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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Romania to review previously agreed upon treaty with Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Less than two weeks after Romania and Ukraine agreed in principle to a treaty on friendship and cooperation, part of which entailed the settlement of a long-standing territorial dispute, Romania has backed down.

On March 11 Romania's Ambassador to Ukraine Ion Bestreanu officially informed Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs that his government would like to review elements of the proposed treaty.

In a press release issued on March 11, the Romanian Embassy stated that the agreement has only been agreed to by experts and that further discussions are required at the highest political levels of both foreign ministries to reach an "optimal level of agreement."

Ambassador Bestreanu, speaking with Interfax-Ukraine a day later, said all that is needed is to "balance the wording on some of the issues discussed." He explained: "We wish to dot the 'i's and cross the 't's of our four-year preparation of the agreement so as to lay the groundwork for the development of good neighborly relations between Ukraine and Romania."

Mr. Bestreanu's words were a diplomatic flip-flop from what he had stated after the completion of the talks in late February. At that time he said the two provisions were yet to be settled, but that would occur "through diplomatic channels" without the need for another meeting.

Volodymyr Yatsenkivski, director of the press office of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expressing his disappointment with the two-steps-forward, one-step-back approach that the Romanians were taking, said the two delegations had resolved all the major points of disagreement and that only minor details were to be worked out and the agreement written up.

Volodymyr Ohrysko, foreign policy advisor to President Leonid Kuchma, speaking at a press briefing called the Romanian move "an alarming and dangerous signal." Expressing his frustration with Romanian's backtracking, he said, for all that Romanian officials are saying, in essence their decision has

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Humanitarian airlift is culmination of Chernobyl anniversary efforts

Dignitaries send off medical relief from U.S. Three oblasts in Ukraine to receive aid

by Irene Jarosewich

NEWARK, N.J. — The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund's 18th airlift of humanitarian aid to Ukraine left Newark International Airport on Monday, March 10, carrying 42 tons of cargo valued at \$1.7 million. Recognized as the largest provider, public or private, of aid directed at the victims of the disastrous 1986 explosion at Chernobyl, the CCRF has provided \$41 million worth of aid over the past seven years.

On hand to send off the plane were supporters and dignitaries including Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Anatolii Zlenko, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Yuri Shcherbak, New Jersey Sens. Frank Lautenberg and Robert Torricelli, Frank Masci from Gov. Christine Todd Whitman's office, the Rev. William Diakiw and the Rev. Bohdan Zelechivsky of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., and Bishop Nicholas Dimarzio of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark.

On hand as well was Vova Malofienko, a 12-year-old child of Chernobyl being treated in the U.S. for leukemia, whose family faces deportation as a result of the new immigration law that takes effect on April 1 (see story on page 4).

Key support for the airlift came from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., which raised funds for equip-

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by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Culminating a year of fund-raising and charitable work dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the 18th airlift of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF) landed in Ukraine on March 11 carrying \$1.7 million in medicine and medical equipment for hospitals in Lviv, Chernihiv and Dnipropetrovsk.

"Today there are children and pensioners whom no one is helping and for whom aid like this is desperately needed," said Verkhovna Rada National Deputy Volodymyr Yavorivsky, who has long worked closely with the CCRF and was at Boryspil Airport outside Kyiv to greet the plane.

This effort supports the Women's and Children's Health Initiative, a program active in the Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk and Vinnytsia oblasts of Ukraine, which was organized through the efforts of the CCRF and the St. Louis-based Monsanto Corp. The program's honorary chairman is Liudmyla Kuchma, the wife of Ukraine's president Leonid Kuchma. However, Mrs. Kuchma did not attend the airport ceremonies due to a scheduling conflict; she and the president had flown to Moldova on an official visit that morning.

On hand to greet the IL-74 MD Ukrainian military cargo plane

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Udoenko-Albright meeting confirms continuity of U.S. policy

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udoenko of Ukraine paid a brief but important visit here on March 7 to discuss NATO expansion and other issues on the U.S.-Ukraine agenda with Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright. He came away expressing satisfaction with the results of his first ministerial meeting with President Clinton's new secretary of state, and said it underscored the post-election continuity of the U.S. "strategic partnership" with Ukraine.

As well, Minister Udoenko said the meeting expressed support for the NATO-Ukraine charter that is being formulated in conjunction with the Western alliance's planned expansion into Eastern Europe.

Welcoming Minister Udoenko at the State Department, Secretary Albright stressed that the United States and Ukraine "are strategic partners in building our shared vision: a Europe at peace, fully integrated and fully free." She said she expects that the charter outlining NATO's relationship with Ukraine will be ready before NATO's July summit in Madrid.

At that meeting, NATO is expected to extend membership to the three Central European countries formerly associated with the Moscow-led Warsaw Pact: Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. At the same time, NATO plans to sign separate agreements establishing special relationships with Ukraine and Russia.

While the NATO-Ukraine charter negotiating process is not yet finished, Minister Udoenko expressed his satis-

faction "that today we received the support of the United States on this issue."

Minister Udoenko came to Washington following talks on NATO and other issues with Canadian officials in Ottawa; he will continue talks on the charter with the NATO Council and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana on March 20 in Brussels. He said the proposed charter includes "increased cooperation" between NATO and Ukraine and "political consultations in crisis situations."

Mr. Udoenko's Washington visit came amid a flurry of other diplomatic meetings on the subject. Earlier in the week, Secretary Albright had talks with Canadian

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs. Two days later, Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Yegeni Primakov discussed NATO expansion with NATO Secretary-General Solana in Moscow.

While NATO's negotiations with Ukraine appear to be on track, its talks with Russia thus far have left some key issues unresolved. The Russian news agency TASS quoted a Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry official as saying following the March 9 Primakov-Solana meeting that "divergence of opinion over

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Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udoenko meets with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright on March 7. In the recent past, both were representatives of their countries to the United Nations.

House committee hears testimony on aid to new independent states

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — The House International Relations Committee on March 11 heard testimony on the Clinton administration's Fiscal Year 1998 request for \$900 million of assistance to the new independent states (NIS). The request is an increase of 44 percent over FY 1997 levels. The proposed level of spending for Ukraine is \$225.5 million (an increase of .2 percent), while spending for Russia is proposed at \$241.5 million (an increase of 153.1 percent).

In his opening statement, Chairman Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.) said that Russia has received over \$4.5 billion of U.S. assistance over the past five years.

"The United States has been generous," he said, adding that there have been many loan guarantee programs and assistance from European allies. Rep. Gilman went on to say, "we have steered \$650 million in business to the Russian space program" as part of the international space station project. According to the chairman, last year the Paris Club organized the largest restructuring of debt in its 40-year history for Russia.

"Russia's foreign policy does not reflect gratitude to the West for this assistance," said Rep. Gilman. He enumerated issues of concern, including weapons sales to China, nuclear sales to Iraq, failure to ratify START II, continued production of chemical and biological weapons, and exertion of pressure on other former Soviet states for the stationing of Russian troops on their borders.

After that introduction, Ambassador Richard Morningstar, coordinator of assistance to the NIS, began his testimony by outlining the three principles that form the foundation of the administration's proposal for the Partnership for Freedom program, a follow-up program to the Freedom Support Act: (1) the development and stability of the NIS is in U.S. national security interests; (2) the transition is complex and generational; and (3) the people in the NIS are facing economic hardship.

He outlined a \$160 million program of trade and investment with an emphasis on small business loans. Part of the proposal entails business training and exchange programs. Also included is \$29 million for fighting corruption, an increase from the current \$12 million for this effort.

Positive trends noted

Thomas Dine, deputy administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), highlighted the positive trends in various NIS countries. In Ukraine, Mr. Dine said, shares of 440 companies a month are being auctioned.

Ukraine is the only NIS country to create an electricity market, which includes a reorganization of fuel procurement policies, tracking of customers in arrears, and the creation of a National Electrical Regulatory Commission.

Mr. Dine reserved his most positive comments for Georgia, where "democracy is flourishing" and whose "Parliament is most progressive, practitioners of Madisonian democracy."

During questioning, Rep. Gilman inquired about corruption in Ukraine and the prospects for an anti-corruption effort. Ambassador Morningstar noted that corruption is a major issue in Ukraine and that the administration is pursuing a two-track system: support for economic reforms and deregulation to eliminate opportunities for corruption; and anti-corruption programs. He went

on to comment that the "Ukrainians say the right things," but do not implement them.

The committee's ranking minority member, Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.), inquired which countries are furthest along on reforms and which countries are disappointing in their efforts. Mr. Morningstar said reforms are good in Georgia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Russia, which is furthest along in economic reforms, and disappointing in Belarus. Mr. Dine said the most reforms are in place in Estonia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia.

The second tier, according to Mr. Dine, is Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova. The problem nations are Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Belarus and Serbia. Showing surprise, Rep. Hamilton asked where Ukraine is. "Below Russia," Mr. Dine replied.

The issue of earmarks

The issue of earmarks for Ukraine and Armenia was raised by Rep. Tom Campbell (R-Calif.), who inquired whether they were helpful or not. Mr. Dine responded that the "earmarks hurt us in our strategic objective" since we "could not do as much in our star country." (The reference to a "star country" was not clarified.)

In a more diplomatic response, Mr. Morningstar, stated that he "has no problem with \$225 million for Ukraine within a \$900 million budget, but not within a \$625 million budget," referring to the FY 1997 earmark. Neither one commented on the earmark for Armenia, however.

While stating his opposition to "earmarking for domestic political reasons," Rep. Doug Bereuter (R-Neb.) focused his attention on the use of the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank for the Partnership for Freedom program. He pointed out that Ex-Im's reauthorization is already facing opposition from those who call it "corporate welfare" and that this proposal complicates the issue. He criticized the Clinton administration for not consulting with the Banking Committee before floating the idea of changing aspects of the bank's work.

Another aspect of the Ex-Im credit facility was raised by Rep. Cass Ballenger (R-N.C.), who inquired why the U.S. is advancing credits to a firm like Gazprom that does not pay the taxes it owes to the Russian government. Mr. Morningstar responded that efforts are under way to avoid such problems in Ukraine.

Stating that he understood that the Central Asian Enterprise Fund was effective, Rep. Earl Hilliard (D-Ala.) expressed concern about the Russian and Western NIS enterprise funds (the latter serving Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova). He pointed out that the Western NIS fund spent 52 percent of its resources on operating expenses rather than financing projects.

Mr. Morningstar agreed that the Central Asian fund was operating effectively, something he attributed to the experience and knowledge of the region by the president of the fund. He acknowledged that the other two funds had slow starts.

The House International Relations Committee plans to complete its hearing schedule this month and begin mark-up of the legislation on April 9. Chairman Gilman announced that plans to have a panel of public witnesses had to be postponed due to the visit of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to the Congress.

NEWSBRIEFS

British secretary on Ukraine, NATO

WASHINGTON — British Foreign Affairs Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said in Washington on March 11 that NATO should expand to Ukraine's eastern borders, NTV and Intelnews reported. He said the move would give the alliance the opportunity to prevent the development of ethnic conflicts. This is the first time a high-ranking official from a NATO member-country has raised the possibility of Ukraine's inclusion into the alliance, and there has been confusion over how the remark should be taken. British Ambassador to Ukraine Roy Reeve played down Mr. Rifkind's statement, saying only that Ukraine has the right to choose its form of cooperation with NATO structures. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Russian Duma blasts NATO expansion

MOSCOW — By a vote of 300-1, the Russian State Duma on March 12 passed a resolution harshly criticizing NATO's expansion plans, which it said would "detract" from efforts to "construct a new global security system in Europe," ITAR-TASS reported. The resolution backed the government's public negotiating stance in talks on a proposed charter with NATO, saying any such agreement should "be of a restrictive nature and contain effective security guarantees for Russia." It also argued that the 1995 Russian federal law on international treaties requires that any proposed charter be subject to parliamentary ratification. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Rumors circulate about PM's dismissal

KYIV — Rumors that Pavlo Lazarenko's days as prime minister are numbered have increased as he entered his eighth month in office, Ukrainian Radio reported on March 9. The rumors, which began as soon as he assumed the office of prime minister, stem more from his involvement with various firms that have profited under his leadership than from shortcomings in economic reform. Observers say President Leonid Kuchma's postponement of his annual parliamentary address from March 14 to March 21 is intended to give him room to maneuver. Other signs that Mr. Kuchma is distancing himself from the current government are the recent dismissals of the finance and agricultural ministers and the president's decision to ask former Donetsk Oblast Chairman Volodymyr Scherban, rather than Prime Minister Lazarenko, to attend his meeting with Gazprom head Rem Viakhirev. Observers also point to Mr. Lazarenko cutting short his vacation by two weeks and his recent public statements stressing that he and President Kuchma are of one mind over policy. Verkhovna Rada Chairman

Oleksander Moroz on March 10 spoke out in defense of Mr. Lazarenko, saying there are few real changes when prime ministers are replaced. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Yeltsin, Lukashenka sign joint declaration

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin and his Belarusian counterpart, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, signed a joint declaration "covering the entire sphere of bilateral relations," ITAR-TASS reported on March 7. Opening the meeting, Mr. Yeltsin told Mr. Lukashenka that Russia and Belarus have the "closest relations," adding that ties should be further improved in order to "achieve a level of integration that exceeds integration in Europe and other parts of the world." The two presidents also declared "unanimous" opposition to NATO enlargement, while denying that Russo-Belarusian integration is directed against the West. Later, when he addressed the Russian-Belarusian parliamentary assembly in Miensk, President Lukashenka urged that steps be taken to speed up integration between the two countries, international agencies reported on March 11. While criticizing Russia yet again for the little progress toward this goal, Mr. Lukashenka proposed every citizen of Russia and Belarus have "community" citizenship as well as their national passport. He said the equal union of Russia and Belarus was the most acceptable form of integration, but stressed there is no need for Belarus to synchronize its economic reform with Russia's. (OMRI Daily Digest)

100 arrested in Miensk demonstration

MIENSK — Some 100 people, mostly youths, who took part in a Miensk demonstration against integration with Russia, have been detained by Belarusian security forces, Reuters reported on March 11. They face fines and up to two weeks in prison. Despite President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's restrictions on demonstrations, the democratic and nationalist opposition is planning additional rallies for the spring. Vyacheslau Siuchyuk, a leader of the Belarusian Popular Front, said a rally will be held on March 15, the anniversary of the adoption of the 1994 Constitution. (OMRI Daily Digest)

PM promises progress on wage arrears

KYIV — Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko told the Verkhovna Rada on March 11 that Ukraine owes 1.36 billion hryvni (\$750 million U.S.) in wage arrears and 1.2 billion hrv (more than \$700 million U.S.) in unpaid pensions, ITAR-TASS reported. He said the debts have accrued because budget revenues were smaller than

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Udoenko named honorary fellow of international studies center

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEW YORK — Ukraine's Minister for Foreign Affairs Hennadii Udoenko was named an honorary fellow of the New England Center for International and Regional Studies at the University of Bridgeport in a ceremony held at Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations on Saturday, March 8.

The nomination recognized both Ukraine's contribution to peace worldwide and Minister Udoenko's international reputation as an effective diplomat.

The event was opened by Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Anatolii Zlenko, who pointed to the cooperation between the University of Bridgeport, Ukraine and Arthur Andersen, one of the "Big Six" accounting firms, that made the day's events possible.

Dr. Stoyan Ganey, president of the New England Center for International and Regional Studies, explained that the center was founded in August 1996 with the support of Arthur Andersen worldwide "to internationalize business and social studies with a focus on emerging markets."

"It is very difficult to connect emerging markets with international business," Dr. Ganey continued, "but we found something unique: people who can bring together these two worlds."

The New England Center also is a research center. It will soon begin publishing a journal to connect politicians, businessmen and economists, and there are plans to create an advisory center for emerging markets that would encompass politicians, diplomats, the corporate world and representatives of emerging market countries, noted Dr. Ganey.

He underlined that "this synthesis is extremely important" and that is why "we are proud to confer the title of honorary fellow on Minister Hennadii Udoenko and Dr. Vladimir Kvint."

The two join one previously named honorary fellow, Russia's vice prime minister and minister of foreign



Roma Hadzewycz

Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udoenko of Ukraine receives a plaque naming him an honorary fellow of the New England Center for International and Regional Studies from Richard Rubenstein, president of the University of Bridgeport (right). Looking on (from left): are Ambassador Anatolii Zlenko, Dr. Stoyan Ganey and Dr. Vladimir Kvint (who also was named an honorary fellow).

trade, Oleg Davydov.

Dr. Ganey cited Mr. Udoenko as "one of the most experienced diplomats at the United Nations."

The honorary fellowship was conferred on Minister Udoenko by Richard Rubenstein, president of the University of Bridgeport, who noted that the university's student body consists of students who speak 60 languages

and added, "some of our best students come from Ukraine."

Also honored at the afternoon reception was Dr. Kvint, a professor of international business at Fordham University and an adjunct professor at New York University, who is also a managing director at Arthur Andersen. Dr. Kvint

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Ethnic coalition supports preservation of ancestry question on 2000 Census

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — March 5 was designated Ancestry Day on Capitol Hill by the Working Group on Ancestry in the U.S. Census, a coalition of over 80 organizations, including the Ukrainian National Association. The project's aim is to support the preservation of ancestry data in the U.S. Census.

The 1980 Census was the first U.S. census to ask a question about ancestry, thereby providing data about the ethnic origin of Americans. The long form, sent to one out of six households, asked the respondent to list (up to three) countries of origin. While the 1990 Census retained the question, respondents were allowed only two responses.

As part of the timeline for the 2000 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau is required, by April 1, to submit to Congress the topics to be included on the survey for the year 2000. The bureau presently intends to include the ancestry question as a required topic. While there is no organized opposition to the ancestry question, there remains a concern in Congress about the cost of the long form.

Estimates are that the long form costs an additional \$300 million due to the lower level of voluntary compliance than with the short form. While some members of Congress have even suggested eliminating the long form, others have recommended just reducing the number of questions.

In an effort to demonstrate congressional support for the ancestry question, on March 5, Rep. Constance Morella (R-Md.) introduced a resolution (H.Con.Res. 38) urging the secretary of commerce to retain the ancestry question in the 2000 Census. Co-sponsoring the resolution are Reps. John Baldacci (D-Maine), John Conyers (D-Mich.), John Dingell (D-Mich.), Barney Frank (D-Mass.), Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), Chris John

(D-La.), Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.), Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii), James Oberstar (D-Minn.), Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), Thomas Sawyer (D-Ohio), John Sununu (R-N.H.), Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), and Ray LaHood (R-Ill.).

A similar resolution will be introduced in the Senate by Sen. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.). Already co-sponsoring that resolution are Sens. Spencer Abraham (R-Mich.), Mike DeWine (R-Ohio), John Glenn (D-Ohio), Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.).

Ancestry Day, coordinated by the Arab American Institute Foundation and the National Italian American Foundation, involved visits to congressional offices, a press conference with sponsors of the Ancestry Resolution, and a luncheon for the Working Group and members of Congress.

On March 7, the National Italian American Foundation hosted a meeting of the Working Group with the director of the Bureau of the Census, Martha Riche.

Ms. Riche stated the Census Bureau's commitment to the ancestry question and outlined the over-all procedure for finalization of the questions to be contained in the forms. After providing Congress with its proposals by April 1, the bureau will receive direction from the relevant committees. A final determination will then be made and must be provided to the Congress by April 1, 1998.

Ms. Riche also pointed out that ethnic communities and organizations will be vital in the outreach program planned for the millennial head count. Compliance with the census is critical for a successful count of the American population, required by the Constitution. She committed to working closely with ethnic organizations on a variety of issues leading up to the census.

OBITUARY

Anne Herman, former VP of UNA

BEREA, Ohio — Anne Herman's mission was inspired by a place she never saw.

The New York City native devoted her life to Ukrainian activities. She spent eight years as supreme vice-presidentess of the Ukrainian National Association. But she was too frail to visit Ukraine when it became independent.

Mrs. Herman died on March 8 at the Aristocrat Berea Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center from the effects of several strokes. She was 90.

Although she never visited Ukraine, she was proud that a grandson, Taras Szmagala Jr. of Cleveland, spent a year and a half there as a lawyer for Squire, Sanders & Dempsey.

Mrs. Herman, nee Yurchak, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1906, to Ukrainian immigrant parents who came to the United States in 1901. She was a secretary in Manhattan until her marriage to Gregory Herman in 1927. He served in World War I and was a graduate of Lafayette College and Columbia University.

The couple lived for 25 years in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where he was a high school German teacher. During those years, they were partners in promoting the fraternal activities of the Ukrainian National Association. They founded and coordinated youth groups and athletic activities throughout eastern Pennsylvania.

Eventually their activities became national when in 1950 Mr. Herman was elected supreme secretary of the association. He died in 1957.

Mrs. Herman was elected supreme vice-presidentess of the Ukrainian National Association and held this position for two terms, 1958-1962 and 1962-1966.

Mrs. Herman was an avid reader and in her elderly years she pursued this hobby in her Jersey City apartment which overlooked the Statue of Liberty and what she called "my Brooklyn." In 1993 she came to the Cleveland area to be with a daughter,

Katherine Szmagala, and recuperated from a major stroke. She had two other children, Anne-Marie Glut, who died in 1985, and Gregory Jr., who died in 1986.

In addition to her daughter Katherine (with her husband Taras), Mrs. Herman is survived by five grandchildren, Stefan Glut, Gregory Raymond Herman, Taras Szmagala Jr., Lara Scott and Andrew Herman; two great-grandchildren; and one sister, Elaine Ropke, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

A nephew, the Rev. Dr. John Ropke, pastor of St. Vladimir's Church in Kensington, Pa., offered the funeral liturgy on March 11 at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Parma. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery on Long Island, N.Y.

Funeral arrangements were handled by the Kolodiy Lazuta Funeral Home in Parma, Ohio.

Memorial donations may be made to: Hospice of the Western Reserve, 300 E. 185th St., Cleveland, OH 44119.



Anne Herman in a photo from her days as a UNA officer.

U.S. visa extension denied to family of child of Chernobyl

by Irene Jarosewich

NEWARK, N.J. — Vova Malofienko, a 12-year-old boy who has been in the United States for several years receiving treatment for leukemia, will have to return to Chernihiv, Ukraine, on April 10 with his parents, unless the family is granted an emergency extension of their visas. Sen. Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, the state where Vova now lives, is seeking an extension of the departure date based on humanitarian grounds.

The Malofienko family's struggle with the visa extension began last year. Though Tetley Tea Co. of Tenafly, N.J., has agreed to sponsor Vova's father for a work permit, both the Department of Labor and the Immigration and Naturalization Service have turned down the family's requests and appeals for extensions.

According to information provided by Vova's teachers and classmates, who are lobbying on his behalf, much of the delay and the denials in the process of requesting an extension are the result of the passage last year of a new immigration law that makes it difficult for non-citizens to remain in the U.S.

Vova arrived in the United States in 1990, with a group of children who suffered severe health consequences as a result of the radiation fallout from the explosion at reactor No. 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear power station in April 1986. All were diagnosed with terminal illnesses; Vova's prognosis was modified to include a chance of survival, providing he remained in the United States and received treatment with more advanced medication and procedures than were available in Ukraine.

Through the efforts of numerous individuals and organizations, as well as in-kind and private donations, Vova was able to stay in the U.S. After four years of painful and complicated treatment, he beat the odds and went into remission. He remains in remission, but continues to be tested and monitored.

While undergoing treatment, Vova began elementary school, learned English, and now is an honors student at Millburn Middle School in New Jersey. Last year, at the invitation of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Vova spoke at the White House ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy.

Vova Malofienko was a toddler in the spring of 1986 when a reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power station exploded 35 miles away from his home in Chernihiv. The policy of the Soviet government at the time was to not warn the public about the accident, or advise how citizens could best protect themselves against potential consequences. Late April that year was warm and Vova, according to his mother, Olha, "was a very active child who did not want to remain indoors." Vova's parents, unaware of any danger, allowed him to play outdoors from dawn to dusk.

Vova's home was located in what is now designated as Zone 2, less than 20 miles from the border of Zone 1 (the "Dead Zone" — 18 miles in radius), an area around the reactor that was completely evacuated due to high levels of radiation. The Chernihiv area, along with other areas in Zone 2, have seen a marked increase in infant mortality, immuno-deficiency disorders, as well as endocrinological, hematological and oncological diseases among children, adolescents and young adults in the 10 years since the explosion.



Sen. Frank Lautenberg with Vova Malofienko on the tarmac of Newark International Airport during the departure on March 10 of an airlift of medical aid to Ukraine.

According to Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, president of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF), children are most vulnerable to the effects of a radioactive explosion such as the one at Chernobyl because all the systems in their bodies are developing rapidly and abnormalities also appear sooner.

In Ukraine and Belarus, hardest hit by Chernobyl's fallout, boys and girls, who like Vova were toddlers at the time of the explosion, will soon be entering a period of tremendous growth and hormonal changes: adolescence. Children who are already diagnosed with leukemia and other cancers need careful monitoring during this period.

"Vova may be in remission," according to Alex Kuzma, director of development for CCRF, "but he is still a sick child. He is in remission from leukemia, a disease that requires sophisticated monitoring, and in the event of recurrence, complicated treatment, which is not available in many countries in the world. We may not be able to help all the children in the world who need help, but if we have the opportunity to save a life and then turn our back on this opportunity, then this would be cowardice."

For those who have been working with the Malofienko family for the past several years, the entire process has evoked outrage and disbelief that the obstinacy of the U.S. government bureaucracy puts at grave risk the life of a child who has shown remarkable courage and beat incredible odds. Medical experts from the U.S. and Ukraine agree that at present Vova needs the type of close monitoring, testing, and in the very real possibility of a relapse, treatment that would not be available to him in Ukraine. The alternative is

an almost certain death.

Vova is a very poised young man with a child's genuine smile. All those who meet Vova love him. Sen. Lautenberg has called him "extraordinary" and Sen. Torricelli has called him "courageous." Last year, more than 100 of Vova's schoolmates traveled to New Jersey's state capital, Trenton, to show their support for the extension of Vova's visa. Vova's classmate from school has written an appeal in which he asks to be allowed "to know Vova, my best friend, for the rest of my life."

Vova's parents, school and community continue to appeal. On March 13 at 11 a.m. a bipartisan coalition led by New Jersey State Assemblymen Kevin O'Toole and Joel Weingarten held a press conference in Trenton, where they called upon federal officials to stop the impending deportation of Vova and his parents.

Laura Mardyks, the vice-principal of Millburn Middle School who has led a non-stop effort to prevent the deportation of Vova and his parents, asks that letters supporting the extension of Vova's visa be sent to: Doris Meissner, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I St. NW, Washington, DC 20536; Sen. Frank Lautenberg, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510; fax, (202) 224-8567; and Sen. Robert Torricelli, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510; fax, (202) 224-9707; Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, 2201 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20520; and, via e-mail, to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at first.lady@whitehouse.gov. Vova may be contacted via the homepage at <http://schools.millburn.org/vova>.

Three oblasts...

(Continued from page 1)

that transported the nearly 42 tons of precious cargo were U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller, Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Volodymyr Khandogy and National Deputy Yavorivsky, along with representatives from hospitals.

Monsanto and the CCRF joined forces last April to form the initiative, which is dedicated to improving prenatal care for pregnant women and to dramatically reduce the rate of infant mortality in three of Ukraine's most heavily industrialized and polluted areas. Monsanto's grant of \$650,000 helped purchase a full neonatal intensive care unit for Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Children's Hospital No. 3. It includes incubators, respirators, pulse oximeters, cardiac monitors, hyper-alimentation solutions for the dispensation of nutrients for infants.

Also on the plane was a similar unit for Chernihiv, as well as antibiotics and medicines. As Alex Kuzma, CCRF director of development, put it, "Everything but the kitchen sink is on board."

The Monsanto-CCRF initiative also will fund the training of Ukrainian obstetricians and gynecologists. The first three doctors from Ukraine are scheduled to arrive in April for six weeks of training with the St. Barnabas Medical System in New Jersey.

Monsanto produces fertilizers and other agro-products, and recently become involved in the agriculture in the southern and eastern regions of Ukraine.

The portion of the \$1.7 million cargo destined for Chernihiv was made possible largely through donations from parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., which began a yearlong fundraising campaign with a banquet to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Chernobyl on February 4, 1996, at the Church's cultural center in South Bound Brook, N.J. The combined contributions resulted in the donation of more than \$258,000 worth of medicine and equipment, which included a neo-natal intensive care unit for the Chernihiv Children's Hospital, along with medicine and antibiotics for other hospitals.

Mr. Kuzma of the CCRF said the airlift had been delayed for several months. It had been scheduled originally for November 1996, but problems first arose in obtaining a plane and then in dealing with a Ukrainian tax on humanitarian aid (which has since been suspended).

In the past, the CCRF has used Ukrainian and U.S. aircraft to transport its cargo, including the world's largest cargo plane, the Ukrainian Mria. "[This time] the plane was the real hitch," said Mr. Kuzma. "For unknown reasons there was a delay. We still don't know why. Ambassador [to the United Nations] Anatolii Zlenko had taken personal responsibility, as well as the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and then finally President Kuchma got involved."

The second problem was a decision by the Verkhovna Rada in December 1996 to impose a tax on all humanitarian aid that would enter Ukraine. The idea was to stop businesses from bringing in goods by claiming them as tax-free humanitarian aid. However, the Verkhovna Rada did not foresee that this decision would provoke such a widespread cry of protest from legitimate humanitarian aid providers and the tax was suspended last month.

"The law did not change the way we did things," explained Mr. Kuzma. The CCRF received assurances from the U.S. State Department office of Ambassador Richard Morningstar that it would be able to deliver its medical aid. "We knew that we would eventually get the cargo in. We just wanted to get it here as quickly as possible to give a moral uplift to the communities and the doctors," said Mr. Kuzma.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Young UNA ers



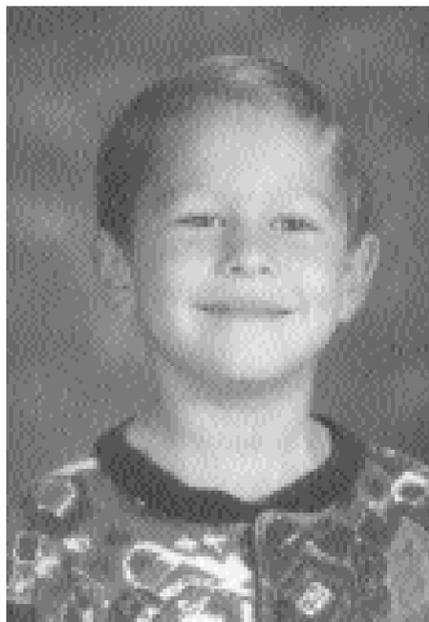
Madeline M. Shewchuk, daughter of Myron and Denise Shewchuk, is a new member of UNA Branch 379 in Chicago. She was enrolled by her father, Myron Shewchuk.



Nicholas Roman Szklar, son of Bohdan and Susan Szklar, is a new member of UNA Branch 888 in Etobicoke, Ontario. He was enrolled by his grandparents Claudia and Roman Szklar.



Jessica Lynn and Mark P. Winkelspecht, children of Paul and Linda Winkelspecht, are new members of UNA Branch 137 in Easton, Pa. They were enrolled by their grandparents Raymond and Rose Sokalsky.



Wow! UNA membership does have its bene-

- Please send me more information on:
- Life insurance plans
 - Annuities/IRAs and pension plans
 - Mortgages
 - Svoboda
 - The Ukrainian Weekly
 - Vacations at Soyuzivka
 - Summer camps at Soyuzivka
 - Svoboda Bookstore
 - Association of UNA Seniors
 - Scholarship awards
 - Teachers of English for Ukraine

Please send information to:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone number: _____

Clip out and mail to:
 Ukrainian National Association
 30 Montgomery St.
 Jersey City, NJ 07302.

The UNA and you

Considering getting a mortgage?

by Stephan Welhasch

It's not every day that one considers getting a mortgage. Shopping for a mortgage can be a very confusing and frustrating experience, but it doesn't have to be.

What should one watch out for? Which loan is better, a fixed- or an adjustable-rate mortgage? Is a short-term necessarily better than a long-term loan? These are just a few of the questions that smart shoppers are asking themselves.

"I've seen newspaper ads for home mortgage loans that feature unbelievably low rates. Can it be true, or is there a catch somewhere?" one shopper queried. The answer, simply put, is that the advertisements he saw were probably for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs).

True, ARMs are at a very low level. The terms are for shorter periods of time. Six months, one year, two, three, five and even seven years. "Where will it end?" you may ask yourself. Each ARM is different; the rate can be adjusted differently after one year, with caps that vary, which means the monthly payment could go up or down, depending on how the market moves. Various ARMs may also charge points (1 percent of the mortgage loan = 1 point) at the time of closing.

ARMs make your future payments uncertain. There are ARMs that put a ceiling on your payment increase or rate increase from one period to the next. Practically all have a ceiling on how high the interest rate can increase over the life of the loan.

How do you know if an ARM loan is right for you? Well, it depends on your financial situation and the terms of the loan. Remember, ARMs are risky when rates begin to rise.

How do you compare ARMs with fixed-rate mortgages? You need to consider the maximum amount your monthly payment could increase. You also need to compare what might happen to your payments with your ability to pay.

If you're planning on moving within two to three years, then an ARM loan is preferable, because your monthly payments are at their lowest. When you know that you're planning to stay in your home for more than five years, a fixed-rate mortgage loan is probably the better choice. When interest rates are low, as is now the case, many more people opt for the low fixed-rate option.

For more detailed information concerning fixed-rate and adjustable-rate mortgage loans, call the Ukrainian National Association. The UNA is always ready to help its members determine what kind of mortgage loan best suits their needs. Members can enjoy peace of mind in knowing they're getting the best possible mortgage loan value available. To find out more about the UNA's First Mortgage Program, refinancing your home or becoming a member, call 1 (800) 253-9862.

Stephan Welhasch is investment manager at the UNA Home Office.

Financial corner

What is an annuity?

by Joe Binczak

Annuities are contracts between a life insurance company and an annuitant (the persons who receives an annuity). Annuities were first thought of as income-producing policies. People purchased an annuity with the "promise" that they would receive a monthly income at retirement. The monthly income would be determined by the age of the annuitant, the income option elected at time of payout and the current interest rate being credited.

The transaction of electing a payout option is known as annuitization. Once the annuitants elect to "annuitize" their annuity, they essentially enter into a lifetime contract with the insurance company for receiving income from their annuity. Since everyone has different financial needs, insurance companies offer various income options to choose from when considering annuitization. The first option is a "life only" option. This will pay out the highest income per month for the life of the annuitant only. This option is selected if the annuitant does not have any dependents who would require an income or has no family to whom to leave the estate.

The second option is a "life-certain" option. Life-certain options apply to couples who are dependent on each other's income to live. This option will pay monthly income for the lifetime of the annuitant. If the annuitant dies before a specified time period, say within 10 years, the beneficiary would receive the

remainder of the income up to the full 10-year period. The life-certain option will pay less per month (than the life only option) to the annuitant while he/she is alive versus since a "built-in" refund is guaranteed to the surviving beneficiary.

Other options such as "joint and survivor," "life with refund" and "structured payouts" also are available with most annuities. However, they are used only in unique circumstances best suited for a specific design.

Today's annuities offer more than just an income option at retirement. The biggest advantage of annuities is their tax-deferred growth, no-load features and the security of fixed-rate interest, as well as the ability to withdraw funds before retirement if a emergency arises.

Today's annuities also can offer the convenience of letting your money grow even after retirement and passing the money on to a beneficiary without the expense of probate.

So, as you can see, a simple contract between the UNA and you can provide more than a competitive interest rate and income for retirement, it can guarantee your family will receive money without expensive probate costs.

For further information, call the UNA Home Office: 1 (800) 253-9862.

Joe Binczak is manager of sales and marketing for the Ukrainian National Association.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Stand firm, Mr. President

Two weeks ago in this space, we warned that Russia is doing everything possible to halt, or at least stall, NATO enlargement — something that the rest of the world already had considered inevitable. Now, one week before the Helsinki summit meeting between the presidents of the United States and Russia, things are heating up regarding the issue of NATO expansion. It now seems that Russia sees it cannot delay the alliance's expansion. So, it is focusing its efforts on getting as much out of the deal as possible. That means setting certain limits to NATO's growth.

Writing in *The Washington Post*, Jim Hoagland notes that, according to Moscow, there are a series of "red lines" that must not be crossed. Among them are these: After the first tier of members is admitted, there must be a moratorium of 10 years before any other Central European state is considered for membership. No former Soviet republic or Baltic state must ever be considered for NATO membership. Nuclear weapons or permanently based foreign forces cannot be stationed in new member-states.

Because of Russia's maneuvering, there is concern that President Bill Clinton may give away too much to his old friend Boris, President Yeltsin, that is. (Foreign Affairs Minister Yevgenii Primakov is due in Washington on March 15-17 for preliminary talks, and then it's on to Helsinki for the real thing on March 20-21.) That is why the Helsinki Commission's chairman and co-chairman, respectively, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato and Rep. Christopher Smith, on March 12 penned a letter to the president — a letter whose contents we applaud.

They write: "... we remain concerned that reason and realism be exercised in efforts undertaken by the administration to forge ahead with some form of formal partnership between Russia and NATO."

"... We cannot ignore the historical relationship between Russia and her neighbors, many of whom have understandable concerns for their sovereignty and independence, given decades of brutal domination and suppression by Moscow. Such apprehension can only be heightened by the current leadership crisis in the Kremlin and neo-imperialist statements made by certain prominent Russian political figures."

Acknowledging that "we cannot ignore legitimate Russian security concerns as NATO proceeds with the admission of new states," they note, "neither can we allow Moscow to dictate the terms of enlargement or which states might be admitted." A charter between NATO and Russia, Sen. D'Amato and Rep. Smith emphasize, must address the following: "First, the Russian Federation must not be given a veto, or implied veto, over the timing or conditions for the admission of new members into the alliance. Second, such an accord must firmly oppose any moves by Moscow to establish 'spheres of influence' in East/Central Europe. Third, the charter must in no way impede the development of enhanced relations between NATO and non-members, such as Ukraine." (Significantly, the Helsinki Commission leaders also asked President Clinton to "underscore unwavering U.S. support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders.")

The Helsinki Commission's position coincides with that of Ukraine, articulated recently by Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko. He expressed concern about NATO developing ties with Russia at Ukraine's expense, and worried aloud that a NATO-Russia agreement would lead to a new division into spheres of influence in Europe, with Russia being allowed to dominate its designated sphere in exchange for its acceptance of new members into the alliance.

The message that we ask Bill Clinton to send to Moscow is simple: Russia will not be given a virtual veto over NATO activity, and in today's new world order there is no room for division of Europe into spheres of influence. In Helsinki, Mr. President, you must stand firm on these two principles.

FOR THE RECORD

Helsinki Commission letter cautions Clinton on summit with Yeltsin

Following is the text of a March 12 letter to President Bill Clinton written by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, chairman, and Rep. Christopher Smith, co-chairman, of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission).

Dear Mr. President:

In anticipation of your upcoming summit meeting with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, we urge you to consider several issues as you prepare for these important discussions. Your travels to the Finnish capital are a reminder of the monumental changes that have occurred in Europe since the 1975 signing of the Helsinki Final Act as well as the continuing challenges in building a truly united and democratic Europe.

While we strongly support the timely enlargement of NATO as part of this process, we remain concerned that reason and realism be exercised in efforts undertaken by the administration to forge ahead with some form of formal partnership between Russia and NATO. The killing fields of Chechnya should serve as a stark reminder of the limits on democracy and human rights in Russia. President Yeltsin is ultimately responsible for the Russian military operations that laid waste to Grozny, leveled scores of towns and villages, led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Chechen and Russian civilians, and resulted in tens of thousands of deaths.

The single greatest contribution Russia can make to the construction of an integrated and democratic Europe would be to consolidate democracy, human rights and rule of law at home.

We cannot ignore the historical relationship between Russia and her neighbors, many of whom have understandable concerns for their sovereignty and indepen-

dence, given decades of brutal domination and suppression by Moscow. Such apprehension can only be heightened by the current leadership crisis in the Kremlin and neo-imperialist statements made by certain prominent Russian political figures. Russian Foreign Minister Yevgenii Primakov, a key interlocutor on NATO issues, has been one of the chief proponents of the re-establishment of a Russian sphere of influence in the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. President, while we cannot ignore legitimate Russian security concerns as NATO proceeds with the admission of new states, neither can we allow Moscow to dictate the terms of enlargement or which states might be admitted. While the United States should continue to encourage cooperation among countries in the Baltic region, it is important to keep in mind that such cooperation cannot preclude NATO membership for Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania.

Talks on a possible formal charter between NATO and Russia should clearly address the following points. First, the Russian Federation must not be given a veto, or implied veto, over the timing or conditions for the admission of new members into the alliance. Second, such an accord must firmly oppose any moves by Moscow to establish "spheres of influence" in East/Central Europe. Third, the charter must in no way impede the development of enhanced relations between NATO and non-members, such as Ukraine.

With Ukraine in mind, we wish to express our growing concern over a series of disturbing Russian actions relating to the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol. Challenges to Ukrainian sovereignty over Sevastopol continue despite the 1995 agreement signed by the presidents of Ukraine and Russia on the

(Continued on page 10)

Udovenko-Albright...

(Continued from page 1)

a number of problems still persists."

Ukraine is on record as not opposing NATO expansion. Russia, on the other hand, strongly opposes its expansion and has reportedly set a number of conditions if it is to accept NATO's eastward expansion, among them, a 10-year moratorium on expansion following the acceptance of its first group of members, and the inadmissibility into NATO of any former Soviet republic (e.g. Ukraine) or the Baltic states.

These issues will no doubt be discussed during Mr. Primakov's visit to Washington on March 15-17, and a few days later during the Clinton-Yeltsin summit meeting on March 20 in Helsinki.

Jack Segal, the director of the State Department's Office of Ukrainian, Belarusian and Moldovan affairs, in an interview following the Udovenko-Albright meeting stressed that the NATO-Ukraine process is not dependent or linked to progress on the NATO-Russia agreement. The United States hopes that the Russia-NATO talks will advance, he said, but its advancement is not essential to the success of NATO's relations with Ukraine.

The Clinton administration's position is that no non-NATO country has the right to veto Ukraine's relationship with NATO, Mr. Segal said, adding that the administration is not aware of any NATO member that has any intention of doing so. The State Department official said the United States supports the rapid development of Ukraine's relationship with NATO and that both the United States and Ukraine have

expressed their satisfaction with the progress made thus far. Mr. Segal pointed out that Washington had accepted the responsibility in Brussels for advising and assisting Ukraine in the NATO-Ukraine charter negotiating process.

Mr. Udovenko said he underscored the importance of raising the U.S. relationship with Ukraine to that of a "strategic partnership" — a point made a number of times by Secretary Albright during the 90-minute meeting. He added that the two sides "should now work out the specifics of this strategic partnership." (Mr. Udovenko made a similar observation in Washington last October, when he met with then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher.)

To that end, Mr. Udovenko said, he and Secretary Albright agreed that a group of U.S. government experts would visit Ukraine before the end of March to work on these points. In addition to the Ukraine-NATO charter, Mr. Udovenko said he and the secretary of state had discussed a variety of issues, including the work of the Kuchma-Gore Commission and the need for more high-level official contacts. He said he was satisfied with the meeting.

"A number of issues were not resolved, but we identified the problem areas that need our further attention," he added. Mr. Udovenko acknowledged that Ukraine is encountering problems in building its relationships with NATO and the West. "There are problems on all issues," he said. "Ukraine is trying to establish itself, but it has not been easy for Ukraine to establish itself as an independent nation."

"But we're persevering," he added, "and that's why we conduct these negotiations."

March
22
1777

Turning the pages back...

This year marks the 220th anniversary of the tragic passing of a man who will remain among Ukraine's pantheon of musicians and composers.

Born on October 16, 1745, in Hlukhiv (about 350 miles northeast of Kyiv), Maksym Berezovsky studied at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and sang in the Russian imperial court choir in St. Petersburg, where he also studied composition.

From 1759 to 1760 Berezovsky performed as a soloist with an Italian opera company in Oranienbaum near the capital. Five years later he was accepted for study under Giovanni Martini in Bologna, Italy, and in 1771 gained the title of "maestro di musica." He also became a member of the Bologna Philharmonic Academy.

While in Italy, he composed the opera "Demofonte," performed in Leghorn in 1773. Other works from that period included a sonata for violin and harpsichord, as well as a series of sacred works (12 concertos and a full cycle of liturgical chants), of which only a few have been preserved.

However, he secured his immortality by way of his most outstanding works — liturgical music for "Otche Nash" (The Lord's Prayer), "Viruiu" (Credo), the concerto "Ne Otverzy Mene Vo Vremia Starosty," (Forsake Me Not in Old Age) and four communion hymns, "Chashu Spasennia" (Chalice of Salvation), "V Pamiat Vichnuiu" (In Eternal Memory), "Tvoriai Anhely Svoia" (Let the Angels Create) and "Vo Vsiu Zemliu" (Over all the Earth). All draw on Ukrainian folk songs and the tradition of Kyivan church singing.

He is known as the first representative of the early classical style in Ukrainian music.

Two years after his return to St. Petersburg in 1775, the illustrious composer was enmeshed in court intrigues. He committed suicide on March 22, 1777.

Source: "Berezovsky, Maksym," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. 1* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nomenklatura and corruption

Dear Editor:

During any discussion about the United States providing aid to the newly independent states and, especially, to Ukraine, the matter at hand is "Ukraine's growing level of corruption."

Corruption in Ukraine and any other former Soviet republic is a fact. But a "growing level of corruption" – such a conclusion can only be made by people who cannot see the forest for the trees – or are unfamiliar with the internal affairs of Ukraine or any other former Soviet republic.

Corruption was the cement of Soviet society, and its roots go back to the traditional framework of state power in the Russian empire.

Corruption in Ukraine cannot grow any further. Where else can it grow if this phenomenon has already infiltrated everything in society?

Corruption is now undergoing the process of self-renovation.

Corruption in Ukraine is a product of another phenomenon, known as the nomenklatura. Corruption is just a tree, nomenklatura – the forest. Where the nomenklatura exists, there is uncontrolled corruption, too. The nomenklatura without corruption is impossible. Corruption without the nomenklatura, however, can be controlled.

The nomenklatura was created by Communists as a deep-rooted system of selection, education, reservation and arrangement of personnel for every sphere of the state's life, from the very top executives to the lowest level of team leaders. This procedure of formation, this system of seniority, in essence, initiated organized criminality. Historically, this can be explained: the Bolsheviks, before they came to power, for many years functioned in the underground and were considered to be state criminals in the Russian empire. While in the criminal underground, they developed a rigid hierarchical structure that continued after the revolution; that is why later the state power of the Soviet Union was always in coalescence with its criminal underworld.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union, the struggle for independence from Russia, democratization processes, and the free market economy did not change the nature of the nomenklatura that remained in power in the newly independent states. There are no exceptions – even in such countries as Lithuania or Estonia, because the nomenklatura was the only professionally trained force that governed "the vast masses of the working people."

One part of the nomenklatura remained faithful to its old ideas, another sharply turned to new symbols. But the rest – the majority – just changed the color of their flag and the contents of their slogans.

Adaptability is the main characteristic of the nomenklatura. This helps the nomenklatura change its outward appearance, while retaining the immutability of its essence.

That is why, even in the regions where free elections brought to power new forces, the nature, character and methods of governing remain invariable – as if still under the Soviets.

The nomenklatura keeps a tight hold on the Ukrainian nation, and in the near future there is no reason to hope for improvement of the social environment.

The proper way to get out from under corruption should be the legal prohibition

against former members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to hold any leading positions. But this law will not pass through the Verkhovna Rada, the supreme legislative power in Ukraine, for 99 percent of it consists of the nomenklatura. The same can be said of the executive and judicial branches of power.

Future generations are the only hope for Ukraine. But this will take time – a minimum of 20 years.

Volodymyr Ivanenko
Silver Spring, Md.

The writer is president of Volodymyr's Institute, a research, training and production corporation specializing in Ukraine, Eastern Europe and the new independent states.

Column reflects Kyiv situation only

Dear Editor:

I have always enjoyed reading Marta Kolomayets' "Journalist's Notebook from Ukraine." I was happy to read that despite taking on a new job in Kyiv, she would still write occasionally for The Ukrainian Weekly. I loved her descriptive writing; her graphic journalistic talent always created a strong and clear mental picture of any of the events, situations and/or conditions that she had chosen to elaborate. She seemed to have a knack for defining the heart, body, mind and soul of anything she wrote. Having been to Ukraine and corresponded with many friends and family members from many sectors of Ukraine, I found Ms. Kolomayets' accounts to be right on target.

However, I would like to point out a small unsettling error in the February 9 article "Holiday time in Ukraine." The headline should have read "Holiday time in Kyiv." Ms. Kolomayets' reference to "Ukrainians" in her succinct overview would have been given more accurately as "Kyivans." Granted, the situation in most Ukrainian large cities may be similar to Kyiv, but to generalize Kyiv to all of Ukraine may not be wholly accurate – just as reporting about Ukrainians in Rochester may not hold true of Ukrainians in New York City.

Personally, I know of the accuracy of the "Ukrainian" mindset she describes and of the general holiday phenomenon about which she writes, but to share the article with non-Ukrainian friends here at home paints a picture of all of Ukraine that may not be a true one.

Nancy H. Melnyk
Rochester, N.Y.

Thanks for series on military terms

Dear Editor:

You are to be commended for including in The Ukrainian Weekly (February 16 and 22) the series by Col. Stephen D. Olynyk, titled "The Status of Ukrainian Military Terminology."

The series is well-written and well-annotated. Obviously, Col. Olynyk knows of what he writes. His characterizations of military events down through the centuries bring to life otherwise unknown aspects of Ukrainian military history.

Please continue this type of coverage.

Paul J. Kritsky
Vienna, Va.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



She lives in our hearts: a love story

When I was researching my history of Ukrainian America, I learned many things about the people who built our community.

Some individuals were villains. Many more were heroes, people able to accomplish extraordinary tasks consistently and courageously.

Among my heroes was the late Walter Dushnyck. While still a young man, he became active in the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine (ODWU), established at the request of Col. Yevhen Konovalts, head of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN). During the 1930s, ODWU was labeled a "fascist" organization by the Popular Front and the United Ukrainian Toilers Organization (both of which were controlled by Communists), the Ukrainian Workingmen's Association and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Forced to respond to the unfounded attacks once America went to war, the FBI investigated ODWU and the UNA – which at the time boasted a Supreme Assembly dominated by ODWU members. Both organizations were exonerated in 1943, following a long and thorough investigation.

While the defamation campaign was in progress, many ODWU members, alarmed by Communist and ADL demands that they be deported to Soviet Ukraine, resigned in fear. Others, however, remained and began to fight back. Among them was Walter Dushnyck, who edited both the Ukrainian-language newspaper Ukraine, and The Trident, an English-language journal. At a time when "Joe" Stalin was deified in the United States as a great "democrat" – and one risked being called a traitor for criticizing an American ally – Walter Dushnyck was writing scathing editorials and letters to various American newspapers, exposing Soviet intentions in Eastern Europe.

Another of my nationalist heroes was a young man named Roman Lapica. Mr. Lapica headed up the Ukrainian Press Bureau in New York City and was a frequent contributor to The Trident. When the Dies Committee, a congressional body established to investigate subversion, heard testimony alleging ODWU and UNA involvement with the Nazis, Messrs. Lapica and Dushnyck penned a 132-page affidavit rebutting all of the allegations and demanding an invitation to testify. No invitation came. Later, Mr. Lapica served as president of the Young Ukrainian Nationalists (MUN).

I often wondered what became of Roman Lapica after the war, and recently I found out. In 1939, then a reporter for United Press, he married Helen Sherban, a Ukrainian Canadian from Saskatchewan studying voice in New York City. In 1938 Helen, an accomplished musical performer, had co-starred in "Marusia," the first Ukrainian-language film made in the United States. Roman and Helen lived for a time in New York, where their two children, Ronnie Joy and Larry, were born.

In 1954 the Lapica family moved to California, where they established two radio stations, KACE-AM and FM, now KPRO-AM and KWDJ-FM. Roman, now Ray Lapica, went off to law school, graduating from the University of Southern California Law School in 1966. Ray never stopped writing, however. He has published poems and recently completed "Underground," a 1,135-page novel about the Ukrainian resistance movement. Helen, meanwhile, managed the radio stations with her sister Ollie Sherban. The two of them broadcast an

award-winning daily radio program, "The Woman's Page," for 14 years. Over the years they interviewed celebrities such as George Burns, Dorothy Lamour, Maurice Chevalier and Pat Nixon.

Tragedy struck the Lapicas when Helen contracted cancer and died on March 9, 1989, a few months shy of their 50th wedding anniversary. Ray was devastated. "When you lose a loved one who's been your devoted companion and the most important person in your life for half a century, the light goes out," he recently wrote.

Unable to ever forget his beloved Helen, Ray established the Helen Sherban Lapica Education Fund. In 1994-1995, the fund awarded \$30,000 to Ukrainian students working for higher degrees.

Recently, Ray Lapica published a tribute to Helen Lapica titled "She Lives in Our Hearts." Written in both Ukrainian and English, the publication contains Helen's biographical sketch, eulogies, poems, paintings, letters and musings. For me, the most soul-stirring writing was from Ray himself. On December 13, 1995, Helen's birthday, he penned "A Letter to an Angel." Among the many poignant comments in this lengthy letter were the following: "When you passed away, we struggled to find the words that captured your essence. Three things came to mind over and over and over again. They were your love of music, the bonds of home and family, and your spirit of adventure ... Now, six years later, I still can't comprehend it all, the meaning of your sweet life, how blessed I was to be given you for half a century, how I so frequently abused you, not physically or even verbally, but by ignoring you in preference to my personal activities: the law, golf, skiing, painting, the violin, reading, especially writing ... How I would like to take those moments back and spend them with you. How I miss you. How I want you back." The letter ended with a quotation from "Forest Song," a play by Lesia Ukrainka.

I live!

I shall always live,

For in my heart burns a flame

That will never die!

I never had the good fortune to meet Helen Lapica, nor Ray for that matter, but he will always remain a hero in my eyes. A courageous Ukrainian nationalist in his youth, a successful professional in a tough field of endeavor, a sportsman, an artist, writer and businessman. He is an American Renaissance man who never turned his back on his Ukrainian roots. Even today, he visits Ukraine, lectures at Ukrainian universities and helps Ukrainian students rise above the despair that currently grips many youth in Ukraine. Every student who receives a scholarship from the Helen Sherban Lapica Education Fund must sign a pledge consisting of 10 points. The last two points read: "I shall not lose hope, nor shall I sink into despondency, for that would be my worst enemy; I believe in the strength of Ukraine, in its rebirth and its bright future."

Ray Lapica's most significant accomplishment, however, is his success as a loving and devoted husband, father and family man. If he achieved nothing else in his productive life, that would stand as a monument to his manhood.

At a time when Ukrainian young men are looking for models to emulate, Ray Lapica stands head and shoulders above many, many others.

Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is: 73753.3315@compuserve.com

Inaugural issue of "magazine of Ukrainian things" hits North America

by Marta Dyczok

TORONTO – Zdorov!, The Magazine of Ukrainian Things, has hit North America. Published in Toronto, the quarterly hopes to attract readers who consider themselves Ukrainian in some way, but are not reading the press that is already out there.

Targeting 24- to 50-year-olds, Zdorov! is introducing a non-traditional approach to Ukrainian journalism. "We will give you a novel, contemporary look at the Ukrainian community in North America," write Yuriy Diakunchak and Nestor Gula in their first editorial.

Appropriately, one of the magazine's launches in Toronto was organized by the local chapter of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation.

It was held on December 19, 1996, in a suburban location of the Ukrainian-owned Future Cafe. Catering to the technologically oriented readership, the editors have made Zdorov! subscriptions available on the Internet.

These two young Canadians know about things Ukrainian and journalism, and come to their new roles as editors with impressive credentials. Both are graduates of the Toronto-based Ryerson Polytechnical Institute's Faculty of Journalism. Mr. Gula was editor of the Canadian student newspaper Student in 1986-1991, and in 1995 attended the highly regarded Banff Publishing Workshop. During his 1992-1993 sojourn in Ukraine, Mr. Diakunchak worked for the Kyiv-based news agency Intelnews.

Both have traveled extensively and sought out Ukrainian communities in many countries. It was as a result of their contact with young Ukrainians in Britain who had set up a magazine for the upwardly mobile second generation, also named Zdorov! (first issue, summer 1995), that the idea for a North American edition was conceived.

Don't be put off by the provocative cover shot of actor Tamara Gorska draped in an embroidered "rushnyk." The magazine tackles serious issues, such as the abuse of women and the silence that continues to surround this topic in the Ukrainian community.

Olena Hankiwka's article comments that, "We have songs which celebrate spousal and family abuse yet furiously deny that the problem exists." It goes on to suggest that an estimated 250,000 Ukrainian Canadian women are likely to have suffered some form of physical or sexual violence.

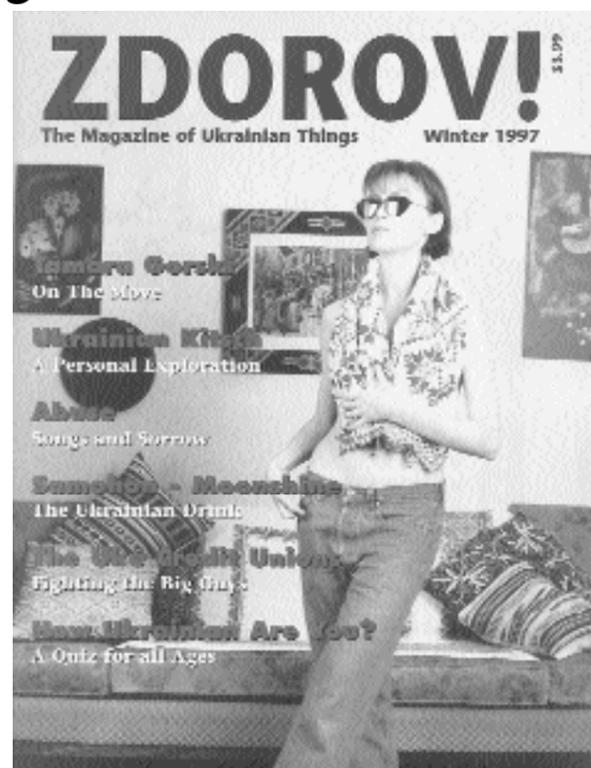
One woman called to complain before the magazine even appeared in print. Mr. Diakunchak had distributed promotional brochures outside her church in Florida, and a scant week later she woke up one of the editors early on a Saturday morning to say that Ukrainians were not alcoholics and that an article on "samohon" (moonshine) had no place in a Ukrainian publication. When asked to identify herself she suddenly remembered some very pressing matters and hung up.

Ukrainian Canadian writer Myrna Kostash of Edmonton introduces the back page opinion piece, "Final Phrases." In an amusing description of the Ukrainian community's coming of age in the perceptions of the "Anglo-American-Saxon-Celtic country club," she describes a Canadian Heritage Moment (part of a series of government-sponsored micro-documentaries/ads) that depicts Ukrainian farmers setting up community health care. Ms. Kostash writes, "The message of this little film seemed to be that being poor and pious and exotic in our sheepskin coats didn't stop us from contributing our fair share to Canadian enterprise."

With its first issue, Zdorov! has certainly accomplished its goal of getting attention. By covering a wide variety of topics, it has something for everybody – from sports enthusiasts to banking types, bookworms, music lovers and travel fanatics. It is a bit uneven, however, with some articles (the reviews) sounding like thinly disguised advertisements, others containing ageism verging on insult and some downright oddities, such as the quiz "How Uke Are You?"

Watch for the useful tidbits such as Ukrainian websites and notice that Kyiv-brewed Obolon Beer is now available in Ontario.

Editors Gula and Diakunchak are very responsive to feedback. On page 5 they run their own ad: "Got a gripe?"



Cover page of inaugural North American issue of Zdorov!

Something bothering you? In this issue or in general. Write a letter to Zdorov! It's cheaper than therapy!"

A year's subscription costs \$14.99 (Canadian, with U.S. dollar equivalent for U.S. subscribers) and may be purchased from: Zdorov!, 12 Lorahill Road, Toronto, Ontario M8Z 3M6; telephone, (416) 239-2280; fax, (416) 763-3725. The magazine's website can be found at: <http://www.interlog.com/ngmakho/zdorov.html>

THE TORONTO MUSIC SCENE: a fund-raising first for orphans

by Yuriy Diakunchak

TORONTO – On a blustery night in mid-January, I found myself on the upper dance floor at the Big Bop in downtown Toronto waiting for a bunch of local Ukrainian bands to come on stage. Standing at the bar, I couldn't shake the feeling that someone in management had lost their marbles, and that a hapless events programmer was about to be ferreted out of his office and hung from the nearest lamp-post by the infuriated club owner.

But no, there they were: Side Two, Nove Pokolinni, Solovey, Vapniaky (Pid

Holym Nebom), Cafe Kyiv/Spookie Ukie and Roman Remyne up on stage promoting a new CD titled "I Am Alive." The event, organized by Roman Chwyl, was the official kickoff for the CD, proceeds from which will go to the Help Us Help the Children (HUHC). HUHC has been helping children in Ukrainian orphanages since 1993. Today the organization services 165 homes with a total of 30,000 children in Ukraine.

"The evening was great," said HUHC Project Director Ruslana Wrzesnewskij. "I'm just overwhelmed that 20-year-olds and students are taking it upon themselves

to help these projects. It's a real heart-warmer," she said.

This spring, HUHC will need \$400,000 to \$500,000 to carry out its charitable work, which includes a summer camp for 250 to 300 children. At this point HUHC still has \$155,000 on its accounts, but the money is going quickly. Ms. Wrzesnewskij just spent \$47,000 on infant formula, which she got at one-quarter of its retail price, and soon HUHC will be spending another \$65,000 on medications.

"I Am Alive" was put together by Mr. Chwyl, a 27-year-old Torontonion, and Mr. Remyne, a British-born musician; the two recently founded the Znak Records label.

Mr. Chwyl acted as the executive producer of the album, while Taras Blizniuk at Studio Z did a lot of the engineering. Mastering was done by George Graves at the Lacquer Channel studio. Mr. Graves worked on U2's mega-hit "Joshua Tree." All but four of the CD's 17 tracks were set to tape in a frenetic recording operation that was effected in October-November 1996.

According to Mr. Chwyl, just over 3,000 CDs were pressed. Fifty were sent to Ukraine, 100 were given out in promotions and 100 or so went to band members.

From the sale of each CD \$15 will be donated to the Children of Chornobyl Canadian Fund, which manages HUHC. The CD features mostly original music, in English and Ukrainian, by 13 bands and one solo performer from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Lucky for Mr. Chwyl, the Big Bop's entertainment manager, Yurko Mihaluk, is currently experimenting with Ukrainian-themed evenings on Thursday nights at the club, sponsored by the Kontakt Ukrainian television program.

Yuriy Klufas, executive producer for Kontakt, said they got involved because the CD fit in with the program's youth segment. Kontakt has been the media sponsor of HUHC since the group was started.

"I think it's very important that this kind of CD is being made," he said.

"There are some original songs which are worth listening to [on the CD.]"

The Ukrainian evenings at The Bop were born when Mr. Klufas realized there was a need for a "casual watering hole" where Ukrainians could get together. He approached Mr. Mihaluk, and they worked on the idea together.

So far, attendance has been lukewarm, and only a few evenings since the December 26, 1996, inaugural date have generated a fair-sized crowd. The first night, the night before "Malanka" (New Year's Eve according to the Julian calendar) and the CD launch were the three biggies.

"The weather has not been cooperating, so the crowds have been low," said Mr. Klufas. He said he is happy, however, that a mixed crowd of both recent immigrants and Canadian-born Ukrainians have been showing up. The Kontakt executive producer added that the Thursday nights will soon feature bands from Ukraine, comedy nights and other attractions aimed at bigger audiences.

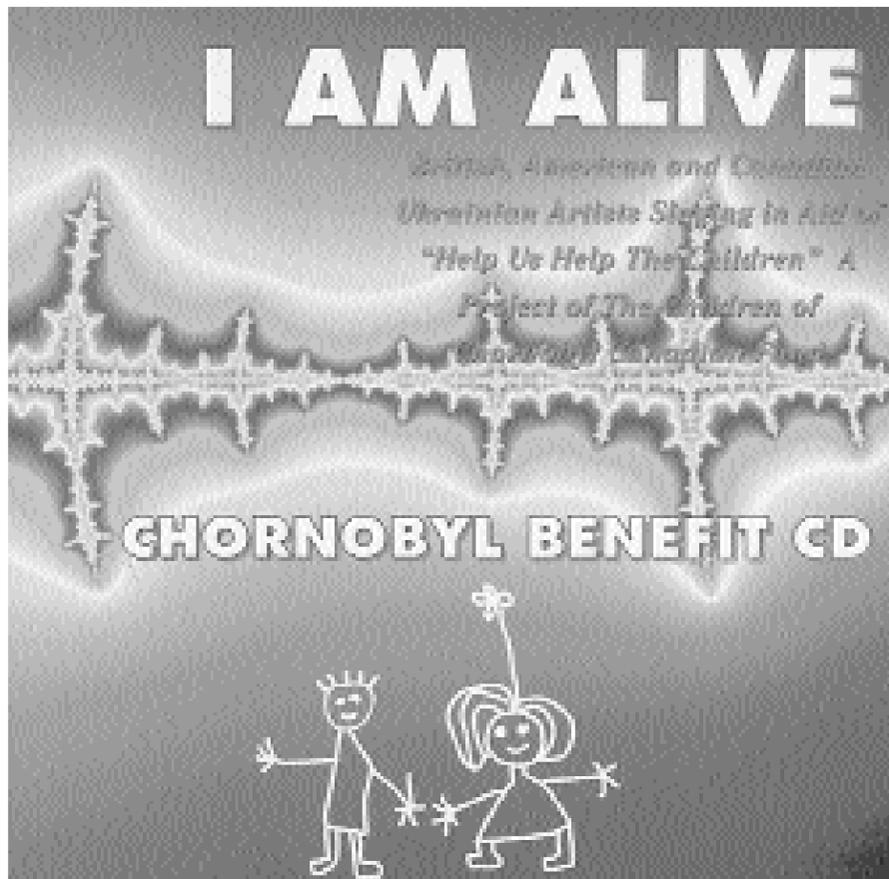
On the night of the January 16 CD launch, about 150 people showed up – not a bad turnout.

"The best thing about the evening was hearing the songs that the bands donated to the CD being played live for the first time," said Mr. Chwyl. "It was great to see people's reactions to the new stuff. People were going 'cool, let's hear it.'"

Nove Pokolinnia of Toronto, the first band to play, did some pretty standard Ukrainian dance material – although not without skill. The audience appeared unable to shake off its uncertainty; only one couple ended up on the dance floor. It wasn't the band's fault. Though most of the bands played well, the floor remained mostly empty throughout the evening.

Things got strange when Toronto's Vapniaky (Pid Holym Nebom) took the stage. These guys are capable of some very

(Continued on page 10)



Cover of the fund-raising CD for young victims of the Chornobyl nuclear accident.

DATELINE NEW YORK: The story of Oksana Baiul

by Helen Smindak

Ukraine's champion figure skater Oksana Baiul, whom we have been admiring and cheering for years as the epitome of triumph over adversity and, in a sense, a symbol of independent Ukraine, recently asserted she was Russian.

The Olympic gold medal winner, who represented Ukraine at the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, made this startling declaration in two public appearances, first on NBC-TV's Oprah Winfrey show on February 6, then at the B. Dalton bookstore on Fifth Avenue, where she made a personal appearance on February 13 to sign copies of her newly published autobiography "Oksana: My Own Story."

In her first public appearance since her drunk-driving accident in January (an incident that received almost as much media publicity as the Nancy Kerrigan-Tonya Harding scandal), Ms. Baiul told Ms. Winfrey that she had "four or five Long Island Iced Teas" but was not drunk when she went off the road in her Mercedes-Benz.

Shrugging her shoulders, she said "I'm a Russian," apparently alluding to the commonly held belief that Russians can down large quantities of alcohol without adverse effects. (A Long Island Iced Tea is a concoction of vodka, gin and rum.)

She told Ms. Winfrey she was "embarrassed" by the automobile accident and thankful that she didn't hurt anybody. "I think somebody is over there watching me," she said, casting her eyes upward.

She had two messages to offer young people: work hard, because that will bring you everything you want, and don't drink and drive.

At the book signing at Dalton's, Ms. Baiul told a fan who spoke to her in Ukrainian that she is Russian; she said she was born in Dnipropetrovsk, and insisted she was Russian. (The factory town of Dnipropetrovsk is actually located in eastern Ukraine, but the region has become quite Russified.)

I was among the first to approach her with a copy of the new Random House publication "Oksana: My Own Story," but I did not manage to have a word with her. As Ms. Baiul finished signing her name on an inside photo page in a bold decorative script (to which she added the number 97 and a whimsical "smile" face), I introduced myself as a reporter from The Ukrainian Weekly. Immediately, a Random House public relations officer returned my book, handed me a press kit and ushered me away from the celebrity area, explaining, "There's no time for interviews now; we have a very long line here."

Sporting a short platinum-blond haircut, Ms. Baiul appeared poised and confident as she sat between two friends (possibly serving as bodyguards) at a large table in a sequestered area of the busy bookstore.

Although reporters were kept at bay, press photographers and TV cameramen were given an opportunity at the beginning of the session to take close-up shots of the skating star as she signed copies of her book and posed for pictures with fans, many of whom brought flowers, greeting cards and stuffed animals.

Attempting to unravel this Ukrainian-Russian dilemma, I contacted the Consulate General of Ukraine and the William Morris Agency in New York, as well as the International Skating Center in Simsbury, Conn., where the skating star trains. Vice-Consul Eugene Korniychuk and Ms. Baiul's agent, Michael Carlisle, responded with the same answer: Oksana Baiul is Ukrainian.

Mr. Carlisle, referring to his client's

statement on television, made this announcement: "It was a mistake; she was nervous. She is Ukrainian."

Mr. Korniychuk, speaking by phone from the Consulate General, told me the Baiul family was "definitely" Ukrainian but Ms. Baiul "doesn't consider herself Ukrainian yet."

"She's a Russian-speaking Ukrainian; she grew up under the Communist regime, and she's just a kid," he added in her defense.

The final word came from Bohdan Yaremenko, the Ukrainian vice-consul in charge of communications and public relations in New York, who cleared up the question firmly and decisively when I met with him at the Consulate General a few days later. He told me that Ms. Baiul is a Ukrainian citizen of Russian nationality.

Ms. Baiul, then, was not entirely off base when she said she was Russian. But why come out with a Russian identification at this point in her career? Perhaps she has been influenced by Russian friends and colleagues (in a press release issued at the time of the book signing, she said that "a whole group of Russians live in the community where I live; we have a little Russian village here"). Or perhaps this is part of the recent trend in her life to make her own decisions.

Mr. Korniychuk pointed out that the Olympic gold medalist has been "working under the Ukrainian flag" all along and that her manager has said she will continue to appear "for Ukraine." He also noted that Ms. Baiul attended a reception for President Leonid Kravchuk in Manhattan in 1994 and "spoke a few words" at a reception last year celebrating the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

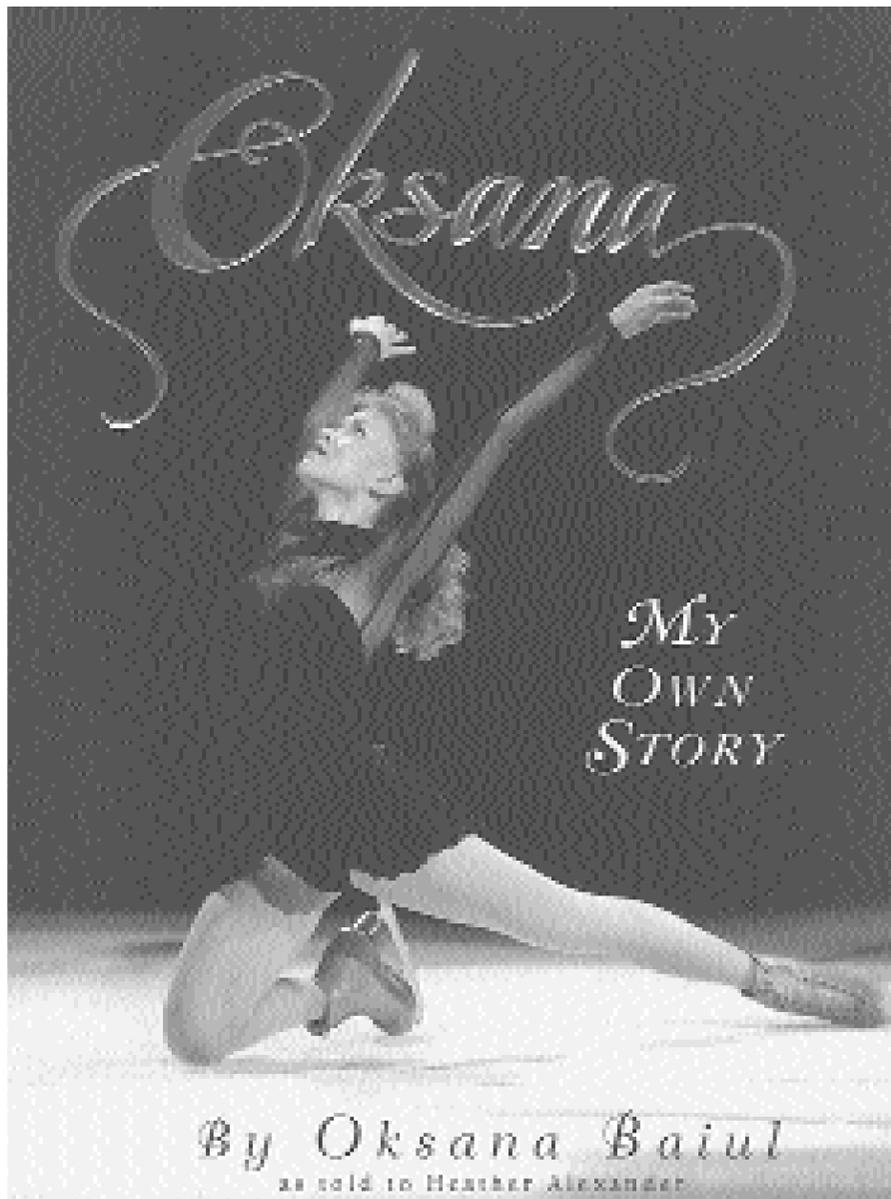
According to Mr. Korniychuk, Ms. Baiul has both family and business ties to Ukraine; she has a partnership in a beauty salon and a radio station in Kyiv. She takes time to go back to visit friends and family in Ukraine.

The vice-consul contended that the skating star needed time to adjust to her real nationality. "Let Ukraine stand on its own feet, and she will be happy to say she is Ukrainian."

Like Mr. Korniychuk, Ms. Baiul's friends, her agent and a number of journalists and commentators have pointed to teenage instability as a major problem in the skater's life. Jere Longman, commenting on Ms. Baiul's life and career in a New York Times story, cited a series of recent setbacks for the skater - knee and back injuries, a maturing adult body that affects her jumping prowess, "dizzying opportunities" in a new country, and "the willfulness and distractions of being a teenager - all without parental guidance." He said Ms. Baiul could command up to \$2 million a year in earnings as a top professional skater.

The New York Times article, headlined "From Rags to Riches, Then What?," related the story of "Oksana Baiul of Ukraine, who riveted the figure-skating world with a story of inspirational triumph over staggering odds" when she won a gold medal at the 1994 Winter Olympics. An orphan at 13, winner of the world title at 15 and an Olympic gold medalist at 16, she took up residence in the United States just as figure skating moved into the financial and athletic stratosphere. Was it all too much too soon, the Times' writer wondered?

Miss Baiul's book, written before the accident, recounts her life story as told to writer Heather Alexander, a former competitive figure skater who has written many books for children about skating. "Oksana: My Own Story" describes Ms. Baiul's life up to 1995, when she



Cover of Oksana Baiul's newly released autobiography.

moved to Simsbury, Conn., with her coach Galina Zmievskaya (Halyna Zmievska) and took up professional skating so she could have the freedom to skate diversified numbers rather than two routines a year.

Her story begins: "When I was a little girl in Ukraine, Mama asked me if I would skate to the music from her favorite ballet, 'Swan Lake.'" Ms. Baiul goes on to tell a story "that proves how, with love and hard work, fairy tales really can come true ..."

She never knew her father, since he left the family when she was 2 years old. She lost both grandparents by the time she was 10, and her beloved mother died of cancer when she was 13. Skating had

become an important part of her life from the age of 4, and she found solace at the ice rink in practice sessions and competitions, living for a time with her coach Stanislav Korytek and his family and then with her stepfather. At 14, fate smiled on her when she attended an annual meeting of the Ukrainian Skating Federation and met Valentine Nicolai, a well-known skating coach, who advised her to move to Odesa to train with him and Ms. Zmievska.

Living in Odesa in a crowded three-room apartment with Ms. Zmievska, her husband, Nicolai, and their daughter Galya [this is how their names are

(Continued on page 12)



Oksana Baiul autographs copies of her new book.

Helen Smindak

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

predicted, unforeseen wage increases were being financed from the budget and local budgets were higher than expected. Mr. Lazarenko said he hoped that 35 percent of all wage arrears would be paid by May and all pensions dating from December 1996 by the end of March. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Moldova, Ukraine sign customs pact

CHISINAU — President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine paid a one-day visit to Moldova on March 11, Infotag reported. He and Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi signed five agreements, the most important of which deals with setting up a customs union between the two countries. Customs legislation and tariffs are to be unified, customs controls improved and bureaucratic obstacles to trade removed. At a press conference in Chisinau, the two presidents said the customs union will be totally different from that between Russia and Belarus, because it will be based on full equality. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Russia blocks Ukrainian tank deal

MOSCOW — Russia reassured India that it would derail Ukraine's \$550 million tank deal with Pakistan by refusing to deliver components necessary to complete the tanks, The Times of India reported on March 6. Ukrainian stocks of Russian-supplied components are reportedly sufficient to build only 30-35 T-80 UD tanks. So far, Kyiv has delivered 15 out of the scheduled 320 tanks to Islamabad. Since the deliveries began last month, the Russian press has been denouncing the deal and Ukraine's decision to develop its tank industry without Russia. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Women stage "empty saucepans" march

KYIV — Police beat several elderly

women with metal bars at an "empty saucepans march" on the Kyiv City Administration building, international agencies reported on March 6. Some 500 retirees, mostly women, marched through Kyiv to protest low pensions in an action organized by an association of pro-Communist organizations. Pensions in Ukraine, \$30 on average, are often months overdue and shrunk by inflation. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Moldova worried about NATO expansion

WASHINGTON — Moldova's ambassador to the U.S., Nicolae Tau, says his country has one major concern about NATO expansion: it does not want to end up as a buffer zone with Russian troops on its territory, RFE/RL reported on March 4 citing the Washington Times. The statement is ill-timed for Romania, which is pressing hard for NATO membership, but may well serve Russian interests opposing the expansion. Though it is a participant in the Partnership for Peace Program, Moldova is not applying for membership. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Workers paid with old train cars

SEVASTOPOL — Railroad managers in Crimea have come up with a way to clear a backlog in wages owed to railroad workers: pay them with old train cars. A senior official at Crimea's railroad system said in mid-February that dozens of employees had spent the past two months at train stations dismantling old passenger cars so they could take the spare parts to sell later. "It is very difficult to sell old cars. We have decided to pay off the salaries this way. We have no money to pay them anyway," said the official, who asked not to be named. Windows, doors, shelving and locks from the cars have been sold at markets in the Crimean capital of Symferopol and in the cities of Sevastopol, Dzhankoi and Kerch. (Reuters)

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AUTHORIZED AGENTS

MICHAEL TERECH SCHOLARSHIP IN JOURNALISM STUDIES

This award is open to undergraduate full-time students of journalism of Ukrainian heritage at a U.S. university starting their junior year in Fall 1997. Areas covered include reporting, editing, feature writing and mass media. A 3.0 grade point average is required.

The number and amount of scholarships is not fixed with \$5,000 available in 1997.

Candidates should submit a brief autobiography as well as 500 word essay on a contemporary Ukrainian topic; a transcript of all undergraduate work; two references and a letter of recommendation, preferably from a faculty member. Representative work by the candidate should also be included in the application.

For an application form contact by letter or FAX:

Ukrainian Institute of America
Attn.: Michael Terech Scholarship
2 E. 79th Street
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Deadline: May 31, 1997

VENTURE CAPITAL IN UKRAINE

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The Western NIS Enterprise Fund, an early stage venture capital fund, seeks an investment officer to join the investment staff in the Fund's main office in Kyiv, Ukraine. Candidates should have three to five years experience in corporate finance, an MBA or equivalent, and an interest in working with local managers to develop growth strategies for their companies. Responsibilities would include identifying investment projects, structuring and negotiating transactions, monitoring investments, and recommending exit strategies. Work experience in emerging markets would be an advantage.

The Western NIS Enterprise Fund, capitalized initially with \$125 million, invests in small and medium size private enterprises in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. The Fund's strategy is to identify the best companies operating in what are expected to be the fastest growing sectors of these emerging economies. The Fund provides portfolio companies with capital and the necessary management tools to evolve from entrepreneurial ventures to professionally managed companies. The Fund currently has a portfolio of eighteen companies operating in a variety of industries.

Western NIS Enterprise Fund

Interested parties should submit a cover letter and a resume to **Harold E. Schroeder, Chief Investment Officer**, in New York at fax: 212-556-9356 or e-mail: es@wnef.com.

Accounting Consultant IT Consultant

Universal Business Systems, Inc., a management information systems company based in Kyiv, Ukraine, is looking for candidates for the positions of **Accounting Consultant** and **Information Technology Consultant**. Candidates should have three to five years experience with business process improvement in accounting or systems design and implementation, and they must be willing to relocate to the region. Experience working in Eastern Europe or the CIS would be an advantage.

UBS designs, installs and maintains accounting and management information systems for companies operating in the Western NIS region, which includes Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. The Company was founded in July 1995 with the goal of converting paper based Soviet accounting systems into efficient, web-oriented systems accounting and management information systems.

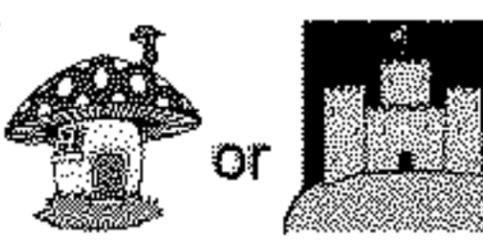
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Michigan foundation offers grants

WARREN, Mich. – The Ukrainian American Center Foundation has announced that applications for scholarship awards and organizational financial grants for 1997 are now being accepted.

According to eligibility requirements, student scholarships are awarded to full-time undergraduate students attending accredited colleges and universities and to high school graduates who will be attending institutions of higher learning in this calendar year. Applicants are judged on the basis of financial need, scholastic performance, involvement in the community (Ukrainian and/or American) and essay evaluation.

Students must be of Ukrainian ancestry and residents of Michigan.

Organizational financial grants will be awarded to groups that have valid Ukrainian community objectives. They must be based in Michigan and prove financial need.

All completed documents must be received by the Ukrainian American Center Foundation (postmarked no later than June 30). Please write or call the Ukrainian American Center Foundation for additional information and application forms: P.O. Box 1443, Warren, MI 48090-1443; or 530 Oxford Court, Rochester Hills, MI 48307-4527; (810) 852-1570.

The story...

(Continued from page 9)

spelled in the book], the young skater followed a grueling schedule as she trained with "the best coach in Ukraine" and with fellow Ukrainian Viktor Petrenko, who had just married Ms. Zmievska's daughter Nina.

Under Ms. Zmievska's guidance, the skater learned how to use her whole body to tell a story and to show emotion, and mastered a special spin that became her trademark – the spin that has her grabbing hold of her left skate behind her head, and curving her upper body into a circle. She won the Ukrainian National Competition, and took a silver medal at the European Championships in Helsinki, Finland. Two months later, in Prague, Czech Republic, she won the 1993 World Championships – at 15, she was the youngest world champion since Sonja Henie in 1927.

After performing with the Tom Collins Tour of World Figure Skating Champions in the United States in 1993, she returned to Europe to take the silver medal in the 1994 European Championships. Then came the 1994 Winter Olympics at Lillehammer and an accidental collision with another skater in a practice session that resulted in a deep gash in her lower leg. Despite the

injury and severe pain, she managed to skate an almost-flawless long program and finished a fraction of a point above Ms. Kerrigan to win the gold medal.

She relates in the book, "The Ukrainian national anthem was played for the first time ever at the awards ceremony. I was so proud to have won for my country." Further on, referring to her new life in Simsbury, she says she loves the rolling green countryside of Connecticut because "it reminds me of Ukraine."

"Oksana: My Own Story," published simultaneously by Random House Children's Publishing in New York and Random House of Canada in Toronto, is a 48-page volume with an attractive glossy black cover showing Ms. Baiul in a dramatic skating pose. Featuring never-before seen photos, it is priced at \$16.99 in the U.S. and \$22 in Canada.

The story, told simply, reveals both the gifted skater and the warm, fun-loving teenager; it appeals to readers of all ages, and to non-skaters as well as skaters. For Ukrainians, the chronicle can be a window looking into the life of a young Ukrainian woman who persevered under difficult circumstances and made her dream come true – she skated to music from her mother's favorite ballet, "Swan Lake," when she won the Olympic gold medal.

Add to the book a postscript of her most recent accomplishments, and one is left awestruck by her achievements. She has participated in two televised skating specials and a second Tom Collins Tour of World Figure Skating Champions, has been a two-time guest at the White House, was the subject of a CBS-TV movie "A Promise Kept: The Oksana Baiul Story," and was one of the featured personalities in a Barbara Walters' special, "The 10 Most Fascinating Personalities of 1994." She made the cover of People magazine, posed for an Esquire magazine photo, and has a sportswear clothing line. In almost every instance, she has been presented as "the Ukrainian skating star" or "Oksana Baiul of Ukraine."

One can only hope that this young and talented woman will search her soul, stop drifting and find the strength and courage to return to the structured, disciplined life of skating, to captivate us again with her ethereal, exquisite skating style and to continue to bring honor and glory to the country of her birth, just as she did at the Olympics.

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Dignitaries send off...

(Continued from page 1)

ment that will be delivered to a children's hospital in Chernihiv, and the Monsanto Corp., which has provided substantial support for the Women's and Children's Health Initiative, a joint program between the corporation and the CCRF.

Also, through the efforts of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark, several pharmaceutical companies in the New Jersey area donated medications to this airlift.

In addition to obtaining and organizing the cargo of aid, an enormous amount of effort is required from a variety of organizations and individuals in order for an airlift to be a success. At the behest of Ambassador Zlenko, Ukraine sent a military cargo plane for the shipment; Continental Airlines waived landing fees for the plane; the U.S. government paid for the fuel; the administration of Newark International Airport provided facilities, personnel and ground transportation; and Ambassador Shcherbak acted as a liaison for contacts in Ukraine.

Volunteers such as Valerie Burachinsky coordinated the cargo, while Tanya Vena calculated the value of donations, Marta Andriuk responded to contributors and Orest Fedash, general manager of the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in East Hanover, N.J., hosted the Ukrainian pilot, his crew and CCRF supporters.

Sen. Lautenberg, who has been a long-time member of the CCRF's honorary board of directors, commended the organization for the committed and successful

efforts to bring medical relief to Ukraine. He also promised to seek an emergency extension of visas for Vova and his parents.

"It is a strange irony of our time," said Sen. Torricelli, "that a country blessed with bountiful soil by God was abused by irresponsible use of technology." He praised the efforts of the people of Ukraine to respond to this health crisis during the past 10 years, and pledged that, as long as he can, he will make sure the U.S. government stays involved in its support for Chernobyl victims for the next decades.

Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, president of the CCRF, linked the need for medical assistance with the development of a healthy democracy and a strong nation. "How can the people of Ukraine and Belarus build strong and democratic societies when their children are dying?" he asked. "How can they mobilize for the future when they cannot provide essential medicine to treat their babies?"

He continued, "Our former secretary of state, Warren Christopher, has called Ukraine the strategic linchpin to all of Eastern Europe. Our strategy to aid this country must include a strategy to rebuild its medical system, to bring new hope to its citizens."

And young Vova, mature beyond his years, thanked all those who helped keep him alive, and continue to work to save the lives of children like him in places such as his hometown of Chernihiv. "Every day," he said, "I pray that people will help Ukraine. I pray to prolong the lives of these children, children like me, and that they also win their fight to live a normal life."



Irene Jarosewich

From left: Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, Sen. Robert Torricelli, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (back), Vova Malofienko and Ambassador Anatolii Zlenko at press conference prior to send off of CCRF airlift of medical relief for Ukraine.

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Udoenko named...

(Continued from page 3)

was introduced to the audience as "a highly recognized expert in emerging markets."

Accepting a plaque denoting his new title, Mr. Udoenko said "The conferment of the title of honorary fellow of the Center for International and Regional Studies ... on me, as a representative of Ukraine, I associate, first of all, with the unquestionable growth of the role and influence of our young independent state in international relations and its weighty contribution to the multi-faceted process of forming a new architecture of international security on the regional and international levels."

He continued, "I also interpret this fact as a recognition of Ukraine's outstanding contribution to the process of practical nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation which, I am very hopeful, will give new impetus to movement by the international community towards the complete liquidation of weapons of mass destruction."

Referring to his meetings with Canadian and U.S. government officials on March 4-7, Minister Udoenko said these "demonstrate that Ukraine is taken into consideration." He added that his new title as honorary fellow also is a reflection of that fact, as well as "a recognition of Ukraine's decision to give up its nuclear arms." He explained that "63 warheads were delivered last May to Russia for elimination. So, as of June 1, 1996, Ukraine became nuclear free."

At the conclusion of his brief remarks, Ukraine's foreign affairs minister noted that "it is symbolic for me to meet with Dr. Ganey here today because I am in the running for president of the 52nd session of the U.N. General Assembly." Dr. Ganey was president of the Assembly's 47th session.

In his brief acceptance remarks, Dr. Kvint said, "Today, the global business world has to face new realities [of emerging markets] and the involvement of politicians and economists is crucial."

He said it is symbolic that the New England Center for International and

Regional Studies has decided to focus its attention on emerging markets, because "200 years ago New England was the emerging market for the old world."

The event was attended by 11 U.N. ambassadors representing countries of the Eastern European regional group and the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Kazakstan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia and Turkmenistan, and the charges d'affaires of Armenia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Also present were U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Samir Sanbar and Vadim Perfiliev, director of the Department of General Assembly Matters.

In closing remarks Ambassador Zlenko focused the audience's attention on the paintings on historical themes on view in the reception room. These, he said, are among the 200 paintings brought to this country by Ukrainian artist Andrii Klymenko, whose work "chronicles the history of our civilization."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Minister Udoenko took some time out to briefly answer reporters' questions. Speaking of his meeting in Washington with Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, he said that the session was Ukraine's first contact with the new secretary of state who "confirmed the continuity of U.S. policy toward Ukraine and the recognition of Ukraine as an important factor of stability in Eastern Europe." He noted his gratitude that Secretary Albright had rearranged her schedule to meet with him during the few hours he was in the capital.

In Canada, where he met with his counterpart, Lloyd Axworthy, Mr. Udoenko said, "we covered a wide range of issues in Ukrainian-Canadian relations, especially in the realm of trade and economic cooperation."

During his visit to New York, Ukraine's foreign affairs minister also met with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan; their discussion centered on reorganization of the international organization to take into account the new global situation.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 16)

Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center will host the presentation of two new scholarly publications: "Russian Centralism and Ukrainian Autonomy" (in Ukrainian) by Dr. Zenon Kohut, director, CIUS; and "Ukraine Between East and West" (in English) by Prof. Ihor Sevcenko, visiting professor, The University of California at Los Angeles; professor emeritus, Harvard University; president, Association Internationale des Études Byzantines. Speaking at the book launch will be Dr. Kohut, Dr. Frank Sysyn, Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research, and Dr. Iaroslav Hrytsak, Institute for Historical Research, Lviv University. The presentation will be held at St. Vladimir's Institute, 620 Spadina Ave., at 4 p.m.

ADVANCE NOTICE

June 15-July 5

KYIV: The State University of New York College at Brockport is holding a summer course at the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, with Prof. Wolodymyr Pylyshenko, SUNY College at Brockport, June 15-July 5. This overseas study opportunity will survey Ukrainian culture, history, economy and politics, as well as offer an opportunity to meet Ukrainians and witness the building of the democratic process in Ukraine. Cost: \$3,000 (includes airfare and visa). The course offers three credits (optional). To apply contact: The Office of International Education; SUNY College at Brockport; 101P The Rakov Center; Brockport, NY 14420; telephone, (716) 395-2119 or 1-800-298-SUNY. Prof.

Pylyshenko may be contacted at (716) 637-4867 (evenings).

June 23-July 28

PITTSBURGH: The East European Summer Language Institute at the University of Pittsburgh is holding an Intensive Ukrainian Summer Language Institute, to be held on campus, June 23-July 28. The course is open to students, including high school juniors and seniors, as well as persons of any age not currently enrolled in a college or university. Some scholarship aid is available. The program consists of five hours of instruction daily. It provides a thorough introduction to the basic categories of Ukrainian pronunciation, grammar, and syntax; emphasis is on communicative competence. The course carries six college credits. Other languages offered include Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, Macedonian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian and Slovak. For further information and applications contact Christine Metil, Slavic Department Summer Programs, (412) 624-5906.

Saturday, May 3

LOS ANGELES: The California Association to Aid Ukraine will hold a "Vyshyvani Vechornytsi" ball at the Lakeside Golf Club, Toluca Lake, Calif. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) Eye Project, William Selezinka, M.D., project medical director. For additional information, contact Anne Prokopovych, (818) 222-4717, or e-mail AHKProko@aol.com.

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We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, and the like – we receive from our readers.

In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- All materials must be typed and double-spaced.
- Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- Photographs submitted for publication must be black and white (or color with good contrast). Captions must be provided. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Full names and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- Persons who submit any materials must provide a phone number where they may be reached during the work day if any additional information is required.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 16

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN) invites the public to a conference being held on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the poet Evhen Malaniuk (1897-1968). Taking part will be Prof. Bohdan Rubchak, University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana, "The Poetry of Evhen Malaniuk"; Dr. Tetiana Bednarzowa, Charles University, Prague, "Evhen Malaniuk and Yosef Makhar"; and Dr. Marko Antonovych, president, UVAN, "Reflections on Time Past"; with Ksenia Piasetska, poetry recitation. The conference will be held at the academy, 206 W. 100 St., at 2 p.m.

Monday, March 17

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute is holding a lecture by Yaroslav Hrytsak, Institute for Historical Research, Lviv University, who will speak on the topic "Breaking Through the Wall: Attempts to Establish Contacts Between Ukrainian Intellectuals in the West and the Ukrainian SSR, 1966-1972." The lecture will be held at the institute, 1538 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m.

Friday, March 21

NEW YORK: The Taras Shevchenko program at the Literary and Art Club, which was to have been held on March 7, has been rescheduled to take place on March 21. The program will be held at 7 p.m., 136 Second Ave.

Saturday, March 22

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America is holding an exhibition and demonstration of the art of the Ukrainian Easter egg (pysanka) by Sofia Zielyk. The exhibition will take place at the institute, 2 E. 79th St., at noon-4 p.m.

MORRIS PLAINS, N.J.: The Lesia Ukrainka Ridna Shkola of Morris County invites the public to a Taras Shevchenko program, with poetry recitation and songs by the students. Also featured will be performances by the Morris County Branch of the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky School of Dance. The program will be held in the auditorium of the Morris Plains Borough School, 500 Speedwell Ave., at 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.: The University of Virginia is holding its annual Ukrainian Easter egg workshop, conducted by members of the Slavic Society, in Cabell Hall, Room 123, at 2-5 p.m. Fee: \$10; supplies are provided courtesy of the society. The workshop is open to the public. Due to the popularity of the event, advance registration is required. To register call (804) 924-3548, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday.

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The Plast Ukrainian youth organization is holding an Easter bazaar at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, at 10 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be pysanky, Easter breads, baked goods and traditional fare as well as flowers for sale.

WOONSOCKET, R.I.: The Ladies' Sodality of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 394 Blackstone St., will hold a sale of Easter breads, baked goods and food at 10 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be a pysanka-writing demonstration by Hala Bilyj-Bradshaw, at 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information call Frances Melnyk, (401) 769-1898.

Sunday, March 23

TORONTO: The Community Folk Art Council of Metropolitan Toronto invites the public to an "Easter Around the World" celebration to be held in Metro Hall, 55 John St., at noon-5 p.m. A concert of sacred music will feature, among others, the Polyphonia Choir, to perform at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. (approximately); the Levada Choir will present hayivky — ritual songs associated with spring, at 2 p.m. Also there will be displays of Easter traditions and foods, pysanky and pysanka-writing demonstrations and an Easter bread contest. For more information call (416) 368-8743.

SILVER SPRING, Md.: The Ukrainian Association of Washington is sponsoring a Taras Shevchenko concert to be held at St. Andrew's Orthodox Cathedral, 15100 New Hampshire Ave., at 3:30 p.m. Among the featured performers will be the Ukrainian National Choir. Admission: \$10; school children, free.

Tuesday, March 25

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society is holding a lecture by Kyiv-based poet Volodymyr Tsybulko, socio-cultural activist and co-editor of various journals in Ukraine, who will speak on the topic "Literary Resistance and The Socio-Political Movement in Ukraine." The talk will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave., at 6:30 p.m.

ATLANTA: The Center for Russian and East European Studies at Emory University is holding a lecture by David DeLozier, research fellow, National Center for Environmental Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control, on the topic "Thyroid Cancer in the Footprint of Chernobyl." The lecture will be held at noon (brown bag), 362 DUC. For more information call the center, (404) 727-6582.

Sunday, April 6

TORONTO: The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research and the

(Continued on page 15)

PLEASE NOTE: Preview items must be received one week before desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Preview items will be published only once (please indicate desired date of publication). All items are published at the discretion of the editorial staff and in accordance with available space.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS, a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public, is a service provided free of charge by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. To have an event listed in this column, please send information (type of event, date, time, place, admission, sponsor, etc.) — typed and in the English language — along with the phone number of a person who may be contacted during daytime hours for additional information, to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 30 Montgomery St., Jersey City, NJ 07302.

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