 licenses shall be abolished. Overall, we started with 75, and now 41 licenses will remain," he explained. (Ukrinform)

Condoleezza Rice on Ukraine in Europe

KYIV – If Europe locks its current borders and isolates itself from the rest of the world – primarily from countries like Ukraine and Turkey – democratic values would lose all over the world. This idea was expressed by Dr. Condoleezza Rice, a former U.S. secretary of state, at the session on "The Future of the Global Order and Security" during the ninth annual Yalta European Strategy conference held on September 13-16 in that Crimean city. "If Europe retires into its shell, we will lose one of the most potent magnets for democratic transformations in Europe and the world," she said. It is of crucial importance, she added, for the "old" democracies today to support democratic trends in the rest of the world. "If we believe in our values that have made us prosperous and free, we must believe they are capable of changing those societies too," Dr. Rice said. (Ukrinform)



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що 14-го вересня 2012 р. несподівано відійшов у вічність наш найдорожчий муж, тато і дідо

СВ. П. Степан Дупляк

народжений 23-го листопада 1940 р.
в Рудаваці, Сянницького повіту, Лемківщина, Західня Україна

Парастас був відслужений 17-го вересня в похоронному заведенні Mar Rosso Memorial Chapel в Кліфтон, Н.Дж.

Похоронні відправи відбулися в Українській Католицькій Церкві св. Миколая в Пассейку, Н.Дж., а опісля на цвинтарі св. Духа в Гемптонбургу, Н. Й., де Покійний спочив Вічним Сном.

У глибокому смутку залишилися:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| дружина | - Марійка |
| доні | - Сузанна з чоловіком Михайлом Скала |
| | - Рома з чоловіком Михайлом Перебзак |
| внуки | - Адріян, Вікторія, Меланія і Михасик |
| брати і сестри | - Анна Дідух, Михайло Дупляк,
Микола Дупляк, Марійка Андрах і Галя Рось з родинами |

Вічна Йому пам'ять!



The Board of Directors
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Ukrainian Institute of America



regrets to announce
that its long-time member and friend

DR. THEODOSIUS G. KRUPA

passed into eternity
on Friday, September 14, 2012,
in New Jersey

The Board and entire UIA membership
would like to express
their deepest sympathy to his family.

Eternal memory!



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It is with great sorrow that we inform our friends and acquaintances of the death on September 2, 2012, in Margate, New Jersey, of our beloved mother

Anastasia Koroliv Sochynsky

widow of Dr. Rostyslaw

A Panakhyda was served on Friday, September 7,
at Peter Jarema Funeral Home in New York City.

Burial was at St. Andrew Cemetery in S. Bound Brook, New Jersey.

A 40-th day memorial service will be served at
St. Volodymyr Cathedral, 160 West 82nd Street in New York City
on Sunday, October 14, at 10:30 a.m.

She is survived by her family:

son – Yaroslav with children Anna and Michael
daughters – Lada and Ilona with husband Peter Shyprykevich

BOOK REVIEW: Yuriy Tarnawsky's "Short Tails"

"Short Tails," by Yuriy Tarnawsky. Geneva, Ill./Niles, Mich: Journal of Experimental Fiction 42, JEF Books Civil Coping Mechanism, 2011. 333 pages. ISBN: 9781884097423, \$17.95.

by Vitalij Keis

A man learns that he is about to go on a trip. Like any typical traveler, he prepares his attire, brushes his black suit, and makes sure that he picks his best white shirt and an appropriate tie to go with it. We are never told where he is going, but, if we use our imagination, there are little hints throughout the tale. There is no display of sentimental emotions, yet we sense the presence of some inevitable tragedy when Rodrigo Vanas, the traveler, takes his ride on "the yellow streetcar with no name." (All titles in the book are written in lower case; thus, I am following the original.)

A hint may be a sentence that evokes the hidden meaning, like an image in a poem: We are told that he must find a pair of "old patent leather shoes which would fit his bony feet." (There is something metaphysical about this conceit that is very reminiscent of a baroque poem.) There are also hints in some elements of setting, such as in the inventory of his clothing.

Some parts of the plot may form the mechanism of evocation: "His old schoolhouse was all locked up by the time he came around to it late in the afternoon. But his classmates who were still around stood at the windows looking sadly out at him and silently waving their hands."

Even an allusion to another genre may stimulate the reader's imagination. He may remember that Ignacio Sanchez in the famous poem by Federico Garcia Lorca, "Lament for Ignacio Sanchez Mejias," was killed exactly at five in the afternoon. In Yuriy Tarnawsky's tale Rodrigo boarded his yellow streetcar exactly at five in the afternoon. Death is never mentioned, yet the yellow streetcar falls into the abyss of nothingness. Thus, this Stoic tale tells a story about facing death and dying, and it is doing this not so much on paper as in the depth of our imagination.

Marc Lowe, reviewing "Short Tails" in IMSs Press (October 14, 2011), wrote that "Yuriy Tarnawsky is a unique find. Nobody on earth writes like he writes...(His) tales/tails, in this case take the form of 24 distinct-yet-related 'prose pieces,' continually surprise, confound, and, yes entertain as well." I must add that most reviews that I have read have similar praise for the author.

In my own review of another work of his "Like Blood in Water" I mentioned his existential point of view. Many critics emphasize his surrealism. In my opinion, they mix up his theme – that is, the philosophical and psychological vision in his writing – with the mode of his style – the pictorial aspect of his language. To be sure, Tarnawsky does indeed employ images that are beyond the hum-drum logic of the mundane world. But surrealism has no claim on everything that defies conventional reality. Even existentialism in Mr. Tarnawsky's prose is manifested as his own expression, rather than borrowed from the movement long gone.

There is only one key to his work and that is imagination. His work is very evocative and is not written for those readers who read for the vicarious experience from the plot which does nothing more than entertain. Mr. Tarnawsky demands a partnership from his readers. He expressed this idea clearly in his theoretical essay "The Mininovel and Negative Text as a Literary Device," (American Book Review, May-June 2007).

The range of his themes is very broad. He writes about death, as Andriy Drozd pointed out in "Dumky pro Smert: P'yadesyat Rokiv Potomu" (Bukvojid, February 25, 2012).

But he also writes about myriad other subjects, such as the irony of a situation ("the rose tattoo"), political farce ("Lenin's brain"), perverted sex ("bobby and bobbi"), loneliness ("missing"), unfulfilled love ("an earthquake in the heart"), failure in life ("a.c. robot") – to name only few. And the unifying factor of all these themes is alienation.

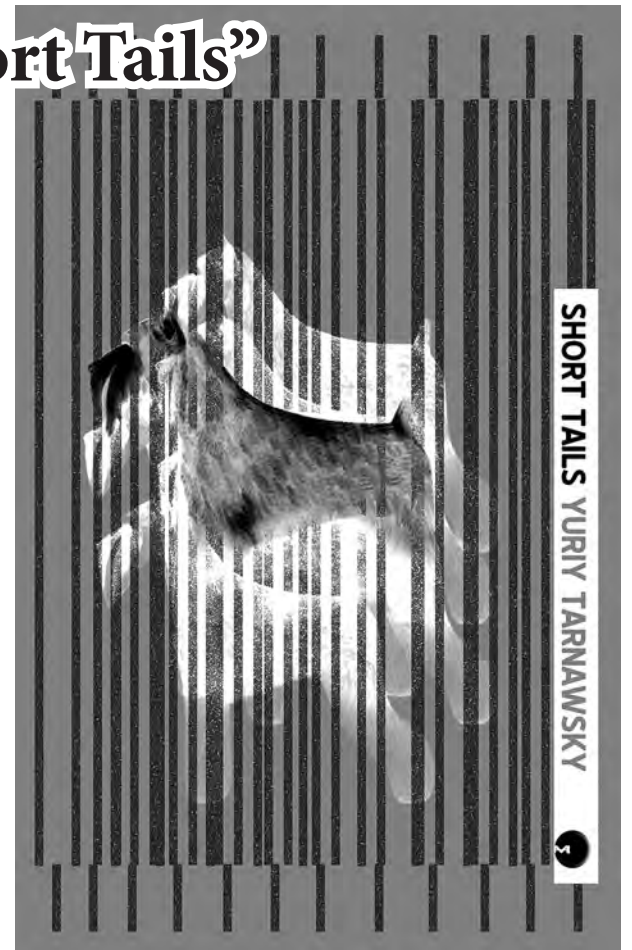
As I have pointed out in another essay on Tarnawsky's work, "his persona reacts to his surrounding with dread, seeing danger in the most natural and in the most mundane, perceiving with anxiety the most common and ordinary objects as enemies, as potential sources of his own extinction or pain... Tarnawsky depicts a vision of the external world as hostile, cold, and foreboding; reflecting fear, unrest and dissolution" ("Tarnawsky's Modernism Revisited", paper read at the annual meeting of American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, Chicago, December 29, 1982).

A reader must approach Mr. Tarnawsky's tales with a healthy imagination. But on many occasions he must bring to it a fair amount of knowledge too. Take, for example the opening statement of "stone." The story introduces its persona with these words:

"Whether it was because his first name was Rock, or because in addition his last name, which was Peterson, and had the word 'stone' at its core, or because his life in general had not been easy, or finally because of some other obscure, unfathomable reason, but as he grew older Rock Peterson found himself thinking more and more about stone."

From the very beginning we see Mr. Tarnawsky's style. Instead of prolonged and verbose description that is so typical of conventional prose, he develops his theme through association, by marriage between imagination and intellect. The theme, of course, is a metaphysical angst: the heavy burden of existence. We all are pushing aimlessly the heavy rock of Sisyphus.

But upon a closer inspection, these words of introduction appear much deeper. Like a magician, Mr. Tarnawsky distorts our attention, uncovering the obvious and hiding the essential, thus forcing us to use our own knowledge and our own imagination. He tells us that the persona's name is Rock, a rather common name and, at the same time, a synonym for stone. But it introduces through evocation a Christian theme. Peterson is formed by two distinct words: "Peter" or "Petros" in Greek, and "son," which is a homonym of "sun" – a heavenly body. We think of asso-



ciation between Peterson and St. Peter – the rock upon which Jesus promised to build his Church. But despite this promise, man, like Rock Peterson, continues to suffer existential exile. In the words of Jean Paul Sartre's paradox, "he is to freedom condemned."

Every story in "Short Tails" is original, exhibiting a unique Tarnawsky.

However, the most originally daring among them is "photographs." The author not only created an original tale, but he invented a completely new genre. Here the traditional plot, or the "telling of the story," consists only of one sentence: "There are a number of these, apparently not necessarily related to each other and not sorted in any particular order; all black and white."

After this teller's voice, we no longer hear him. But we see with our own "mind's eye" these pictures. We ask ourselves, "Who is this tall young man, wearing a jacket that was fashionable in 1930s, whose arms 'are bent at the elbows and hands balled into fists'; who creates the impression that one is looking at a child's pathetic little fists balled as a protection against the huge hostile world?" We ask ourselves such questions as the images keep changing, as new pictorial themes appear. We ask these questions and we sort them out into a powerful narrative – until we begin to imagine someone's struggles, someone's life. The best way to describe this story is by imagining that somehow it jumped out from the book and assumed an independent life.

Kyiv's relations...

(Continued from page 1)

been planned for this year, would more likely occur in 2013, and only if the October parliamentary elections were conducted in line with European standards, reported Interfax.

"The Kolchuha scandal was only an episode and, as it turned out, the accusations against Ukraine then were speculative," said Oleksandr Paliy, a foreign policy expert and parliamentary candidate from the Sobor Ukrainian Platform party.

"The dialogue was healthier after the disappearance of [journalist Heorhii] Gongadze, given that the West demanded an investigation of a specific episode. Now the government is making fundamental errors in politics and in positioning itself with the West," he added.

Exacerbating the diplomatic rift has been the defiance – or boorishness in the view of some – of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, which most notably indulged in a nasty war of words with the former EU representative to Ukraine, Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira, in response to his criticisms of Ukrainian policy.

Mr. Teixeira completed his term in August, and was succeeded by Jan Tombinski, who previously led the Polish mission to the EU.

Now the Foreign Affairs Ministry decided to take on the U.S. government and its September 22 resolution, stating

that it's difficult to take seriously a document that "with all diplomatic restraint can be called doubtful, at minimum."

The resolution's doubtful nature is demonstrated by the way it was approved, at 3 a.m. just before the close of the plenary session of Congress, when less than half a dozen senators were present, the Foreign Affairs Ministry claimed in its September 22 statement.

The resolution has a "declarative, non-binding" character, the statement said, and its authors "tried at any price to evade the protests of other senators."

According to Washington insiders, however, no U.S. senator made any public statement protesting the resolution.

"The friends of the Tymoshenko team did everything they could to throw into the Ukrainian informational sphere the latest falsified pretext for hollow, baseless discussions and the discreditation of future parliamentary elections," the statement said. "These efforts contradict the national interests of Ukraine and are doomed to failure."

The Foreign Affairs Ministry's statement was "hysterical," Mr. Paliy commented. "But I think this hysteria is not from the ministry, but retransmitted hysteria from someone higher, who ordered a response," he said. "The diplomats gave it, instead of attempting to explain whether such a reaction was reasonable for national interests."

Former Defense Minister Anatolii Grytsenko, a leading opposition politician, dismissed the ministry's criticism of how the Senate resolution was passed, considering how Ukraine's Parliament approved the Kharkiv agreements of 2010 amidst a chaotic scene in the session hall.

Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko "very gladly welcomed the [Verkhovna] Rada's ratification of the treacherous Kharkiv agreements amidst smoke, egg on the speaker's face, without a quorum in the hall, and with violations to the laws and the Constitution," Mr. Grytsenko wrote on his Facebook page. "I don't even know what Gryshchenko and his 'diplomats' had to smoke in order to issue such boorish statements in the name of the state of Ukraine."

Relations aren't expected to improve after the October 28 parliamentary election, whose recognition by the West is growing increasingly unlikely with the main opposition leader in jail and ongoing pressure on independent media.

Leading election observers, including Mr. Gross and PACE, have already warned of a substandard election campaign, replete with abuse of government resources ("adminresurs"), elaborate vote-buying schemes, violence and suppression of the remaining free news media, among other violations.

"The formation and make-up of election commissions in Ukraine, in my view, is a complete farce," Mr. Gross told Ukrainian Week.

He later added in the interview, "When I see everything that's happening now in Ukraine, pessimism grows within me. The worst is the big money that determines Ukrainian politics. As a consequence, campaign promises and party programs are reduced to nothing and people don't trust politicians. That's a catastrophic situation in the development of a democratic society, which is why my prognoses are pessimistic."

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Our community celebrates Ukrainian Independence Day 2012

MONTREAL

MONTREAL - The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), Montreal branch, held its annual banquet on Thursday, August 30, marking the 21st year of Ukraine's independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the long-fought struggle for renewed national freedoms.

The keynote speaker was Bohdan Onyschuk, president of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF). He gave an overview of the current situation in Ukraine under the Yanukovich administration, providing many examples of how the current regime is backsliding to increasing authoritative rule and implementing increasing Russianization policies.

Mr. Onyschuk also explained the work of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation, emphasizing the importance of support-



At Montreal's celebration of Ukrainian Independence Day (from left) are: Mariko Putko, banquet committee chairperson; Prof. Roman Serbyn, banquet MC; Madwa-Nika Cadet, representative of the Quebec Liberal Party; the Rev. Volodymyr Kouchnir; Bohdan Onyschuk, keynote speaker; Zorianna Hrycenko-Luhova, UCC Montreal president; the Rev. Mitred Oleh Koretsky and his wife, Anna; and Bohdanna Klecor-Hawryluk, banquet committee co-chair.

Halloween Weekend at Soyuzivka!



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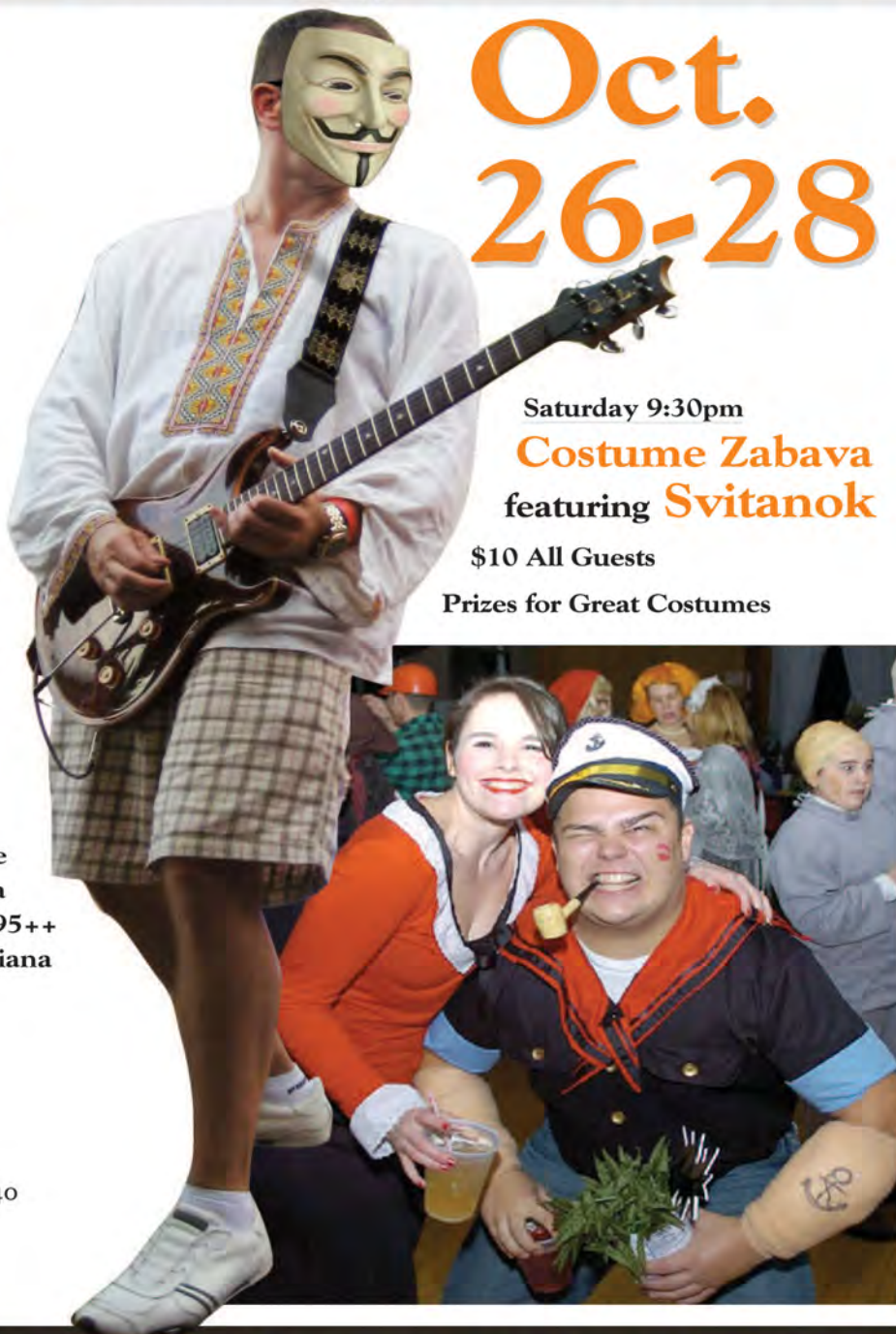
Saturday
Breakfast
8 - 9 :30 am
Light Lunch
12:30 - 1:30 pm
Children's program
Crafts 1:30 to 3:30 pm
Masquerade Parade
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ing long- and short-term election observers from Canada to the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine. He emphasized that the October elections are probably the most important in Ukraine's history, determining whether Ukraine will continue its road to democratization.

Honored guests included Eugene Czolij, president of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), with his wife, Anna; Arunas Staskevicius, honorary consul of Lithuania in Montreal; the Rev. Mitred Oleh Koretsky, of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Montreal and his wife, Anna; the Rev. Deacon Volodymyr Kouchnir of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Montreal; Madwa-Nika Cadet, representative of the Provincial Liberal Party of Quebec and Liberal candidate for the Rosemont area; and Marta Tkaczyszyn of the UCC national office in Ottawa.

Mr. Czolij gave greetings on behalf of UWC and a brief presentation, as did the honorary consul of Lithuania. The evening's master of ceremonies was Prof. Roman Serbyn.

The banquet was formally opened by UCC Montreal President Zorianna Hrycenko-Luhova, who stated, "Under the current government with its anti-Ukrainian policies and language laws, Ukraine is now faced with the reality of losing its hard-earned freedom and independence... We must believe in the resiliency of our people and take the necessary actions in ensuring Ukraine's independence."

Following the formal dinner program, the evening was concluded with a performance by mezzo-soprano Halyna Wawerchak, a poetry recitation by Martusia Reketchuk and dance numbers by the Troyanda Dance Ensemble under the direction of Bohdan Klymchuk.

Marika Putko and Bohdanna Klecor-Hawryluk headed the banquet committee, with many volunteers assisting. An interview with Mr. Onyschuk was conducted by Simon Kouklewsky for Montreal's "Ukrainian Time" radio program. The evening was videotaped by Dima Lemeshko and will be posted on the UCC website (uccmontreal.org).

That evening, contributions to the Election Observers Mission in Ukraine organized by the CUF were encouraged and donation cards were made available.



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Former Minister...

(Continued from page 1)

I don't think it's possible to describe it in one word, but we can certainly say there's a result. The result is that, for the last two years, we've come to a dead end. Ukraine today is not a serious player in European politics, global politics or Eurasian politics. That's the worst geopolitical situation Ukraine has had since its declaration of independence.

Why is this happening? There are two reasons: the first is the absence of strategic foreign policy thinking and the manifestation of that is the approval of the law on Ukraine's non-bloc status. [The Verkhovna Rada voted to support President Yanukovich's initiative on the country's non-bloc status in July 2010, which rules out NATO integration – ed.] That's a foreign policy dead end, and we've successfully gotten there.

If you recall the previous government, we were the center of attention for European politics, for global politics, because we raised the questions of entering NATO and the European Union and our relationship with these countries. But now we've deprived ourselves of a foreign policy initiative with our own hands. It doesn't exist. That's why we're getting the appropriate reaction. You don't want to? Good-bye.

Plus, in addition there's the issue of domestic politics. We fenced ourselves off from communicating with the democratic world with our poor domestic politics. That's the second factor that led to our situation becoming absolutely hopeless. We are accepted neither in the West, nor in Russia, nor in the U.S. Nowhere.

So, the single way out is a pivotal change in the domestic political situation and a change in thinking on the global political scale. If we don't change, we will find ourselves in a space that's called a gray zone, in which Ukraine doesn't need anyone, and no one needs us.

So we can't call Mr. Yanukovich's policies pro-Russian?

I don't think it can be called pro-Russian. I think only separate elements could be interpreted as pro-Russian. But I don't think it's really that way. An analysis of the situation in Russian-Ukrainian relations demonstrates that what Russia was counting on hasn't happened. It's not pro-Western, it's not pro-Russian and, most importantly, it's not pro-Ukrainian. It's no policy at all.

It's only in the interest of a small circle?

It's only in the interest of that circle that wants to make a certain amount of dollars in Ukraine, above all.

Recently, Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko boasted that the government gained freer travel access to the EU for certain...

...categories of citizens...

Yes – journalists, certain businessmen, a few more categories. So perhaps that is an achievement?

When I was minister and in 2008 we began negotiations with the EU to cancel visas, I made it my goal to cancel visas by 2012, by the beginning of the Euro 2012 soccer championship. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. Of course, these things could be understood as a certain success. But in my view, the real success is the full cancellation of visas for Ukrainian citizens. The sooner that's done, the better it will be for everyone. But these are simply steps on that road.

Of course, it's good that certain catego-

ries of citizens will now spend less time, nerves and energy to gain visas. But it's a partial decision, not the kind that is supposed to suit Ukrainian society. That kind of decision would be the cancellation of the visa regime at first; maximally quick fulfillment of the Association Agreement, which beforehand needs to be signed and put into effect, and joining the EU. I believe this can truly be considered a success for Ukrainian foreign policy. Everything else is merely steps towards that goal.

What's your view of Kostyantyn Gryshchenko? Some view him as a Soviet-type person with the same kind of thinking.

Very little depends on Ukraine's diplomats. They are merely one element in a system in which everything is decided by a very small group of people, and possibly only one person. So it's unrealistic to expect that any diplomat will achieve certain results. He's not making the decisions. He's fulfilling them.

Was it always that way?

That's the result of the last two years. Of course, I had a large field to maneuver in. Undoubtedly, I cleared my decisions with the president. But there was an entirely different system of decision-making. I had significantly more opportunities for initiatives to fulfill the foreign policy course, which was a lot wider than what it is now.

Today, it's restricted by this non-bloc status and the domestic political situation. Nowadays, any diplomat is in a very narrow sector in which he can work. Therefore, it'll be difficult for anyone who becomes [foreign affairs] minister.

Did you have to compete with Hryhoriy Nemyria when he was vice prime minister for Euro-integration? Did that create a certain competition between the two of you?

Well, I'll be frank in saying that some people wanted two foreign affairs ministers for Ukraine and didn't always toe an ethical line, which hurt the state's interests. I offer the example of when we pursued the idea of NATO integration, and one part of the coalition did everything for it to fail. [The previous coalition government consisted of the Tymoshenko Bloc and the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense Bloc, which supported former President Viktor Yushchenko – ed.] That was our cooperation.

Regarding NATO, its opponents very often point to the example of Serbia and Kosovo, in which NATO supported the secession of Kosovo and Montenegro from Serbia. If NATO could do that, they argue, then Russia had the full right to help South Ossetia and Abkhazia secede from Georgia, with similar scenarios possibly looming for Ukraine. How would you respond to that argument?

I was part of a group of Ukrainian diplomats that flew to the leader of former Yugoslavia, [Slobodan] Milosevic, before NATO's actions there. We tried to convince him that he needs to change the situation in the country, otherwise sanctions would be irreversible. We spoke with Milosevic for more than an hour and he declined this last chance. What was the problem of former Yugoslavia? It was the last Communist dictatorship left in Europe after the changes that took place. It was not democratic, it was totalitarian, and it provoked all those processes that later exploded in the former Yugoslavia. It could have been resolved in a different way, but because of the policies of Milosevic himself, all interethnic relations were tied into a non-resolvable knot.

It's impossible to write this off on NATO. That's confusing ideas because, truly, the national question of former Yugoslavia was

based on the Soviet model. There was Serbia as the central republic, which dictated its conditions for all the others, just as Russia dictated to all the others in the Soviet Union what needed to be done. So the process of the Serbian collapse, just like the Soviet collapse, was objective. People went into the streets demanding national recognition, among other things. The Yugoslav collapse was an objective factor. The processes that developed in Serbia and Kosovo reflected the absence of true democracy and true interethnic relations between the separate subjects in this country. So to accuse NATO in all this is not possible from the point of view of international law and common sense.

International law was egregiously violated regarding Russia's policy towards Georgia. Open aggression was used against a sovereign state with the goal of putting Georgia in its place for declaring its pro-Western vector of development. The issue of Abkhazia and South Ossetia was merely the grounds used to block Georgia in its accelerated NATO integration. That's an obvious fact to everyone.

The recent statements from [Russian President Vladimir] Putin that they planned the operation in Georgia as early as 2007 proves that it wasn't about some circumstances provoked by Georgia. They simply used – like in many other wars – certain events to practically cross the boundaries of international law and commit open aggression against a sovereign state. It's simply not possible to compare NATO, which seeks to introduce democratic standards in the lives of these counties, and Russia, which violates such standards.

We are driving on the road, and we see Viktor Medvedchuk's billboards calling for referenda. Among them would be dividing Ukraine into sub-regions, or a certain federalization. Is that an example of Russia's foreign policy towards Ukraine?

That's obvious. That's a project that is financed by Moscow, which anticipates Ukraine's further weakening. It's a project that is being fulfilled by anti-Ukrainian forces in Ukraine. No other interpretation is possible.

Does that mean Russia is encroaching on certain territories of Ukraine?

That means that Russia wants to rebuild

its empire again, which can't exist without the Ukrainian factor. That's understood by everyone, and this is the last chance for Russia to hold on to its imperial construction, which became history during the collapse of the Soviet Union. It's the last attempt to reincarnate yesterday.

Without Ukraine, any unions involving Russia are unacceptable because they won't be able to fulfill its vision as a neo-empire. It's a project aimed against Ukrainian interests.

Is it aimed at all of Ukraine or certain territories?

It's about including Ukraine as a constituent part of this new empire, which will bear a different name, the Eurasian Union. But the capital will be in Moscow, decisions will be reached in Moscow, along with the execution of court rulings in the Eurasian Union. It's the same essence [as the Soviet Union], but with a different name.

You said, "last chance." Do you mean this is the last generation that could be ready to accept it?

It means that Russia is in a difficult situation itself, both economically and politically. Even taking the ethnic demographic factor, these are things over which the Russian neo-imperial government has set the task of how to rescue this construction in any way. This is truly the last chance because in a generation it might not happen for two reasons. Either the [next] generation won't do it, or Russia will cease to exist as a single whole.

As a nation?

As a single whole. As a separate state that exists in its current borders. The disintegration processes in Russia are exceptionally strong...

Even more so than in Ukraine?

Absolutely. In Ukraine, 75 percent of the population is Ukrainian, which is the dominant nation. Despite all their attempts to undermine its statehood, it's a unitary state, which they want to make into a confederation in order to split it. But we are a unitary state. Russia is conglomerate of dozens and hundreds of people that live by different ideological preferences. They have different histories, different cultures and different plans for the future. That's explosive material for their unity. That can't be hidden.

The importance...

(Continued from page 6)

Ukraine's parliamentary elections come at a time when Ukraine is preparing to assume the chairmanship-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2013. In order for Ukraine to lead by example and demonstrate its commitment to the Helsinki principles on democracy and good governance, it will be important to demonstrate that its elections met the highest international standards. ...

In conclusion, Ukraine has made tremendous progress in the last 20 years. The country can be proud of its achievements,

as a young generation of Ukrainians is growing up with new freedoms and opportunities as well as a new mentality. But there is still much work to be done. History shows that in industrialized societies, economic modernization and political modernization go hand-in-hand as both are rooted in transparency, competition, rule of law and strong democratic institutions. Indeed, America's best partnerships are with like-minded countries who share our values: commitment to democracy and rule of law, free speech, open markets and protection of human rights. We will continue to offer our active support, but Ukraine's success will ultimately depend on the choices and actions of the Ukrainian people. ...

Check out the websites of the UNA, its newspapers and Soyuzivka!

• www.ukrainiannationalassociation.org •

www.svoboda-news.com • www.ukrweekly.com

• www.soyuzivka.com •

The Hierarchy, Clergy, and Faithful of the
Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church – Outside Ukraine (KP)
request the honor of your prayers and your presence
on the Day of Druha Prokrova,
the 20th and the 21st of October 2012 (civil date)
observing the

Seventieth Anniversary of the 1942 Episcopate,
celebrating the life and work of
Patriarch MSTYSLAV I of Kyiv and All Rus'-Ukraina,
Met. HRYHORIJ IV of Kyiv and of All Ukraina,
Abp. SERHI of Minsk & All Belarus, B.A.O.C.,
all of the Hierarchs, Priests, Deacons, Sub-deacons, Panomari,
Dyaki, Servers, Choir-singers, Members of Radas, Brotherhoods,
Sisterhoods, Church Organizations
and all of the Baptized-Chrismated Faithful
of the Ukrainian & Belarusian Autocephalous Orthodox Churches,
whether living or reposed in the Lord,
during the 5 pm All-Night Vigil on the 20th of October 2012,
the 10 am Divine Liturgy on Sunday, the 21st of October 2012
and for the 4 pm afternoon Reception
with a display of historical photographs.

Liturgical rites:

Sv. Stephan Cathedral-Sobor
1881 Pearl Rd.
Brunswick, Ohio, USA

There will be **NO** banquet.

Reception:

Sv. Stephan lower hall: 4pm

Faithful may wear national dress.

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servers from all jurisdictions
deriving from the 1942

Episcopate are invited to serve;
please pre-register with
Chancery (713) 645-3300.

Clergy and server vestments:
blue or gold.

SINGERS: pre-register so musical
notation can be provided to you.

“Memory Songs” to be presented at New York’s Ukrainian Museum

by Ihor Slabicky

NEW YORK – On Saturday, October 27, Bandura Downtown and The Ukrainian Museum will feature “Memory Songs: A Dialogue of Traditions,” a musical collaboration between Julian Kytasty on bandura and Alhaji Papa Susso playing the kora. These two artists, master players of their instruments, are virtuosos of the world’s great sung poetry traditions – the historical epics of the Ukrainian “kobzari” and the centuries-old praise song tradition of the West African “griots.”

Mr. Susso, master kora player and oral historian (griot or jeli) of the Mandinka people, was born in 1947 into a jeli family in Gambia. He has been playing kora since age 5 and traces his lineage as a jeli back through centuries of singers before him. He has performed worldwide as an ambassador of his culture. The London Herald Tribune has called Papa Susso, as he is known, “the one and only most talented kora player of this century.”

Mr. Kytasty, born in 1958 in Detroit into a family of professional bandurists from Ukraine, is recognized as one of today’s leading performers of the epic and historical repertoire of Ukraine’s traditional sing-

er-bandurists, the kobzari. A master instrumentalist and an accomplished singer, he has performed for concert and festival audiences in the Americas, Europe, Australia and Central Asia. Under his direction the Bandura Downtown series has gained a reputation for musical excellence as well as for unexpected and innovative programming.

In 2012, Messrs. Susso and Kytasty were honored as recipients of New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships in Traditional Arts – the first time that fellowships were awarded in this category. The genesis for the October 27 performance, a juxtaposition of the core repertoire of their respective traditions, came out of their meeting at the awards ceremonies in June.

The concert will be introduced by poet Bob Holman, a frequent collaborator with both the artists. Mr. Holman is the founder of the Bowery Poetry Club and of the Endangered Languages Alliance and host of the upcoming PBS special “Word Up! Language Matters with Bob Holman.” The Bandura Downtown series is a project of the New York Bandura Ensemble.

For further information and reservations, readers may visit The Ukrainian Museum website at www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Time running out for “The Babushkas of Chernobyl”

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Filmmakers Holly Morris and Anne Bogart, who have collaborated on projects for the Travel Channel’s Globe Trekker show, are collecting donations for their documentary, “The Babushkas of Chernobyl.”

The project has a Kickstarter campaign, which has collected \$16,000 of its \$27,000 goal. The campaign ends on October 11, and if the goal figure is not reached, all of the monies collected are forfeited.

The film hopes to tell the true story of the defiant group of elderly women who live inside the “Dead Zone,” an official exclusion area that surrounds the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine. Twenty-five years ago, Chernobyl was the site of the worst nuclear catastrophe in his-

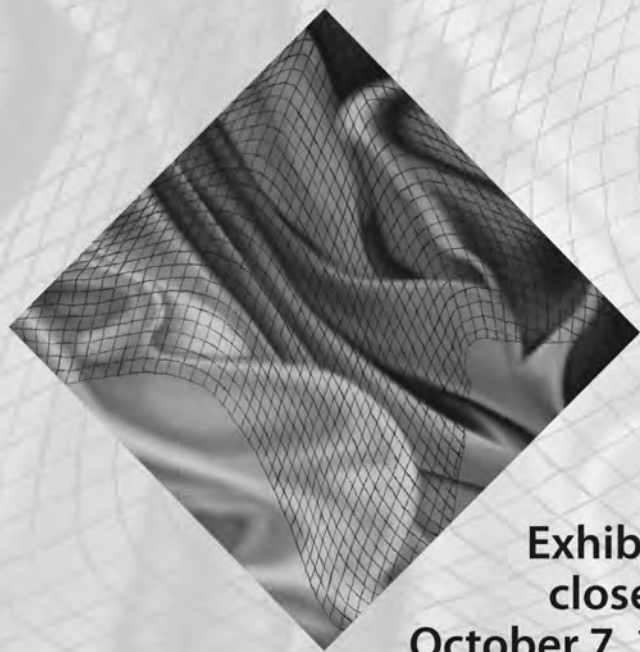
tory. Despite the elevated radiation levels, the women call the area home.

At the time of the accident, local inhabitants were evacuated, but a handful of residents snuck back. Their attachment to the land withstood the terrors of Hitler and Stalin, and the threat of radioactivity would not keep them from their homes. Over the years, the men have died off, leaving behind this small group of remarkable survivors.

Readers who would like to make a donation (in any amount) to the project’s Kickstarter campaign can visit <http://kck.st/OeaH9J>. For more information on the film, readers can visit www.thebabushkasofchernobyl.com or contact the filmmakers via e-mail at thebabushkasofchernobyl@gmail.com.

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www.ukrainianmuseum.org

OUT & ABOUT

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Through October 26
Cambridge, MA</p> <p>October 5
Stanford, CA</p> <p>October 5
New York</p> <p>October 5
Rexdale, ON</p> <p>October 5
New York</p> <p>October 5-11
Jenkintown, PA</p> <p>October 6
Whippany, NJ</p> <p>October 6
Jenkintown, PA</p> <p>October 6
New York</p> <p>October 6
Jamaica Plain, MA</p> <p>October 6
New York</p> | <p>Photography by Tania D'Avignon, "Cultural Kaleidoscope: Ukraine, Mongolia, Tibet, Uzbekistan," Harvard University, 617-495-4053</p> <p>Presentation by Olenka Petrenko, "Anatomy of the Unsaid: Along the Taboo Lines of Female Participation in the Ukrainian Nationalistic Underground," Stanford University, 650-725-2563 or http://creees.stanford.edu/events/petrenko.html</p> <p>Book launch, "My Orchidia" by Alexander Motyl, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110</p> <p>Fund-raiser, "Night at the Races," to benefit the post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto, Petro Jacyk Education Foundation, Woodbine Racetrack, 905-625-2171 or post.doc.pjef@gmail.com</p> <p>Movie night, Kinofest NYC, Ukrainian Institute of America, info@kinofestNYC.com or www.kinofestNYC.com</p> <p>Exhibit, "Life in the DP Camps (Germany and Austria, 1945-1950)," Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166</p> <p>Ukrainian Festival, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, www.uaccnj.com or 908-759-1771</p> <p>Ukrainian Festival, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166 or www.ukifest.com</p> <p>Presentation, "Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora in the United States," Volume 1, Book 2," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130</p> <p>Art auction, Greater Boston Chapter - Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University, Christ the King Church parochial house, GreaterBostonFriendsofUCU@gmail.com</p> <p>Concert, "Immortal Beloved," Music at the Institute, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660</p> | <p>October 6, 13, 20, 27
Pittsburgh</p> <p>October 10
New York</p> <p>October 11
Stanford, CA</p> <p>October 11
Toronto</p> <p>October 11
Ottawa</p> <p>October 11
New York</p> <p>October 12-14
Wilkes-Barre, PA</p> <p>October 13
Jefferson, NJ</p> <p>Film festival, "Hoverla Ukrainian American Film Festival 2012," Ukrainian Community of Western Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh - Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, contact@ucowpa.org or http://ucowpa.org/festival_ticket_prices_2012</p> <p>Presentation by Frank Sysyn, "Scholarship in Service to the People: Father Mykhailo Zubrytskyi (1856-1919) and the Study of the Galician Ukrainian Village," Columbia University, 212-851-4697</p> <p>Presentation by Amelia Glaser, "Jews and Ukrainians in Russia's Literary Borderlands: From the Shtetl to the Petersburg Workshop," Stanford University, 650-725-2563 or http://creees.stanford.edu/events/glaser.html</p> <p>Presentation by Lubomyr Luciuk, "Civil Liberties, Ukrainian Canadian-Style," Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Ukrainian Youth Association in Canada hall, media@uccla.ca</p> <p>Book launch, "Making Bombs for Hitler" by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch, Ukrainian National Federation, University of Ottawa, halouwins@gmail.com</p> <p>Presentation by Volodymyr Kulyk, "Ukraine's New Language Law: European Integration or Back to the USSR?" Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu</p> <p>National convention, League of Ukrainian Catholics, hosted by the North Anthracite Council of LUC, Ramada Inn, 570-829-4202</p> <p>Golf tournament, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, Berkshire Valley Golf Course, 973-257-1857 or 908-625-9690</p> |
|--|---|--|

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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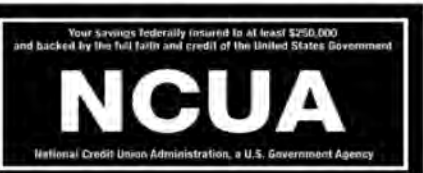
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday-Thursday, October 5-11

JENKINTOWN, Pa. : The Committee of Archives of Refugee and Displaced Persons Camps after World War II, the Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago and the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) in Jenkintown, Pa., invite all to the exhibit of life in the DP Camps (Germany and Austria, 1945-1950) at the UECC, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046; telephone, 215-663-1166. Opening and reception are on Friday, October 5, at 7 p.m. Exhibit hours: October 6, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; October 8-11, noon to 3 p.m. On Sunday, October 7, at 2 p.m., there will be a theatrical presentation of life in the DP camps by the Philadelphia theater group "Yazykata Dzhezva."

Saturday, October 6

JAMAICA PLAIN, Mass.: An auction of Ukrainian paintings and art objects from the collection of Irena and Ihor Kowal for the benefit of the Ukrainian Catholic University will take place under the sponsorship of the Greater Boston Chapter of Friends of UCU. It will be held at 7 p.m. in the Parish House of Christ the King Church, 146 Forest Hills St., Jamaica Plain, Mass. Admission of \$20 includes refreshments and a short film on the progress of the university being built in

Lviv. For further information contact GreaterBostonFriendsofUCU@gmail.com.

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a presentation of "The Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora in the United States," Volume 1, Book 2 (2012). Participants include Orest Popovych (general editor), Oleksander Luzhniysky (head of the Philadelphia branch of the encyclopedia) and Volodymyr Vasylyak (Internet editor). The evening will include a video presentation by Vasyl Lopukh. The presentation will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Wednesday, October 10

NEW YORK: Please join the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, for a presentation by Prof. Frank Sysyn (director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, professor in the Department of History and Classics at the University of Alberta, and editor-in-chief of the Hrushevsky Translation Project) for a lecture titled "Scholarship in Service to the People: Father Mykhailo Zubrytskyi (1856-1919) and the Study of the Galician Ukrainian Village." The

lecture will take place at noon in the Marshall D. Shulman Seminar Room (Room 1219), International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 212-854-4697 or write to ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu.

Thursday, October 11

NEW YORK: Please join the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, for a presentation by Dr. Volodymyr Kulyk (head research fellow, Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and 2012-2013 Petro Jacyk Distinguished Research Fellow in Ukrainian Studies at the Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University) for a lecture titled "Ukraine's New Language Law: European Integration or Back to the USSR." The lecture will take place at noon in the Marshall D. Shulman Seminar Room (Room 1219), International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 212-854-4697 or write to ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu.

Sunday, October 14

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Washington Group Cultural Fund Sunday Music Series inaugurates its 2012-2013 season with a recital by

Zino Bogachek, violinist with the Washington National Opera, violinist Igor Veligan and pianist Natsuki Fukasawa, performing: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Sonata for violin and piano KV379; Arthur Mykytko, Divertimento for two violins; Myroslav Skoryk, Sonata for violin and piano No. 2; Bohuslav Martinu, Sonatina for two violins and piano. The concert will be held at 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Suggested donation \$20; free for students. For further information call 301-229-2615.

Sunday, October 28

STAMFORD, Conn.: The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford invites all to its 75th anniversary banquet, featuring as honored guest speaker the recently consecrated Bishop Borys Gudziak, acting rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. The 4 p.m. event will take place at the Sheraton Stamford Hotel, 700 E. Main St., Stamford, CT 06901; telephone, 203-358-8400. Tickets are \$100 per person (tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law). Mail checks to: The Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford, 161 Glenbrook Road, Stamford, CT 06902. Additional donations and benefit sponsorships are welcome. For further information go to www.ukrainianmuseumlibrary.org, e-mail ukrmulrec@optonline.net; or call 203-323-8866.

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