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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Latest killing of journalist in Ukraine renews focus on media freedoms

by Maryna Makhnonos

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, along with Ukrainian national deputies on July 11 pressed authorities for a full investigation into last week's killing of a journalist and raised further concerns about the media situation in Ukraine.

Ihor Aleksandrov, the director of a television station in the eastern Donetsk region, reportedly was attacked by two assailants wielding baseball bats on July 3 at the entrance to his office in the town of Sloviansk. He died of head injuries after three days in the hospital.

Mr. Aleksandrov was buried on July 9 in Sloviansk, where a large funeral procession of more than 5,000 people, cars and buses followed his coffin to the cemetery.

"It's symbolic that Ihor left us on the day of John the Baptist, as he also fell a victim of a killer — Herod — for telling truth," Father Heorhii said at the funeral ceremony, according to the *Kievskiy Vedomosti* daily.

Last week, the media freedom watchdog group Reporters Without Borders appealed to Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh to personally oversee the investigation into Mr. Aleksandrov's beating. It said violence against journalists in Ukraine was now worse than in any other European state.

On Wednesday, the Committee to

Ukraine confronts growing AIDS problem

by Maryna Makhnonos

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — Ukraine suffers from a poor medical infrastructure and weak laboratory capacities in battling AIDS problems, a representative of Doctors Without Borders, Joost van der Meer, said on July 4.

"In general, access to medicines is very poor," Dr. van der Meer said at a news conference in Kyiv. He said simple medicines, much less specialized drugs, are insufficient or unaffordable.

"I'm talking about very simple basic medicines," he explained.

Dr. van der Meer, who heads the Ukraine mission of Doctors Without Borders said the situation in Ukraine's southern regions is especially bad and that in some cases there are no antibiotics available for infants in case they have pneumonia.

He also claimed there is weak media support for a socially oriented project aimed at improving people's attitudes to HIV/AIDS victims, which includes a video

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Igor Novitsky/UNIAN

Ihor Aleksandrov

Protect Journalists appealed to President Leonid Kuchma to organize a thorough investigation of the journalist's slaying. It said the case had caused concern, especially as another notorious killing, that of Internet newspaper editor Heorhii Gongadze, had not yet been solved.

Mr. Gongadze went missing in September, and his beheaded body was found on the outskirts of Kyiv a few weeks later. Opposition groups have accused President Kuchma of involvement in the Gongadze murder and have staged protests for months. Mr. Kuchma had strongly denied the accusations.

The CPJ also said there were some other facts of pressure on independent journalists in Ukraine being pressured.

The local *Fakty* daily said Mr. Aleksandrov was the 12th journalist killed or deceased under mysterious circumstances in recent years in Ukraine. Others include lawmaker and journalist Vadym Boiko, Crimean journalists Sviatoslav Sosnovskyi, Oleksander Motrenko and Volodymyr Ivanov, Odesa journalists Borys Derevianko, Volodymyr Bekhter and Ihor Bondar, Cherkasy reporter Ihor Hrushevskyi, Kyiv television editor Mariana Chorna, Luhansk reporter Vitaliy Shevchenko and Mr. Gongadze.

The Verkhovna Rada's Committee on freedom of Speech and Information, along with several political factions on July 11 demanded that the president, the government, the Procurator General's Office and the Interior Ministry take urgent measures to solve the Aleksandrov murder.

The Interfax news agency reported that the committee said in a statement that the killing was "a continuation of pressure on freedom of speech in Ukraine and on the

(Continued on page 3)

Six opposition parties unite in new bloc led by Tymoshenko

by Maryna Makhnonos

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — Leaders of six opposition parties united on July 10 in a new political bloc led by former Vice Prime-Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, marking the informal start of the race for parliamentary elections long before the vote next March.

"We united to win in elections to the Verkhovna Rada and create, at last, a capable parliamentary majority devoted to Ukraine and the nation, to form a government of the people's trust, to dismiss the president, who has discredited himself and to clean the state of criminal elements, corruption, gangsterism, self-will and totalitarianism," the leaders said in a declaration signed on July 10.

The bloc adopted the name of an opposition coalition of leftist and democratic parties that had organized months of street protests earlier this year, the Forum for National Salvation. The new bloc was apparently created to renew opposition efforts after the original protests failed to attract wide popular support, as a result of which President Leonid Kuchma was considered to have won the confrontation.

The street protesters focused their anger on the death of an opposition journalist, Heorhii Gongadze; they have long urged President Kuchma's ouster.

Before the signing ceremony, Ms. Tymoshenko appealed for a minute of silence in memory of all "victims of the present regime," including politicians, journalists and ordinary people suffering from weak government support.

Ms. Tymoshenko, a former national deputy and ex-vice prime minister premier in charge of the energy sector, became a prominent opposition leader since being ousted by the president in January over allegations of corruption.

She was charged in the gas scheme and with falsifying documents and tax evasion. Most of the alleged crimes were committed in 1996-1997, when Ms. Tymoshenko headed a key energy supplier, the Unified Energy Systems of Ukraine.

Ms. Tymoshenko denied any wrongdoing and claimed the case was orchestrated by political opponents. She filed a complaint against the procurator general.

"If these facts presented by the Procurator General's Office are crimes, Leonid Kuchma should appear in the case as the organizer," said Hryhorii Omelchenko, an opposition lawmaker and Tymoshenko supporter.

Ms. Tymoshenko said that since prosecutors started an investigation of her activity several months ago, she has started every morning by giving evidence to

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UNA executive officers discuss Soyuzivka and Canadian issues

by Martha Lysko

UNA National Secretary

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — The Ukrainian National Association's Executive Committee met on June 9 at the UNA Corporate Headquarters for its regular quarterly meeting.

In attendance were members of the Executive Committee: First Vice-President Stefko Kuropas, Second Vice-President, Anya Dydyk-Petrenko, Director for Canada the Rev. Myron Stasiw, Treasurer Stefan Kaczaraj and National Secretary Martha Lysko. Also present was Stefan Hawrysz, a member of the Auditing Committee. The meeting was chaired by President Ulana Diachuk.

All reports for the first quarter of 2001 were read and approved. Two other important matters under discussion were Soyuzivka and the work of the UNA General Assembly's Standing Committee on Soyuzivka and UNA membership in Canada.

In opening the meeting, the president asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Supreme Secretary Walter Sochan,

who passed away on May 23, and former Supreme President John O. Flis, who passed away on June 8. Both former UNA executive officers were honorary members of the UNA General Assembly.

Delivering the treasurer's report, Mr. Kaczaraj compared in detail income and expenses for the first quarter of 2001 with those of the first quarter of 2000. He reported that certain expenses were down in 2001 due to fewer payments of matured endowment, and that less money was paid to organizers and secretaries because less new business was generated. Annuity payouts also were down in 2001, he added.

In the first quarter of 2001 the UNA's surplus grew by \$1,004,584, due primarily to the following factors: net income totalled \$413,405; the change in net unrealized foreign exchange, showed an increase of \$900,481; the change in net unrealized capital losses showed a decrease of \$319,360; the Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp. (UNURC) showed a loss of \$43,307; and other increases were \$53,365.

The UNURC showed a loss in the first

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FOR THE RECORD

Committee to Protect Journalists speaks out about Aleksandrov killing

Following is the text of a letter about the killing of journalist Ihor Aleksandrov sent on July 10 to President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists. Copies of the letter were sent to various human rights organizations and international bodies concerned with freedom of the press, as well as to Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, and Carlos Pascual, U.S. ambassador to Ukraine.

Your Excellency:

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), an independent organization dedicated to the defense of press freedom worldwide, strongly condemns the recent murder of prominent television journalist Ihor Aleksandrov.

Aleksandrov, 45, was the director of Tor, an independent television company based in the city of Slaviansk, in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine.

On the morning of July 3, unknown attackers assaulted Aleksandrov with baseball bats as he entered Tor's offices, according to local news reports. Tor deputy director Sergey Cherneta described the attack to the regional newspaper Donbas: "All of a sudden we heard

... blows and screams, after that we heard a moan. I ran downstairs. ... Our manager was lying in the lobby in a pool of blood with his head cracked open. Two large baseball bats were left nearby."

Aleksandrov was rushed to the local city hospital where he underwent surgery. The journalist never regained consciousness. He died of head injuries on the morning of July 7.

Aleksandrov's colleagues believe the murder was connected to his television program, "Bez Retushi" ("Without Censorship"), which featured investigative coverage of government corruption and organized crime. The program often criticized Slaviansk municipal authorities.

Soon after the attack, Donetsk regional prosecutor Viktor Pshonka launched an official investigation. Donetsk regional governor [oblast chairman] Viktor Yanukovich and Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Smirnov are directly involved in supervising the investigation, according to the local press. The chief of the Donetsk Ministry of Internal Affairs, Gen. Vladimir Malyshev, stated that revenge was the leading motive in the murder but did not elaborate.

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AHRU notes human rights violations

Following is the text of a letter to President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine from Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine regarding rights violations in Ukraine. AHRU wrote about this matter also to Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, chairman of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr. President:

Recently Ukraine has been prominently reported on in the international news media regarding the pope's five-day visit, the popular CBS "60 Minutes" program regarding the Gongadze case, President George Bush's comments on the strategic importance of Ukraine to both East and West and Ukraine's abolition of the death penalty. Because of more open media reporting there has been a greater focus on Ukraine than in the past.

We wish to bring to your attention an issue which could cause repercussions on Ukraine's image and standing with other countries. This concerns the right to free

speech and assembly – a right to protest or have a different opinion in a pluralistic society. The response of Ukraine's government to these issues is under international scrutiny at a time when Ukraine cannot afford any more scandals. The cases in point are:

- arrests and imprisonment of Oleksander Bashuk, leader of a group called Samostiyna Ukraina, together with other students on July 8, 2000, who demonstrated against the communist party; their right to freedom of assembly and freedom of speech should be inviolable;
- arrests and imprisonment of Andriy Shkil and 12 other demonstrators on March 9, 2001, at the Shevchenko monument in Kyiv; their rights of freedom of assembly and freedom of speech should also be respected.

Ukraine has been independent for the past 10 years and is a signatory to the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Accords), thereby committing herself

(Continued on page 23)

NEWSBRIEFS

Election official urges new law

KYIV – Mykhailo Riabets, the head of the Central Election Commission, told journalists on July 10 that it will be "simply impossible" to conduct next year's parliamentary election campaign under the current election law, Interfax reported. According to Mr. Riabets, neither his commission nor any other body will be able to control the election campaign and prevent mass violations of election procedures since the current election law does not provide for clear-cut election regulation mechanisms. President Leonid Kuchma has already vetoed three election bills passed by the parliament this year. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma once again vetoes election law

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has vetoed a bill providing for the election of 335 parliamentary deputies under the proportional party-list system and 115 in single-mandate constituencies, Interfax reported on July 5. It was Mr. Kuchma's third veto of the Verkhovna Rada's attempts to amend the current election law, which calls for electing 225 deputies from party lists and 225 deputies in single-mandate constituencies. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma slams national deputies

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on July 11 said some Ukrainian lawmakers and politicians intentionally discredit the country in the international arena, Interfax reported. "No one speaks more abominably about Ukraine than Ukrainian politicians," Mr. Kuchma noted. The president added that Ukrainian legislators are more concerned with their own well-being than lawmaking. According to Mr. Kuchma, parliamentary groups are paid "millions of dollars" for voting on some bills. "The deputy's pay is only pocket money. They get their basic pay in greenbacks," Mr. Kuchma said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Chernomyrdin warns Kyiv on neutrality

KYIV – Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin told Moscow's Nezavisimaya Gazeta on July 11 that Ukraine can play the role of a "regional leader," Interfax reported. Mr. Chernomyrdin noted, however, that Ukraine's "neutral status may essentially undermine [Kyiv's] strategic interests" and lead to a situation in which the role of such a leader is assumed by "other countries." The Russian ambassador said he does not understand "those Ukrainians who are lobbying for the policy of economic isolation of their country from Russia." And he added: "I doubt whether Ukraine will be

able to find an alternative to the Russian market in Europe, Asia or Latin America." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Polish foreign minister visits Ukraine

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine on July 9 met with Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, Ukrainian Television reported. Mr. Kuchma expressed his satisfaction with the pace of the Ukrainian-Polish dialogue at all levels. Mr. Bartoszewski responded that the wish to promote Ukrainian-Polish relations is mutual. He also told journalists that Ukraine should take advantage of the international political climate, which is extremely favorable for the country to step up integration with the West, PAP reported. Mr. Bartoszewski noted that irrespective of the result of the September 23 parliamentary elections in Poland, Warsaw's policy toward Kyiv will not change. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Poland has not yet agreed to pipeline

KYIV – Polish Foreign Affairs Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski said in Kyiv on July 9 that Warsaw has not yet made a final decision to support construction of a Russian gas pipeline bypassing Ukraine, RIA-Novosti reported. He said that the Polish government is also considering other routes that would link Ukraine more closely with Western Europe. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine, Moldova seek to resolve problems

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh and his Moldovan counterpart, Vasile Tarlev, declared in Kyiv on July 9 that their countries are ready to resolve a number of serious problems in trade and economic cooperation, Interfax reported. In response to Ukrainian Transport Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko's warning that Kyiv will ensure "rigorous parity" in cross-border shipments if Chisinau fails to ratify the Moldovan-Ukrainian border treaty, Mr. Tarlev said that the Moldovan Parliament will soon ratify the pact. Both sides also pledged to simplify border control by establishing joint border checkpoints. Mr. Tarlev promised that Moldova will replace a triple customs control procedure on a railroad line that thrice crosses the Ukrainian-Moldovan border with a single customs check. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine to export electricity via Moldova

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh and his Moldovan counterpart, Vasile Tarlev, on July 10 agreed to deliver Ukrainian electricity through Moldovan territory to Mediterranean

(Continued on page 23)

Quotable notes

"We have done a great deed, we have created a precedent, a tangible precedent of the unification of Slavic nations – Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia. Close by, we have Moldova where normal leadership has come to power. If we fail to support it, this Moldovan leadership will perish. We are obliged – first of all, Russia – to support it in order to make people realize that normal leadership came to power. One must not be ashamed or afraid that communists came to power. Well, it does not matter that they are communists. All of us were communists. Normal, sympathetic people came [to power]. Ukraine is today drifting in our direction. Therefore, when we resolve [our problems in the Russia-Belarus Union], we will approach the resolution of yet another one, a very important one – we will pull up to our union those states that we want to see here. I think Kazakhstan, too, will be here."

– President Alyaksandr Lukashenka in an address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Russia-Belarus Union in Hrodna on June 5, as quoted by Belarusian Television and cited by RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report.

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Pope John Paul II blesses new Ukrainian Catholic University

LVIV – During his historic visit to Ukraine, Pope John Paul II on June 26 blessed the Lviv Theological Academy's new university on Striska Street, as well as more than 300 of its faculty, staff and students according to the press service of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

Father Borys Gudziak, rector of the Lviv Theological Academy, greeted the pope and asked him to bless the university and its members. Speaking in Latin, the pope used a megaphone to bless the many spectators, then generously sprinkled the crowd with holy water.

After the blessing, the Lviv Theological Academy's Institute of Church History museum presented the holy father with a small case used as an altar with a chalice and paten used at liturgies during the underground period of the Catholic Church in Ukraine.

The following day, before millions of Greek-Catholics, the pope beatified 28 martyrs and servants of God, seven of whom were directly involved with the Theological Academy and Holy Spirit Seminary during their lifetimes. According to Father Gudziak, the recently beatified martyrs who were involved with the LTA have a great spiritual significance to the new university. Father Gudziak said he believes they should be "considered the [university's] special heavenly patrons."

Among the beatified who taught at the university were Bishop Mykola Charnetsky, along with Fathers Andrii Ischak and Mykola Konrad, who were both murdered on June 26, 1941, by the retreating Bolshevik Army and the NKVD, respectively. Fathers Roman Lysko, a graduate of the academy, was tortured to death in

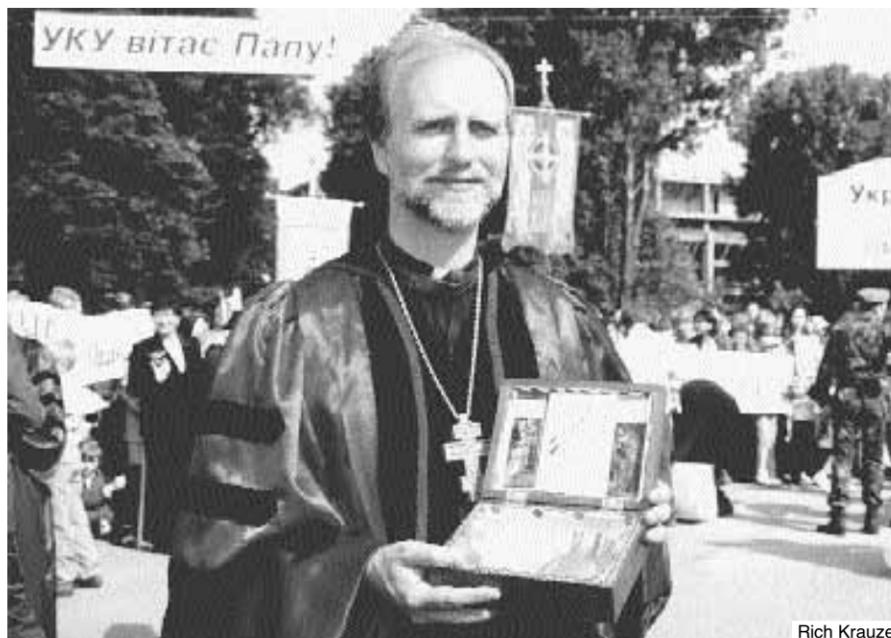
Lviv's Lonskyi Street prison, and Father Oleksii Zarytskyi, another graduate, died after 15 years of exile in a camp in Karaganda, Kazakstan. Archmandrite Klymentii Sheptytsky, the spiritual director of the academy, died in a prison in Vladimir, Russia.

Before the Soviets ordered it closed at the end of World War II, the Lviv Theological Academy trained only seminarians destined for the priesthood. Now, however, the academy's Catholic university has expanded its horizons, educating lay men and women, as well as seminarians. The university is adding a history faculty this year and plans to add social sciences in the near future.

UGCC spokesmen say the new university represents a huge step forward in the state of Ukrainian higher education. Its main building, a former Communist Party complex, is a symbol of Ukraine's effort to reform and advance higher education in the wake of the old Soviet education system.

Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, the university's grand chancellor and head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, noted: "Priests and laypeople alike will prepare to become better citizens at this university. This is a great matter for the Church, for the state and for all Ukrainian society. Becoming a hearth for Ukrainian learning, the Ukrainian Catholic University will give our people the opportunity to nurture those talents which God has given."

The cornerstone of the new Ukrainian Catholic University was blessed by Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Husar during the Byzantine-rite liturgy celebrated in Lviv on June 27.



Rich Krauze

Father Borys Gudziak holds the gift presented to the pope by the Institute of Church History.



The pontiff kisses a little girl during his stopover at the site of the new Ukrainian Catholic University.

Latest killing...

(Continued from page 1)

professional rights of mass media workers."

"The actions against journalists and mass media are obstacles on Ukraine's way to democracy and the creation of civil society," the committee said.

Oleksander Turchynov, leader of the Batkivschyna faction, was quoted by Interfax as saying that Mr. Aleksandrov was killed for political reasons as he "told the truth about the local criminal elite and gave broadcast time the opposition."

Ivan Bokii, a member of the Left Center faction, said Mr. Aleksandrov's killing was aimed at threatening voters in somebody's preparatory steps for next year's parliamentary elections.

"We think the rule of law is a key to full-fledged democracy," the U.S. coordinator for assistance to the former Soviet Union, William Taylor, said on July 12 at a news conference in Kyiv. "A key component of the rule of law is, of course, the investigation in the Gongadze and Aleksanrov cases," he added.

Mr. Taylor said U.S. authorities are concerned about the ineffective probe into journalists' killings, as well as with slow reforms, so much so that Congress may consider reducing assistance to Ukraine next year.

Meanwhile, President Kuchma ordered a "full and transparent" investigation and said he is taking the probe under his personal control. He pledged also to keep the public informed about progress in the investigation.

The president expressed condolences to Mr. Aleksandrov's widow in a message on July 11.

"I hoped until the very last moment that death would pass by your husband," Mr. Kuchma said in a telegram to the widow. "That is why I took the news that

his heart stopped as my personal loss and a loss for all Ukraine."

Mr. Aleksandrov ran the TOR television company. In 1998 a local court sentenced him to two years in prison and banned him from working as a journalist for five years after finding that he had violated laws on campaign coverage, offending a lawmaker candidate, the news reports said.

However, the journalist took his case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, and was acquitted last year.

Some media reports suggested on July 11 that Mr. Aleksandrov was killed because of a television program in which two officers spoke of alleged corruption within elite police units.

The police chief in Sloviansk appealed to local residents to provide any evidence for the investigation and offered a reward of 3,000 hryvnia (about \$550), Kievskiy Vedomosti reported.

Natalia Zaitseva, a spokeswoman for the regional procurator's office, said prosecutors were checking "several versions linked to his professional activity," but were not yet ready to provide details.

President Kuchma cautioned against making "hasty conclusions," saying "these could lead to dangerous consequences" and benefit "Ukraine's enemies."

In a move to improve the media's safety, Mr. Kuchma told police and government officials to strengthen protection of media offices and ordered them to respond to requests from the Ukrainian media for general data about crimes against journalists over the last decade.

In addition, the president told the government to make sure laws on protecting journalists and presidential decrees aimed at improving media freedom are being fulfilled. Mr. Kuchma also ordered that hotlines be set up in Kyiv for journalists to call if they need police help.

Kyiv pastor comments on effect of pontiff's visit to his church

Father Ihor Onyshkevych, the pastor and founder of Kyiv's 10-year-old Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra, was asked what kind of changes he anticipates in his parish after the visit of Pope John Paul II. Below are his comments.

Well, changes for the parish, changes for our spiritual life and changes for Ukraine. I think that our Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra stands on the grave of Askold, martyr for the Christian faith. We remember from long ago the great aristocratic cemetery, which was destroyed in 1935. For 70 years, its memory was being erased, but the people did not forget this holy place.

The gesture of the holy father in making the parish of St. Nicholas his first stop during his pilgrimage in Ukraine is a sign which speaks about the true holiness of our martyr Askold. The sign, that big sign from God, speaks to us about this holiness, since the holy martyr Askold isn't officially recognized in the archives. However, somewhere in memory, a long time ago this was supposedly announced, but there exists no confirmation of this today.

I believe that when the holy father comes here, the people also will come

this church. They will experience great spiritual delight, grace and blessings from God ... The memory of the holy father's visit will gather many Christians here, and pilgrims from all parts of Ukraine and all parts of the world will come.

... we are blessed that we founded this parish, thanks to the blessing of Bishop Sofron Dmyterko together with the people, who went through hard times of persecution and suffering and were without a church. This church did not have a roof, cupola or crosses, so everyone walked past it.

But our people came here and started to pray. Oleksander Omelchenko, the mayor of our city, renovated this church and I, its founder, along with the parishioners of this renewed parish, did not believe that such a miracle could happen.

We don't often see such miracles. Ukraine is a miracle of God. The holy father's apostolic trip today is also a miracle. Well, and for our parishioners it is a miracle that he will be in our church on his first stop and will pray to the icon of the Mother of God [of Zarvanytsia]. This is a big miracle for our parish, and also for me personally and for my spiritual life. And for Ukraine we pray: "God, give us Your blessing and the protection of the Mother of God."

OBITUARY

Anatol Kurdydyk, 95, longtime editor of Ukrainian Canadian newspapers

WINNIPEG – Anatol Julian Kurdydyk, longtime journalist and former editor of several Ukrainian Canadian newspapers, died here on June 25. He was 95.

Born in Pidhaisi, western Ukraine, on July 24, 1905, as the eldest son of the Rev. Petro Kurdydyk and Stefania de-Ostoya-Steblecka, he received his elementary education in Ternopil, attended the Ukrainian gymnasium in Lviv and studied law at Lviv University.

A passionate Ukrainian above all, he forfeited the opportunity to practice law by virtue of his involvement in Ukrainian nationalist activity, first under the Polish and subsequently the German administrations of western Ukraine; he was a political prisoner in Polish and Gestapo jails.

Reverting to the Ukrainian literature he had loved from his childhood, he ultimately found his niche in life as a poet and author, and as a journalist and publicist of the Ukrainian press.

Rising from newspaper correspondent to co-editor in Ukraine his formative years in journalism were linked with the Lviv newspapers *Ukrainsky Holos*, *Nedilia* and *Dilo*.

When forced to flee western Ukraine during the 1939 Russian invasion for his uncompromising and militant anti-Communist positions in the Lviv press, he served as Vienna correspondent for *Krakivski Visti* and continued his literary and journalist activity in the Ukrainian post-war émigré communities of Poland, Germany and Austria.

The respect and confidence he enjoyed among his displaced compatriots resulted in his election as president of the Mannheim Ukrainian refugee camp, a position he held until its disbanding. His post-war travels and travails as political refugee took him randomly through the German cities of Ettlingen, Giessen, Berchtesgaden, Aschaffenburg, Ludwigsburg and finally Bremen, where with his family he boarded the *Nelly* bound for Canada in May 1951.

In the Ukrainian community of Toronto he was active in the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Ukrainian cooperative movement, the Ukrainian Business and Professional Club and the publishing house *Nasha Slava*.

His journalistic bent first found expression in the revival of the Ukrainian weekly *Ukrainsky Robitnyk* and in the co-founding and editing of *Vilno Slovo*, a weekly newspaper aimed at the post-war Ukrainian émigré readership. He founded the Convention of Ukrainian Artists and Literati of the U.S.A. and Canada in 1954 as president of the *Literaturno-Mystetskyi Klub*.

He moved with his family in 1960 to

Winnipeg to assume the editorship of the Ukrainian weekly *Novyi Shliakh* and later, in 1962, the co-editorship of *Postup*. Even after retirement in 1970 he held part-time positions with the newspapers *Kanadiisky Farmer* and *Ukrainsky Holos* and continued to free-lance for as long as he could type on the trusty portable Remington typewriter that followed him in hand to Canada.

He was the author of thousands of newspaper articles, editorials, commentaries and reports scattered throughout countless Ukrainian newspapers printed in North America and abroad over seven decades of journalistic activity. Similarly, hundreds of poems and novellas in Ukrainian magazines, textbooks and almanacs, as well as a number of volumes of literature and publicistic works compiled during his lifetime are witnesses to his creative literary life.

When asked toward the end of his life how he would like to be remembered, he replied, quick as a flash: "As a mere editor of the Ukrainian press." For as long as possible he continued to take interest in events in Ukraine and particularly enjoyed reading hard copies of articles from Kyiv and Lviv dailies downloaded off the Internet, marveling at the availability, content and quality of these. Having yearned for his homeland's freedom all his living days, after Ukraine's independence in 1991 he regretted in silence being unable to ever see with his own eyes Lviv, the city of his youth and prolific literary/journalistic activity.

He is survived by his wife, Stefania; sons, Taras of Calgary, Les of Winnipeg, and Lew, with his wife, Halyna, and children, Klym and Maxym of Vita; his brother, Evhen, with his wife, Olha, of Toronto; as well as extended family in Canada and in Ukraine. He was predeceased by his daughter, Maria, in Germany and his son Boris in Australia, by his brothers Jaroslaw and Mykola of the United States, as well as by brothers Nestor and Lubomyr, and sister Lida of Ukraine.

Mr. Kurdydyk's contribution to the Ukrainian community in Canada has been duly acknowledged by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences with, respectively, the Shevchenko Medal and the honorary certificate.

Burial was in the Kurdydyk family plot of St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery. A panakhida was offered on June 29 at Klassen Funeral Chapel in Winnipeg, with Fathers Mykhailo Kouts and Ihor Royik officiating; a parastas was sung at St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church, Vita, Manitoba, on June 30 with the Rev. Royik presiding.

UCCA executive board members meet with Ukrainian Catholic metropolitan

by Tamara Gallo

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – Several members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) executive board had an audience with Archbishop Stephen Soroka of Philadelphia, metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, on June 6, at his residence in Philadelphia.

Metropolitan Soroka greeted the members of the UCCA delegation, headed by its president, Michael Sawkiw Jr. Other members in attendance included Laryssa Kyj, executive vice-president; Marie Duplak, executive board secretary; Ihor Smolij, UCCA national board chairman; John Burtyk, head of the UCCA's Council on Aid to Ukrainians (CAU); Luba Silecky, executive board member; Myroslav Shmigel, executive board member; and Mykhajlo Kowalczyk, honorary head of the Philadelphia UCCA branch.

The meeting, lasting nearly an hour and a half, opened with congratulatory words from UCCA President Sawkiw. "Your Excellency," stated Mr. Sawkiw, "it is an honor to greet you on behalf of the umbrella organization, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and we welcome you to your new home in Philadelphia as head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America."

After introducing the delegation, the UCCA president acquainted the archbishop with the goals and priorities of the UCCA in the 21st century. Among the common themes of discussion were the new Ukrainian immigrants and how to activate them within the Ukrainian community life. Both the archbishop and the UCCA delegation agreed that certain social services should be maintained to help the newest Ukrainian Americans adapt to their surroundings.

As the meeting continued, the conversation focused on the youth in Ukrainian American communities. "The youth, as our future," stated Metropolitan Soroka, "must be made aware that they are an integral part of our community and programs must be introduced to keep them active within our Church."

To that comment, many participants added their thoughts on how the Ukrainian American youth organizations SUM and Plast may cooperate with the Ukrainian Catholic Church to instill common values of Church and community.

One of the greatest challenges seen by both the UCCA and the leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America

is the change in Ukrainian American demographics. Both institutions have noticed that traditional ethnic "villages" in major U.S. cities along the Eastern Seaboard do not hold as many Ukrainians as in the past. For this reason, new churches, and also new UCCA branches, must be organized in areas not previously inhabited by Ukrainians. "Churches build communities," stated Archbishop Soroka, "we must be cognizant of that."

Towards the end of the meeting, the UCCA president thanked the metropolitan for allowing the delegation to meet with him. Metropolitan Soroka thanked the participants for their forthrightness and their devotion to the Ukrainian community. Both the metropolitan and the UCCA executive board members agreed to coordinate and cooperate in future projects to help strengthen the Ukrainian American community.

As a memento of the meeting, the UCCA delegation presented Archbishop Soroka with two UCCA publications: "The Ukrainian Heritage in America" (1991) and a recent copy of *The Ukrainian Quarterly* (winter 2000 issue), to which the metropolitan will receive a gratis subscription. A group photo with Metropolitan Soroka was taken in front of the chancery as a reminder of the meeting.

Parma youths remember famine

PARMA, Ohio – On Sunday, June 24, between the English and Ukrainian liturgies, the faithful of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral here remembered in prayer the 7 million to 10 million innocent men, women and children in Ukraine who perished during the man-made Great Famine in 1932-1933.

The clergy of the cathedral served a memorial service in front of the Famine Monument.

The children of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral placed flowers at the base of the monument following the memorial service.

Following the services, members of the parish's Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League chapter read accounts of this tragic period in Ukraine's history.

The commemoration, which is annually held in June, allows the youth to participate so that they can learn about the genocide that took place and thus ensure that this period in Ukrainian history is not forgotten.

UUARC sends container to Zakarpattia

PHILADELPHIA – A 40-foot-long container left the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Inc. (UUARC) headquarters in Philadelphia on June 29 headed for Uzhhorod in the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine. The container held 715 parcels of new and slightly used clothing, sneakers, shoes, boots, bicycles and wheelchairs that the UUARC had collected from generous donors for the victims of recent floods.

Major contributors to this effort among others, the Children of Chernobyl in Cherry Hill, N.J., St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Trenton, N.J., and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Reading, Pa. Many volunteers also came to UUARC headquarters in northeast Philadelphia to fold

and pack the clothing into boxes. A grant from Operation Provide Hope of Counterpart International covered the freight for this container. It will be received and distributed by the director of the UUARC's Lviv office, Andriy Dydak, and Pavlo Fedaka, president of Prosvita in Uzhhorod.

In May a container full of irregular new clothing was shipped in cooperation with and under the generous auspices of Brother's Brother International of Pittsburgh to the UUARC office in Kyiv.

The UUARC's next container is scheduled to arrive in Lviv in time for distribution to the various schools for the beginning of the school year. The committee will welcome donations throughout the summer for this shipment.

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of *The Ukrainian Weekly*, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ News stories should be sent in **not later than 10 days** after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed (or legibly hand-printed) and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs (originals only, **no photocopies or computer printouts**) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of *The Weekly* edition in which the information is to be published.
- ✦ Persons who submit any materials must **provide a daytime phone number** where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- ✦ Unsolicited materials submitted for publication will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Former branch secretary, Helen Chornomaz, dies

BERKELEY HEIGHTS, N.J. – Helen Chornomaz, 83, died at home on June 21. A memorial service was held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Berkeley Heights, N.J., on June 26.

The daughter of Alexander and Tekla Buchak, she was born in Pittsburgh and grew up in Newark, N.J. She was active in the First Ukrainian Presbyterian Church of Irvington, N.J., and served as the clerk of session and president of the Women's Auxiliary. She sang for many years with her husband in the church choir.

Mrs. Chornomaz was secretary of Branch 490 of the Ukrainian National Association until its merger with Branch 142.

Mrs. Chornomaz was the wife of Sam Chornomaz, who died in 1999; and the sister of the late Bohdan and Eugenia. She is survived by two brothers, Andrew of Sun City, Ariz., and Myron of Brecksville, Ohio; four children, Daria Romankow of Berkeley Heights, Dennis of Egg Harbor Township, N.J. Daniel of Branchburg, N.J. and David Chornomaz of Naugatuck, Conn.; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions in her name may be made to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078.

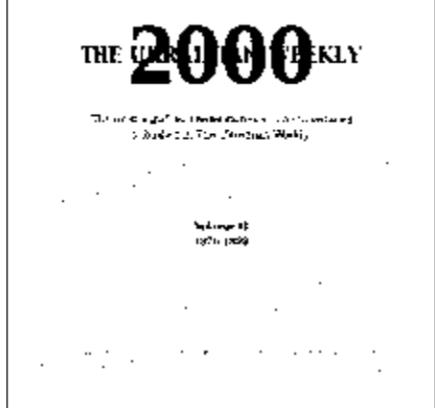
Weekly 2000 Volume II

PARSIPPANY, N.Y. – Volume II of "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000," featuring the most significant articles published in The Weekly during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, is now arriving in the homes of readers of this newspaper.

Each decade of selections in the volume is preceded by introductions written by former and current staffers of The Ukrainian Weekly. Titled "The 1970s: Soviet repressions and response," "The 1980s: Of divisions, struggle and remembrance" and "The 1990s: The dream, and the reality," they are meant to help set the stage for the news reports and commentaries that follow.

The book is a companion to the Volume I, released last year and covering the years 1933, when The Weekly was founded, to 1969. Cover design is by layout artist Serge Polishchuk and typesetting is by Awilda Rolon, both of the paper's production staff.

Copies of "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000" Volume II may be ordered by sending \$15 per copy to: The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P. O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.



Report of UNA Financial Department: Reconciliation of Ledger Assets

	October 2000	November 2000	December 2000	January 2001	February 2001	March 2001
INCREASES IN LEDGER ASSETS						
Dues And Premiums From Members:						
Dues From Members	\$ 140,212.99	124,648.06	215,085.43	164,968.76	131,978.44	157,740.61
Annuity Premiums From Members	2,361.77	15,775.00	3,200.00	73,350.67	13,920.07	31,067.30
Universal Life Premium	8,463.49	11,810.41	7,040.70	15,199.91	6,578.26	16,394.23
Reinsurance Premiums Paid	-685.53	-257.00	-843.61	0.00	0.00	0.00
	\$ 150,352.72	151,976.47	224,482.52	253,519.34	152,476.77	205,202.14
Dividend Accumulations	\$ 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investment Income:						
Banks	\$ 872.87	142.58	118.02	589.60	157.96	97.40
Bonds	211,417.09	200,855.47	331,509.50	268,393.06	324,935.84	288,364.03
Certificate Loans	1,332.67	818.98	2,608.71	26.27	3.40	1,963.35
Mortgage Loans	32,222.20	38,240.12	27,861.80	29,160.40	57,567.06	33,221.83
Real Estate	84,672.42	65,451.82	115,596.83	43,497.85	20,499.53	14,839.92
Short Term Investments	2,350.86	3,462.12	2,910.50	5,315.27	7,074.75	19,105.39
Stocks	32,540.89	27,654.59	183,155.98	14,028.99	22,108.27	11,581.26
Urban Renewal Corporation	15,167.00	15,167.00	15,167.00	15,167.00	15,167.00	15,167.00
	\$ 380,576.00	351,792.68	678,928.34	376,178.44	447,513.81	384,340.18
Net Profit(Loss) On Bonds And Stocks Sold Or Bonds Matured	\$ 1,497.60	20,338.50	-44.94	71,632.01	1,236.06	60.58
Official Publications Income	\$ 94,300.63	92,419.61	95,769.92	82,224.07	108,055.77	134,784.74
Miscellaneous:						
Donations To Fraternal Fund	750.00	0.00	22,775.00	1,427.75	0.00	0.00
Donations To Fund For The Rebirth Of Ukraine	0.00	0.00	5,905.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Due To Broker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,492,844.44
Due to Ukr Nat'l Foundation	0.00	0.00	2,784.64	1,005.76	70.00	23.34
Exchange Account-UNURC	0.00	60,731.04	58,377.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reserve For Unpresented Checks	0.00	0.00	6,849.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
Branch dues payable	0.00	0.00	2.40	289.57	333.59	318.55
Unallocated funds	1,254.56	0.00	7,519.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
	\$ 2,004.56	60,731.04	104,213.23	2,723.08	403.59	1,493,186.33
Total Increases In Ledger Assets	\$ 628,731.51	677,258.30	1,103,349.07	786,276.94	709,686.00	2,217,573.97
DECREASES IN LEDGER ASSETS						
Paid To Or For Members:						
Death Benefits	\$ 79,274.00	57,773.00	86,314.00	94,511.00	54,659.00	134,797.21
Endowments Matured	39,458.00	64,886.00	55,756.00	58,206.00	72,435.00	62,721.60
Annuity Benefits And Partial Withdrawals	241,267.06	244,040.91	415,573.02	125,898.57	189,720.07	16,918.45
Cash Surrenders	50,546.42	50,313.61	52,902.48	40,940.97	70,949.29	62,590.27
Universal Life Withdrawals	14,465.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest On Death Benefits	83.34	42.65	65.39	158.00	41.06	191.62
Fraternal Benefits	0.00	0.00	70,619.30	0.00	0.00	26,217.54
Dividend Accumulations	1,729.00	601.33	1,044.75	854.85	932.70	5,337.12
	\$ 426,823.77	417,657.50	682,274.94	320,569.39	388,737.12	308,773.81
Commissions, Rewards And Refund Of Expenses:						
Commissions And Overrides On Universal Life	87.75	149.40	197.84	234.53	76.86	300.89
Refund of Branch Secretaries Expenses and Reward To Organizers	10,807.53	19,402.39	16,797.47	24,451.88	15,909.19	11,831.73
	\$ 10,895.28	19,551.79	16,995.31	24,686.41	15,986.05	12,132.62
General Expenses And Fraternal Payments:						
Actuarial And Statistical Expenses	20,677.00	2,660.00	25,031.00	6,931.00	6,768.74	31,114.00
Advertising	1,868.06	381.80	771.80	1,764.85	521.80	942.87
Auditing Committee Expenses	0.00	0.00	2,685.64	480.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Charges	495.63	190.76	356.31	758.90	267.89	583.59
Bank Charges For Custodian Account	3,354.68	1,439.53	561.33	3,886.99	613.09	1,268.64
Books And Periodicals	-233.56	314.85	413.14	509.50	43.90	1,683.95
Depreciation Of E.D.P. Equipment	0.00	0.00	6,711.52	0.00	0.00	6,928.00
Depreciation Of Printing Plant	0.00	0.00	2,502.54	0.00	0.00	2,476.00
Depreciation Of Real Estate	0.00	0.00	22,608.02	0.00	0.00	21,702.00
Donations	1,948.98	0.00	5,905.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00
Dues To Fraternal Congresses	547.00	240.00	0.00	0.00	218.00	207.50
Employee Benefit Plan	35,752.15	30,766.85	-234,348.09	42,819.15	24,656.88	-11,376.05
Expenses Of Annual Sessions	0.00	284.00	18,390.42	45.00	0.00	174.57
Field Conferences	5,834.62	576.36	235.46	607.00	0.00	1,438.09
Fraternal Activities	397.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	320.57	376.81
General Office Maintenance	882.41	750.68	5,092.01	1,586.74	143.17	766.66
Indigent Benefits Disbursed	500.00	200.00	550.00	50.00	200.00	200.00
Insurance-General	0.00	0.00	6,233.90	451.00	451.00	613.00
Insurance-Workmens Compensation	0.00	1,796.47	1,796.47	1,796.47	1,796.46	1,796.47
Investment Expense	0.00	-100.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
Legal Expenses-General	690.00	102.00	0.00	743.43	0.00	0.00
Medical Examiner's Fee	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Medical Inspections	466.86	196.68	860.94	424.11	816.32	635.73
Operating Expense of Canadian Office	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,311.65	0.00	2,279.10
Postage	4,360.32	11,167.70	-15,750.25	6,321.18	215.87	1,301.38
Printing and Stationery	7,531.63	3,712.74	1,556.38	9,030.49	1,816.14	3,640.12
Professional Fees	285.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,266.50
Rent	37,917.40	37,812.78	37,812.78	37,812.78	37,812.78	37,812.78
Rental Of Equipment And Services	3,378.83	6,057.60	5,953.76	7,120.33	4,387.30	5,268.12
Salaries Of Executive Officers	14,701.43	14,265.86	14,265.86	14,265.86	14,265.86	14,265.86
Salaries Of Office Employees	43,814.08	67,455.13	25,308.89	43,608.27	46,040.28	65,977.48
Scholarships	22,200.00	250.00	0.00	-825.00	0.00	0.00
Telephone	5,832.29	4,389.83	-8,983.61	1,048.53	316.94	2,775.23
Transfer Account	-611.74	35.00	-295.96	345.96	-2,226.27	2,226.27
Traveling Expenses-General	938.79	59.00	0.00	119.70	35.00	269.17
Traveling Expenses-Special Organizers	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Sports Activities	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	\$ 213,579.20	185,055.62	-71,274.74	188,013.89	141,981.72	198,613.84
Taxes, Licenses And Fees:						
Canadian Corporation Premium Tax	3,752.00	0.00	532.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
Taxes-Canadian Premium	2,973.02	962.08	35,951.01	5,316.25	536.00	4,380.77
Insurance Department Fees	2,601.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tax On Canadian Investments and Business	735.55	6,470.07	2,758.93	15,904.48	6,494.89	8,722.17
Taxes-Federal, State And City On Employee Wages	10,062.10	7,432.15	39,242.22	21,220.73	7,030.89	13,102.94
	\$ 10,062.10	7,432.15	39,242.22	21,220.73	7,030.89	13,102.94
Loss On Bonds, Stocks and Foreclosed Properties	\$ 0.00	104.06	12,488.76	0.00	3,230.09	0.00
Loss On Canadian Exchange	\$ 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Real Estate	\$ 150,571.70	97,002.76	206,085.05	115,349.99	89,819.54	85,701.83
Official Publications Expenses	\$ 80,383.61	99,624.02	293,364.30	80,226.44	96,280.54	164,902.21
Miscellaneous:						
Convention Expenses	\$ 0.00	194.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Certificate Loans Adjustments	10,914.07	26,758.02	-27,897.59	-503.01	125.45	3,788.05
Donation From Fraternal Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	8,000.00
Reserve For Unpresented Checks	146.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unallocated funds	0.00	375.28	0.00	251.83	569.70	1,138.97
Exchange Account-UNURC	181,963.21	0.00	0.00	42,111.03	32,105.01	31,974.07
	\$ 193,024.21	27,328.19	-27,897.59	41,859.85	33,300.16	44,901.09
Total Decreases In Ledger Assets	\$ 1,085,339.87	853,756.09	1,151,278.25	791,926.70	776,366.11	828,128.34
Increase(Decrease) In Ledger Assets During The Period	\$ -456,608.36	-176,497.79	-47,929.18	-5,649.76	-66,680.11	1,389,445.63
Amount Of Ledger Assets At The Beginning Of The Month	66,893,243.32	66,436,634.96	66,260,137.17	66,212,207.99	66,206,558.23	66,139,878.12
Amount Of Ledger Assets At The End Of The Month	\$ 66,436,634.96	66,260,137.17	66,212,207.99	66,206,558.23	66,139,878.12	67,529,323.75
SUMMARY OF LEDGER ASSETS						
	October 31, 2000	November 30, 2000	December 31, 2000	January 31, 2001	February 28, 2001	March 31, 2001
Cash	\$ 406,371.71	416,816.43	545,483.33	1,147,384.53	577,137.95	389,846.33
Short Term Investments	644,067.02	586,165.68	1,153,599.13	2,999,346.01	5,351,134.28	6,179,107.86
Bonds	46,569,311.39	46,520,358.62	45,737,894.31	43,871,170.00	41,835,765.66	42,627,095.90
Mortgage Loans	6,098,155.53	6,040,166.25	6,210,473.83	6,189,604.84	6,127,842.09	6,102,876.08
Certificate Loan	393,981.10	363,309.52	392,087.09	388,147.94	387,688.28	380,859.67
Real Estate	2,861,576.81	2,861,576.81	2,838,968.79	2,838,968.79	2,838,968.79	2,818,505.79
Printing Plant & E.D.P. Equipment	148,669.83	148,669.83	139,455.77	139,508.72	139,508.72	142,028.72
Stocks	6,409,950.53	6,418,522.99	6,289,694.70	5,727,876.36	5,977,281.31	5,984,452.36
Loan to D.H.-U.N.A Housing Corp.	104,551.04	104,551.04	104,5			

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Don't forget about Gongadze

The grisly murder last week of yet another Ukrainian journalist, the third in the last year and the 11th since independence, has caused another international uproar and further smudged Ukraine's reputation. Unfortunately, it may also provide authorities an opportunity to push the unresolved death of another journalist, Heorhii Gongadze, into the background.

The latest dead journalist, Ihor Aleksandrov, was found on July 3 beaten to unconsciousness, lying in a pool of blood outside the television station where he worked in the eastern Ukrainian town of Slaviansk. Law enforcement officials found two baseball bats next to the journalist, who died of head injuries several days later, never regaining consciousness.

Some media reports have suggested that Mr. Aleksandrov was killed because of a television program in which officers spoke of alleged corruption within elite police units.

Whereas President Leonid Kuchma stayed on the sidelines while his team of Keystone Cops and inept public prosecutors bumbled the investigation into the murder of Mr. Gongadze — whether purposely or not is still not certain — this time the president has gotten involved from the outset and has taken the case under his own personal supervision.

Mr. Kuchma and company, however, cannot and must not be allowed to throw the Gongadze affair into the political closet as they work to solve the killing of yet another journalist. On the contrary, the president must reinvigorate the investigation into the Gongadze murder, if he is in fact innocent of the very serious allegations leveled by some.

Certainly the letter of condolence to Mr. Aleksandrov's wife and the president's stated intention to open hotlines around the country to handle complaints on the harassment of journalists were good moves. However, there is reason to question the motivation for the hugely public manner in which the president's displays of concern have taken place. Although the intentions could well be sincere, the actions smack of a public relations gimmick, or worse yet, an attempt to manipulate the situation to bury the Gongadze case by focusing on the Aleksandrov murder.

In terms of news coverage, it would seem that the matter of Mr. Gongadze and the recordings that implicate the president and his aides is over — although that is far from the truth. A press conference three weeks ago held by Lesia Gongadze, the dead journalist's mother, was lightly attended, with no leading members of the Kyiv press corps present.

Ever since the two leading officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs issued incredulous and very different versions of how Mr. Gongadze met his demise, little additional hard information has surfaced.

Undoubtedly, the president and his cohorts would like to see it go away in view of all the problems it has caused them. And the Aleksandrov case could be the best opportunity to do just that.

Mr. Kuchma's response to the Aleksandrov murder has been a mini media blitz: the Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a press release explaining Mr. Kuchma's moves; Mr. Kuchma was seen on Ukrainian television stating that the situation around the Donbas journalist could lead to widespread civil unrest and even civil war. That is probably a bit overdone but an effective ploy to get the country's attention on the new murder and away from the messy old one.

By playing up efforts to solve the latest killing, with the president leading the way, Mr. Kuchma could develop an image of himself as the new crusader for human rights in the country. This could help make people forget about how badly his subordinates screwed up the Gongadze affair, or that they were involved directly in the journalist's death, as some allege.

Mr. Kuchma must not be allowed to leave the Gongadze affair behind. The nation and the dead journalist's loved ones deserve closure. Too much has happened for the case to quietly "go away." Too many loose ends remain. Almost no one believes the versions put forward by Ministry of Internal Affairs officials that the journalist's killers are dead, and that they were either gangsters or drug addicts.

The president would be wise to take the Gongadze case also under his special care, if indeed he has nothing to hide.

July
19
1996

Turning the pages back...

A news story describing Ukraine's first ever appearance in the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games as an independent nation was featured five years ago in *The Weekly*. Following are excerpts from the article headlined "Ukraine makes historic debut at Olympic Games" written by Roman Woronowycz.

Ukraine marched into history at precisely 11:30 p.m. on July 19, 1996, as the first Summer Olympic squad of independent Ukraine entered Olympic Stadium in Atlanta during the opening ceremonies of the Centennial Games.

The Ukrainian flag gently flapped in the humid Atlanta night, perched atop the stadium along with the colors of 196 other nations competing in the XXVI Summer Olympiad.

The Summer Olympic Games were probably the last international forum in which Ukraine had not yet participated as a separate nation. That is now history.

The team had waited in the adjoining Atlanta Fulton County Stadium with the other 10,624 competitors for more than an hour and a half as 182 of a total of 197 squads debuted before it. Pole vaulter Sergey Bubka carried the blue-and-yellow banner at the head of the delegation (the 14th largest in size), an honor reserved for athletes who are highly respected or have extraordinary achievements to their credit.

Source: "Ukraine makes historic debut at Summer Olympic Games," by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, July 28, 1996.

COMMENTARY

The information revolution and the papal visit to Ukraine

by Yaro Bihun

The communication and information revolution has brought about many annoying and even scary developments — the phone calls at dinner time from computer-assisted telemarketers, personal information being bought and sold without an individual's knowledge or consent, and identity theft, to mention just a few.

But there have been blessings as well, and just about anyone interested in how the pope's recent visit was going in Ukraine can attest to that, provided, of course, he or she had access to cable television, a telephone and a computer.

If your cable television service includes the global Catholic network EWTN, you had a front-row seat at the main events. The network transmitted them live from Kyiv and Lviv and repeated the transmissions later in the day during more convenient viewing hours.

My cable service, unfortunately, does not include EWTN, so I cannot comment on its coverage firsthand, but I've heard nothing but superlatives from colleagues and friends who relied on it. They were also impressed with the analyses presented during the telecasts by the Rev. Peter Galadza of the Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at St. Paul University in Ottawa.

Elsewhere on television, the quality of the coverage ranged from mediocre to bad,

with precious few exceptions, judging from what I saw (and I came close to wearing out the batteries and my finger on the remote). Networks with global pretensions — CNN and BBC — were disappointing. However, TV and other media reporting on the visit, showed improvement as the visit progressed, suggesting that most reporters did not do their homework before embarking on the assignment but learned as they progressed.

Almost all of the reporting fell victim to the spin initiated by the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church weeks before the pope's visit. Its repeated criticism of the trip, organized protest demonstrations and Patriarch Aleksei's sideshow trip to Belarus while the pope was in Ukraine served to undermine the trip's agenda.

Some TV correspondents could not get past that spin. Their reporting seemed to suggest that the pope really wanted to meet with the Moscow patriarch while in Kyiv but was snubbed. Others worked their way out, among them Jim Bitterman of ABC, who, on the eve of the pope's departure from Lviv, put together a solid background piece for Ted Koppel's "Nightline" program. His effort, however, which included comments by Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, were undone in the discussion that fol-

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Are Ukrainians really that hard to count, or is the Western media mentally challenged?

by Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky

The pope's visit to Ukraine was historic and extraordinary, and nothing can ever detract from that. But the trip also generated a substantial amount of misinformation about Ukraine in and by the Western media — misinformation which, with just a little bit of preparatory work, any competent journalist should have been able to avoid.

In connection with the pope's visit, numerous leading Western newspapers repeated variations on the claim that the Church in Ukraine that was opposed to the pope's visit represents a "majority" of Ukraine's population, and the related claim that, in contrast, the Catholics merely constitute a small minority.

Thus, to cite three examples, the Independent of London referred on June 24 to Aleksei II as "head of the Russian Orthodox Church to which most Ukrainians give allegiance ..."; The Washington Post described Ukraine as on June 26 "this Orthodox majority country ..."; and the Los Angeles Times on June 24 reported that "Orthodox believers make up more than half of Ukraine's population of 50 million, far outnumbering an estimated 6 million Catholics."

If the Russian Orthodox Church represents a majority of the population in Ukraine, and if that majority dwarfs the number of Ukraine's Catholics, then it might have been understandable both why

the pope's visit could have generated so much "controversy" and why the Western media devoted so much attention to that "controversy." Makes perfect sense, right? Well, not quite. Let's look at the numbers.

Ukraine's population is a little under 50 million. There are approximately 11 million Orthodox. There are about 6 million Catholics (about 5 million Byzantine-rite Catholics and just under a million Latin-rite Catholics). Okay, so maybe the Orthodox do not come anywhere close to constituting a majority in Ukraine (i.e., more than 25 million), but 11 million Orthodox is still more than 6 million Catholics.

(If you're wondering about who the 33 million non-Orthodox and non-Catholics are, the large majority consists of non-believers, and the rest are Protestants, Jews, Muslims and other believers.)

Thus, perhaps at least as far as the numbers are concerned, Aleksei II may have had a point to his bellyaching, and it therefore made sense for the Western media to devote all that attention to this "controversy." ¹ Right? Well, not exactly. Let's go back to the numbers again.

As I understand it, of the 11 million

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1. If was, of course, outrageous for Aleksei II to say any of the things he did regarding the pope's visit to Ukraine, but I am focusing solely on the issue of numbers.

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The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

New ancient Ukrainian music

There is complete silence, then a collective sigh of pleasure from the whole audience and only then the enthusiastic applause. Alexis Kochan and her Paris to Kyiv ensemble have finished another song. This music is comfortable, jazzy, innovative and not at all traditional.

The ensemble is led by singer Msr. Kochan, with musicians Julian Kytasty, Richard Moody, Martin Colledge and Nenad Zdjelar. It is classified as "world music" in the stores, but that is an inadequate description.

Last summer the third Paris to Kyiv album, "Prairie Nights and Peacock Feathers," was launched. It continues the tradition of the successful and critically acclaimed earlier albums, "Paris to Kiev" (1994) and "Paris to Kyiv Variances" (1996), as well as Ms. Kochan's first solo album, "Czarivna" (1983).

So what kind of music is this? This is familiar music, and yet something you have never heard before. It sure is easy to listen to, but it definitely is not easy-listening or sing-along. Whether listening to the album, or watching the concert, you feel the ease, the gentleness of the presentation, with no hype – and yet there is intensity in the beauty of the melodies, the virtuosity of the singing and the playing, and in the simple yet intricate arrangements.

You lose a lot if you do not pay attention to all the details, and each time you hear a song, you find another facet to delight in and admire. You do not need to know Ukrainian folk songs to love this music, but if you do, it adds another dimension of appreciation. In performance you never hear a song the same way twice, because these virtuosos play without sheet music, the melodies memorized, then improvised each time.

At a recent concert at the University of Winnipeg, Ms. Kochan concluded "Cross. Cradle. Tree" with an extended note, and Mr. Moody seamlessly continued the exact sound of the voice on the viola – a moment I still remember and relish, and yet one they do not really remember.

In addition to folk songs, Ms. Kochan searches out ritual songs: the pre-Christian koliadky and schedrivky (winter cycle), hahilky and vesnianky (spring cycle), Kupalo songs (Midsummer's Night), songs for obzhynky (harvest), wedding songs, lullabies and laments. Some early religious chants are included for good measure.

Ms. Kochan selects the songs – often with suggestions from Julian Kytasty, who also knows where to find them – mulls over the arrangements and presents the songs to her musicians. Then they work on each song's instrumentation collectively. Ms. Kochan and Mr. Kytasty are the two ensemble members who know Ukrainian, so the lyrics and background have to be explained to the others.

Each of the musicians is an accomplished master in his own right, bringing his talents and passion to the ensemble. In Paris to Kyiv, their individual excellence creates something even greater than the whole. What is remarkable is their respect and admiration for each other, and their creative interaction.

Danny Schur, the new recording's co-producer says that they are "excellent musicians who play off each other, as if they had been playing together for centuries."

Mr. Kytasty, a member of the Kytasty family bandura nobility, sings, plays the

sopilka, kobza and many banduras, and is the primary arranger and "band leader" (he says it in quotes). He brings to the ensemble both his creativity and his enormous wealth of knowledge of Ukrainian music. Like Ms. Kochan, he is rooted in tradition, but has also put down roots in contemporary and improvisational music. Mr. Kytasty has released a number of albums, in traditional and innovative bandura music. His newest, with Michael Andrec and Jurij Fedynsky, is "Experimental Bandura Trio," in which the bandurists "develop a contemporary musical language for this ancient instrument" (available on Amazon.com or by contacting jkytasty@erols.com).

Mr. Kytasty is now based in New York City, teaching bandura in the Metropolitan area. He has worked on revitalizing the New York School of Bandura, now 31 years old and directed by Ivan Lechitsky, and is involved in many other music projects.

Mr. Kytasty and Ms. Kochan have known each other for a long time and are good friends. They have performed together at many concerts, workshops and music camps.

When Ms. Kytasty lived in Winnipeg, where he taught liturgical music at St. Andrew's College at the University of Manitoba, Ms. Kochan was beginning work on "Paris to Kyiv Variances." They worked together on that album and on the new one. Mr. Kytasty says the process has been similar for both projects, with the two searching for material and starting with a core repertoire.

Ms. Kochan usually selects a song, works out "something" on the piano and then decides which musician she will work with first. Often this is Mr. Kytasty. They discuss their ideas, preparing multiple arrangements – both duet and ensemble – for each number. But the arrangements are

Six opposition parties...

(Continued from page 1)

prosecutors – a situation which "became absurd."

The Forum for National Salvation said the bloc is open for other political powers to join it, hoping to attract former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko.

Mr. Yushchenko was the first prime minister in Ukraine to introduce active reforms and managed to produce a 6 percent economic growth in 2000. He was dismissed after a vote of no-confidence by the Parliament in April.

"Our cooperation in the future is obvious; we are persons who implement the same government program and have the same ideals," said Ms. Tymoshenko, who served as Mr. Yushchenko's deputy in the government.

"I'm sure that waiting with unification and the pre-election campaign is impossible – that's why we made the first step, and I'm sure that we'll cooperate with Viktor Andriyovych (Yushchenko) in one way or another," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

Mr. Yushchenko, however, is expected to announce his own bloc in the coming days. Speaking during visit to his home region of Sumy this week, Mr. Yushchenko said he will create a bloc open for everybody who shares "Ukrainian democratic ideas," and that the bloc will be defined not by political leaders but by the princi-

open-ended.

"You bring the arrangements to the musicians, find a spot for them in the music, and then they start to think and develop their own parts, their own voices – I try to keep the musicians from getting in each other's way, with each taking a turn coming in and out," says Ms. Kochan. Yet in the end "there is no democracy." She has the final word.

Mr. Kytasty notes that the ensemble was fortunate to have a residency at the St. Norbert Arts and Cultural Center in 2000, working intensively on the songs for "Prairie Nights and Peacock Feathers," culminating in a concert at the former Trappist Monastery ruins that summer.

It was fortunate that Ms. Kochan knew Mr. Moody's mother, a music educator. After hearing him play, Ms. Kochan invited him to join Paris to Kyiv. At first the music was foreign to him and just a gig, but he developed an affinity with and familiarity with it, and grew into Ukrainian

and has specialized in Celtic music, playing Irish and Scottish melodies on the cittern, mandolin and the Northumbrian small pipes, which evoke the sound of a Ukrainian duda (bagpipe).

He enjoys the blend of the Celtic and Ukrainian sounds in some tracts – "it's pretty noticeable and it works," he says.

If he had to pick a favorite piece, it would be "Bukovynka," during which he plays the pipes. "I love playing it and find it very moving," he says. Mr. Colledge is happy that Mr. Zdjelar joined the group as the bass player, because he likes the effect of the bass in the combined sound.

"More and more, the group has matured over time, and we have such a strong respect for each other. Each of us knows when to back off, and we work very democratically. With the wealth of good creativity, everyone's ideas are taken into consideration, and for a band, that is very important," he explains.

Mr. Zdjelar is the newest member of

...this is soul music at its most basic. This is our soul music which we must proudly share with the rest of the world.

music. The classically trained musician plays viola, violin and guitar, and sings, composes and arranges. He is well-known and respected in the music community, as a soloist, a member of the Acoustically Inclined and Trivocals Jazz Ensemble, and as an accompanist for The Wyrd Sisters. He is a sessional player for other groups. His playing is reminiscent of Stephane Grappelli's jazz violin.

Mr. Moody says that since music is a common language he has no problems in not understanding the lyrics. "We have an interest in a certain sophisticated international world music which is so good," he observes.

Mr. Colledge is the only one of the ensemble who has a day job outside of music. In his other life he is a podiatrist (he says he does this "to subsidize my musical career") and is fortunate to be in a practice with colleagues, which gives him the opportunity to travel with the group. Mr. Colledge is originally from England

Paris to Kyiv. The classical musician and his physicist wife arrived in Canada from Yugoslavia in 1998. He was a bass player in the Yugoslavian National Theater and Opera Orchestra, and played in jazz and blues clubs (which he has continued in Winnipeg).

"Paris to Kyiv is something new for me, but it is close to what I used to play, and I like it. You do not have to be Ukrainian to love this music, but you benefit by understanding [the Slavic soul]. This music is close to my heart," he continued. Mr. Zdjelar echoes the other musicians in saying how easy their cooperation is and how everyone works for the best for all.

Mr. Schur is the wunderkind of discovering, producing and promoting musical talent. In his cap and jeans, he certainly looks like a kid, instead of the multi-talented 33-year-old father of a young daughter. Along with Ms. Kochan, he is the co-pro-

(Continued on page 20)

ples that unite them.

"I myself will formulate the principles that I would like to see in such a bloc," Mr. Yushchenko was quoted as saying by the Den daily.

The day after Ms. Tymoshenko created her bloc, some critical reports in local newspapers said it was seen as the formal collapse of the opposition coalition, the Forum for National Salvation, which had handed down its name to Ms. Tymoshenko's grouping.

However, one of the coalition's leaders, Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz, dismissed the criticism, saying that the forum had decided to create several non-competing election blocs.

"We consider it the right step," Mr. Moroz told the Segodnya daily.

The parties that joined the Forum for National Salvation include the Sobor Party, Social-Democratic Party, Republican Party, Conservative Republican Party, Christian Democrat Party and the Batkivschyna Party.

To win votes, the nationalistic part of the bloc will woo the electorate in Ukraine's western regions, while the centrist Batkivschyna party will work in the south and east – Ms. Tymoshenko's stronghold.

Ms. Tymoshenko said she would accept a proposal to join the government if her bloc wins the elections "to have more chance of influencing processes,

resulting in positive, qualitative and quick results." She said it was "too early," however, to speak about her presidential ambitions.

"Let's get past the parliamentary race and see what our team is able to do, how the political field will be constituted, and the team will determine [the next step] after the elections," Ms. Tymoshenko explained.

"However, a political power like ours will fight for the chance to be in power and build its strategy, because we understand very well that nobody [else] can do this in Ukraine," she added.

One of the forum's leaders, Anatolii Matvienko, said the bloc will not abandon its previous strategy of street demonstrations.

"The opposition in civilized countries doesn't go into the streets, but has legally allotted time on television broadcasts," Mr. Matvienko said, adding that the Ukrainian opposition has no access to the people through media outlets. "The streets, will remain in the arsenal of our actions, but we will also act through the media."

The bloc's next action is scheduled for July 20, which will include a several-week-long sports rally that will travel across western Ukraine to popularize the bloc. Also, a group of public organizations will support the forum by gathering in Kyiv in September.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Time to help our Ukrainian schools

by George Gajecky

It is July: time for students to enjoy the summer vacation months. It is also a time for reflection. Has the Ukrainian community done its share to help its schools flourish and educate Ukrainian youths?

It seems that the priorities were skewed along the way. Where will the Ukrainian community be in 10 or 20 years when there will be no educated Ukrainian Americans? Who will lead the numerous financial, educational, cultural and religious organizations? Will we just melt away as many other groups have? Or will we always depend on new arrivals from Ukraine? Why build expensive institutions when there will be no one to use them?

This is a perennial problem. There is too little support for the Ukrainian educational system, whether Saturday schools or day schools. The "Ridna Shkola" system has been producing graduates annually for over 50 years. There are just enough graduates to man leadership positions in the various Ukrainian institutions, but hardly enough to expand or improve those institutions or establish a powerful pool of educated Ukrainian youth.

At present there are 35 schools with 2,600 students and 430 teachers. The Educational Council, the central organ of Ukrainian education in the United States, provides direction, guidance and leadership for these schools. It also publishes the journal *Ridna Shkola*. For 50 years the Educational Council has published

textbooks, workbooks and other educational materials. During this school year four new works have appeared. Textbooks are updated and republished or commissioned as the need arises, if there are funds for publication. And herein lies the rub: new textbooks need to be illustrated with color prints, but these are expensive to produce.

New programs are being implemented, albeit slowly due to financial constraints. After the last general meeting in 2000, the Educational Council acquired its own website. Hopefully, all schools will soon be tied together via the Internet.

Teacher training is an important part of the agenda of the Educational Council. For 16 years, a two-week seminar for teachers has been held at Soyuzivka in the summer to help them develop their knowledge of Ukrainian subjects. Most of those seminars were financed by the Ukrainian National Association, but as of last year other financing has had to be found to continue these valuable lessons. Many new schools employ teachers who participated in these courses, and several principals are alumni. Biennial teachers' conferences are organized by the Educational Council. Teachers from the United States and Canada meet and exchange ideas about teaching, new educational techniques and the status of Ukrainian schools.

The main task of the Educational Council lies in working with Ukrainian teachers, students and schools in the United States and in parts of Canada. But

it also helps schools in Ukraine. Thousands of textbooks, educational materials and books of literature were sent to Ukrainian schools in Ukraine. As hundreds of letters attest, this help is invaluable – especially for schools where Russian is still the language of instruction. The council also provides subscriptions to Ukrainian periodicals and newspapers for selected schools in Ukraine, so that children might read current Ukrainian periodicals. There is also demand for the journal *Ridna Shkola*. Several prominent professors from Ukraine, including Anatolii Pohribnyi, Petro Kononenko and Vasyl Yaremenko, taught at the teachers' seminars, while prominent literary figures like Yevhen Sverstiuk, O. Mohylianka and O. Sazonenko gave lectures.

The work of the Educational Council continues. For it to be more effective, it needs your support. Recently, a fund drive was launched, and nearly a thousand Easter cards soliciting donations were sent to the community. But the results were not encouraging. Unless the Ukrainian community rearranges its priorities and supports the Educational Council and the network of Ukrainian schools it directs, the council will begin to decline. This will have a dire effect on the community.

So please don't delay. Send your contribution directly to: Ukrainian Educational Council – UCCA, P.O. Box 391, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276-0391.

Mittenwalders slate reunion at Soyuzivka

by Michael Komanowsky

The next reunion of former students of the Mittenwald displaced persons camp and their guests is being planned for October 14-16 of this year at Soyuzivka. The details of this year's program are still being planned.

One proposal includes the presentation for sale of the "Book about the Mittenwald Camp" by Yaroslav Duzyj, its editor. It is a beautiful and entertaining book with an abundance of pictures vividly portraying our many experiences during our four years of life in the camp.

An interesting event of our reunion last year was the showing of a film of the 1946 Spring Festival (*Sviato Vesny*). This film will be shown again this year. Conversations with "Mittenwalders" who did not attend last year's reunion revealed that the ability to reach and inform people by means of advertisements is limited, because many readers often overlook them. Therefore, the Organizing Committee requests that those that become aware of the reunion inform and remind their Mittenwald friends and acquaintances about it.

Mittenwald looks drastically different now than it did to 55 years ago when we were there. While the ancient art of violin-making is still practiced there, the town has developed into a popular tourist resort with many attractions such as bike trails, tennis courts, miniature golf courses, swimming pools, skating rinks and the huge "Ski Paradise Kranzberg" that has many ski lifts. Yet most people come there to do what we used to do: enjoy the beautiful mountain views, wander around the hills and mountains and ski in the wintertime.

And while now there seems to be no obvious trace of our former presence (except for many graves at the local cemetery), it is possibly no coincidence that one of the attractions repeatedly advertised in the town's tourist literature is camping.

In 1946 several thousand Ukrainian scouts (*plastuny*) from all over Germany had their *Sviato Vesny* about a mile from the camp where local Ukrainian scouts cleared an area on the side of a main road of military debris and built a bridge across the river Isar leading into the woods at the foot of a small mountain.

In 1947 a Displaced Persons' International Scout Jamboree was held in the same place. And every year thereafter, as long as our Ukrainian camp existed, there were scouts of different nationalities, voices and even the same pleasant, attractive, winsome or blithe personality traits.

Most surprisingly, we also found that (as an old German song teaches) true friendship indeed does not wane with distance or the passage of time but lives on in our thoughts. It is these types of experiences that led to the decision that another reunion should be held as soon as possible.

To reserve rooms for the next reunion of students from Mittenwald, contact: Soyuzivka, Ukrainian National Association Estate, P.O. Box 529, Foordmore Road, Kerhonkson, NY 12446; telephone, (845) 626-5641.

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First annual Lemko Vatra held at SUM resort in Ellenville

ELLENVILLE, N.Y. – During the weekend of June 9-10, the first annual Lemko Vatra (bonfire) in the United States took place at the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) resort in Ellenville, N.Y. The festival was organized and hosted by the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna (OOL).

This Vatra continued the tradition of the yearly festival that has long been coordinated in the Lemko region, located in southeastern Poland, which commemorates the forced removal of the Lemkos during the 1947 relocation campaign *Akcja Wisla*.

The intent behind the event in the Lemko region is to bring Lemkos from around the world together on their ancestral territory, with the hope of preserving their culture. The Vatra in Ellenville, likewise, is significant because it allowed Lemkos within the Ukrainian American community, as well as others, to remember and celebrate the unique history of Lemkivshchyna.

The first annual Lemko Vatra in the United States began officially in the late afternoon of Saturday, June 9, as Vasyl Harhaj, the "starosta" – or head of the festival's organizing committee – mounted the outdoor stage and greeted the viewers sitting in the warm sunshine. Dressed in a traditional Lemko blue vest and hat, he introduced many of his fellow members of OOL who had helped organize the event.

Recognized first were Zenon Halkowycz, the current president of OOL in the United States; and Andrew Rotko, the president of OOL's counterpart organization in Canada. During his welcome speech, Mr. Halkowycz reminded everyone of the historical importance of the "vatra," which, he noted, his Lemko ancestors needed to prepare food and around which they often sat, singing until late into the night.

Also introduced also were a number of the heads of OOL's various branches throughout the United States including Ivan Zavada, Steven Howansky, Vasyl Matlaga, Ivan Soroka, Volodymyr Blazejowsky, John Fil and Michael Chalupa. Maria Duplak, who has held various positions in OOL over the past years, in addition to serving as editor and publisher of Lemkivshchyna magazine, was especially thanked. Furthermore, founding members of OOL, such as Myron Mycio, Julian Kotlar, Ivan Chomko, Dmytro Kulyk and Peter Rusynko, were noted for their work, as were other festival committee members, including Stefan Kosciolk and Ivan Gres.

A number of the founding members of OOL were then given torches to light the ceremonial bonfire nearby, signaling the commencement of the festival. Mr. Kulyk ended the introductory ceremony by leading the singing of "Hory Nashi Karpaty" (Our Carpathian Mountains), a well-known song among Lemkos referring to the Beskid section of the Carpathians, where Lemkivshchyna is found.

Whereas the organizers of the Vatra were lucky in terms of the beautiful weather they had all weekend long, they were not so lucky in terms of the technical problems that, unfortunately, surfaced during the first half of the cultural performance organized on the outdoor stage. Yet, even such problems did not diminish the mood of the event and the crowd. The Ukrainian dance ensembles Maibutni Kroky (Future Steps) and "Zluka" (Union) from Passaic, N.J., were the highlight of this first portion, and during one of the routines – an interesting modern dance set to contemporary Ukrainian music – the electricity unexpectedly shut off. Nevertheless, the group of young girls onstage continued their routine a cappella, singing and dancing to the synchronized



Organizers and leaders of the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna on stage during the Lemko Vatra.

claps of the impressed audience.

Various organized events also took place during the early hours of the Vatra. For example, on the SUM sports field, the Yonkers Ukrainians Krylati soccer team played a friendly soccer game against Zbirna Lviv, a group of players from Spring Valley, N.Y., with the Zbirna Lviv squad capturing victory.

In addition, the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna funded a pig-roast, providing many of the hundreds of participants of the Lemko festival with portions of rotisserie pork that had been hand-turned and roasting for hours.

The second half of the cultural performance, during which Adam Stec of Clifton, N.J. served as the master of ceremonies, was moved inside SUM's main hall. The show featured the singing group Mria (Dream), whose members, Ola Popowycz and Oksana Masna, come from Peremyshl, Poland. The ensembles Trio and Metelykovi Kryla (Butterfly Wings), made up of musical artists Halyna Czechowska, Ola Smolenczak, and Alla Kutsevych, also sang numerous Lemko melodies and played the bandura as accompaniment. Finally, the entertainment inside included two amateur local comedians from New Jersey: Ivan Gres and Peter Wyslocki. The performance, focusing on Lemko song and Lemko humor, was well-received by the audience.

The main hall then turned to a more serious theme as the Lemko festival's keynote speaker, Diana Howansky, was introduced. Ms. Howansky, who was awarded a Fulbright grant in May 1998 after graduating with a master's degree in international affairs from Johns Hopkins University, spent September 1998 to September 2000 in Poland researching *Akcja Wisla*.

As a Fulbright Scholar, Ms. Howansky was affiliated with the Institute of History at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Her research concentrated on conducting oral interviews with Ukrainians who were relocated throughout Poland during the operation and, particularly, with the small minority of Lemkos who managed to return to their ancestral land after 1956.

She chose this topic because, being of Lemko-Ukrainian descent, her entire family had been subject to *Akcja Wisla*. Ms. Howansky's speech at the Lemko Vatra discussed her experiences as a Fulbright Scholar in Poland and described a number of the personal stories that she had heard

from those who had lived through the resettlement campaign.

Ms. Howansky described how *Akcja Wisla* (Operation Vistula) was undertaken by the Polish government in 1947 in order to force assimilation upon the Ukrainian minority. She explained how the assassination of Polish General Karol Swierczewski – attributed to the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) – was used as a pretext for the operation.

The Polish leadership officially claimed that the Ukrainian population had to be removed so as not to help the UPA, when in reality, plans to "Polonize" the Ukrainians were discussed by Polish leaders months before the general's death. Ms. Howansky also quoted a variety of the survivors of *Akcja Wisla* that she had interviewed. These accounts ranged, for example, from a Ukrainian couple from Kholmschyna that had met in the Jaworzno concentration camp where over 4,000 "sympathizers" of UPA were imprisoned, to Lemkos who remain angry and upset that, after relocation and upon their return to Lemkivshchyna, they had no choice but to buy back their own homes, with no chance of receiving government compensation for their suffering.

Ms. Howansky concluded her talk by expressing her pride in her Lemko roots, and noting that Lemkos within the Ukrainian American community should not forget and must try to preserve their unique regional heritage.

Following the keynote speaker's address, Mr. Harhaj returned to the stage, saying that, regardless of the results of *Akcja Wisla*, such work showed that "Lemkivshchyna has not died, and will not die." He urged the audience to continue to voice Lemko issues, such as receiving compensation for *Akcja Wisla*, and he encouraged people to join Lemko organizations including, although not limited to,

the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna.

Mr. Harhaj then invited the audience to stay in the main hall for the "zabava" (dance). For the remainder of the evening and long into the early hours of the morning, those who attended the Lemko Vatra enjoyed themselves and packed the ballroom floor, dancing to the music of the Yonkers band Na Zdoroviya.

The first annual Lemko Vatra in the United States came to a close on Sunday, June 10, following a liturgy celebrated by the Rev. Peter Bronsky from Yonkers, N.Y. Originally from Lemkivshchyna, Father Bronsky drew a parallel in his sermon between Hora Yavir, a mountain in the Lemko region where visions of the Virgin Mary are claimed to have taken place, and the events taking place that weekend at the SUM resort in the Catskill mountains.

Particularly as a first-time event, the Lemko Vatra in the United States should be considered a success. The members of the festival's organizing committee were thanked for all of their hard work coordinating the weekend, along with all of the leaders and members of the various branches of OOL who contributed their help. Special acknowledgement was given to Andriy Khomyk for designing the Vatra's emblem. Also, it must be noted that the support of the Ukrainian American Youth Organization, Inc., under the leadership of resort managers Peter Kosciolk, Eugene Soltys and Nusia Bilyj, was integral.

Lastly, all of OOL's friends and supporters – whether Lemko or non-Lemko – are thanked for their participation. All are invited to attend next year's festival, tentatively scheduled for July 21-23, at the SUM resort.

– submitted by Branch 2 of the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna, Yonkers, N.Y.

An open invitation to local community activists

Would you like fellow Ukrainians know about events in your community?
Would you like to become one of The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondents?
Then what are you waiting for?

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions from local community activists. You may reach The Weekly by phone, (973) 292-9800; fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com; or mail, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

"The Brave Rooster" operetta premieres in Philadelphia

by Petrusia Sawchak

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – A highly awarded, delightful children's operetta from Lviv, "The Brave Rooster," composed by Maestro Bohdan Yaniwsky, charmed a packed audience at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) on June 9-10.

It featured 23 talented youngsters ranging in age from 3 to 18 from the Philadelphia area. The operetta was adapted for the stage from the tale "When the Moon Rises" by Natalia Zabala.

The theme of the fable of the operetta is the triumph of Good over Evil. Children delight in the bravery of the rooster and dog standing up to the bullies, the polecat and the fox, while adults can relate to the allegory and satire of the story.

Love as a binding force is also an important part of the operetta. First, there is romantic love between the rooster and the chicken; then a mother's love for her little ducklings. Also, there is love of neighbor as the other animals, with the exception of the predators, care for the welfare of each other.

The composer, Prof. Yaniwsky, has worked in all the major theaters of Ukraine and composed over 200 works to the plays of Shevchenko, Shakespeare, Franko and others. He has also composed numerous operas, symphonies, choral works and songs. Presently he works as dean for international relations for the Lviv Music Academy. He is also president of the Ukrainian Association Svit Kultury.

The director of the operetta, Ivan Prasko, an actor and teacher best known in Ukrainian circles for directing the opera "Lys Mykyta" by Wasyl Ovcharenko, contributed his theatrical expertise to the production. Assistant director Katrya Oransky-Petyk, a performer in musical theater for the past 22 years and a voice teacher, coached the children during rehearsals. Taras Lewyckyj, performer for the famed Voloshky Ensemble and instructor and choreographer for the School of Voloshky since 1978, designed the choreography.

The stylized folk costumes for the children were designed and made by Vera Shembel. The set design by Anna HurskydeVassel and set construction by Danylo Zacharczuk recreated a barnyard scene



Cast and directors of "The Brave Rooster," an operetta for children staged in Philadelphia.

complete with houses for the various animals. Adrian Kwitkowsky provided sound and lighting. Maria Kaminsky provided accompaniment for rehearsal.

The administrative staff included: Petrusia Sawchak, president of UECC; Orysia Hewka, administrator; Borys Zacharczuk, business manager; Marko Klos, program layout and design; Motrja Bojko-Watters, children's coordinator; Alexander Mychaluk, photographer; and Dr. Natalia Pazuniak, program editor. Andriy Pikush of Ukraine provided the cover design of the program book, which featured the celebrated rooster.

There were two casts – one for Saturday and another on Sunday – to give as many children the opportunity to perform. The casts included the following performers:

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Maestro Bohdan Yaniwsky and Ivan Prasko at work on the operetta.

Ukrainians host Republican Party reception in Pennsylvania

by Michael Komanowsky

BLUE BELL, Pa. – Republican Party leaders decided in 1997 to create the New Majority Council (NMC) at national, state and local levels in order to more effectively communicate their message to non-whites, women, ethnics and young voters, and thereby make the party more inclusive.

The result of this effort can be most visibly seen in community events that bring out the spirit of cooperation among members of these diverse groups. In Pennsylvania's Montgomery County, Ukrainians not only participate in these events but also hold positions of leadership in the Pennsylvania Montgomery County Republican Committee New Majority Council.

One such event occurred on May 3, when the local NMC held a reception at the Cedarbrook Country Club in Blue Bell, Pa., to celebrate the outcome of last year's elections and to continue its efforts to unite and strengthen the Republican Party. Vera Andryczyk, who serves on the execu-

tive board of the Montgomery County NMC and was the chairperson of the event, arranged to have the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble perform under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian Federation of America (UFA).

The Voloshky, whose home base is Montgomery County, staged an impressive show and assured that the reception would be a memorable one for all participants.

Among the guests at the reception were a representative of the national New Majority Council, Renee Amore; a representative of the Pennsylvania State NMC, Marcus Mitchell; two members of the Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County, Michael D. Marino and James M. Mathews; heads of several departments of the county government; and three party-endorsed candidates for judgeship positions.

The main speaker was Commissioner Mathews, who spoke of the great contributions of the present and the previous Republican govern-

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Volunteers paint scenery for the production.

Batkivschyna continues its Discover Ukraine Expedition

by Natalie Korsheniuk Pollock
Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Discover Ukraine Expedition launched its mission to raise awareness of the newly independent country with Cap. Dmitrii Birioukovitch of Kyiv as its emissary. He took the helm of the *Batkivschyna* (fatherland) two years ago to circumnavigate the world and make friends with both Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians along the way.

The 64-year-old Capt. Birioukovitch has 50 years of sailing experience and a degree in construction engineering. He had rebuilt an old fishing trawler as a 90-foot schooner, reinforced its hull with ferro-cement and added a high rigging mast, cabins, a galley, and common areas in preparation for the long voyage.

With an invitation to from the United States to participate in an international regatta of tall ships in New York Harbor in July 2000, the captain, his wife, Nina, their nephew and a crew of 13, set sail from Kyiv in April 1999. The story of the ship's heroic crossing, financed in only one direction by its economically strapped country, caught the imagination of onlookers and the international press as it made its way to New London, Conn., from New York for the continuation of the event.

Norwich businessman Ron Aliano, who had recently built the American Wharf with the help of the city, extended an invitation to the "Bat," as it has become known, to spend the winter as his guest. A group of sailing enthusiasts, some Ukrainian, took the ship and crew into their care, providing supplies, repair work and new equipment for the boat.

The captain and crew of the *Bat* stayed until May of this year, making friends, attracting media attention and giving tours of the ship. Finally, on Memorial Day weekend, the bittersweet day of good-byes arrived. Just as warmly as the people of Norwich had welcomed the ship, they wished its crew safe passage. (See *The Weekly*, June 17).

The ship was ready to embark on the Great Lakes Challenge, at the invitation of the American Sail Training Association, but first the captain was determined to pay a visit to Hartford, capital city of the state that had served as the *Batkivschyna's* adopted homeport for several months. He personally wanted to thank Gov. John G. Rowland for the \$8,000 check he was presented while in New London.

As the day of Hartford's welcoming ceremony neared, several logistical details remained unresolved. Chief among them was the ship's ability to pass through the Erie Canal, as the harsh winter had deposited a great deal of silt in some areas. If the *Bat* could not pass safely, then it would have take a longer route to the St. Lawrence Seaway in order to cut across New York state and reach the Great Lakes on schedule. The longer route would take more time, leaving no time to motor up the Connecticut River to visit Hartford and come down again.

Also in question was the availability of adequate docking facilities in Hartford. At first, Riverfront Recapture assured the organizers of the event that new docking would be in place by the arrival date of June 5. As the day neared, it became clear that the docking would not be built in time, and alternate plans had to be pursued by a variety of experts on the river: river pilots, dock masters, an excursion boat owner and the Police Marine Division.

In the end it was a Riverfront Recapture staffer with a can-do attitude that reassured everyone.

It rained for several days before the *Bat's* arrival. On the afternoon of June 4, as the ship neared Hartford, the docking issues were moot. Heavy rains, melting snow and a burst dam in Vermont had swollen the

Connecticut River to unusually high levels, and the water was moving swiftly, bringing with it large pieces of debris, capable of ripping a hole in a typical boat's hull. But the *Bat* is not a typical boat.

Upon the recommendation of our friend at Riverfront Recapture, the ship anchored overnight in the middle of the river, protected from floating tree limbs by the legs of the Charter Oak bridge.

The following morning, on a beautifully sunny and balmy day, the *Bat* motored up to Riverfront Plaza, at the base of Constitution Plaza, to the waving of Ukrainian flags and balloons, right on schedule. Lt. Gov. Jodi Rell and Hartford Mayor Mike Peters were on hand. Music by the Yevshan choir wafted from the sound system, and Master of Ceremonies Ray Dunaway, WTIC radio talk show host, addressed the mixed crowd of 400 downtown office workers, members of the Ukrainian community and representatives of every area media outlet, including the Associated Press wire service.

As the captain stepped off the *Batkivschyna*, two young Ukrainian women in costume greeted him in his native language and in English with bread and salt. The mayor warmly welcomed him to Hartford, and the lieutenant governor, standing in for Gov. Rowland, who was busy with the Legislature, explained the significance of this event, saying, "The *Bat* is now the legendary tall ship of Ukraine ... and last year we here in Connecticut adopted it."

She applauded the good will mission of the captain and the crew, emphasizing that "the best part of the 20-city Friend Ship Tour the *Bat* is embarking on this summer is that it will be used to raise money for the innocent children who are still suffering as a result of Chernobyl. It's a very worthy cause and a seaworthy ship to do it with."

She went on to praise the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, with offices in New Haven, "for having partnered with the ship" and for their work with hospitals in Ukraine, "although much more is still needed." In a symbolic gesture of friendship, the

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Hartford Mayor Mike Peters welcomes Capt. Dmitrii Birioukovitch while Lt. Gov. Jodi Rell, CCRF Executive Director Alex Kuzma and the welcoming party wait for their turns.



The captain prepares to lower the Friend Ship bucket into the Connecticut River with the help of Lt. Gov. Jodi Rell to gather water from the river which will be mingled with the Ukrainian Dnipro River's waters upon the ship's return to Kyiv in 2004.

New Haven bids bon voyage to schooner

NEW HAVEN – Since it arrived in the United States last summer, the Ukrainian schooner *Batkivschyna* has won the support of many American businesses and sailing organizations. Most recently, the Gateway Terminal in New Haven provided the Ukrainian ship with over 800 gallons of free fuel during its final stop in Connecticut before continuing on its expedition to the Great Lakes. The donation was arranged by two of the officers of the Gateway Terminal, Orest Dubno and Richard Smith, as a goodwill gesture to support the ship's humanitarian mission.

This summer, the *Batkivschyna* is participating in a series of tall ship festivals in the Midwest, including the Harborfest in Cleveland, the Friendship Festival in Buffalo and the Detroit 300 Celebration. The ship will also serve as a goodwill ambassador for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF), an award-winning charity that has delivered over \$47 million worth of medical aid to Ukrainian hospitals and orphanages.

We were very pleased to be able to help the *Batkivschyna* along on its legendary voyage," said Mr. Dubno, a member of CCRF's board of directors and the former revenue commissioner for the State of Connecticut. "This donation would not have been possible without the cooperation of Carl Harvey, the curriculum coordinator at the New Haven Sound School and Beth McCabe of the

Schooner Inc., who provided docking facilities for the refueling procedure."

Because of the rapidly changing tides in New Haven Harbor, the refueling had to take place within a very narrow time frame between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Despite these time restrictions, the *Batkivshchyna*

attracted many visitors during its short sojourn. Among the more notable visitors were State Rep. Bill Dyson and Captain William Pinckney, the skipper of the "Amistad," a replica of the 18th century slave ship that inspired the feature film directed by Steven Spielberg.



Capt. Dmitrii Birioukovitch thanks Orest Dubno for the donation of diesel fuel provided by the Gateway Terminal in New Haven, Conn.

DATELINE NEW YORK: Midsummer merriment in East Village, Central Park

by Helen Smindak

With the magical time of midsummer now upon us, the sacred customs of the pagan festival of Ivan Kupalo have been noted for weeks around the East Village, not always in actual fact, but certainly in music, songs and rituals. They turned up at a two-day La Mama workshop of ritual folk songs featuring the enchanting songstress Mariana Sadovska and at a recital of plaintive chants sung by bandurist Lavrentia Turkewicz at the Mayana Gallery.

They were very much in evidence at two colorful festivities presented by the Yara Arts Group: a Kupalo concert at La Mama Experimental Theater Company on June 23, in helping with the new (Gregorian) calendar and a Kupalo outdoor celebration at the Community Garden at Sixth Street and Avenue B on July 6, in accordance with the old-style (Julian) calendar.

Yara's fanciful productions, staged by company members and a galaxy of outstanding guest artists, centered around songs indigenous to the Kupalo festival, which marks the end of the summer solstice and the beginning of the harvest (midsummer). Kupalo was believed to be the god of love, harvest and the personification of the earth's fertility. Helping to convey these age-old fantasies of Ukraine to crowds of bemused local residents were traditional Kupalo rituals of wreath-weaving and fortune-telling, together with exuberant dancing to madcap music done by a quartet of folk musicians.

Missing only were the old customs of bathing in water (an act of purification) and leaping over bonfires – a relic of the pagan custom of bringing sacrifice – a time for unmarried young men and women to gather outside the village in a forest or near a stream or pond to perform ritual dances around the fire and sing ritual (often erotic) songs. For the bonfire customs, substitute the outrageous antics of Eugene Hutz and his popular ethno-avant-garde Gogol Bordello band in Central Park's wooded wonderland on July 7, and you have the basic elements of a typical Ivan Kupalo fest – young people singing and dancing in a forest setting.

A community Kupalo

Fireflies flickered in the balmy night, the fragrance of mint, thyme and sweet blossoms drifted through the air, and a tiny brook babbled nearby. As a full moon smiled down on the Community Garden in the East Village, men, women and children strolled from one candle-lit area to another, marveling at the sights and sounds produced by the Yara Arts Group at its second outdoor Kupalo festival.

In a leafy bower at one side of the garden, Julian Kytasty, Michael Andrec and Jurij Fedynsky of the Experimental Bandura Trio plucked the strings of their banduras, producing a bewitching stream of music. At the other side, the Budmo Musical Group held sway in a small glade as violinist Valeryi Zhmud led fellow musicians George Cheremoch (violin), Roman Galynsky (accordion) and Petro Gorganyuk (tsymbaly) through a riot of toe-tapping dance melodies. Folk harpist Odarka Polanskyj Stockert performed Kupalo songs near a bevy of women weaving flowers and fragrant-scented herbs into wreaths under the direction of Roksolana Luchkan. Award-winning actress Shona Tucker read visitors' palms and revealed their fortunes.

From a brightly lighted stage adorned with leafy branches, boisterous Kupalo songs about Sviaty Ian (St. John) and St. Peter's feast, about planting roses and lighting fires, pierced the night air. Ms. Sadovska and Alla Kutsevych, prompting spectators to raise their voices and clap their hands, joined vocalists Iryna Hrechko,

Zabryna Guevara and Meredith Wright in providing the lyrics. Jina Oh brought a Scandinavian touch with a Norwegian cow-calling song. The dusky voice of Canadian singer/producer Alexis Kochan, the Winnipeg-born artist whose CDs were seminal to the new movement of Ukrainian folk music on this continent, added two quiet heart-felt solos to the melange of songs and bandura music.

There was dancing, of course, impromptu folk dancing by spinning couples and barefoot young girls with wreaths on their heads. When they grew tired, groups of bystanders joined hands and moved in circle dances to the Budmo musicians' seductive refrains.

The festivities, which opened with a Joel Schlemowitz film installation and poetry by Wanda Phipps, included the breaking of a large papier-mache zubr (bison), which spilled out brightly wrapped candies over the stage for children and adults to gather up and enjoy. The pinata take-off – the idea and creation of food artist Olesia Lew, with decorative painting by Lynne Brown – illustrated the symbolic roasting and pulling apart of a large animal during Kupalo celebrations.

Virlana Tkacz, founding director of the Yara Arts Group, a resident company of La Mama E.T.C., produced the imaginative event with the assistance of Mo-Yain Tham, Dzvinika Dobriansky and Nestor Budyk.

Kupalo in concert

Raising the roof at La Mama's Galleria on East First Street, Kupalo songs with their expressive calling, yodeling, chanting and droning sounds were presented by vocalists Mariana Sadovska, Alla Kutsevych and Iryna Hrechko, the Experimental Bandura Trio, the Budmo Musical Group and Yara artists Laura Biagi, Marina Celander, Akiko Hiroshima, Allison Hiroto, Matt Moran and Meredith Wright. An SRO audience, absorbing the exciting blend of voices, banduras, flutes and other instruments, was inspired to whistle, cheer and clap along in rhythm to the music.

Interspersed among such Kupalo tunes as "Hoya, Diu dia Hoya" from the Rusyn-Ukrainian area of Slovakia and "Yo, Teper Kupala, Kupalya" from the Polissia region were Swedish and Norwegian midsummer songs and a traditional lullaby from Campania, Italy. Odarka Polanskyj-Stockert, who studied folk harp in Ireland and won prizes at the O'Carolin and Grandard Harp Festivals, played Kupalo songs on her harp. The Gogol Bordello band, fronted by Eugene Hutz capering in a tight black suit, red shirt and feather-adorned fedora, infused its inimitable punk cabaret sound and style into the proceedings with the famous punk-rock composition "I can't find my mind."

Sprigs of aromatic herbs and wild flowers were distributed to guests before the performance. At program's end, female performers in Ukrainian garb paid deference to Kupalo food rituals by handing out poppyseed cake and a shot of Soomska Vodka (co-sponsor of the event with the Veselka Restaurant) to each concert-goer.

Among listeners who stayed around to hobnob with performers were John Rublowsky of Brooklyn and his brother Stan from New Jersey, who said the performance inspired them to recall boyhood days when their parents' home in the East Village was "constantly filled with musicians, who would sit there all night long playing Ukrainian folk melodies." Their father, Peter Rublowsky, was a self-taught folk fiddler whose love of music carried over to his sons: Stan became an artist and repertoire man who produced recordings for Columbia Records; John, who played



Mark Bodnar

Alla Kutsevich, Iryna Hrechko and Jina Oh sing at Yara's Kupalo celebration in the Community Garden in New York City.

violin with symphony orchestras, provided accompaniment for recordings by such big-name artists as Frank Sinatra and Barbara Streisand.

Kupalo in workshops

Lviv-born Mariana Sadovska, who studied classical piano at the Liudkevych Music School and worked with the Kurbas Young Theatre in Lviv, has devoted her time and boundless energy since 1991 to collecting folk songs and documenting rituals during expeditions to villages in Poltava and Polissia and the Lemko and Hutsul regions. She has brought her findings to the United States and is passing along her intense love of Ukrainian folk songs to elated students at a series of workshops sponsored by La Mama Theatre.

From professional singers to persons who cannot read music or don't know Ukrainian, students have no difficulty learning traditional harmony singing from an enthusiastic teacher with an inborn desire to communicate. Ms. Sadovska's teaching instinct was undoubtedly fostered by years of work with the Gardzenice Experimental Theatre in Poland. Her latest workshops focused on ritual Kupalo songs, while upcoming workshops will concentrate on harvest songs.

Performing strong melodies with whipping trills with the Yara Arts Group and in other public appearances, Ms. Sadovska exudes a charming radiance and vitality as she accompanies herself on the harmonium, an organlike keyboard instrument with small metal reeds and a pair of bellows operated by the player. The folk singer and her harmonium are heard on the CD

"Mariana Sadovska: Songs I learned in Ukraine" (18 tracks of wedding, lullaby and spring calling songs) recently released by Global Village Music of New York. In the program notes, Ms. Sadovska states: "Each song I sing was given to me by a specific woman I met. I heard the story of the song. I learned the way it should be sung. And then I understood that a song can be the way – the map that guides you through life."

Kupalo at Mayana

Since she learned to play the bandura in 1974, New Yorker Lavrentia Turkewicz has been imbued with a desire to learn what she calls true Ukrainian folk music – not the melodies normally considered folk music, such as the popular ditty "Oi, ne Khody Hrytsiu" – but the "forgotten songs of the villages." To that end, she has applied herself intensively to finding unknown Ukrainian folk songs in ethnographic collections.

Ms. Turkewicz demonstrated some of her finds in a recital of Kupalo and Rusalka songs at the Mayana Gallery on July 6. During the concert, a presentation of the Ukrainian Art and Literary Club, she accompanied herself on the bandura as she gave voice to melancholy songs about ancient water sprites from the Feast of Rosalia (also known as Rusalina or Zeleni Sviata) and lively summer-solstice airs connected with Kupalo festivities.

Ms. Turkewicz, who has given performances in Chicago and Philadelphia, as well as New York, took part in the 1991

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Meredith Wright, Zabryna Guevara and Mariana Sadovska perform Kupalo songs.



Viewing the arts

by Adrian Bryttan

Horowitz Competition promotes Ukraine

Near 2 a.m. on an April morning in 1999, 14-year-old Daniel Shleyenkov huddled together with other anxious teenagers in Kyiv's Philharmonic Hall. At this late hour all of the musicians were still waiting for the jury to finish its deliberations and announce the finalists for the third Horowitz International Competition for Young Pianists. Other contestants who were convinced they had placed well enough to be selected had confidently gone to sleep long ago. And, sadly, the dejected souls who felt they performed poorly during the preliminary rounds had also retired to their dormitory beds. The remainder anxiously held on to the hope that they might yet reach the finals.

In fact, Daniel was awarded third prize in the intermediate age group and performed in the Kyiv Opera Theater several days later. As a result of this competition, he traveled to the United States to perform in Boston, Washington and New York's Merkin Hall. There he was heard by Alexander Slobodyanik, who offered his help to the gifted young boy. Currently Daniel is not only a devoted pupil but also resides with Mr. Slobodyanik and his wife, Larysa Krupa. Last year I had worked together with the young pianist in preparation for his performance of the solo part in Stravinsky's "Petrouchka." Today Daniel speaks fluent Ukrainian (his parents are both Belarusian composers) and is enjoying growing up in America. A senior in high school, he has already attracted the close attention of several major conservatories.

This is one of several success stories involving young people who have taken part in the Horowitz Piano Competitions since their initiation in 1995. Held every two years, this worldwide contest now offers a new category – the "Horowitz-Debut" for competitors age 14 and younger.

Ukrainian-born Canadian pianist Ireneus Zuk was one of the distinguished international artists invited to judge this youngest group in Kyiv last November. Dr. Zuk has appeared as a soloist with orchestras throughout North America, Europe and the Far East and as part of a piano duo with his sister, Luba Zuk, professor of music at McGill University. Presently he is chair of the keyboard area and director of the School of Music at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

Dr. Zuk described a tiny young boy in the "Horowitz-Debut" division who had to play standing upright in order to reach the pedals. One of this year's principal sponsors, the McDonald's Ukraine company treated the contestants to an excursion and party. This made one contestant from Kerch, Crimea, very happy because her mother had promised the youngster that, once in Kyiv, she could sample the fast food delights in the big city.

In the words of Dr. Zuk, "they're really just kids ... but they play like artists." He observed that over half of the attentive audiences were also young children. This year Dr. Zuk was asked to judge the Eckhardt-Gramatte National Competition in Canada and the Ibla Grand Prize International Piano Competition in Sicily. According to Dr. Zuk, the organization in Kyiv was first-rate, and the musical preparation fully comparable to the highest international level. At present there are numerous

competitions for young pianists throughout the world. There is every hope that in the near future the relatively recent Horowitz Competition will be officially accredited by the World Federation of International Music Competitions in Geneva, Switzerland.

It all started when a sensational discovery was made a few years ago in the Gliere Musical School archives in Kyiv. A birth certificate was found proving that Vladimir Horowitz, one of the greatest pianists of the 20th century, was actually born in Kyiv in 1903 and not in Russia in 1904 as had been previously believed. Nearly all the Horowitz family had studied at the Kyiv Music School ("Uchylische") and Horowitz's sister Regina later settled in Kharkiv and taught for 50 years. She established a school of "Horowitz piano playing," which now, in its second generation, still produces numerous contest winners throughout the world. Thus the Gliere School together with the Kyiv Municipal Administration and the Ministry of Culture launched this competition in memory of Vladimir Horowitz. Composer Ivan Karabyts has also been one of the principal organizers.

This year the contestants came from Canada, the United States, Japan, Finland, Germany, England, South Korea, Romania, Russia, Belarus and, of course, Ukraine. Liudmyla Kuchma, wife of Ukraine's president, writes in the brochure that one of the goals of the Horowitz Competition is to unite talented youth from all around the world. Each applicant performs varied programs for several rounds of competition. But yet another very important benefit evolves from the repertoire requirements. All of the four age groups (the oldest goes up to 33) must prepare a composition by a Ukrainian composer. Since many of the

jury members and teachers come from different countries, this plays a substantial role in establishing Ukrainian music on the international scene.

The talent and abilities of the young contestants are not limited to performing. Dr. Zuk related how one of the first winners from Kharkiv deciphered several Horowitz transcriptions of Liszt compositions from recordings and published them for the first time. Two hundred and sixty-five young musicians from 24 countries took part in the first three competitions. The winners not only received medals and cash awards of up to \$2,000, but also performed in concert tours in Ukraine, the United States and many other countries in Europe and Asia.

But how can one explain that 37 of the first 65 finalists were from Ukraine? I put this question to Mr. Slobodyanik. Known to audiences around the world as one of the great pianists of today, he has enjoyed a prodigious career spanning over three decades and has appeared with many of the world's most renowned conductors and orchestras. Born in Kyiv, he began his music studies in Lviv, continuing in the Moscow Conservatory. In 1997 he was an honored guest at the Horowitz Competition.

Mr. Slobodyanik pointed to the intensive discipline that has generated the phenomenal success of the Kharkiv teachers. The students are drilled so thoroughly that they can play impeccably at any time and in any situation, even if awakened in the middle of the night. Mr. Slobodyanik called this the "kamikaze" approach. The emphasis is on absolute technical security and virtuosity. Other major music schools in Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa and Donetsk also introduce children to this concentrated regimen at a very early age. (Daniel Shleyenkov, who first studied in Belarus, remembers traveling to a different competition practically every month.)

This philosophy of hard work and total dedication has also produced the exceptional gymnasts and ballet dancers in that part of the world. Many young pianists are gambling that their careers will get a jump start once they win a competition. They see at the end of the rainbow an opportunity to break out into the world or at least to buy a car for the family.

For many years, high quality music instruction at about 7 rubles a month was very affordable and accessible to everyone. And at a time when there were only two or three TV channels, the day's programming invariably closed with a classical selection. The vast public might not have appreciated every last nicety and nuance, but they certainly recognized that this must be something important. Thus, the classical arts acquired an aura of prestige in many countries of the former Soviet Union, including Ukraine.

Mr. Slobodyanik also expressed some observations about competitions in general. According to him, sometimes the more profound and genuine artist is not awarded first prize and becomes widely recognized only after time. Winning does not guarantee a career and, in fact, many successful performers such as Daniel Barenboim and Evgeny Kissin did not get their start this way. Almost two centuries ago, Franz Liszt and Frederic Chopin, the greatest virtuosos of their day, did not need to win contests.

But there is also a wider significance for this competition. Attention is focused not only upon Horowitz as a great musician and his influence upon young artists, but also upon a most unique

(Continued on page 19)



Alexander Slobodyanik



Pianist Ireneus Zuk (left) of Canada with fellow jury members of the International Horowitz Competition for Young Pianists.

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Batkivschyna continues...

(Continued from page 11)

captain, along with the mayor and the lieutenant governor dipped a bucket into the Connecticut River and scooped up some American water which was poured into a bottle and will be transported on the ship to Ukraine to be mingled with the water of the Dnipro River.

Onlookers were invited to share a piece of cake with the captain, and invited to tour the boat. Specially designed T-shirts, with the Friend Ship Tour logo on the front and the list of ports of call on the back, were on sale to commemorate the event.

Later in the afternoon, John Nesklada of New Britain, one of the crew and part of the group which first befriended and looked after the schooner's crew in Norwich, lead the captain and his wife on a tour of Hartford, visiting the Old State House, the Capitol building and the Mark Twain House. Capt. Birioukovitch said he was thrilled to retrace some of the American history which he had read about in Ukraine.

In a conversation over dinner on the second night of their Hartford visit, he talked with members of the local CCRF chapter about his impression of life in the United States, and how the pace and the priorities differ from those in Ukraine. The long-time student of American culture understood that in this country there is a strong sense of competition in every phase of life, and a drive to keep up in order to succeed.

He almost wistfully commented that Ukrainians are not yet in that position; many are still striving just to survive on a day-to-day basis, but that the situation seems to be improving. He also pointed out that on his recent visit to his home he had observed many changes for the better. People seemed more prosperous and optimistic, according to the captain. And then he enthusiastically extended an invitation to visit him in Kyiv.

He fulfilled his mission in Hartford by inspiring the imagination of non-Ukrainians and in the process teaching them something about his fatherland; he stirred the souls of Ukrainians – immigrants, first-generation

who still speak the language and even second-generation who do not; and he forged new friendships with government officials, the media, and those who enjoy boats. In the process, he also helped to raise funds for the children of Chornobyl.

The Bat left Hartford quietly, without fanfare, on the morning of June 7, to catch the most beneficial tide with the help of the Hartford Police Marine Division. Even as onlookers strolled along the river early that morning, curious about the crew's last-minute preparations, and caught them still getting dressed, the crew was welcoming to everyone.

And when it came time to say good-bye to their newest Connecticut friends, the crew had hugs and mementos for us all. There was warmth and pain in those long and friendly hugs. And there was a sense of urgency in the crew's reiterated invitations to come and visit them in Kyiv.

From Hartford, the Bat traveled back down the Connecticut River to New Haven and then along the coast of New York until it entered the Hudson River on its way to the Erie Canal.

The plan is to stop in several Ukrainian communities along the route and make new friends. In Buffalo the crew was to celebrate the Fourth of July; in Chicago they will participate in the 10th anniversary celebrations of Ukraine's independence on August 23-26.

All Ukrainians, their friends and relatives are invited to meet the captain and his crew. The Bat also needs volunteer sailors, with or without experience, to accompany the crew for any part of the voyage. After the Great Lakes regatta, the captain hopes to sail down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, spend the winter in Florida, then eventually cross the Pacific Ocean to visit Hawaii, Australia (where he has family) and travel across the Panama Canal back to Ukraine by 2004.

And when Capt. Birioukovitch sets his sights on a destination, the chances are very good that he will make it there. His determination and optimism know no limits.

For more information on the expedition or to volunteer, visit the website at www.batkivshchyna.org.

Ukraine confronts...

(Continued from page 1)

promoting positive attitudes toward HIV-infected persons.

Dr. van der Meer told journalists that battling AIDS in Ukraine is easier to some extent due to a "clear commitment from the government."

"The fact that the Ukrainian government is open is already saving lives," he said, adding that the country's large number of highly educated people also is a good basis for providing quality care.

According to the United Nations, by 2000, the HIV virus had affected 36.1 million people worldwide, most of whom live on the African continent. Currently, some 14,000 people throughout the world are infected with HIV daily, or four people every minute, he said.

Ukraine is considered to have the highest transmission rate of the HIV virus in Europe, the Holos Ukrainy daily reported. Previously, AIDS spread in Ukraine was usually blamed on dirty syringes used by drug addicts, but today according to health officials, the disease is being spread through heterosexual contacts and from mothers to their newborns, according to health officials.

Ukraine's government on July 11 adopted a program for 2001-2003 to prevent and combat the spread of HIV/AIDS; it plans to spend 351 million hrv (about \$65,000) for the program.

The inter-sector program is composed of five special stages, Health Minister Vitalii Moskalenko said, according to the Interfax

news agency. Sixteen government departments, including four from the Academy of Sciences, will participate in the program.

Mr. Moskalenko admitted that Ukraine is one of the leading states in Europe in terms of the rate of HIV's spread, calling the situation "threatening."

In addition, the presidential office is preparing a decree to battle the spread of AIDS in Ukraine in accordance with last month's United Nations declaration to combat AIDS.

Ukraine's government is considering the creation in Ukraine of a special Eastern European center for battling HIV/AIDS, Mr. Moskalenko added.

As of June 1, a total of 39,127 Ukrainians – including more than 2,331 children – were officially registered as HIV-infected since the epidemic started in 1987, said Olha Kravchenko, a scientist affiliated with Ukraine's Center for AIDS Prevention and Treatment.

Of those, 71 children fell ill with AIDS, and 1,106 adults and 50 children died of the illness, she said.

The actual number of victims in Ukraine is estimated to have risen from 110,000 in 1997 to 240,000 in 1999, according to the United Nations.

In June Ukraine initiated the special U.N. session on HIV/AIDS, during which 189 countries adopted a declaration delineating an international strategy to battle the century's deadliest plague. The declaration urged governments to implement measures to decrease the number of HIV-infected people by 25 percent by 2010, and to create a special fund to raise from \$7 billion to \$10 billion annually for HIV/AIDS prevention.

Midsummer merriment...

(Continued from page 12)

Chervona Ruta rock festival in Zaporizhia, performing songs of the Zaporizska Sich and a Lemko-dialect song about Lemko immigrants. A Hunter College graduate, she assists her mother, Slava Gerulak, director of the Ukrainian Art and Literary Club and the Mayana Gallery, in researching and mounting art exhibitions.

The gallery's recent exhibits included an exhibition featuring original artwork and reproductions that reflected rite of spring themes (including Ivan Trush's "Hahilky" of 1905 and Ms. Gerulak's unique ceramic sculptures). An exhibit of photo reproductions of Ukrainian bracelet jewelry from the Kyivan Rus' period, depicting ancient ritual celebrations, closed last weekend.

Central Park shenanigans

As Eugene Hutz and his guitar came out on stage with the Gogol Bordello band on July 7, the sea of humanity in Central Park's Rumsey Playfield burst into a frenzy of wild cheers and applause. Seven thousand young people reacted with delirium to a group that has been bringing a new brand of pop-cultural action to the music scene, playing Ukrainian, Gypsy, Rai, Russian and Flamenco music in surrealistic punk cabaret style with a special twist – the flamboyant gyrations of its lead singer, Ukraine-born Mr. Hutz. Another 4,000 listeners lolled around the perimeter of the fenced-in field, taking in the music by ear.

During the hourlong concert of music and slapstick, Gogol Bordello delivered songs of war, love and backyard barbecues with Stalin, including most of the numbers from its "The Voi-La Intruder" CD – "Passport," "Mussolini vs. Stalin,"

"Darling," "Janie's Lesbian" and others.

Performing with Mr. Hutz were Sergei Ryabtsev (violin), Oren Kaplan (guitar), Yuri Lemeshev (accordion), Eliot Ferguson (drums) and Ori Kaplan (saxophone).

The Gypsy dancer known as Piroshka, in a flamboyant Gypsy dress, and two performers in bright yellow costumes with marching drums and cymbals joined the group for several numbers, heightening the pitch of public excitement.

The center of attention throughout the performance was lead singer and lyricist Mr. Hutz, who whipped himself up into a fury of passion and a lather of perspiration as he hopped, stomped and bounced around the huge outdoor stage while he sang and played his guitar, discarding his hat and stripping off his T-shirt along the way.

The Central Park outing was part of Summerstage, a project of free concerts, performances and readings from mid-June to mid-August presented by the City Parks Foundation in cooperation with the City of New York/Parks & Recreation.

In a telephone interview the day after the show, Mr. Hutz, 28, said he started in show biz "as soon as I was born" and attended a music school for drums in Kyiv. He comes from a family of Hutsul, Gypsy and Russian background. In New York just a few years, the lean guy with the handlebar mustache does modeling jobs for fashion designers Katherine Hammett and Uji Yamamoto and photographers Max Vadukul and Terry Richardson and often appears in productions with the Yara Arts collective. Saturday nights are reserved for d.j. stints at the Bulgarian Bar on Broadway (near Canal); the rest of his time is devoted to Gogol Bordello.

Helen Smindak's e-mail address is HaliaSmindak@aol.com.



With profound sorrow, we are informing family, friends and colleagues of the death of our beloved husband, brother, and brother-in-law

Vladimir Shkilnyk, M.D.

He was born on November 24, 1925, in Peremyshlany, western Ukraine, and died on July 3, 2001 in Akron, Ohio.

Funeral services were held at the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost in Akron, Ohio. He was buried at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Parma, Ohio.

He leaves behind:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| his wife | – Nadia |
| sisters | – Maria Leshchyshyn with husband Petro |
| | – Anna Galuga with husband Lubomyr |
| | – Anastasia Shkilnyk with husband Jim Kingham |
| mother-in-law | – Olena Krawciw |
| brother-in-law | – Ihor Krawciw and family |
| nieces and nephews | – Andriy Leshchyshyn with wife Lada |
| | – Christina Lupichuk with husband Andriy |
| | – Jurij Galuga |
| | – Slavko Galuga with wife Dawn |
| | – Marta Schiffer with husband Frank |
| uncles | – Wasyl Salamon in Toronto |
| | – Rafael and Wasylyna Salamon in Poland |

in lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 West Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill 60622-4828, or The Studite Monastery Orphanage in Univ, western Ukraine, c/o Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, 2351 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill 60622.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

to be published in The Ukrainian Weekly – in the Ukrainian or English language – are accepted by mail, courier, fax, phone or e-mail.

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Divine Liturgy and Panakhyda in memory of Iwanna Rozankowskyj

On the fortieth day of the passing of longtime president and honorary president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc., a Divine Liturgy and Panakhyda for her soul will be held on July 28, 2001, at 8:30 a.m., at the St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 22 East 7th Street, New York, NY 10003

After the services there will be a commemorative gathering at the Selfreliance offices, 98 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003, (between 5th and 6th streets).

UNWLA invites its membership and the Ukrainian community to come and help us honor this great community activist.

Contributions in memory of Iwanna Rozankowskyj may be made to the UNWLA/Olena Lototsky Fund, 108 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003.

For more information please call the UNWLA office (212) 533-4646

UNWLA Executive Committee

Civil Engineer and Architectural Designer Theodosius Diachok dies

Family here in America, as well as in Canada and in Ukraine, grieve at the loss of beloved husband, father and grandfather and tireless supporter of the Ukrainian community.

Theodosius Diachok, Civil Engineer and community organizer, artist and Plast activist, died on Tuesday, June 26, in Olney, Maryland, due to complications of congestive heart failure and pneumonia.

Surviving are his wife, Stephania; daughter Larissa Wild with her husband Helmut and their children Theodore, Alexandra and Katherine; son, Orest Diachok with his wife Olha Szajda and their son, Mateo, as well as Mark and Andrew Diachok; and son, Darian Diachok, with his wife Myrtle Pereira and their sons Alexander and Christopher.



Panakhyda was celebrated on Friday, June 29, at 7:30 p.m., at the Hines-Rinaldi Home. Presiding were Father Taras Lonchyna of the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, together with Father Zenchuch of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Silver Spring, Maryland. Requiem services were celebrated on Saturday, June 30, at 10:00 a.m., at the Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Presiding was Father Thaddeus Kravchuk.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to honor Mr. Diachok's concern for giving Ukrainian orphans educational and cultural opportunities, by requesting donations to: Help Us Help The Children, 2118-A Bloor Street West, Suite 2000, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6S 1M8. Tel.: (416) 604-4611; or direct donations over the Internet: <http://www.chornobyl.ca/page-donation-1.html>



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The information...

(Continued from page 6)

lowed, which featured the Soviet-era TV spinmeister Vladimir Posner. Moderator Koppel tried to keep Mr. Posner honest at least once, but he let too much of his guest's disinformation go unchallenged, e.g., that Russians comprise 40 percent of Ukraine's population.

National Public Radio provided consistently professional reporting by Mike Shuster, who exhibited an understanding of the religious/political issues in Ukraine and called on knowledgeable, English-speaking religious and political experts to fill in the gaps – among them Father Borys Gudziak of the Lviv Theological Academy and Verkhovna Rada Deputy Serhii Holovaty. And NPR allowed ample time for his reports, which averaged over four minutes in duration. They can still be heard on the NPR website (go on www.npr.org and do a search for "Shuster").

While EWTN may have been the front-row seat in the papal visit coverage, the Internet was the multi-media marvel. You could watch the EWTN telecasts, albeit on a minuscule screen, on its website (www.ewtn.com), provided your computer and necessary programs were up to snuff (unfortunately, my aging Mac PowerBook doesn't care for video). You could listen to visit coverage on radio, be it NPR or the Ukrainian services of Radio Liberty (www.radiosvoboda.org), BBC (www.bbc.co.uk/ukrainian/) or the Voice of America (www.voagov.gov); get the full texts of the pope's remarks – in a half dozen languages – his schedule and other information on the official visit website (www.papalvisit.org.ua); read major newspaper reports from around

the world (from The New York Times to Toronto's Globe and Mail to Ukraine's Den), newswire reports by the Associated Press and Reuters as well as view their photo coverage. And Brama (www.brama.com/news/index.html) had links to just about everything dealing with the papal visit.

Although I have worked for VOA in the past and now freelance for BBC, I must admit that Radio Liberty's coverage was the undisputed winner for me. RL used its abundant personnel and available airtime resources to the fullest in bringing live coverage, reports, backgrounders, analyses and discussions with experts. Luckily, and just in time, RL recently upgraded its Internet presence to include two days' worth of broadcasts available for listening at any time. In the past, you either caught their programs live or not at all. BBC and VOA programs remain on their site until overwritten by the next program.

Another big winner for me was having access to the full texts of the pope's remarks on www.papalvisit.org.ua. Although I do it all the time professionally, I loath to have someone else filter or interpret for me what was said; I would much rather have the full text.

Normal people may be content to wait a few days for The Ukrainian Weekly to arrive with its complete coverage, but for a journalist and news hound, the wait would be almost as painful as trying to listen to the crackling short-wave radio broadcasts reporting on Ukraine's independence 10 years ago. Thanks to the telecommunications revolution, getting "real-time" information on the pope's visit, as they say, was as if I had died and gone to heaven, or was a kid again, locked in a candy store for the better part of a week.

Are Ukrainians...

(Continued from page 6)

Orthodox, about 7.5 million belong to the Moscow Patriarchate, over 2 million to the Kyiv Patriarchate, and about 1.5 million to the Autocephalous Church. But, in contrast to the Orthodox of both the Moscow Patriarchate, the Orthodox of the Kyiv Patriarch and the Autocephalous Church welcomed the pope's visit.

So, it turns out that 7.5 million Orthodox were opposed to the pope's visit, and 9 million to 9.5 million Catholics and Orthodox welcomed it. In other words, even if one only focuses on Ukraine's Orthodox and Catholics, a majority of them favored the pope's visit, and those who opposed it constituted but a minority. And if one focuses on the Ukraine's entire population, we find that the 7.5 million Moscow Patriarchate Orthodox constitute merely 15 percent of Ukraine's population. So is it at least fair to say that 15 percent of Ukrainians opposed the pope's visit? Probably not, as even that figure may be far too high. As reported by various public opinion polls in Ukraine, only between 4 and 6 percent of the Ukrainian population opposed the pope's visit.

If only 4-6 percent, and, at the absolute most 15 percent, of Ukraine's population opposed the pope's visit, how in the world did that small minority turn into a "majority" that then went on to be the subject of so much Western media attention? The answer seems to lie somewhere in a combination of journalistic laziness and KGB alchemy.

What does the KGB have to do with anything? In a June 26 article in the Moscow Times by Yevgenia Albats, it was reported that Aleksei Ridiger, a.k.a. Aleksei II, is a decorated KGB agent. And who was the source of the "majority is opposed to the pope's visit" fabrication? Read Aleksei II's own words during a Russian television interview on June 25 (as reported by the BBC Monitoring Service on June 26): "It

would appear that simple good manners require that they should have waited till the main Church, the main confession to which the majority of Ukraine's population belongs, issued an invitation or agreed to the visit by the head of the Roman Catholic Church. That main confession was asking for the visit not to be made ..."

Isn't anyone in the Western media that reported on the purported "controversy" aware that many Russian spokespersons lie as effortlessly as the rest of us breathe? And, can't any of these media people count for themselves? Lastly, did anyone in the Ukrainian Catholic Church prepare and distribute in advance of the pope's arrival press packets to the media with a fact sheet listing such basic information as how many people in Ukraine belong (or do not belong) to which confession?

10 ПОКИВ НЕЗАЛЕЖНОСТІ

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Aug. 10 - 25

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ODESA (1)
KHERSON (1)
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YALTA (2)

15 days
\$2850 double
\$320 sgl. sup.



GROUP B
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POLTAVA (2)
CHERKASY/Chystyryn (2)
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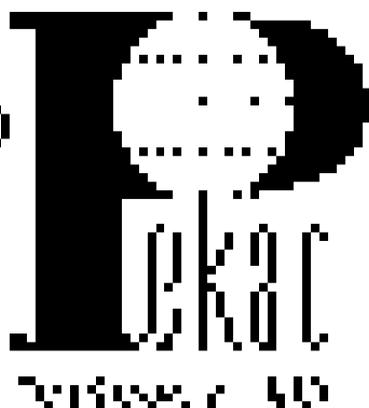
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The Voloshky perform the "Pryvit" (welcome) at the Republican Party reception.

Ukrainians host...

(Continued from page 10)

ments to the development of Montgomery County over many years. Ms. Amore received an award for her outstanding work as vice-chairman of the national NMC and as assistant secretary of the Republican National Convention.

In recent elections the Ukrainian American Alliance (UAA), an informal group of concerned, politically active voters of Ukrainian descent arranged fund-raisers for such congressional candidates as Charles Dougherty, Jon Fox and Stewart Greenleaf and has appealed

to Ukrainian Americans to vote for these candidates as well as candidates from other neighboring counties, including James Greenwood and Curt Weldon, who promised to champion the urgent concerns of the Ukrainian American community.

The UAA has appealed to fellow Ukrainian Americans to join its ranks and to heed its appeals during future elections. UAA leaders also recommend that voters in other counties throughout the country follow their example of casting their votes as an organized group for those candidates who are most responsive to concerns of the Ukrainian American community.

"The Brave Rooster" ...

(Continued from page 10)

Damian Shembel, 16 ("Pirate" the dog); Andriy Harasewych, 16 (Rooster); Adrianna Shembel, 18 (Fox); Julia Login, 16 (Chicken); Ivan Bobak, 16 (Polecat); Sofia Prasko, 16 (Magpie); Yana Osypenko, 14 (Duck); Taisa Hewka, 13 (Turkey); Khristina Dukh, 13 (Goose); Arianna Watters, 12 (Fox); Sofia Zmurkewych, 13 (Rooster); Lesia Petyk, 13 (Polecat); Julia Knihnicki, 11 (Chicken); Julia Hudimyak, 12 (Magpie); Victor Prasko, 13 (Dog); Andrea Watters, 10 (Duckling); Alexa Watters, 7 (Duckling); Sofia Zacharczuk, 8

(Duckling); Maria Flis, 11 (Duckling); Natalia Tarasiuk, 11 (Duckling); Alanna Watters, 3 (Duckling); Emily Knihnicki, 9 (Duckling); and Nina de Vassal, 10 (Puppy).

After each performance, there was a "meet the artists" reception. Honored guests at the premiere were Cultural Attaché Mykola Kravchenko of the Embassy of Ukraine from Washington, and his wife.

The UECC, which sponsored this U.S. premiere of the operetta, hopes to tour with the production to other cities and is performing at Soyuzivka in August. More information will be announced in the press when the plans are finalized.

Horowitz Competition...

(Continued from page 13)

aspect: Horowitz and so many other Jewish musicians, singers, painters and all genres of creative talents were born and thrived in Ukraine. The list is imposing: violinists Jascha Heifetz, David Oistrakh, Nathan Milstein, Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern, Mischa Elman, Leonid Kogan, cellist Emanuel Feuerman, pianists Emil Gilels and Emanuel Ax, bass Alexander Kipnis, author Sholem Aleichem and many others. It is fascinating that such a concentration of artists whose influence is felt to this day all seemed to come from one region.

One explanation for such fertile centers of Jewish artistic activity like Odesa is that the Russian government had limited the right of Jewish residence to areas within the Pale of Settlement. In 1917 about 60 percent of all Jews under Russian rule lived in Ukraine. An interesting case in point is the recent rededication of the Great Synagogue in Kyiv. It had been closed by the Communist regime in 1926, turned into a theater, and was finally returned to the Jewish community in 1992 by independent Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk.

In Ukraine where there has been so much strife, anger and, yes, hatred, it is

noteworthy that so many of its people – Jews and Ukrainians alike – have so much in common. Yaakov Bleich, chief rabbi of Ukraine, sent a message for Leonid Kuchma's 1999 inauguration, praising the attention given to problems and issues that have meaning for the Jewish community of Ukraine: "Your notable achievement is inter-ethnic and inter-confessional peace and agreement in Ukraine ... The Jews of Ukraine obtained the ability to revive their national life, their religion and culture only in an independent Ukraine. Once again, synagogues are being built in Ukraine, doors are being opened to Jewish schools, theaters, cultural centers ..."

If Albert Einstein can be identified as a German physicist, why shouldn't Vladimir Horowitz and other great artists be identified as Ukrainian musicians? This international contest for young pianists is a wonderful opportunity to communicate with people joined by their love of classical music. After all, musicians have no language barriers and can always understand each other. The fruitful benefits from connections inspired by such a competition dedicated to the memory of Horowitz will extend much further than immediately apparent.

Adrian Bryttan's e-mail address is a.bryttan@att.net.



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Traditional Ukrainian folk dancing and ballet for intermediate and advanced students ages 8-18
Room and board: UNA members \$580.00, non-members \$630.00
Insurance \$30.00 per child, Instructor's fee \$225.00
Director Roma Pryma Bohachevsky

UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE CAMP II - SUNDAY, AUGUST 5 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Traditional folk dancing and ballet for beginners, intermediate and advanced dancers ages 7-16
Room and board: UNA members \$580.00, non-member \$630.00
Insurance \$30.00 per child, Instructor's fee \$225.00
Director Roma Pryma Bohachevsky
Instructors and assistants: Boris Bohachevsky, Andriy Cybyk, Krissi Izak, Orlando Pagan
Attendance limited to 60 students staying at resort and 10 students staying off premises.

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CAMP I Sunday, July 22 - Saturday, July 28
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CAMP III Sunday, August 5 - Saturday, August 11
CAMP IV Sunday, August 12 - Saturday, August 18 (this session depending on enrollment)
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Instructor's fee \$100.00; sessions limited to 45 students
Insurance \$30.00 per child per week

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Ancient/new...

(Continued from page 7)

ducer and the recording engineer of this and previous Paris to Kyiv albums. In Canada, he is also known for discovering Chantal Kreviazuk, as well as up-and-coming pop and country artists. He is also an accomplished composer and lyricist and a Juno Award winner (Canada's Grammys). He presented "The Bridge: The Musical," the Ukrainian-flavored rock opera, written and composed in Winnipeg last fall and is searching for more backers to take the show on the road.

Mr. Schur cannot praise Ms. Kochan more: "Alexis has one of the clearest visions of the scope of Ukrainian music, not just historically, but also as it relates to contemporary society. She is singlehandedly attempting to de-ghettoize Ukrainian musical traditions into a true world music context. Her execution of the vision is first-rate in everything from the passion of her singing and choice of world-class musicians, right down to the last details of the individual pieces on the CD."

The admiration is mutual, because Ms. Kochan says "Danny has a very very good set of ears, brilliant technically. In the studio, he understands enough Ukrainian and hears the words and tells me if I am vocally on the right track. He is a feedback system for me. We do the mix together. His ears are great, he hears everything - things I do not hear at all. He also masters the whole thing."

At the center of this mass of talent is Ms. Kochan, with not only a lush honeyed voice, but the love, knowledge, passion and drive to get this music across to the whole world. This North-end Winnipeg kid chose to give up her career in psychology, just a bit before finishing her Ph.D., to pursue her passion of singing and promoting old Ukrainian music.

On a 1978 visit to Ukraine with the Oleksander Koshetz Choir of Winnipeg, Ms. Kochan had a revelation that Ukrainian folk and ritual music was to be her life. She was so moved in being in Kyiv, in her ancestral homeland, that she decided to return there to study music. She and her husband, Nestor Budyk, spent a year in Kyiv studying with the Veriovka company.

Even though she had been surrounded by Ukrainian folk songs at home and does not remember ever not singing, "this Canadian kid did not have a sense of being Ukrainian, did not know songs that were 3,000 years old," she says. Ms. Kochan remembers weeping along with the rest of the audience at a Nina Matviyenko concert, listening to an ancient lament. A few decades later, on the upcoming album, she sings her own version of a lament. In Kyiv she was drawn to the ancient pre-Christian ritual songs, wondering why she had not heard them before.

Soon after returning to Winnipeg, she collaborated with Arthur Polson on her the album "Czarivna." Mr. Polson arranged the music and composed interludes to this album of wedding, Kupalo, obzhynky, and winter-cycle songs. Anatoliy Avdiyevsky, the director of Veriovka, remarked that Mr. Polson must have had some Ukrainian in him to capture the essence of these songs.

Why the name Paris to Kyiv? During her first trip to Kyiv, just after Paris, Ms. Kochan thought of how Kyiv could have been the Paris of the East, were it not for history. "I realized how powerless we have been for centuries. I like to think I'm helping people to come alive again," she said.

The first Paris to Kiev [sic] album was released in 1994 with Nestor Budyk on accordion, Alexander (Sashko) Boytchuk, an internationally renowned jazz saxophonist and clarinetist, and Petro Yourashuk, fiddler and wind instrumentalist extraordi-

naire. This album was a wonderful fusion of Ukrainian and Ukrainian Canadian music and musicians. Paris to Kyiv Variances (1996) expanded the horizons of this "new" ancient Ukrainian music with the present ensemble of Mr. Kytasty, Mr. Colledge, Mr. Moody, Harry Zacharias (udu drum) and Evans Coffee (congas and djembe). This album expanded the group's audience and was featured often on various CBC programs and in films. A reviewer noted that it "weaves together pre-Christian ritual songs and harmonies inspired by folk polyphony, with fragments of medieval chant and with contemporary influences from polytonality to jazz in a multi-layered fabric of voices and instruments."

Ms. Kochan and Mr. Kytasty are musical soul-mates. They equally understand, respect and love Ukrainian music. This mutual benevolent obsession is obvious in their work on the albums and on stage. The two have collaborated also in print.

They are proud to have expanded the listing on Ukrainian music in the second edition of "Rough Guide to World Music" from two paragraphs to a few pages. They have performed together, and at times with the whole ensemble, in Europe, throughout Canada and in the United States. In the last years Paris to Kyiv was featured at the Embassy of France in Washington, the Showcase of Culturally Diverse and First Nations Artists (at Harbourfront Centre, sponsored by the Council for the Arts), the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec, the World Music Institute in New York and the Carpenter Center in California. In May 2000 the ensemble was featured in Los Angeles in "Night Songs from a Neighboring Village: Traditional and Ukrainian and New Jewish Music," along with Brave New World. On the same trip they performed at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Paris to Kyiv has a website (www.paristokyiv.com) designed by Ron Sawchuk, a descendant of

Ukrainian pioneers in Canada. He is also an accomplished painter; an adaption of his commissioned painting inspired by the music is the album cover for "Prairie Nights and Peacock Feathers."

The title of the album recognizes the blend of the music which after more than a century has become Canadian, from the heartland of Canada settled by Ukrainians; and refers to the peacocks mentioned in the pre-Christian koliadky still sung in Canada and recorded on this and other albums.

All the musicians are prairie musicians, very affected by the Ukrainian Canadians here. Ms. Kochan feels that this new album defines the Canadian prairies, that it is the definitive prairie project connected to the Ukrainian steppes.

In addition to being the producer of her albums, Ms. Kochan is also the distributor, heading her company Olesia Productions. She says she would like to have a major distributor for her albums, but wants control over the quality. She has often been compared to Loreena McKennitt, another Manitoban, in her musical style and independent marketing. To this writer, however, Ms. Kochan's music is much more vibrant and varied. In addition to being extremely talented and knowledgeable, she knows what she wants and works intently towards her goals. She loves this music and wants to bring it to as many people in the world as possible.

For the future, Ms. Kochan hopes to continue recording and performing, and one dream is to perform in Ukraine. While planning her tour to Ukraine and other parts of Europe, she explains that she doesn't want to make a penny on this, but just wants to go there to give the people hope that this Ukrainian music from Ukraine will enter the world music scene.

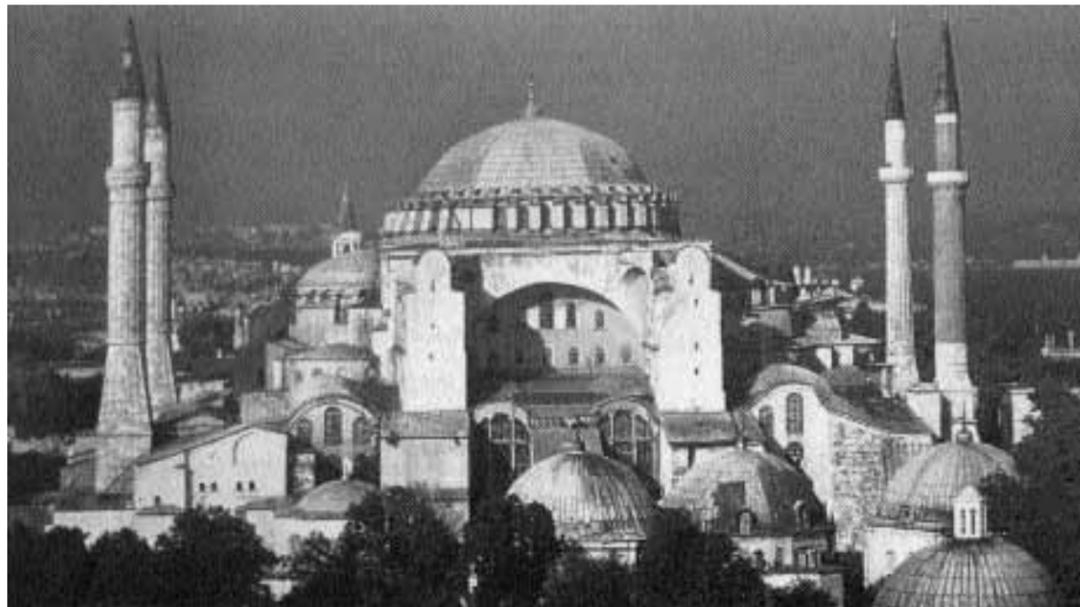
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UNA executive officers...

(Continued from page 1)

quarter of the year due to the commission paid on the leasing of new space but will be profitable in the next several quarters, the treasurer noted. There is only one mortgage still in foreclosure.

National Secretary Lysko reported on the organizing efforts of UNA branches and districts as of the end of April 2001, which resulted in a total of 165 new members enrolled for a total of \$3,634,000 in insurance coverage and annual premiums of \$56,342.13.

Fifty-eight secretaries organized 165 members. Top organizers by premium amount were: Helen Karachevsky, \$7,253; Oksana Trytjak, \$7,012.50; and Myron Pylypiak, \$6,036.15. Mrs. Lysko stated: "We appreciate and thank all the branch secretaries for their efforts."

From January to the end of April the UNA offered a special 7 percent rate on new annuities. This program netted a total of 10 annuities for the amount of \$155,000, reported the national secretary.

Four secretaries retired or resigned and were replaced with new secretaries: Ostap Zyniuk of Branch 15 retired and Anna Kerda is the new secretary; Olena Goy of Branch 194 stepped down and Oksana Lopatynsky was elected to replace her; Wolodymyr Hetmansky of Branch 374 retired and Stephanie Majkut replaced him; Donald Raishart of Branch 113 stepped down and Michael Shean was elected in his place.

Mrs. Lysko also noted that the annual meetings of UNA districts were scheduled and held in most major locations, and new insurance applications and annuity applications were introduced to all secretaries. Since January 2001, when all the UNA branches went on direct billing, she added, the Home Office has been struggling to collect members' addresses.

In January all delegates, branch secretaries, district chairpersons and General Assembly members received a copy of the minutes of the 1998 Convention. On March 1, as resolved by the convention, all delegates and current General Assembly members received voting packets to vote on the proposed change to the UNA By-Laws.

Finally, the national secretary reported that letters regarding dividends and the required privacy letters were sent to all members in June.

Ms. Dydyk-Petrenko, second vice-president, reported that her work on Soyuzivka summer programs had intensified in the first quarter of the year. She tried to implement the decision of the Executive Committee to cut the number of Saturday night programs at Soyuzivka and still present an interesting summer for guests at the UNA resort.

The concert schedule for the summer is in place, she noted, adding that there is one free weekend due to a cancellation. That weekend can be filled with a new folk

group from Slovakia if the details can be worked out.

Ms. Dydyk-Petrenko also said she represented the UNA at the graduation ceremonies of the Ukrainian school in Washington and presented checks from the UNA to the graduates.

Director for Canada the Rev. Stasiw in his report expressed his opinion about direct billing in Canada. He further outlined the difficulties in electing a new district chairperson. He said he thinks that, in time, these difficulties will be overcome.

The report of First Vice-President Kuropas outlined his continued work with the Standing Committee on Soyuzivka in preparing a business plan for the resort. He further reported on his work in the Chicago District, which he continues to serve as chairman.

President Diachuk reviewed all aspects of the UNA's operations. Noting that the national secretary had presented the statistics for the Organizing Department, the president underlined that there are only 10 steady branch organizers. "We nevertheless need the efforts of many more secretaries, all General Assembly members, branch officers and individual members if we are to reach our quota this year." The situation in Canada is even more critical, she added, as there were only three new members in Canada this quarter. In 2000 the UNA had only 20 new applications in Canada.

The proposed changes to the UNA By-Laws were mailed to all convention delegates on March 1. The deadline for submission of votes was May 1. UNA Auditing Committee members met at the Home Office, picked up the ballots from the local post office box, opened the envelopes and counted all the votes. For the proposed changes there were 106 votes; 70 votes were cast against the change; three ballots were invalid. The required number of votes to change the By-Laws was 155, or two-thirds of the total of 233 eligible votes. As a result of that vote, the proposed changes to the UNA By-Laws did not pass. The results of the vote were already published in the UNA's official publications in May.

Regarding the Financial Department, the president noted that the surplus at the end of March 31 reached the sum of \$7,795,650 and showed an increase of \$1,004,584. This increase is largely due to a reduction on the foreign exchange reserve of \$900,481, as well as the higher gain from operations.

Both publications showed an increase of about \$10,000 in income each. The number of subscribers dropped by 110 for Svoboda and 85 for The Ukrainian Weekly. The 2001 UNA Almanac once again was very popular and made a profit of \$4,500 from sales; another \$10,500 came from donations.

The UNURC changed management as of June 1. The UNA hired HRA Management & Consulting Co. to be the new building manager. The company is located on the UNA's premises and its owner, Michael Halibej, is a UNA mem-

ber and an active member of the local Ukrainian American community.

Reporting on income and disbursements for Soyuzivka in the first quarter of the year, the president noted that first quarter disbursements exceeded last year's by \$30,591. Insurance and energy costs went up. There is only one senior in residence at Soyuzivka, therefore there is less rent. The UNA resort is still having problems with hiring summer help and will be advertising for more help. New Soyuzivka brochures are being mailed with all dues notices to members, added Mrs. Diachuk.

She also reported that since December of last year the UNA has been diligently working to pay many outstanding death claims and endowment matured policies. Attention is being focused on policyholders in New Jersey primarily since these will have to be escheated in the very near future.

This year 79 Saturday Ukrainian School graduates received \$50 each from the UNA. There were 10 schools that presented their graduate list. One \$500 check was awarded to a graduate of St. George Academy in New York and two checks of \$250 each were paid to Immaculate Conception High School in Michigan.

In discussing the recent report of Canada's Office of Superintendent of Financial Institutions regarding the UNA's Canadian operations, the executives touched upon the future of the UNA in Canada. Canadian insurance authorities, after reviewing the UNA's 2000 operations, wanted to know what the plans are for the future of Canadian business as they were concerned with the UNA's lack of growth in Canada.

It is apparent that times have changed and foreign companies in Canada fall under

greater regulations than before, President Diachuk stated. Many American companies and fraternal societies, both small and large, pulled out of Canada and no longer sell in the Canadian market.

In the report of the UNA's actuaries for year 2000, Bruce & Bruce gave some suggestions on how to resolve the Canadian situation, the president continued. There is a possibility that Canadian members could switch to paying their premiums in U.S. dollars. This would make them part of the UNA's business in the United States and would resolve the issue of regulation, reporting requirements and the Canadian dollar. Members in Canada would be Canadian members only for the purposes of carrying on fraternal activities and for branch association. The UNA thus would eliminate the costs of doing business in Canada and the negative impact the Canadian dollar has on its financial statements. These preliminary thoughts will be further explored at the annual session of the General Assembly in December and the upcoming convention in 2002.

Mr. Kuropas reported on the work of the Standing Committee on Soyuzivka. The committee members have been working on a business plan for Soyuzivka and explored various options. In discussions with the consultants they agreed to consider looking for a partner. There is still the possibility of working with a hotel management school. The UNA needs to know how much support it can get from the Ukrainian community. The consensus was that, in order to approach the Ukrainian community for support, the UNA must have a sound business plan with financial projections before any solid Ukrainian organization would be interested in the Soyuzivka project as a partner.



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SUMMER PROGRAM 2001

Saturday, July 21

8:30 p.m. - First Place Winners, Makovytska Struna (Eastern Slovakia)

10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. - Zabava - music by VIDLUNNIA

Friday, July 27

10 p.m. - MIDNIGHT BIGUS at Trembita Lounge

Saturday, July 28

8:30 p.m. - DUMKA

10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. - Zabava - music by MONTAGE

Saturday, August 4

8:30 p.m. - Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Recital

10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. - Zabava - music by SWITANOK

Sunday, August 5

UNWLA Day

Saturday, August 11

MISS SOYUZIVKA CONTEST

10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. - Zabava - music by TEMPO

Saturday, August 18

8:30 p.m. - Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Recital

10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. - Zabava - music by FATA MORGANA

Saturday, August 25

9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. - Zabava - music by THE LEGEND

Friday, August 31

9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. - Zabava - music by VECHIRKA

Saturday, September 1

8:30 p.m. - Yunist Dance Ensemble, Yonkers

10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. - Zabava - music by TEMPO, VECHIRKA

Sunday, September 2

9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. - Zabava - music by ZOLOTA BULAVA

VIDLUNNIA will play for you every Friday evening from July 13 to August 24 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

countries, Interfax reported. The two sides signed five bilateral accords, including on customs cooperation and cooperation between business organizations. Mr. Tarlev pledged to pay off some \$900,000 in railroad transport debts to Ukraine and to decrease railway tariffs for Ukrainian cargo loads through Moldova to the Ukrainian port of Reni. Meanwhile, Russian-Ukrainian talks about the coupling of both countries' power grids – which was agreed on in February by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Russian President Vladimir Putin – have ended in deadlock. According to ITAR-TASS, Kyiv does not want to lift restrictions on Russian electricity supplies or discuss commercial terms of Russian electricity transit through Ukraine to third countries. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Economy minister is appointed

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has appointed Oleksander Shlapak as economy minister, thus filling the last vacancy in Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh's Cabinet, Interfax reported on July 10. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Shlapak was vice minister of the economy. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine, Tajikistan sign accords

KYIV – Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and his Tajik counterpart, Imomali Rakhmonov, on July 6 signed 12 documents on bilateral cooperation in economy, trade and science, including a friendship treaty, Interfax reported. The presidents also decided to create a joint economic commission. President Kuchma said Ukraine is ready to develop Tajikistan's rich natural deposits, while President Rakhmonov noted that Tajikistan is interested in cooperation in the energy, agricultural and aluminum industry sectors. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada OKs amnesty for 35,000 convicts

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on July 5 passed an amnesty bill providing for the release of some 35,000 convicts from prison, Interfax reported. The bill, which applies mainly to women and those convicted of non-violent crimes, was adopted as a prelude to celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence on August 24, 1991. According to official data, there are some 227,000 prisoners in Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

NATO-sponsored exercise held in Odesa

ODESA – Some 1,500 officers from 12 countries on July 6 started the NATO-sponsored exercise Sea Breeze 2001 in the Black Sea port of Odesa, the Associated Press reported. The exercise – which includes three stages of computerized, sea and coastal training involving seven Ukrainian vessels, a U.S. Coast Guard ship and a Turkish landing ship, as well as military planes and helicopters – was to continue through July 16. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Romania protests Ukrainian drilling

BUCHAREST – The Romanian Foreign Affairs Ministry on June 19 protested an announcement by Ukraine that it intends to start drilling in search of oil in the vicinity of Serpents' Island in the Black Sea, Romanian Radio reported. The ministry drew attention to the fact that, when signing the bilateral treaty between them in May 1997, both sides agreed to refrain from exploiting mineral resources in the disputed area around the island until the dispute is solved via negotiations. (RFE/RL Newsline)

New Russian tariff hits Ukraine hardest

MOSCOW – The Russian government has introduced a 30 percent tariff on potato and corn starch to protect domestic producers, a levy that will hit Ukraine more heavily than any other country, RIA-Novosti reported on July 9. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Committee to Protect...

(Continued from page 2)

Aleksandrov became well-known in 1998 when prosecutors brought a criminal case against him for insulting the honor and dignity of parliamentary delegate Oleksander Leschynsky. The journalist had publicly referred to Leschynsky as a "vodka king" whose business caused human suffering. The Slaviansk city court found the journalist guilty and banned him from practicing journalism for five years.

In late 1998 the court decided to review its decision after receiving a barrage of criticism from Ukrainian journalists and international human rights organizations.

Leschynsky withdrew his defamation complaint against Aleksandrov last year. That removed the immediate legal threat, but did not clear the journalist's name, since his conviction was still technically under review. Claiming damage to his professional reputation, Aleksandrov

appealed to the European Court of Human Rights.

As a non-partisan organization of journalists dedicated to the defense of our colleagues around the world, CPJ is deeply disturbed by this murder, particularly in light of the unresolved investigation into the murder of Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze in September 2000, along with other cases that in our view demonstrate a broad and ongoing effort to silence independent journalists in Ukraine.

We demand a thorough investigation into the murder of Ihor Aleksandrov so that the perpetrators may be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We also urge Your Excellency to hold Donetsk regional officials and Slaviansk city officials accountable for the investigation's progress.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We await your reply.

Sincerely,
Ann Cooper
Executive Director

AHRU notes...

(Continued from page 2)

under Principle VII "to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of religion, thought, conscience, assembly, press, etc." By using heavy-handed measures against its youth, Ukraine's government runs a risk of being criticized and judged by public opinion.

We are appealing to you and to members of your government to curb these strong-arm tactics by security agents and to release the imprisoned students. Since

the whole world is carefully watching the events and developments in Ukraine, it behooves you to be magnanimous and lenient toward young individuals who, albeit with youthful zeal, are nevertheless idealistic and wish for improvements in Ukraine.

We look forward not only to progress and improvement of the economy in Ukraine but to adherence and respect for human rights as well.

Yours in the struggle,
Walter Bodnar, Vice-President
Bozhena Oshaniwsky, President



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 23

HILLSIDE, N.J.: Religious Education classes for children will begin shortly before the 9 a.m. Sunday liturgy at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, Liberty Avenue and Bloy Street. The program is targeted for children from kindergarten through Grade 8. Classes will be held on particular Sundays. For further details, contact either Joe Shatynski, (973) 599-9381, or Mike Szyphulsky, (908) 289-0127 by August 5. Additional information

may be found at the parish website: www.byzantines.net/immaculateconception

ADVANCE NOTICE

Friday-Sunday, August 3-5

ELLENVILLE, N.Y.: The 26th annual Verkhovyna Youth Festival will be held this year at Oselia SUM. A stage show, exhibits, dances and Ukrainian food will be featured. Look for further details in the press.

REMINDER REGARDING REQUIREMENTS:

There is a **\$10 charge per submission** for listings in Preview of Events. The listing plus payment must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. There is also the option of prepayment for a series of listings.

Listings of **no more than 100 words** (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Information sent by fax should include a copy of a check, in the amount of \$10 per listing, made out to The Ukrainian Weekly. The Weekly's fax number is (973) 644-9510.

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Ukraine's cyclists to compete in Pennsylvania

TRAXLERTOWN, Pa. – A Ukrainian team will compete in the 2001 World Junior Cycling Championships at the Lehigh Valley Velodrome in Trexlertown, Pa., on July 25-29.

The eight-member Ukrainian team, which is led by 2000 World Champion Volodymyr Dyudya and includes one female team member, Sofiya Pryshohpa, will compete against teams from 25 countries.

The opening ceremony begins on Wednesday, July 25, at 7:30 p.m., and the closing ceremony will take place on Sunday, July 29, at 1 p.m.

The Ukrainian Olympic Committee is requesting financial support to help cover some of the hotel and transportation costs.

For more information about the event, which is open to the public, contact the Lehigh Valley Velodrome at (610) 967-7587.

At Soyuzivka: July 21

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The ensemble Makovytska Struna, first-prize winners of the annual folk music competition held in eastern Slovakia, will be the featured performers at Soyuzivka, the resort of the Ukrainian National Association, on Saturday, July 21.

The group, which is affiliated with the Association of Rusyns-Ukrainians of Slovakia, based in Presov (Priashiv), will

perform unique folks songs from that region. The appearance is part of the ensemble's U.S. tour.

The 10-member ensemble, whose members range in age from 17 to 46, will perform in the Veselka auditorium in a special concert beginning at 8:30 p.m.

For information about Soyuzivka programs or to book accommodations, call the resort at (845)-626-5641.

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The next issue of The Ukrainian Weekly's

Wedding Announcements

will appear in September 2001.

For a wedding announcement to be included in the July issue, all information must be received in our offices by August 24.

Along with wedding announcements, we will include greetings from friends, family members, bridesmaids and ushers – from all those who wish to share in the excitement of a new marriage.

We hope you will announce your wedding in The Ukrainian Weekly, or send a greeting to your favorite newlyweds.

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