

**INSIDE:**

- "Discover Ukraine" expedition ready to set sail — page 6.
- Mother's Day greetings — pages 18-21.
- UKELODEON — pages 22-23.

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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

## Kuchma listed among top 10 enemies of the press worldwide

by Judith Leynse

NEW YORK — The leaders of Yugoslavia, China, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia head the list of the Top 10 Enemies of the Press, named by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). President Leonid Kuchma is No. 6 on the list. Singled out for their unrelenting and often brutal suppression of the press as documented by CPJ, they were identified on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, May 3.

Yugoslavia's president, Slobodan

Milosevic, was named the press's worst enemy. Also cited were Jiang Zemin of China, Fidel Castro of Cuba, Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and Zine Abdine Ben Ali of Tunisia. Others in CPJ's annual ranking are: Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, Alberto K. Fujimori of Peru and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

"These 10 individuals have been disastrous for independent journalism," said

(Continued on page 4)

## Patriarch Filaret attacked by faithful of rival Church during visit to Mariupol

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Patriarch Filaret, leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Kyiv Patriarchate, barely escaped serious injury on April 30 when dozens of supporters of the rival Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Moscow Patriarchate physically attacked him and his faithful in the eastern Ukrainian city of Mariupol.

The Ukrainian religious leader said at a press conference after his return from the Donetsk region that the violent incident and

other organized protests during his visit only exacerbated the religious divisions in Ukraine, which are being directed by an Orthodox confession whose leadership receives its orders from Russia.

Patriarch Filaret was on a three-day tour of UOC-KP parishes of the Donetsk Oblast, from which he hails, and was about to bless the construction site of a new church when some 80 attackers, who had arrived by bus, fell upon him, several bishops and clergy, and a dozen or so of the faithful gathered to take part in the ceremony.

Patriarch Filaret received blows on the back of his head, was doused with water and hit with a bucket before he managed to escape to the safety of the vehicle in which he was traveling.

Four other hierarchs and clergy, as well as an older woman who had attempted to protect a large cross that had been erected on the site, which the attackers tore down, were injured. No one was hospitalized.

The UOC-KP leader claimed at a press conference on May 5 in Kyiv that the attack was organized by an archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church—Moscow Patriarchate, which is controlled by the Russian Orthodox Church. Patriarch Filaret alleged that the attack was a concerted effort by both the UOC-MP and the Donetsk Oblast Administration to stifle UOC-KP activity in the region.

Sviatoslav Rechynsky, press secretary of the UOC-MP, while admitting that UOC-MP faithful had taken part in the attack said that it is not accurate to suggest that it was an incident organized by the UOC-MP. "The picketing was organized by Orthodox brotherhoods, who are part of our Church but are not controlled by us. Archbishop Ilarion [of the UOC-MP, who was at the scene] was merely trying to convince the demonstrators to move back and remain calm," said Mr. Rechynsky.

He called the incident unfortunate, but a result of the very politicized nature of the religious situation in Donetsk and expressed his regret that "an older person," such as Patriarch Filaret had been attacked.

Although the Kyiv Patriarchate has only 50 parishes in Donetsk compared to the 200 or so parishes held by the Moscow Patriarchate, the Filaret church lately has been making inroads into the region.

Patriarch Filaret accused the Slavic Party of Russia, the Russian Community Party and the Moscow Patriarchate of working in tandem to stifle the growth of Ukrainian self-identity in the region.

"A nest of anti-state, anti-Ukrainian forces has formed on the Donetsk lands," said Patriarch Filaret. "It is not a large group, but its actions are very dangerous to Ukraine," he added.

Patriarch Filaret blamed Donetsk Oblast Administration leaders for giving tacit approval for harassment of the UOC-KP

(Continued on page 6)

## Hope and Homes helps orphans in Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

VYSHHOROD, Ukraine — Liudmyla and Viktor Bostan never considered that their small three-room apartment, which contained barely enough living space for them and their only child, should stop them from adopting a homeless orphan or two.

They wanted to help these needy children, and somehow things would work out.

In the course of three years the couple took in two brothers at first, and then a sister and a brother, and finally one more child. The kids, all of whom had come from families destroyed by drugs, alcohol or death, needed constant care and much love.

Viktor, 40, a pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and Liudmyla, 36, on leave from her job at a printing house, had become increasingly concerned, however, because their combined monthly income of less than \$50 (U.S.) a month barely paid for the children's food and milk. Sometimes they could not stretch the money to the end of the month.

They had discussed seriously a move to his folks' village in the Chernivtsi Oblast of Ukraine, where the kids would have more room and basic food was more affordable.

They realized that even with the move they would not be able to give the kids everything, but that they could afford to offer them the essentials. But they never swayed from their belief that they had done the right thing in adopting the five children.

"They would have a roof over their heads, and someone would be there to hug them and pat them on the back," said Mr. Bostan, in explaining why he and his wife had decided to adopt, even with their miserly incomes.

Lack of space, however, remained a serious problem. Then, what they can only describe as a miracle occurred.

The Bostans never expected that on a

March morning in 1998 a stranger would knock on their door in Vyshhorod and then offer to build them a new home and change their lives.

But there stood Bohdan Rymarenko, international coordinator for Hope and Homes for Children, a non-profit, charitable organization headquartered in Salisbury, England, that works to better the plight of orphans around the world. He explained that the Bostans had been chosen as one of the organization's first projects in Ukraine.

"It was God's will. Such a gift — things like that don't just happen," said Mrs. Bostan, as she sat on a couch in the sparsely decorated second-floor living room of her new home just outside of Kyiv.

A formal interview with Mr. Rymarenko and with agency workers of Ukraine's Council on Family and Youth, associated with the ministry of the same name, followed the initial meeting. In August 1998 construction began on their new home, which was completed in November.

By December the Bostan family had settled into a five-bedroom, two-story brick structure with a basement and garage located on the fringes of Vyshhorod, meters from the Kyiv city limit. The home was built for about \$25,000, the upper limit of what Hope and Homes for Children provides for the construction of each dwelling. In this case the funding was augmented with money from the local government administration.

Hope and Homes for Children also has provided the Bostans with new furniture, a stove and a washing machine. A refrigerator is expected by the summer.

### Homes instead of orphanages

Mr. Rymarenko had arrived in Ukraine in 1996 to develop a pilot project to build family-type homes for orphans. The idea was based on the notion held by Hope and Homes for Children that private homes, and not orphanages, provide a better environment for child development, a concept

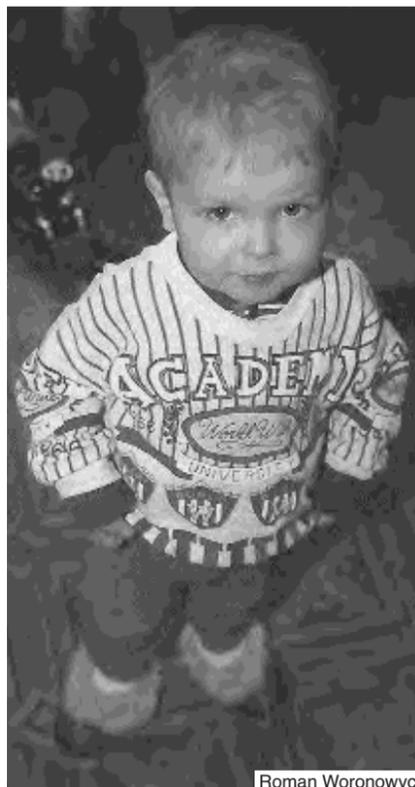
widely accepted in Europe and the U.S., which has done away with orphanages during the last 50 years.

In Ukraine, in orphanages, children are grouped by age, which splits up siblings. They have limited access to the outside world because most basic facilities, such as a school, playground and cafeteria, are located on the premises.

The average cost of raising a child is more expensive in a government institution, about \$75 a month per child, and, the children don't get their most basic needs fulfilled anyway.

"It doesn't make sense economically," said Mr. Rymarenko. "You also have the difficulty of the child not experiencing love."

(Continued on page 3)



Bohdan, one of the children adopted by the Bostans of Vyshhorod.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

## World Bank predicts rough year ahead for East European states

by Robert Lyle  
RFE/RL Newsline

WASHINGTON – The World Bank's top official dealing with Russia and the other transition states in Central and Eastern Europe paints a sobering, even daunting, picture of what many in the region will face over the next year or so.

Johannes Linn, the bank's vice-president for Europe and Central Asia, says the region faces a protracted crisis of economic, social and, most recently, security problems, especially over the next 12 months.

Speaking to reporters in Washington on April 25, before the start of the week's annual meetings of the bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Mr. Linn said Russia and Ukraine especially face serious economic difficulties.

"We continue to expect a decline in output and an uncertain political outlook due to elections that are coming up this year and next year," he said. "The social situation in these countries is fragile since incomes are continuing to decline and social support systems are continuing to weaken. Poverty is on the rise, in Russia, for example, in our estimate, almost 20 percent of the population is in extreme poverty. And we, of course, also see a situation where structural and social reforms are incomplete and proceeding only very slowly and with limited political support," he added.

Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic are the good news, he said, noting that these countries remain relatively stable and unaffected by the ongoing

Robert Lyle is a Washington-based, senior correspondent for RFE/RL.

Russian financial crisis because of early reforms and strong policies.

But for most former Soviet countries, the impact of that crisis has been severe and will be felt for a long time to come, according to Mr. Linn. The global economy won't make the real difference among these nations, he says, it depends on their own policies and their proximity to Russia.

Asked about the lessons learned from the Asian and Russian financial crises, Mr. Linn said there are many, including the basics of strong domestic reforms. One lesson that was part of Russia's collapse last summer was its strong defense of currency exchange rates. A major part of the IMF's last loan drawing for Russia was eaten up in the central bank's attempt to defend the exchange rate of the ruble. Mr. Linn says it is clear now this can lead to severe crises: "Ukraine is a good example where in fact a rather sensible management of getting away entirely from a fixed exchange rate in fact prevented the kind of meltdown we see in Russia."

"The weakness of banking systems and supervision, linking this, of course, also with the exposure of short-term debts, in appropriate foreign exchange positions – again Russia being a good example – is another important lesson that we are drawing for much more work and attention has to be given."

Another significant lesson, according to Mr. Linn, is the danger of a weak social safety net. Very weak social protection systems are unable to deal with the fallout of severe economic crisis, he argued, noting that the case of Russia was particularly bad.

(Continued on page 4)

## Conference examines banking sector's health

Eastern Economist

YALTA, Ukraine – "CIS countries' banking systems are at least 20 years behind those of such countries as Greece and Portugal, and far further behind Germany and Austria," said Istvan Lengyel, secretary-general of Banking Association for Central and Eastern Europe.

He spoke at the seventh annual Interbank Conference held here on April 26-29. The conclave attracted 330 top managers of Ukrainian, Russian, Belarusian, Baltic and several Western banks.

The Russian financial crisis was central to their discussions. For Russia, the most obvious change is that some of the smaller banks have grown into major players. "They were simply not involved in GKO's [Russian treasury bills on which the government defaulted last August]," said Viacheslav Zaharov, executive vice-president of the Russian Banking Association. "Now many enterprises are switching their accounts to them [from big banks]," he added. Some of the smaller banks are actively raising capital and could soon grow into new giants, Mr. Zaharov predicted. Meanwhile, many of the less fortunate will soon go out of existence.

Out of the 1,473 banks in Russia on the eve of the crisis, 440 are no longer functioning. Banks that were biggest prior to the crisis are now in most trouble. According to World Bank research, of the 18 biggest Russian banks, only three have sufficient capital. According

to Mr. Zaharov, Russian banks have lost 60 billion rubles (\$10 billion U.S.) at the pre-crisis exchange rate, about half their capital. In order to rebuild the system, approximately 75 billion rubles (\$3 billion U.S.) are needed.

All this has made foreign investors look more closely at other CIS countries whose economies have suddenly started to look more healthy than Russia's. "More of our clients have switched their interest from Russia to Ukraine and Kazakstan, because the [banking] system in Russia has become very discredited," commented Richard Hainsworth, director of the Moscow office of Thomson Bankwatch, a banking rating agency.

Ukrainian banks are mismanaged, claimed Borys Krasnianskyi, a partner at the Kyiv office of PriceWaterhouseCoopers. "Only a few banks have clear strategies," he said.

Oleksander Dubilet, the head of board of directors of Dnipropetrovsk-based Privatbank, was bleak in his summary: the Ukrainian banking system looks to be in better shape than its northern neighbor's primarily because "it was simply not mature enough to make the mistakes the Russians made."

Meanwhile, the Baltic banks are looking to the north and west. In Latvia, for instance, only 16 percent of banking capital belongs to totally domestic banks. Most of the foreign banks that have become owners of domestic banking institutions are from Sweden, Finland, and Germany – Latvia's biggest trade partners.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### 200,000 mark May 1 in Ukraine

KYIV – A total of some 200,000 people nationwide took part in Workers' Day rallies and demonstrations on May 1, primarily in eastern Ukraine (100,000 in Donetsk Oblast) and Crimea, Ukrainian Television reported. In a 4,000-strong demonstration in Kyiv, Communists carried flags of the former USSR and Ukrainian SSR, as well as portraits of Joseph Stalin, and called on President Leonid Kuchma to step down. "The authorities are leaving our children with no future whatsoever," Communist leader Petro Symonenko told the rally. The Associated Press quoted Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko as saying that "the fight for the good of the people must determine the outcome of [presidential] elections." Ukrainian Television reported that at the rally Mr. Tkachenko "hinted for the first time" at his willingness to run in the presidential elections. Meanwhile, in another part of the capital, Yuriy Kostenko's Rukh Party gathered at Sofiiska Ploscha for anti-communist demonstrations. Rukh I, led by Hennadii Udovenko, did not participate. (RFE/RL Newsline, Eastern Economist)

### Kuchma's relations with Rada questioned

KYIV – Commenting on President Leonid Kuchma's condemnation of the Verkhovna Rada as incompetent, First Vice Chairman Adam Martyniuk said on April 30 that he must stop turning the Parliament into an enemy. He said the problem was not the Rada's incompetence, but that laws were not carried out. Rukh leader Hennadii Udovenko said that he thinks the president is acting correctly in continuing to issue economic decrees. "Parliament is effectively paralyzed, with deputies discussing political questions instead of working," he added. (Eastern Economist)

### Cabinet raises payments for utilities

KYIV – The government has increased tariffs for public utilities by an average of 20 to 30 percent in "most Ukrainian regions," Ukrainian Television reported on May 1. The same resolution canceled all subsidies for public utilities, except those to housing. Lifting the parliamentary ban on increasing public utilities tariffs is one of the International Monetary Fund's requirements for resuming its cooperation with Ukraine. An IMF mission is currently in Kyiv to discuss boosting financial aid to the country. President Leonid Kuchma's aide Valerii Lytvynskyi said last week that Ukraine is requesting a new \$300 million loan from the fund and will also ask it to "double or even triple" the monthly install-

ments of the resumed \$2.2 billion loan. Those installments currently average \$70 million, the Associated Press reported on April 30. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### OSCE set to close Crimea office

SYMFEROPOL – The OSCE office in Crimea is expected to be closed as the term of its activities expired on April 30. The office dealt primarily with issues of minorities and the Tatar citizenship problem. Ukrainian officials claimed that since all the problems the office was dealing with have been resolved, there is no need to keep the office open. Keeping it open gives the impression there are difficulties, according to one official. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe will continue to work in Ukraine on other programs. (Eastern Economist)

### Peace Corps volunteers sworn in

KYIV – A new group of 34 U.S. Peace Corps volunteers had their swearing-in ceremony on April 21 in Kyiv. The new group will work in various parts of Ukraine for the next two years in educational institutions, business support centers, city administrations and NGOs. They will join another 175 Peace Corps volunteers currently working in Ukraine. Since 1992 more than 600 volunteers have been working in Ukraine, where the Peace Corps has its second largest program. (Eastern Economist)

### Kuchma confident of election victory

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said in Khmelnytskyi on April 29 that he is convinced he will win the presidential elections on October 31, Ukrainian Television reported. He added that his main rival is the economic situation in Ukraine, but added that he knows what measures to take. According to the president, Ukraine's economic troubles are due to the fact that the country "has not renounced Communist ideology." Mr. Kuchma said Ukraine's power structure, determined by the Constitution, is ineffectual and should be changed "with the help of the people." President Kuchma also criticized the Verkhovna Rada for its inefficiency, saying that lawmakers lack the "political will to take resolute steps" and continue to "battle with the executive." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Banks protest disclosing customer data

KYIV – Along with eight business organizations and trade unions, the Association of Ukrainian Banks has issued a statement protesting a new regulation

(Continued on page 16)

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## Hope and Homes...

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Rymarenko made contact and developed a dialogue with the Ministry of Family and Youth (the ministry has recently been downgraded to a state committee), a government body that had been established only several years ago, and as such has been free of much of the ingrained bureaucratic mindset that hinders the effectiveness of other ministries.

At the urging of then Minister of Family and Youth Valentyna Dovzhenko, Hope and Homes for Children agreed to work with the Council on Family and Youth and to develop four initial projects in the Kyiv region: an addition to the already large house owned by a family in Brovary that had been taking in children for years; a home for a family in Obukhiv, Kyiv Oblast; a project in Bila Tserkva; and the Bostan's home in Vyshhorod, located just north of Kyiv.

The concept of family-type homes for orphans is not new to Ukraine. Since 1988, when Ukrainian law was changed to allow for individual care of orphans, some 70 such homes have been built. The family in Brovary, for whom Hope and Homes for Children built a \$3,000 addition, is on its third generation of children.

However, lack of government funding had curtailed the further development of such programs.

### Hope and Homes steps in

That's where Hope and Homes for Children, which originally came to Ukraine to help Chernobyl victims, has stepped in to help.

In addition to the four already completed projects, which will house almost 40 orphans, the organization has agreed recently with the Symferopol city administration to build three homes in the Crimean city by the end of the summer. It plans to build three more homes on a yearly basis in Crimea for the next three years. In addition, plans are being laid for the Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts, as well.

Mr. Rymarenko's organization, which has a database of some 7,000 financial supporters, primarily in the United Kingdom, has sufficient financing for Ukraine to build five other homes in the next year.

To provide much-needed medical and other support for the orphans, Hope and Homes for Children is working with the European Children's Trust. The trust will organize the needed family support groups and medical and psychological aid.

However, with nearly 16,000 children in 89 government orphanages, according to 1998 statistics of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Rymarenko and his organization have much work ahead of them if they plan to transform the current system.

Mr. Rymarenko, who is of Ukrainian heritage, grew up in New York City and now lives in Spain, has no illusions that the work will be easy. Nor does he expect his England-based organization to do it alone.

He said he is quite satisfied with the support given by the State Committee on Family and Youth and the local government administrations that have been involved thus far. "We have confidence in our partners here," said Mr. Rymarenko.

Candidates for new large homes are identified by field offices of the state committee, who are then interviewed by its officials and Mr. Rymarenko. After a family is approved, the municipal or village administration is asked to donate land and whatever construction materials are available. The rest needed to construct a house is supplied by Hope and Homes for Children.

The State Committee on Family and Youth provides a minimal salary equal to a teacher's monthly pay to the foster parents, most of whom, unlike the Bostans, do not adopt the children, primarily because once a child is adopted the parents no longer are eligible to receive the government subsidy.

The state committee also subsidizes food and clothing for the children. But the subsidies are never a sure bet in a country whose economic situation is precarious at best.

"Whether they get the subsidies is another matter," explained Mr. Rymarenko.

In addition, the organization encourages the families to develop garden plots and provides small livestock, where possible.

The foster parents face more than a shortage of cash. Many of the kids they take in have been psychologically and physically abused.

"These are difficult children. This is not an easy situation," explained Mr. Rymarenko. "When you take a child from an orphanage it takes a good year before the child adapts. For the first four months the child may hoard and protect his food. He talks little. Many need psychological help."

### Shattered families

In the case of the Bostans, all five of their adopted children came from shattered families.

Maksym, the first child they chose, who will soon be 4 years old, didn't sit or stand at 14 months. His brother, Vladyslav, didn't walk, even though he was nearly 2 1/2 years old. Vladyslav also couldn't feed himself.

"He only knew of tea and bread," explained Mrs. Bostan.

After the two brothers had adapted to their new environment and with their development approaching that of other kids their age, the Bostans decided to take in another pair.

This time they chose a brother and sister whose parents had been shot to death in their presence. Pavlyk was 3 1/2 years old at the time; his sister, Daryna, was a year younger.

"They didn't speak due to the shock. Neither would smile. They would wake up in the middle of the night screaming. Daryna, in particular, was prone to hysteria," Mrs. Bostan said.

The last child, Bohdan, was taken from his drug-addicted mother after birth and had to go through days of drug withdrawal.

But after a year living in a secure family environment with lots of hugs and kisses, the nightmares and the agony have subsided. The five children have come out of their psychological shells, play with their other brothers and sisters, laugh and, of course, argue.

The Bostans admit that they have gone through crisis periods during which they seriously questioned their decisions to adopt. "At first it was difficult. We had to teach ourselves. We didn't have psychologists to help," said Mr. Bostan. "With the first children, there were moments when we were ready to give up."

Mrs. Bostan said that today they do not regret their decision, which she said was made after a family meeting three years ago involving the couple and their 17-year-old daughter, Maya. "We had a desire to do something good in our lives," explained Mrs. Bostan.

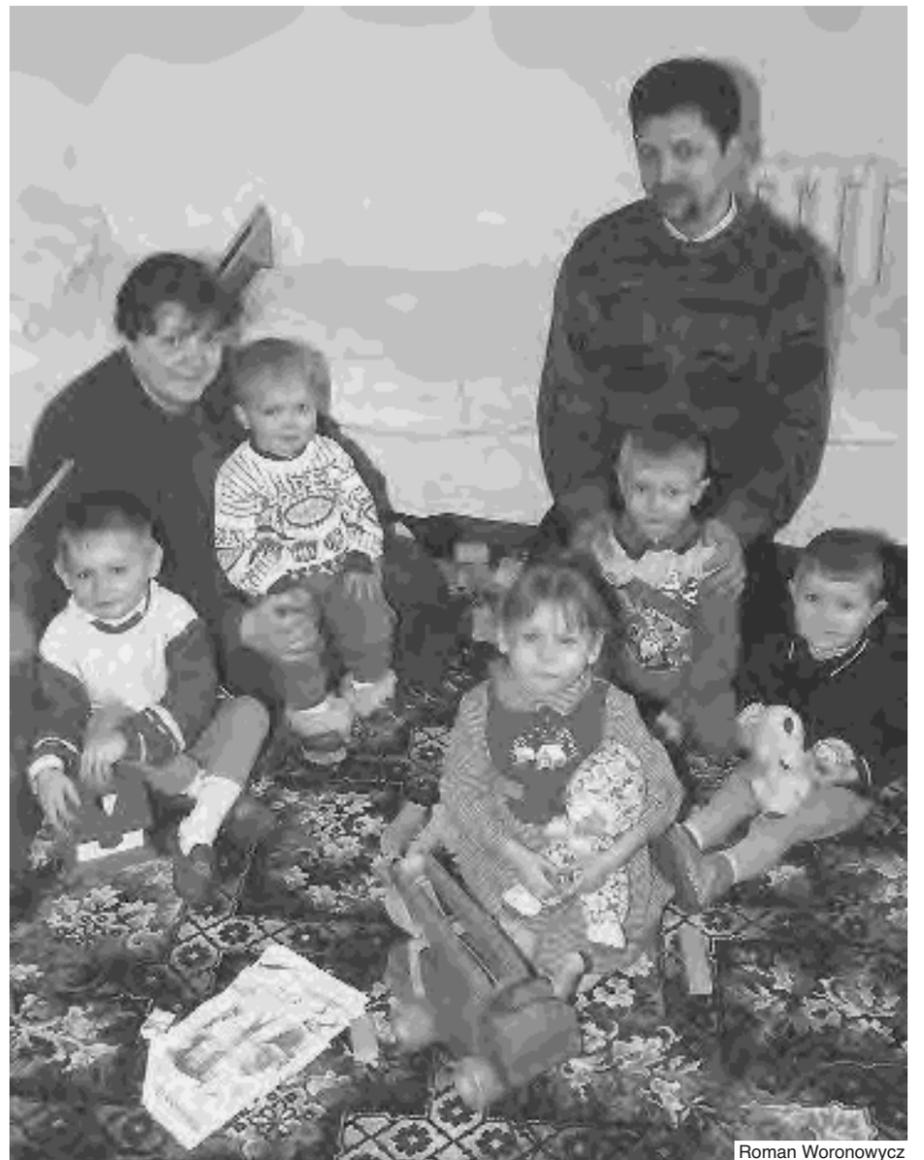
Although many of the Bostan's neighbors at first believed that Liudmyla and Viktor were opportunists, and had taken the children in knowing that this was a sure way to get a large and comfortable home built for themselves, Mr. Rymarenko explained that all the families were chosen at least in part because they had already shown that they were willing to provide homes for orphans even in difficult circumstances.

"The families that we have gotten involved with did not realize that someone might build them a large house in the future," said Mr. Rymarenko. "They got into it for the right reason."

### "A blessed thing"

Today, the Bostans neighbors agree that the work that Viktor and Liudmyla are doing is special.

"They are doing a blessed thing. They are truly good people," said Oksana Anischuk as she walked along a crumbling



Roman Woronowycz

**Liudmyla and Viktor Bostan with their family: (from left) Pavlyk, Bohdan, Daryna, Vladyslav and Maksym.**

asphalt road in this dreary town.

Mrs. Bostan told of a recent encounter with an old man on the street, who recognized them and bowed his head before them. "He started crying," explained Mrs. Bostan. "He told us that he, too, was an orphan once and that he understood the hope that a private home held out."

Mr. Rymarenko maintains that one of the unique aspects of the work of Hope and Homes for Children is its ability to direct 80 percent of its donor money toward individual projects, which is done by maintaining a minimal administrative structure.

In addition to Ukraine, the organization is developing projects in the Sudan and in Romania and is continuing its presence in Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Albania, Serbia and Croatia.

The orphan aid organization was started by Col. Mark Cook, who was a commander of the British contingent of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Croatia during the Serbian-Croatian war. He led an effort, supported by local vil-

lagers, to rebuild an orphanage destroyed by bombing during the war that had housed 60 children. Deeply affected by the plight of the children, he left the military and in 1994 began Hope and Homes for Children with his wife.

Initially, their work involved simply giving aid to orphans and orphanages, but that has changed as they have shifted their efforts to moving children into private homes. The work they have begun in Ukraine is a new horizon for them. "Ukraine is the vanguard," explained Mr. Rymarenko.

Because donor money is always in short supply, Mr. Rymarenko says he is looking for support from Ukrainian diaspora organizations, to become sponsors of individual homes for Ukrainian families who have taken in orphans. Mr. Rymarenko emphasized that all money goes directly from Hope and Homes for Children to the needy families. For more information, call Mr. Rymarenko in Spain at (34) (629) 359-349 or fax him at (34) (93) 310-07-27.



**The house built for the Bostans in Vyshhorod, just outside of Kyiv.**

## Kuchma denies being 'enemy of the press'

RFE/RL Newswire

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma's press secretary Oleksander Martynenko said on May 5 that the Ukrainian president may file suit against the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) for calling him an "enemy of the press."

In addition, he said President Kuchma intends to send a letter to the

CPJ refuting the "inaccurate information" on the basis of which he was included on the organization's list of the 10 biggest oppressors of the press.

According to Mr. Martynenko, the Verkhovna Rada, not the president, is responsible for tax policies in Ukraine, therefore, Mr. Kuchma cannot be accused of using those policies as "instruments of his hostility toward journalists."

## Kuchma listed...

(Continued from page 1)

Ann K. Cooper, CPJ's executive director. "A free press informs, but their regimes have knowingly acted to suppress information through countless violations against journalists, including censorship, imprisonment, physical attack and even murder."

The list of 1999 Enemies of the Press follows.

1. Yugoslavia's President Slobodan Milosevic: Suppression of the press through intimidation, assault, crippling fines and license denials – all codified in a draconian media law imposed in October – is a prime weapon in Mr. Milosevic's arsenal of control. Intensified with the onset of the NATO bombardment, Mr. Milosevic's repression of all independent media has quelled every opposition voice, imperiled journalists' lives and filled the airwaves with hate speech.

2. China's President Jiang Zemin: The confluence in 1999 of the 10th anniversary of the government-ordered massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic led Mr. Jiang to renew Beijing's hard-line attitudes toward the press. He presided over worsening conditions for politically independent journalists in the last year as the Communist Party's propaganda department shut down several newspapers, magazines and book publishing houses, and threatened many others for challenging party orthodoxy. Jailing of journalists continues, and, in an ominous development, an Internet entrepreneur was imprisoned for providing e-mail addresses to a dissident online magazine.

3. Cuba's President Fidel Castro: A crackdown by Mr. Castro on independent press eroded any hope for improvement generated by the visit of Pope John Paul II last year. Mr. Castro represses independent journalists to the point of extinction, forcing them to flee the country to avoid detention and arrest seemingly for even thinking about covering a trial of dissidents or a public demonstration that would reflect unfavorably on his complete control. Since January, at least 28 independent journalists were detained and one was sentenced to four years' imprisonment, bringing the number of jailed journalists to four. A new press law criminalizes free speech and imposes harsh sentences on anyone deemed guilty of serving U.S. interests against Cuba, which precludes any contact with foreign media.

4. Democratic Republic of Congo's Laurent Kabila: Expectations that Mr. Kabila would bring greater freedom to the country formerly known as Zaire vanished once he seized power and unleashed an unremitting barrage of attacks on the press. No journalist is immune from Mr. Kabila's intolerance for opposing views. Using the threat of a rebel takeover to justify his actions, he has created a reign of terror for scores of journalists through his penchant for blaming his military failures on the independent press. Since his takeover, more than 70 journalists have been detained without charge, imprisoned, attacked or harassed.

5. Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi: Retaining his title as Africa's leading jailer of journalists – there were 12 in prison at the end of 1998, and another 20 incarcerated during the year – Mr. Meles repeatedly employs his technique of decimating the press by arresting and imprisoning any independent journalist, often without charge. His tactics, encoded in a press law that provides broad means for silencing the media, drive independent-minded journalists

from the profession, and from the country. Those persevering in their craft suffer dire consequences.

6. Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma: Using tax and libel laws as instruments of his hostility to journalists, Mr. Kuchma runs roughshod over any expression of opposition. His tacit acceptance of violence against the press has encouraged bombings of newspaper offices, assaults on reporters and editors, and a general climate of fear and self-censorship. His tax policies force print and broadcast outlets without foreign support to seek financial aid from businesses and politicians who then extort favorable publicity. Crushing fines forced three newspapers to shut down in recent months.

7. Tunisia's President Zine Abdine Ben Ali: The climate of fear created by a decade of rule by this dictator who masks his actions with a veneer of purported human rights achievement has transformed what was once a respectable press into one of the most restricted in the Arab world. Tunisian journalists who dare to veer from a path of strict self-censorship face swift reprisal in the form of dismissal from jobs, severing of phone and fax lines, restrictions on travel and intimidation by state agents. Mr. Ben Ali brooks no dissent in his self-styled police state, banning foreign publications and blocking access to websites – including CPJ's – offering information critical of the country's dismal rights record.

8. Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad: Like a master puppeteer, Mr. Mahathir pulls the strings of the major media, mostly owned or controlled by his ruling coalition, to perpetuate his power. Strict licensing requirements are in force, self-censorship by journalists of news deemed negative or derogatory is rewarded, and foreign press are closely monitored and frequently harassed. Despite journalists' valiant attempts at free expression through the Internet and efforts by opposition newspapers to report on public outrage over the imprisonment of Anwar Ibrahim, his reform-minded former deputy, Mr. Mahathir continues to manage the flow of mainstream domestic news coverage.

9. Peru's President Alberto K. Fujimori: A systematic state-run campaign to discredit Peru's independent press bears the stamp of Mr. Fujimori's "infotatorship." His intelligence arm has engaged in assassination plans, death threats, wiretapping, surveillance and smear tactics to harass and imperil journalists, often forcing or ordering them into exile. Investigative reporters looking into government corruption and collusion between drug traffickers and the military have been hit with charges of espionage, treason and terrorism invoked to discredit and deter their work.

10. Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak: A siege of jailings under the provisions of the Mubarak-approved press law and the censorship and closure of newspapers marked a sharp deterioration in the climate for press freedom in his one-man 18-year rule. In 1998 CPJ documented the first cases of journalists imprisoned in Egypt for libel, including two for reporting on profiteering by the family of a government official. Dozens more face imprisonment on pending libel charges. Government censorship of publications registered abroad elicited this endorsement from Mr. Mubarak: "Any newspaper published from outside Egypt can be banned if it does not abide by Egyptian social values and seeks to stir up sectarian rift."

The Committee to Protect Journalists is an independent, non-profit organization that works to safeguard press freedom around the world. Its annual survey, "Attacks on the Press in 1998," is available at <http://www.cpj.org/>.

## CCRF launches its 22nd and 23rd humanitarian relief airlifts to Ukraine

SHORT HILLS, N.J. – In its latest effort to reduce infant mortality in regions affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF) launched its 22nd and 23rd humanitarian airlifts. The first relief mission arrived in Kyiv on April 28 and the second airlift was scheduled to arrive in Lviv on May 5. Both airlifts were coordinated by the U.S. Department of State under the program "Operation Provide Hope."

The airlifts delivered over 31 tons of medical aid valued at more than \$1.2 million.

Included in the airlift is a Ford ambulance donated by the Rotary District of Fishkill, N.Y., neonatal intensive care equipment, including incubators, ventilators, infant warmers and monitors with all accessories, ultrasounds and a variety of medications.

The aid is designated for hospitals in Lutsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava, Lviv, Donetsk, Mukachiv and other cities in Ukraine.

The ambulance will be used primarily to transport newborn infants with life-threatening respiratory conditions from remote villages in eastern Volyn to the provincial capital of Lutsk. The eastern areas of the Volyn Oblast were especially hard-hit by radiation from Chernobyl.

The airlift coincides with the 13th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster that released enormous amounts of radiation over a vast region of Europe during a three-month period beginning April 26, 1986, resulting in a wide range

of medical problems among the affected population.

"This airlift will help to give Ukrainian doctors some of the critical tools they need to combat infant mortality," said Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, president of CCRF and chief of surgery at Union Hospital in New Jersey. Dr. Matkiwsky cited the success of the fund's first neonatal partnership in Dnipropetrovsk. Within the first year of receiving training and technology from the CCRF, the staff at Dnipropetrovsk City Children's Hospital No. 3 reduced the hospital's infant mortality rate by almost half, while increasing the number of patients.

In addition to the delivery of neonatal equipment, the CCRF was to hold a training conference on April 27 on neonatal intensive care, featuring advanced workshops by experts from Fisher & Paykel, Bear and other manufacturers of intensive care equipment, for specialists from eight cities where the CCRF has established long-term hospital partnerships.

To help prevent birth complications and strengthen maternal and children's health, the CCRF has distributed thousands of copies of prenatal handbooks and prenatal vitamins to mothers in several regions. Recently, CCRF Kyiv staff secured more than \$100,000 worth of children's vitamins from Bristol Myers Squibb to accompany the airlift.

For further information about this airlift and CCRF's medical mission, call (203) 407-0261 or (973) 376-5140. The CCRF website can be accessed at <http://childrenofchernobyl.org/>

## World Bank predicts...

(Continued from page 2)

"We had difficulty in engaging the Russians through 1996 in an active dialogue on social reforms," he noted, "and still have difficulty in Ukraine today. Earlier attention to social system reforms of social systems and then more significant action also would have helped in crisis response."

Mr. Linn pointed out that Russia has still not dealt adequately with its social safety net and the deepening crisis only makes clearer that Russia cannot afford further postponement of reform. He said that in a recent study of the social system in Russia, the bank predicted that the worst of the crisis is still ahead in the coming 12 months. Next winter will be the hardest time, said Mr. Linn, far worse than this year.

The bank projects that real personal incomes in Russia will fall an average of 13 percent through 1999, with the extreme poverty rate rising to more than 18 percent of the population, while social expenditures by the government will fall by 15 percent.

More broadly for the region, Mr. Linn said the major lesson from the crisis has been the necessity of a political consensus on reforms. He compared the examples of Bulgaria and Romania:

"Bulgaria has now in fact recovered from a severe financial crisis only two years ago because in fact it has pursued a consistent and comprehensive reform and stabilization process based on a reasonably clear and sustainable political consensus between the president, the government, parliament, and wide segments in the population. Romania, by contrast, has had considerable difficulties that one can trace back to the lack of political consensus and difficulty of forming a clear political underpinning for reform and stabilization."

"Now we're hopeful that in looking forward, Romania can find a more consensus-oriented reform process, and indeed Romania is one of the pilot countries for the comprehensive development framework where we will focus very much with the leadership and under the leadership of the president, on trying to build this broader consensus," he said.

## Roth resolution addresses NATO summit's agenda

WASHINGTON - Sen. William V. Roth Jr. (R-Del.) joined several Senate colleagues in a resolution addressing the agenda of NATO's 50th anniversary summit, which took place April 28.

The resolution, which honors the 50th anniversary of the alliance, strongly reaffirms the commitment of the United States to NATO and supports the process of NATO enlarge-

ment. It also calls upon the European allies to further develop their armed forces to facilitate better trans-Atlantic burden sharing and urges NATO leaders to initiate a comprehensive review of the credentials of those European states that have applied for NATO membership.

In a floor statement, Sen. Roth, who chairs the Senate NATO Observer Group, made the following points.

- Calling them a "poison pill for the alliance," the senator criticized proposals that would require NATO to attain a United Nations mandate for out-of-area operations.

- The senator urged the European allies to dedicate the resources necessary to "rapidly deploy forces over long distances, sustain operations for extended periods of time and operate jointly with the United States in high intensity conflicts."

- On NATO enlargement, the senator said it must be "a continuous, not a conclusive, process." Toward that end, he called upon NATO to invite Slovenia, and any other qualified NATO European applicant to accession negotiations.

- The senator stated that NATO cannot simply reiterate longstanding promises; it must yield a process." He outlined the benefits that NATO would accrue by initiating a comprehensive and transparent review of the candidates of those European countries seeking alliance membership.

The resolution was introduced by Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.). Cosponsors include Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), Sens. DeWine (R-Ohio), Hagel (R-Neb.), Lieberman (D-Conn.) and Voinovich (R-Ohio).

## Lautenberg meets with Kuchma

WASHINGTON - Sen. Frank Lautenberg met on April 23 with President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine to discuss issues related to Ukraine's reform efforts, the country's relationship with the United States and Kyiv's role in European security structures, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

President Kuchma thanked Sen. Lautenberg (D-N.J.) for his recent support of Ukraine's certification, which affirmed progress in economic reforms and resolution of business disputes with American companies, thus allowing continued U.S. aid to Ukraine.

"I assured President Kuchma of my strong support for Ukraine's political and economic reforms and urged him to continue efforts at strengthening democracy and a market economy,"

said Sen. Lautenberg.

"I welcomed Ukraine's participation in the Summit of NATO's Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, signaling its growing cooperation with European institutions and the United States," he added.

Also present at the meeting were Volodymyr Horbulin, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council; Volodymyr Lytvyn, first assistant to the president of Ukraine; Volodymyr Ohryzko, chief of the Foreign Affairs Department, Administration of the President of Ukraine; Ivan Zayets, vice-chairman of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee; Leonid Kravchuk, member of Parliament and former President of Ukraine; and Anton Buteiko, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States.

## Slaughter interviewed by TV news crew from Ukraine

WASHINGTON - As the world's leaders gathered in Washington for the NATO Summit, Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-N.Y.), who is co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, told a Ukrainian television news crew that Ukraine has and will continue to be an important strategic ally of the United States.

"It is crucial that Ukraine be given the opportunity to succeed," Rep. Slaughter told reporter Yevhen Hlibovytzkyi. "Currently, the United States is extremely well positioned to play a key leadership role in assisting Ukraine to further its efforts to establish a stable democratic government and free market economy."

When asked about the status of for-

eign aid for Ukraine, Rep. Slaughter noted that Congress is in the process of formulating its budget for the upcoming fiscal year and she anticipates final action by September.

"I remain confident that Congress will fully fund assistance to Ukraine at a level that is consistent with the president's request of \$195 million," said Rep. Slaughter. "To that extent, I, along with 11 other members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus have written the subcommittee chairman to support this funding."

Rep. Slaughter went on to say that, while she supports aid, it is vital that Ukraine continue making progress on the economic reforms it started. These include reforming its tax code, enforcing

tax collection, modernizing its accounting practices, streamlining its public administration, establishing a fully functional treasury, increasing the number of private enterprises and reforming its commercial markets. Additionally, Ukraine must resolve complaints by U.S. investors. Rep. Slaughter said this critical action is the only way Ukraine can gain the full respect and credibility of U.S. markets.

When asked why she is active on issues involving Ukraine, Rep. Slaughter responded, "The district I represent in Rochester, N.Y., has a large and vibrant population of Ukrainian Americans. I am very close to this community and feel privileged to give them a voice in Washington."



U.S. Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-N.Y.), co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, being interviewed by a Ukrainian television news crew in her Washington office.

## COMMENTARY: Ukraine: strong ally of the West, NATO

by Frank Carlucci  
and Gen. William Odom

WASHINGTON - Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma participated in the NATO anniversary in spite of blatant pressure by Russian Prime Minister Primakov to "stay home." As the NATO intervention in Kosovo unfolds, it is timely to reflect on the broader geopolitical interest of the U.S. in Central Europe.

The newest NATO members - Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland - are facing growing domestic public opinion pressures that will inevitably influence their enthusiasm for their new alliance responsibilities.

While, on the one hand, the new members of the alliance may draw conclusions that will reassure them about NATO's willingness to act, certainly in the short run there is serious skepticism about what some critics call "military adventurism."

However, the impact of the Kosovo crisis may well hold even more significance in terms of our broader Central European interests and deeply affect our nuclear relationship with the two largest members of the former Soviet Union: Ukraine and Russia.

Moscow's constantly changing opposition to the alliance's efforts and the stalled START II treaty is obviously cause for close attention.

Under these circumstances, the performance of Ukraine in ridding itself of nuclear warheads and cooperating with NATO in the Partnership for Peace program becomes even more impressive.

The largest state in Europe, Ukraine occupies more land mass in Europe than the United Kingdom, France or Germany. Its population of 50 million is the fourth largest in Europe.

Strategically, it is vitally important to us now as the map of Central Europe comes under heavy stress with Russia shifting back and forth between a nostalgic desire to play the card of a superpower and its pressing economic need to cooperate with the West.

An ever-present challenge is Moscow's pressure on Ukraine to collaborate more closely with Belarus and Russia - even to the extent that it threatens the existence of independent Ukraine.

In this Kosovo crisis, President Kuchma has been measured and statesman-like in condemning Serbian violence against the Kosovars, while deploring the effects of NATO bombing. In appealing for a peaceful resolution, he has made clear Ukraine's willingness to provide a bridge between Russia, NATO and Serbia. When one recalls Ukraine's rapid provision of a battalion of troops for the United Nations effort in Bosnia, his offer takes on added significance.

President Kuchma's position deserves even more recognition, as he is constantly facing pressures from his political rivals in the Ukrainian Parliament, many of whom are pro-Russian politicians, including some who openly advocate restoration of the Soviet Union.

In this troubled situation, Ukraine clearly is a valuable ally for the United States and NATO.

*Frank Carlucci, a former career diplomat, served as U.S. secretary of defense, national security adviser to President Ronald Reagan, and deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency. U.S. Army Lt. Gen. William Odom (Ret.) is director of National Security Studies for The Hudson Institute and served as director of the National Security Agency from 1981-1985.*

# “Discover Ukraine” expedition ready to set sail, even without major sponsor

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – With little money in their coffers, but their souls full of optimism, a Ukrainian sailing enthusiast and his crew will begin a journey around the globe sometime between May 15 and 20. Their aim: to let the international community know about Ukraine.

The project coordinators have set themselves three goals: to get to Spain by the summer for celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the Spanish Armada; to be in the United States for Fourth of July celebrations in 2000; and to get back to Ukraine within five years.

With only weeks left before the anchor is raised and the voyage begins, they have yet to find a major financial backer. However, they have the seed money needed to prepare the ships and begin the journey, and remain optimistic that they eventually will find the \$500,000



The schooner Batkivshchyna.

they estimate will be needed to properly complete the around the world voyage.

The project, called “Discover Ukraine” was conceived by Dmytro Birioukovitch, 59, an engineer and a lifelong yachting enthusiast, who has sailed 24,000 miles of the Mediterranean and the Black seas. He also is an avid yacht-builder who is responsible for the development of concrete-hulled ships.

Mr. Birioukovitch, who calls himself “an active Ukrainian patriot,” said the idea for an around-the-world yacht trip came to him after travels to far-flung places like Turkey, Israel and France, where he was often asked whose flag he was flying followed by the question, “Where’s that?”

For that reason, Mr. Birioukovitch has decided to turn himself and his two 27-meter yachts, the schooner Batkivshchyna, and the brigantine Pochaina, into a floating public relations campaign to promote Ukraine.

Although Mr. Birioukovitch and his partners have been looking for financial sponsors for nearly a year without much success, they are ready to proceed on his five-year, 90-stop world expedition without a major financier.

An around-the-world undertaking obviously becomes much more difficult without a single financial backer, but Mr. Birioukovitch and his project director, Roman Maliarchuk, have come up with an original idea to fund their trip. They have organized a lottery, in which winners will travel with the crew in one-month stints.

“Our sponsors are the people of Ukraine,” said Mr. Birioukovitch. “For the price of 1 hryvnia, any person has a chance to win the lottery.”

Mr. Maliarchuk said at a press conference announcing the lottery that it is appropriate that average Ukrainians take part in the journey because its goal is to raise awareness about Ukraine among the average citizens of other countries.

“Government leaders know about Ukraine – it is the common person who doesn’t,” said Mr. Maliarchuk.

Among the aims of the “Discover Ukraine” project are to publicize not only the existence of Ukraine, a country that still hangs deeply in the shadow of Russia, its large northern neighbor, but also to let the world know about Ukraine’s economic, industrial and agricultural potential.

Mr. Birioukovitch, who will captain the expedition, said he remains ready to promote Ukraine businesses even though no serious financial backing has appeared from the Ukrainian business sector.

“Because this is a private action, it has been difficult to break through the administrative barriers that companies put up,” explained Mr. Birioukovitch.

His two main masts are still lily white, and he still is waiting for a sponsor to come forward and fill them

with its logo.

He has found some support in city hall, however. Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko has told the skipper that he will back some aspects of the trip. But with only weeks left before the departure of the two yachts, the specifics of that promise still are not known.

Rather than remain idle as it awaits for serious funding to start flowing, the “Discover Ukraine” team initiated its own fund-raising efforts. On April 25, it organized a charitable concert at the Ukrainian Home in Kyiv, featuring music of the Ukrainian folk tradition and a performance by Nina Matvienko, the well-known folk singer.

Mr. Birioukovitch’s plans for marketing Ukraine to the world call for mini-exhibits at the many scheduled ports of call the two yachts will make. The exhibits will feature information on Ukraine’s history, geography and culture, as well as the economic potential of Ukraine’s 25 oblasts and the Crimean Autonomous Republic.

The project coordinators also hope that Ukrainian businessmen will take part in portions of the voyage and make presentations at the ports of call to promote their products and services. There will be entertainment by Ukrainian musicians, as well as samplings of traditional Ukrainian fare.

Mr. Birioukovitch is working closely with Ukraine’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is supporting the project and clearing international red tape for the voyage. According to the “Discover Ukraine” skipper, the two yachts already are cleared for entry into most of the 42 European ports they are scheduled to visit.

A highlight of the voyage will be celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the Spanish Armada, scheduled for Farrol, Spain, on June 24-29, 1999. The event is under the patronage of King Juan Carlos of Spain, and the “Discover Ukraine” team has received a formal invitation to take part.

The “Discover Ukraine” crew is also scheduled to take part in festivities in Edinburgh, Scotland, on July 17, associated with the 10th anniversary of the partnership program between the capital cities of Scotland and Ukraine.

The South American portion of the trip, which includes passage through the Panama Canal, is being organized by the Argentinean Embassy in Ukraine, which has guaranteed Ukraine access to all ports of South America.

For more information on the “Discover Ukraine” voyage, or to assist in its success, contact the project coordinators via their website located at <http://www.ukraine-discover.kiev.ua/>.

Mr. Birioukovitch may be reached by telephone in Kyiv at 380-44-419-59-98.

## Patriarch

(Continued from page 1)

entourage during the duration of the visit and for the cover-up of the Mariupol incident.

Patriarch Filaret explained that in the aftermath of the violence local officials were doing all they could to erase evidence of a direct attack on the religious leader.

“They do not want documentary evidence that the patriarch of Ukraine was beaten,” said Patriarch Filaret.

Video footage taken by a clergyman from the patriarch’s entourage was confiscated by local security service officials in Mariupol after the incident and an edited copy was returned from which footage of the beating of the patriarch had been cut out.

According to the UNIAN press agency a Security Service official in Mariupol contradicted the allegation on May 4 and said that his organization had not asked for nor handled any video cassettes related to the Mariupol incident.

Patriarch Filaret also alleged that Mariupol city administrators had banned any reporting of the incident on local television and that the medical report filed by a doctor with the local division of the internal affairs ministry had disappeared.

The UOC-KP delegation, which toured Donetsk from April 29 to May 3, allegedly was harassed at several points during the trip. As the group entered the Donetsk region from Dnipropetrovsk Oblast it was

met by laypersons and clergy of the Moscow Patriarchate who blocked the road and demanded to inspect the vehicles and the passengers. No more than several hundred meters behind them, militia stood passively looking on, according to Patriarch Filaret.

“Since when do priests have the right to search cars?” queried the leader of the Kyiv Patriarchate.

In the oblast capital, where Patriarch Filaret visited the Preobrazhenska Church, he waited in his car for nearly five hours as some 200 demonstrators picketed and harassed his delegation while regional leaders milled about outside. He left his vehicle only after he decided that sufficient militia had finally arrived to offer proper protection.

During Patriarch Filaret’s press conference, also attended by representatives of the Christian Republican Party and the Rukh Party (led by Yuri Kostenko), video clips were shown of the Mariupol and the Donetsk-Dnipropetrovsk border incidents. At the site of the blessing, the footage shows that an altercation did indeed take place between rival religious groups, one of which arrived by bus. But there is no documentation of the UOC-KP patriarch being beaten. However the video cuts abruptly as the violence increases and resumes after order seemingly is restored.

The political leaders present at the press conference, National Deputies Ivan Drach, Pavlo Movchan and Vasyl Chervonii of the Rukh Party (Kostenko) and Mykola

Porovski of the Christian Republican Party, announced that they had put together a statement condemning the violence and were calling on President Leonid Kuchma and the Cabinet of Ministers to bring the culprits to justice and remove the head of the Donetsk Oblast Administration and the local security service chief.

They also called for a ban on the tour of Ukraine that Russian Orthodox Patriarch Aleksei II is planning in the summer.

Patriarch Filaret called the UOC-MP a “fifth column” in Ukraine that continues to successfully divide the nation. He also said that it is absurd that two of Ukraine’s greatest national and religious monuments, the Pecherska Lavra and the Pochaiv Monastery, are still held by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate and demanded they be turned over to the UOC-KP.

He also attacked the UOC-MP for continuing to fool Ukrainians with its misleading name. “It should be called the Russian Orthodox Church. Then people would better realize what it stands for,” asserted the Ukrainian religious leader.

The Donetsk Oblast, which borders Russia, continues to be heavily influenced by Russia. There are few Ukrainian schools and the Communist Party is still very popular. Most Orthodox believers in the region have remained in the Moscow Church, although whole parishes are increasingly moving to join the Kyiv Patriarchate.

As Patriarch Filaret explained, the problem of Ukrainization in Donetsk is not so

much an issue among the citizens, who outside the major cities of Donetsk and Mariupol speak Ukrainian openly and freely. It lies with government officials and politicians, who still maintain strong ties to Moscow. They are sensitive to any Ukrainization effort and are scared of the Kyiv Patriarchate.

“People are drawn to the Kyiv Patriarchate because it is a Ukrainian Church. In the Donetsk Oblast you hear Ukrainian in all the villages and towns. But in my home village [Blahodatne, Ambrosiivskiy raion] the Ukrainian school was recently closed in favor of a Russian one,” said Patriarch Filaret.

He added that he believes the demonstrations and the violence that occurred during his visit to Donetsk were the physical manifestation of the insecurity and the fear of a Ukrainian Church that grows stronger daily.

“What was done shows the weakness of the Moscow Patriarchate,” explained Patriarch Filaret. “[the UOC-MP] It should not have been threatened by a visit to Donetsk by the patriarch of Kyiv. He would have visited his parishes and left. It shows their insecurity.”

Patriarch Filaret, who has filed complaints with the Ministry of Internal Affairs regarding the Mariupol incident, also called the attack an act of God.

“It was God’s will. Now people more clearly understand the difference between the Moscow Patriarchate and the Kyiv Patriarchate,” said Patriarch Filaret.

# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## LETTER: New and improved UNA scholarship program

Dear Editor:

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Ukrainian National Association for the progress made in remediating your application process for UNA scholarships.

Two years ago my son, as well as 47 other applicants, did not qualify to receive scholarships for college studies.

After reviewing the reasons why our application did not meet 1997 requirements, I decided to draft a lengthy review of the process and also made a number of suggestions to modify the requirements. I also solicited the opinions of many of my colleagues who had experienced similar frustrations.

To my pleasant surprise, the UNA did review my recommendations and this current "new" application is indeed customer-friendly. No longer is one required to disclose one's financial history, i.e. tax returns, and all those who apply will be recognized. This is a major improvement to the process.

The second purpose of this letter is to advise all past and future UNA members who have experienced the old application process to be aware that major changes have taken place for their benefit.

Thank you for listening and responding to the "silent majority." Each parent should seriously consider taking a more active roll in the UNA to ensure its survival for many future generations.

**Stefan Tatarenko**  
Clifton, N.J.

*Stefan Tatarenko is a member of UNA Branch 171 in Jersey City, N.J.*

## COMMENTARY: UNA needs a master plan

by Yaroslav Tysiak

The need for more members is an old story, but how the problem is addressed is critical to the economic survival of the Ukrainian National Association. On March 13 at the annual meeting of the Albany District Committee of the UNA held in Watervliet, N.Y., this old story was once again repeated, but I heard no answers as to how our fraternal organization is prepared to deal with this challenge to its business.

With so much at stake and so little time to find solutions, what most people at the meeting wanted to hear is a long-range vision for the UNA. In the absence of a vision, a master plan, I heard people express a variety of ideas on how the UNA might address its most obvious and urgent needs. While the UNA president effectively communicated a sense of urgency to the UNA's fiscal crisis, I had no sense of "the big picture" and how local branches could help meet some of the challenges posed by the UNA's fiscal crisis.

An essential strategy to staying in business, especially where the customer base is shrinking, is to rethink the core business and its future activities. What we need is a well-thought-out long-range vision and leaders who will spearhead the actions required to restore the UNA to its pre-eminent role in Ukrainian life.

The UNA has many valuable resources to draw upon, including its

*Yaroslav Tysiak is a member of UNA Branch 13 in Watervliet, N.Y.*

General Assembly. I believe the UNA leadership could start by drawing upon its advisors and begin to define the UNA's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and problems.

Last year, when I attended my first ever such meeting, the visiting UNA officers left me with the impression that the UNA was under control and positioning itself for the future. There seemed to be a sense of momentum to address long-standing fiscal problems.

At last year's meeting, I recall, the discussions centered on efforts to merge with another fraternal insurance company, the sale of the headquarters building in Jersey City, N.J., and a re-evaluation of the operations of the Soyuzivka resort.

My overall impression was that the UNA was facing its business world challenges and had a vision of what it needed to do to restore its economic health.

I walked away with very much a different impression this year.

While we were pleased that the UNA president attended the 1999 annual district committee meeting, I was somewhat surprised to not hear a long-range vision and a master plan as to how the UNA Executive Committee plans to address its long-standing financial and operational difficulties.

Instead, I heard a litany of challenges to the UNA's continued operations. I heard members brainstorm ideas to address UNA's stated challenges but, unfortunately, the UNA president either dismissed or shifted responsibility for most of the ideas offered.

Ideas that competed for attention

included the integration of new immigrants, the so-called "Fourth Wave" from Ukraine, conducting midweek overnight senior bus trips and "adopting" buildings at Soyuzivka. The meeting ended with no specific plan of action. I think far more could have been achieved if the members could have heard from the UNA president how they could get involved in various specific projects.

I would suggest that our leadership develop a long-range vision for the Ukrainian National Association. Specifically, the UNA needs to send its advisors out into the community to listen to local concerns, to study actual conditions and to brainstorm new ideas to be presented in a final report.

Such a report should serve as the foundation for a long-range vision and aid in the development of a master plan so that UNA district officers could indicate how each branch and individual members might help meet some of the challenges mentioned by the Executive Committee.

When I attend the year 2000 meeting of our annual district committee, I hope to hear a clear and cohesive plan as to how the UNA plans to address its most critical challenges. The UNA leadership has an obligation to tell us what the UNA wants to do and how the district committees can help them achieve their future business and operational goals.

After all, we share a common goal: we want the Ukrainian National Association to resurface as a successful and meaningful organization in the Ukrainian community.

## Young UNA'ers



**Brianna Zirka Grenda, daughter of Alexander and Rachel Grenda, is a new member of UNA Branch 461 in Welland, Ontario. She was enrolled by her grandmother Irene Grenda.**



**Paul Michael Krucylak is a new member of UNA Branch 184. He was enrolled by his parents, Peter and Catherine Krucylak of Manchester, Mo., Paul is the grandson of Mykola and Halia Panchenko, and Maria Krucylak.**

## Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

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

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



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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

# No room for bigotry at State

Just when we felt secure that Ukraine is generally respected in the foreign policy sphere, comes an affront delivered by none other than the U.S. State Department.

Department spokesman James Rubin, in a May 2 appearance on CNN's "Late Edition" newscast, was asked by correspondent Wolf Blitzer to comment on the composition of the proposed international force that would go to Kosovo to maintain the peace and protect returning refugees. He observed: "We need to get these million people back to their homes. They are not going to go back to their homes after suffering these terrible atrocities if a bunch of Ukrainians are running around with guns on their sides. We're talking about a military force that attracts them, that is a magnet, and the only military force that these people trust, the only country they really trust is the United States of America. That's why we think we have to be part of this force, we think it has to be a NATO force ..."

Outrageous!

The State Department later issued its own release quoting the interview. The "sanitized" version made no mention of gun-totting Ukrainians, noting instead: "Rubin emphasized that the 1 million displaced Kosovar Albanians will not feel confident in venturing back to their homes 'after suffering these terrible atrocities' without a strong American presence. 'The only military force that these people trust, the only country they really trust is the United States of America,' Rubin said. 'The key is that NATO must be at its (peacekeeping force) core, and the United States must participate.'" The State Department's release added that Mr. Rubin noted there is also room for inclusion of Russian forces in implementing peace and autonomy for Kosovo.

During the May 3 press briefing at the State Department, Mr. Rubin almost apologized for his performance on CNN: "... let me say that on television yesterday, I perhaps infelicitously explained this issue by saying that if there is [sic] non-NATO countries only with armaments, such as Ukraine or Belarus or some other country, that will not be enough for the Kosovar Albanians to come back. Certainly, we strongly value Ukraine's participation in the Bosnia exercise, and would welcome Ukraine's participation in a Kosovo international security force. But alone, any non-NATO country, such as Ukraine, is not going to be enough to attract the return of the refugees ..."

Infelicitous is not the word. Try bigoted or prejudiced.

Ukrainian American activists are protesting and seeking a meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright to discuss this inexcusable incident, this intolerable conduct. (An action item detailing how our community can – and should – react appears on the facing page.) Is this how a strategic partner of the U.S. is treated? Is this how the U.S. reacts to the serious mediation efforts of President Leonid Kuchma? Are Ukrainians fair game?

The State Department owes Ukrainians an apology, and Mr. Rubin's statement must be retracted – and condemned – in the strongest terms. There is no room for bigotry at State. James Rubin has got to go.

## FOR THE RECORD

# Remarks by Solana, Clinton, Kuchma at NATO-Ukraine Commission Summit

*Following are remarks by NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana, U.S. President Bill Clinton and President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine at the opening of the NATO-Ukraine Commission Summit on April 24 at the International Trade Center in Washington.*

### Secretary-General Javier Solana:

Thank you. Let me welcome all of you for this first meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission at the summit level. This meeting is another reflection of our determination to build a new, undivided Europe; a Europe of partnership and cooperation.

More than anything else, this gathering stands as a commitment and testament to Ukraine. Many countries in Central and Eastern Europe faced a difficult transition when the Cold War came to an end. Ukraine was up to the challenge. Over the last decade Ukraine has charted its course with vision and with courage. Today Ukraine is not only a member of the Euro-Atlantic community, it's a vital and respected member.

President Kuchma, who by now has become an old friend to many of us, deserves much of the credit for this historic success. His personal involvement was crucial for the rapid development of the NATO-Ukraine partnership. Today we take stock of this partnership and chart the way ahead. The relationship between NATO and Ukraine is a real two-way street. NATO gains from it by having strong cooperation, a partner for enhancing Europeans and Ukraine together. And Ukraine gains from it by finding in NATO a strong supporter of its independence and a far-reaching pro-

gram of political, economic and defense reform. The partnership between NATO and Ukraine thus provides all of us with a new model of cooperation, a model worthy of the new Europe we are building together.

### President Bill Clinton:

Like all the NATO leaders, I am very pleased to welcome President Kuchma to this first summit meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission.

When we launched this commission two years ago in Madrid we hoped it would lead to a pragmatic and truly distinctive working partnership. Ukraine is a nation critical to our vision of an undivided, peaceful, democratic Europe.

The experience of the last two years has vindicated our hopes. Our armed forces are working together well in Bosnia. Ukraine played a vital role in Kosovo in the verification mission until it was driven out by the regime in Belgrade.

I appreciate President Kuchma's efforts to persuade Mr. [Slobodan] Milosevic to end his campaign against the Kosovar Albanians so that the Kosovar people can come home with security and self-government.

Ukraine has also proposed an ambitious program of cooperation with NATO, and the alliance has agreed to establish our very first Partnership for Peace training center in the Ukrainian town of Yavoriv. Our nations also will support Ukraine's efforts to reform its economy, deepen its democracy and advance the rule of law – all vital to Ukraine's security and the success of our partnership.

(Continued on page 14)

May  
13  
1912

## Turning the pages back...

Vadym Kipa was a musician who rode on the waves of history. He was born on May 13, 1912, in Kuchmistverska Slobodka, a suburb of Kyiv, and travelled to study piano under private tutors in Kharkiv and then at the Kharkiv Conservatory.

In the 1930s, as Stalin's hammer was obliterating much of Ukraine's intellectual and artistic elite, Kipa thrived. In 1935 he transferred to the Kyiv Conservatory, just in time to be taught by the renowned folklorist and pedagogue Hryhorii Beklemishev (who died later that year). Kipa graduated from the conservatory in 1937 with a piano virtuoso's diploma and joined its conservatory's teaching staff.

Also that year, Kipa took part in the first All-Soviet Piano Competition in Moscow and was one of 10 finalists. He was designated a "Laureate of the Soviet Union" and his certificate was signed by (among others) Serge Prokofiev. This launched his career as a concert pianist, enabling him to perform solo and with symphonic orchestras. His repertoire included works by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, Scriabin and Rachmaninoff.

The pianist managed to complete his graduate studies in 1941, just before Hitler's armies struck at the USSR. Two years later the Nazis deported him to Berlin. However, his musical mastery smoothed his path – he was appointed accompanist of the Klindworth-Schwarzenka Conservatory's opera studio, and then assistant professor at the conservatory (Franz Liszt's alma mater), and even garnered plaudits from the music critic at the Berliner Zeitung.

After the war Kipa remained as a displaced person in the British zone of Germany, then in 1951 he immigrated to the U.S. A year later he established his own piano school and studio in New York City, where he applied his own original methods of teaching. Over the years he composed a Ukrainian classical musician's teaching aid, titled "Children's Corner: Album for Youth," which consisted of 14 pieces based in part on folk melodies.

Kipa composed music for piano, voice and piano, and violin and piano, influenced by the currents of Impressionism, Neoromanticism and Neoclassicism. After producing his first work, "Lament," in 1939, he underwent a fallow period that ended with the productive years following his arrival in New York. His works include "Reminiscence" (1953), "Variations Phantastiques" (1957), "Gavotte Interrupted by a Serenade" (1958) and "Gallop in Mi-Minor" (1959).

In the 1960s, Kipa concentrated on producing musical settings for Ukrainian poetry, such as the piano-voice works set to poems by Vadym Lesych (1960-1963), an "art music" cycle based on Lesia Ukrainka's verse (1966-1967), and a piece set to Andriy Malysheko's poem "Pisnia pro Kyiv" (A Song about Kyiv, 1968). Kipa also wrote arrangements to Mozart's Divertimento in D and the "Chaconne" by Brahms.

Vadym Kipa died in New York City on August 31, 1968.

"Kipa, Vadym," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 2 (Toronto: University of Toronto, 1988); "Wadym Kippa," *Annals of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 12, Nos. 1-2 (1972).

## Declaration on NATO-Ukraine relations

*Following is the full text of the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government participating in the NATO-Ukraine Commission Summit in Washington on April 24.*

1. We, the heads of state and government of the 19 member-states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and of Ukraine, met today for our first summit to review the implementation of the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, which was signed in Madrid in July 1997, and its role in Euro-Atlantic security.

2. NATO heads of state and government reaffirmed their support for Ukraine's sovereignty and independence, territorial integrity, democratic development, economic prosperity and the principle of inviolability of frontiers, as key factors of stability and security in Central and Eastern Europe and on the continent as a whole. In this context they reaffirmed the historic importance of Ukraine's decision to voluntarily remove nuclear weapons from its territory.

3. The president of Ukraine reaffirmed his country's determination to continue its efforts to implement democratic political, economic and defense reforms, as well as to pursue its goal of integration in European and trans-Atlantic structures. He affirmed that the recent accession to NATO of Poland and Hungary, two neighbors of Ukraine, together with the Czech Republic, is a significant contribution to stability in Europe.

4. We discussed the evolving challenges facing Euro-Atlantic security, the consequent adaptation of the alliance and

Ukraine's contribution to stability in Europe. NATO allies reaffirmed their conviction that Ukraine should continue to play an increasingly important role toward improving security in Central and Eastern Europe and on the continent as a whole.

5. We exchanged views on the crisis in Kosovo and on the approaches followed by NATO and Ukraine aimed at reaching our common goal of a long-lasting and just peace in the region. We welcomed the statement by the United Nations secretary-general on April 9 on the crisis, and support the effort to achieve a political settlement in the form of a peaceful, multi-ethnic and democratic Kosovo in which all its people can live in security and enjoy universal human rights and freedoms on an equal basis. NATO allies acknowledged Ukraine's important contribution to the NATO-led peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission.

6. We welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of our distinctive partnership since the signing of the charter in Madrid and look forward to the realization of its full potential. We are satisfied with the development of a wide range of consultations and cooperation between NATO and Ukraine, at summit, ministerial and ambassadorial levels, as well as at the level of appropriate committees and government bodies such as Ukraine's State Interagency Commission for Relations with NATO.

7. We reviewed Ukraine's participation in the Partnership for Peace Program (PfP) and in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership

(Continued on page 14)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### More reaction to column on UNF

Dear Editor:

Re: Dr. Iwan Woychyshyn's letter in The Ukrainian Weekly (March 14): I am a member of the Ukrainian National Federation, the son of Alexander Gregorovich, one of the founders and first president of the UNF, and one of two people still alive who was present at the founding meeting of the UNF.

It is pointless to reply to the personal attacks on Dr. Kuropas. The North American Ukrainian community he has served with distinction over the decades will dismiss the accusations of the writer.

A little history: The UNF was founded to oppose the pro-Russian organizations' bid to become the secular voice of the Ukrainian Canadian community. They, now the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, were on the way to victory. The UNF's other major goal was the independence of Ukraine.

During the presidency of Alexander Gregorovich, the first was accomplished, and the disintegration of the Ukrainian Canadian community as a consequence of its identification with Russian imperialism during the post-World War II period was averted. Young Ukrainian Canadians did not have to flee the community to succeed in Canadian life. In contrast, in the Finnish Canadian community the Communists won. In the post-World War II period, young Finnish Canadians had to flee the community to pursue careers with a future. Today, the Finnish Canadian community is a ghost of what it was 80 years ago.

Organizations are created by idealists with goals. They are often followed by time-serving apparatchiks.

In the post-war period the UNF was hijacked by the émigré Melnykivtsi to become an émigré organization looking back to Halychyna in 1930. Ukrainian Canadians were elbowed out.

Now the UNF has the opportunity to return to its roots as an organization positively grounded in Canadian life, preserving a self-aware Ukrainian Canadian community with a future in Canada, able to help independent Ukraine as a Canadian community.

**J.B. Gregorovich**  
Mount Forest, Ontario

### A thank you to Myron Kuropas

Dear Editor:

Thank you, Myron Kuropas, for your informative article of January 24 on one of the oldest and at one time largest and most active Ukrainian organizations in Canada. I was present at the inauguration of the Ukrainian National Federation in Edmonton and as a child I enjoyed activities at the Saskatoon UNF Branch, which was like a home to me.

Later I became very active in the Ukrainian National Youth Federation in Eastern Canada in the 1940s and 1950s. We were booming with activities in the post-war era, and welcomed and helped "skytalt-si" and displaced persons to settle and participate in our activities.

We were naive and lost control of the organization that our parents had built. Many Canadian-born, well-educated and capable members drifted away to other organizations (and out of our community) because they were criticized that their Ukrainian was not perfect and because they were frustrated with being unable to plan activities relevant to their lives.

Some of us, because of our deep-rooted feelings, remained and worked at the UNF branch level, but over the years the membership and activities deteriorated.

Finally, in the fall of 1997, it was now or never. Fortunately, we were able to organize and elect a new slate at the 32nd UNF National Convention in June 1998. After 50 years the Melnyk faction had run the organization into the ground. Give the new board a few years, and we will rebuild a relevant Ukrainian Canadian organization for the next millennium.

**Hanya Cirka**  
Toronto

*Hanya Cirka is the daughter of Alexander Gregorovich, the first national president of the Ukrainian National Federation (1932-1937).*

### Ham radio operators a valuable resource

Dear Editor:

It is interesting to note the different modes of communication with Ukraine since gaining its independence in 1981, but there is one that has received little or no acknowledgment – that of the Ukrainian ham radio operator.

The monthly QST Magazine, the official journal of the American Radio Relay League, featured two articles dealing with the activities of Ukrainian radio clubs.

The first article, dated June 1998, described the 1997 Bermuda Contest won for the first time by a Ukrainian, Igor Slavka (call letters USIIDX), giving a short biographical sketch of Mr. Slavka and his activities at a students' operator club.

The second article dated October 1998 by Vladimir Skrypnyk (UY5DJ), goes into detail about ham radio operations in Ukraine, from the period when it was governed by the Soviet Union to the progress being made today by the Ukraine Amateur Radio League (UARL).

We have been made aware of the valuable services that ham operators have made during emergencies here in the United States. Considering the potentially singular means of contact with Ukraine when all other methods are disrupted, it may be a service to both nations if we can alert American ham operators and ham radio clubs that the UARL is interested in creating contacts with them.

For more information contact: UARL President Igor Zeldin (URSLCV) PO Box 56, Kyiv 252001, Ukraine; or e-mail at: ur5lev@kras.kharkov.ua

**Peter Pidhorodecky**  
Englewood, Fla.

### Please tell us: What is the truth?

Dear Editor:

I have to admit that my curiosity was raised by Dr. W. Sochaniwsky's uninformative letter in the March 28 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly. It was nice (but boring) to learn that he's "a faithful and appreciative reader" of The Weekly, but what I would prefer to know is what is "the truth" that he's talking about? Are we supposed to guess like in the old TV game show "Truth or Consequences," or will Dr. Sochaniwsky inform us of "the truth"? Also, what are the "lies" to which he objects? Please inform those of us who also consider ourselves to be The Weekly's "faithful and appreciative readers."

**Jaroslaw Sawka**  
Sterling Heights, Mich.

### A clarification from UUARC execs

Dear Editor:

Some of your readers have commented on the situation of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC) and the various lists of federal, state and local campaigns and United Ways. We would like to clarify these as two separate issues.

All of the local United Way Campaigns (and there are many) are "donor driven," which means that the only way to receive donations is to be listed by a donor. There is no actual application process. If an organization like the UUARC receives 10 or more donations before next year's booklet goes to print (in April), their name is listed for the convenience of donors. Not being listed does not mean an organization cannot be selected for donation. There is a "write-in" section on each form, requiring only the name and address of the charity. Our number remains 1838 for the Southeastern Pennsylvania United Way, and can continue to be used. For instance, the UUARC did receive more than 10 donations through United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania in 1997, but not until October and November, thus eliminating us from the booklet for 1998.

According to a representative of one United Way we spoke to, the only way to make sure to get listed is to increase the donor base, thereby improving your chances that at least some employers will send the donated funds in early in the year. While payroll deductions are withheld every pay-period, they are sent to the charities when the total reaches a certain amount or at the end of a proscribed time period. We are grateful to the many, many

benefactors who continue to write-in UUARC. Hopefully, as our donor numbers increase, so will our number of listings.

Federal, state and local campaigns are being energetically pursued by the UUARC. It must be remembered that bureaucracy flourishes at these levels, and we are working our way through the mazes of government. In the state of Pennsylvania we are listed as part of a federation, under Independent Charities of America. We have formed a good basis for cooperation with the ICA, and hope to eventually appear with them in every state. We have a good chance of being listed with the ICA federation in the Combined Federal Campaign as well this year; otherwise look for us as "unaffiliated." Sometimes donors have to look for UUARC in more than one place, but we hope they will make that extra effort.

In answer to one writer's comment, we do not consider any of this a "game." Every aspect of our work is taken seriously, and we certainly need the advice of every funding-savvy volunteer to augment our fund-raising. We appreciate your readers' encouragement to maximize every opportunity to get funding, and would welcome letters, faxes or e-mails (uuarc@belatlantic.net) with ideas, which will be followed up. Keep an eye on our up-coming webpage (www.uuarc.org) for more information.

Please keep in mind that change comes slowly, and that the UUARC does humanitarian relief work where it counts, using the resources it has. We are considered a PVO (Private Volunteer Organization), but have very few volunteers. Let's give community service a boost. Please call us (215-728-1630) if you can help.

**UUARC Executive Committee**  
Philadelphia

## ACTION ITEM

On Sunday, May 2, U.S. State Department spokesperson James Rubin, assistant secretary of state for public affairs, appeared on the weekly CNN program "Late Edition." While discussing the possibility of a peacekeeping force in Kosovo, James Rubin stated: "They [the Kosovars] are not going to go back to their homes after suffering these terrible atrocities if a bunch of Ukrainians are running around with guns on their sides."

Speaking to an audience of millions of viewers, James Rubin's comments are deemed inexcusable, especially during this critical period of U.S. involvement in the Kosovo crisis. This statement has prompted efforts to have a meeting with Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright to discuss this situation. The Ukrainian American community is asked to mail or fax a letter to Secretary Albright and their members of Congress to express dismay at the comments stated by the U.S. State Department spokesperson.

SAMPLE LETTER

(date)  
The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520  
(via fax at: 202-647-5959)

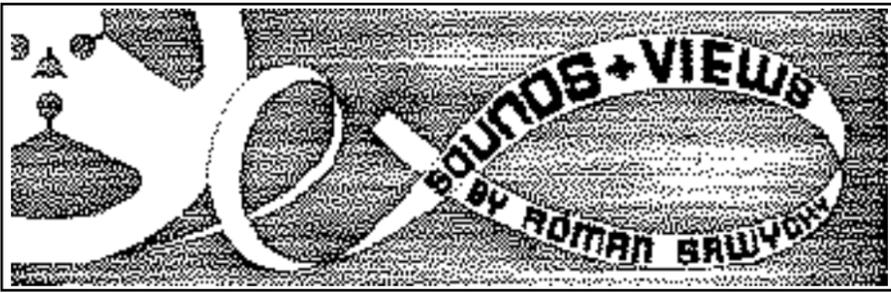
Dear Madame Secretary:

I am dismayed at the comments made by U.S. State Department spokesperson James Rubin on the CNN program "Late Edition" on Sunday, May 2, 1999. The remark about a "bunch of Ukrainians running around with guns on their sides" exacerbates the already tense situation with regard to Kosovo. Furthermore, in the opinion of an American of Ukrainian descent, the comment was deeply insulting and endangers U.S.-Ukrainian relations at a time when U.S. policy warrants the utmost respect for Ukraine's strategic role.

Seen by an audience of millions, Mr. Rubin's comments underestimate Ukraine's attempts to mediate and broker a peace settlement in the region, which signifies a willingness to enhance the security of the European continent, and ultimately the U.S. and its allies. I am shocked and offended by his statement and believe Mr. Rubin's immediate dismissal is justified. In addition, I request that a meeting with the leadership of Ukrainian American organizations be arranged to discuss this situation.

Sincerely,  
(Your name)

– Submitted by the Ukrainian National Information Service, Washington.



## Virsky: the video

Filmed at the Ukraina Palace Theatre in Kyiv, with Myroslava Oleksiuk-Baker as producer-director, the video "Virsky: The Spirit of Ukraine" translates and condenses the dancing spirit of Ukraine into 53 minutes of audio-visual excitement. The time-tested name of the company's founder Pavlo Virsky has become a banner for the Ukrainian National Dance Company, now led by Myroslav Vantukh, artistic director.

The videotape's attractive packaging features skillfully honed texts – a quality most welcome also in the printed program of the company's 60th anniversary tour (1998). Much of that writing made its way into the video; musical, well-choreographed phrasing and sweeping images set the stage for spectacle: "The sky, the sea, the mountains and the fields ... These are the elements that shape a people ... These are the events that forge a nation ... These are the traditions that define a soul ... this is the spirit – The Spirit of Ukraine."

While Vasile Avramenko laid the foundation for dance in North America by celebrating its folk origins, Mr. Virsky's synthesis of tradition with brilliant ballet technique and professional musicianship attracted more contemporary audiences. Likewise, this video may have more immediate appeal to today's sophisticated viewers who can discover Ukraine through dance rather than more traditional documentary film-making.

Visually stunning both live and on tape, the company shines in choreography by both Messrs. Virsky and Vantukh, using established orchestrations by I. Ivashchenko, V. Yarovinsky and others. While adequate, the symphonic element of the video did not quite reach the lofty level of the video footage and fell short of its full potential.

Nonetheless, there is much to admire when heroic and lyric images alternate smoothly, and the dance footage dissolves into historical flashbacks of the swaggering Zaporozhtsi or the poetic imagery of springtime. At times the additional action of these Kozaks became puzzling without narration, but when defiant cannons roar along the historical roads to power and freedom, such Kozak exuberance needs no explanation.

Certainly the "Povzunetz" tickles the funnybone as the boastful men show off their "indestructible Ukrainian knees" (The New York Times), while youthful affection is tenderly portrayed in "Podolianochka."



The video's aim is to show artistic beauty, and fine footwork, and these are plain to see via good camera work. Watching a small screen one may notice more than when looking at a large but distant stage.

The video's first-rate intercutting of long shots with close-ups catches precision enhanced by poetry, bravado tempered with beauty. This montage of sight and sound seems a virtuoso portrayal just as committed to the cause as Virsky must have been.

The troupe's stay in the New York area was brief, but this video allows viewers to relive the perfection of Virsky and the "Spirit of Ukraine."

This 1998 video was produced by Encore Productions Inc. of Toronto, with Donald Baker and Leonid Oleksiuk acting as co-executive producers.

When ordering contact: Kinofilm, 37 Hanna Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6K 1W9; telephone, (416) 537-2604, ext. 242; fax, (416) 538-1794; and e-mail: oleksiuk@aol.com.

The cost of the video is \$29.95, plus \$3.75 for shipping and handling charge. Also available is the companion release, "The Music of Virsky" – on a compact disc at \$17 and audio cassette for \$12, plus \$3.75 each for shipping and handling.

## New divine liturgy by Valerij Kikta making debut in Ukrainian churches

by Halia Talpash Wawryshyn

TORONTO – Since the autumn of 1998, the exquisite sounds of brand new liturgical music have been making their debut in Ukrainian churches, both Orthodox and Catholic, in Toronto and outlying centers. The new liturgy was composed by the Ukrainian-born composer Valerij Kikta, a former student of Stanislav Liudkevych and of Semen Bohatyrov.

Within his repertoire are compositions for symphonies, operas, chamber orchestras and choirs. His symphonic compositions, "Frescoes of St. Sophia" and "Schedrivky-Koliadky," have been performed on Canadian stages. Maestro Kikta's oratorio, "The Sacred Dnipro," was performed by the Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association in 1996 in Toronto.

Maestro Kikta's new divine liturgy was requested on the initiative of the late Maestro Wolodymyr Kolesnyk. This new liturgy premiered in Edmonton in 1994. Though the predominant harmony is contemporary, it incorporates the traditional approach of religious and spiritual music of Ukraine. There is a unique, deeply spiritual interpretation to the varied texts of the liturgy. The harmonic motif reflects the spirituality of the liturgy.

In Toronto the new liturgy premiered at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Andrew on November 8, 1998. The occasion marked the first anniversary of Maestro Kolesnyk's death. After singing the liturgy, the Lysenko Choral Ensemble sang a panakhyda. The following Sunday the choral ensemble sang the Kikta divine liturgy at Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto, and on November 29, 1998, the Lysenko Choral Ensemble sang the divine liturgy in Oshawa, Ontario, at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist.

On December 6, 1998, at the conclusion of the World Congress of Ukrainians in Toronto, the Lysenko Choral Ensemble sang the new divine liturgy in a packed St. Wolodymyr's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral.

A male chorus under the direction of Nestor Olynyk sang various parts of the liturgy supplementary to the liturgical singing of the Lysenko Choral Ensemble.

Among those present in the cathedral were many guests and delegates to the congress who had come from distant places in North and South America, Australia and Europe. Bishop Yuriy of Toronto and the Eastern Eparchy officiated at this divine liturgy along with guests, Metropolitan Wasyly of Canada, Archbishop John of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy, and Archbishop Vsevolod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America. Present also as a guest was Bishop Adrian from the UOC-Kyiv Patriarchate in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine.

Bishop Adrian, a musicologist, was well-acquainted with the music of Maestro Kikta and appeared delighted to hear this new sacred music in the repertoire of Ukrainian liturgical music. Bishop Yuriy, who also has a background in music and had sung as well as attended conductors' workshops with Maestro Kolesnyk, greeted the chorus with much warmth and encouragement.

Before he died, Maestro Kolesnyk gave his baton to Alla Shklar, who keeps it as a cherished memento. Although work on Maestro Kikta's divine liturgy was started with Maestro Kolesnyk, he did not live to hear the chorus complete it and sing it in churches. Ms. Shklar, a longtime singer in the Ukrainian Opera Chorus and a student of many of Maestro Kolesnyk's

conductors' workshops, undertook the formidable task of completing work with the chorus on the Kikta liturgy.

Ms. Shklar has a degree in music from the University of Toronto, and taught in a high school where she directed not only the choir, but also the band and orchestra. As Maestro Kolesnyk's right-hand woman for the last years that he conducted the Ukrainian Opera Chorus of Toronto and as a leading executive member of the Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association, which brought the public numerous Ukrainian operas and premiere symphony and opera performances for over 20 years, Ms. Shklar is uniquely qualified to continue the work that Maestro Kolesnyk left as his bequest.

The divine liturgy by Maestro Kikta has also been sung by the Lysenko Choral Ensemble at St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto, at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Mississauga, and at St. Wolodymyr Ukrainian Catholic Church in Thornhill.

Later this month, the same liturgy will be sung at St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Toronto and at St. Wolodymyr's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Hamilton, Ontario. Americans will have an opportunity to hear the Lysenko Choral Ensemble sing this unique and modern divine liturgy on Saturday, May 23, in Johnson City, N.Y., and on Sunday, May 23, at the St. Andrew Memorial Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bound Brook, N.J.

For centuries, Ukraine has had a treasure trove of sacred music in well-known composers such as Vedel, Bortniansky, Lysenko and, later, Koshets. Maestro Kikta's deeply spiritual yet contemporary liturgy has now entered the rich repertoire of Ukrainian church music. As a result of the Lysenko Choral Ensemble's performances at various churches, not only the people, but also many priests and choir conductors, have become aware of this new liturgical music. The unique flavor of this late 20th-century piece of work has excited and ignited the communities where it was sung. Young people, not afraid of occasional dissonance, have been among the appreciative audiences who claim they really have to listen and think during the Kikta liturgy.

Although few church conductors may choose to sing the entire liturgy by Valerij Kikta, in the future they will have a new well of liturgical music from which to choose pieces of music for their choirs.

How to reach

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The Virsky dancers with Conan O'Brian in April 1998, when they appeared on his late-night TV show.

# Ukrainian National Museum embarks on ambitious Cataloguing Project

by Orest A. Hrynewych

CHICAGO – In 1952, Olexa Hankewych, Dr. Myroslaw Simenowych, Julian Kamenetsky and Orest Horodysky funded the Ukrainian National Museum (UNM) here in order to preserve artifacts, books, periodicals, immigration records and other evidence of the Ukrainian culture brought to America by the three major waves of immigration from Ukraine.

Located in a remodeled church rectory in the heart of Ukrainian Village at 721 N. Oakley Blvd., the UNM has embarked on an ambitious program to develop a computerized database, titled the Cataloguing Project, for its museum collection, library, and archive. The Cataloguing Project will make the collections at the 10,000 square-foot UNM a valuable resource for all friends of the Ukrainian culture, academic researchers and the general public.

The UNM currently contains a collection of over 1,140 artifacts, including traditional folk art, agricultural tools, musical instruments, trophies and miscellaneous items that are unique or of exceptional value. The museum library has over 17,000 titles in both English and Ukrainian, including rare books, author-autographed editions, monographs of émigré communities, contemporary editions and, most important, over 600 periodicals and newspapers. Some of these are quite rare and exist only in a few archives and museums in Canada or the United States.

The museum also includes extensive archives of materials about Ukrainian communities, particularly in Chicago. This very valuable collection contains documents on Ukrainian performance groups, national youth organizations, veterans' and fraternal organizations, local church archives, 1933 Chicago World's Fair memorabilia, personal manuscripts of civic leaders and a large collection of photographs.

Ukraine's independence in 1991 forced the UNM to go through an internal reassessment and re-evaluation of its missions, objectives and goals. The board of directors concluded that preservation of Ukrainian culture and historical artifacts can best be achieved by the new Ukrainian state. The UNM's primary objective is to preserve rare periodicals and documents of the history of the Ukrainian immigration and Ukrainian American life, especially in Chicago. Therefore, the UNM must become more accessible to researchers, immigrants and their descendants, and the general public. The current popularity of ethnic studies and people's search for their ancestors make the computerized database of the UNM's collections a critical element in the museum's development and growth.

The UNM is very fortunate to have received a grant of \$30,000 from the Heritage Foundation, a Chicago-based foundation headed by Dr. Julian Kulas and sponsored by the 1st Federal Savings Bank. This most generous gift has allowed the UNM to initiate this important work of developing the computerized database, the Cataloguing Project.

Several contracts were made with the Ukrainian Museum Archive in Cleveland (UMA) that has already initiated an extensive cataloguing project of its own periodicals and books. Andrew Fedynsky, director of the UMA, and Ihor Kowalysko, coordinator of the Cleveland Museum cataloguing project provided guidance and encouragement for the UNM project. After several months of discussion and meetings, the UNM and the UMA agreed to work together on the following tasks:

- jointly cataloguing the museums' periodicals and books;
- electronically linking (via the Internet) the two data systems with subsequent links to other institutions in the United States, Canada, Ukraine and other parts of the world;
- evaluating important items and digitizing those that merit duplication;
- cooperating with the U.S.-Ukraine Commission on the Preservation of Cultural Heritage on the development of an inventory and guidebook of important Ukrainian sites located in the United States;
- including similar "Museum-Archive" type institutions into the project.

A team from the UNM has met professional staff archivists at Chicago's Newberry Research Library where methods for conservation and management of old materials were explained. A second UNM team met with the professional staff of the Chicago Public Library and with Kalyna Drohomirecky, where appropriate data formatting and data display screens were covered. The Chicago Public Library representatives provided information on what methods and procedures would be most



Seen in the cataloguing and equipment room are: (from left): Orest Hrynewych, second vice-president; Dr. George Hrycelak; president; Ihor Matwyshyn, computer committee vice-president; Myroslava Batorfalvy, secretary; Jaroslaw Hankewych, executive director and first vice-president; Roxolana Dachniwskyj, curator; and John Olshanskyj, computer committee specialist and president of Ukomp Inc.

valuable given the nature of the task. They recommended that the Library of Congress transliteration system be used and offered to provide assistance should help be needed to catalogue books and periodicals in accordance with the Library of Congress classification system.

To facilitate inputting large amounts of data, the museum contracted with Ukomp Inc. to install and maintain a four-station local area network (LAN), as well as develop several databases.

A new computer and other equipment were purchased to allow the museum to do all digitizing, input and storage on-site. The network was installed in January and data entry has started. All data will be stored in MS Access which will make data retrieval extremely user-friendly. The database will be available in both English and Ukrainian; this will allow researchers in many countries to share information. Periodicals will be scanned and digitized, and will be available for on-line viewing to preserve the originals. Files and images will

be stored on CD-ROMs; this will be the permanent record that can be easily used for research. New power cables and dedicated telephone lines were installed in order to provide the necessary reliability and robust system support for a project of this type.

The UNM has also recently updated and expanded its website (<http://www.ukrntlmuseum.org/>) to prepare it for the inclusion of the new databases. When data entry is complete, it will become available to anyone in the world with Internet access.

Currently the most pressing need is to enlist members of the Ukrainian community, library science students, retired librarians, and members of the public who would like to assist the UNM in supporting the cataloguing project. Any person interested in volunteering to assist in data entry, translation, and organization of the various periodicals and books should call Myroslava Batorfalvy at (312) 421-8020 or (773) 384-0650 during the day or, access UNM at <http://www.ukrntlmuseum.org/>

## Sabre-Svitlo reaches milestone: distributes 500,000th book

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Sabre-Svitlo Foundation, a Lviv-based non-profit book donation organization founded in 1990, distributed its 500,000th book in Ukraine last year. In 1998 alone, the foundation distributed 51,405 books on a broad range of subjects to 1,162 institutions and individuals. Of the total number of books, 24.5 percent were in the field of education, including English language; another 22.8 percent were in the fields of business and economics; and 17.5 percent were related to the medical sciences.

For Sabre-Svitlo 1998 was a banner year in many other respects as well. In November, Sabre-Svitlo celebrated the opening of its new affiliate office at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. U.S. Ambassador Steven Pifer, in his address to the group, stressed the importance of Sabre-Svitlo's role "in fostering the development of a democratic society in Ukraine."

Since its inception, Sabre-Svitlo has worked closely with the United States Information Service (USIS) in Kyiv. Over the years, the United States Embassy and USIS have helped the foundation establish contacts with American philanthropic organizations. The U.S. government recently awarded Sabre-Svitlo a Democracy Grant for the distribution of 15,000 American books to educational institutions throughout Ukraine.

Sabre-Svitlo's cooperation with private organizations continued to grow in 1998 as well. Since 1990, the Sabre Foundation here has been Sabre-Svitlo's primary partner; Sabre not only provides a major part of the book donations, but also arranges for the collection and transportation of books donated by other organizations.

Another of Sabre-Svitlo's major partners is the International Renaissance Foundation (IRF) that began a

project in 1998 to provide subscriptions of major Ukrainian periodicals to libraries and educational institutions in Ukraine. Another project initiated by IRF, "Project Pushkin," provided a total of about 30,000 Russian-language books to several libraries. Sabre-Svitlo selected recipients, processed orders, and developed special software to handle the project for IRF.

After the severe flooding in Zakarpattia last November, many libraries were completely destroyed. In response to the terrible losses, USIS, libraries around Ukraine, and other organizations donated books for the purpose of replacing the lost collections. Together, Sabre-Svitlo and the IRF coordinated the sorting of thousands of books and their transportation to Uzhhorod.

Sabre-Svitlo cooperated with other local and international organizations in 1998, among them the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations, which purchased medical books for distribution to 61 libraries and research institutes; the Ukrainian State Committee on Nationalities and Migration, which donated 3,000 books and brochures for distribution to schools; and the International Research and Exchanges (IREX) Board, for whom Sabre-Svitlo distributed books to IREX Ukrainian partner organizations.

Also in 1998, Sabre-Svitlo helped many small libraries and institutions in Ukraine establish contacts in the United States and Canada for the purpose of obtaining specialized book collections. Over the course of the year, the foundation facilitated the delivery of 15,000 volumes to 26 institutes, including the Lviv Theological Academy, the Ukrainian Legal Foundation, ACCELS,

(Continued on page 13)

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## Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

### Frank Bialowas: "Animal" magnetism

When the Philadelphia Flyers announced several years back that they were relocating their American Hockey League affiliate to Philadelphia, Ukrainian Frank Bialowas figured it was the last place he'd ever want to go.

"I remember thinking, 'Those poor guys who have to play there,'" he said. "They've got a big league team across the street and they're not going to draw any fans."

Shortly thereafter Bialowas couldn't imagine being anywhere else but in Philadelphia - minor leagues or not. The then-Philadelphia Phantoms' resident tough guy quickly became one of the most popular icons in a town populated by big-name, high-profile multi-millionaire athletes.

In addition to perennially leading the AHL in the standings, the Phantoms are also always tops at the gate, and Bialowas was a very big reason why, especially in their formative seasons. The 28-year-old right-winger became quite a cult hero in Philadelphia, a blue-collar player in a blue-collar town.

"At our level, these guys aren't making million-dollar contracts, so they're a little more in touch with the people who come to see them play," said Frank Miceli, chief operating officer of the Phantoms.

"That relationship gets bonded a little quicker than it does with some other professional athletes. (Frank's) personality on the ice is something that attracts people to him, and his personality off the ice keeps that attraction going."

Wherever he has been, Roanoke, Va., St. John's, Newfoundland, Toronto and Portland, Maine, before Philadelphia; back to Portland and most recently Indianapolis in the IHL late this current season, Bialowas' on-ice role has been to serve and protect his teammates.

This style earned him a promotion to the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1993-1994. A flamboyant character whose long flowing locks cover the name on the back of his sweater, Bialowas played three games and earned 12 penalty minutes before returning to the minor hockey ranks. His reputation draws the attention of all up-and-coming enforcers eager to establish themselves against one of the minor leagues' most feared fighters.

"That's the never-ending cycle," Bialowas said. "It gets old after a while,

but you've got to learn to deal with it."

With one goal, four points and 69 penalty minutes in 41 games this season (an injury-filled one), his career minor league totals stand at some 30 goals, 50 points and almost 2,000 minutes in penalties in over 450 games.

"I'm not a very skilled player," Bialowas said. "I'm your basic grinder, mucker ... I've just got to keep plugging away and, hopefully, it takes me back (to the NHL)."

A return to the Phantoms (rumored in the discussion stages) and a parent club would mean a stroll across the parking lot, from the fabled old Spectrum to the Flyers' new home at the CoreStates Center. That would be good news for Philadelphia fans, who have made the Winnipeg native their adopted son - even after 1998-1999 deals that saw Bialowas moved from Philly back to Portland, and then a relocation to Indy.

"He took fan support to a whole new realm," said Jason Vogel, Phantoms' director of media relations, who coordinated player appearances. Bialowas' name was always at the top of the list.

"They cheered when he had a shift (on the ice), and they booed when he went off. They counted the time he had left when he was in the penalty box," Vogel said. "He was embraced by the city, and he embraced it right back. He was probably one of the top 10 icons in the city."

Nicknamed "The Animal," Bialowas' popularity was accurately measured by the success of a promotional event a few years back. It was an "Animal Night," held two Februaries ago before a sellout crowd of 17,380 for the second straight year.

The special promotion was run in conjunction with the Philadelphia Zoo and Keebler. The Phantoms handed out animal crackers to all fans as well as hand-held masks featuring Bialowas' likeness. A live petting zoo was set up in the Spectrum's concourse, and fans had the opportunity to win a chance to visit the zoo and feed the animals with Bialowas.

Less than a week earlier this same year, at the Philadelphia Flyers' wives charity carnival, Bialowas showed up unannounced at a photo booth and proceeded to spend four and a half hours posing for photographs at \$10 apiece. He actually had as much camera time as any of the Flyers' biggest stars, including Eric Lindros and John LeClair.

(Continued on page 13)

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## Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 12)

"They used a whole box of Polaroids," Bialowas remembered. "It had to have been over 500 pictures. It was like a semi (transport truck) flashing its lights in my face."

Over the Christmas season two years ago Bialowas was the focal point of a major toy drive, named "Animals from the Animal," held to benefit some 30 underprivileged kids from the Children's Miracle Network. Some 1,000 stuffed animals were collected and the remainder was taken to affiliated hospitals on Christmas Eve.

"He was very giving to the community, almost to a fault," Vogel said. "Everybody knew about him. He would do anything - schools, hospitals. Sometimes he did too much."

Acquired from the Washington Capitals for the proverbial "future considerations" in July of 1996, Bialowas hopes his landing in Indianapolis this season turns out to be a temporary stop. Even if his career does not take him back to the NHL (though further expansion may just open up an available enforcer slot), he is still glad his career took him through Philly.

## Sabre-Svitlo reaches...

(Continued from page 11)

the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Rohatyn Gymnasium, the Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the Institute of Oriental Studies and the Institute of Archeography.

One of Sabre-Svitlo's main objectives is to make donated books available to as wide a readership as possible. For this reason, the primary recipients of the foundation's book donations are public libraries and universities. To widen their contacts with libraries throughout Ukraine and to stay informed about libraries' current needs, Sabre-Svitlo representatives participated in two library conferences in 1998: the "Crimea '98" International Librarians' Conference in Sudak, and the Congress of the Ukrainian Library Association (ULA) in Kyiv. At the congress Sabre-Svitlo Director Olha V. Isaievych was elected to the ULA board.

To spread the word about its mission and services, Sabre-Svitlo participated in more than 20 conferences and workshops in 1998 on topics related to education, publishing, medicine and the Internet.

Throughout the year, visitors came to Sabre-Svitlo to discuss the possibility of starting new projects or to oversee projects already under way. Among the visitors were Tania Vitvitsky, project director of the Sabre Foundation, and many prominent representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora, including Roman Procyk, executive director of the Ukrainian Studies Fund; Dr. Marta Bohachevsky-Chomiak, vice president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America; Dr. Paul Djul, president of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations; and Colonel Arkadi Mulak-Yatskivsky, President of the California Committee to Aid Ukraine.

The Ukrainian national media focused significant attention on Sabre-Svitlo's activities in 1998. Several television reports about the foundation were broadcast in Kyiv and Lviv, and articles about it appeared in *Ukrainska Kultura*, *Krytyka*, *Medychni Visti*, *Express*, *Ukrainske Slovo*, *Ukrainskyi Shliakh* and other publications.

To request a copy of Sabre-Svitlo's annual report for 1998 (in English), contact the Sabre Foundation at (617) 868-3510 or via e-mail at [sabre@sabre.org](mailto:sabre@sabre.org). To reach Sabre-Svitlo directly, contact Olha Isaievych, at the following address: Sabre-Svitlo, 4 Kozelnytska, 290008 Lviv, Ukraine; e-mail: [postmaster@sabre.lviv.ua](mailto:postmaster@sabre.lviv.ua); tel/fax, 380-322-427442.

"I appreciate everything everyone did for me, so when you get a chance to give a little back to the community, it's a pleasure."

Speaking on behalf of countless grateful professional hockey fans in the City of Brotherly Love, the pleasure was indeed theirs, Animal!

Over in the junior league ranks...

At least one Ontario Junior League general manager feels commissioner Dave Branch went too far by awarding the Sarnia Sting compensation for losing import draft pick Yevgeny Lazarev. Lazarev, 18, from Ukraine, resumed playing with the American Hockey League's Hershey Bears and the Sting dropped its lawsuit that sought to force his return to the OHL.

Branch gave the Sting additional selections in the third and seventh rounds of the 2000 OHL draft. The GM, who asked not to be identified, had a European pick not report to his club after being drafted by an NHL team.

Jim Rooney, Guelph Storm president and chairman of the OHL's board of directors, said it is within Branch's scope to award the picks. The Sting gave the picks to Belleville to get the Bulls' higher selection in the Canadian League import draft.

"I'm sure not every GM is going to embrace this, but it's the job of the commissioner to resolve a dispute," Rooney said. "He has the privilege within the parameters of our constitution. And besides, the Lazarev case is different than the others. The Sting felt it had an agreement with him. He spent the summer with (coach-GM) Mark Hunter."

Lazarev was drafted by Colorado, and the Avalanche assigned him to Hershey. The Sting challenged that and got a court injunction last October 19 preventing Lazarev from playing anywhere. The Sting claimed the Avalanche contravened the NHL-CHL agreement which requires signed 18- and 19-year-olds to play in the NHL or be returned to their major junior team.

The NHL said that only pertains to players in Junior A or the major juniors the previous season. Lazarev had played Junior B in Kitchener, Ontario, last year. If Lazarev is eventually returned to Sarnia before the 2000 draft, the Sting won't get the picks, but Avs' Assistant GM Francois Giguere said there are no plans to send him down.

*Quotes courtesy of Phil Janack, minor league beat writer for The Hockey News and Jim Cressman, The Hockey News, correspondent for the Ontario Hockey League.*

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## Remarks by Solana...

(Continued from page 8)

When we act to maintain peace and security in Europe we will strive to do so with our partners, including Ukraine. That is what we hope to do with Ukraine and other nations in Kosovo once peace is restored there.

We have taken many practical good steps toward realizing the promise of our partnership. But we should also not lose sight of the larger significance of what we are trying to do here, in light of the history of Ukraine and the history of Europe. For the people of Ukraine have felt the horrors of communism and fascism and famine. At different points in this century, the flags of five outside powers have flown over Ukrainian territory. Now Ukraine flies its own flag, and it is incumbent upon all of us to support Ukraine's transition and what its people have called their European choice.

Ukraine still faces large challenges - political, economic, environmental. But now it is free to choose its destiny. And it has used that freedom to choose democracy and tolerance and free markets, integration, and the choice to dismantle its nuclear arsenal.

President Kuchma's presence here is a reminder that most of Europe is coming

together today; most of Europe has rejected the idea that the quest for security is a zero-sum game in which one nation's gain is another's loss. So, most of all, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the people of the United States to express my respect and gratitude to President Kuchma and the people of Ukraine for the choices they are making, and to ensure them that all of us and our partners will stand with them as they work for a better future. Thank you very much.

### President Leonid Kuchma:

[I want to thank] our American colleagues, and personally, Mr. President Clinton, for creating these conditions for successful work. I would like to express my appreciation that the relations between Ukraine and NATO, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, are proceeding, and evidence of this is our meeting here of our commission.

And there is a breaking moment in our relationship. What is happening in Kosovo has forced us to think about what we must do to change the architecture of Europe. I expect our discussion will give new impulse and new understanding of today's realities. We should set new priorities and a new impulse to the development of relationships between Ukraine and NATO.

## Declaration...

(Continued from page 8)

Council, and expressed our common desire to see Ukraine progressively take full advantage of the opportunities offered therein. We noted the progress that has already been made towards the implementation of the NATO-Ukraine Work Plan for 1999. Ukraine's State Program of Cooperation with NATO until 2001 outlines potential additional areas for cooperation, and we look forward to further discussions at ministerial and ambassadorial levels on how to improve and prioritize future work plans.

8. We welcomed the appointment of the two NATO liaison officers in Kyiv. We are confident they will contribute to facilitating Ukraine's work in the PfP, as well as strengthening contacts between NATO and Ukraine.

9. We are determined to ensure continued support for the NATO Information and Documentation Center, established in Kyiv in May 1997, which plays an increasingly important role in providing the Ukrainian public with objective and complete information about NATO's role as a factor of stability and security in Europe.

10. We appreciate the meetings of the Joint Working Group on Defense Reform, appropriately followed up on the expert level, as an effective instrument to catalyze the reform of the Ukrainian defense

establishment, especially in the areas of civil-military relations, defense budgeting and training.

11. We are convinced that the designation of the Yavoriv Training Area as a PFP training center provides a useful instrument for joint exercises and training opportunities, and we encourage all partners to take advantage of them. We underlined that multinational peacekeeping units will play an important role in meeting future challenges of European security, and therefore welcome and support the creation of the Joint Polish-Ukrainian peacekeeping battalion, as well as other multinational units with Ukrainian participation.

12. We highly value the work of the NATO-Ukraine Joint Group on Emergency Situations. We also appreciate NATO-Ukraine consultations in the context of the Conference of National Armaments Directors and ongoing consultation and cooperation in the fields of economic security, defense industry restructuring, downsizing and conversion, and retraining of retired military officers, research and technology, as well as scientific and environmental affairs.

13. We requested the NATO-Ukraine Commission in ambassadorial session to oversee the implementation of the measures embodied in this declaration and the further development of the NATO-Ukraine distinctive partnership under the terms of the charter.

**UKRAINE - PAC**  
 MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICE  
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1 May 1999

**ВІА ЧИСТОГО СЕРЦЯ ДЯКУЄ ЗАКАРПАТТЯ  
 ВСІМ, ХТО ВІАКАЖИВЄСЯ НА НАШУ ВІАУ.**

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU**

for your very generous MONEY DONATIONS for the FLOOD RELIEF. ... we sent over TEN TONS of BEANS, BARLEY, RICE, PEAS and CANNED MILKS ... One and a half TONS of MACARONI ... Two and a half TONS of POTAYOGES !!!

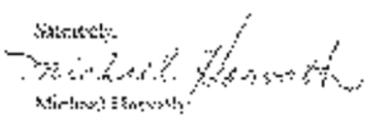
Our first HELP container arrived there November 27th. With snow, half damage to the roads and bridges, we were able to deliver almost all packages and food for the Moldavs. ... Some were bad. ... Our second HELP container arrived by February. ... Our third HELP container was delivered for the MOLDAVANS ... PANCA ... We are preparing our NEXT HELP container for Zakarpattia NOW ... to be delivered soon to help feed them until the Spring crops are available.

As you hear from your friends and relatives, you know of the severe food shortage in Zakarpattia, Ukraine. You already know there is a very hard work to be done, and those who have government jobs have not been paid in months. The prices for food and utilities keep rising. We have been asked for more help with the food supply. Latest reports show people begging and crying in the streets, searching in the garbage for something to eat. NEVER have OUR visitors seen such bad conditions. ...

We are APPEALING TO CHURCHES, ORGANIZATIONS and INDIVIDUALS.

PLEASE, right it is time to think of our less fortunate relatives and friends in Ukraine. SEND your CASH DONATIONS NOW for the FOOD and HUNGER. ... We have plenty of clothes and household goods. BUT, we need CASH to purchase FOOD at wholesale prices. ... and for transportation. ... The US Government is more interested in Yugoslavia, Kosovo ... Albania ... than in help to Ukraine.

Your CASH Donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. ... If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,  
  
 Michael E. Harvath

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## 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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## Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

whereby commercial banks are to provide information to the tax authorities about some of their accounts, the Associated Press reported on April 29. Under that regulation, Ukrainian banks will be asked to disclose transaction records and other information on the accounts of individuals and companies suspected of tax evasion. The statement says that tax officials want information that has "nothing to do with taxation" and that this violates "citizens' legal rights to conduct business." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### IAEA conference offers support

KYIV – A two-week conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency dedicated to compliance with the Nuclear Safety Convention of its 45 signatory countries, including Ukraine, concluded in Vienna with participants expressing concern over lack of funding for nuclear power station safety problems in Ukraine. On the whole, Ukraine's efforts to keep in line with requirements of the convention have been acknowledged. In particular, much progress has been made in creating a national legal base for atomic energy utilization, reactor safety has been scrutinized, a nuclear plant personnel licensing system has been introduced, a program has been worked out to license nuclear sites, and an emergency response system has been established. A document summing up the conference states that the level of radioactive emissions from Ukraine's nuclear power stations remains quite low. It was pointed out that Ukraine has enhanced the role of state regulation of nuclear safety, but that the need remains for a better division of functions and responsibility among different regulating agencies. Conference participants spoke out in favor of maintaining financial and methodological support for Ukraine to improve safety standards. (Eastern Economist)

### CIS set to meet in Crimea

MOSCOW – CIS heads of state will meet on June 4 in Crimea, Yuriy Yarov, executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States Executive Committee announced on April 27. The meeting will discuss the issue of reforming CIS administrative structures with the objective of reducing the number of administrative staff from 1,300 to 710. The CIS Inter-State Economic Committee will be downsized and transformed into a CIS Economic Council consisting of CIS countries' prime ministers. The meeting was initiated by the Ukrainian delegation, Mr. Yarov said. (Eastern Economist)

### Rada approves new broadcasting chief

KYIV – After a series of votes the Verkhovna Rada on April 22 named Oleksander Savenko to replace Zynovii

Kulyk as chair of the State TV and Radio Broadcasting Committee (DerzhTeleRadio). The replacement was initiated by the Rada "in the interests of Ukraine and of Ukrainian society," read the Parliament's statement sent to President Leonid Kuchma. Mr. Savenko, who was nominated by the president, pledged to do his utmost to transform the committee into a bridge uniting the legislative and executive branches for the people's benefit. His policy will be to ensure Ukraine's entry into the global information space, elucidate to the public any regulations to be approved by the president, the Verkhovna Rada or other authorities, implement freedom of speech and enhance the competitiveness of domestic information products. He also plans to expand the regional network of the national broadcasting agency. Mr. Savenko spoke out against filling air space with foreign-made low-quality broadcasts, specifically against "Americanizing" the information space. He emphasized the lack of funds for broadcasting, pointing to the fact that DerzhTeleRadio received only 5 million hrv of the 97.7 million hrv earmarked for the first quarter of this year. (Eastern Economist)

### Re-nationalization of energy sector?

KYIV – The Office of the Procurator-General has asked the judiciary to revoke privately owned stakes in six regional energy companies and return them to the state, the Associated Press reported on April 20. "As a lawyer, I ascertain that gross violations were made during the privatization of these companies," Deputy Procurator-General Olha Kolinko said. The demand follows President Leonid Kuchma's decision last week to fire senior government officials over alleged abuses of authority in the energy sector. Ukraine's 27 regional energy companies are considered to be among the country's most attractive properties, since each has a monopoly or near monopoly on electricity supplies in its region. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### PM predicts hryvnia stability for 1999

KYIV – Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko told journalists on April 19 that the hryvnia exchange rate will remain stable at some 4 hryvni to \$1 this year. Mr. Pustovoitenko confirmed that Ukraine will meet its 1999 macroeconomic targets. He added that inflation in the first quarter of 1999 stood at 3.5 percent, while the budget deficit and credit rates were also kept within projected limits. However, the prime minister also noted that from January to March the state budget was able to collect only 15.9 percent of planned revenues. (Eastern Economist)

### Ukraine's Jews unite for a second time

KYIV – Following the recent creation of the United Jewish Community of Ukraine, three Jewish breakaway groups organized another congress and on April 14 created another umbrella organization, a Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, the Associated Press reported. "It is a historic moment for Ukrainian Jews as practically all of them are now represented [in the confederation]," the agency quoted the chief rabbi of Kyiv and Ukraine, Yaakov Bleich, as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### GDP drops nearly 5 percent

KYIV – The State Committee for Statistics reported on April 28 that Ukraine's GDP decreased by 4.8 percent in the first quarter of this year, compared with the same period in 1998. Industrial production was down 2 percent. Agricultural output among private farms increased by 2.4 percent, but owing to the poor performance of state-run farms, the increase in total agricultural production was only 0.5 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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# Toronto gathering celebrates anniversary of Carpatho-Ukraine

by Yuriy Diakunchak

TORONTO – Approximately 250 people gathered at the Ukrainian National Federation's building in downtown Toronto on March 27 at a banquet to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Carpatho-Ukraine's declaration of independence and the 125th anniversary of the birth of the republic's president, the Rev. Avhustyn Voloshyn and to commemorate the people who fought and died to make their dream come true.

The ephemeral pronouncement of independence by Carpatho-Ukraine on March 15, 1939, is a little-known event within the Ukrainian community, let alone the rest of the world. The attempt to create a Ukrainian piedmont on the eve of the second world war by the Carpatho-Ukrainian Sejm, headed by its president, the Rev. Voloshyn, served as an omen of what would befall the rest of Ukraine in subsequent years.

At the outset of the evening's official program, Yuri Shanta, a Toronto-based member of the organizing committee, provided a rousing retelling of historical events that followed the 1939 proclamation. Mr. Shanta explained that the crushing of Carpatho-Ukraine by Hungarian forces, with the political backing of Nazi Germany, had ramifications for all of Europe.

The activist recounted that immense odds were stacked against Carpatho-Ukraine's armed forces, the Zakarpatska Sich. "When the Carpathian Sich was defending itself from Hungarian troops they had only 41 rifles and 90 revolvers," he said.

Mr. Shanta related how the Czecho-Slovak authorities who oversaw Carpatho-Ukraine were bullied by the Germans into disarming the Ukrainian forces in the face of an Hungarian advance. Mr. Shanta's voice conveyed the sense of betrayal he still feels after all these years.

"In the end, the Czecho-Slovak army withdrew, leaving a virtually unarmed Sich to defend Khust, the [Carpatho-Ukrainian] capital," Mr. Shanta said.

The evening's keynote speaker was Michael Pap, a historian and professor of international law at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. Prof. Pap said Carpatho-Ukraine's proclamation of independence has particular historical significance because it was issued in defiance of Nazi Germany's wishes.

"When on March 15, 1939, Hitler was entering Czecho-Slovakia with little opposition, Carpatho-Ukraine was battling the advancing Hungarians. The Sich managed to maintain a regular front for almost two weeks," the historian said.

According to Prof. Pap, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin was very concerned about the prospect of an independent Carpatho-Ukraine and saw it as a great threat to the USSR. The scholar maintained that Stalin saw Adolf Hitler's gift of Carpatho-Ukraine to the Hungarians as the green light for the establishment of a Nazi-Soviet pact.

In a comment on present-day Ukraine, Prof. Pap called upon its citizens to rid the country of "janissaries."

Petro Bajer, Brotherhood of Veterans of the Carpathian Sich (BVCS) president, delivered an address intended for the ears of Ukraine's president, Leonid Kuchma. Mr. Bajer asked the president to formally recognize Carpatho-Ukraine's contribution to nation-building.

"The [BVCS] petitions the president to declare March 15 as a national holiday in Ukraine and to create a new Order of Avhustyn Voloshyn to be bestowed on those who work for the good of Ukraine," Mr. Bajer said.

Ukraine's consul general in Toronto, Mykola Kyrychenko, also spoke at the banquet. The diplomat focused on Carpatho-Ukraine's opposition to the Nazis and their allies. "Carpatho-Ukraine was in fact the first nation to resist the fascist onslaught on Europe," said Mr. Kyrychenko.

Mr. Kyrychenko added that the nation-building experience of Carpatho-Ukraine was part of the general awakening of Ukrainians to the need for their own state. He recognized President Voloshyn as "a great son of the Ukrainian nation," and read a letter from Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada, Volodymyr Khandogiy, part of which stated, "those fighting for the independence of Carpatho-Ukraine, including Avhustyn Voloshyn, were heroes of Ukraine."

However, the consul skirted the matter of Mr. Bajer's request. Reached at the consulate a few days after the banquet, Mr. Kyrychenko said he had no official comment. "In order for there to be any response from the government, Mr. Bajer's request must be presented to me or to the government in writing," the consul said.

Mr. Bajer said the BVCS will draw up a formal request on its letterhead and forward it to Mr. Kyrychenko in the coming weeks.

It is interesting to note that the soldiers of the Carpathian Sich are officially recognized by the Ukrainian government as combatants on its side during the Second World War, and as such are entitled to a pension. Fighters of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and soldiers of the Halychyna Division have not been granted this recognition.



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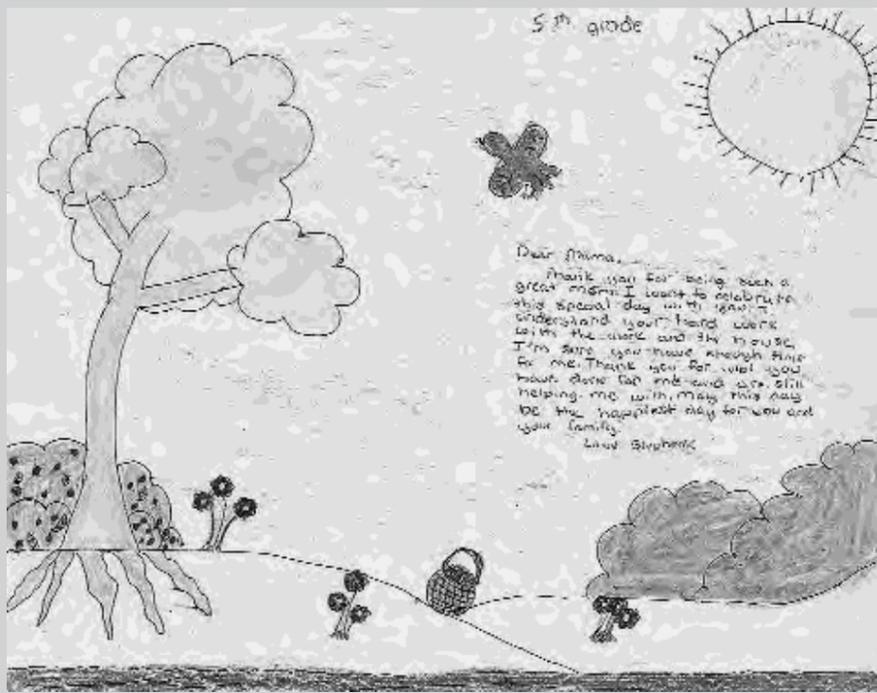
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# Our children say: Happy Mother's Day!

The Ukrainian National Association, through its special projects coordinator Oksana Trytjak, invited children age 12 and younger to greet their mothers on the occasion of Mother's Day. Their art work and messages are published on these four pages in The Ukrainian Weekly. (Ukrainian-language submissions were published in Svoboda.)



Stephanie Szafran, Grade 5, Farmington, Conn.

ROSE  
MY MOTHER IS LIKE THE ROSE IN A SPRING BOUQUET  
WHEN SHE IS HAPPY SHE BLOOMS  
WHEN SHE IS SAD SHE WILTS  
EITHER WAY I LOVE HER.  
MY MOTHER HAS A SOFT TOUCH LIKE A ROSE  
HER TOUCH ALWAYS MAKES ME FEEL BETTER  
EVEN THOUGH SHE SOMETIMES HAS THORNS  
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE HER FOREVER.

Nina Celuch, 12, Passaic, N.J.



Nadia Szpyhulsky, 5, Hillside, N.J.

George Cpin grade 5  
Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
I have something  
special just for you.  
A bouquet of flowers  
and my heart say  
I love you.  
Thank you for everything  
that you do.  
Happy Mother's Day to you.

George Cpin, 10, Short Hills, N.J.



Larissa Smyk, 9, Orange, N.J.

My Mother is young  
My Mother is wise  
I love to hold her hand,  
She's my pride!  
Love

Roman Zyla, 6, Etobicoke, Ontario.



Danylko Lesko, 8, South Orange, N.J.



Danyla Frazier, 8, Union, N.J.

Mom  
My mommy has a  
I love and study  
When she plays with me  
I shine in the light  
I like when  
she takes me to parks  
with rides and games  
she get me  
popcorn and soda  
if I was a bear  
I go sit to my mom  
I love my mom  
with all my heart!



Ivanna Farrell, 6, Springfield, N.J.

Dear Mother  
 My dear Mother  
 O so far away  
 I'm thinking about you  
 How is your heart  
 How is your life  
 How is your mood  
 How is your life  
 How is your attitude  
 How is your violet  
 How is your everyday  
 I love you  
 Love  
 Ivanna



Michelle Podberezniak, 5, Springfield, N.J.



Vitaly Tsabak, 10, Newark, N.J.

My Mother  
 My mother is the best  
 in the world  
 she helps me learn everything  
 I can trust her  
 she can trust me  
 she helps me a lot.  
 When I am sad  
 My mother cheers me up  
 she gives me clothes  
 she gives me money  
 so I can go to school.  
 she gives me food  
 so I won't be hungry.  
 Thank you mom for everything  
 you have done for me.  
 I love you mom

Danylo Szpyhulsky, 8, Hillside, N.J.

My Mother  
 I love you Mom!  
 I love you Mom!

Deanne Rakowsky, 10, Maplewood, N.J.

Mother's Day is special  
 especially for Mom  
 In every year I give my Mom  
 These special gifts I feel  
 It's like a birthday card  
 That makes her feel so glad  
 But this year something is  
 Always with the love  
 I'm giving Mom this year I want  
 With love and respect  
 by Katerina Hoshowsky

Katerina Hoshowsky, 7, New York, N.Y.



Alex Martynetz, 6, South Orange, N.J.

My Special Mom  
 My mother helps me  
 with my homework  
 I really appreciate  
 that  
 she helps me  
 I don't know what  
 I would do without her  
 I love her  
 very much



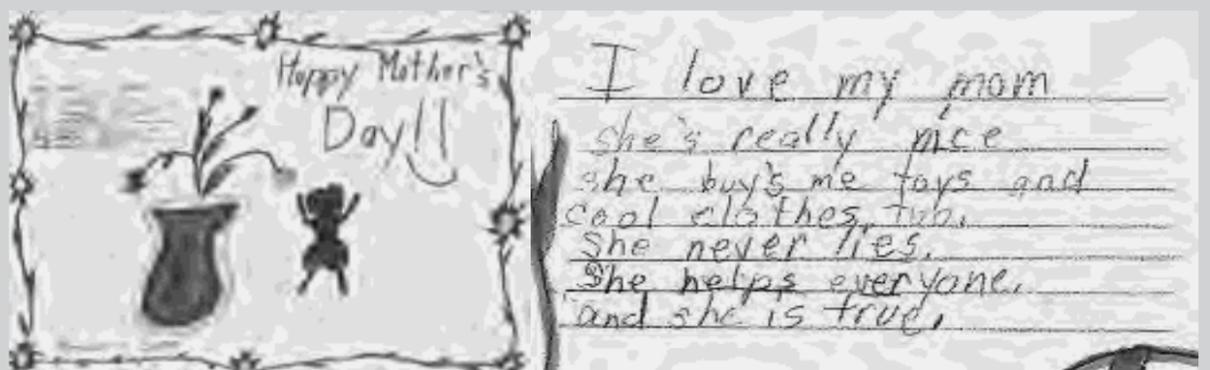
Bohdania A. Potter, 9, East Orange, N.J.



Roxanne Smyk, 9, Orange, N.J.

Mom  
 My mom is the best mom  
 in the whole world!  
 she is smart, intelligent and  
 pretty  
 besides and out  
 I love her  
 For all she has done  
 with all my heart  
 she has helped me with  
 about everything  
 so this is a tribute to her  
 for all the things  
 she has done for me  
 I wouldn't want  
 any other mother  
 except her!  
 Thank you mom!

Alexandra Burns, 9, Roselle Park, N.J.



Stephanie Borai, 9, Newark, N.J.



Laryssa Lukiw, 10, Springfield, N.J.



Elizabeth Horstmeier, 6, Glendale, Wis.



Andrew Puzyk, 9, Mountainside, N.J.



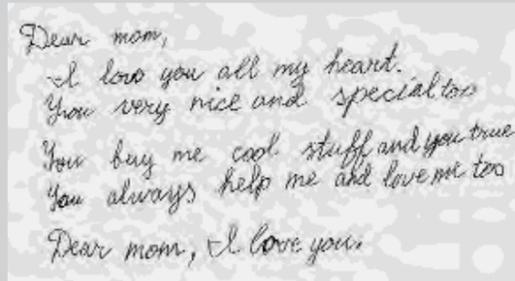
Peter Kobinsky, Grade 5, Newington, Conn.



Tatiana Martynetz, 9, South Orange, N.J.



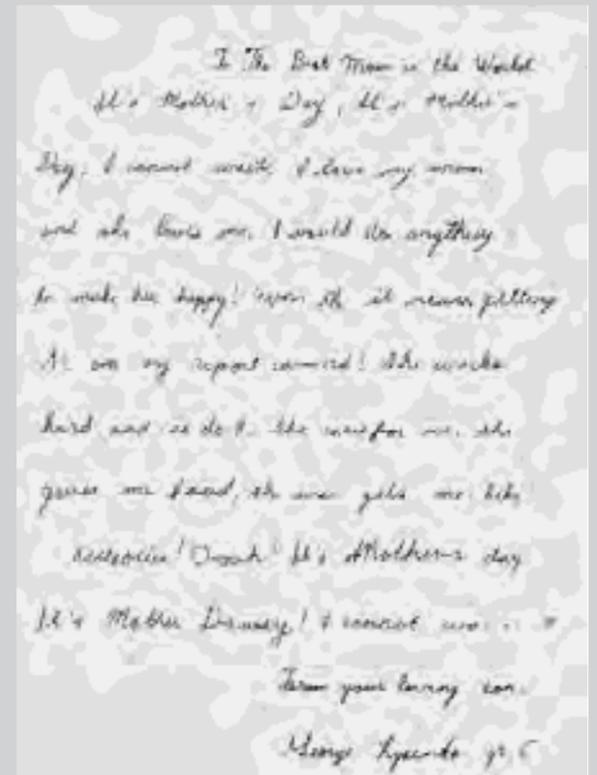
Chrissy DiLiberti, 5, Hillside, N.J.



Dmytro Shmyr, 11, Newark, N.J.



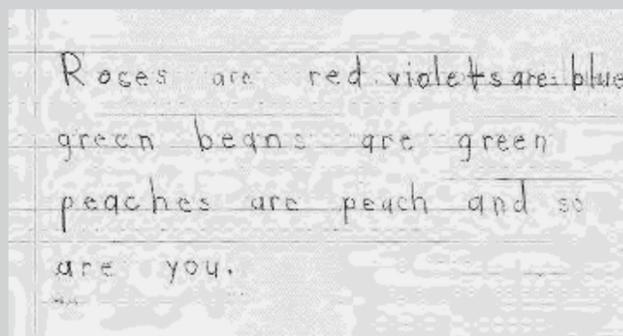
Yury Buchak, 6, Newark, N.J.



George Lysenko, 11, Maplewood, N.J.



Stepan Nesterivsky, 8, Newark, N.J.



Boyan Robak, 6, Newark, N.J.



Alexis Boyko, 10, Cranford, N.J.



Kristina Rakoczy, 9, Whippany, N.J.



Stephen Korchynsky, 8, Horseheads, N.Y.

Ding Dong, Ding Dong,  
You ring in my heart  
Like a bell.

Ding Dong, Ding Dong  
Mom, you ring in my heart  
Like a bell.

Ding Dong, Ding Dong,  
You will always have  
A place in my heart.

Roman Lesko, 11, South Orange, N.J.



Grandma

The mother of my father  
Is helpful and graceful  
And my grandma,  
I think she has a good mind  
A good heart  
And takes good care of me.  
She does almost all the work  
And is the best cook ever.  
I love her very much  
For all she has done for me.

Adam Klapko, 9, Newark, N.J.



Chrystyna Lazirko, 9, Clark, N.J.

My Mother

My mother is the best  
in the whole world  
because  
My mother is very nice  
she makes good dinners  
she takes good care of me  
when I am sick  
When I was a baby  
she held me  
with walking  
and talking  
and all other things  
I love her



My Mommy

My mommy helps me  
when I need it  
she makes me food  
and buys my clothes  
because she knows  
that her love really shows.  
She takes care of me when I am sick  
When I need help in Ukrainian  
Daddy can't  
do it so I see  
Mommy!

She is a very good cook.  
I think she could write her own book  
about my Mommy very much!!!



Matthew DiLiberti, 8, Hillside, N.J.

I Love you  
CAT + DOG ZOO  
go Mam

Donna Delesky, 5, Livingston, N.J.



Sofiya Smaluch, 6, Newark, N.J.

My Mom

My mother is the best cook ever,  
she works very very hard.  
My mother is polite and nice to  
me.  
She taught me how to be intelligent  
and kind.  
My mother helps me with school  
I love my mother with my whole  
heart.

Boris Lyashkevich, 9, Irvington, N.J.



Natalie Kebalo, Grade 5, South Windsor, Conn.



Roman Kovbasniuk, 8, Whippany, N.J.

Mom

Brown hair that shines  
in the light  
like the sun  
Eyes like the sky  
helpful, intelligent, gentle  
and kind  
Beautiful!  
A good cook too  
She is the best mom  
in the universe.



Andrew Lazirko, 6, Clark, N.J.

# UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## Hey, Canada!

UKELODEON wants to know: Where are our Canadian readers? We have already heard from "down under" and parts of the U.S., but as yet there has been no word from Canada.

Now, unless I am mistaken, there are one or two children in Canada ... In fact, I think we have a large Ukrainian Canadian population. So let UKELODEON know what is happening around Canada.

— Lydia Smyk

\* \* \*

To get you interested, here's a blast from the past: on the right is a photo from St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg. Look for your parents, aunts or uncles among the students. Hmm ... perhaps this will trigger a response.



## St. John's School tops in spelling

by Peter Kasyanenko

NEWARK, N.J. — On April 27, four students from our school, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark, N.J., competed in the third annual Deanery No. 18 Spelling Bee. Michael Puzyk and Valerija Lysenko of Grade 8, and Olenka Pawlyshyn and I of Grade 7 competed against 22 students from five other schools. The event was held in the gymnasium of the Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Maplewood, N.J.



Spelling Bee champion Olenka

The spelling bee was scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., and all the contestants were extremely nervous. With only one chance to spell word correctly, one is easily disqualified. That's what made all of us nervous, yet made the spelling bee exciting. One by one, the contestants were eliminated until two finalists remained.

They were Olenka from St. John the Baptist and a student from Leo School in Irvington. They battled each other, spelling progressively more difficult words. Finally, Olenka's opponent misspelled a word, and Olenka was declared the champion.

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School has won the Deanery No. 18 Spelling Bee for the past three years. The past two spelling bees had been won by Roxolana Rak-Woloszyn, who is now an honors student at Oak Knoll Academy.

St. John the Baptist is really top-notch!

## Ridna Shkola students visit Columbia U.

NEW YORK — The Harriman Institute at Columbia University on April 9, hosted a group of upper class students from the School of Ukrainian Studies (Ridna Shkola) in Morris County, N.J., for a daylong visit.

The visit began in the morning with a welcome from the director of the Harriman Institute, Prof. Mark von Hagen, who introduced himself and the two other Columbia University professors who were to take part in that day's program: Prof. Vitaly Chernetsky and Visiting Prof. Frank Sysyn. All three of these scholars are involved in teaching courses and doing research on Ukrainian topics.

After introductions, these three professors took turns describing the history of, and current opportunities in, Ukrainian studies at North American universities in history, literature and inter-disciplinary studies. After providing the students with a general overview of developments at universities other than Columbia, they described the rich variety of visiting scholars, lectures, conferences, discussions and scholarship on Ukrainian-related topics and issues at Columbia.

At the end of this two-hour meeting, which took place in the Harriman Institute's seminar room on the 12th floor of the School for International and Public Affairs Building on the university campus, students had an opportunity to ask questions. At the

end of the morning meeting, the students and their chaperones joined Profs. von Hagen and Chernetsky for lunch at the Columbia Faculty Club.

After lunch, the Ukrainian students joined a group of applicants to Columbia University from throughout the United States to listen to a representative speak about what is distinctive about a Columbia education, namely, Columbia's famous core curriculum, and also received various tips and suggestions on applying to highly selective colleges. After that orientation session, the day concluded with a tour of the campus, which included visits to the undergraduate library and a student dormitory.

The visit was notable for the hospitality of Profs. von Hagen, Chernetsky and Sysyn, as well as the Harriman Institute's assistance in making all of the necessary logistical arrangements. The visit was initiated and organized by Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky, a Columbia alumnus and parent of a Ridna Shkola student.



Some of the Ridna Shkola students who visited Columbia pose with Prof. Mark von Hagen (second from left) and Prof. Vitaly Chernetsky (fourth from right) in the Harriman Institute's seminar room.

# 13-year-old is prize-winning poet

LIBERTY, N.Y. – Thirteen-year-old Christopher Kuszniir may seem like a typical eighth-grader at Liberty Middle School, but he is also a prize-winning poet with a national award to his credit.

In mid-September of last year, Chris was one of 300 poets across the country who were selected as finalists of the Famous Poets Society. Thus, he became eligible to fly out with his parents, Volodymyr and Doris, to Anaheim, Calif., for the society's convention.

He came home from the convention as the youngest winner in the 1998 contest with a trophy for fifth place for the writing and oral delivery of his poem "Urban Jungle." News stories about his extraordinary achievement appeared in The Times Herald-Record of Middletown, N.Y., and the Sullivan County Democrat of Callicoon, N.Y.

Chris began writing poetry in sixth grade, encouraged by a teacher who introduced him to poetry, and his writing has already been published in several collections of poetry. His inspiration, Chris says, comes from movies, songs and events around him; for example his first poem dealt with the death of his grandfather two and a half years ago.

This year he received the Editor's Choice Award from The National Library of Poetry and his prize-winning poem was published in the anthology titled "Shelter in the Shade."

Chris has other interests besides writing. He plays football and is a Graeco-Roman wrestler (in the 140-pound class). He plans to continue being active in sports in high school and perhaps beyond, especially in wrestling, since he says he is getting quite good at the sport (he has a 13-3 record this year).

And, as for his plans for the future: Chris hopes to publish a book of his poetry – he has 62 poems ready for print and is looking for a publisher to fulfill what he refers to as "my higher goal" – and he wants to become a lawyer since he is interested in the courts, debating and politics.

Asked by UKELODEON whether we could print one of his poems on our page, Chris replied in the affirmative. We then asked him which poem he would like to share with his peers. His choice, "Blood and Flame," written in February, appears below.



Chris Kuszniir of Liberty, N.Y.

## Blood and Flame

Dear God, I find a new blessing in every coming day,  
And then at night, before I sleep, I close my eyes and pray.  
You've been there my whole life, keeping evil from my soul,  
Pushing me along, so I'd meet my every goal.

My life's been like a battle, that I'll never win or lose,  
The devil's in my face, in the form of drugs and booze,  
I continue on my path, being careful not to fall,  
But I know that it's been You, Who's held me through it all.

I've been seated on Your shoulders, but now I have to stand,  
I'm strong enough to walk, and to meet my own demand.  
I travel on my path, but there are holes along the way,  
And in each I find the devil, convincing me to stay.

To this day I'm being torn, between evil and what's good,  
It's hard resisting him, but I do the thing I should.  
Sometimes he almost gets me, breaks my path so that I'll slip,  
But it's then I see Your hand that helps me if I trip.

I thank you, dear Lord, for making sure I was prepared,  
When You held me like a baby, if the devil left me scared,  
You brought to me my heart, when it was that, the devil stole,  
His flames have often burned me, but Your blood has healed my soul.

### CHECK IT OUT!

In this week's issue of The Ukrainian Weekly (on the four pages before UKELODEON) we publish Mother's Day greetings, in the form of artwork and written messages, from our young readers age 12 and younger.

## Mishanyna

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

Solve our May Mishanyna (hodgepodge) by finding the words below. Happy hunting!

- |                |          |              |          |
|----------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| Babtsia        | honor    | Mother's Day | tsiom    |
| best wishes    | love     | pansy        | Victoria |
| flowers        | Mama     | respect      | Zlet     |
| holiday        | May      | rose         |          |
| Holy Communion | Memorial | Sviato Vesny |          |

### OUR NEXT ISSUE:

UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated June 13, please send in your materials by June 4.

And, don't forget, your input and ideas are welcome. So, drop us a line:

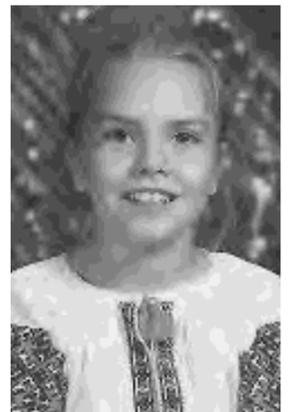
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UKELODEON is prepared by the editorial staff of The Ukrainian Weekly working in conjunction with Lydia Smyk, an elementary school teacher at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark, N.J., and mother of three.

## Myshka's mystery

In honor of this month's mystery solver, I am a place – not a person. I was named in honor of an oldest brother. I have gates of gold and am verrrry old!

And, the answer to last month's mystery: Pavlo Skoropadsky, who became hetman on April 29, 1918. The correct answer was submitted by 9-year-old Olena Lyashchenko who was born in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, and has lived in the United States since the summer of 1995. (P.S.: She's a high honors student in Grade 4 at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark N.J.)



Olena Lyashchenko

(Remember, send in your answer to our May mystery and your picture could appear in Ukelodeon. How about someone NOT from New Jersey, since four of our last five mystery solvers were from the "Garden State"??!!?? How about you kids in Michigan, or Pennsylvania, or Ontario, or ...)



