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Reports on trafficking of women in Europe: most who seek rescue are from Ukraine

by Irene Jarosewich

NEW YORK — The largest number of women in Europe who seek to be rescued from forced prostitution and other forced sexual activity are from Ukraine, according to statistics from European police reports. Therefore, from among all the republics of the former Soviet Union, Ukraine was chosen as the first country in which to open a field office in 1996 of the international anti-trafficking organization LaStrada, noted Kateryna Levchenko, national coordinator of LaStrada-Ukraine. Ms. Levchenko's non-profit, non-governmental organization LaStrada-Ukraine is a branch of the international LaStrada organization, which was established by the European Parliament to help prevent and halt the trafficking of women.

A community meeting on the topic "Trafficking of Women from Ukraine," sponsored by the Women's Studies Department of Hunter College/CUNY and organized by Brama-Gateway Ukraine and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, was held the evening of July 29 at Hunter College.

Organized in conjunction with a two-week anti-trafficking training program for 20 Ukrainian officials and professionals conducted in the U.S. by Vermont-based Project Harmony, the community meeting provided an overview of the complex circumstances that underpin the illegal trafficking of women from Ukraine. Approximately 100 guests listened to a dozen speakers address the economic, political, legal, international, security, educational and health aspects of this crime.

The term "trafficking," according to one of the speakers, encompasses a broad range of activity centered around the "trade in human flesh," — such as the selling of children, forcing women into prostitution or men to perform dangerous and menial labor. The critical factor is the non-voluntary nature of the activity.

According to Vasylyl Nevolya from Ukraine's national bureau of Interpol, the enslavement of people is a centuries-old problem, the pattern the same: to take advantage of people who are weak and vulnerable due to economic, political or geographic circumstances.

According to U.N. statistics, more than 4 million people per year worldwide fall victim to some form of human bondage.

In recent years, women from Ukraine have been responding to pernicious invitations "to work abroad" — seemingly legitimate enticements to make money as waitresses, translators, dancers, cooks, child care providers or even entertainers for "the diaspora," — invitations that in reality are lures for the trap of sexual servitude.

Ukraine's current economic crisis has resulted in high unemployment, and

most young women are motivated to respond to this type of recruitment by the need for money.

Also, with the political freedom provided by Ukraine's independence, some women seek the excitement of living abroad. However, according to the speakers, none of these women view themselves as prey; the recruitment is often open, informal, friendly, therefore their level of skepticism is low.

Hanya Brill of Brama opened the community meeting with the reading of typical recruitment ad that appears in a village newspaper in Ukraine: "Seek pretty woman, under age 30, slender, educated, to work as a secretary in a clean, modern office in Bahrain; \$500/month; documents and transportation costs provided."

Such a woman, according to speakers, could then be interviewed by a well-dressed representative, very possibly a woman, from the "joint venture" business and offered a contract. Upon arrival in the foreign country, a young woman's duties as a so-called secretary would be expanded to include sexually servicing her employers

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International Monetary Fund recommends that Ukraine receive loan of \$2.2 billion

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The International Monetary Fund said on July 31 it would recommend to its executive board that Ukraine should receive a \$2.2 billion (U.S.), three-year loan after an IMF mission concluded that the Ukrainian government was finally moving forward on intensive economic reform.

The announcement came after months of negotiations and with Ukraine seriously short of currency to meet scheduled August debt payments of almost \$1 billion (U.S.).

"We have reached a tentative agreement with the Ukrainian authorities on a program of stabilization and restructuring of the economy," said Mohammed Shadman-Valavi, head of the IMF mission team that had been in Kyiv negotiating the final agreement with government officials since July 23.

Mr. Shadman-Valavi said the IMF was pleased by the series of economic decrees that Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma had issued beginning on June 18 to improve the business environment and create conditions for economic growth. According to the IMF press release that accompanied the announcement, these include measures to

rationalize the tax structure and reduce the tax burden on business; strengthen fiscal and monetary institutions, launch administrative reform and rationalize the size of budget structures; adopt transparent privatization procedures to further de-regulate the economy; reduce government intervention in economic activities; and reform the energy and agricultural sectors.

Vice Prime Minister for Economic Reform Serhii Tyhypko, who announced the agreement with the IMF mission head, said the two sides had no outstanding points of contention. "We have reached complete understanding on all the issues that we discussed. Members of the mission have positively assessed our work," said Mr. Tyhypko.

The Extended Fund Facility (EFF) that Ukraine had been seeking since last year will be disbursed to Ukraine over a three-year period and will help the country generate other international credits through public and private lenders, as well as give it a financial cushion on which to fall back.

Among the other credit opportunities that are now within Ukraine's reach is a \$750 million loan from the World Bank, which

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International Plast Jamboree '98 brings 700 to the center of the continent

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WINNIPEG — They started arriving on the morning of Tuesday, July 29, and kept streaming down the escalators until close to 700 members of Plast from around the world had landed at Winnipeg International Airport in the one day. They came from across Canada, and from the United States, Argentina, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Germany and France.

The "Plastuny," as those who belong to the Ukrainian scouting group are called, came to Manitoba for the International Plast Jamboree '98, a gathering held every five years someplace around the globe where the Ukrainian youth organization is active. Manitoba is the site because this year marks the 50th anniversary of Plast's founding in Canada — in Winnipeg in 1948. For the first week (phase I) of the jamboree, the mostly 11- to-18-year-old youths participated in seven different canoeing, biking and hiking camps in the Spruce Woods, Whiteshell and Nopiming provincial parks, and the Vermillion River Outfitters Camp.

During phase II (August 5-9) all participants were to camp at Bird's Hill Provincial Park northeast of Winnipeg, where the opening ceremonies of the



Some of the International Plast Jamboree's first arrivals at the Winnipeg airport.

International Plast Jamboree '98, various activities, a moleben and a jubilee bonfire were to take place.

More than 200 volunteers

The organizing committee, headed by Sophia Kachor, began planning the 1998 jamboree more than two and a half years ago. Close to 200 volunteers

— both Plast members and non-members — have been working on this massive project. The organizing committee itself (36 individuals) has been supported by members of Plast-Pryiat, a "friends of Plast" support group composed of parents' and others, as well as

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Tarasyuk meets with international leaders in Berlin

Embassy of Ukraine

WASHINGTON – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk attended an international forum on European integration on July 3-4 in Berlin that was sponsored by the Bertelsmann Foundation. The forum topic was Europe's mediating and stabilizing role in international affairs and ways of avoiding confrontations upon the European Union's enlargement.

This international event was attended by leading European government officials and politicians, including NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana, Germany's Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. The head of the Ukrainian Presidential Administration's Foreign Policy Department, Volodymyr Ohryzko, also took part in the forum.

In his remarks titled "Europe's Border Problems: Chances and Risks of a New Neighborhood," Mr. Tarasyuk stressed Ukraine's integration into European and Euro-Atlantic institutions as the nation's deliberate choice and strategic goal.

Minister Tarasyuk stated his nation's support for the concept of a "Partnership for Prosperity" initiated by Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, who stated that such a program could serve as the cornerstone of the European Union's strategy toward Central and East European nations.

Mr. Tarasyuk held a series of bilateral meetings. He met with NATO Secretary-General Solana to discuss issues of NATO-Ukrainian cooperation and Mr. Solana's upcoming visit to Kyiv and with Wolfgang Scheube, head of a German parliamentary faction, to discuss the current state of, and prospects for developing, the Ukrainian-German relationship, as well as relations between Ukraine and the European Union.

Ukraine is actively implementing a poli-

cy of integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures and its goal is full membership in the European Union, Mr. Tarasyuk said. He added that implementation of the Ukraine-EU Cooperation Agreement, which came into force on March 1, is the first step toward achieving this objective.

The Ukrainian foreign affairs minister also conferred with officials of Debis, a subsidiary of Daimler Benz, focusing on company projects already under way in Ukraine and a future project for joint production of a large aircraft based on Ukraine's Antonov-70.

Minister Tarasyuk met with Polish President Kwasniewski and both stated that the Polish-Ukrainian relationship is developing very favorably and dynamically. The Polish leader reiterated his nation's intention to continue aiding Ukraine in every way possible toward the latter's integration with pan-European institutions.

At a meeting with German Minister of Foreign Affairs Kinkel, Mr. Tarasyuk discussed the crisis in Kosovo, well as German-Ukrainian relations.

During the Ukrainian foreign affairs ministers' meeting with former Dr. Kissinger, a broad range of international issues was discussed, with both parties stressing the continuing need for U.S. support of Ukraine.

Mr. Tarasyuk met with Swedish Foreign Ministry State Secretary Ian Eliason to discuss the prospects for Ukraine's cooperation with the Council of Baltic Nations and some aspects of President Kuchma's upcoming state visit to Sweden.

The foreign affairs minister also visited the Ukrainian Embassy's new building in downtown Berlin, which will be formally inaugurated in the fall of 1999, following the German government's transfer of the German capital from Bonn to Berlin.

such as Harvard University economist Jeffrey Sachs, who said in Kyiv earlier this year that the IMF must be more flexible towards Ukraine in its reform demands because a very real threat existed that while the IMF negotiated, the Ukrainian economy could collapse.

The international financial organization showed that it is able to compromise by agreeing that Ukraine could meet EFF requirements by maintaining a 3.3 percent budget deficit in 1998, instead of the 2.5 percent deficit it had demanded earlier. In 1999 the IMF expects Ukraine's budget deficit to be no higher than 2 percent.

After the announcement by the IMF mission that it would recommend approval of the EFF, U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, who was in Kyiv the day the IMF mission arrived and who had expressed qualified support for the extension of the loan, released a statement in Washington. Vice-President Gore said he was "greatly encouraged" by the agreement, according to the Kyiv Post.

"President Kuchma knows that he and Ukraine's Parliament must take strong, decisive steps to implement these reforms and begin a new era in Ukraine's economic policy – one marked by sound public finance, an improved climate for private investment and expanded economic opportunity for the people of Ukraine," said Mr. Gore.

Ukraine is expected to receive a first tranche of \$250 million immediately after approval, with \$850 million expected the first year.

The IMF executive board is scheduled to consider the \$2.2 billion loan the week of August 24, which should give Ukraine a much-needed gift on its seventh anniversary of independence.

NEWSBRIEFS

Consortium to reinforce sarcophagus

KYIV – An international consortium has won a tender to reinforce the sarcophagus covering the damaged reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the Associated Press reported on August 4. The consortium, headed by the French company Technique Atom, includes British, German and U.S. companies. The \$5.4 million deal is the second stage of a broader project on improving Chernobyl's safety. The funds will be used for, among other things, technical maintenance and repairs of the sarcophagus. Some 20 donor nations have pledged \$400 million to make the concrete and steel sarcophagus environmentally safe. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lukashenka says reunion is "inevitable"

MIENSK – Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has said in answer to questions by readers of Pravda-5 that reunification of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus "is inevitable and that no opponent will be able to prevent it," Interfax reported on July 31. He said such a union will appear "very soon" if "the reunification problem passes from the area of election outbursts into the area of practical daily work." He also expressed hope that the Belarusian-Russian Union Parliamentary Assembly will soon pass laws to establish union citizenship and that the two countries' parliaments will approve that legislation. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Pentagon continues funding disarmament

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Defense Department will continue to provide financial assistance to Ukraine to destroy its weapons of mass destruction, ITAR-TASS reported on July 30. Ukraine will receive \$76.7 million to destroy SS-19 missiles, some 40 strategic bombers, and some 1,000 cruise missiles. The Pentagon will also allocate \$630,000 to help enforce non-proliferation of arms outside Ukraine's borders and \$73 million for conversion of defense enterprises. Over the past six years, Ukraine has received \$520 million in such aid. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv funds to assist Crimean Tatars

KYIV – The Ukrainian government has allocated 1 million hryv (\$475,000) to help resettle Crimean Tatars who were expelled from their homeland by Joseph Stalin during World War II, the Associated Press reported. The funds will be used to improve gas and water supplies to Tatar settlements near the Crimean capital, Symferopol. Another 7 million hryv will be provided to Tatars in the form of construction materials and equipment. A United Nations-sponsored conference of 26 donor

countries held in Kyiv in July pledged some \$5 million to build infrastructure, create new jobs and provide for cultural needs of the returning Tatars. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Outgoing Canadian ambassador feted

KYIV – A group of 40 business and government leaders met on July 23 to bid farewell to Canadian Ambassador Chris Westdal at a dinner organized by the Canada-Ukraine Business Initiative and the Canadian-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce. Guests included Ukrainian and Canadian deputy ministers; Jaroslav Kinach, representative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; and the heads of many Canadian and Ukrainian projects and businesses, including Epic Energy, Kadima, Semex, UkrNaftoGas, Nadra Resources and Monsanto. (Eastern Economist)

Marchuk discusses the shadow economy

KYIV – "The shadow economy accounts for around 40 to 60 percent of the Ukrainian market. One of the main reasons for the development of the shadow economy is high taxes. The worst thing is that many people are forced against their will to work in the shadow economy," Yevhen Marchuk told the Union of Journalists on July 8. He added that at least \$10 billion (U.S.) has been exported from Ukraine and put into Western banks and recommended providing an amnesty for this capital. However, this decision can be made only by the president or by the government. "The politician who gives the order to amnesty flight capital will take a very great risk with his reputation, and everyone is afraid of doing so," Mr. Marchuk said. He warned that owners of flight capital would not be in a hurry to return their money to Ukraine. He predicted that in the amnesty's first year approximately \$1 billion (U.S.) would return. Compared to the \$2 billion in foreign investment that Ukraine has received since independence, this is a very significant sum, he noted. (Eastern Economist)

Ukraine's production up over 1997 levels

KYIV – For the first time in the last nine years, Ukraine's industrial production has increased, rising by 0.7 percent in the first half of 1998 over 1997 levels, First Vice Prime Minister Anatolii Holubchenko said on July 6. According to the Cabinet Press Service, Mr. Holubchenko said that, as a result of National Bank of Ukraine measures taken to support domestic manufacturers, the increase was broad-based. Production of consumer goods increased 4 percent. The wood-processing industry had the best rate of growth at 22 percent, and

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IMF recommends...

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the financial organization had said was dependent on Ukraine first obtaining the EFF.

For Ukraine – which has severe revenue collection problems and has suffered through the aftershocks of the Asian financial crisis – that money is expected to counter any immediate danger of financial collapse.

"I am confident that with our implementation of the International Monetary Fund program the threat of financial crisis for Ukraine will disappear," said Vice Prime Minister Tyhypko.

The country has experienced a large shortfall in tax revenues chiefly due to a shadow economy worth \$12 billion (U.S.) annually. In addition, its privatization program has achieved merely 25 percent of the target levels that were predicted for the first half of 1998. Privatization Fund Chairman Oleksander Bondar told the Kyiv Post that the fund's shortfall would amount to about \$500 million for the year.

Ukraine had been borrowing heavily on the international bond market since the beginning of the year, when the IMF refused to grant several tranches on a standby loan worth some \$500 million that Ukraine had expected to receive. The IMF had said at the time that, without renewed movement on economic reforms, Ukraine would not receive any further assistance.

This month the country is scheduled to repay some of those loans, including a \$450 million fiduciary loan from the Nomura International Investment Bank.

The IMF had been under some pressure from the United States to grant the EFF, as well as from leading economic experts,

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New Jersey seminar aims to combat trafficking

by Roma Hadzewycz

EAST HANOVER, N.J. – "Ukraine today is a supplier of slave labor – and not only for sex," according to an official of the country's Ministry of Internal Affairs.

"Ukraine has become a supplier of a living commodity," stated a consultant on human rights to Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada.

Both were addressing the issue of the international trafficking of women from Ukraine in East Hanover, N.J., at a 12-day seminar and training program whose goal was to promote and bolster anti-trafficking activities.

Organized by Project Harmony, a Vermont-based organization that has conducted cultural and professional exchanges since 1985, the seminar brought together 20 government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations, legal professionals, journalists and police officials. Its intent was to facilitate their cooperation in Ukraine and encourage their involvement in international efforts to stop the illegal trade in women.

The July 18-31 program focused on three areas: law enforcement and international legal efforts to combat trafficking; public education, prevention and support



Iryna Turlo of the Ministry of Education in conversation with Kateryna Levchenko of LaStrada-Ukraine

networks; and creation of a public-private initiative in Ukraine to address the issue. Organized by Walter Zalisko, chief of staff to the police director of the Jersey City Police Department and former undersheriff of Monmouth County who has 23 years of experience in law enforcement,

and Patricia Kotyk-Zalisko, a prosecutor for 14 years who has served as supervisor and director of child abuse, rape and sexual assault units, the program included training sessions, roundtable discussions,

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Reports on trafficking...

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and their clients. Alone, with no documents (taken away under the pretense that she needed to be officially registered), with no money, with no knowledge of the language or of the phone system and with the "friendly" recruiter nowhere to be found, dependent for food, water and shelter, the girl finds herself in a trap.

The lures are sophisticated, tempting and varied. To deride such women as unbelievably naive or stupid, warned Ms. Levchenko, exacerbates the problem and shifts the blame away from the perpetrators to the victims. "Our young women, many who have never traveled far from their small towns, and only completed studies at the local technicum (vocational/technical school) are that naive," emphasized Ms. Levchenko, "they have no experience of the world, and such television programs as 'Santa Barbara' do not accurately depict the world outside Ukraine. They are trusting, vulnerable and needy."

Since establishing a hotline last November, LaStrada-Ukraine has received on average of 120 to 150 calls per month from friends, relatives and neighbors seeking women who have disappeared after having left for supposedly legitimate jobs abroad; from women outside Ukraine seeking help; from citizens reporting leads on alleged trafficking operations; and from women calling to check out the legitimacy of certain job offers.

Not all job offers, or invitations to visit friends or relatives, are lures, noted Ms. Levchenko, and LaStrada counsels women about the warning signs of illegitimate offers. The organization focuses on public education about trafficking and works with other organizations and government agencies to develop job-training programs for women in Ukraine. According to Ms. Levchenko, more than 70 percent of those in Ukraine listed as officially unemployed in government reports are women. LaStrada also helps the women victims, many of whom were physically abused, or are ashamed to come home, or afraid to come home for fear of retribution from the "mafia" ring that lured them out.

Mykhaylo Lebed from Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs noted that a distinction must be made between voluntary and non-voluntary prostitution. This distinction is often blurred, he said, which confuses the issue for many people since the efforts of international law enforcement officials focus on non-voluntary prostitution. Many thousands of women from Ukraine, he added, willingly travel abroad to work as prostitutes, especially for a few weeks, to make some extra money.

Further complicating the issue is that in many countries prostitution is not a criminal offense, only a civil offense, and in some countries it is legalized. Legalized prostitution does not mean, however, that a woman can be made to provide sex against her will, he underscored. Nonetheless, many women unwillingly working in brothels or sex bars do not know how to seek help, or do not want to seek help since they fear harm from the operators of the criminal prostitution rings.

The countries where Ukrainian women most frequently report incidents of sexual enslavement include Turkey, Greece, Israel, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, though reports have come from Australia, Japan, Chile, South Africa, as well as many other Asian and European countries. Many of the women can easily travel out of Ukraine through Poland, Moldova, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Albania and Hungary, countries from which, according to Ms. Levchenko, many brokers in the lucrative flesh trade operate and where false passports can often be obtained that allow access to other countries. According to Mr. Lebed, in Bulgaria there's an underground market in which girls are auctioned off and then transported to other countries.

Besides the sex trade, however, Mr. Lebed noted that many Ukrainians, men

and women, find themselves working in degrading conditions for near-slave wages doing menial labor in Poland, the Czech Republic and the former Yugoslavia.

Bohdan Yaremenko, vice-consul of the Ukraine's General Consulate in New York, who also spoke at the community meeting, noted in a conversation after the meeting, that, unlike Ukraine's Embassy in Turkey, where two to three women per week show up, often badly beaten, the problem most frequently encountered in the U.S. is not forced prostitution or sexual enslavement, but complaints from women who were promised paying jobs as domestic help and, in fact, work for months, or years, without pay, without documents and with no clear idea in which city or state they are in.

Mr. Yaremenko explained that for Ukrainian citizens who are in the U.S. on a tourist or business visa it is illegal to work for pay. However, he said, several times a month he is contacted by individuals who had come over on a legal U.S. visa, had been promised paid jobs, only to find that upon arrival in the U.S. their sponsors took away their documents, gave them no pay and isolated them in a work location where they could not readily be found.

Once these victims finally turn to him, he said, he cannot help them get their money, since they were not supposed to be earning it in the first place, nor can he get them a U.S. visa extension. He can only help them return to Ukraine. Even though the Consulate receives only a few calls per month, Mr. Yaremenko speculates that "there are many, many dozens more people from Ukraine" who are in similar situations.

The video "Bought and Sold," written and produced by Gillian Caldwell, was shown after the meeting. The film documents the inner workings of the networks that trade in young women from countries of the former Soviet Union. Further information about the meeting and the issue of

A case history: Tania's story

Below is a translation, prepared by the staff of *The Ukrainian Weekly*, of a case history dated April 23, 1998, from the files of *LaStrada-Ukraine*, a non-governmental organization funded by the European Parliament and established to assist women who find themselves forced against their will into prostitution, and domestic and menial labor in foreign countries.

Tania is from a small town in the Luhansk region. She is 20 years old. Her father left the family when Tania was 4, her brother – 2. In 1991 a car hit her brother; he barely survived and was permanently disabled. He cannot get out of bed and the mother cannot work since she must care for her son.

Tania was finishing technical college, but finding a job was impossible. Industrial production in the small town is at a standstill. Occasionally, except for bread and water from the pump, there was nothing to eat.

The girl is slim and pretty, she attracted glances on the street. A friend of her mother's also noticed her: so pretty, yet languishing here in the provinces. This woman then proposed that the girl fly to the woman's relatives in the United Arab Emirates (UAE): the work entails housecleaning at a villa owned by wealthy people – she will see a bit of the world, will show herself to the world, maybe some millionaire will fall in love. The pay would be (\$4,000 U.S.) [term unspecified]. Tania had been unable to find work at even 50 hrv per month (\$25 U.S.). She was very happy.

She applied and received a passport, and then a visa on the basis of a written invitation and flew to Abu Dabi. After she arrived, her passport was taken away from her (under the pretense that she needed to be registered), and after this she was informed that she had been sold for \$7,000 U.S. and now needed to work servicing clients in a bar.

After a period of time in the country, the girl escaped and appealed for help to the UAE police. The police arrested Tania, informed their superiors that an underground bordello had been discovered, and sentenced the girl to three years in prison (for criminal prostitution).

The girl has been in prison for 11 months. Even for voluntary prostitution, in this country the sentence is for one year, but there was no attorney in court, because that costs between \$5,000 and \$7,000 U.S. and that's why nobody could argue against this verdict. The family, in dire financial straits, is unable to hire an attorney.

We wrote to the Embassy of Ukraine in the UAE, to the sheik of this country, but until now, unfortunately, we have not received any positive responses. The ambassador has turned to various official and non-official agencies and organizations in this country, but until there is a lawyer, nobody is willing to review the matter. Our ambassador visits her in prison, which is located in the desert, where, as Tania writes, "the cockroaches are the size of our sparrows, but I am fed normally."

The girl longs terribly for home, but is afraid to return, because everyone knows she is in prison. Now everyone will point fingers at her, and no one will be willing to marry her. Tania has two more years ahead of her (in prison) if we are unable to get her out.

Her mother calls us constantly, and cries day and night that the fate of both her children is crippled and that there is no hope for the future.

LaStrada

Program to Prevent Trafficking of Women
in Central and Eastern Europe

Kyiv hotline: 380-44-224-04-46

New Jersey seminar...

(Continued from page 3)

workshops and presentations by police, lawyers, prosecutors, public officials and social service professionals.

The program was organized in the wake of increasing attention to the problem of international trafficking of women. The issue had been broached at a July 1997 conference in Vienna of women leaders from government and the private sector in Central and Eastern Europe, and brought to the public's attention by an article in *The Ukrainian Weekly* on August 3, 1997. It came to the fore in November 1997 when First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke out in Lviv against this fundamental violation of human rights, calling it "nothing less than modern-day slavery" and "a crime against humanity." (See *The Weekly* November 23 and December 7, 1997.) The illegal trade in women was given a higher public profile in January of this year when *The New York Times* published a lengthy article about the problem, reporting that 400,000 women had left Ukraine in the past 10 years, to seek a better life, lured by promises of good wages in foreign lands.

Seminar participants' perspectives

Seminar participants held a press conference on the third day of their sessions, July 20, to present their perspectives on combating the trafficking of women from Ukraine.

Mykhaylo Lebid of the Ministry of Internal Affairs noted that a Ukrainian law to combat trafficking exists, but now "we are working on the means to implement that law." He was referring to the fact that on April 13 President Leonid Kuchma had signed into law a bill passed by the Verkhovna Rada on March 24 that criminalized the trafficking of human beings and provided three tiers of punishments for these crimes.

The law stipulates that persons involved in direct or indirect, open or hidden trafficking of human beings aimed at sale for sexual exploitation, use in the pornography business or in military conflicts, as well as those who adopt children for commercial purposes, will face criminal charges and that such crimes are punishable by imprisonment of three to eight years and confiscation of their property. Persons involved in the sale of children and officials who abuse their positions to this end face terms of five to 10 years' imprisonment.

Trafficking organized by criminal groups, or cases that lead to serious consequences, as well as trafficking intended for the transplantation of human organs,

are subject to terms of between eight and 15 years.

Serhii Isakovych, a consultant on human rights issues to the Verkhovna Rada and a lecturer in international law at the Institute of Foreign Affairs, said, "Women have become the objects of white slavery due to difficult economic conditions, and children are being sold under the guise of adoption." Men, meanwhile, are seen as cheap labor abroad. For example, there are approximately 200,000 Ukrainians now working in the Czech republic, most of them men working construction jobs. That is why Ukraine – which "has become a supplier of a living commodity" – adopted a law that deals with trade not only in women, but in men and children, too, Mr. Isakovych explained.

Oksana Vynohradova of the Justice Ministry's Legislative Department pointed out that the government of Ukraine has developed a plan outlining what further laws are needed and that inter-agency working groups have been created to study worldwide experience in dealing with this problem with a view toward speeding up this work.

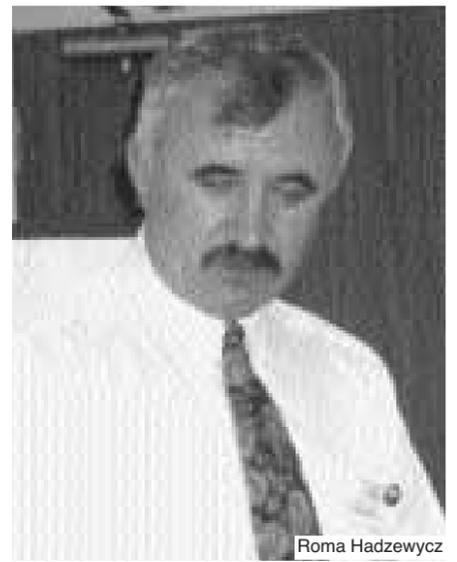
At the time President Kuchma signed the law on trafficking, Nina Karpacheva, vice-chairperson of the Parliament's Committee on Human Rights, said there are tens of thousands of Ukrainian women in white slavery in many countries throughout the world, singling out Greece, Turkey, Israel, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands in particular as countries where this occurs.

At the New Jersey seminar on combating the trafficking of women, reference was made to Yugoslavia, indeed all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, South Africa and even Japan.

As Mr. Lebid put it, "Organized crime knows no boundaries, and Ukraine today is the supplier of slave labor – and not only for sex."

That is why international efforts are key. Vasyl Nevolya first deputy head of Interpol's national bureau in Ukraine, said, "We are looking for cooperation with other countries and structures." The international police organization, he added, "has realistic possibilities for such activity and cooperation."

Cooperation among Ukraine's own institutions and organizations also is important. Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Family and Youth, Larysa Kolos, the head of its Department of Cultural and Educational Activities for Women, pointed to directives issued by the Cabinet of Ministers regarding cooperation on this issue between government structures and



Roma Hadzewycz

Vasyl Nevolya (left) of Interpol's bureau in Ukraine and Mykhaylo Lebid of the Ministry of Internal Affairs speak during the press conference.

NGOs that call for improving the existing law on trafficking and new legislation; conducting an informational campaign and sociological research into the issue; assisting victims via a network of regional information centers and shelters; and searching for new methods to combat trafficking.

From the perspective of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oleksiy Babenko, head of the consular section, said his ministry is very aware of the problem. He defined the Foreign Affairs Ministry's function as "defending Ukraine's citizens abroad – both legally and physically." In those countries where Ukraine does not have a diplomatic presence, he added, "we are looking to work together with other governments to represent our interests on this issue, for example, U.S. diplomatic representations."

Iryna Turlo, chief specialist at the Ministry of Education, whose responsibilities include serving as coordinator of activities related to the prevention of trafficking of women, commented: "The problem is integral to education since students of higher educational institutes are its potential victims. To that end, we try to prevent their victimization via public awareness campaigns."

As an example of such a campaign she cited the dissemination of brochures and posters provided by the International Organization for Migration and an informational letter supplied by the NGO LaStrada-Ukraine which has been distributed to students. She added that one of the focal points at the convention on human rights scheduled for Kyiv in November will be the trafficking of women. In addition, she cited numerous articles that are being published in the Ukrainian press, as well as lectures on this topic that are given on the secondary school and university levels.

Betraying a sense of frustration with how the system works, Olha Kovalchuk of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy said her ministry licenses firms that provide job placement abroad, however, she cautioned: "This does not give a stamp of approval to such agencies; it merely shows they have a license to operate ... Our goal, then, is to inform potential job applicants about what can await them abroad."

Her remarks were echoed by Gennadiy Rashkovskyy of Ukrainian State Social Services for Youth, who explained, "Our young people do not know what can await them abroad, and they have little life experience in general." He pointed to the existence of 400 sites in large cities and oblast and regional centers that have conducted seminars on this topic for the past half year.

Journalist Halyna Datsyuk, letters editor of the newspaper *Nezavisimost*, pointed out another tragic aspect of the trafficking problem. "When independence came, I thought we would never again see servitude. This is a very painful problem. Many people don't know what they are in for – the result of a lack of information. Parents are told 'your daughters will dance and sing for the diaspora.'"

Ms. Datsyuk, who is active also with the Spadschyna Center, said the center had recently conducted a survey to gauge the level of awareness of this issue and that it emphasizes training for women in Ukraine so they can seek professional advancement and better their lot at home.

Olena Kabashna, president of the NGO Dana, underscored that "prevention is more effective than later fighting the consequences" – a key also to the work of another NGO, LaStrada-Ukraine.

Kateryna Levchenko, LaStrada-Ukraine's national coordinator, explained that her organization gives advice to women traveling abroad: "We tell them what to look out for, how to behave, what the laws are, and what their rights are." LaStrada has established a Kyiv hotline (38-044-224-04-06) in order to help victims.

Ms. Levchenko also commented that this is difficult – and dangerous – work. Entities that who don't like what LaStrada is doing have threatened the NGO; "they've phoned and said they would torch our office," she related.

A prosecutor with the Procurator General's Office, Iryna Tarhulova, added, "Our goal today is not only to help victims and collect data, but mainly to stop the organizations that conduct this activity" – a sentiment goal mentioned also by Mr. Nevolya of Interpol who noted that "there is little information on the people responsible for such exploitation."

Though most of the seminar's sessions took place in East Hanover, N.J., at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, there were several site visits, including the International Organization for Migration, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Consulate-General of Ukraine in New York, as well as the Global Survival Network, the Embassy of Ukraine, Interagency Council of Women and the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice in Washington. In addition, participants met with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's chief of staff, Melanne Vermeer.

The anti-trafficking program's objective, as stated at the outset by its organizer, Mr. Zalisko, was "to provide participants with practical skills, networking opportunities and access to U.S. and international resources," and at the farewell dinner on July 31 it was evident that the program had achieved those goals.

As noted by Ms. Turlo of the Ministry of Education, "We have been given much useful information to combat the trafficking of women. Our stay here was extraordinarily beneficial. We saw the problem that we face in Ukraine as a global problem, and we are thankful for the experience shared with us by our American colleagues. We expect that it will be successfully applied in Ukraine."

The Training Program to Combat Trafficking of Women from Ukraine was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Academy for Educational Development.

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Fault line appears as World Congress of Ukrainians approaches seventh conclave

by **Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj**
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO – As the Ukrainian World Congress prepares for its seventh congress in November, a major fault line appears to have emerged in the world body that unites diaspora organizations.

Reached at his home on July 21, UWC President Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk told *The Weekly* in a telephone interview that he would not seek another term as the world umbrella body's president in part because he is "tired of the games being played."

In an apparent direct contradiction to a resolution adopted by the UWC Presidium in February, UWC General Secretary Yaroslav Sokolyk traveled to Ukraine to attend a meeting of the Kyiv-based Ukrainian World Coordinating Council on May 22-23.

The resolution, passed unanimously with Mr. Sokolyk and World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations President Oksana Sokolyk (his wife) abstaining, mandated that UWC officials would not participate in any further meetings called by the UWCC until several conditions were met.

Mr. Sokolyk also failed to act in accordance with his duties as general secretary by not clearly informing UWC member-organizations of the anti-UWCC resolution, Dr. Cipywnyk said.

In fact, the UWC President said Mr. Sokolyk had conducted a campaign to encourage members of Western diasporan Ukrainian organizations to attend the May UWCC conclave in Kyiv despite this resolution.

On April 6, Dr. Cipywnyk attended to a special meeting here of the UWC executive called by Mr. Sokolyk, and attended by Chief Financial Officer William Sametz, Vice-President Dr. Oleh Romanyshyn, Vice-President and Treasurer Vasyl Veryha, Mrs. Sokolyk, World Coordinating Council on Education (WCCE) Chair Iroida Wynnyckyj and World Council of Ukrainian Social Services (WCUSS) Chair Olya Danylak.

Mr. Sokolyk, who was making a last-ditch effort to get official approval to attend the UWCC meeting, was instructed that he, Mrs. Sokolyk and Mr. Veryha were free to travel to Kyiv, with a stipulation that "in participating in discussions they will not make any decisions or issue any statements on behalf of the UWC." A motion to this effect was drafted by Dr. Romanyshyn and passed.

Dr. Cipywnyk said that in early May he sent out a letter notifying the UWC's constituent central organizations of the February resolution and of the April motion stipulating that Mr. Sokolyk was attending the UWCC meeting as an individual, not as a UWC representative.

The conflict over UWC participation in the UWCC came to light at a plenary meeting of the UWC Secretariat held in Toronto on June 5-6, as Mr. Sokolyk read his report as UWC general secretary. He detailed proceedings of the UWCC conclave as if he had participated in the adoption of UWCC resolutions.

Mr. Sokolyk's report reads: "We also changed the name of the newspaper News from Ukraine to Ukrainian Forum," and "It was important for us at that meeting that the activities of the Ukraina Society in the Soviet period be condemned."

Also, in the general secretary's

report it is noted that "Ukrainian and Eastern diaspora representatives [to the UWCC] told us privately that [the UWC] has neither the legal nor the moral right to demand that a separate organization [the Ukraina Society], to which [the UWC] does not belong, change its name."

Other conditions for renewed official representation at UWCC meetings, such as the submission of a comprehensive budget, a clear statement on UWCC by-laws, resolution of the conflict of interest created by government officials holding top posts in a non-governmental organization [such as current UWCC President Ivan Drach], were apparently not addressed at the UWCC meeting and were not mentioned in Mr. Sokolyk's report.

Several members of the diaspora umbrella body's executive expressed outrage, including Ukrainian Congress Committee of America President Askold Lozynskyj and Conference of Ukrainian Youth Organizations Chair Evhen Czolij.

Ukraina Society statement

Mr. Sokolyk quoted from a statement dated May 22-23, signed by UWCC President Drach. Two paragraphs dealing with the Ukraina Society's past record read as follows:

"The members and representatives of the UWCC condemn the activities of the Ukraina Society during the period of the totalitarian Communist regime, when some leaders of the society and its workers acted, essentially, on the orders and under the leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, the KGB of Ukraine and the USSR, and channeled efforts to discredit Ukrainians around the world, their principal organizations and communities, as well as their leading activists in the field of culture, science, education, art and the Church. Similar activities

(Continued on page 12)

Nina Strokata, noted defender of human rights, dead at 72

BALTIMORE – Nina Strokata, well-known activist of the Ukrainian human rights movement and a former Soviet political prisoner, died here in a local hospital's cardiac unit on Sunday, August 2, several days after she suffered a heart attack. She was 72.

Dr. Strokata was born January 31, 1926, in Odesa, Ukraine. After completing studies in microbiology she worked at the Odesa Medical Institute and then as a physician. She also did research in her field and published much of her work in medical journals.

In 1961, Dr. Strokata married Sviatoslav Karavansky, a political prisoner who, having been freed in 1960 under Khrushchev's general amnesty, had returned from serving a long term for his activity as a Ukrainian nationalist. He had been arrested in 1945 for membership in the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and sentenced to 25 years of hard labor.

In November 1965 Mr. Karavansky was arrested once again, this time for statements condemning discrimination against Ukrainians and the 1965 wave of arrests of Ukrainian intellectuals. He was sentenced as a recidivist without trial to eight and one-half years in a strict-regime labor camp.

From that time on, his wife became known as a human rights defender. She spoke out in behalf of her husband and other national and human rights advocates as well, among them Valentyn Moroz.

Mr. Karavansky continued to write even while he was imprisoned and, as a result, found himself re-arrested in prison in 1970. He was sentenced to another 10 years' imprisonment because of his writings on topics such as the Soviets' 1941 mass execution of Polish officers in the Katyn Forest.

In retribution for her activity in defense of her husband, Dr. Strokata was



Ihor Dlaboha

Nina Strokata

subjected to various forms of repression, such as searches, anonymous phone calls, interrogations and harassment on the job. Ultimately she was forced to leave Ukraine in the summer of 1971 and move to Nalchik in the Russian SFSR.

Dr. Strokata herself was arrested in December 1971 as she was returning to Odesa; she was sentenced to four years of imprisonment in a severe-regime camp for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."

The case of Dr. Strokata became a cause célèbre among the worldwide community of microbiologists; American and Canadian colleagues appealed on her behalf to the United Nations and sent letters to the Mordovian camp where she was imprisoned.

A committee in defense of Dr. Strokata was organized in the Soviet Union by rights activists in Moscow, Kyiv, Lviv

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Ambassador Shcherbak lauds outcome of Gore visit to Kyiv

by **Yaro Bihun**

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Yuri Shcherbak says he is pleased with the outcome of Vice-President Al Gore's recent visit to Kyiv and his talks with President Leonid Kuchma, and with the results of the second meeting of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission.

During a press briefing at the Embassy on July 28, soon after he returned from Kyiv, Ambassador Shcherbak said the July 22-23 Kuchma-Gore talks yielded many positive results, including an indication of U.S. support for Ukraine in its effort to obtain \$2.5 billion in low-interest Extended Fund Facility credits from the International Monetary Fund. These credits, he said, "are absolutely necessary" for the stabilization of the financial situation in Ukraine.

Dr. Shcherbak also welcomed America's active interest in getting the Chernobyl nuclear power plant safeguarded and closed by 2000.

"I must stress that the American side conducted itself like a real strategic partner, a real friend of Ukraine," showing concern and offering its assistance and good counsel, Ambassador Shcherbak said.

He said the United States is willing to fund a feasibility study of Ukraine's proposal to have Caspian Sea oil go through Ukraine on its way to Western Europe, by way of the Odesa-to-Brody pipeline. The U.S. was forthcoming also in providing assistance for the development of the Kharkiv Oblast, which gave up some potential revenue when Ukraine agreed – under U.S. pressure – not to sell Kharkiv-produced electric generators for a nuclear plant Russia is building in Iran.

Both President Kuchma and Vice-President Gore – who by Ambassador Shcherbak's estimate, had some 12 hours of meetings of one form or another during the visit – expressed



Yaro Bihun

Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak

their satisfaction with the results of the meetings, he said. President Kuchma characterized them as "positive to the maximum for Ukraine, especially in the difficult situation in which it finds itself."

"We feel that this visit resulted in strengthening our bilateral cooperative relationship, in strengthening our strategic partner-

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Ps & Bs conference to discuss future of Ukrainian diaspora

NEW YORK – The Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey is organizing a two-day conference on October 10-11, devoted to a discussion and analysis of the future of the diaspora. The conference – titled “The Year 2020 Conference: Will There Be a North American Ukrainian Diaspora in the Year 2020, and Does It Matter?” – will be held at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in East Hanover, N.J.

Some of the many issues to be explored at the conference by speakers such as Myron Kuropas, Roman Szporluk and Bohdan Vitvitsky include:

- Does an independent Ukraine enrich and invigorate the diaspora, or undermine its reason for being?
- What institutional infrastructure, if any, is necessary for the diaspora to survive and thrive?
- What conditions and which elements are necessary for the continued viability of the diaspora: language, culture, churches and schools, fraternals, credit unions, voluntary associations? Is a commitment to or interest in Ukraine’s survival necessary or is it enough to have an interest in things Ukrainian? What means of communication (newspapers, television shows, the Internet) are necessary among those who want to sustain the diaspora? Are all of the above necessary, or are different combinations appropriate to conditions in different communities?

The Saturday evening conference banquet will feature an address by Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, a writer and a physician and currently Ukraine’s ambassador to the United States. The musical program includes recording artists Paris to Kyiv, featuring Alexis Kochan and Julian Kytasty.

In addition, the conference will hold panels devoted to the views and perspectives on the diaspora’s future from the younger generation and the mid-life generation; a panel on developments in Canada and the relationship between the American and Canadian diasporas; and a panel on the role of the “Fourth Wave” (those who have immigrated from Ukraine in the last 10 years) in helping to determine the future of the Ukrainian diaspora in the U.S. and Canada.

Panelists and moderators include: Vera Andrushkiw (Michigan), Ihor Bardyn (Ontario), Vitaly Chernetsky (New York), the Rev. Andriy Chirovsky (Ontario), Mark Kapij (Massachusetts), Ms. Kochan (Manitoba), Zenon Kohut (Edmonton), Stefko Kuropas (Illinois), Oleh Mahlay (Ohio), Askold Melnychuk (Massachusetts), Alexander Motyl (New York), Serhiy Myroniuk (New Jersey), Kateryna Nemyra (Ohio), Peter Paluch (New Jersey), Xenia Piaseckij (New York), Petro Rybchuk (New Jersey), Victor Satzewich (Ontario), George Sawicki (New York), Michael Stashchyshyn (New Jersey), Oksana Stojko (New Jersey) and Taras Szmagala Jr. (Ohio).

Those who wish to attend the conference must pre-register and pay the conference fee by no later than September 29. On-site registration, at which tickets and conference pro-

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New contribution from Kowalskys supports CIUS programs

EDMONTON – A new program of Eastern Ukrainian studies has been established at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), University of Alberta, thanks to the generosity of Michael and Daria Kowalsky of Toronto.

The \$1 million Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine will serve as a center of scholarly research on problems of national revival in Ukraine, and will further the development of Ukrainian studies and culture.

The Kowalskys have been strong supporters of CIUS research and scholarship since 1987, when they contributed \$100,000 toward an endowment fund for academic research, scholarships and scholarly publications. Their gift was matched two-to-one by the Alberta government under a matching grant program then in place. Since Ukraine’s independence, an increasing share of the Kowalsky Endowment Fund has supported scholarly projects in Ukraine.

In the spring of 1998, the Kowalskys increased the endowment by \$700,000 and requested that a new program be established to fund scholarly projects in Ukraine and Canada. The Kowalsky program will give grants to scholars and sponsor seminars dealing with problems related to Ukrainian identity in eastern, southern and central Ukraine, support museum development, award a literary



Michael and Daria Kowalsky

prize for historical novels for young people and fund other projects. The program will begin its work in the spring of 1999.

In addition to the endowment, the Kowalskys contributed \$100,000 in 1997 to the Hrushevsky Translation Project at the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at CIUS for the publi-

cation of one volume of the 10-volume History of Ukraine-Rus’ in English.

The Kowalskys’ commitment to Ukrainian studies and Ukrainian independence grew directly out of their life experiences. Both were ardent Ukrainian

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OBITUARY: Dr. Oleksandra Kopach, education pioneer

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – Dr. Oleksandra Kopach, writer, scholar and founder of the Hryhoryi Skovoroda Ukrainian School in Toronto, died on July 12.

Born on February 26, 1913, in the town of Horodenka, Western Ukraine, Oleksandra Yaworska was a graduate of Cracow University from which she obtained an M.A. in Ukrainian studies in 1937. In 1942 she married Roman Kopach and they, with their son, Yuri, born in 1946, came to Canada in 1948, sponsored by the Kuryliw family of Sudbury.

The Kopach family settled at first in Sudbury but soon relocated to Toronto. Almost immediately, Mrs. Kopach devoted herself to the two pursuits that were to become her main preoccupations in life: the study and teaching of literature and the establishment of Ukrainian secondary school education in Canada.

In 1951, with the support of the Toronto Plast organization, particularly the devoted pedagogue Czopa Palijiw, Mrs. Kopach began giving secondary school-level courses in Ukrainian studies. These classes were to become the Hryhoryi Skovoroda Ukrainian Secondary School, a school with a five-year curriculum for 12- to 18-year-olds.

Until the founding of the Skovoroda School, the Ukrainian school system consisted only of elementary schools (ridni shkoly) which taught children up to age of 12. By 1978, when Dr. Kopach ceased her work as the director of the Skovoroda School, there were seven schools with secondary education in Toronto alone in addition to those in many other cities of Canada.

Prof. Zenon Zeleny, who headed the Association of Ukrainian Teachers in Canada in 1970, pointed out that “for many Ukrainian organizations and church parishes, the Hryhoryi Skovoroda School became an example to be followed. The title of pioneer in Ukrainian secondary school education belongs to Dr. Kopach.”

Besides being the first such school in

Canada, there were other things that made the Hryhoryi Skovoroda School exceptional. Dr. Kopach made sure that not only would her students learn to read and write, study literature and history, but that they had opportunities to use the Ukrainian language. With the assistance of numerous parents’ committees, the school had a drama group that put on performances of the works of Lesia Ukrainka, Kulish, Hohol and others – a play almost every year. There was a student magazine, Problysky; there was a school choir and occasional evenings devoted to rhetoric.

Dr. Kopach was also an innovator. As she said: “We had to bring in something new to show the breadth of Ukrainian culture. That is how the idea of having lessons in archeology arose. From 1955 Prof. Yaroslav Pasternak, with his fascinating tales and colorful slides, captivated the young students. Prof. Mykola Bytynsky began lessons in Ukrainian art, illustrating them with pictures and his



Dr. Oleksandra Kopach

drawings. Both subjects – art and archeology – brought a new world into the classroom and gave the courses an innovative edge.”

One of the school’s former students, Tania Boyko Melnyk, put it this way, “The interdisciplinary approach to the study of our culture from ancient times to the present, the interweaving of history, literature and art gave us the opportunity, at a relatively young age, to understand the global development of culture. Teachers in our Canadian schools would express surprise that we knew about humanism, romanticism and other cultural trends, information which most other Canadian students would encounter only in their university courses.”

During its 27 years of existence, the Hryhoryi Skovoroda School graduated 384 students, many of whom became leaders in the development of Ukrainian education in Canada, the academic world, Ukrainian community organizations and, when the opportunity finally came, in organizing of projects in Ukraine.

While running the Hryhoryi Skovoroda School, Mrs. Kopach also pursued post-graduate studies in language and literature, and obtained a Ph.D. in Ukrainian studies from the University of Ottawa in 1966. She was the author of books on Olha Kobylanska and Natalena Koroleva; two books in history and four collections of essays. A member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Writers’ Association Slovo, she was also active in the Ukrainian Writers for Children and took part in many activities of the Ukrainian Canadian School Board. With her husband she remained an active member of Plast.

The funeral for Dr. Kopach was held on July 15. Surviving are her husband Roman; son, Yuri; daughter-in-law, Halyna; and three grandchildren, Larissa, Renata and Denis.

In 1996, on the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Hryhoryi Skovoroda

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Joseph Rodio, Ukrainian activist, UNA'er, dies in Ambridge at 77

by Nick Diakiwsky

AMBRIDGE, Pa. – Joseph Rodio, life-long Ukrainian activist in the Pittsburgh area and borough government and community visionary, died unexpectedly on Saturday, July 11. He was 77.

Mr. Rodio was very active in all aspects of the Pittsburgh Ukrainian community and was very passionate about his Ukrainian heritage and community. Mr. Rodio was a dedicated member and benefactor of his parish, Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ambridge. He was a long-time member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 161 which he served as the branch chaplain, leading the members in prayer during services for deceased members. He was the branch election chairman for many annual elections and ran the branch's pinochle league for many years.

Mr. Rodio always furnished the Ukrainian music and videos for Branch 161 social functions and enthusiastically introduced this part of the Ukrainian culture to many of the branch's second-, third- and fourth-generation members. In 1975 Mr. Rodio was instrumental in bringing



Joseph Rodio

Ukrainian actor Mike Mazurki to Ambridge for "Mike Mazurki Night" while Mr. Mazurki was in Pittsburgh performing in a stage production of "Guys and Dolls."

Mr. Rodio was always a vigorous partic-

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UNA continues teaching programs



The Ukrainian National Association's English Teachers for Ukraine Program and Summer Institute on Current Methods and Practices in TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) marked their seventh and sixth anniversaries, respectively, this year. The UNA received letters of gratitude for both programs from Minister of Education Mykhailo Zgurovskyi and Rector Ye. Kryzhanivskyi of the Ivano-Frankivsk State Technical University of Oil and Gas, which hosted the 1998 Summer Institute. Seen above are some of the participants of the English Teachers for Ukraine reunion/workshop held at Soyuzivka in April; below are some of the participants of the Summer Institute held in Ivano-Frankivsk in June.



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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine's commodities market

Not land, not coal, not iron ore, not wheat – one of Ukraine's most coveted commodities is people: women for sex; children for foreign adoption; men for cheap menial labor. The exploitation of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians in foreign lands is one of those off-the-books expenses of the current economic crisis in Ukraine. Tired of the economic degradation at home, in dozens of ways they leave Ukraine, hoping for a better life, but more often than not getting trapped in more degradation abroad.

The exploitation of women from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova and Belarus as prostitutes and "sex slaves" in Europe, Asia and the Middle East has recently been receiving increased attention. Participants of a recent anti-trafficking program held in New Jersey explained that the combination of Ukraine's deep economic crisis, sudden political freedom, geographic proximity to Europe and the Middle East, and general naiveté of its young women have dovetailed to produce an environment of need and vulnerability that is exploited for great profit by international sex rings.

In Ukraine, a young women's degree of susceptibility to a sex scam runs the range. There's complete naiveté (I was told I would be a secretary in a joint venture.), or complete vulnerability (the sadly true story of an high-school-age orphan girl, whose parents had been Chernobyl clean-up workers, accompanied by Poland by a relative whom she trusted, forced into prostitution) or complete trust (Mama! My new boyfriend is so nice! He has money! He says he'll take me to Turkey for a vacation!).

There are those who indulge in self-delusion (So what if I have to dance topless? I have no job, no money. Maybe I'll have to sleep around some, but it won't be that bad), or wistful rationalization (I won't have to become a prostitute, because I paid a fee in advance to get a job as a waitress; since the agency already has my money, they can't make me sleep with men to pay off debt.). There are those who travel out with intent (I have an offer to work this summer as a prostitute at a Black Sea resort; nobody in this family has been paid in six months; somebody has to make some money.). However, none of these women expect to be lured out under false pretenses, or to be held captive and forced to have sex against their will for months, even years, on end.

Threatened with physical abuse and harm to their families in Ukraine, the girls don't run. Another reason is the fear that, without documents, they risk jail. They doubt the police will help (in most Arab countries they won't). They usually don't know the language, they have no money. The heavily guarded bordellos are in dangerous or remote areas in cities with which they are unfamiliar.

Ukrainian government reaction to this problem of trafficking of women from Ukraine has been slow and mixed. International organized crime rings coordinate this trade in human flesh, and the Ukrainian government crackdown on these organizers has been minimal to date – whether out of impotence or unwillingness or ignorance is unclear. Ukraine's foreign affairs minister, Borys Tarasyuk, at a recent appearance at the National Press Club in Washington, relegated the issue to the level of a criminal problem, distancing it from the arena of international relations.

However, last winter, his ambassador in Washington, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, appealed at the highest levels of the U.S. government for assistance in resolving this situation. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke of the crime of trafficking of women during her visit to Lviv last November, and in March of this year President Bill Clinton announced U.S. initiatives to help Ukraine stem the trafficking problem.

With the passage of the new criminal law in Ukraine aimed at traffickers, with increased international attention, support and funding, as well as efforts to raise public awareness in Ukraine about the problem, we can only expect the Ukrainian government to more intensively pursue its responsibility to protect its people.

Kateryna Levchenko of LaStrada-Ukraine warns, however, of a potential solution: to simply not give travel visas to young women from Ukraine – an enforcement that will punish the young women, instead of going after the criminals. Even if governments go after the criminals, crackdown on the scum that profit from the trade in human flesh is only part of the solution. Economic opportunity is critical.

Ukrainian women risk degradation and exploitation because they need to make money. Poverty and its companion, despair, motivate the exodus. Economic opportunity and success are the best antidotes to trafficking of women. However, many Ukrainians no longer hold out hope. Ukrainian's quiet fears – that Ukraine and its people will get sucked dry to fuel the success of other countries, that economic stability will always elude Ukraine – can still be averted. But much of the responsibility for success is in the hands of the government and the new business elite. Not just shrewd, but courageous, leadership is necessary. Ukraine still waits for its Washington.

NEWS AND VIEWS

The Great Famine 65 years later: a memorial to Soviet brutality

by David R. Marples

Following is the text of a speech given at the commemoration of the Great Famine in Ukraine, sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Committee, Alberta Provincial Council, at Sir Winston Churchill Square in Edmonton on June 6.

In December 1987, the Communist Party's first secretary in Ukraine, Volodymyr Shcherbytsky acknowledged for the first time that a famine had occurred in Ukraine in 1932-1933, undoing more than 50 years of official denials by the Soviet government. It marked the first step to the uncovering of the events of this complex period, a time of the greatest upheaval known to these areas in history.

The Famine occurred in the part of Ukraine known as the Left Bank of the Dnipro River, an area that had long been part of the breadbasket of the Russian Empire. Its origins lay in the decision of the Stalin government to end the eight years of partnership between the towns and the villages – known as the New Economic Policy (or NEP) in the new Soviet society. This policy had allowed for some small-scale capital enterprise in the rural areas, providing the peasantry with some incentive to produce a surplus of grain to sell on the open market. In 1918-1921 the regime had simply requisitioned what grain it wanted. From 1921 to 1928, it replaced requisitions with a straight tax, partly to permit the regions to recover from seven years of warfare.

It is not clear whether Stalin personally had any strong feelings about the New Economic Policy. If he had, then he kept them hidden for several years. The decision to end it, and embark on the collectivization of peasant agriculture also was not in itself momentous. Both Lenin and Trotsky had favored such a route. But they had not envisaged the way in which this decision would be carried out by Stalin's government. It became a second Russian Revolution, one that reduced the villages to slave status similar to the period of serfdom. Collectivization was in theory voluntary, villages were free to choose whether or not they wished to form collective farms. In reality the process was a momentous social upheaval, and it reached its peak of savagery in the main grain growing areas, chief of which was Ukraine.

In 1929, party officials and urban volunteers descended on Ukrainian villages like locusts. Their first task was described by Stalin himself in a speech to agricultural experts as "the liquidation of the kulaks as a class." The kulaks were the designated village rich, and the regime declared its support for the poorer and average peasants against the rich. The goal was to foment class warfare. In truth, the vast majority of peasants fell into the poor to average category and the villages were not divided along class lines. The so-called richer peasants were often those who worked the hardest, the natural leaders of their community. They were either executed, exiled to distant regions, or simply banished from the community.

Once the process was under way, collective farms were established in

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Ukraine with astonishing rapidity, faster than any other region of the USSR. Once they existed, even if they were often no more than names on a piece of paper, the state was free to impose a grain quota on those whose names were listed as members. This quota had to be paid before the peasants could feed themselves. Since only the poorest farmers remained in the villages, the new collectives suffered from a drastic shortage of equipment, livestock and buildings.

The peasants had no means of active protest, but many destroyed their crops, and killed and buried their livestock rather than see it confiscated and transferred to the collective farms. Even by the spring of 1930 there was a critical meat and milk shortage in many villages of Ukraine. In 1931 the harvest was calamitously poor. The grain quota, however, remained the same as the previous year. It now comprised more than one-third of the total harvest, and no reserves existed.

At this stage, Stalin and his officials compounded the process by introducing draconian laws rendering a criminal offense even the theft of an ear of grain. Barns filled with grain for export or for the needs of the Red Army in the Far East were off at limits to the peasantry. Though the harvest of 1932 was slightly better, it was not enough to avert a full-scale famine, one that was clearly avoidable by the simple processes of reducing state quotas and providing grain to needy villages.

Stalin was well-informed about the critical situation in Ukraine, the Kuban region and the North Caucasus. He resolved not to alleviate the desperate plight of these villages. People were permitted to starve to death in a country that was exporting grain. This was a far cry from famines in war-torn areas like the Sudan (though here also the famine was artificial). This was a peacetime famine that could have been averted. In 1934, after several million peasants had died, the situation was ameliorated by the simple process of providing grain from state funds.

Peasants in Ukraine had nowhere to go. An internal passport system prevented them from crossing the border into Russia or the Belarusian republic, where there was no famine. In regions such as Poltava and Kharkiv, people died in their homes or collapsed on the street. Animals were consumed, even the bark disappeared from the trees. Soviet Ukrainian officials protested in vain at the lack of attention from the party leadership, an act of futile bravery that was to cost most of them dearly in the purges a few years later. But Stalin had other allies, in unexpected places.

The Western countries, and particularly the United States, had seen relations with the Soviet Union improve recently. They wished to give Stalin the benefit of the doubt when he maintained that there was no hunger in the villages. New York Times Moscow correspondent Walter Duranty, though admitting privately to the existence of the famine, wrote that no problems existed in the villages. Those reporters who were more intrepid, such as the young Englishman Malcolm Muggeridge, witnessed the Famine first-hand, but then

(Continued on page 17)

August
13
1773

Turning the pages back...

Yurii Lysiansky lived an explorer's storybook life. Born in Nizhen, between Kyiv and Chernihiv, on August 13, 1773, he completed training at the Russian Imperial Kronstadt Naval

Academy in 1786, and two years later, was fighting battles in the Baltic Sea as the empire struggled against Prussia and Sweden to control those waterways.

Together with an Estonian naval officer, Kruzenstern, Lysiansky organized the first Russian imperial expedition that sailed around the world. With two ships, the Neva and the Nadezhda, they set out in 1803.

As commander of the Neva, Lysiansky set the route of Kronstadt-Cape Horn-Hawaii-Alaska-Canton-Cape of Good Hope-Kronstadt. His numerous oceanographic and ethnographic findings, as well as the navigational charts he prepared, were first published in 1812, and appeared in English in 1914, in a book titled "Voyage Round the World on the Ship 'Neva' in 1803-1806."

Lysiansky died on March 6, 1837, in St. Petersburg. An island near the shore in the Sea of Okhotsk and a mountain on Sakhalin Island were named after him.

Source: "Lysiansky, Yurii," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 3 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A critical view of IMF's role

Dear Editor:

Frustration with the IMF and its increasingly political agenda is justified. After rushing to Congress and other patrons for supplemental appropriations to help fund the Indonesian bail-out last winter, the IMF suddenly unveiled \$11.2 billion in aid to Russia, with \$4.8 billion to be disbursed immediately. The World Bank will supplement this with another \$1.7 billion.

Over the past year, Ukraine struggled to meet 87 conditions imposed on it by the IMF. On June 15, at a meeting in Kyiv, economist Jeffrey Sachs, a Harvard expert on Eastern European macroeconomics, called for the IMF to adopt attainable goals for Ukraine and urged a softer position. The IMF withheld \$2.5 billion in year-old loan commitments and last month declined to release \$500 million to help the struggling nation get started with some reforms.

Ukraine obtained the support of the presidents of Poland and Lithuania, who were concerned about regional contagion if the struggling republic were to fail.

Now the IMF complains that its liquidity ratio is running short and it needs more money itself. The IMF's position of favoring more powerful national administrations seems related to its own interests in additional funding rather than its stated objective of helping needy nations. An assessment of its positions versus its interests is warranted before we agree to a future bail-out of the IMF itself.

Paul Thomas Rabchenuk
Marblehead, Mass.

Documentaries set record straight

Dear Editor:

A letter from Roman Sawycky published in The Ukrainian Weekly on July 5, complains about the Ukrainian film makers who have made movies over the past 15 years that dwell on tragedy. He wants them to produce quiet love stories with "warmth and brightness." His letter was prompted by an announcement of the showing of a documentary about the Stalinist terror. Mr. Sawycky reminds me of Walter Duranty of The New York Times who hid the Ukrainian famine, thinking that it was better to write warm love stories about Stalin rather report news of the widespread state-enforced starvation of millions.

Would Mr. Sawycky tell the Jews to forget about the Holocaust and the people of Tibet to give up their land? Would he tell the Irish to forget their famine and the Armenians and Cambodians not to remember their slaughters?

It is only by knowing our history, especially the sufferings of our forebears that we can fully understand who we are as a people. For centuries, but especially this century, the people of Ukraine have been oppressed and their sufferings have been hidden. We have been libeled right up to the present day by others via malicious and inaccurate portrayals.

If Mr. Sawycky wants love stories, there are many Hollywood productions such as "Titanic" that meet his needs. Maybe someday down the road, when Ukraine becomes a truly free and self-sustaining society, we can make warm movies. Unfortunately, for the present we as a people are bound to properly document our tragic history and set the

record straight. That is why our film makers, men and women of courage, must fully set out the conditions that caused so many of us to leave Ukraine to take refuge beyond its borders. Let us congratulate these Ukrainians for their terrific work and encourage them to produce many more historical documentaries.

Maria Wozniuk Connolly
Falmouth, Mass.

Re: transliteration and transcription

Dear Editor:

It is with considerable interest that I read Dr. S. Zmurkevych's letter (May 24) in which he recommends the Library of Congress (LoC) romanization system. He addresses a problem with which I had to deal in one form or another throughout my working life, and a few years ago brought me to a conference at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv.

The issue impinges on two related, but very different questions: transcription and transliteration. The former is an attempt to reproduce the sounds of one language in the alphabet of another. The latter replicates the letters of one alphabet with those of another – a very fine distinction but a very important one. For example, Russian moero might be transcribed in English as mayevo, but it is transliterated moego.

Being a librarian by training, it is hardly surprising that Dr. Zmurkevych suggests the widespread adoption of the LoC romanization system for Ukrainian. The librarians at that institution have developed an excellent device for transliterating Ukrainian, or for that matter any Cyrillic text into the Latin alphabet.

Unfortunately, to work adequately, the LoC system must use various diacritical marks to differentiate Cyrillic letters in Latin transliteration. These diacritical marks appear on a LoC card, and even on the screens of sophisticated electronic cataloguing systems, but do not appear on non-specialized typewriters, and require costly additional typefaces and subroutines on computers. As a result, most authors simply dispense with them.

In the majority of instances, this poses no great problem. Шевченко becomes Shevchenko, and Франко comes out Franko. But how are we to read the romanized name Izhyk – is it Іжик or Їжик? Is zhaha жара or згара? Many other examples could be cited. In the modified (that is, without diacritical marks) LoC romanization system for Ukrainian, the Latin i must stand for three letters: i, ї or й. Not very accurate.

Another agency of the U.S. government, the Board on Geographic Names, has come up with a more practical romanization system. It narrows the gap between transcription and transliteration somewhat by transliterating the letters є, й, ї, ю and я as ye, y, yi, yu and ya respectively. This system is also imperfect because y can stand for either и or й. Furthermore, it produces strange-looking spellings like Kyiv and Kolomyia. (But then, we don't seem to mind the spelling Omar Khayyam.) This system is used by librarians in Great Britain and even the New York Public Library.

As for me, I have chosen the Slavist system and try to work with it the best I can.

Andrij Homjatkevyc, D. Phil.
Edmonton

The writer is associate professor, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Sea gulls on the prairie

The last thing Lesia and I expected to see during our trip to Alberta was a sea gull.

While traveling through the spectacular Canadian Rockies we photographed a bear, an elk and dozens of mountain goats. But it was not until we stopped to gas-up on the prairies, in Rosewood, some 80 kilometers from Edmonton, that a sea gull came bouncing up to our car. "We're hundreds of miles from the ocean. What's he doing here?" I asked the attendant incredulously.

"Sea gulls came here years ago when the area was infested with grasshoppers. Today we've got few grasshoppers and many sea gulls." Amazing!

But then our entire trip to Alberta was amazing. We landed in Calgary (Canada's fastest growing city), rented a car and visited with Walter and Mary Bialobzyski, a couple we first met some 30 years ago at Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, Manitoba. After serving as a teacher and counselor in both Dauphin and Calgary for 38 years, Walter retired and embarked on a second career as an ordained deacon of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

On the way to Lake Louise the following day, we stopped at the Castle Mountain internment monument erected in memory of Ukrainian Canadians who were unjustly imprisoned as "enemy aliens" during World War I. Located just off the highway in an isolated corner of a huge forest, the monument had fresh flowers at its base.

After spending the night at Lake Louise and exploring the pristine beauty of this marvel of glacial meltwater, we headed for the Columbia Icefield and spent the night at a hotel across the road from the Athabasca glacier.

The next two days we were in and around Edmonton. We met Deacon Walter in Chipman, where he was conducting a panakhyda at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic cemetery for the Achtem (Achemichuk) family. Some 70 family members had come to Chipman to celebrate the arrival of their patriarch to Canada 99 years earlier. Many wore special commemorative T-shirts. The Chipman cemetery is also the final resting place of Wasyl Eleniak, Canada's first Ukrainian immigrant. Next to the cemetery is St. Mary's Church, constructed in the Byzantine-Ukrainian style; fronting the church one notices an imposing granite monument with the inscription: "In Commemoration of the Ukrainian Pioneers in Canada by Their Grateful Sons."

On our way to Vegreville to gawk at "the world's largest pysanka," we stopped in Mundare, home of Ss. Peter and Paul Monastery and the Basilian Fathers' Novitiate. We visited with the Rev. Bernard Basil Dribnenky, prominent liturgist and prolific writer. One of his books, "The Way It Is," is dedicated "to the Ukrainian Canadian pioneers who were faithful to their Church in handing down the Christian faith to us as their legacy." Across the road from the novitiate is a modern Ukrainian church and a magnificent museum dedicated to the Ukrainian priests/pioneers who brought Ukrainian spirituality to the prairies. Almost the entire museum houses pioneer artifacts with explanatory notes.

On our way back to Edmonton from Vegreville, we stopped at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, an outdoor museum also dedicated to Ukraine's immigrant pioneers. What a treasure this is! Using the living history approach, the village creates a "time warp" that enables the visitor to see and experience the everyday 1920s lifestyle of the Ukrainian settlements of east central

Alberta. Some 30 historic structures have been moved to this site to recreate life among Ukraine's pioneers, including St. Vladimir's Greek Orthodox Church from Vegreville, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church from Buczacz, Alberta, the John Demchuk Blacksmith Shop, a house built by Iwan and Maria Pylypow of Star, the house built by Mykhailo and Vaselina Hawreliak of Shandro, a grocery store once owned by Alexander Bockanesky in Luzan, a hardware store built in 1937 by Wasyl Knysh in Wostok, a Canadian National railway station, a lumber and paint store and a grain elevator.

Lesia and I visited the Pylypow House first, where we greeted by a young girl baking bread. She informed us in perfect Ukrainian that the "hospodar" had gone to Edmonton. All of our questions were answered from the perspective of the 1920s. She described her trip across the ocean and across Canada to Alberta.

Visiting the museum gift shop we picked up wonderful souvenirs, including a colorfully illustrated 125-page history of the famed Shumka Ukrainian Dancers of Edmonton. The volume begins with a color photograph of the dancers at the Lviv State Opera and Ballet theater, where they performed on August 20, 1990.

We attended liturgy at St. Josaphat's Cathedral on Sunday. Despite the summer heat, the church was almost full. One heard babies crying – a sure sign of parish health. Significantly, five babies were baptized during the liturgy and welcomed into the parish by all present. When we stop to consider that some Ukrainian parishes in the U.S. don't have one baptism in five years, five baptisms in one day is phenomenal.

Returning to Calgary we visited again with Walter and Mary, who took us to all of the Ukrainian churches. St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic Church is a huge, modern edifice designed by the famed Radoslav Zuk. We were shown around the Orthodox Church by one of the ladies who worked in the kitchen. A parishioner for many years, she proudly explained how the people came together to keep the church going. We get along with the Catholics, too, she said, a perception confirmed by Deacon Walter. When I asked her how the parishioners felt about Patriarch Filaret, her response was: "Who?"

So what is it about Alberta that makes Ukrainians there so different? If Winnipeg is on a downside, why does Edmonton appear to be holding its own? There are many factors: a relatively large Ukrainian population (there are some 80 Melnychuks in the Edmonton phone book), a greater sense of community, more similarities than differences among the people, and a refreshing naiveté regarding Ukrainian religious and national politics.

Finally, the focus seems to be different, both among the people who do the heavy lifting (the "grunts") and the scholars at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta. Their reverence for the contributions of Ukrainian pioneers is unrivaled. This focus on the Canadian past tends to connect the generations, generating mutual trust, respect, support and a sense of oneness that obviates the notion that Ukrainians are supposed to divide and be conquered.

But then what can you expect? Even sea gulls in Alberta don't know who they are.

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International Plast Jamboree '98 brings 700 to the center of the continent

(Continued from page 1)

by entire families and clans who volunteered or were volunteered to help. This writer visited the Plast building to interview volunteers and within minutes was part of the assembly line putting together individual packets (program, T-shirt, emblem pin) for the jamboree participants.

There was an atmosphere of camaraderie and humor among the parents, sisters, brothers, aunts and friends of the young Plastuny at the camps, as they joked about "quality control" of proper packing. In this fairly small Plast branch based in Winnipeg, the adult Plast members (seniory) who no longer have children in Plast are either committee chairpersons or members. Others are on stand-by for whatever help is needed, while some assist wherever needed in addition to their own responsibilities.

Financial support for such an enormous undertaking was crucial, because camp and jamboree fees paid by the participants do not cover the full costs. The Fund-Raising Committee, headed by Motria Skocen, obtained funding from the government of Canada, Department of Heritage; the province of Manitoba, Government Services, and Natural Resources; and the Manitoba Multicultural Grants Advisory Council. In addition, various Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian institutions, foundations, companies and businesses, as well as individuals, provided substantial support. All supporters and donors are listed in the jamboree program.

Communications a key component

The well-illustrated publication also includes the winning jamboree songs (by Iryna Hornyk, and by Olesia Chuchman to the poems of Lina Kostenko), the winning jamboree emblem (by Danylo Luciiv), and histories of Plast in Canada before and after 1948, as well as the official greetings from government, religious and other leaders. The editorial board of the program book was headed by Christina Semaniuk, with Sophia Kachor and Oksana Rozumna as members.

The Marketing and Communications Committee was co-chaired by Mmes. Semaniuk and Rozumna, with responsibility for media and government contacts, publications, press releases, and any and all other external contacts. The photocopier at the Plast building was constantly in use, to the point that on Sunday it blew the building's circuit-breakers.

Monica Saryj, a "yunachka" (that is, a Plast member between the age of 11 and 18) from Winnipeg, was hired under a



A group of jamboree participants are gathered before departure for their camp sites.

provincial grant to run the jamboree office. In addition to the 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. official hours of work since early summer, she volunteered many more hours per day to process and coordinate the hundreds of applications.

Because this registration included international participants, the processing was quite complicated, with medical forms, travel arrangements, parental permission forms and various insurance requirements to be coordinated. All the information was entered into the computer, and printouts on all participants were available at the airport, along with the arrival times of each group.

Miss Saryj also answered telephone and e-mail inquiries such as: Just where is Winnipeg? How big are the mosquitoes? What are J-cloths [disposable washcloths]? How cold is it in Manitoba and how many sweaters should one bring [temperatures have reached 30 degrees C]?

The Saryj family is one of the many Plast families participating 100 percent in the jamboree doings: Miss Saryj's brothers are at camp; her mother, Margareta, is coordinator of volunteers, and her father and grandmother helped in stamping envelopes. Miss Saryj says she has enjoyed her months of work, and will remember this experience as one where she spent more time each day at the Plast

building than at home.

This was the first Plast jamboree for which a website was used. Demyan Hyworon is the webmaster, and the first registered visitors to the website were the Ilnyckyj family from Singapore. This well-prepared website (<http://www.plast.mb.ca>) included all information on the jamboree, and had links to other Plast sites, as well as tourist and historical information on Winnipeg and Manitoba. By the day after the first Plast youths arrived, parents searching the website could see photos of their children leaving for their respective camps, or at the "monster" sleep-over at Red River College. Many complimentary messages were received about Plast's use of this innovative – and yet now so common – medium.

Back at the airport

The scene at the airport was fascinating, with rows, and rows, and rows of young people with full-gear backpacks headed for the exits towards waiting vans marked "YuMPZ '98" (in Ukrainian). The first people the Plastuny descending the escalators saw were volunteer parents and other Plast members in special T-shirts. A jamboree booth and a large sign in Ukrainian welcomed the arrivals.

Ms. Kachor heard two girls on the escalator noticing the sign and expressing

happiness that it was in Ukrainian and that it was for them. The organizing committee chairman said she took this as a good omen – that everything would continue going well.

The volunteer greeters made sure all baggage had arrived and was collected. Out of more than 600 arrivals, only four jamboree participants' backpacks did not arrive on time, and they did appear on subsequent flights. In the meantime, clothing and equipment had been collected to ensure that these four participants had the necessities until their packs arrived.

Outside the terminal, rows of vans driven by volunteers left as each was filled with passengers and baggage; the airport arrivals lasted all day. The Transportation Committee was headed by George Holowka – with probably every Ukrainian family van in the city in use.

But where to house them?

A major problem was how to house these hundreds of young people overnight after arrival and then have them together for departure to various camps in the early morning. Instead of billeting them in private homes or church halls all over the city, a "monster" sleep-

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The scene during registration at Red River College in Winnipeg.



Young Plastunky congregate after their arrival in Manitoba.

Ukraine's athletes win 10 medals at Goodwill Games

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukraine completed the 1998 Goodwill Games with 10 medals – one gold, five silver and four bronze – ending up tied with Australia for eighth place overall.

The final days of the games, which featured competition in summer sports plus figure skating, were marked by the success of Ukraine's athletes in ice dancing and swimming.

In ice dancing, the pair of Olena Hrushyna and Ruslan Honcharov remained firmly in third place after the short program on July 30. The short program counts for 30 percent of the final score, and the compulsory dance, in which the duo also placed third, for 20 percent.

In the long program, which makes up the remaining 50 percent of the total score, Hrushyna and Honcharov maintained their third-place slot and thus won the bronze medal. Russian ice dancers Anjelika Krylova/Oleh Ovsiannikov and Irina Lobacheva/Iliia Averbukh took home gold and silver, respectively.

In swimming, this year's Goodwill Games instituted a points system that turned an individual sport into a team sport. In individual events, teams earned five points for a first-place finish, three for second and one for third. Winners of relay races picked up seven points.

Individual accomplishments were hardly meaningless, however, as team members earned \$1,000 for the fastest time per event. If a world record had been broken the athlete would have received \$50,000.

In men's swimming, Ukraine's Denys Sylantiev, swimming for the World Team, which was undefeated in the competition, consistently won the 100-meter and 200-meter butterfly in races against the United States, Germany and Russia.

The World All-Stars, comprising swimmers from South Africa, Cuba, Italy, France, Brazil, Hungary, Canada and Ukraine, defeated Russia behind game records in the 100- and 200-meter butterfly by Mr. Sylantiev. As one commentator on WTBS noted, the Russians no doubt wished the Soviet Union had

<i>Ukraine's medalists at the 1998 Goodwill Games</i>		
Olena Vitrychenko	gold	rope, rhythmic gymnastics
Olena Vitrychenko	silver	all-around, rhythmic gymnastics
Olha Teslenko	silver	beam, gymnastics
Zhanna Pintusevych	silver	100 meters, track
Zhanna Pintusevych	silver	200 meters, track
Olena Zhupina/Svitlana Serbina	silver	10-meter synchronized platform diving
Valentyna Fediushina	bronze	shot put
Olena Vitrychenko	bronze	hoop, rhythmic gymnastics
Angela Balakhanova	bronze	pole vault
Olena Hrushyna/Ruslan Honcharov	bronze	figure skating, ice dance

not fallen apart, otherwise the Ukrainian swimmer "would have been a comrade rather than an opponent."

Mr. Sylantiev swam the 200 meters in 1:56.64 and the 100 in 53 second flats, setting two Goodwill Games records in the process. Against Germany he turned in even better times: 1:56.16 in the 200 and 52.78 in the 100.

As if that wasn't good enough, on July 31, in the final event of the dual meet, Mr. Sylantiev went on to beat his own record yet again in the 100 with a time of 52.52 against the U.S. swimmers. (He did not swim the 200 in that match-up.) His time was the fifth fastest ever recorded and beaten only by two other swimmers in the world: Australia's Michael Klim (the world record holder) and Russia's Denis Pankratov.

In other results during Goodwill Games, figure skater Yevhenii Pliuta finished in seventh, moving up one notch from eighth after he completed the long program on July 31. That event, of course, in case anyone missed the news, was won by American Todd Eldredge, with Aleksei Urmanov of Russia taking silver and his countryman Yevgeny Plushenko the bronze.

The Goodwill Games concluded on August 2.



Diver Olena Zhupina



Rhythmic gymnast Olena Vitrychenko



Gymnast Olha Teslenko



Sprinter Zhanna Pintusevych



Gymnast Roman Zozulia

International Plast...

(Continued from page 10)

over was organized at Red River College. The north and south gym floors were completely filled with backpacks and teenagers.

The registration committee, headed by Marta Hnatiw, was in the hallways between the two gyms, staffing tables labeled with the appropriate registration service. Some youngsters were hesitant to turn over their passports and airline tickets to the registration committee (parents had instructed them to keep them at all costs). But all documents were collected for safekeeping (better than having them float away from the canoe on a Manitoba lake or stream) and deposited in the vault of the Carpathia Credit Union.

One parent commented on how well-organized this phase was, and what a good feeling there was among the participants and visitors as they settled in and sought out old friends.

As for the campers themselves, they appeared to be adjusting well to their surroundings. By very early morning, the scouts were loading their gear and themselves on to buses headed for their respective camps throughout the province.

One of the seven camps, the biking camp was at Vermillion River Outfitters, just north of Riding Mountain National Park and close to Selo Ukraina, the site of Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin. These campers – all 180 of them

– marched with their banners in the festival parade through the town on Saturday morning of the festival.

They also attended two of the festival's concerts and especially enjoyed the Riding Kozaks and the Kubasonics, a band from Edmonton. The Kubasonics, led by Brian Cherwick, will be releasing an album ("with extra garlic" – which you can smell on the cassette).

The participants from outside the province of Manitoba can't seem to get over the flatness of the Canadian prairie (though the area near Dauphin is hilly). "There's too much sky here," said one youngster. Another asked a volunteer during the sleep-over, "Where am I? And where is Winnipeg?"

The Plastuny have much to look forward to in phase II of the International Plast Jamboree '98: the tour of Winnipeg (organized by Ostap and Tetyana Hawaleshka), Chinese Dragon Boat Races (organized by Lubomyr and Oksana Shulakewych, sponsored by Coca-Cola, and managed by Facility Marketing Group Inc.), the jubilee bonfire and much socializing, including a dance at Red River College.

Closing ceremonies are scheduled for Sunday morning August 9.

The Plast youths will leave Manitoba and Winnipeg with new and renewed friendships, and a new understanding of this part of the world.

In all likelihood, they will also know exactly where they were.

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Fault line appears...

(Continued from page 5)

distorted the perception, held by Ukrainians living in the Ukrainian SSR and the USSR, of the Ukrainian diaspora; deepened divisions between Ukrainians in the world; and sowed the seeds of distrust, misunderstanding and discord.

"At the same time, it is important to remember that, essentially, it was only through the Ukraina Society that a portion of the truth about Ukraine reached the diaspora during totalitarian times; that [through the Ukraina Society] contacts and individual friendships between honest artists of Ukraine and the Ukrainians of the world were established; that Ukrainian songs, Ukrainian literature, Ukrainian films, theater and paintings found their way abroad."

Mr. Lozynskyj decried the actions of what he called "a Toronto-based higher presidium," which he accused of governing the UWC like the Politburo had ruled the former USSR and ignoring presidium resolutions at will. He also rejected the Ukraina Society critique as insufficient. "It amounts to praise for the Ukraina Society," Mr. Lozynskyj said.

Mr. Sokolyk defended his decision to go to Kyiv for the UWCC meeting, saying that "it is better to be present when decisions are being taken, because they'll make decisions without us."

Mr. Sokolyk added, "We need to remember that there are over 20 million Ukrainians living outside Ukraine who really want [the UWCC]. We should think about them, too."

The Toronto-based activist also denied that any motion restricting the UWC delegation had been made, and claimed that the April 6 meeting's minutes had been altered.

President visits South America

The UWC president reported on his long-awaited trip to the Ukrainian communities in Brazil and Argentina, taken from April 16 to May 5.

Dr. Cipywnyk spoke of meetings with officials of the Ukrainian Central Representation in Brazil, such as Yosyf Velgach, Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Efraim Kryvy, and a representative of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishop Yermiy in Curitiba, the provincial capital of Parana, as well as visits to "the interior," including the town of Prudentopolis and surrounding villages.

Dr. Cipywnyk also met with the Ukrainian consul general in Curitiba, Dr.

Vasyl Kyrychenko, and Vice-Consul Yurii Tatarchenko, who said cooperation with the local community is very strong. The Ukrainian diplomats said that a fund-raising effort had helped pay for a lease on the Consulate's premises and for its furnishings.

President Cipywnyk said he conveyed his surprise to the Brazilian community that Ukrainian community organizations in the country are capable of raising serious funds to support a diplomatic mission, and yet the umbrella organization pleads poverty when asked to pay \$500 in UWC dues.

Dr. Cipywnyk told The Weekly that many community members were equally surprised that their leadership was not fulfilling its financial commitments.

The UWC president called such dues "a good investment," given that it availed organizations of the expertise of such institutions as the WCCE and WCUS, which could address many of the educational and social issues faced by Ukrainians in South America.

This issue was a topic of concern at the Presidium meeting of June 5-6, as Auditing Committee members Tetiana Diachynska, Alex Neprel and Ostep Wynnycky reported that 82 member-organizations had not paid their dues, and about 30 to 40 would likely be barred from participating and/or voting during the seventh congress.

Continuing his report, Dr. Cipywnyk said that in Argentina he traveled to Buenos Aires, the capital, as well as Misiones and Apostoles, principal areas of Ukrainian settlement, and Posadas, a tea-growing and processing center that has served as a source of wealth for Ukrainian Argentinians.

In the capital, meetings with officials of the Argentinian-Ukrainian Central Representation and the Vidrodzhennia (Rebirth) Society revealed that thousands of immigrants from Ukraine have arrived in the country seeking employment, but that recent downturns in the Argentinian economy have plunged them into hardship.

The question of how to assist these people is proving a thorny one, Dr. Cipywnyk reported, as many of the recent arrivals shun the local community unless they are stricken with financial need. This has led to divisions among Ukrainian Argentinians, some of whom consider it a local problem and others who believe that bodies such as the UWC should intercede.

Report compiled with the assistance of Dr. Marta Dyczok.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Promoted to rank of brigadier general

WILMINGTON, Del. – After 30 years in the military, Col. Donald W. Hrynyshyn retired on July 17, at which time he was promoted to rank of brigadier general.

In addition to his tribute, Brig. Gen. Donald W. Hrynyshyn was awarded the Legion of Merit medal (among other awards) at his retirement ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Hrynyshyn began his military career as a second lieutenant in June 1968 upon receiving his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Delaware. Upon entering the United States Army, he completed the Signal Officer Basic Course. His first assignment was with the Office of the Secretary, Southeastern Signal School, Fort Gordon, Ga., as special projects officer.

In 1969, he was reassigned overseas as communications officer in the Republic of Korea and promoted to first lieutenant. He was cited for achieving the highest possible standards required of service with a nuclear-capable unit and awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

In 1971 he enlisted in the Delaware Army National Guard and served with distinction in several positions in the State Headquarters. He served as administrative officer, recruiting officer, operations and training officer, and command information officer. During this time he was promoted to major.

He served on a tour with the National Guard Bureau in the Mobilization Readiness Branch in 1975. He received the Minuteman Award for his accurate and timely processing of readiness reports.

In 1984 he was reassigned to the Troop Command Headquarters as the adjutant. He later served as the executive officer and was promoted to lieutenant colonel. His management and administrative skills earned him citations for the improved effectiveness, efficiency and readiness of the command, in addition to commendable inspection evaluations and completion of many highly successful projects.

In 1990 Brig. Gen. Hrynyshyn was reassigned to the State Area Command as deputy director of personnel. Through his continued display of leadership, he was promoted to colonel in 1993. He served as director of personnel and later as deputy



Brig. Gen. Donald W. Hrynyshyn

STARC commander until his retirement.

In addition to his initial entry schooling, Brig. Gen. Hrynyshyn completed the Selective Service System Officer Basic Course and the Signal Officer Advanced Course, and graduated from the United States Army Command and General Staff College. He also completed the National Defense University's National Security Management Course and the Reserve Components National Security Course.

Brig. Gen. Hrynyshyn's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with one service star, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with three hourglasses, the Army Service Ribbon, the National Guard Bureau Recruiter Badge, the Delaware Conspicuous Service Cross, the Delaware Medal for Military Merit (3rd award), the Delaware National Defense Service Ribbon and the Delaware Physical Fitness Ribbon (6th award).

Brig. Gen. Hrynyshyn is the son of the Very Rev. and Mrs. Paul Hrynyshyn. The Very Rev. Hrynyshyn is pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Wilmington, Del. he is also the president of Ukrainian National Association Branch 247.

Named submarine's commanding officer

by Joseph Hawryluk

KEYPORT, Wash. – Cmdr. Stephen L. Szyszka of the U.S. Navy, has assumed the duties of commanding officer of the USS Henry M. Jackson as of June 26.

Prior to his command, Cmdr. Szyszka completed a two-year assignment as the U.S. naval attaché to Ukraine (1995-1997), as executive officer of the USS Henry M. Jackson (1993-1994), as executive officer of the USS Henry L. Stimson (1992-1993) and as combat systems officer on the USS Dallas (1988-1991).

A 1978 graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo, Cmdr. Szyszka received his commission as an ensign in 1979, and following initial nuclear propulsion training and a year as an instructor at the Navy Nuclear Power School in Orlando, served his first sea tour on the USS Philadelphia (1982-1986) as chemistry/radiological assistant, main propulsion assistant and weapons officer.

He then attended the Defense Intelligence College, where he was awarded a master's degree in strategic intelligence in 1988 and served as an intern on the Joint Staff in the Deputy Directorate for International Negotiations.

The USS Henry M. Jackson is the fifth of the Navy's 18 nuclear-powered Ohio-class submarines. The Ohio class, at 560 feet long and almost 19,000 tons displacement, is the largest submarine ever built by the United States and is capable of speeds in excess of 20 knots and depths in excess of 800 feet. The crew consists of approximately 157 officers and enlisted sailors. Each of these ships is capable of carrying up to 24 submarine-launched bal-



Cmdr. Stephen L. Szyszka

listic missiles (SLBMs).

Cmdr. Szyszka's decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, three Navy Commendation Medals, three Navy Achievement Medals, the Navy Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, three Battle Efficiency "E" Ribbons, the National Defense Service Medal, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Cmdr. Szyszka, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., is married to the former Julia M. Fedyk of Philadelphia and lives in Keyport, Wash., with their daughter, Larissa, 5, and son, Stephen, 4. He is active in Plast and its Orden Khrestostniv fraternity and a member of UNA Branch 360.

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It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals, only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

News items sent without a copy of the new release will not be published.

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Nina Strokata...

(Continued from page 5)

and Odesa, including Vyacheslav Chornovil, Vasyl Stus and Mykola Plakhotniuk. Soon thereafter members of that committee were themselves arrested.

In 1974 the First International Congress of the International Association of Microbiological Sciences held in Tokyo circulated a petition in Dr. Strokata's defense that was signed by 500 microbiologists from 30 countries. That petition was forwarded to Leonid Brezhnev, then first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Dr. Strokata was released from labor camp in December 1975, but was forbidden to return to Ukraine. She settled in the town of Tarussa, Russia.

On November 9, 1976, she became a founding member of the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote Implementation of the Helsinki Accords, formed in Kyiv in 1976 after the 1975 signing of the Helsinki pact, which incorporated the so-called "Third Basket" of agreements on human rights.

On February 6, 1977, Dr. Strokata's apartment was searched in connection with the arrests of members of the Ukrainian and

Moscow Helsinki monitoring groups.

Dr. Strokata and Mr. Karavansky were forced to emigrate on November 30, 1979. Once in the United States both continued their human rights activism by joining the External Representation of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group.

Dr. Strokata was particularly active, writing numerous articles about Ukrainian and other rights activists to various publications – among them The Ukrainian Weekly. She collaborated with The Weekly on special issues dedicated to the Ukrainian Helsinki Group.

Dr. Strokata also lectured widely about the Ukrainian human rights movement. One of her last public appearances was in December 1996 at New York commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group's founding. In June of this year she spoke at the annual Ukrainian conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Strokata is survived by her husband. A panakhyda (requiem service) was offered at St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Baltimore on Friday, August 7. Burial was to take place the next day at noon at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

New contribution...

(Continued from page 6)

patriots, actively involved in the social and political life of Western Ukraine. Like many Ukrainians of their generation, they experienced great hardships during the pre-war and war years in Eastern Europe, as well as during their early settlement in Canada.

Born in Uhor in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, Michael Kowalsky graduated from a classical studies high school in Stanyславiv and obtained his law degree from Lviv University. He managed a co-operative dairy and bank, and was active in cultural and Ukrainian nationalist organizations. He was arrested several times by the Polish authorities and imprisoned for three years.

When the Soviets occupied western Ukraine, Mr. Kowalsky fled to Poland and then to Austria, immigrating to Toronto in 1949. Like most post-war immigrants, he worked hard at whatever manual work he could find. Eventually, he accumulated enough capital to set up his own business.

Daria Kowalsky (nee Mutsak) was born in Burshtyn in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. After completing a private women's teachers' college run by the Basilian Sisters in Stanyславiv, she taught and took an active role in cultural and community organizations.

The Kowalskys' gift will play an invaluable role in the revival of Ukrainian culture and scholarship in eastern Ukraine, and will directly benefit hundreds of Ukrainian scholars, artists and students.

Ambassador Shcherbak...

(Continued from page 5)

ship," Ambassador Shcherbak said. "We are convinced that the creation of this commission and its work over the past year – we can now pass judgment on it – has demonstrated its viability and its becoming an effective mechanism for addressing various issues and solving problems that come up between our two countries."

Looking back at the joint statement released after the first session of the Kuchma-Gore Commission meeting in Washington last year, Dr. Shcherbak said that some 80 percent of the action items contained in that document were actually carried out over the past year.

More reforms are still needed, especially in Ukraine's energy sector, where some changes had been made, and in agriculture, "which experienced fewer positive changes," he said.

Ambassador Shcherbak admitted that getting the necessary reform packages through the Verkhovna Rada will not be easy, but he expects progress nonetheless.

"I feel that we are now at a very important juncture as the Verkhovna Rada moves from political declarations to down-to-earth action. And there has always been a difference – even in the United States it's one thing to make promises and another to lead a country," he stressed.

"No doubt there will more arguments and large problems with the passage of legislation, simply because they deal with the core concerns of ideology of those who were elected to the Verkhovna Rada and now also deal with their financial and economic interests," he said, adding, however, that "there is a kind of positive approach

there, a realization that we have to proceed with reforms."

He also pointed out that over the past few months President Kuchma's reform decrees went into effect "without any serious opposition by the Verkhovna Rada."

Responding to a question about Ukrainian military planes allegedly being used for transporting arms from Bulgaria to Eritrea, where one of the planes crashed, killing its crew, Ambassador Shcherbak said the Ukrainian government does not have an official statement on the subject and that the accident is still being investigated as to its cause as well as its cargo.

Asked about press reports in Ukraine about the possibility of his appointment as deputy minister of defense, he said, "I know about these rumors as well as their origins." There were, indeed, discussions about the need for a deputy for political affairs position at the ministry, which also mentioned him as a potential candidate, Dr. Shcherbak said. "But I was not a party in those discussions," he added.

Ambassador Shcherbak said he had broached the issue during his briefing of President Kuchma on the eve of the Kuchma-Gore Commission meeting. The president, however, did not pursue the issue.

"I think he simply was not ready and possibly had not made up his mind yet. I don't know," Ambassador Shcherbak said. And without the president's action, he could not nor did he want to confer about this with the minister of defense while in Kyiv.

"So the issue is postponed, and I don't know how it will be decided, but the president understands well that I am completing my fourth year here. So we'll await his decision," he said. "My future is completely in the hands of the president."

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Orthodox League holds convention in Bound Brook

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – The 51st annual convention of the Ukrainian Orthodox League was held here at the diocesan center on July 15-19 with delegates and guests housed at the Marriott Hotel in Somerset. Business sessions and social events were held at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church's Cultural Center.

The convention was hosted by the National Executive Board; the Clifton and Maplewood chapters of New Jersey; the Northampton and Philadelphia chapters of Pennsylvania; and the Johnson City chapter from New York. Emil Skocypec, UOL auditor and Consistory treasurer, served as convention chairman.

The 51st convention was graced by the presence of three hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.: Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishop Antony and Archbishop Vsevolod.

The Rev. Anthony Ugolnick, Kresge Professor of Humanities and Ethics at Franklin and Marshall College, was the convention keynote speaker, and his topic was "Orthodox in North America: What is Our Role?"

Daily religious services included molebens, liturgy and vespers, with a hierarchical liturgy in St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle Memorial Church concelebrated on Sunday by Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishops Antony and Vsevolod, and seven members of the clergy, together with deacons, sub-deacons and altar servers.

Social events included Hospitality Night, Jersey Shore, Bake-Off Cultural



Participants of the 1998 convention of the Ukrainian Orthodox League.

Contest, a Dinner Mystery Theater, a Grand Banquet and ball, and a farewell brunch on Sunday. Tours were also scheduled for the Fisher House, museum, cemetery and book store, all located on the Consistory grounds.

A highlight of the convention was Education Day, featuring workshops on pysanky, religious instruction, youth ministry, bead-making, a town hall meeting, and a session devoted to the St. Sophia Seminary.

Many scholarships were announced at the banquet, and a check in the amount of \$33,100 for the Youth Ministry Program was presented to Metropolitan Constantine by Dr. Stephen Sivulich, fund drive chair. The Rev. John Harvey,

rector of St. Sophia Seminary, received a check in the amount of \$5,000 for the seminary scholarship program from Dr. Paul Szwez, chairman of the Metropolitan John Scholarship Committee.

Elected to office for 1999 in the Senior UOL were: president – Helen Greenleaf, Novelty, Ohio; first vice-president – Dr. Sivulich, Carnegie, Pa.; second vice-president – Dr. Victoria Malick, Washington; recording secretary – Ann Moroz, Lindenwold, N.J.; corresponding secretary – Linda Winters, Northampton Pa.; financial secretary – Matka Maria Norton, Newington, Conn.; treasurer – Catherine Bailly, New Britain, Conn.; Auditor – Nickolay Shapoval, Lincoln, Neb.

Archimandrite Father Andriy

Partykevich, of Boston was appointed spiritual advisor to the senior league, and the Rev. Myron Oryhon of Johnson City, N.Y., was appointed the junior league's spiritual advisor.

Elected to office in the Junior UOL were: president – Laryssa Sadoway, Boston; vice-president – Diane Platosz, New Britain, Conn.; recording/corresponding secretary – Jessica Burgan, Clifton, N.J.; financial secretary – Larissa Burlij, Parma, Ohio; treasurer – A.J. Nary, Boston.

The 1999 Convention of the Ukrainian Orthodox League will be held in Hartford, Conn., and hosted by the St. Mary Chapter of New Britain with Stefan Norton and Michelle Bailly as co-chairs.

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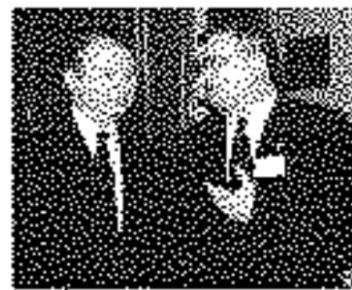
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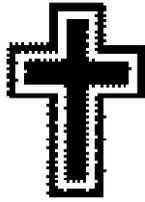
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Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events. The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted. **MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.**



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- братанка — ІВАНА САМІЛУ з родиною

Вічна йому пам'ять.

Ps & Bs conference...

(Continued from page 6)

grams will be distributed, will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 10. The conference will begin at 9 a.m. The Sunday program will begin with a brunch at 10:30 a.m. In order to pre-register, fax a request for a registration form along with your name and address to: (609) 683-3628 or write to: UAPBA-N.Y. and N.J., P.O. Box 1054, New York, NY 10013.

The Ramada Inn, the site of the conference, has set aside rooms for conference participants at \$60 per room. This block of rooms will be held until September 26. Make reservations directly with the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 130 Route 10 W., East Hanover, NJ 07936; tel., (973) 386-5622. The Ramada will provide shuttle service from Newark Airport upon request, as well as transportation to Sunday liturgy at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany.

Joseph Rodio...

(Continued from page 7)

ipant at Pittsburgh UNA District Committee meetings, served on the UNA's 33rd Convention Committee and was a delegate to that convention.

Michael Komichak, director of the "Ukrainian Radio Program" stated: "Joe Rodio was proud of his Ukrainian heritage and he was a generous supporter of my 'Ukrainian Radio Program.' He enjoyed listening to Ukrainian music and would record my programs to supplement his collection. Mr. Rodio also attended Ukrainian concerts and Ukrainian civic gatherings in and around the campus of the University of Pittsburgh."

Mr. Rodio worked as the Ambridge borough secretary for 31 years and then for the Ambridge Water Authority for 17 years. During his tenure as borough secretary he effectively used his expertise in city planning and governmental operations to improve the borough and he once secured a five-year community development grant worth \$5 million. In the borough he was known as "Mr. Ambridge."

The July 14 issue of the Beaver County Times reported: "If you walked by the old municipal building at night and saw a light burning, you could be sure Mr. Rodio was hard at work, working on the borough's financial books to a Ukrainian melody." He was also described in the article, written by

former Ambridge Council President Roy Stubbins, "as being 110 percent Ukrainian."

Mr. Rodio served in the Pacific as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He earned a bachelor's degree from Kent State University and a master's degree from Duquesne University. He was head basketball coach at St. Veronica's High School in Ambridge and was involved in the formation of the Ss. Peter and Paul basketball program. He later coached the UNA Branch 161 team for the Ukrainian Youth League of North America. His teams went on to win nine consecutive junior and six consecutive senior championships.

He was a member of the executive board of the Ambridge Sports Hall of Fame and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1991 for his achievements in sports, coaching, promotion and community affairs.

Mr. Rodio was born April 29, 1921, in Ambridge, Pa., a son of the late Michael and Elena Kostyk Rodio. He is survived by two sisters and a brother-in-law, Mary Cybak, and Helen and Don R. Ostrowski, eight nephews and three nieces, and a life-long dearest friend, Mary Matanic. He was preceded in death by four brothers, John, Michael, Theodore and William Rodio.

A funeral liturgy was conducted at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church on July 15 by the pastor, the Rev. Michael Polosky, and interment took place at the church cemetery.

To The Weekly Contributors:

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.
- ✦ All materials must be typed (or legibly hand-printed) and double-spaced.
- ✦ 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 (i.e. no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- ✦ 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.

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The Great Famine...

(Continued from page 8)

were not believed when they wrote their stories. In 1933, at the height of the Famine, the United States recognized the Soviet Union, one of the great historical paradoxes.

The official 1939 census, now acknowledged to have been doctored by officials to make the situation look much better than it was, indicated that Ukraine's population had fallen by over 3 million since 1926. That of Russia had grown by 16 million in the same period. The shortfall, based on growth in the 1920s, is around 7 million to 10 million people. Historians today do not know how many died in the Ukrainian Famine. The leading demographer on the subject has verified that the minimum figure is 4 million, but the maximum is not known. During wartime discussions, Stalin informed Churchill almost casually that 10 million peasants had died during the upheavals of the 1930s.

All we know about the Famine has emerged in the past 15 years, the vast majority of it in the past decade (Robert Conquest and James Mace are two of the leading Western historians who have helped to uncover many facts). Historians in Ukraine have elevated the Famine to the prime position of contemporary research: as one of the greatest tragedies in the history of Ukraine. Its import, however, has been diminished because of a truly astonishing series of events in 20th century Ukraine: the purges that embraced the elimination of cultural leaders of Ukraine as well as its political elite; World War II, in which over 5 million Ukrainians lost their lives in the Red Army and perhaps 1 million in other armies, partisan and insurgent groups; deportations and purges from western Ukraine in the 1940s; the wholesale crackdown on Ukrainian dissidents in the 1960s; and more recently the sudden and dramatic explosion at the

Chornobyl nuclear plant north of Kyiv that has contaminated about 15 percent of Ukrainian land.

The Famine is the most distant of these events, the most carefully concealed, and the most difficult for scholars to uncover, find reasons for, and assess the results from archival and fast-disappearing human sources. But one can put it simply: the Soviet regime in effect declared war on its own villages, emptied them of grain, allowed the population to starve to death, and then systematically concealed these events from the world.

Dr. Oleksandra Kopach...

(Continued from page 6)

School, a dinner was organized in honor of Dr. Kopach. More than 250 former students came to pay tribute to their former director and teacher. The establishment of the Dr. Oleksandra Kopach Scholarship Fund was announced that evening. The fund provides scholarships to students of the Ostroh Academy in Ukraine. Situated in the ancient town of Ostroh, Rivne Oblast, Ukraine and an affiliate of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, the Ostroh Academy has an enrolment of over 700 students from 22 oblasts of Ukraine. Next year it will graduate its first baccalaureates.

Scholarships from the fund have been already been awarded twice. In January 1997, 16 students of the Ostroh Academy received \$100 scholarships; in January 1998, 32 students of the academy received \$50 scholarships.

At Dr. Kopach's funeral, in lieu of flowers, colleagues and friends made donations to the scholarship fund, and a total of \$5,580 was collected. Those wishing to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund can send contributions to: Dr. Oleksandra Kopach Scholarship Fund, 505 Annette St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6P 1S1.



SUMMER PROGRAMS 1998

- Saturday, August 15**
 8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Soprano LUBA SCHYBCHYK
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by ZOLOTA BULAVA
 11:45 p.m. Crowning of "MISS SOYUZIVKA 1999"
- Sunday, August 16**
 UNWLA DAY
- Saturday, August 22**
 8:30 p.m. UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS
 CONCERT – SOYUZIVKA DANCE WORKSHOP RECITAL
 Director: ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEVSKY
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by BURYA
- Saturday, August 29**
 8:30 p.m. CONCERT – Violist HALYNA KOLESSA; Pianist OKSANA RAWLIUK PROTENIC
 10:00 p.m. DANCE – music provided by VIDLUNNIA

LABOR DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS
 CONCERTS, DANCES, EXHIBITS, TENNIS TOURNAMENT, SWIMMING COMPETITION
 (Details TBA)

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

the construction materials sector boosted production 12 percent. Production increased in 17 oblasts, the city of Kyiv and Crimea. (Eastern Economist)

P&G to expand production in Ukraine

KYIV — Procter & Gamble plans to expand its activity in Ukraine. In addition to modernizing its Tampax-plant at Boryspil, outside of Kyiv, it plans to open a new plant that will produce items it currently imports from other countries. Out of the 300 or so items P&G produces, 15 are currently sold in Ukraine. P&G has invested \$48 million (U.S.) in Ukraine in the last three years, paying \$25 million (U.S.) in taxes in the last two years. The company plans to increase its investment to \$230 million (U.S.) in the next five years. (Eastern Economist)

How many Ukrainians own computers?

KYIV — Of 10,000 people who responded to a questionnaire distributed by Kvazar Micro and Intel computers during their joint TekhnoShow '98 tour of 13 Ukrainian cities, 26 percent have a computer at home and 19 percent plan to buy one in 1998. The results also indicate that the most important factor in choosing a PC is the assembly quality (65 percent) and brand (31 percent). Forty-three percent of respondents agreed that it was better to purchase PCs containing licensed software. (Eastern Economist)

Talbott speaks before Baltic council

KYIV — U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said that everyone would benefit if Russia would not view the Baltic states as a "zone of its own interests" but as a "gateway" to a new Europe, BNS and Interfax reported. Mr. Talbott was speaking in Riga on July 8, where he attended the first meeting of the U.S.-Baltic Partnership Council, established earlier this year by the Baltic and U.S. presidents. That meeting yielded a communiqué providing for joint efforts to secure the Baltic states' accession to the World Trade Organization and to promote regional security cooperation that would also include Russia. Latvian Foreign Affairs Minister Valdis Birkavs noted that the council's first session was taking place at a "rather significant time," when the Latvian economy was under attack from Moscow. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Your insurance card, please ...

KYIV — The Cabinet of Ministers has ordered that border guards must check to see if Ukrainian citizens crossing the border in automobiles have insurance policies. The governmental press service explained that the regulation is the result of Ukraine's June 1997 entry into the international Green Card drivers' insurance system. The organization's rules state that, if Ukrainian drivers do not have insurance, damages in international accidents must be paid by Ukraine's insurance bureau. (Eastern Economist)

Israeli minister notes money laundering

KYIV — Israeli Internal Affairs Minister Avakham Kohhav said that a high volume of shadow capital has been transferred from CIS countries, including Ukraine, to Israel. Speaking at a joint press conference in Kyiv with his Ukrainian counterpart, Yuriy Kravchenko, he added that he is unsure about the exact volume of Ukrainian funds being transferred to Israel. Mr. Kohhav said that there are no relevant Israeli laws against money laundering and, as a result, former Ukrainian citizen Semen Yuta, who has received large amounts of money through fraud, now lives in Israel and has no legal problems because "he does not violate the law." Mr. Kravchenko said that because of an absence of necessary documents, it is impossible to prove the accusations against Mr. Yuta. (Eastern Economist)

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SUMMER CHRONICLE

ODUM sponsors third family camp



Some of the participants of ODUM's family camp on Lake Wapogasset in Wisconsin.

MINNEAPOLIS - For the third consecutive year, the Minneapolis branch of ODUM (Association of American Youth of Ukrainian Descent) hosted a family camp on an island site on Lake Wapogasset in Wisconsin.

70 miles east of Minneapolis-St. Paul, near Amery, Wisc., includes activities such as fishing, swimming, crafts, hiking, boating, sports, horseback riding, bonfires and more.

The 1998 camp program, held June 27-30, continues the ODUM-Minnesota camping tradition, which reigned for 17 years at Sibley State Park in Minnesota.

The ODUM organization of the U.S. and Canada offers bandura, family, counselors' and recreational camp programs in New York and London, Ontario.

The family camp site, approximately

Ukrainian festival held in Lehighton

LEHIGHTON, Pa. - Applause and laughter swelled from the shaded grove on a hot July 4 afternoon as a large audience rewarded a group of 83 serious performers, age 4 to 17, dressed in authentic Ukrainian costumes.

boys and girls, age 4 and 5, entertained the crowd with amazing jumps up and leaps sideways and running in circles in ways perhaps never before attempted in organized Ukrainian dancing.

All were waiting for the go-ahead signal from their leader, Paula Duda, to start the "graduation" performance of the weeklong Kazka Ukrainian dance camp.

After the performance, the children talked about the busy week that had passed so quickly and the daily practices under the watchful eyes of Ms. Duda, her brother, Michael, and his wife, Sandy.

This year the Kazka day-campers, children of Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian descent from the Eastern Pennsylvania region, were joined by the weeklong overnight campers, the Mriya dance ensemble from Long Island, N.Y., brought by Nadia Andrejko, Maria Szczerba and Jean Samilo.

As the dance camps were departing, new children were arriving for the Ukrainian Gold Cross camp. These new campers, under the leadership of Wolodymyra Kawka, Olya Bilynsky and Ulana Prociuk, were to spend up to four weeks in the Pocono Mountains.

The combined performance, after the singing of the Ukrainian and American national anthems, featured tall and beautiful girls dancing in precision the intricate steps of the Hutsulka, and handsome and strong boys, leaping high and squatting low, dancing the famous Hopak.

By the third week of August another group will be welcomed at the Ukrainian Homestead - the Burlaky Ukrainian Plast Mountain Bikers camp organized every year by Taras Kowch of Ohio.

But the little ones stole the show -

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Wednesday, July 8-Saturday, August 29

EASTON, Pa.: Watercolors by Marina Tsesarskaya can be seen at the Summer Art Festival, as part of a group showing hosted by The White Birch Gallery. The gallery hours are Wednesday - Saturday, noon-5 p.m., Friday until 6 p.m., and by appointment. Her work can also be viewed at the Mayana Gallery on Second Avenue in New York City.

Tuesday, August 11

NEW YORK: The Cheres Ensemble will perform at the Knitting Factory, 74 Leonard St., at 8 and 9:30 p.m., featuring Ukrainian mountain music, with fiddles, pipes, dulcimer and more. For information call the Knitting Factory, (212) 219-3055.

Thursday, August 13

WINNIPEG: The Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center (Oseredok), located at 184 Alexander Ave. E., is holding a lecture at 7 p.m. by Jars Balan, author of "Salt and Braided Bread" (1984) and "Yarmarok: Ukrainian Writing in Canada Since the Second World War" (1987). Mr. Balan will speak on the topic "Old World Forms, New World Settings: The First Ukrainian Plays on North American Themes." His lecture is sponsored by the department of German and Slavic studies, the University of Manitoba, the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences of Canada and the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center. For further information call Oseredok, (204) 942-0218.

Saturday, August 15

HUNTER, N.Y.: Thomas Hrynkiw, piano, Anton Miller, violin, and Nestor Cybriwsky, cello, will appear in concert at the Grazhda, located on Route 23A, in a program of works by Beethoven, Lalo and Kosenko. The concert will be held at 8 p.m. For more information call (518) 989-6479.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, August 22

SACRAMENTO, Calif.: "Ukrainian Fest '98" will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 2425 Sierra Blvd. at 3-10 p.m. Enjoy Ukrainian food, music, dancing, games and cultural exhibits. The special guest of this event will be the Mozaik Band from Toronto. Additional entertainment will be provided by George Kostyrko, accordionist; the Sonechko Children's Song and Dance Group; the Dzvinochok Singing Ensemble; Ola and Bandura Company; the Mriya Dancers and the El Dorado International Folk Dance Association. Admission is \$3 per person; children under 10, free. "Ukrainian Fest '98" is sponsored by St. Andrew the Apostle Ukrainian Catholic Parish. For further information call (916) 481-8545.

Sunday, August 23

HORSHAM, Pa.: The Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center, is sponsoring a festival commemorating the seventh anniversary of Ukraine's independence. Featured artists will be the Voloshky Dance Ensemble, Lvivian Music Ensemble, Fata Morgana Music Ensemble and Lesia Hrabova, soloist. Special attractions will include activities for children, arts and crafts, and food and refreshments. Admission is \$10; children under 13,

free. Tryzub is located at County Line and Lower State roads. For additional information call Ihor Chyzowych, president, (215) 886-8076 (home) or (215) 725-4430 (work).

COLUMBIA, Md.: The Washington Group, in cooperation with SelfReliance Baltimore Federal Credit Union, is presenting the seventh annual Ukrainian Independence Day picnic to be held at Centennial Park East, Pavilion H, Route 108 and U.S. Route 29. Food and refreshments will be available. Enjoy walking and cycling by the lake or playing volleyball, soccer or tennis. Bring your favorite picnic dish. There will be a \$1 entry donation, and music will be provided by the Uke DJ "Daria." For information about the fourth annual Washington Metro Area Tennis Tournament, call Orest Polisczuk, (410) 465-3698. For picnic details contact Anya Silecky, (703) 526-0232; Sophia Caryk, (301) 854-2062; or Michael Sidlak, (410) 561-1312.

Monday, August 24

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The Community Committee to Commemorate the Seventh Anniversary of the Independence of Ukraine invites all Ukrainians to join in the commemoration at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, at 6:30 p.m. The program will include a keynote address by Prof. Ivan Holowinsky, and performances

by the Prometheus male choir, the Voloshky dance ensemble, the International Ballet and soloists of the Lviv Opera, Lesia Hrabova and Andrij Savka. Admission is \$10 per person; children up to age 12, free. For more information call Metodij Boretsky, (215) 233-4528.

Monday, August 24

MAPLEWOOD, N.J.: Mayor Gerald Ryan will read and sign a proclamation commemorating the seventh anniversary of Ukraine's independence at the Maplewood Town Hall, Valley Street at 9 a.m., after which flag-raising ceremonies will be held outdoors. The public is invited to participate in this annual event. For further information call Andrew Keybida, (973) 762-2827.

Saturday, August 29

WILDWOOD, N.J.: The Passaic SUM Druzhynnyky are sponsoring a Pre-Labor Day Bash (zabava) at the VFW Hall, 35009 Spicer and Pacific, at 10 p.m. - 3 a.m., with music by Na Zdorovia from Yonkers, N.Y. Admission is \$10. You must be 18 to enter and 21 to drink. Proper I.D. is required.

ONGOING

September

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute Library, located at 620 Spadina Ave., is hosting an exhibit on Akcja Wisla, the deportation of 200,000 Ukrainians within Poland in 1947. Various books and materials will be on display. For further information contact the institute, (416) 923-1227.

September 14 - May 10, 1999

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute, located at 620 Spadina Ave., is offering Ukrainian language classes for the general public interested in Ukrainian as a second language. Various levels will be offered. The fee is \$175 for 30 sessions. For information or to register call (416) 923-3318.

PLEASE NOTE PREVIEW REQUIREMENTS:

• To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information written in Preview format (date, place, type of event, admission, sponsor, etc., in the English language, providing full names of persons and/or organizations mentioned, and listing a contact person for additional information). Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published. Please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours.

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At Soyuzivka: August 14-16

KERHONKSON, N.Y. - Lyric soprano Liuba Shchibchik of Kyiv headlines the Saturday evening concert program at Soyuzivka on August 15. Ms. Shchibchik previously performed at Soyuzivka during this year's Fathers' Day concert sponsored by the Ukrainian National Association.

The Ukrainian-born singer made her American opera debut with the New Rochelle Opera in May. She is a graduate of the Lviv Conservatory of Music in both vocal performance and the domra, a Ukrainian stringed instrument similar to the mandolin. She has won awards for her piano performances of contemporary music. In addition to operatic works she performs Ukrainian art and folk songs, and contemporary works by Gershwin, Kern and other internationally renowned composers.

In Ukraine she was affiliated with the Opera Studio, the Trembita choir, the National Children's Opera Theater and the National Woodwind Ensemble. In 1996 she received the national Hulak-Artemovsky Award for her contributions to the community as well as her musical accomplishments.

In addition to her performing roles, Ms. Shchibchik is a vocal therapist with the otolaryngology department at the National Research Institute in Kyiv and has published several studies in medical journals.

The highlight of the August 15 program at Soyuzivka is the annual ceremony during which a Miss Soyuzivka is crowned for the coming year. The name of Miss Soyuzivka 1999 will be announced just before midnight (11:45 p.m.), according to the Soyuzivka program) during the dance that evening to the music of the Zolota Bulava band.

Miss Soyuzivka hopefuls may register

to compete for the title by contacting Sonia Semanyshyn at the resort's office in the Main House (until 10 p.m.) or Stefanie Hawryluk at the Soyuzivka gift shop.

The weekend gets off to an early and rambunctious start on Friday evening, August 14, with a performance by Midnight Bigus beginning at 11 p.m. in the Trembita Lounge.

It winds down on Sunday, August 16, with the annual Soyuzivka Day, organized by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

For information about Soyuzivka accommodations, entertainment programs, art exhibits and other special features, call (914) 626-5641.



Liuba Shchibchik, soprano.