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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Ivan Pliusch attends international assembly of parliament heads

by Irene Jarosewich

UNITED NATIONS — More than 150 parliamentary leaders from 140 countries arrived at the United Nations August 30 for the opening of a three-day summit of heads of Parliament. The first international Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments, organized by the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), “was a historic first,” stated Dr. Najma Heptulla, president of the IPU, who underlined that it brings together “heads of parliament from across the world ... [who] collectively, can play a crucial role in forging global consensus on vital issues facing the world community.”

Established more than 100 years ago, in 1889, the IPU is the oldest of the world's multilateral political organizations. Though separate from the United Nations, the IPU nonetheless used the venue of the United Nations this year for its millennium summit of parliamentary leaders, which included among its participants the chairman of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, Ivan Pliusch.

Several international gatherings were held in New York City during the last week of August and the first week of September in conjunction with the new millennium. More than 180 international religious leaders (none, however, representing Ukrainian Churches) met for the World Peace Summit on August 27-30; the August 30-September 1 conference of parliamentarians was held a week prior to the United Nations Millennium Summit, an international gathering for heads of government and state held at the United Nations September 6-8.

During their summit, the parliamentarians reiterated support for the United Nations as a pivotal body in international relations, however, they noted that, on the eve of the new millennium, the United Nations needed to broaden its base and focus less on political issues and more on economic, social and cultural problems. In their declaration adopted on September 1, the parliamentarians reaffirmed their “commitment to international cooperation ...” and, at the same time, resolved “to introduce a more manifestly democratic dimension into international decision-making.”

Mr. Pliusch addressed fellow legislators on August 31 from the podium at the U.N. General Assembly. “On the brink of the new millennium, we, as never before, feel the intense need for strong and effective international systems ... and within our multilateral dialogue, I would like to underscore, in particular, the importance of the theme that international cooperation be given a ‘parliamentary dimension.’” he said. “It is the parliaments of the world that

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## Ukraine's Olympians poised to repeat success of 1996

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — It is a younger and less experienced team than the one that won 23 medals in Atlanta — nine of them gold — and took ninth place in the overall standings, but the Ukrainian Olympic squad heading for Sydney, Australia, is just as strong and should do at least as well. It also will be the first Ukrainian squad whose talents have been nurtured since national independence in 1991.

“These are athletes who for the most part grew up in an independent Ukraine and have received their training in the system that Ukraine has developed,” said Volodymyr Kulyk, an advisor to President Leonid Kuchma and longtime member of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine.

On September 8, most of the Olympic team's 239 athletes, who will compete in 27 sports, left Kyiv for Sydney after a rain-soaked send-off held the previous evening in downtown Kyiv and attended by hundreds of supporters.

After months of training at the Koncha Zaspa sports facility outside Kyiv, as well as in Crimea and the Carpathian Mountains, the athletes will spend the last week before the September 15 opening of the Games in final preparation and acclimatization in the south of Australia. A portion of the team will stay near Melbourne, the rest in Albury-Wodonga, training in facilities arranged by the Australian Friends of the National

Olympic Committee of Ukraine. Among them will be seven individuals who currently hold European and world championships concurrently, 11 world champions and 25 European title holders.

Although it is a youthful squad, the Sydney team has a sufficient number of veteran athletes to provide guidance, insight and stability. Serhii Bubka, the 36-year-old superstar pole-vaulter, who has attended more Games than almost any of the athletes who will gather in Sydney, will again captain the Ukrainian team as he did in Atlanta in 1996, when he carried the Ukrainian flag into the Olympic Stadium during the opening ceremonies.

Mr. Bubka, who has yet to attain Olympic gold, will join six other prominent Ukrainian Olympians who achieved the distinction in Atlanta: Inessa Kravets in the triple jump; Viacheslav Oliinyk in Greco-Roman wrestling; Olena Pakholchuk and Ruslana Taran in yachting; and Yevhen Braslavets and Ihor Matvienko in yachting.

While these six athletes have continued to compete at a high level and all are favorites to win again in Sydney, Mr. Kulyk said the new generation of Ukrainian Olympians would make their mark in gymnastics, boxing and swimming.

As in the past, the gymnastics team is strong, even without 1996 star Lilia Podkopyeva, who took overall individual gold in Atlanta and upset the plans of the U.S. women's team to dominate gymnastics events. This year the focus will be



One of Ukraine's top candidates for a medal in Sydney is Denis Sylantiev, seen here with his gold medal after he won the men's 200-meter butterfly at the World Swimming Championships in Perth, Australia, on January 14, 1998.

on 19-year-old Viktoria Karpenko, who has extensive international experience and was the overall world champion in 1998. Although injury-plagued for the last year, Ms. Karpenko has recovered

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## Preparations for Sydney Games in final phase

by Peter Shmigel  
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

SYDNEY — Ukraine's athletes, officials and Ukrainian Australian community volunteers this week entered the last phase of preparations for the Sydney 2000 Games, as some 70 participants moved into the Olympic Village and draped their quarters with the blue and yellow.

As the rest of Ukraine's Olympic delegation arrives in the Olympic Village over the coming week, Ukraine will have 239 athletes and approximately 150 accredited officials. Ukrainian athletes will be competing in 26 separate sports, mostly in individual disciplines.

Coming up to the opening ceremony on September 15, many of Ukraine's athletes continue training outside the main Olympic precinct, including rowers based near their competition venue in western Sydney, a large group of track and field athletes, cyclists and swimmers based in Albury-Wodonga, sailors based in Sydney Harbor, and gymnasts, divers and trampolinists

based in Melbourne.

Heading the Ukrainian delegation is Vasyl Zabroda, chief of mission of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (NOCU). Mr. Zabroda is also Ukraine's vice minister for sports. The official attaché of the NOCU is Roman Dechnicz, a Sydney-based lawyer who is also the chairman of the Australian Friends of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (AFNOCU), the local community's vehicle for supporting Ukraine's participation.

The Ukrainian delegation will be supported by some 30 accredited volunteers from the Ukrainian Australian community who have undergone official training through the Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) over the last year.

Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko is currently scheduled to make an appearance at the Sydney 2000 Games. His visit would be the highest level official presence that Ukraine has had in Australia since Ukraine's independence in 1991. Leaders of Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia and

Kharkiv oblasts also are expected to attend parts of the Sydney 2000 Games, as their oblasts' residents are the most numerous in the Ukrainian contingent.

Mr. Zabroda commented that he is satisfied with Ukraine's level of preparation for the Sydney 2000 Games and hopeful that Ukraine could at least repeat its performance in Atlanta, where the team earned nine gold medals

“To the extent that our resources have allowed it, we have done everything possible to give our athletes the opportunity to succeed here in Sydney. Obviously, this has not been easy in the context of Ukraine's pressing economic problems, but the government has been continuously committed,” Mr. Zabroda said.

“We have no specific targets for our participation. Indeed, in light of our resources and the fact that there are so many other pressing questions in Ukraine, the only goal is to be truly competitive,” Mr. Zabroda added.

“The current challenge is to manage the masses of information and logistical

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## ANALYSIS

## CIS suffers another blow as Russia withdraws from its visa-free regime

by Paul Goble  
RFE/RL Newline

Moscow's decision to withdraw from the visa-free regime with other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States may help the Russian government protect itself against terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking.

But it is also likely to affect Russia's relationship with other CIS countries, offending many and, at the same time, giving Moscow new political leverage over some. In addition, this move seems certain to affect the attitudes of the 11 non-Russian countries toward Russia and Russians, and possibly even Moscow's ability to recruit low-income workers from abroad.

Consequently, Russia's use of this tool to defend some of its national interests may have the effect of undermining other important interests as well.

Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Igor Ivanov announced on August 30 that Russia is withdrawing from the 1992 Bishkek accord, which established visa-free travel among all but three of the members of the CIS. (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine have remained outside.) He said that terrorism and organized crime mean that Moscow will withdraw from this regime after giving the 90-day notice required by the original agreement.

Some of his aides pointed out that the Bishkek arrangements themselves have already begun to break down, with several of the Central Asian countries already having imposed visa agreements on one another's nationals. But the Russian foreign affairs minister himself went out of his way to stress that this decision was not intended to divide the CIS countries. Russia's withdrawal, he said, "does not mean that Russia intends to create artificial barriers and to fence itself off from Commonwealth partners." He added that Russian diplomats will now begin discussions with CIS governments about travel documentation requirements in the future.

Nonetheless, many people across the 12 countries currently part of the CIS are likely to view this Russian decision as the latest blow to the continued existence of an organization that has tried to maintain ties

Paul Goble is the publisher of RFE/RL Newline.

## Ukraine protests violence in Kosovo

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

NEW YORK – "Ukraine strongly condemns the continuing acts of violence in Kosovo and requests that the U.N. mission and peacekeeping forces use all means available to them with the intent of stopping these violent acts. The guarantee of peace in this region is only possible through the establishment of adequate conditions of security, as well as adherence to basic human rights for members of all ethnic groups," stated Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations during the August 24 meeting of the U.N. Security Council, during which the situation in Kosovo was discussed.

Ukraine's representative noted several positive developments in Kosovo as a result of international cooperation, in particular, the organized return to the region of the first group of Serbian resi-

among the 12 Soviet republics since 1991. After all, despite numerous meetings, the CIS could point to few real achievements beyond the visa-free regime system, an arrangement that allowed some of the countries involved to survive as their workers abroad sent back part of their earnings to their homelands. Russia's decision to withdraw will not only lead others to do the same but call into question whether the CIS has any future.

But regardless of whether this Russian decision has the effect of ending the CIS, it clearly will have an impact on Moscow's relationship with the other members. On the one hand, it will reduce Russia's ability to present itself to them as the guarantor of CIS arrangements. On the other, it will almost certainly allow Moscow to step up its pressure on various countries, demanding concessions as the price for a more favorable visa regime.

In addition, this decision may prompt many in the non-Russian countries to revise their views of Russia and their treatment of ethnic Russian residents on their territory. They will certainly view this decision as a reflection of Russian, even ethnic Russian national interests, a perception that may lead some of them to become more nationalistic in the defense of their own interests domestically and internationally.

Finally, this decision seems certain to affect Russia itself. Economically, it appears likely to have the effect of depriving certain Russian firms of low-paid guest workers from the former Soviet republics, who up to now have provided some of the muscle behind Russia's recent economic gains. Such enterprises will certainly seek special arrangements for "their" workers, thus adding a new element to Russian politics.

And, politically, this decision could have the effect of increasing Russian hostility to non-Russians living in the Russian Federation, regardless of their citizenship. Not only is it likely to increase demands – like those already in place in some Russian cities, for the expulsion of "persons from the Caucasus," but it may be seen by some as giving a kind of official green light to Russian chauvinist organizations of various stripes.

Thus, Moscow's move last week may have a very different impact on Russian national security than its authors intended.

dents, the establishment by the United Nations of an international commission to resolve questions regarding property belonging to residents and refugees, as well as the publication by the United Nations of a plan for self-governance in Kosovo on the level of a municipality.

At the same time Ambassador Yelchenko expressed concern about the refusal to allow well-known representatives of several national minority groups in the region to participate in the pre-election process leading up to the municipal election, which is scheduled for October of this year. He also expressed concern about the rising incidence of acts of overt political pressure and violence in Kosovo.

In the near future, a select group of militia from the forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine will be sent to join the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Journalists protest costly libel rulings

KYIV – Ukrainian journalists have launched a protest campaign against what they see as media harassment in the form of very high libel settlements, Interfax and the Associated Press reported on September 5. Courts have been flooded by libel claims from officials, private citizens and organizations seeking huge settlements that journalists say are often used as political tools to silence criticism. Journalists are planning to travel in horse-drawn carts across Ukrainian regions and build a "Freedom Town" in front of the parliamentary building in Kyiv within the framework of their protest campaign. The Verkhovna Rada's Committee on Freedom of Speech has proposed a bill that would limit libel settlements to 2,550 hryv (\$468). (RFE/RL Newline)

### Memorial to Stalin victims opened in Tver

TVER, Russia – Poles and Russians gathered in Tver on September 2 to open the state memorial complex at Mednoye commemorating the 6,313 Poles and more than 9,000 Russians who were killed by Stalinist officials, ITAR-TASS reported. Russian Internal Affairs Minister Vladimir Rushailo said the opening of the memorial marks the beginning of a new stage in relations between the two countries, and State Duma Deputy Chairman Vladimir Lukin said the memorial will have a "salutary" effect on ties because "the immortalization of the perished Polish servicemen completes a heavy and tragic process of disclosing the truth." Polish Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek, who attended the opening ceremony, commented that the murders revealed "the tragedy and devilry of communism [which] tear the man from his beliefs and faith, from his consciousness which tells everyone what's good and what's bad." (RFE/RL Newline)

### Tatarstan to drop Cyrillic alphabet

KAZAN, Tatarstan – Schools in Tatarstan will now use the Latin script, rather than the Cyrillic one, for written work in the national language, a local official told the Associated Press on September 1. That step is part of a 10-year program to end the use of a Russian-related alphabet and replace it with one that more adequately reflects the sound patterns of Tatar. Moreover, the local official added, the new script will make European culture more accessible to the students. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Ukraine, Turkey offer to help Central Asia

KYIV – Kyiv is ready to cooperate with Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian states in the struggle against "international terrorism and extremism," ITAR-

TASS reported on September 1, citing a Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry statement. The statement expressed concern at the "escalation of tensions" in Central Asia and at "efforts by international terrorists aimed against the territorial integrity of regional states." Ankara has also offered Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan "financial and psychological assistance" in the battle with Islamic extremists, Caucasus Press reported on September 2, quoting Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Charges could hit Ukraine's vice PM

KYIV – Deputy Procurator General Mykola Obikhod told journalists on September 1 that in 1996-1997 Ukraine's Unified Energy Systems (UES) illegally channeled abroad more than \$1.1 billion, including \$100 million to accounts of former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, Interfax reported. At the time of the alleged transfers, the UES was headed by Yulia Tymoshenko, who is now vice prime minister in charge of the energy sector. Ms. Tymoshenko's party, Fatherland (Batkivschyna), said the same day that the charges against the UES leadership are "senseless, absurd and ridiculous" and are intended to discredit the current government. Last month, the Procurator General's Office opened a criminal case on embezzlement charges against Ms. Tymoshenko's husband, Oleksander, a member of the UES board of directors, and Valerii Falkovych, the UES's deputy director. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Russia criticized for quitting travel accord

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma told journalists on September 1 that Russia's decision to back out of the 1992 Bishkek treaty on visa-free travel within the CIS will undermine prospects for creating a CIS free-trade zone, Interfax reported. According to Mr. Kuchma, such a zone means "free movement of capital, goods and people." Mr. Kuchma commented: "If this is not the case, the idea of a free-trade zone is laid to rest. The question arises – who needs the CIS in such circumstances?" Russia's decision will not affect Kyiv directly, since Ukraine, like Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, has a separate agreement with Russia allowing visa-free travel. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Kuchma urges athletes to remain in top 10

KYIV – Bidding farewell to Ukraine's Olympic team on September 2, President Leonid Kuchma said "it would be a serious disappointment [for Ukraine] not to join the club of 10 best teams again," the Associated Press reported. Ukraine has

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## Verkhovna Rada prepares for difficult fall session

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's lawmakers are predicting a difficult but historic fall session for the Verkhovna Rada, one that, should it meet the targets set by the leadership, will considerably transform Ukraine's legal structure and the look of the legislative process as well.

"This session will be a very difficult but important session," said Leonid Kravchuk, one of the Parliament's leading lawmakers.

Mr. Kravchuk and 392 other members of a legislature that counts 445 national deputies returned to work on September 5, after a six-week summer recess.

They return to many of the matters they left behind in mid-July. This time, however, the aim is to resolve the problems and move forward. The lawmakers have set an ambitious agenda, which, among other things aims to pass several comprehensive packages that have remained stuck in the drafting or debating stages for several sessions. If passed, however, they would establish the foundation for a general legal framework for Ukraine. The packages include tax, land, criminal and civil codes. The bills are not only controversial but so complicated that many deputies had refused to vote on them because they are hard to comprehend.

The government has asked that the tax code become one of the first items that the reconvened Parliament addresses. Verkhovna Rada Chairman Ivan Pliusch read a statement by President Leonid Kuchma who asked that the lawmakers make adoption of a new tax code a priority. Mr. Kuchma noted that the current unfair, contradictory and vague tax laws on the books have led to a situation in which the government is owed 15 billion hrv.

The Yushenko government and President Kuchma have called for a new tax

code before the 2001 budget is presented to the Parliament. Without it, government leaders say they cannot accurately forecast next year's revenues.

During a press conference the day before the opening of the new session, Mr. Pliusch said it was unrealistic to expect that a new tax code would be approved before the lawmakers begin the final budget review process, which must begin by October 10 in accordance with Ukrainian law. He said the government should begin developing the new budget based on the old revenue collection data, not only because time is short but also because a majority of lawmakers do not see the necessity of waiting for a new code.

The budget, which the government is scheduled to submit by September 15, will be the first test of unity and strength for the majority coalition, which got the Parliament moving after two years of bitter feuding between politically polarized forces when it was formed at the beginning of this year. Although many politicians continue to believe that this year's budget process finally may move smoothly because domestic revenues have picked up considerably, there is reason to believe that difficult decisions will have to be made again.

The government recently announced it would ask ministers to make 5 percent cuts in their remaining 2000 budgets. The cuts are necessary because the government has failed to receive nearly \$1.5 billion in international funding, chiefly from the International Monetary Fund, that it had budgeted into this year's financial plan. The move portends that the government will impose more cuts in the budget it presents to Parliament on September 15, which will displease many lawmakers.

After the budget issues are finally resolved, the lawmakers plan to turn their attention to what will indisputably cause the

parliamentary cauldron to boil: implementation of the April national referendum. Mr. Pliusch downplayed any possible difficulties on getting a two-thirds majority (300 votes) to pass the second reading of the bill and amend the Constitution, which would remove lawmakers' immunity from criminal prosecution; reduce the number of parliamentary seats from the current 450 to 300, extend presidential power to dismiss the Rada and create a bicameral Parliament.

Mr. Pliusch said the national deputies must understand that they are not being asked whether they approve the changes to the Constitution – the voters decided that in April, he explained. The lawmakers are tasked merely with developing the instrument by which the changes will occur.

"The question is how to do it so that it will be done according to the letter of the law and so that there will be no complaints from the people, political leaders or European society," said Mr. Pliusch.

He added, however, that he doesn't believe a bicameral parliament will appear in Ukraine any time soon after it is approved because 38 separate statutes of the Constitution must be amended before the change can take place.

Mr. Pliusch said he believes that, while the upcoming session will be contentious, it will not be paralyzed by conflict as have other earlier ones. He did admit, however, that he could not entirely rule out that possibility. He also said that, while he believed that President Kuchma would stick to his word that he will not prematurely dismiss the Parliament before the March 2001 elections, that option remains.

"If we can't maintain a majority and the Parliament will not be able to carry out its primary functions, if it doesn't work, then these words could quickly change and something else could occur," said the Rada chairman.

## U.S. president's greetings on Independence Day

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating the ninth anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

On August 24, 1991, after decades of communist tyranny and oppression, the Ukrainian Parliament proclaimed independence from the Soviet Union, and a new era of freedom began in Ukraine. Today, nine years later, the people of Ukraine are stronger and more indomitable than ever – reclaiming their land, uniting their people, restoring their culture, raising their children in liberty, and building a free, sovereign and independent Ukraine.

I was proud to visit Ukraine again in June of this year, not only to acknowledge its ancient and glorious past, but also to pledge America's support for building a free and prosperous future. Ukraine has much to offer to Europe and the world, and America looks forward to having a strong, democratic and prosperous Ukraine as a partner in meeting the challenges and possibilities of the 21st century.

As we mark this special occasion, I salute the Ukrainian American community for your contributions to the rebirth of freedom in your ancestral homeland and to the historic transformation that is taking place in Ukraine today.

Best wishes to all for a memorable celebration.

Bill Clinton

## UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY: Celebrations in New York, Jersey City



NEW YORK – The ninth anniversary of the declaration of Ukraine's independence was celebrated by close to 200 guests on August 24 at an event hosted jointly at the Consulate building in Manhattan by Ukraine's Consulate General in New York and the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations. Acting Consul General Serhiy Pohoreltzev greeted the guests on behalf of the Consulate and his co-host, Ambassador Volodymyr Yelchenko of Ukraine's U.N. Mission. A message from New York City Mayor Rudy Guiliani, who noted the influence of "Ukrainian heritage and culture in our great city" and the importance of "nine years of freedom and democracy in Ukraine" was read by Dina Hanna, diplomatic liaison officer for the office of the mayor. A greeting from the New Jersey State Legislature on the occasion of Ukraine's independence was read by Brian Gordon, who also conveyed a greeting from New Jersey Gov. Christine T. Whitman. Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Kostyantyn Gryshchenko and Mrs. Gryshchenko also attended the celebration. Pictured above (from left) are Svitlana Pohoreltzev; Ukrainian actress Olha Mateshko and Acting Consul General Pohoreltzev.

– Irene Jarosewich



JERSEY CITY, N.J. – Mayor Brett Schundler of Jersey City, presented his proclamation marking the ninth anniversary of Ukraine's independence declaration to leaders of the local Ukrainian community on August 22, in advance of the Ukrainian Independence Day holiday. Seen in the photo above (from left) are: the Rev. Marian Struc, Yaroslav Zaviysky, Wolodymyr Sochan, Mayor Schundler, Halyna Hawryluk and Iliia Shevchuk. Two days later, on Ukrainian Independence Day, August 24, Ukrainian American community activists gathered at City Hall for the ceremonial raising of the Ukrainian national flag.

– Iliia Shevchuk

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## Foreign policy roundtable in D.C. to focus on Ukraine's statehood

WASHINGTON – Building on the increased recognition of Ukraine's pivotal role in European and global security and generating further momentum in the exploration of policy alternatives for the United States in the critically important post-Soviet space, a conference titled "Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood: A Roundtable" will bring together prominent representatives from academia and the governments of Ukraine and the United States to evaluate the recent realignment of political forces in Ukraine and examine its geopolitical/geo-economic implications.

The U.S. Library of Congress and the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington will serve as the venue for the gathering to be held on September 19-20. The target audience is senior policy staff in the House of Representatives, the Senate, the departments of State, Commerce and Defense, the White House, think-tanks and universities. Some 250 participants are expected from these institutions.

The roundtable sponsors are: Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, Embassy of Ukraine, American Foreign Policy Council, U.S. Library of Congress, Freedom House, International Republican Institute, National Democratic Institute, Harriman Institute/Columbia University, Chopivsky Family Foundation, Ukrainian World Congress, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, Ukrainian National Information Service, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and Ukrainian Academic and Professional Association.

The roundtable steering committee is chaired by Bohdan Fedorak. Michael Sawkiw is executive coordinator, while Walter Zaryckyj is program coordinator and Borys Potapenko is coordinator.

The published proceedings of the conference will provide an essential cache of information, analysis and insight pertinent to U.S. policy formulation vis-à-vis Ukraine for the administration and Congress following the November 7 elections.

The conference will be carried over the Internet to major universities and other key locations in Ukraine via special chatrooms allowing for real-time interface with the conference. Key segments of the roundtable will be teleconferenced to major universities in the United States. Efforts are still under way to secure teleconferencing with Ukraine. Television broadcast coverage will be provided by C-SPAN II.

The conference will include 10 panels held during the course of four sessions, two working lunches and an evening reception. The gathering will feature 21

panelists and 49 discussants from diverse foreign policy establishments of the United States and Ukraine.

Among the U.S. participants will be: Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security advisor to the president of the United States; Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick, former U.S. representative to the United Nations; Ambassador Paul Wolfowitz, dean of the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University; Leon Fuerth, national security advisor to Vice-President Al Gore; Jan Kalicki, co-chairman of the U.S./Ukraine Committee on Trade and Investment, Gore/Kuchma Committee; Mark Medish, special assistant to the president of the United States for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs; Daniel Fried, principal deputy and special advisor to the secretary of state on the new independent states; John Tedstrom, RAND Corp.; Daniel Kaufman, senior advisor, World Bank.

The delegation from Ukraine will include: Borys Tarasyuk, minister for foreign affairs; Ihor Mitiukov, minister of finance; Volodymyr Horbulin, special advisor to the president; Petro Martynenko, justice of the Constitutional Court; Ihor Ostash, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Verkhovna Rada; National Deputy Mykhailo Ratushnyi; and Vyacheslav Pikhovchek, executive director of the Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research.

It is anticipated that the chief of staff of the president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Lytyn, and the chief of staff of the prime minister of Ukraine, Oleh Rybachuk, will attend the conference as well.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, speaking at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, identified Ukraine as belonging to an exclusive group of "four key democracies" in the world on which "the United States will be focusing particular attention and resources."

She went on to state that Ukraine is "a country that is key to building a secure and undivided Europe." Pointing out that "the United States has provided Ukraine almost \$2 billion in assistance this decade. And this year, we (the U.S.) plan to double our most important programs," she underlined that "Ukraine's transformation into a fully stable democratic European state would assist similar transitions throughout the former Soviet Union. It is in America's national interest that Ukraine succeed."

During his June summit meeting with President Leonid Kuchma in Kyiv, President Bill Clinton stated: "America needs a strong, prosperous and democratic Ukraine as a partner ... America believes Ukraine has a right to a place among the nations of Europe ... We reject the idea that the Eastern border of Europe is the Western border of Ukraine ... America is your friend and your partner ... America will be with you all the way."

The sponsors of the roundtable, therefore, believe that now – as Ukraine approaches its 10th anniversary of independence – is an appropriate time to assess Ukraine's progress in consolidating its national independence and the prospects for further advancement, including fuller integration into Euro-Atlantic community and stronger bilateral relations with the United States.

For further information contact the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington Office of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, at (202) 547-0018.

## Ukrainian Canadian Congress reactivates its Ottawa Office

WINNIPEG – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) has reactivated its Ottawa office as one of the tools in strengthening its national presence.

In making this announcement, UCC President Eugene Czolij noted that the UCC has been building on the work undertaken by the 19th Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians held in Winnipeg in October 1998, and listening to the comments and ideas of the Ukrainian Canadian community on how best to strengthen the UCC presence not only in the national capital region, but throughout Canada.

"Over the course of the last number of months, the UCC has presented detailed policy positions on major government initiatives before standing committees of the House of Commons," said Mr. Czolij. "These opportunities show that as a national body the UCC must always work diligently in order to remain an effective representative of our community."

Mr. Czolij also announced the contracting of Modest Cmoc as director of the UCC

Ottawa Office. "Mr. Cmoc has an extensive administrative background, both within the Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian community, and will be a welcome asset to the UCC," said Mr. Czolij.

He also noted that the UCC, through its national board of directors and committee structures, has played and will continue to play, a critical role in representing the Ukrainian community in Canada. This work is multi-faceted and includes such things as policy issues, as well as community support and development, he explained.

"It is through the efforts of the grassroots that the UCC has become a strong national organization and the structures that are created to support these efforts must reflect this," said Mr. Czolij. "That is why the UCC will continue to work in developing the tools and provide the venues for Ukrainian Canadians to explore new and dynamic ways of strengthening our community and ensuring that we remain an effective voice on the national stage," he added.

## Over 1,000 in Ukraine witness unveiling of Konowal memorial

TORONTO – Well over 1,000 people witnessed the unveiling of a trilingual plaque and sculpture honoring Ukrainian Canadian hero Filip Konowal in his home village of Kutkiv, Ukraine, on Monday, August 21, exactly 83 years after Konowal's heroism at Hill 70 earned him the Victoria Cross. The sculpture, prepared by Lviv sculptor Petro Kulyk, and a trilingual plaque describing Konowal's deeds, was unveiled in Kutkiw, where members of the Konowal family still reside.

Organized by Branch 360 of the Royal Canadian Legion, in cooperation with the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the unveiling and blessing of this sculpture marks the end of several years of efforts on the part of the Ukrainian Canadian community to recall the valor of Canada's only Ukrainian recipient of the British Empire's highest military distinction, the Victoria Cross. Cpl. Konowal received this medal personally from King George V in recognition of his courage during the battle for Hill 70, near Lens, France, on August 21, 1917.

In addition to unveiling the statue, Branch 360 arranged for the preparation and distribution throughout Ukraine of copies of a trilingual booklet "Konowal: A Canadian Hero" (Kashtan Press, 2000), co-authored by Lubomyr Luciuk and Ron Sorobey, as well as a commemorative pin. A delegation from the Canadian Embassy in Kyiv, headed by the charge d'affaires, Emil Baran, planted a Canadian maple tree at the site. The principal guest of honor at the event was Hanna Konowal, the granddaughter of Filip Konowal. In Ukraine a commemorative postal envelope was released, and plans are being made for an official Ukrainian postage stamp honoring Konowal. Meanwhile, in Canada, a parallel commemorative service was held in Ottawa also on August 21.

Commenting on these events the president of Branch 360 of the Royal Canadian Legion, John B. Gregorovich, said: "Although we regret that the Canadian government

saw our project as being a private matter, undeserving of any significant support, we are pleased at the overall success of our efforts. The Kutkiv event was widely reported upon in Ukraine and in both of Canada's national newspapers. And we have placed four trilingual plaques recalling Konowal's valor across Canada. In Ukraine we were able not only to help the residents of Kutkiv honor their own local hero but reminded them of how Konowal, even though he was cut off from his family and Ukraine, never forgot who he was, living out his life as a proud Ukrainian Canadian and veteran. We still hope to institute a Konowal Fellowship that would assist members of Ukraine's military to pursue post-graduate studies alongside their counterparts in the Canadian forces."

Konowal, who emigrated to Canada in 1913, enlisted on July 12, 1915, with Ottawa's 47th Canadian Infantry Battalion. Sent overseas in the summer of 1916, he was transferred to the 47th Canadian (British Columbia) Infantry Battalion, shortly afterwards being appointed to the rank of lance corporal. Konowal went into combat in the early fall of 1916 as part of the 4th Canadian Division, during what came to be known as the Battle of the Somme. He also took part in the battle of Vimy Ridge. On August 21, 1917, during the battle for Hill 70, Konowal fought with such exceptional courage that he was later personally awarded the Victoria Cross by King George V.

Over the past several years Branch 360 of the Royal Canadian Legion has worked to ensure that Filip Konowal's valor is not forgotten. Trilingual plaques recalling his heroism have been unveiled in the Cartier Square Drill Hall (Ottawa), with the cooperation of the Governor General's Foot Guards, in Toronto at Branch 360, on Queen Street West and in the Drill Hall of the Royal Westminster Regiment in British Columbia.

Furthermore, Branch 360 sponsored the publication of a trilingual booklet, Konowal, which brings together much of what is known about Konowal's life and deeds.

### How to reach

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## Friends of Ukrainian ketch Ikar bid: 'Seven feet under the keel and a favorable wind'

by Tania D'Avignon

BOSTON – Much was seen on these pages about the tall ship *Batkivschyna*, but very little about the 55-foot ketch *Ikar*, with a crew of eight, from Mykolaiv, Ukraine. The ship was to leave Mykolaiv on April 7 but, due to complications at departure time, left on May 7, one month late.

The ship's expected date of arrival in Newport, R.I., was June 28; it did not make it.

The *Ikar*, a Bermudan ketch, was built in Mykolaiv in 1987 and was especially designed for around-the-world sailing. Lacking luxury and comfort, it has all the bare necessities for global sailing.

The crew consisted of Capt. Boris Stepanovych Nemirov, who previously sailed around the world on the *Ikar*, his first-mate Jurij Zhyradkov, second-mate Mychajlo Tarnawsky, artist Serhij Lukejanenko, professional sailor Kostia Mychajlenko, recreational sailor Denis Makarov, sailor Sasha Fomin and ship physician, Borys Bohomolnyj, the only crew member from Odesa. The sailing venture was sponsored and received tremendous support from Viktor Romanovsky of the Ship Building Institute of Mykolaiv, and Viktor Klymenko and Leonid Pavlovych from the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Mykolaiv.

According to Mr. Tarnawsky, the trip from Mykolaiv to Boston took two months. The easiest and most picturesque part of the trip was from Mykolaiv to Gibraltar. This section took them a month. The Atlantic Ocean crossing was very difficult, starting with the unusual route the ship took in order to make up for lost time. The traditional route for sailing the Atlantic is to go from Gibraltar to the Canary Islands, then on to Barbados and with the Gulf Stream to the United States.

Capt. Nemirov decided to take the route a French sailor by the name of Taborly took in 1951. He was the first to cross the Atlantic from Gibraltar to New York. However, on the second day of its Atlantic crossing, the *Ikar* encountered heavy storms that lasted five days. The hatches were bolted, yet water seeped in with each wave that hit the ship. On the fifth day the winds died down, and with head winds and tides the ship crossed the Atlantic.

There were several more storms before the *Ikar* arrived at its destination. As the ship neared the United States, it once again found itself in the eye of a storm. Waves reached heights of 15 to 20 feet. Then the winds died down suddenly, the barometer dropped catastrophically. The situation on board became tense with fear. The crew thought they were doomed. The winds were coming at the *Ikar* from the northwest, the direction towards which they were headed. Luckily, that storm lasted only five hours. On July 4 the *Ikar* reached the shores of Massachusetts.

Mr. Tarnavsky continued his story:

"We arrived in Boston not really expecting anything special. However, we were pleasantly surprised by the reception we received from the local residents. Upon meeting these people, they immediately became our friends. It was heart-warming how total strangers received us. Our only connection with these people was the country of our birth, Ukraine. Having been confined on a ship for two months we felt a great need to share our thoughts, feelings and stories.

"Except for Capt. Nemirov, this was our first trip to the United States. Our impressions were very positive, despite the years of propaganda during the Soviet regime. We were impressed by the openness and friendliness of the people. No one interfered with what we were doing, but if we needed help, there was always someone around.

"We visited several New England towns and admired the diversity of the architectural styles. No two houses on one street were the same. But we were mostly awed by the attitude towards nature and the environment. We were impressed with the clean streets, the abundance of greenery and the wild animals living in close proximity to homes. In one day in the city of Newton I saw a deer, a fox, a hawk, a skunk and a family of raccoons. I was amazed with the general public's attitude towards the environment and wildlife. Our people could learn so much from the Americans.

"We are especially very grateful to several people from the Boston area [among them] Zenon Kassaraba, who was a fountain of knowledge and information about Ukrainian history. For many years this information was denied to us. Also for the financial support from the Ukrainian Fraternal Association. To Steve Kosteki and his generous gift from the Ukrainian American Veterans. Oksana Kyrychok for her thoughtfulness, and Jurij Kyrychok, without whose help with supplies and equipment the *Ikar* could not have continued its trip to Halifax and Amsterdam. Peter Woloschuk and his many friends who supplied us with provisions and gifts, and Tania D'Avignon, who came to us the first day with her camera and was always within reach to handle any problems we encountered.

"We never imagined that we would be met with such support, warmth and hospitality. It was with sadness the crew of *Ikar* said good-bye to our new friends as we left for Halifax and our trip home," Mr. Tarnavsky concluded.

In turn, Bostonians wished the intrepid crew of the *Ikar* "Seven feet under the keel, and favorable winds" on their long journey back to Ukraine.



Tania D'Avignon

The crew of the ketch *Ikar* from Ukraine.



Boston area friends of the *Ikar*.



Denis Makarov, Serhij Lukejanenko and Sasha Fomin wave good-bye as the *Ikar* leaves port.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Dear Subscribers...

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: we at The Ukrainian Weekly greatly appreciate the support you have given us through the years. Many of you have been longtime subscribers – some, in fact, since the very beginning in 1933. Therefore, it is obvious to us that you value this newspaper, our community newspaper.

Now we are asking for your assistance in enrolling new subscribers. Why? The reason is simple: You are our faithful readers, our supporters, our advocates and our best advertisers. We have learned through the years that word of mouth is the best vehicle to promote our work. And who knows us better than our faithful readers?

You can approach prospective subscribers and talk up The Ukrainian Weekly. You can inform them what this newspaper has done in the past and what we're doing now. You can underline the significance of The Weekly and stress how it is critical to the continued existence and health of our community.

Our request for assistance in our circulation drive comes at a time that we've done much to increase revenues in an effort to sustain our publication. We've written letters appealing to former readers to re-subscribe, we've issued invitations to prospective subscribers, and we've distributed various leaflets to entice readers at diverse venues. We've also published a book titled *The Ukrainian Weekly 2000* to bring in additional funds (Volume I was well-received by readers, and Volume II is due out soon).

We owe a huge thanks to our advertising department for a significant increase in the number of paid advertisements that appear in our newspaper. In fact, by the end of August of this year we'd published over 800 column-inches more of ads than we had published in all of 1999 (a full page in our newspaper is 58 column/inches).

And, of course, we are grateful to our readers who contribute to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund, which plays a vital role in supporting this paper's work. This year's donations, it must be noted, have exceeded those of all previous years. (Whereas donations in 1999 came to nearly \$12,000, as of the end of August they stood at more than \$14,500.)

As we turn to you with this request, we are confident of your support. Please help us extend the reach of The Ukrainian Weekly by encouraging your friends, colleagues, relatives to subscribe. For what is a newspaper without a strong circulation base?

Dear Readers, you can serve as ambassadors of The Ukrainian Weekly. With your help we are certain that we can once again achieve the peak of 10,500 subscribers that we had in 1994. Thus strengthened, we know we will continue to serve you and succeeding generations of readers here in North America and beyond. After all, there is strength in numbers.

*PS: As a token of our appreciation for your invaluable assistance, current subscribers who enlist new subscribers will receive \$5 off their next annual renewal. Just ask the new subscriber to provide your name along with his/her subscription payment.*

Sept.  
11  
1947

### Turning the pages back...

The second world war came to an end in 1945. Peace, freedom and democracy were supposedly brought back to Europe with the fall of Hitler's Nazi Germany. However, this was not the case in Ukraine, where stubborn resistance by the Ukrainian Insurgent

Army (UPA) continued the struggle against Stalin and the Soviet Union. For Ukraine, the fall of Nazism meant a return to another odious system, Soviet communism, and another oppressor, the USSR.

After the Soviet re-occupation of western Ukraine in 1944, the NKVD quickly began a campaign to root out the UPA freedom fighters on an immense scale. Entire villages were deported and destroyed, family members were threatened by the secret police, there were large-scale battles between the UPA and Soviet forces. The UPA, under immense pressure from the merciless and larger Soviet forces, had few choices.

These difficult conditions left UPA Commander Gen. Roman Shukhevych (Taras Chuprynka) with several choices: continue the fight and eventually be annihilated, go further underground in order to survive, or send out several UPA units to Western Europe to let the world know about the struggle going on in Ukraine. Shukhevych eventually chose the latter two.

In 1946-1947 Shukhevych began ordering several UPA companies to do the near impossible: march from Ukraine to West Germany and show the world that Ukraine was continuing the fight against Soviet tyranny. This nearly 1,000-mile distance was mainly over rugged mountain terrain in Czecho-Slovakia. But the biggest challenge was not the terrain, but the numerous Soviet army and NKVD divisions in the area that were ready to stop any defections from behind the Iron Curtain.

From the time they left Ukraine and came to West Germany, these UPA companies (which usually had around 100 men each) fought against much larger Soviet forces nearly continuously for several months. All these men had were the weapons and food they brought along or captured, and occasional assistance from brave and sympathetic civilians.

Finally, on September 11, 1947, more than three months after beginning its journey, the first UPA unit made it to West Germany: Company 95, led by Lt. Mykhailo Duda – "Hromenko." Out of a force of over 100 men, 36 UPA soldiers made it to freedom. Later, more UPA units arrived as late as the summer of 1948, but others never made it.

Somehow, Western radio stations picked up news about the UPA units making a break for the West, and these men made news around the world. However, when they finally reached the West, few people chose to listen to their story of Ukraine's struggle.

Ukraine's liberation struggle would go on with scant help from those on the other side of the Iron Curtain.

*Sources: "Against the Invaders: Taras Chuprynka - Roman Shukhevych, Commander-in-Chief of the UPA" by Petro Mirchuk, Ph.D., J.D., New York: Society of Veterans of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, 1997; "UPA: They Fought Hitler and Stalin" by Petro Sodol, New York: Committee for the World Convention and Reunion of Soldiers in the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, 1987.*

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### A proposal for World Genocide Remembrance Day

by Charmian Carl

LOS ANGELES – The Trident Network is gaining community support for Peter Borisow's proposal that Ukrainians, as victims of the Famine-Genocide of 1933, take the lead to implement a World Genocide Remembrance Day to remember all victims of genocide and to promote awareness of why and how genocide happens.

As part of the efforts to increase public awareness of the Great Famine of 1933, the network has found a general lack of knowledge not only of the genocide of 1933, which claimed at least 7 million lives, but also of other genocides in which many millions of victims died. There appears to be no coordinated effort to remember the many victims or to make the public aware that genocide is not an isolated historical event but an ongoing human tragedy.

World Genocide Remembrance Day will occasion private remembrance as well as public gatherings, media events and government recognition. It seeks to involve ethnic, political and religious groups that have been victimized by genocide throughout the world, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries, including Ukrainians, Armenians, Cambodians, Rwandans, Bosnians, Native Americans, African Americans, Jews, Tibetans, Kosovars and others.

The third Sunday of September of each year, with its yellowing leaves signaling the oncoming winter and its harshness, has been chosen to be the official day of remembrance. Efforts will be made to have it proclaimed World Genocide Remembrance Day in the United States, Canada, Ukraine and other countries throughout the world.

A looped yellow ribbon will be the sym-

bol of genocide awareness throughout the year. Yellow is a traditional color for sorrow and remembrance in many cultures, witness Wasyl Barka's "Yellow Prince," which describes the Great Famine of 1933; yellow ribbons to remember MIAs, etc.

To implement all this, Mr. Borisow and Andy Semotiuk of the Trident Network are forming the Genocide Remembrance and Awareness Foundation as a non-profit and tax-exempt entity to promote and coordinate support for genocide remembrance groups and activities worldwide. The foundation will work to create and support a network of genocide documentation, information and study centers, museums, memorials and other commemorations and special events around the world.

The foundation will also organize a worldwide Genocide Alert Network to sound the alarm in the event of contemporary genocide and work to mobilize public opinion and lobby governments to intervene immediately to stop genocide as it happens.

Mr. Borisow also suggests that Ukrainians create their own special remembrance by serving a "remembrance borsch," but with the substitution of yellow beets for the usual red ones. The preparation and serving of "remembrance borsch" will provide an opportunity not only to remember the less fortunate, innocents who paid with their lives for crimes that never existed, but also to pass this history and awareness on to others, especially our own future generations.

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Persons interested in helping with genocide awareness should contact Mr. Borisow or Mr. Semotiuk through the Trident Network's e-mail: HTG@usa.com.

### Ivan Pliusch attends...

(Continued from page 1)

are called upon to establish the road to democracy and rule of law, to strong international relations and to strengthen agreements among peoples," he added.

Mr. Pliusch noted how Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, in the brief period since its establishment of Ukraine's independence in 1991, has become involved with many international bodies. He noted the agreement by Ukraine's Parliament to adapt to the standards of the Council of Europe, and with Ukraine's declared policy of integration into European structures, mentioned the cultivation of ties with NATO and the European Union. He also cited Ukraine's work in the U.N. Security Council, in particular the initiative of President Leonid Kuchma to organize a meeting among heads of state of the Security Council member-countries during the U.N. Millennium Summit.

In an interview given to The Ukrainian Weekly on the first day of the IPU summit, Mr. Pliusch predicted a "heated session" for the Verkhovna Rada this fall. The national deputies are scheduled to debate the proposed changes to the Constitution – limiting the immunity of national deputies; reducing Parliament from 450 to 300 legislators; establishing a bicameral legislature; and giving the president authority to dismiss the Parliament – that resulted from a referendum in April.

"Of course, I would like to say that it will be a moderate, balanced discussion, but I think it will be heated, very heated," he said.

According to Mr. Pliusch, the re-election of Mr. Kuchma brought stability: the government hasn't borrowed money and for

the first time, economic indicators are up. The budget proposed by the government is one of development, not stagnation, he added.

"If these positive tendencies continue, if positive forces overcome the negative, then the effectiveness of those who oppose [President Kuchma] will change, and they are afraid of this. They need to rip apart the reform process so that they can survive. If the reform process succeeds, the people – whom they claim to represent – will truly not need them and they will have no reason to exist. So they resist," he said.

Mr. Pliusch also took a moment to criticize the electorate of Ukraine: "The people complain about the national deputies – but it's not all one-sided. ... When I was campaigning I told people to think carefully of whom they select, to select a group of reformers, a majority of reformers, who can get the job done. And look at whom they elected! ... Until the people of Ukraine are ready to claim their country and work for their country – not wait for others to do it for them, not wait for somebody to 'give them' something – that's when we'll have genuine change ... Don't be mistaken, 70 years of communism has not been without consequences."

He said he believes, however, that the majority of people in Ukraine still love their country and have faith in Ukraine. "We began to build our country in very difficult circumstances and it's caused much disappointment ... I was among those who thought it would be easier ... those who say that they no longer love Ukraine because they hate the people in power, never really loved Ukraine. Love for Ukraine has not diminished, just for those in power. Most people believe in Ukraine. It is this faith that is still our strength," he concluded.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Ukrainians should save their heritage

Dear Editor:

I have been a reader of The Ukrainian Weekly since I was in my teens. Many years have gone by and I have remained silent without writing a letter to this paper to express my opinion on issues. Now I believe it is time for me to speak out.

I am a man of Ukrainian heritage, with a Ukrainian mother who was born after the war in one of Germany's displaced persons camps. My mother's family, which was taken by the Nazis to Germany as slave laborers, were unable to return to Ukraine because they knew what would happen to them under Stalin's Soviet regime: they would have either been killed or exiled to Siberia. My family came to America because it opened its arms to them and millions of others. But my family never forgot Mother Ukraine, which make no mistake about it, was captive to Communist Russia.

It was to my family's great joy that nine years ago Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union. I, and I'm sure many others, thought this dramatic action would serve as the impetus needed for a massive revival of the Ukrainian language and our nation's wonderful heritage. Although there have been some positive strides in that direction, unfortunately the Ukrainian language and its culture continues to be threatened by a strong Russification effort on the part of Ukraine's Russian minority, and, to nobody's surprise, the Russian government.

News reports indicate that the Russian government is protesting Ukraine's move to make sure Ukrainian is a dominant language. This is quite ludicrous. If Ukraine is an independent and sovereign nation made up of mostly Ukrainian people, naturally Ukrainian would be the dominant language. Ukraine does not protest Russia's imposition of Russian as the dominant language of its population, which, by the way, is composed of many hundreds of groups of non-Russians. Ukraine does not interfere in Russian affairs, and I steadfastly maintain that Russia should stop interfering in the affairs of Ukraine.

Let us pause and think about the state of our Ukrainian language. My family came from Volyn and spoke a very pure form of Ukrainian, meaning it was not very influenced by Russian. To my disappointment, recent Ukrainian immigrants to America speak a Russified form of Ukrainian to the point that sometimes I do not understand everything they say. Then I realized why that was the case. Ukrainian has more Russian words in it now than ever before. This is a travesty! Not only is our Ukrainian language not being spoken as much as it should be in Ukraine, but the Ukrainian that is spoken is not as pure as it should be. This sad and scary trend needs to be stopped now before it is too late.

I support the Ukrainian government in its initiatives to make Ukrainian the dominant language of Ukraine and its people. I ask President Leonid Kuchma and the Verkhovna Rada to continue pushing Ukrainian to the forefront and not give in to the demands of the Russian government. To give in would amount to betrayal of the Ukrainian people. It is honorable that Ukraine has tolerated the speaking of the Russian language for all these years, especially in light of the fact that for many years the Russians tried to destroy our language and our people. Millions of Ukrainians were exterminated by the

Russians and their government which was forced on Ukraine. Now that Ukraine is finally free, it is incumbent upon the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian people to make it clear to the Russian minority in Ukraine that no matter what they think, they are Ukrainian by citizenship.

Nobody forced Russians and Russian speakers or their ancestors to move to Ukraine. I have never heard of anyone being exiled to Ukraine. In my opinion, those who are Russocentric and believe Russian should be the dominant language should simply go to Russia where they can speak it to their hearts' content. It should also be noted that Russia does not promote or support the Ukrainian language in any shape or form, but it expects Ukraine to promote and support the Russian language.

Ukrainians must continue to unite to save our precious heritage. It is vital to do so now before it is too late. I thank The Ukrainian Weekly for providing this forum to allow the free expression of opinions. This paper certainly has and will continue to be an instrument of positive change for our people.

**Kye E. Parsons**  
Delmar, Md.

### Gore-Lieberman deserve support

Dear Editor:

Ukraine's continued independence is one of America's most critical foreign policy issues. Because Ukraine's independence guarantees that Russia will not revert to its imperial past, the world is more secure. That's why the choice in this year's election is so important to everyone – not only Ukrainian Americans.

Since he took office, Vice-President Al Gore has been a strong supporter of Ukraine's efforts to remain independent and achieve prosperity. In recognition of his work on behalf of Ukraine, the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations last year gave Mr. Gore its first and only "Friend of Ukraine" award.

Gov. George Bush, by contrast, has virtually no knowledge of foreign policy and instead promises to rely on the team that advised his father to try to save the Soviet Union by opposing Ukrainian independence.

Because Sen. Joe Lieberman, Mr. Gore's running mate, is Jewish, Ukrainian Americans have an historic opportunity. First as senator, Mr. Lieberman consistently supported Ukraine – both before and since it achieved its independence. With him on the ticket, Ukrainians will be able to work on the basis of common interest with Jews who also support Gore-Lieberman, not only because many American Jews trace their origins to Ukraine and supported it in the past, but also because of other issues, such as gun control, education, the environment, Medicare and Social Security. It all starts with a sound economy which in the past eight years has gone from \$300 billion deficits to budget surpluses, from high interest rates and unemployment to historic levels of prosperity.

Based on the respective records and qualifications of the two tickets, the 2000 election offers Ukrainian Americans an obvious choice. I hope our community seizes this historic opportunity and supports Gore-Lieberman in November.

**Andrew Ripeckyj, M.D.**  
Chicago

### UCC must be present at dialogue

Dear Editor:

The Ukrainian Weekly carried two articles on the recent Orthodox-Catholic dialogue, reflective of numerous such articles that appeared in the Latin Rite Catholic and Orthodox press. Two major points were raised in various articles, describing the peculiar situation of Eastern Catholic Churches in this dialogue. The Orthodox and Latin Rite Catholics met to talk about the Eastern Catholic Churches – without the presence of Eastern Catholic representatives. Obviously, there can never be a solution if the major partner is talked about and not to. This was very cogently presented by Bishop Basil Losten in the July 16 issue.

Then in the July 30 issue, the article on this subject quoted the Orthodox Archbishop Stylanios as asking how it is possible for these Churches, cut off from Orthodox Eastern Churches, "to retain the language and rituals of their mother Churches and yet still profess papal primacy and infallibility, which run counter to the Orthodox faith?" Eastern Rite Catholics consider the undivided Church of 1054 as the "mother" Church to which they returned, the undivided Apostolic Church. They retained their Eastern customs and traditions, thus they became Catholic in spirit and Eastern in ritual.

It seems that all this and more cannot be explained by Latin Rite and Eastern Orthodox prelates, but by the Eastern Rite Catholics themselves. Perhaps it is time for our Ukrainian Catholic hierarchs, as heads of the large Eastern Rite Catholic Church, to make their presence an indispensable factor in these "dialogues."

**Larissa M. Fontana**  
Potomac, Md.

### Lviv Procuracy oversteps authority

Dear Editor:

In The Ukrainian Weekly Newsbriefs of August 20 it was reported that the Lviv procuracy has now questioned the legality of Lviv's Resolution 699 imposing a limited ban on Russian language usage – apparently claiming such "legislative" action is beyond the enactors' powers.

Could someone (perhaps Ukrainian Embassy personnel) kindly explain how come the procuracy presumes to comment with authority on these matters? Is it not sooner within the purview of a court (e.g., Ukraine's Constitutional Court) to adjudicate upon this issue – for example via a declaratory judgment if so requested by an interested party? I would like to believe that it is not for the procuracy (the perennial "bogyman" of the Soviet justice system) to prematurely make official-sounding pronouncements, since its "officers of the court" may well

be called upon to argue one side of the case before a judicial forum.

I do believe it is appropriate to ask whether the judiciary of Ukraine today considers itself the proper medium whereby due legal process is maintained – or is the society still dependent upon the "diktat" of the "procuracy"? If the latter is the case, it would sadly appear to be a continuation of the business-as-usual attitudes of Soviet-style prosecutorial enforcers who regularly usurped the role of judge and jury to accomplish certain Communist party demands.

I remain to be enlightened about contemporary legal procedures and the role of courts in Ukraine, and I would welcome some in-depth clarification of the Lviv procuracy's recent pronouncements. Their comments seem to go beyond mere "opinions" and carry the cachet of an "official organ" – as such they may well be in contempt of the courts, as well as contemptible in the eyes of the informed citizenry of Ukraine.

**Roman B. Karpishka**  
Lachine, Quebec

### About the origins of term "Ukraine"

Dear Editor:

Regarding the etymology of the name "Ukraine," I would like to add that there does seem to be a difference between "ukraini" (in the country) and "na okrainakh" (on the borderlands), the latter, at least in modern Ukrainian, more appropriately translating as "the borderlands" which is purported to be the original meaning of Ukraine.

"Borderlands" as a title of a book, connoting a metaphysical concept, does not disturb me personally, because ethnographic Ukrainian lands were indeed historically a territory of painfully shifting political borders.

Another point: while accepting "Ukraine" as the name of our motherland, we do not, of course, forget that it is Ukraine that historically traces its roots to that other name – Rus'. Unfortunately, Peter, ruler of Muscovy, fancied the name, appropriated it for his empire, and low and behold: Rossiia ... Rossiiskaia imperiia.

**Luba Gawur**  
Euclid, Ohio

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

### A friendly reminder

If you have not yet sent in your remittance for the first volume of "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000," please do so as soon as possible.

The book's price is \$15. Please send checks for that amount (plus any additional sum you may designate as a donation to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund) to:

The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

BOOK NOTES

Collection of essays examines history of Russian imperialism

"Russian Imperialism from Ivan the Great to the Revolution," edited by Taras Hunczak. Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, July 2000, 408 pp., \$44.50 (cloth).

"Russian Imperialism From Ivan the Great to the Revolution" is a collection of essays assembled by editor Taras Hunczak, professor of history and political science at Rutgers University. This volume, according to Prof. Hunczak, provides "the first comprehensive history of Russian imperialism."

At its height, the scope of Russian imperialism was staggering. Whereas in 1462, Russia occupied only 15,000 square miles, it controlled 8,660,000 square miles, over one-seventh of the Earth's land, by 1914. That period of incredible expansion has inspired many books and essays, but Prof. Hunczak contends that most mistakenly treat the Russian empire as a continuous ethnic entity, rather than an amalgamation of distinct nationalities. Recognition of the truly multinational nature of the Russian empire is essential, holds Prof. Hunczak, for a clear understanding of the social and political dynamics of Russian imperialism.

With this in mind, the first half of Prof. Hunczak's book examines the origins of Russian imperialism through

careful consideration of the motivations and beginnings of the relentless drive toward expansion. The second half features a historical treatment of the sequence of conquests by which the Russian empire was extended into the Balkans, the Caucasus, Siberia and Ukraine, to name only a few of the areas that fell to the growing colossus. All told, this compilation of essays traces Russian imperialism from the twilight of the Mongol empire to the inception of the Bolshevik Revolution.

The book provides a factual basis for interpretation not only of the past, but also of today's world. The in-depth analysis of Russian expansion serves as a possible foundation for an objective evaluation of many modern conflicts, including the ongoing struggle between Russia and Chechnya. The issues at the heart of the Chechen dispute originated centuries ago, and the preliminary tools needed to comprehend such complicated international phenomena can be found in "Russian Imperialism from Ivan the Great to the Revolution."

History of the Galicia Division covers complex historical issues

"On the Horns of a Dilemma: The Story of the Ukrainian Division Halychyna" by Taras Hunczak. Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, April 2000, 256pp., \$44.50 (cloth).

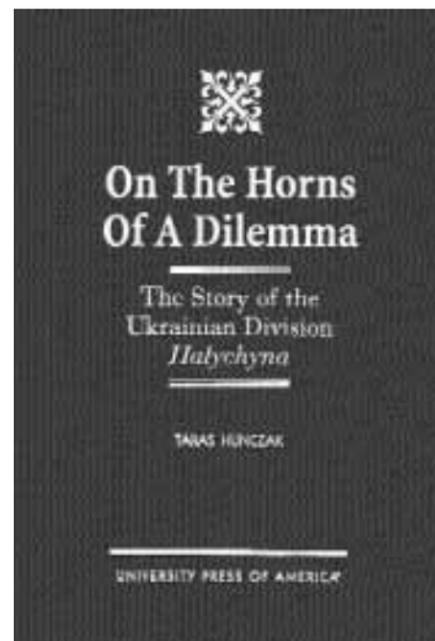
"On the Horns of a Dilemma" provides a factual account of the history of the Ukrainian Division Halychyna (Galicia) during World War II. Much has been written and speculated about Division Halychyna, but Taras Hunczak, professor of history and political science at Rutgers University, employs his own research of primary sources to arrive at an accurate representation of the events surrounding this influential military unit.

Amid the flames of World War II, Ukrainians saw the opportunity to achieve independence, or at least some form of autonomy for their country. In an effort to avert the yoke of impending Soviet tyranny, the youth of Halychyna in 1943 enlisted in a newly formed volunteer division of the German army, called Division Halychyna.

Under the umbrella of the German army, this division fought on the front lines against the Soviet forces in western Ukraine and against Communist armies in Slovakia and Yugoslavia.

Prof. Hunczak's book traces the military exploits and political fortunes of Division Halychyna through 10 chapters that cover the division's organizational framework; recruitment; the Battle of Brody; the 1st Division of the Ukrainian National Army; prisoner of war camps; and other topics.

The author notes in his preface to the book that the Galicia Division, "despite its rather limited importance in the general constellation of forces in the struggle of giants known as World War II, has continued to be controversial in the United States, Canada and even in Great Britain. The basis for this interest in the division is



its alleged participation in criminal operations against the civilian population."

"One does not hear of the many other non-German Waffen-SS divisions, but the Ukrainian Division seems to be important even 46 years after the last shot of World War II was fired. It was this seemingly politically motivated preoccupation with this Ukrainian formation, based frequently on either fragmentary information or even hearsay, that convinced me to look into the history of the unit," Dr. Hunczak explains.

Captivating and concise, "On the Horns of a Dilemma" explains complex historical issues regarding the Galicia Division with a reassuring measure of simplicity.

A word from the author...

Following is the text of the author's preface to the new paperback edition of "Russian Imperialism from Ivan the Great to the Revolution" (reprinted with the author's permission).

The first edition of this book was published in 1974, a time when the Russian Empire, albeit under the name of the Soviet Union, cast its shadow around the entire globe, influencing and, in some cases, determining the geopolitical relations among nations. Indeed, the rhetorical questions of Michael Pogodin, a 19th century Russian historian, about the greatness and power of Russia echoed not only during the existence of Soviet Union, but also during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to China on December 9, 1999. Angered by President Bill Clinton's criticism of Russian policy in Chechnya, President Yeltsin not only criticized the policy of the United States, but also reminded President Clinton of Russia's nuclear arsenal. Moreover, catering to Chinese political ambitions, Mr. Yeltsin stated, "It will be as we agreed with Jiang Zemin. We will dictate the world."

When Pogodin posed his rhetorical question - "Who can compare with us? Whom will we not force into submission? Is not the political fate of the world in our hands whenever we want to decide it one way or another?" - he already had his answers. The echo of these questions, however, is heard 130

years later in the villages and towns of Chechnya destroyed by the Russian armed forces.

It is interesting to note that another visionary of Russian millenary messianism, Nicholas Danilevskii, anticipated that Russia, in pursuit of its geopolitical objectives, would find herself in an irreconcilable relation with Europe. In light of European reaction to Russian policy in Chechnya, Danilevskii's prediction turned out to be remarkably prophetic. The problem facing a historian, who wants to decipher the past and demonstrate its validity for the present, consists in establishing continuity or change in Russia's historical empire-building process.

Viewing the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of 15 sovereign republics, one detects among the Russians a post-imperial syndrome characterized by a longing for the lost great power status and for the dominant position they enjoyed over the entire USSR. Indeed, it is the attitude of the Russians today that gives us a better historical perspective of the drive for power which created the largest continental empire of all times. At the end of the millennium Russia is still fighting the old wars defending both her imperial image and those territories that became Russian as a result of imperial expansionism.

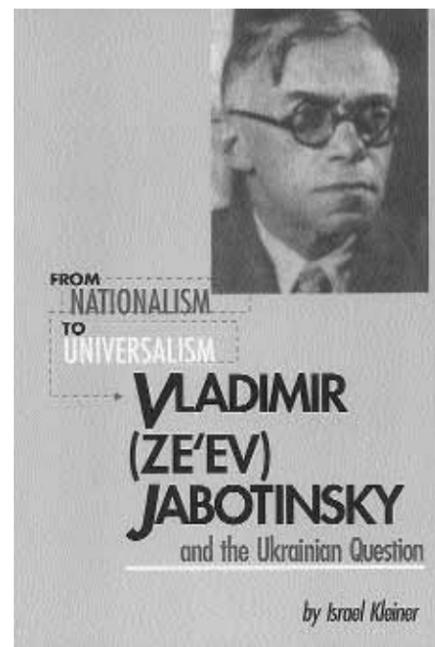
- Taras Hunczak

Volume spotlights Jabotinsky's views on the Ukrainian question

"From Nationalism to Universalism: Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky and the Ukrainian Question" by Israel Kleiner. Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, 2000, 199pp., \$34.95 (cloth); \$19.95 (paper).

"From Nationalism to Universalism" focuses on the political actions and insights of Vladimir Jabotinsky, a leader of the Zionist movement during the first half of the 20th century. Jabotinsky was born in 1880 in Odessa, where he witnessed firsthand the destructive effects of the Soviet Union's policy of Russification. Though his primary goal was the creation of a Jewish state, Jabotinsky remained an ally of the Ukrainian struggle for freedom and national identity.

At a time when the Jewish community in Ukraine was actively supporting the dominant Russian political powers, Jabotinsky urged his people to rethink their existing allegiances and to break their ties with Russia. He sought increased cooperation between Jewish and Ukrainian partisans, realizing that the people of Ukraine were strong enough collectively to decide the fate of Soviet tyranny, through either revolt or acquiescence. In the event of a Ukrainian popular uprising and eventual Ukrainian independence, Jabotinsky feared the animosity of a Ukrainian society embittered by years of Russian-Jewish collaboration.



When such animosity surfaced in the form of anti-Jewish violence in Ukraine, Jabotinsky forged the Jabotinsky-Slavinsky agreement of 1921, creating a

(Continued on page 12)

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## BOOK REVIEW: A successful English translation of beloved Iker

*"Ivan Kernytsky, Weekdays and Sunday," translation by Maxim Tarnawsky, introduction by Ostap Tarnawsky. Philadelphia: Mosty, 1999, 183 pp. Cover by Bohdan Tytla and illustration by Edward Kozak.*

by Wolodymyr T. Zyla

The translation of "Weekdays and Sunday" was completed in 1988 in memory of Ivan Kernytsky on the fifth anniversary of his death and was submitted to the Ukrainian National Association (UNA) for publication because the author had long been associated with the UNA. However, financial hardships derailed the publications, and the typeset text, cover and illustrations languished for more than a decade in the offices of the UNA without any prospect of being published.

According to the translator of this volume, Ivan Kernytsky, or "Iker" – the pseudonym by which the author was known among Ukrainians – "is not an easy writer to translate, and although, he is not an outstanding writer, his depiction of the details of everyday life, attitudes, feelings, and language of the simple people who are his chosen subject gives his work strength."

Critics praised Kernytsky beginning with his first published book, a collection of short stories about life in the village under the title "Sviatoivanski Vohni" (Fireflies).

Tracing his literary ancestry to three writers, Vasyl Stefanyk, Les Martovych and Marko Cheremshyna, and to several other writers of an older generation – especially Osyp Makovei – Ivan Kernytsky, while developing his own style, soon added "the main elements of his own talent – fresh and generous humor and the ability to observe characteristics with the sharp eye of a caricaturist." This made him more original and

more provocative.

While in the United States he improved his style by writing short stories and feuilletons about life in the new environment and under the new influence of the American short story writer O. Henry.

Kernytsky is known also as the author of many couplets, humorous songs, and witty epigraphs.

The last book published in his lifetime is the collection "Budni i Nedilia" (Weekdays and Sunday). The author himself selected the stories and the feuilletons for this volume, which Maxim Tarnawsky translated into English.

This is a very interesting collection that portrays many unforgettable events. Halia Horbatsch writes that here "Kernytsky depicts the life of the little people of old Lviv, the people in the camps in post-war Europe and, finally, the people in the new country across the ocean." Thus, the volume offers a chronicle of life throughout many turbulent years.

To produce an acceptable and meaningful translation of such a collection is not easy because the original texts contain many subtle puns, etymological allusions, dialectic colorings, etc., which in most cases are meaningless and inaccessible to the non-Ukrainian reader. Fortunately, the translator subscribes to the idea that no translation, no matter how scrupulously prepared or how carefully reviewed, can fully duplicate the experience of the original.

With this in mind, this writer scrutinized the translation line by line, story by story.

Mr. Tarnawsky's skillful translation is to be highly appreciated. The translator preserved Kernytsky's lyrical style, kept his frequent use of indirect and oblique speech, and balanced profound differences between the Ukrainian and English languages. Here I would like to underline the translator's skills to strike a balance between readable English and faithfulness to the original.

The translator has also been careful in conveying deep sentiments, and has avoided sounding obsessive. He realizes that in the inherent differences between languages lies the success or the failure of translation from one to another. He recognizes – and accepts – that every translation is a linguistic tug-of-war between cultures, imposing many sacrificial compensations and even impossibilities. And yet, without violating its spirit in the slightest, the translator succeeded in making "Weekdays and Sunday" sound like an English collection of stories – an outstanding one.

In translation, as well as in the original, Kernytsky's narrative is essentially entertaining, for it deals with real people as well as with abstract concepts, with individual hopes and dreams as well as with societal concerns and aspirations.

A great asset of "Weekdays and Sunday" is the late Ostap Tarnawsky's introduction titled "Ivan Kernytsky." It is scholarly and contains a short but a very useful survey of the life and works of this popular Ukrainian writer and humorist. He writes: "Ivan has written a chronicle of Ukrainians in the 20th century, beginning with the hard years before the war, through the wanderings along gypsy trails, and culminating with the passage, like emigrating birds, to the new



settlements across the ocean. A chronicle of life in these turbulent times is found in Kernytsky's stories, his plays and especially in his feuilletons, which were very popular with readers and won him a large audience of admiring fans."

Maxim Tarnawsky, on balance, has produced a very useful English translation of Kernytsky's "Weekdays and Sunday." It is quite obvious that no translation of a work regardless of how skillfully it is done, is a substitute for the original, but Mr. Tarnawsky's translation will certainly make its mark.

I highly recommend this publication to American readers, especially for those of Ukrainian origin.

## BOOK REVIEW: Postcard album is a journey into Ukraine's past

*"In Memory of Native Land: Ukraine in Cards," by Mykhailo Zabochen, Oleksander Polishchuk, and Volodymyr Yatsiuk. Kyiv, Krynytsia 2000, 508 pp., \$100 postpaid. [In Ukrainian with some Russian, English and German text.]*

by Inger Kuzych

This beautiful compendium of classic Ukrainian postcards can best be described in one word: staggering. I use this term for several reasons.

First, it is the combined effort of three men who have spent thousands of hours over four years completing the monumental task of locating these postcards, organizing and cataloguing them, and writing the accompanying text and descriptions.

Next, this volume is the most complete listing of postcards for any country ever published. Some 7,500 pictures depicting all aspects of Ukrainian history and culture are included. To get an idea of what a quantum leap this album is over anything else attempted for Ukrainian postcards, consider that a previously published fine collection of Ukrainian postcards released in 1981 presented only some 575 items.

Finally, there is the sheer size of this volume: over 500 pages and over five pounds. The high-quality paper used adds to the weight but allows for crisp, clear reproduction of the thousands of images.

The core of this catalogue is the huge collection of Mykhailo Zabochen; it is the world's largest. Hundreds of additional rare cards from some 20 other postcard-collecting specialists help round out the presentation. The majority of the postcards were printed prior to 1918.

The introductory part of the book (about 100 pages) consists of six Ukrainian essays: "The Centenary of the Ukrainian Card"; "The Searcher's Happy Fortune"; "Ukraine and Ukrainians";

"Ukraine in the Struggle for Independence"; "Taras Shevchenko: Poet, Artist, Symbol of Ukraine"; and "Ukrainian Culture." These texts are illustrated with some 160 rare cards, most in color and all in original size. The card descriptions are in four languages: Ukrainian, Russian, English and German.

The remaining 400 pages of the volume present 7,345 postcards in reduced size and in black and white. (Reproducing the entire album catalogue in color would have made this mammoth publication far too costly. Besides, a substantial percentage of the original postcards were black and white anyway.) These postcards are divided into four sections corresponding to the last four essays of the introductory section.

The first part, with over 1,800 postcards, focuses on "Ukraine and Ukrainians." It is subdivided into sections showing views of the different regions of Ukraine as they appeared prior to World War I. Next come various card series that show Ukrainians or landscapes from different parts of the country. The portraits of the natives (often described on the cards as Little Russians) are an ethnographer's delight, while many of the bucolic scenes are so inviting that one wishes to step right into them.

The second part, "Ukraine in the Struggle for Independence," consists of almost 800 postcards that follow Ukrainian history from ancient times to the recent past. Many of Ukraine's most famous monarchs and Kozak leaders are shown, but the bulk of this section consists of cards honoring those men and

women who participated in the formation of the Ukrainian nation during its first period of independence (1917-1920). Battle scenes, military detachments and the Sichovi Striltsi (Ukrainian Sich Riflemen) are prominently represented.

The next major division of this catalogue revolves around Taras Shevchenko. It was chiefly compiled using the collection of Volodymyr Yatsiuk, who specializes in items pertaining to Ukraine's famous bard. Over 1,100 postcards were reproduced. They are not limited to portraits of the man, but also include cards reproducing his paintings or drawings, and illustrating his poems, statues of Shevchenko, locales named after him, views of his grave, and music, theater and films based on his works.

The final and largest section of the book (over 3,600 postcards) deals with Ukrainian culture. The overview (of several hundred cards) begins with literary greats and scenes from some of their works; it continues through a number of art forms touching on icons, sculpture, engraving and ceramics. Next, almost 3,000 works are presented by artists listed in alphabetical order. The section closes out with postcards of Ukrainian theater (mostly actors), music (famous composers and performers), and folk art (chiefly embroidery, but also examples of pysanky).

The four sections reproducing postcards are followed by a useful "Portrait Gallery of Ukrainian Artists," profiling 63 of Ukraine's greatest artists (responsible for a huge percentage of the artwork that appears on Ukrainian postcards). A bibliography of postcard collecting (65 entries dating back to 1901), a listing of abbreviations that appear on the backs of postcards (identifying the



various printers), and an index of names found on postcards (cross-referenced to the pages where they appear) complete this most comprehensive postcard compendium.

Although the price may seem steep, it really is not when one considers the fantastic number of illustrations that make up this volume and that had to be scanned one at a time. The subtitle of this album-catalogue, "In Memory of One's Native Land," is entirely accurate because in viewing these postcards one has the opportunity to travel back in time to Old Ukraine. When you consider that this book functions as a time machine, \$100 is amazingly inexpensive. I would most strongly recommend this fabulous volume to anyone interested in Ukrainian history or culture.

Books may be ordered from: Morgan Williams, P.O. Box 2607, Washington, DC 20013; e-mail, Morgan@ArtUkraine.com

## SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES IN SYDNEY



Romania's Beatrice Caslaru (left) and Yana Klochkova from Ukraine look up at the scoreboard after the final of the women's 200-meter medley on July 6 at the European Swimming Championships in Helsinki, Finland. The two broke the 19-year-old championship record for the event, clocking identical times of 2:12.57 to share the gold medal.

### Ukraine's Olympians...

(Continued from page 1)

recently and is expected to vie for gold.

The seven-member women's gymnastic team also includes four 16-year-olds with plenty of talent and international success. The youngsters are led by Olha Roschupkina, the smallest of the tumbling pixies, who Ukrainian officials hope will medal in the beam. Team leaders believe that Tetiana Yarosh, who medaled in the most recent European Championships, also has a chance for a medal.

The men's team has had more limited

international success than the women, but it does have Oleksander Beresh, who is the 1999 overall European champion. The hope is that the 23-year-old will dominate several of the individual events and push his way to an overall medal.

Ukrainian Olympic boxing also lost a dominating presence when Atlanta gold medalist Volodymyr Klychko entered the professional ranks after his 1996 success. The team has replaced him, however, with two powerful, albeit lighter, talents in Volodymyr and Valerii Sydorenko. The two brothers, who are fraternal twins, hope to maintain the standard set by Volodymyr and his boxing brother



Olena Zhupina of Ukraine takes third place in the women's 10-meter platform diving on July 5 at the European Swimming Championships in Helsinki, Finland.

Vitalii (who did not qualify for Atlanta), explained Mr. Kulyk.

"They [the Sydorenkos] are from Zaporizhia, very capable fighters and true to the Kozak tradition of the region," said Mr. Kulyk.

While Ukraine remains a heavyweight in Olympic boxing and gymnastics, it has never made a noticeable splash in swimming. This year that could change.

"We have never had as strong a team in swimming as we do this year," said Mr. Kulyk. Ukrainian officials are confident the team can win at least three medals in Sydney. The leading contender is Yana Klochkova, an 18-year-old dynamo from Kharkiv who holds world championship titles in the 400-meter medley and the breaststroke. The team has placed high hopes on Ms. Klochkova and would consider it a disappointment if she does not medal.

The men's team has another young hopeful in Ihor Cherevynskyi, also 18, who took a medal in the 2000 World Championships. Veterans Ihor Snitko and Denis Silantiev supplement the swimming team's youth with their previous Olympic experience. In Atlanta, Mr. Snitko took fourth place in the 400-meter freestyle event.

In Olympic diving Ukraine may have its first medal-contender in years in the person of Olena Zhupina. The 27-year-old is the current world champion in synchronized diving. She will also compete in 3-meter board and platform diving in Sydney.

Ukrainian weightlifters have sufficient talent and experience to contribute to Ukraine's medal count in Sydney, as well. Although the team obviously will miss super heavyweight gold medalist and world record holder, Timur Taimazov, his absence could be offset by veteran weightlifter Denys Gotfrid, who took a bronze in Atlanta. Olympic officials say Mr. Gotfrid has improved tremendously in the last four years. Today he is world champion in the 99-kilogram division, an accomplishment he is expected to exceed with Olympic gold in Sydney. Ukrainian officials also like the chances of Ihor Razorionov in the 108 kilogram division. Mr. Razorionov was the world champion in that weight class in 1998.

In wrestling, the other Olympic power sport, Ukrainians should flex their strength as they did in 1996, when they took a gold and two bronze medals. Two of the three medalists will be back for the Sydney Games, including Viacheslav Oliinyk, who became the first Ukrainian to win Olympic gold for Ukraine in the Summer Olympics when he took first place in the 90-kilogram division. Mr. Oliinyk opted for retirement after his accomplishment, but decided to return to the sport for the 2000 Games. Also returning is Zaza Zozirov, who won a bronze in freestyle wrestling in 1996.

What is not known is whether the team can overcome the loss of its highly regarded head trainer, Borys Savlokha, who is serving a prison term after a racketeering conviction earlier this year.

Ukraine also should make another good showing in yachting, in which its squad has excelled in the last four years. The team has two returning Olympic gold-medal crews: the women's duo of Ms. Pakholchuk and Ms. Taran in yachting and the men's duo of Mr. Braslavets and Mr. Matvienko. While the Braslavets/Matvienko duo has had some limited success since Atlanta, Pakholchuk/Taran have continued to dominate the sport as world champions from 1997 to 1999.

The Ukrainian track and field team is, perhaps, the single Ukrainian squad at the Sydney Games that will have aged since Atlanta. However, among its athletes are many of Ukraine's most established Olympic stars, and much talent remains. Serhii Bubka remains first and foremost among them. The Sydney Games will be his fourth Olympics, but the 36-year-old still seeks his first Olympic gold, and that should be sufficient motivation to keep him competitive. Ukrainian officials say he has fully overcome the Achilles heel problems that forced him out of the 1996 Olympics and have hampered his performances for the last several years.

Also back is Inesa Kravets, the triple jump gold medalist in 1996. Although she had health problems as late as the beginning of this year, Mr. Kulyk said she is now in fine health and great form. In addition to defending her triple jump title, Ms. Kravets has qualified for the long jump.

Perhaps Ukraine's best chance in track and field lies with the long and lanky Inga Babakova, the current world champion and bronze medalist in Atlanta. She is one of the country's best athletes and has shown a remarkable ability to prepare for competition. Last year she gave birth to a baby girl, and just weeks later at the world championships showed up the last day and won the gold medal.

Another Ukrainian athlete to watch is Oleksander Bahach, bronze medalist in the shot put in Atlanta. The IOC has given him the go-ahead to compete in Sydney after he served a short suspension for failing a drug test. He and partner Yurii Bilonoh give Ukraine an excellent chance at a gold medal in the shot put. In hammer throw, too, the Ukrainians look good, with both Oleksander Krykun and Vladyslav Piskunov showing promise.

In the glamour event of track and field, the 100-meter dash, Ukraine can make a mark with Zhanna Pintusevych, who qualified for the finals in Atlanta only to finish last in the eight-person field. She has raised her level of performance still further in the last four years, taking second place at the most recent European Championships. The Sydney Games will show whether she can rise to the highest levels and compete with U.S. and Jamaican super-speedsters such as American Marion Jones.

Finally, Ukraine expects that it will harvest at least one gold and probably more in rhythmic gymnastics, another sport that it has historically dominated. While it was uncertain even last month whether current European and world champion Olena Vitrychenko would compete after problems with the NOCU, she was given the go-ahead several days ago and is part of the Sydney squad. She is the indisputable favorite for several medals, including her specialty, the ribbon, and in the overall judging.

Although the team's talent is obvious, and results in recent competitions prove as much, Mr. Kulyk underscored that, as in every Olympics where athletic prowess is honed to a fine edge, the difference between a medal and sixth place is minuscule.

"We are ready, but this is the Olympics, and many factors can come into play," explained the Ukrainian Olympic official. "Winning depends on more than physical training, it means psychological preparedness and proper adaptation to the environment. And let's not forget about good judging as well."

## SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES IN SYDNEY



Iryna Mykhalchenko, Ukraine's high jump gold champion, jumps over a 1.98-meter mark during Ukraine's track and field championships in Kyiv on August 6.

### Preparations...

(Continued from page 1)

issues associated with the early days of the Olympic Games. We need to do everything we can to ensure the fundamentals are in place in terms of training sessions, transport, accommodations, catering and other matters for the athletes. At the same time, we need to fulfill our responsibilities to the local community, the people and government of Ukraine, and the Olympic movement," Mr. Zabroda explained.

Seasoned hands from past Ukrainian and Soviet participation in Olympic Games noted that Sydney's Olympic Village is easily the best ever and that preparations look very thorough.

Beyond training, the Ukrainian delegation has begun to settle into the patterns of Olympic Village life – getting haircuts, figuring out how to work mobile phones, flirting with the scores of Australian volunteers, sourcing cured herrings to supplement the village diet, and finding out, not just the best routes to training venues, but also to petting zoos for kangaroos and koalas.

From a Ukrainian Australian community perspective, Mr. Dechnicz noted that the level of enthusiasm among the small local community is strong – and that this is reflected in the funds raised and volunteers recruited.

"Over the last three years our community has tried to play a positive role in terms of securing training venues, organizing pre-Olympic logistics, and providing financial and human resources. It's great to see it coming to fruition when you walk into the [Olympic] Village and see the flag flying," Mr. Dechnicz said.

The Ukrainian team also has sponsorship support from Coca-Cola, Adidas, Samsung and telecommunications providers in Ukraine.

As athletes focus on their training, two major events will take place before the opening ceremonies of the Sydney 2000 Games on September 15. On the weekend of September 8-10, the Ukrainian Australian community will be holding a major Ukrainian Olympic Festival in Albury-Wodonga, a provincial city halfway between Sydney and Melbourne that has been the key pre-Games training base for many of Ukraine's elite sportspeople.

Organized by the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations, the festival's program will include an official dinner attended by 30 athletes and officials, flag-raising ceremonies with municipal officials and the broader local community, cultural displays and concerts, and church services. Attendance by more than 5,000 of Australia's total 25,000 Ukrainians is hoped for and expected.

On September 13, Ukraine's delegation will be welcomed to the Olympic Village by its mayor. It is expected that Prime Minister Yuschenko will be flying in for this ceremony when Ukraine's flag is formally raised for the first time at the Sydney 2000 Games. Mr. Yuschenko will remain in Australia to represent Ukraine at the opening ceremonies of the Games.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: The names of Ukraine's Olympic athletes are transliterated from the official Ukrainian-language team list released in Kyiv.**

### Olympic official reflects on team's chances

by Peter Shmigel

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

SYDNEY – Viktor Gavrylak can tell you what Ukraine's top boxer eats for breakfast, or the exact scores Ukraine's divers received at the European titles.

Among the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (NOCU) delegation in the Olympic Village, it is Mr. Gavrylak's job to know, as he is responsible for all matters relating to Ukraine's sporting performance at the Sydney 2000 Games. When you ask Mr. Gavrylak about Ukraine's medal chances, however, you get a different approach.

"My hair is white because I am a very long serving sports administrator. I long ago learned not to give a prognosis of a team's chances," Mr. Gavrylak, who is attending his fourth Olympic Games, replied diplomatically.

Nevertheless, numbers speak for themselves, and in bundles of folders on his temporary desk in the NOCU's Olympic Village office, Mr. Gavrylak has plenty of them. Culled from page after page of handwritten notes, they paint an interesting picture of Ukraine's participation in Sydney.

For example, Ukraine will have 239 athletes competing in 27 sports: archery, badminton, boxing, cycling – road, cycling – track, cycling – mountain bike, canoeing, kayaking, diving, fencing, freestyle wrestling, Greco-Roman wrestling, gymnastics – artistic, gymnastics – rhythmic, judo, modern pentathlon, rowing, sailing, shooting (including 10m air rifle, 50m rifle and skeet), swimming, synchronized swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, trampoline, triathlon and weightlifting.

Thirty-four percent of the Ukrainian team also participated in the Atlanta Games in 1996 where Ukraine won nine

gold medals. Forty percent of the participating Ukrainian athletes are either world or European champions.

The Ukrainian men's bicycle velodrome racing team also has world champion status. Other teams with strong qualifications are the men's and women's rowing teams (fours).

Former gold medalists competing for Ukraine in the Sydney 2000 Games are: Viacheslav Oliinyk in Greco-Roman wrestling, Yevhen Braslavets (who is expected to be Ukraine's flag-bearer in the opening ceremonies) and Ihor Matvienko in 470 class sailing, Inessa Kravets in long jump and triple jumps, and Serhii Bubka in pole vault.

The vast majority of Ukraine's athletes in the Sydney 2000 Games will compete in individual disciplines. Mr. Gavrylak, whose full-time job is as advisor to the Kyiv-based State Committee for Youth Affairs, Sports and Tourism, puts this down to Ukraine's economic conditions and the fact that it is more expensive to support the elite training of teams.

Mr. Gavrylak's boss at the Sydney 2000 Games, Vasyl Zabroda, the chief of mission of the NOCU, believes that the emphasis on individual sports creates some particularly difficult challenges and opportunities.

"Because we are competing in almost exclusively individual sports, much will depend on the draws our athletes receive in their initial rounds of competition. In team sports, your chances are increased because of the pool systems that are generally used," Mr. Zabroda said.

As the games proceed, Mr. Gavrylak will be there with his reams of paper, pencil and ruler in hand, recording the medal count. Though he may not be willing to pick winners in advance, he'll no doubt share the exhilaration of Ukrainian gold.

#### Among Ukraine's recent world champions to watch in Sydney are:

- Elbrus Tedeiev – freestyle wrestling
- Denys Gotfrid – weightlifting
- Ruslana Taran and Olena Pakholchik – 470 class, sailing
- Olena Vitrychenko – rhythmic gymnastics
- Yana Klochkova – 400m medley, swimming
- Olena Zhupina – 10m platform and synchro diving
- Svitlana Serbina – synchro diving
- Ihor Razorionov – weightlifting
- Inga Babakova – high jump, track and field
- Serhii Bubka – pole vault, track and field
- Zhanna Pintusevych – 100m and 200m sprint, track and field
- Denis Sylantiev – 100m and 200m butterfly, swimming
- Serhii Holubyskyi – fencing



Olena Vitrychenko from Ukraine during a rhythmic gymnastics routine at the Gymnastic Masters 2000 in Karlsruhe, Germany, on April 8.

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## Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

sent a 390-member delegation to Sydney, including 239 athletes. The Ukrainian government decided that the gold medalists at this year's games will be given a prize of up to \$50,000, silver medalists up to \$30,000 and bronze medalists up to \$20,000 each. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Ukraine may lease pipelines for \$1.8 B

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Stepan Havrysh on September 4 said the Ukrainian government is “viewing the possibility” of leasing the country's gas pipeline network to a Russian-Ukrainian joint venture for \$1.8 billion over 25 years, Interfax reported. According to Mr. Havrysh, Ukraine's pipeline system is worth \$20 billion. He noted that according to the current bill on oil and gas, which is to be amended in the Parliament in the upcoming session, “such a transfer of gas pipelines on unfavorable conditions for Ukraine is impossible.” In Mr. Havrysh's opinion, Ukraine's pipeline system might be privatized. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### President urges Rada to address tax debts

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has sent a letter to the Parliament urging national deputies to speed up the adoption of bills intended to regulate debts to the state budget and state funds, Interfax reported on September 4. Mr. Kuchma noted that 128,000 enterprises owe 15 billion hrv (\$2.75 billion) in unpaid taxes and other obligations, including 9.9 billion hrv in fines for overdue payments. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Russia notes anniversary of N detonation

MOSCOW – On the 51st anniversary of the Soviet Union's detonation of a nuclear device at Semipalatinsk, Academician Viktor Mikhail, the director of the Academy of Sciences Institute of Strategic Stability, said in an article in Voennyi Parad that nuclear weapons will remain a reliable instrument of ensuring global security into the future, ITAR-TASS reported on August 29. “We increasingly clearly see military-political functions of nuclear weapons of the great nuclear powers as non-combat but ‘polit-

(Continued on page 13)

## Volume spotlights...

(Continued from page 8)

Jewish militia for purposes of self-defense. Despite the presence of such violence aimed at Jews, Jabotinsky never retracted his support for Ukrainian nationalism, instead demonstrating a keen insight into the consequences of the events around him.

When a Jewish assassin took the life of Symon Petliura in retribution for past atrocities against the Jewish community, Jabotinsky denounced the act, recognizing that only Soviet interests would be served by such vigilante justice.

The Jewish leader harbored a genuine sympathy for the Ukrainian cause. He understood that the Ukrainian language and culture were distinct from those of Russia and that the Ukrainian people deserved their independence. Never swayed by anger or revenge, Jabotinsky left his mark on Ukrainian history by championing Jewish-Ukrainian cordiality at a time when the tide of public sentiment and internal politics pulled many in the opposite direction.

“From Nationalism to Universalism” provides a compelling account of this unique leader and his legacy of Jewish-Ukrainian cooperation.

## Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 12)

ical weapons," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Korchynskyi: Kursk destroyed by sabotage

KYIV – In a comment posted on the Internet (<http://part.org.ua>), Dmytro Korchynskyi, the head of the Ukrainian Political Association Brotherhood and previously a leader of the Ukrainian National Assembly/Ukrainian National Self-Defense (UNA/UNSO), has said the Kursk submarine was destroyed by an act of Chechen sabotage. Mr. Korchynskyi said two explosive devices equivalent to 800 grams of TNT were planted in the submarine during repair work carried out on the vessel. According to Mr. Korchynskyi, "people close to [Chechen field commander] Ruslan Gelaev" were responsible for the act of sabotage. He commented that the Chechens paid only \$6,000 to a member of the repair team to plant the explosive devices in the submarine. Mr. Korchynskyi said Russia's Federal Security Service was informed about a possible act of sabotage in Severomorsk two weeks before the Kursk tragedy but ignored the warning since the informer was from the entourage of Chechen interim administration head Akhmed Kadyrov, who, according to Mr. Korchynskyi, is not trusted by Russian military leaders. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kuchma urges Cabinet to seek IMF credits

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma told journalists on August 30 that Viktor Yushenko's Cabinet must prompt the International Monetary Fund to resume its

\$2.6 billion loan program to Ukraine, Interfax reported. While saying that he realizes the IMF might have suspended its loan program because the former Cabinet of Valerii Pustovoitenko was "non-reformist," Mr. Kuchma added, "but today the West recognizes [Prime Minister Yushenko's] Cabinet as reformist, so why do they refuse to give credits to [someone with such a good name]?" He noted that he currently does not intend "to make conclusions regarding Yushenko's government" but promised that they will not be long in coming. "An IMF mission arrives soon, and after a meeting with them I will understand what demands they are making," President Kuchma added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ukraine declares ecological disaster zone

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on August 31 declared five villages in Mykolayiv Oblast – Boleslavchuk, Chausove-1, Chausove-2, Michurino and Pidhiria – an ecological disaster zone, following a mysterious mass poisoning in July, Interfax reported. Health officials are now checking some 6,000 residents of villages around the disaster zone for symptoms of the poisoning. Ukraine intends to appeal to the World Health Organization and foreign governments to help it deal with the emergency situation. The government, meanwhile, seems split over the reason for the poisoning: some officials attribute it to a high concentration of nitrates in the soil, while others point to liquid rocket fuel waste possibly buried in the disaster area. President Kuchma has asked Russian President Vladimir Putin to provide information about the possible burial of military equipment and toxic substances in Ukraine in 1991. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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

Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: The Editor, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

### Clifton parish honors Rev. Zemplachenko



The Very Rev. Protopresbyter Michael Zemplachenko (seated, center) is flanked by his wife, Tatiana, and Ivan Bilobron (parish president. Standing (from left) are Andrew Shevchenko (master of ceremonies), Dr. Silvia Bilobron, Anna Wojtiuk and Mary Yurcheniuk (banquet planning committee).

by Dr. Sylvia Bilobron

CLIFTON, N.J. – On July 23, a beautiful, sunny day, as if a gift from God, St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Clifton, N.J., together with distinguished guests, celebrated 20 years of dedicated service to the Clifton community by the Very Rev. Protopresbyter Michael Zemplachenko. A divine liturgy was followed by a celebratory banquet at the Binghamton Floating Restaurant in Edgewater, N.J., overlooking the Manhattan skyline.

The Rev. Zemplachenko's career began on April 5, 1953, when then Archbishop Mstyslav ordained him deacon at St. Mary Protectress Church in Rochester, N.Y. Subsequently, in February 1955, he took his vows as priest before Archbishop Mstyslav at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in New York. He was assigned to his first parish in Uniondale, Long Island, and later to churches in Minersville, Pa., and Bayonne, N.J.

The Rev. Zemplachenko's first major recognition of service to the faithful occurred in 1963, when he was elevated to protopriest, again by Archbishop Mstyslav. Furthermore, when the fifth Ecumenical Council of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America took place in October 1964, the Very Rev. Zemplachenko was elected a member of its Consistory and named treasurer. It was during this time that he also served as assistant clergy for St. Andrew Memorial Church in South Bound Brook,

N.J., until July 1976.

The Rev. Zemplachenko was again recognized for his dedication and commitment to Orthodoxy in 1966 by the late Metropolitan John and presented with a specially adorned cross; in 1976, due to a shortage of priests, he was relieved of his duties at the Consistory and assigned to a parish in Northampton, Pa., where he served for four years.

Finally, on July 13, 1980, the Rev. Zemplachenko celebrated his first service at St. Mary Protectress in Clifton. In 1995, on his 40th anniversary of priesthood, he was elevated to protopresbyter.

Among the several adversities faced by the parish in past years, declining membership and low attendance, the Rev. Zemplachenko and his wife, Tatiana, have served as leaders and motivators to overcome these difficulties. Recognizing St. Mary Protectress Church as a small bastion of traditional Ukrainian Orthodox rites, culture and customs, the Rev. Zemplachenko helped spearhead a "mini-revival" of parish life and membership. His appeal to fourth-wave immigrants and recall of some "lost" members has guaranteed the preservation of a parish that many would say, due to its unadulteration, is one "which time has forgotten."

For this exceptional service and his true love of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the Clifton community celebrated the Rev. Zemplachenko's important milestone with great joy.

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# Pobratymy fraternity makes donation to Plast

by Oleh Skubiak

CHICAGO – The Pobratymy Foundation Inc., established in 1992 by members of Plast's Pobratymy Fraternity, recently made a contribution of \$4,716 to support developmental activities of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

The contribution was made at a recent reception celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Plast Chicago Chapter at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Community Center in Chicago.

The Pobratymy Foundation Inc. has made numerous contributions over the past several years to support Plast, particularly in the area of counselor training. It has made contributions to the Plast Chicago Chapter, the Plast National Executive Council, and to candidates for "Lisova Shkola" (a rigorous counselor training camp) from both North America and Ukraine.

The Pobratymy Foundation is limited to

making contributions to Plast and other 501(c) (3) organizations that support the stated purposes of the fraternity: to renew and strengthen Plast; to encourage excellence and self-improvement; to encourage identification and cooperation among Ukrainian youth; and to inform others about Ukraine.

This year's contribution was the result of a new fund-raising activity organized by the Pobratymy Fraternity – the first annual plast Chicago Golf Outing.

The second annual Plast Chicago Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, September 9, at Renwood Golf Club, in the Chicago area, near Round Lake, Ill. The scramble-format tournament will be followed by an awards dinner, including steaks, refreshments, music and entertainment. Interested parties should contact Ihor Hrynewycz at (312) 829-8146 or hnews@aol.com.



Oleh Skubiak of the Pobratymy Foundation (left) presents a contribution to Andres Durbak, president (stanychnyi) of the Plast Chicago Chapter.

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# UKELODEON

## FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

*This summer many UKELODEON readers attended Plast camps for preschoolers known as "Tabory Ptashat." Below are reports from several of those camps.*

### "Ptashata" enjoy camps near Cleveland ...

MIDDLEFIELD, Ohio – More than a decade ago, Plast instituted its Tabir Ptashat designed to give 4-, 5- and 6-year-olds and their parents a fun camping experience. This summer's camp at Pysanyi Kamin near Cleveland took place on July 9-15.

Twenty-two enthusiastic campers along with their moms or dads came from Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Washington, Philadelphia and Miami to participate in the program titled "Let po Sviti" or "Travels Around the World."

Using their imaginations and with passports and suitcases in hand, the young campers embarked on a week-long adventure, collecting interesting mementos along the way – many of

which they made themselves.

The camp was run by two Plast members – Nadia Palka-Zappernick from the Shostokryli Plast sorority and Christine Panchuk-Fedynsky from the Lisovi Mavky sorority. Seventeen parent volunteers and one "bratchyk" helped make the camp a big success.

Highlights from the group's world (and some out-of-this-world) travels included very creative puppet theater shows, a carnival with pony rides, nature walks, the Tabir Ptashat "sopilka" band, cookie baking and decorating, storytelling and a camp Olympics.

Participants went home weary but happy with many happy memories of Pysanyi Kamin and their around-the-world adventure.



*Campers from the Pysanyi Kamin camp in Middlefield, Ohio, during an outing.*

### ... in the Buffalo area

NORTH COLLINS, N.Y. – Ten families braved initial downpours and enthusiastically pitched their tents to begin the 11th Tabir Ptashat, "Krai Lisy na Polantsi," at Novyi Sokil campground near Buffalo, N.Y.

Sixteen children, nearly all third-generation Novyi Sokil campers, traveled from five different states, including Washington, Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and of course, New York. Marta (née Elyjiw) Brewer, assisted by Andrew Pryshlak and Dr. Christina Stasiuk, led the camp, which took place July 16-22.

In addition to the usual camp activities of songs, games, crafts, and bonfires, the children cooked and ate delicious "stone soup," made kazoos at the world famous Eden Kazoo Factory, petted newborn calves at Phillips dairy farm and saw a herd of buffalo at the nearby A&S Buffalo Ranch.

The highlight of the week came on July 22 with the 50th anniversary celebration of Novyi Sokil – the first and oldest Plast camp in the Americas, which is known for its jewel-like natural beauty and friendly atmosphere.



*"Ptashata" at the Novyi Sokil Plast camp in North Collins, N.Y.*

### ... at the Soyuzivka resort



KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Tabir Ptashat was held again at Soyuzivka this year. Seen above during the second tour of the day camp for preschoolers is one of the beloved camp activities: storytelling. The camp, held July 2-8, was attended by 33 girls and 20 boys from such far-flung states as California, Arizona, Florida, Illinois and Ohio, and even from the province of Ontario in Canada. The director of the Tabir Ptashat's second tour was Tunia Bilyk-Shatynski. The first tour of the camp, directed by Daria Temnycky, attracted 53 campers from June 25 through July 2. Tabir Ptashat is organized annually at the Ukrainian National Association resort by the Pershi Stezhi sorority of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

#### OUR NEXT ISSUE:

UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated October 8, please send in your materials by September 29. (Please include a daytime phone number.)

Send in your articles, letters, photos, etc. to: The Ukrainian Weekly, UKELODEON, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, N.J., 07054; telephone, (973) 292-9800; fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com.

## Ukraine Day held at Florida library

by **Tatiana Halyna Lotocky**  
(as told to *Mama*)

COOPER CITY, Fla. – Every Wednesday this summer my two little sisters, Sonya and Taisa, have been going to the Davie/Cooper City public library branch for Broward County Library’s 2000 Florida Youth Program. This year it’s called “Your Passport to the World.”

The program is for little kids age 3 to 5. On Wednesdays they visited countries like Norway, Italy, Africa and Mexico. July 19 was “Ukraine” Day.

We had to get dressed in our Ukrainian costumes early in the morning so we wouldn’t be late.

First, they knocked on a toy bumblebee’s hive and said a poem. Then, Arlene Garcia (in charge of Youth Services) read “The Mitten,” a Ukrainian folk tale. We listened to “The Mosquito and the Fly” on a cassette tape, while Ms. Garcia held the book for all to see. Then everyone did the “Hokey Pokey” to Ron Cahute’s “Booryak” CD.

By this time my vinok was hurting my head!

Finally, it was our turn to dance. We danced the “Honyviter,” which is a Ukrainian folk dance. It’s fast and it has many steps. It’s fun to do. Everyone

clapped. Then Mama said I could take my vinok off of my ears. I felt better!

My aunt Donna Maksymowich-Waskiewicz brought wooden “pysanky” so the kids wouldn’t break the real ones. Everyone got to touch them.

Janet Raymond is in charge of the crafts the children make at the end of the day. This time the little children made paper “pysanky” with paper, glitter, sequins, glue, and crayons. I helped Sonya, who is 2.

Since everyone liked our dance so much, they asked us to do it a second time!



The Lotocky sisters: Tatiana, 9, Sonya, 2, and Taisa, 5.

## Assumption School students help Ukraine



PERTH AMBOY, N.J. – At the end of the 1999-2000 school year, the Ukrainian Assumption School raised nearly \$1,250 for the families of miners killed in Krasnodon, Ukraine. The effort began in Miroslava Moriak’s fifth grade, where students collected \$102. At a special liturgy and prayer service an additional \$565 was raised. The school’s Glee Club, under the direction of Melanie Lawrence, raised more than \$400 during its spring concert. As well, the students collected about 2,000 pounds of toys and clothing for kids in Ukraine. Seen above (from left) with a shipment are: Benjamin Ruiz, Bryce Houser, Nina Gera, Caitlin O’Neill, Dana Leitauer, Jeremy Rosa and Christine Iacuzio, with Sister Vladimyra Leskin, principal.

## Mishanyna

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

September traditionally is a month characterized by a flurry of activities, so our Mishanyna this month lists words that remind us of things related to the beginning of the school year. Good luck to all of our readers during this year. (We hope you will write to UKELODEON when you get a chance...)

This September is different, though, as Australia hosts the Summer Olympic games. That’s why Mishanyna also includes words related to the Olympics. (Are you planning to watch the sports competitions with your parents?)

|            |           |         |           |
|------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| backpack   | games     | pen     | September |
| books      | gold      | pencil  | silver    |
| bronze     | Labor Day | reading | sport     |
| champion   | medal     | ruler   | summer    |
| down under | Olympic   | school  |           |

## Mykola Myshka goes to the Olympics



Mykola Myshka is visiting his friend Katya-roo, who is participating in this year’s Olympic Games in the javelin.

Do you know where the Games are being held? Is this the first, second or third time that Ukraine is participating in the Summer Olympics with its own independent team?

Ask your parents. See if they know the answers!

Hint: The first answer may be seen in the stamp above. As for the second answer, check out the “Focus on Philately” column published in last week’s issue of The Ukrainian Weekly.

## Letter to Mykola Myshka

*Mykola Myshka received the following answer to the question he posed in the August issue of UKELODEON.*

Dear Mykola:

The reason that you wave your Ukrainian flag is because it is Ukrainian Independence Day, which is celebrated on August 24.

Orest Pyndus, age 4 1/2, Newark, N.J.

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Monday, September 11**

**PHILADELPHIA:** The School of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble will begin classes at 6 p.m. in the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa. Registration for new students will begin at 6:15 p.m. on September 11 and 18. New students who are interested in attending classes must be a minimum of 4 years old at time of registration. For further information contact Nina Prybolsky, (215) 572-1552.

**Saturday, September 16**

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society will hold a presentation by Dr. Sehi Bilokin, senior research fellow of the Institute of the History of Ukraine, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, on "Archival Sources about Mass Terror in the USSR." The talk will be held at the society's building at 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets). For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

**Thursday, September 21**

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Institute of America and Freedom House invite the public to a book signing, lecture and reception featuring Chrystia Freeland, deputy editor of the Toronto Globe and Mail and former Kyiv/Moscow correspondent for the Financial Times. Ms. Freeland will discuss the transformation of the Russian economy as described in her latest book, "Sale of the Century," and will highlight parallels with developments in Ukraine. The event will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. at the institute, 2 E. 79th St. For more details, visit the UIA website ([www.brama.com/uia](http://www.brama.com/uia)) or contact the institute, (212) 288-8660.

**Friday, September 22**

**TORONTO:** The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto is holding a lecture, as part of its

seminar series, by Ihor Hyrych, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, on the topic "Valentyn Sadovsky: Economist and Political Leader" (in Ukrainian). The lecture will be held at the Munk Center for International Studies, 1 Devonshire Place, Room 108N, at 4 p.m.

**Saturday, September 30**

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Institute of America will formally open the upcoming season with an autumn cocktail reception. The evening will feature open bar, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment. Tickets are \$25 per person. The party will take place at the institute, 2 E. 79th St., and will begin at 7:30 p.m. For full details, visit the UIA website ([www.brama.com/uia](http://www.brama.com/uia)) or contact the institute, (212) 288-8660, for reservations.

**HARTFORD, Conn.:** The 50th anniversary celebration of the Hartford branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization will include a dinner and dance to be held at the Ukrainian National Home, 961 Wethersfield Ave. The banquet will start at 5:30 p.m.; the dance at 9:30 p.m. All are invited. For information call Wanda Baxer, (860) 225-0911.

**Saturday-Sunday, October 21-22**

**UTICA, N.Y.:** St. Volodymyr the Great Ukrainian Catholic Church will commemorate its 50th anniversary on October 21-22, at 6 Cottage Place (adjacent to Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute). On Saturday, beginning at 4 p.m., there will be a program featuring the Lviviany and the bandurist duo Lisova Pisia, followed by a cocktail hour and zabava/dance at 8 p.m. On Sunday, the pontifical divine liturgy will be offered by Bishop Basil Losten and the Rev. Michael Bundz, beginning at 9:30 a.m., and will include the blessing of the completed iconography. A banquet will be held at the Utica Radisson on Genesee Street at noon. Contact the Rev. Bundz, (315) 735-5138, for further information.

### THE UKRAINIAN ENGINEERS' SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.



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