

INSIDE:

- Election precincts for Ukrainian citizens in U.S. — page 3.
- Community groups welcome Ukraine's new envoy — page 10.
- The language issue and elections in Ukraine — page 11.

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

U.S. grants Ukraine market economy status

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The U.S. government on February 17 announced it had granted Ukraine market economy status, thereby sharply improving the country's chances for World Trade Organization (WTO) membership this year.

Ukraine earned the status on February 1, said David Sampson, U.S. deputy secretary of commerce, who was in Kyiv for meetings with Ukrainian government officials regarding bilateral trade and investment relations.

"This determination reflects the impressive economic developments that have occurred in Ukraine over the past several years," Mr. Sampson said.

"We are committed to working together to achieve Ukraine's accession to the WTO," he said. "As a member of WTO, Ukraine would become partners in an ever-expanding group of nations that favor democratic and free-market economic values. This would open up potentially vast opportunities for local businesses, and would attract major industrial players."

Along with the status, Ukraine will

face less stringent anti-dumping criteria, an improved international credit rating and lower borrowing costs, said Borys Tarasyuk, Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs.

It will also help to repeal the Jackson-Vanik amendment, a law passed by the U.S. Congress in 1974 placing trade restrictions on the Soviet Union because it forbid Jews from emigrating.

In granting Ukraine market economy status the U.S. Commerce Department considered six primary criteria: the extent of currency convertibility, free bargaining for wage rates, foreign investment, government ownership or control of production and government control over the allocation of resources and other appropriate factors.

"While there is no direct link between receiving market economy status and entering the WTO, this is evidence that Ukraine is moving closer to that goal," said Mr. Tarasyuk.

WTO membership would create "potentially vast opportunities for local businesses and attract major industrial players," Mr. Sampson said.

(Continued on page 14)

Massive real estate scam uncovered in Ukraine's capital

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – A massive real estate scam that snared thousands of Kyiv apartment investors has unraveled in recent weeks, causing public outrage and revealing the instability of Ukraine's precarious investment climate.

With the hope of obtaining a brand new apartment, average Ukrainians

invested most, if not all, of their savings with Elite-Center, a real estate development company that claimed to have been working on seven simultaneous construction projects in Kyiv.

Instead, Elite-Center's business partners conducted construction at one site while collecting money for others, in some cases selling the same apartment as many as five

(Continued on page 15)



Zenon Zawada

Yulia Tymoshenko supporters hold a sign that says, "Omelchenko, Answer For This!" in front of the Kyiv City Council building on February 17 as part of a protest against conditions that allowed thousands to become victims of a multi-million-dollar real estate scam.

Ukraine's ice dancers earn bronze

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukrainian ice dancers Elena Grushina and Ruslan Goncharov won the bronze medal at the Winter Olympics on Monday, February 20, becoming the first ice dancers from Ukraine to win an Olympic medal.

They were bested by the Russian pair of Tatyana Navka, a native of Ukraine, and Roman Kostomarov, who won the gold medal; and Americans Tanith Belbin and Benjamin Agosto, who took silver.

The husband-and-wife duo of Ms. Grushina, 31, and Mr. Goncharov, 33, who hail from Odesa, were congratulated by President Viktor Yushchenko. The couple began ice dancing together in 1990. At the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City they placed ninth.

Earlier President Yushchenko had offered his congratulations to Ukraine's first medalist at the Games, Lilia Efremova, who earned a bronze in the women's 7.5-kilometer sprint of biathlon. A resident of Sumy, Ms. Efremova, 28, is Ukraine's 2005 champion in biathlon.

According to Ukrinform, in his message to Ms. Efremova Mr. Yushchenko expressed his hope that her medal-winning performance on February 16 would serve as a good beginning for further achievements by Team Ukraine in Torino.

Ms. Efremova also competed in the 10-kilometer pursuit of biathlon, placing eighth.

Other top-10 finishers for Ukraine dur-

ing the second week of Olympic competition included: an eighth-place finish in the cross-country skiing's 4x5-kilometer relay earned by the women's team of Kateryna Grygorenko, Tatjana Zavalij, Vita Jakimchuk and Valentyna Shevchenko; and a seventh-place finish in biathlon's 4x7.5-kilometer relay earned by the men's foursome of Olexander Bilanenko, Andriy Deryzemlya, Alexei Korobeynikov and Ruslan Lysenko.

(For complete Olympic results, see page 9.)

Also of interest to Ukrainians around the globe is the performance of U.S. figure skater Sasha Cohen, 21, a native of California whose Odesa-born mother, Galina, emigrated to the United States with her parents in the 1970s.

After the short program on February 21, Ms. Cohen was in first place, leading by three-hundredths of a point over Irina Slutskaya of Russia. Ms. Cohen skated her short program to the music of the Russian folk song "Dark Eyes." The long program of the competition was scheduled for February 23.

Ms. Cohen is known in the Ukrainian community for her participation in a 2001 figure-skating show benefiting the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (today known as the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund) that was organized by Olympic and World figure skating champion Viktor Petrenko of Ukraine.

450 attend Bishop Chomnycky's installation as Stamford eparch

by Irene Jarosewich

STAMFORD, Conn. – The chapel inside St. Basil's Ukrainian Catholic College Seminary, as well as a nearby auditorium, were overflowing as more than 450 people attended the installation of the new leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, Paul Patrick Chomnycky, OSBM, at the eparchy's estate on February 20.

"What kind of people are you," exclaimed one astounded Latin-rite Catholic attending the service for the new eparch of Stamford, "that you can bring together three cardinals and more than 40 bishops for the installation a new bishop?"

And indeed it was an impressive and powerful gathering of spiritual leaders – a testament not only to the immense loyalty and deep respect former Stamford Eparch Bishop Basil Losten and current Patriarch of Kyiv-Halych and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar receive from their brothers-in-Christ, but a reflection of the

desire to graciously and warmly welcome a new Church leader, as well.

Besides Cardinal Husar, the two other cardinals attending the enthronement service were Cardinal Edward Egan of New York City and Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia. Also present were 19 Latin-Rite Catholic bishops from Maine to Maryland and 18 bishops from Byzantine-rite Churches worldwide, including the Ukrainian, Armenian, Romanian and Carpatho-Rusyn Churches, as well as Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

More than a hundred clergy, nuns, monks and seminarians also came to welcome the new bishop of Stamford.

Joining them were representatives of Ukrainian community organizations, including Ukrainian National Association President Stefan Kaczaraj, Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America President Michael

(Continued on page 8)

ANALYSIS

Vladimir Putin's former colleagues are Russia's energy strategy "team"

by Roman Kupchinsky
RFE/RL Newsline

For a glimpse into Russian President Vladimir Putin's views on energy and foreign policy, one need look no further than his years in St. Petersburg in the 1990s. The key players in Russia's energy industry today, in fact, are Mr. Putin's former colleagues and mentor from that time.

Mr. Putin, who had already spent more than 15 years as a Federal Security Service (FSB) agent, returned to school, studying at the St. Petersburg Mining Institute. One of the most prestigious academic institutions in Russia, it traces its history back to 1773. Since 1994 its rector has been Vladimir Litvinenko, who also serves as a member of the government's newly created Fuel and Energy Commission.

Mr. Litvinenko was rector when a 44-year-old Mr. Putin in 1997 defended his doctoral dissertation examining how natural resources can contribute to regional economies and strategic planning.

Two years later, Mr. Putin, then the director of the FSB, wrote an article for the Mining Institute's journal titled "Mineral Natural Resources In The Development Strategy For The Russian Economy."

In it, Mr. Putin posited that hydrocarbons were key to Russia's development and the restoration of its former power. He argued that the most effective way to exploit this resource was through state regulation of the fuel sector, and by creating large and vertically integrated companies that would work

in partnership with the state.

Mr. Putin formulated most of his energy views while working in the St. Petersburg Mayor's Office, where he headed the Foreign Economic Relations Department. His colleagues in that office included: Aleksei Miller, now chief executive of the state-controlled Gazprom monopoly; Dmitry Medvedev, the head of the presidential administration, a deputy prime minister, and chairman of the board of directors at Gazprom; and Igor Sechin, a man with ties to the former KGB, who is currently the deputy head of Mr. Putin's administration, as well as the chairman of the board of directors at the state-owned oil company Rosneft.

As the St. Petersburg team rose in prominence, so too did the influence of the Mining Institute and its director, Mr. Litvinenko. The institute is now a compulsory stop for Russian and German energy leaders visiting St. Petersburg. The institute's official website notes that it has received delegations from Germany's Wintershall gas company – a close Gazprom ally – as well as the board of directors of Gazprom subsidiary Surgutgazprom, and Vagit Alekperov, the head of LUKoil.

Mr. Litvinenko is also believed to have played a role in the drafting of Russia's 2003 energy strategy, which defined the role of energy as a tool of Russian state policy. Some observers have even suggested Mr. Litvinenko would be an appropriate candidate to

(Continued on page 16)

Turkmenistan's price demands imperil Moscow-Kyiv gas deal

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFERL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Russian Industry and Energy Minister Viktor Khristenko was in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi last week when he commented on a decision by the Turkmen leadership to raise the price of natural gas. But his words may have had the greatest impact all the way back in Kyiv, where they came as a grim reminder Ukraine's gas woes are far from over.

To backtrack, Turkmenistan President Saparmurat Niyazov, otherwise known as "Turkmenbashi," declared on February 11 that he intended to raise the price of natural gas from \$65 to \$100 per 1,000 cubic meters this autumn.

On February 16 Mr. Khristenko said that decision meant a necessary adjustment in the prices Kyiv will pay for its gas supplies under the terms of the deal struck in January by Russia and Ukraine, ending a pricing dispute that saw temporary shut-offs in supplies of Russian gas not only to Ukraine but to a livid Western Europe as well.

Under the deal, Ukraine this year is to receive 34 billion cubic meters for \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters from an intermediary, RosUkrEnergo, which in turn will purchase gas from Russia's Gazprom, as well as from Turkmenistan, which accounts for nearly one-half of Ukraine's deliveries from Russia.

But "everything is changing," Interfax cited Mr. Khristenko as saying. "And even the fixed-price formula for

RosUkrEnergo may fluctuate depending on the situation on the market."

"Mr. Niyazov's position is predictable," Mr. Khristenko said. If Turkmenistan raises the gas price, he continued, the gas price formula for Ukraine will necessarily change as well.

The developments prompted a Ukrainian delegation comprising Fuel and Energy Minister Ivan Plachkov and Naftohaz Ukrayiny head Oleksandr Ivchenko – who negotiated the January accord with Russia's Gazprom and RosUkrEnergo – to travel on February 17 to Turkmenistan in hopes of clarifying the situation.

From Kyiv's point of view, the gas deal left a lot to be desired. The terms are set for only the first six months of 2006, and questions about RosUkrEnergo and its shadowy role as middleman in the gas delivery chain have lent even greater uncertainty to the fate of the highly criticized accord.

Speaking in Madrid on February 7, Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that Ukraine, not Russia, insisted on keeping RosUkrEnergo in the deal. But subsequent statements by officials in Ukraine appear to indicate the opposite. John Herbst, the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, on February 16 criticized the inclusion of the middleman company.

"RosUkrEnergo is a suspicious organization, and it is difficult to understand why it plays such a significant role in such an important agreement," Mr. Herbst said, according to Ukrinform. Ambassador Herbst's statement was the latest in a series of critical remarks made by U.S. officials about the company in recent weeks.

(Continued on page 16)

NEWSBRIEFS

Yushchenko on Ukrainian language

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko congratulated Ukraine's citizens on the occasion of International Mother Language Day on February 21, the presidential press service reported. The president said in his address to the nation that the Ukrainian language is re-emerging as the language of a big European nation. "The Ukrainian word is spoken with dignity and on the world's highest rostrums. It is admired and worshipped," he remarked. "I am convinced that a nation respecting its language can respectfully treat the languages of their neighbors. Ukraine has become a home to many nationalities. We understand that we are responsible for our country's linguistic diversity and ready to preserve and develop the cultural peculiarities and distinctiveness of our citizens. It ensures Ukraine's social harmony and democratic development," the president's greeting said. In accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, the Ukrainian language is the state language, but Russian and other minority languages are guaranteed free development, use and protection. The law on languages guarantees the right of all citizens to petition state and other entities in their native languages. (Ukrinform)

Pynzenyk did not resign post

KYIV – Ukrainian Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk has not submitted his resignation, but has gone on an "election holiday," the Finance Ministry's press service officially stated on February 16. "Finances Minister Pynzenyk officially went on leave until the end of the election campaign," the official statement said. That morning, some news agencies, referring to the Finance Ministry sources, reported that Mr. Pynzenyk had submitted an application for resignation in the period between February 13 and 16 to Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, explaining that he disapproved of the mechanism for the settlement of Ukrainian-Russian gas issues. The resignation was confirmed also by some politicians, in particular, by the minister's election bloc colleague

Volodymyr Filenko. Prime Minister Yekhanurov, on a visit to Poland, has confirmed that Mr. Pynzenyk is on holiday leave. (Ukrinform)

Poland acts on pipeline project

WARSAW – Polish Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz and his Ukrainian counterpart, Yurii Yekhanurov, on February 16 in Warsaw signed a joint declaration on government assistance to the Odesa-Brody-Plock pipeline project, Interfax reported. Mr. Marcinkiewicz said the project will be a part of Poland's energy security strategy and that within the next two months the Polish government will take all necessary measures to ensure the venture is profitable. Mr. Yekhanurov said the agreement opens the way to stop within 90 days the pumping of oil toward, rather than away from, the port in Odesa. The extension of the Odesa-Brody pipeline to Poland is meant to help transport Caspian crude oil to Europe and to aid Poland in diversifying its energy supplies. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Replacement sought for RosUkrEnergo

KYIV – Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov said on February 16 that the government is seeking an agreement with Russia in order to replace the Swiss-based company RosUkrEnergo as the intermediary in the current deal to ship Russian gas supplies to Ukraine, Interfax reported. Mr. Yekhanurov said he has sent a request to Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov and that, if the Russian side also finds RosUkrEnergo unsuitable, "we are anticipating its replacement with pleasure, and Gazprom would be the best replacement." U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst the same day expressed surprise that RosUkrEnergo was playing a significant role in such an important agreement, adding that the United States views it as a suspicious organization. According to open data, RosUkrEnergo's revenue in 2005 was around \$3 billion, and yet its staff consisted of just 12 employees. "It would be

(Continued on page 12)

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Five election precincts set up in U.S. for Ukraine's voters

WASHINGTON – The Central Election Commission of Ukraine on February 2, released information about election precincts abroad for Ukrainian citizens voting in the Verkhovna Rada elections on March 26. To accommodate citizens of Ukraine living in the United States, there will be five precincts, as listed below.

- Foreign Election Precinct No. 92: Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S.A. (3350 M Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20007)

Precinct No. 92 includes: District of Columbia, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

- Foreign Election Precinct No. 93: Consulate General of Ukraine in New York (240 E. 49th St., New York, N.Y. 10017)

Precinct No. 93 includes: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

- Foreign Election Precinct No. 94: Consulate General of Ukraine in San Francisco (530 Bush St., Suite 402, San Francisco, Calif. 94108)

Precinct No. 94 includes: Arizona,

California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

- Foreign Election Precinct No. 95: Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago (10 E. Huron St., Chicago, Ill. 60611)

Precinct No. 95 includes: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

- Foreign Election Precinct No. 96: Under the auspices of the Consulate General of Ukraine in San Francisco, citizens of Ukraine will be able to vote at the administration building of the Ukrainian Baptist Church (25628 101st Ave. SE, Kent, Wash. 98030).

Precinct No. 96 includes: city of Kent.

For information regarding Ukraine's electoral process and the electoral rights of Ukrainian citizens, readers may visit the website of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine, <http://www.cvk.gov.ua>. They may also refer to the website of the Ukrainian Embassy in the U.S.A. <http://www.ukraineinfo.us/ukrainian/consular/election/election.html>.

Voting will be held on March 26 from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. local time at all the aforementioned locations.

Election Notebook

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

- KYIV – Any hopes of forming an Orange coalition during the parliamentary elections are virtually extinguished after former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko signed and submitted on February 21 her own version of an agreement which the other political blocs didn't agree to and aren't expected to sign.

The key points in Ms. Tymoshenko's proposal are cancellation of Ukraine's natural gas agreement with the Russian Federation and forbiddance of any Orange coalition member from forming a coalition with the Party of the Regions.

Our Ukraine bloc leaders aren't seriously considering uniting with her bloc, Ms. Tymoshenko said on February 22, charging that they are engaged in coalition discussions with the Party of the Regions instead.

She said she chose her course of action because she wanted to make clear which of her bloc's policies and proposals aren't supported by President Viktor Yushchenko.

Ms. Tymoshenko's coalition proposal is also a likely reaction to warnings in recent weeks from leaders of the Pora-

Reforms and Order Bloc that they will reveal which political forces are preventing the formation of an Orange coalition.

Ms. Tymoshenko said she believes the Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc is a political technology hatched by the Our Ukraine coalition to draw voters away from her bloc and carry out political operations against her.

- KYIV – Providing further verification that no Orange coalition will form during the campaigns, Socialist Party Chairman Oleksander Moroz said on February 22 that he won't sign any such agreement before the March 26 elections. He said forming an Orange coalition will only be possible after elections. "We carry with us the responsibility of the maidan not only before Ukraine, but also before Europe, which supported us," Mr. Moroz said in Brussels. "That's why we didn't go into opposition against [Viktor] Yushchenko and didn't submit to any projects that oppose the coalition to this day. "We stand against any revenge from those representing the prior government, and against those who demonstrate disap-

(Continued on page 15)

POLITICAL BLOC PROFILE: The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

During the 2006 parliamentary election campaign, *The Ukrainian Weekly* will profile the leading political blocs. This week's installment features the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc.

KYIV – With the Our Ukraine Bloc keeping all the symbols and slogans from the "maidan" (Independence Square) – the focal point of the Orange Revolution – Yulia Tymoshenko had to re-invent her image for the 2006 parliamentary campaign.

On occasion, she now appears in public without the braid that brought her worldwide adoration, letting down her thick, blond wavy hair to mesmerize onlookers.

Her bloc's symbol is a red heart against a white background.

In her images and words, she has cast herself as a fighter for justice against a corrupt establishment that forced her from power.

"Not a single person from the old or new government is held accountable by the law," she said at a February 20 press conference. "We have this tacit amnesty in which everyone is excused. And I am startled that our adolescent prisons are full of children who stole a can of condensed milk, but the guys who steal billions call this business."

Party leaders

Several political blocs in the election campaign are built around a single personality, with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc being the most obvious one.

If Ms. Tymoshenko were to leave politics, her bloc would evaporate and most of her votes would go to the Our Ukraine bloc, said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is exclusively financed by Ukrainian business donations.

It's her charismatic personality, combined with her image as a strong, patriotic leader, that draws voters to her, political experts said.

Ask her voters why they are supporting Ms. Tymoshenko, and they often repeat a popular adage that "only a woman will save Ukraine." In their view, Ms. Tymoshenko is the fulfillment of such a prophecy.

Her party's electoral list is an odd hodge-podge of nationalists, oligarchs and policy-makers, political experts said. In second and third place on the lists are her trusted confidants and advisors Oleksander Turchynov and Mykola Tomenko.

Like Ms. Tymoshenko, Mr. Turchynov is a Dnipropetrovsk native. He served as the chief of the

Security Service of Ukraine during her tenure as prime minister, while Mr. Tomenko served as her vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs.

Fourth on her list is Supreme Civil Court Judge Vasyl Onopenko, who is described in the Tymoshenko Bloc's campaign literature as someone who resisted a series of attempts by former President Leonid Kuchma's regime to get him to join its forces and serve its interests.

Former television news anchorman Andrii Shevchenko is fifth on the Tymoshenko Bloc's list. In 2005 Mr. Shevchenko became vice-president of Ukraine's national television and radio company, where he attempted to introduce reforms creating community-based programming.

It's likely that Mr. Shevchenko would like to reclaim leadership in the company and renew those attempts, political experts said.

Unlike the Our Ukraine Bloc, Ms. Tymoshenko makes no attempt to hide the nationalists in her bloc.

Nationalist icon Levko Lukianenko, who was a political prisoner in Soviet prisons and labor camps for 26 years, is sixth on her electoral list.

Ms. Tymoshenko frequently makes public appearances alongside Andrii Shkil, an outspoken supporter of nationalist causes such as recognition of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and former leader of the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self Defense (UNA-UNSO) paramilitary group.

Gongadze case crusader Hryhorii Omelchenko is seventh on the bloc's list.

Political strategy

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc was created with the union of her Batkivshchyna political party with Mr. Onopenko's Ukrainian Social-Democratic Party and Mr. Lukianenko's Sobor Ukrainian Republican Party.

Ms. Tymoshenko's political platforms have been widely described by political experts as populist and self-serving. Clear-cut policy positions are difficult to identify.

She supports Ukraine's integration into the European Union, yet Ms. Tymoshenko doesn't support membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization "until this idea gains broad public support," Mr. Tomenko said February 3.

Ms. Tymoshenko said she supports free market principles, yet as prime minister imposed price controls on such commodities as gasoline, sugar and meat, drawing criticism from the U.S. State Department and Western political experts.

For her harshest critics on her economic policy, such as Anders Aslund of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, Ms. Tymoshenko points to her leadership in the transparent and honest



The logo of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc.

reprivatization of the Kryvorizhstal steel mill. She also pointed out that her government repealed 5,000 laws that were created to benefit corrupt officials and businessmen.

The one critical issue in which Ms. Tymoshenko has demonstrated solid consistency has been defense of the Ukrainian language. She opposes official status for the Russian language.

Ms. Tymoshenko's delivers all her speeches and press conferences in Ukrainian, except when visiting the "blue oblasts," or those that voted for Viktor Yanukovich in the 2004 election.

With regard to domestic policy, Ms. Tymoshenko's opponents have labeled her as a populist, a description that most experts and academics, both Western and Ukrainian, are in full agreement with.

When the Verkhovna Rada approved her Cabinet's 2005 budget, she took special pride in declaring it Ukraine's most generous budget ever.

Campaign strategy

Amidst the tens of thousands of political ads to flood the airwaves of Ukrainian radio and television, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc has produced none. Instead, Ms. Tymoshenko spent her entire campaign traveling all across Ukraine and speaking to large audiences. The Tymoshenko Bloc has also produced many billboard advertisements, posting them throughout Ukraine.

Unlike the Our Ukraine and Party of Regions blocs, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc has stuck to one slogan: "There is justice, it's worth fighting for!"

Unlike the more self-restrained Our Ukraine campaign, Ms. Tymoshenko directly attacks the Party of the Regions and its leader Mr. Yanukovich, stating that among her campaign's goals is to convince his supporters that his party is the wrong choice for Ukraine.

(Continued on page 14)



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

2005 UNA organizing results

by **Christine E. Kozak**
National Secretary

Every year the Ukrainian National Association recognizes and awards branch secretaries, organizers and agents who have achieved a certain level of excellence in selling UNA life insurance and/or annuities. It is their hard work, persistence and dedication that enable the UNA to help support the fraternal benefits available to our members such as Svoboda, The Ukrainian Weekly and Soyuzivka.

During 2005, the UNA increased its in-force business by 307 life insurance policies for a total of \$7,046,000 in face amount, collecting \$121,135 in premiums or cash with application.

The most widely purchased product for 2005 was the 20-Payment Life, which is a whole life policy that is paid up in 20 annual payments. This product is permanent insurance, has a cash value that increases throughout the life of the policy, and the premiums never increase.

The UNA's annuity business increased

by 76 annuities for a total of \$1,607,933 collected with the applications. However, for first-year premiums in annuities the UNA collected a total of \$1,764,406.

The most popular annuity sold was the five-year annuity offering an interest rate of 4.5 percent. The UNA continues to offer excellent interest rates on both its short-and long-term annuity contracts.

The UNA would like to extend sincere thanks to each and every secretary and organizer for their loyalty to this fine organization, and congratulates all who actively participated in the sale of UNA products for year 2005. The dedication, commitment and persistence of these individuals helped not only the UNA but the many families who purchased these products. They now have the peace of mind that comes with knowing their families will have one less stressful situation with which to cope.

The selling of life insurance is not an easy task. Unfortunately, life insurance is an item that is more often than not on the bottom of a family's priority list. And,



Myron Pylypiak



Lubov Streletsky

when times are tough, it is usually the first item to be cut from the family budget.

This is why it is such a pleasure to announce the names of the UNA's top producers and to say thank you to these hard-working individuals who for the most part are volunteers and have been working for the benefit of the UNA and its membership for many years.

During the last quarter of 2005, the UNA held its Second Annual Life Insurance Awareness Drive for our branch secretaries.

I am very proud to announce the winner of this second annual drive: Stefan Hawrysz, longtime secretary of Branch 83, longtime Philadelphia District chairman, longtime and esteemed member of the UNA General Assembly. Mr. Hawrysz has dedicated over 50 years of service to the UNA.

A close second was Nick Diakiwsky, secretary of Branch 161, Pittsburgh District chairman and former member of the UNA General Assembly.

Congratulations and a big thank-you

to both gentlemen for an outstanding job.

The UNA is proud to announce the top five overall winners who collected the most life insurance premiums:

- Myron Pylypiak, secretary of Branch 496, member of the UNA General Assembly;

- Lubov Streletsky, secretary of Branch 10;

- Christine Brodyn, secretary of Branch 27, UNA professional sales staff, Home Office employee;

- Joseph Hawryluk, secretary of Branch 360, Buffalo District chairman, professional agent, member of the UNA General Assembly; and

- Oksana Trytjak, secretary of Branch 25, UNA professional sales staff, UNA national organizer.

The top five organizers who sold the most in life insurance face amount are:

- Christine Brodyn, secretary of Branch 27, UNA professional sales staff,

(Continued on page 5)

CONVENTION PRIMER: Branches, the basic building block of the UNA

The Ukrainian National Association is a fraternal benefit society founded in 1894 to provide for the well-being of "Ukrainians and their descendants." The UNA does this by providing life insurance and annuities to members and by using the profits earned from sales of these products to support fraternal activities that benefit members, as well as the entire Ukrainian community.

The basic building block of the UNA is the branch. When a person enrolls into the UNA, he or she is admitted to membership in the branch to which his/her application was submitted, or to which he/she is assigned by the UNA Home Office.

Enrolling in the UNA means filling out an application for an insurance policy or an annuity certificate. Certain types of life insurance policies require a medical exam before a prospective member is admitted into the UNA.

New branches may also be created. The UNA Manuals note that "Any 15 or more persons qualified for membership in accordance with the By-Laws of the UNA being desirous of becoming a Branch of this association shall hold a meeting and elect a temporary Branch President, Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer; adopt a resolution selecting a name and authorizing the officers so temporarily elected to make application for a charter."

The UNA Executive Committee must approve the new branch. Afterwards the approved branch receives a charter and official UNA materials.

In the past, such branches were created by persons having a common interest - participation in a sports club or membership in a youth organization, for example - or persons residing in the same area.

Today's UNA branches, however, are no longer confined to a particular city or even geographic area. Thus, a UNA branch based in, say, Jersey City, N.J., can have members from across the United States.

Since the UNA now does direct billing, which is managed by the Home Office in

Parsippany, N.J., the fact that a branch's members don't live in the same city does not pose a hindrance to collecting UNA dues (something that in the early days of the UNA was most likely to be done in person wherever Ukrainians gathered, be it in the church hall or at the local national home). Nonetheless, branch secretaries are charged with keeping track of their members and keeping them informed of branch meetings and other developments.

Branches send their delegates to quadrennial conventions of the Ukrainian National Association, the organization's highest decision-making body. Delegates are elected at branch meetings called within 60 days after the official announcement of the UNA convention. Thus, since the upcoming 36th Regular Convention of the UNA was announced on January 20, delegates, and their alternates, must be elected by March 20.

In accordance with the UNA By-Laws, each branch having 75 to 149 members is entitled to one delegate. Branches having 150 to 224 members have two delegates; those having 225 to 299 members have three delegates. Branches that have 300 or more members are entitled to four delegates, but no branch can have more than four delegates.

If a branch has less than 75 members it can unite with another branch that also has less than 75 members in order to elect a delegate to the convention. However, the two branches together must have no less than 75 members. The by-laws note: "Unless otherwise agreed by the mutual consent of the Secretaries of these Branches, the Branch having the greater or greatest number of members shall be entitled to elected the delegates, and the Branch having the lesser number of members, the alternate."

Thus, through the branch system, each member of the UNA is represented at the organization's conventions by his/her duly elected delegate or delegates.

- Roma Hadzewycz

2005 CLUB OF OUTSTANDING ORGANIZERS

(for enrollment of 25 to 49 new members)

Organizer	Members	Insurance Amount
Steve Woch	25	\$261,000

2005 CLUB OF UNA BUILDERS

(for enrollment of 10 to 24 new members)

Organizer	Members	Insurance Amount
Myron Pylypiak (Branch 496)	21	\$315,000
Joseph Hawryluk (Branch 360)	14	\$475,000
Stefan Hawrysz (Branch 83)	14	\$119,000
Valentina Kaploun (Branch 269)	13	\$172,000
Christine Brodyn (Branch 27)	11	\$2,145,000
Nadia Salabay (Branch 155)	11	\$273,000
Oksana Trytjak	10	\$495,000

2005 CLUB OF DEDICATED UNA'ers

(for enrollment of 5 - 9 new members)

Organizer	Members	Insurance Amount
Nick Diakiwsky (Branch 161)	8	\$90,000
Lubov Streletsky (Branch 10)	7	\$63,000
Nina Bilchuk	6	\$55,000
Motria Milanytch (Branch 450)	6	\$55,000
Marianna Cizdyn (Branch 55)	6	\$30,000
Stephan Welhasch	5	\$75,000
Eugene Oscislawski (Branch 234)	5	\$45,000
Stephanie Hawryluk (Branch 88)	5	\$25,000



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM



Christine Brodyn



Joseph Hawryluk



Oksana Trytjak

2005 UNA...

(Continued from page 4)

Home Office employee;

- Paulo Prinko, member of the UNA General Assembly;
- Oksana Trytjak, secretary of Branch 25, UNA professional sales staff, UNA national organizer;
- Joseph Hawryluk, secretary of Branch 360, Buffalo District chairman, professional agent, member of the UNA General Assembly; and
- Myron Pylypiak, secretary of Branch 496, member of the UNA General

Assembly.

The top five organizers who sold the largest number of policies are:

- Steven Woch, UNA professional sales staff, Home Office employee;
- Myron Pylypiak, secretary of Branch 496, member of the UNA General Assembly;
- Joseph Hawryluk, secretary of Branch 360, Buffalo District chairman, professional agent, member of the UNA General Assembly;
- Stefan Hawrysz, secretary of Branch 83, Philadelphia District chairman, member of the UNA General Assembly;

- Valentina Kaploun, UNA Home Office employee.

The top producers who collected the most in first-year premium annuities are:

- Steven Woch, UNA professional sales staff, UNA Home Office employee;
- Stephan Welhasch, Northern New Jersey District chairman, UNA professional sales staff, UNA Home Office employee;
- Joseph Chabon, secretary of Branch 242, Shamokin District chairman, professional agent;
- Joseph Hawryluk, secretary of Branch 360, Buffalo District chairman, UNA professional agent, member of the

UNA General Assembly; and

- Peter Hawrylcw, secretary of Branch 253.

The UNA would also like to acknowledge and say a special thank-you to the top three individuals who collected the most premiums for year 2005, both in life insurance and annuities combined:

- Steven Woch, UNA professional sales, Home Office employee: \$7,828 in insurance premiums; \$378,137 in annuity premiums; \$385,965 in total premiums.
- Stephan Welhasch, Northern New Jersey District chairman, UNA professional sales staff, Home Office employee: \$1,832 in insurance premiums; \$159,500 in annuity premiums; \$161,332 in total premiums.
- Joseph Chabon, secretary Branch 242, Shamokin District chairman, professional agent: \$459 in insurance premiums; \$35,360 in annuity premiums; \$36,000 in total premiums.

It is important to keep in mind that each and every life insurance policy or annuity sold is significant to the UNA. Every branch secretary is an important and integral part of the organization. Each UNA member is an important member and an integral part of our organization. Only by working together can we help ensure that the UNA will be here to help and support future generations.

Once again, I challenge all UNA secretaries and organizers to go out into your communities. Insure your family, your friends and your community. We need you! We need your help, and we need your commitment! Let us not forget that "The UNA and the community are partners for life."

The Brotherhood of Ss. Peter & Paul Branch 102 of the Ukrainian National Association

will hold its monthly and yearly meeting on
Sunday, March 12, 2006,
at 1:00 p.m.
at the home of

Nicholas Bobeczko, Financial Secretary
13971 Chippewa Trail
Middleburg Heights, OH 44130

We will elect a delegate to the 36th UNA Convention to be held at Soyuzivka on May 26-29, 2006.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE of UNA BRANCHES OF DETROIT, MI

announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on
Sunday, March 19, 2006, at 1:00 p.m.
at the Ukrainian Cultural Center
26601 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following branches:

20, 82, 94, 165, 174, 175, 292, 341

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

Meeting will be attended by:

Dr. Alexander J. Serafyn – UNA Auditor
Anatole Doroshenko – Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly

DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Dr. Alexander J. Serafyn, District Chairman
Roman Lazarchuk, Secretary
Alexandra Lawrin, Treasurer



HAVE YOU HEARD? PURCHASE A PREPAID 20-YEAR ENDOWMENT POLICY FROM THE UNA FOR \$2,287.26* AND I WILL RECEIVE A CHECK FOR \$5,000** JUST IN TIME FOR MY COLLEGE EDUCATION. WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? CALL THE UNA AT 1-800-253-9862 AND LET'S GET STARTED.

* FOR AGES 0 THROUGH 3 1/2 YEARS OLD

** MINIMUM FACE AMOUNT OF \$5,000

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Remembering Stalin

The news media recently took a look back at a historic event from 25 years ago: the "secret speech" delivered on February 25, 1956, by Nikita Khrushchev at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In that speech, Khrushchev denounced Stalin and the "cult of the personality" that surrounded him, and exposed the crimes perpetrated by the dictator against his own people.

At the same time that Khrushchev's historic act, which began a campaign of de-Stalinization, is being recalled, a museum devoted to Joseph Stalin is on the verge of opening in Volgograd, the "hero city" of World War II once known as Stalingrad. According to the Independent, a British newspaper, the project is being financed by local businessmen, but will be linked to the official complex that memorializes the Battle of Stalingrad.

The museum's curator was quoted by the Independent as saying of the project: "In France, people regard Napoleon and indeed the rest of their history with respect. We need to look at our history in the same way." Thus, the museum, which is scheduled to open in late March, will have the usual displays: Stalin's writing set, a reproduction of his office in the Kremlin, medals, photographs, a likeness of Stalin, etc.

The Independent also quoted the chairman of a local association of victims of political repression, Eduard Polyakov, as stating that the Stalin museum is an insult to the millions of victims of Stalin. "How can people spit into our souls like this?"

Western historians estimate that the number of people who died as a direct result of Stalin's regime is at least 20 million. Some 7 million to 10 million died in Ukraine alone during the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. And, there were 18 million who suffered in the gulag. Stalin's name is associated with purges, deportations, liquidations, show trials, terror, genocide.

And yet, he is revered. Many in Russia look back at his rule with nostalgia – nostalgia for a strong ruler of the USSR, then a superpower.

According to a poll conducted last year in Russia, Stalin is the most admired leader of the USSR. The Mirror of London reported that another poll revealed that 20 percent of respondents viewed Stalin's role in Russian history as "very positive," while another 30 percent said it is "somewhat positive." If that's not disturbing enough, a 16-year-old Moscow student told the Mirror: "Stalin is a great personality. He's like Abraham Lincoln. He's like the captain of a great state, the captain of a ship."

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has expressed concern about these developments: "We see Stalin's portraits and a sort of renaissance of [Stalinism] ... There are attempts to preserve Stalinism, and this is very serious." And, Former Politburo member Alexander Yakovlev said: "Stalin was an animal. ... But people are forgetting that. ... When it comes to their own history our population is completely ignorant."

That is a sentiment echoed by Khrushchev's great-granddaughter, Nina L. Khrushcheva. Writing in the February 11 issue of The Washington Post, she noted: "Deprived of national pride and their lifelong beliefs, Russians experienced the demise of the Soviet era as the end of empire and a sense of national identity. In a state of moral, material and physical despair, they yearned to feel better about themselves and their land. The image of Stalin, with his wise, mustachioed smile, filled the void."

Though Khrushchev "tried to begin the process of freeing Russia from Stalin's bloody past," she observed, "the nation never fully dealt with the crimes of Stalinism. Instead, the complexities of life in a fragmented modern society ... have made Russians nostalgic for the 'strong state' they once inhabited. It's a cycle that will keep on repeating itself until Russia finally and fully confronts its past."

If only the museum in Volgograd saw that as its goal...

March
3
2002

Turning the pages back...

Four years ago, our correspondent at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Editor Andrew Nynka, wrapped up his coverage of the Games by writing: "For all their effort and sacrifice prior to the start of the 19th Winter Olympiad in Salt

Lake City, Utah, Ukraine's athletes returned home disappointingly medal-less."

Following years of rigorous training and preparation for the games, the best result Ukraine's athletes could muster was a pair of fifth-place finishes in men's freestyle aerials and women's 30-kilometer cross-country skiing. However, the fifth place results came as a pleasant and unexpected surprise for the competitors, highlighting a bright spot in Ukraine's disappointing final medal count of zero.

In the men's freestyle aerials event, Stanislav Kravchuk (no relation to Ukraine's former president Leonid Makarovich) told The Weekly that he expected to do no better than sixth place, but was shooting to place in the top 10. "To be one of the top five in the world is a very amazing feeling for me. I did not expect it. I am very proud of my achievements and feel wonderful to be here competing with the best athletes in the world," the six-year national team veteran Kravchuk said of his performance upon moving up from 10th place to fifth in his final jump of competition.

In the women's 30-kilometer cross-country event it was Valentyna Shevchenko who, on the final day of Olympic competition, pulled a last-minute surprise out of her hat by taking fifth place in the women's endurance event with a time of 1:33:03.1. An Olympic veteran of the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, Shevchenko's best prior performance was a ninth place finish in the 4x5-kilometer relay and a prior career-best sixth place finish in the 5 kilometer classic at the 1999 World Championship.

In other events at the 2002 Olympics, Team Ukraine's athletes finished farther down the list, with the only other top-10 finishes being turned in by luger Lilia Ludan, who placed sixth; the men's 4x7.5 relay team in biathlon, which came in seventh; and ice dancers Elena Grushina and Ruslan Goncharov (whose names we then transliterated as Olena Hrushyna and Ruslan Honcharov), who took ninth place.

Source: "Ukraine's Olympians leave Salt Lake City medal-less," by Andrew Nynka, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 3, 2002, Vol. LXX, No. 9.

APPEALS TO OUR COMMUNITY

The 2006 Elections in Ukraine

Since Ukraine's proclamation of renewed independence in 1991, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) has been actively assisting the land of our forefathers to develop strong democratic principles and an open vibrant civic society. Especially important was the UCCA's appeal for a free, fair and open electoral process during Ukraine's turbulent presidential elections of 2004. We remained vigilant and sent to Ukraine the largest registered delegation of international election observers.

This year, Ukraine will hold parliamentary elections on March 26. In many respects, these elections are new for Ukraine. Because of the changes to the Constitution, the Ukrainian Parliament will play a more important role in governing the state. Considering these changes, we, as a Ukrainian American community, have a responsibility before the Ukrainian people to inform the population about the electoral changes and, thus, to make the most knowledgeable decision. Our goal is to ensure the elections are conducted in the most free and fair manner.

To fulfill its obligations, the UCCA is planning to implement a pre-electoral project in Ukraine, within the framework of a series of town hall meetings that will

allow the voters to get better acquainted with representatives of Ukraine's political parties. As in previous years, the UCCA is also appealing to the Ukrainian American community to serve as international election observers. Detailed information regarding the registration of international elections observers is located on our website at <http://www.ucca.org/>.

Our work has already begun. To finance its activities, the UCCA relies on the Ukrainian community's donations. Your generous contributions greatly assist Ukraine and our community in the United States to achieve successful results. The UCCA election projects in the past have gained international attention, thus we request your financial support to implement our newest civic education program in Ukraine. Your generous donations will make a difference! Kindly contribute to "UCCA – Election Fund '06" and mail your donation to: Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003.

Our sincerest gratitude to all UCCA contributors.

On behalf of the UCCA executive board:
Michael Sawkiw Jr., president
Marie Duplak, executive secretary

20th anniversary of Chernobyl disaster

April 26, 2006, marks the anniversary of one of the most tragic events in the history of mankind – the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. It is categorized as one of the world's worst ecological catastrophes. The Chernobyl nuclear explosion placed millions of men, women and children in danger of long-term health problems, and has serious implications for the entire world. Ukraine, the land and its people, face an environmental crisis of enormous proportions. These far-reaching consequences may never be fully recognized.

Over the past 20 years, through the efforts of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, its branches, member-organizations and a multitude of groups and individuals, much assistance has been provided by Canadians to ease the suffering of those affected.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress appeals to the entire Ukrainian Canadian community to continue providing support and to recognize this anniversary date by planning appropriate programs and events to create awareness and provide information regarding the tragic aftermath of the nuclear explosion. New facts relative to the catastrophe are constantly being uncovered. Twenty years later solutions are still being sought that would ease the suffering of a nation and its people. This disaster cannot be forgotten. It still affects millions of people every day.

The Chernobyl tragedy calls upon us to unite so that we might avoid such disasters in years to come, and contribute toward global security.

Irene Sushko, president
Ukrainian Canadian Congress

The Ukrainian Weekly's 2005 issues now online

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – As of February 22, the full texts of the 2005 issues of The Ukrainian Weekly are available online at www.ukrweekly.com, the newspaper's official website.

The new addition was unveiled, as has become tradition, on the anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian National Association, the fraternal benefit society founded in 1894 that publishes The Weekly.

The 52 issues published in 2005 include 1,916 articles. Thus, The Weekly's website now contains 18,340 full-text articles.

Unveiled in August 1998, The Weekly's official website – called The Ukrainian Weekly Archive – is dedicated to archival materials published in the newspaper since its founding in 1933. It includes the full texts of articles published from 1996 through 2005, as well as articles from a variety of special issues published through the newspaper's more than 72 years of service to the Ukrainian community.

In addition, excerpts of the top news stories published each week during the current year are available on The Weekly's website.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY.

Send contributions to: The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund,
2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Double Exposure

by Khristina Lew

Three parts of a whole

Recent discussions among members of the community about which direction Ukrainian organizations in America should take beg the inevitable question: "What kind of Ukrainians do we want to be?"

There are no easy answers.

Take someone like Mary Mycio, a Ukrainian American raised on Long Island, active in New York community life, who, with the first signs of freedom in her ancestral homeland, pitched her life as a lawyer in the United States and moved in 1989 to Kyiv to live there permanently. She worked for the Popular Movement of Ukraine, or Rukh, and later began writing for newspapers and magazines around the world, including a stint as the Kyiv correspondent for the Los Angeles Times. She is currently the director of the IREX U-Media Legal Defense and Education Program for Ukrainian journalists.

She returned to New York in January as part of a three-city tour of her new book, "Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl," published by Joseph Henry Press. In doing research for the book, she visited the Chernobyl region and the infamous nuclear power plant over 20 times.

Mary, obviously, is the exception to "See you at Soyuzivka next Labor Day."

What about Michael Zawadowsky, fund-raising chairman for the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany. An insurance broker, Michael says he became involved in the cultural center because "I've touched every single aspect of it: I am a parishioner at St. John's, I belong to Plast, my kids belong to Plast, my kids go to Ridna Shkola, I'm the head of Sitch volleyball – this place will be the center of my life for the next 10 years."

The cultural center, scheduled for completion by the end of 2006, is the future home in northwest New Jersey to "Ridna Shkola" (School of Ukrainian Studies), Plast, SUM, Iskra Dance Troupe, Sitch Sports Club, Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union and Plast-Pryiat. It is affiliated with St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany.

Michael has put together an ambitious plan to raise \$2 million by July 2007, including an April 1 Cabaret Night with the raffle of a Lexus, expected to raise \$50,000, and a June 5 golf outing that typically brings in \$20,000 to \$25,000 with corporate sponsorships.

Groups like the "Spartanky" and "Ti, Scho Hrebli Rvut" Plast sororities are also contributing to the fund-raising effort. In March the two groups will hold a Pilates class, whose proceeds will benefit the cultural center.

Michael says he wants to teach his children Ukrainian culture, history and language because "It's my roots. It's important to have a Ukrainian background nowadays, because we're becoming more and more international. It may be good for business down the road," he said.

And then there is Olga Kogut, who echoes Michael's sentiments, but from a very different perspective. Olga was born in Lviv, and this year will celebrate nine years in the United States. She holds a U.S. passport, works for the hotel industry in New York City and is engaged to be married to an American.

She attends a Ukrainian church but does not take part in any organized Ukrainian community life. She said she would like to be closer to the Ukrainian community and laughs, "My mother is arriving from Lviv, and when she gets settled, I know she will make me join."

Olga is assimilated into American life and says that when she goes to Ukraine, "it is distant to me. But I know where I come from and my heart rejoices when I spend time with fellow Ukrainians." She plans to teach her children the Ukrainian language because, "the more languages you know, the more intelligent you are, and it is important for a child to know where it comes from," she said.

Olga says she considers herself an American of Ukrainian descent. So do I – but look how vastly different our experiences have been, or those of Mary, or Michael.

Some Americans of Ukrainian descent will be trailblazers, contributing to community life from afar. Others will work to improve existing institutions. Still others will bring new perspectives.

These differences are important – they make the community more robust. The key will be to harness this diversity into community organizations that will benefit today's "Ukrainian."

* * *

For more information about "Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl" visit www.chernobyl.in.ua; for more information about the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey visit www.uaccnj.org.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Facing up to social and political isolation

I was in the fifth grade back in 1957 when I missed school on January 7 because our family was celebrating Christmas according to the Julian calendar. The next day, my homeroom teacher angrily rejected my father's note requesting that the absence be excused and announced to the class that I would never be accepted to a major American university because I had cut school and that transgression was now on my permanent record and would follow me the rest of my days. I burned with shame.

I wasn't the only one who remembered that. At our 20th high school reunion, one of my best friends from grade school mentioned the incident as one of the creepiest moments from all our years in school.

Ever since, I've paid attention to references about pressures exerted on immigrants (and Native Americans) to succumb to the assimilation process known as the "Melting Pot." Those pressures were pervasive.

I mention this in light of James Webb's "Born Fighting, How the Scots-Irish Shaped America," a terrific book about one of America's predominant ethnic groups. Their culture goes back to before the Roman Emperor Hadrian built a wall separating the untamed and unconquerable Scots from the rest of Britain. Many generations later, in the 18th century, hundreds of thousands of them immigrated to America.

Combining strains of acute individualism with a strong military tradition, the impact of the Scots-Irish has been huge. They've given us country music, NASCAR racing, fundamentalist Christianity, trailer parks, the National Rifle Association, a preponderant number of America's military personnel and the army of truck drivers who haul America's goods and produce. They constituted half of George Washington's troops and an overwhelming majority of Confederate soldiers (95 percent of whom owned no slaves at all). Their ranks included Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Gens. Stonewall Jackson, John Pershing, Douglas McArthur and George S. Patton, along with Presidents Andrew Jackson, Teddy Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton; cultural figures like Mark Twain, Edgar Allan Poe, Elvis Presley, Robert Redford and Merle Haggard.

The author of "Born Fighting" is pretty distinguished himself. One of the most highly decorated Marines in the Vietnam War, Mr. Webb became assistant secretary of defense and secretary of the Navy in the Reagan administration. He's also written six novels, is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and taught literature at the university level. Now he's the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate from Virginia.

Yet, for all the contributions his people have made, Mr. Webb laments that "... modern America has forgotten who they were (and are)" and feels that, "My culture needs to rediscover itself." And why is that? Because, he writes, "those who cannot articulate their ethnic origins are doomed to a form of social and political isolation." Wow!

In contrast to the Scots-Irish, whose history has "been allowed to melt into obscurity," Ukrainians in America, by and large, have a good sense of who they are. Going back to the turn of the last century, we've maintained choirs,

Saturday schools, dance troupes, youth organizations, summer camps and seasonal traditions. In the process, the community keeps generating events that foster social interaction. Without exaggerating, I've easily been to a couple of thousand concerts, festivals, parties, weddings, christenings, conferences, funerals, dances, etc. in my 50 or so years, and I have a couple of thousand friends and relatives – distant ones and close.

Politically, the community has also been extremely active, organizing around the goal of Ukraine's independence. For nearly a century, politicians recognizing the value of a highly motivated, well-organized ethnic group paid lip service to their dream until, astonishingly, in 1991 it became a reality. Today, Ukrainian Americans are players, lobbying Congress and successive administrations to support free elections in Ukraine, approve NATO membership, lift Jackson-Vanik restrictions, win nominations to the federal court and approval for projects like the Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Cleveland.

Along the way, many Ukrainians, to be sure, have succumbed to the Melting Pot and are Ukrainians no more. On the other hand, I see a lot of really neat people who have become Ukrainians by choice, through professional dealings with Ukraine, as partners in "mixed marriages," etc.

America has been a wonderful country where people from everywhere exercise the freedom to be whoever they choose and do just about anything they want – not always without a struggle to overcome racial, ethnic and social prejudices. Ukrainians are among those who've benefited from being American, and we've contributed in turn, above all by helping to win the Cold War once the conflict had been reduced to a nuclear stalemate, by weighing in on the critical battle for "hearts and minds." That dramatic story, which culminated in the independence referendum that sealed the fate of the Soviet Empire, is still waiting to be told.

As for my humiliation in the fifth grade, that was a long time ago. Now, I'm at the age where I read the death notices every day. On occasion, I recognize a high school classmate; a lot more often, it's one of the parents. And I find it interesting how many are buried out of one of Cleveland's Ukrainian Orthodox or Catholic Churches. I had no idea when I was in high school that so many of my classmates were just like me, only more successful at concealing their roots and blending into the broader culture, the one the Scots-Irish, and others, helped create – one that permitted freedom of expression even as it encouraged conformity and "melting" into the new amalgam.

Ironically, those pressures became so powerful, they consumed the very ones who created the culture. Now James Webb has written a book to try to rescue them. A lot of Ukrainians never bought into the Melting Pot and, now having the means of articulating their ethnic origins, are happily doing so.

By the way, I did end up going to a major American university, my fifth grade teacher notwithstanding. Our family celebrates Christmas on December 25. Our children speak Ukrainian. Our son plays bandura; our daughter writes pysanky (Easter eggs); both dance for Kashtan and go to Ukrainian Saturday school. Many of my friends are Scots-Irish. I love hillbilly music.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is: fedynsky@stratos.net.

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.

450 attend...

(Continued from page 1)

Sawkiw Jr., Ukrainian National Women's League of America President Iryna Kurowyckyj, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council President Ihor Gawdiak, Supreme Plast Command head Yaroslava Rubel, and the president and CEO of Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, Dr. Bohdan Kekish.

Ukraine's United Nations Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky and new Consul General in New York Mykola Kyrychenko with their wives, also attended.

Representatives of Connecticut's Knights of Columbus and Catholic charitable organizations and members of dozens of parishes belonging to the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford were among others in attendance.

The installation began shortly after noon in the chapel, with a reading by Msgr. Julian Rotor, representing the apostolic nuncio in the U.S., of the papal decree appointing Bishop Chomnycky as Stamford's new eparch. The rite of enthronement was conducted by Patriarch Husar, followed by the bilingual celebration of a pontifical divine liturgy.

It was during his sermon that Patriarch Husar synthesized the remarkable moment in the history of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America that all present were witnessing: after almost 30 years of service in the Stamford eparchy by Bishop Losten, authority was being transferred to the next generation. Speaking slowly and quietly, translating himself from Ukrainian into English, Patriarch Husar began by thanking Bishop Losten, his classmate in the seminary, for "using your God-given talents

wisely," for the "beautiful way that you have led this eparchy, made it strong and, given God's will, will continue to serve our Church, our one Church." As he spoke, the ugly rifts in the Ukrainian Catholic Church that marred the 1960s, '70s and '80s, seemed distant.

The patriarch continued: "And no longer are we simply a Church for immigrants to find comfort, shelter in a strange land - this is our land. And, as faithful deeply rooted in this land - we can afford to reach out, to share our gifts with others, gifts that others are willing to receive." And then the decades of rifts between the Latin- and Byzantine-rite Churches suddenly seemed distant as well.

"Share with others here, as well as in Ukraine. Our Church in Ukraine," he continued, "needs to have faithful outside Ukraine reach out to us, to remind us that now, as part of God's plan, we are a global Church," that Ukrainian



Bishop Paul Patrick Chomnycky during the divine liturgy.

Car Raffle and Cabaret Night

The Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey is conducting its first annual car raffle. This is your chance to win a 2006 Lexus ES-330. Proceeds will benefit the construction of the cultural center in Whippany, New Jersey which is slated for completion this year. The car will be awarded on April 1st during our Cabaret Night fund-raising event.

Saturday, April 1st, 2006 7:00pm

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7:00 Dinner
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Cabaret Night Tickets: \$100

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Bishop Emeritus Basil Losten (right), former eparch of Stamford, with Archbishop Emeritus Stephen Sulyk, former metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S.

Catholics are found throughout the world and are no longer isolated and alone.

As he turned to the new eparch sitting in the bishop's chair by the side of the altar he said, "Bishop Paul, do not be afraid, there will no doubt be difficult moments. But look around you - this is your family, these are you brothers, turn to them, they are willing to help you. Welcome."

After the divine liturgy, Cardinal Egan spoke. After briefly joking that Bishop Chomnycky's middle name is Patrick, and therefore he, as an Irishman, already felt a kinship with him, he went on to note that the "beauty of this wondrous chapel reflects the wonder and beauty of

our Catholic Church." He continued by noting that he finds himself among his dearest colleagues. Turning to Cardinal Husar, he said "On more than one occasion, as I have walked down the carpet of cardinals at the Vatican, I can't think of another cardinal with whom I would rather walk than my dear friend Cardinal Lubomyr Husar."

"But I have also on more than one occasion walked with another wonderful bishop," he said turning to Bishop Losten. "I have always felt very blessed by the warmth and friendship and charm of Bishop Losten and, through him, have felt very close to the Ukrainian Catholic Church. How blessed I have been to know you, Basil Losten. Congratulations on the work that you have done; thank you for your friendship."

Then, turning to the new eparch, Cardinal Egan said, "Bishop Paul Patrick, I assure you that Bishop Edward Michael will be proud to walk with you, to work with you. On behalf of my faithful in New York, I welcome you."

The last to speak was 51-year-old Bishop Chomnycky. Born in Vancouver in 1954, he began studies for the priesthood only after completing university and working for several years. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1988, ordained a bishop in 2002 and served as bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Great Britain until his appointment as the fourth bishop of Stamford was announced by Pope Benedict XVI in January.

In an at-times emotional speech, he

(Continued on page 14)

2006 WINTER OLYMPICS – TORINO, ITALY

Results for Team Ukraine

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Biathlon – Men's 20 km Individual

18. Ruslan Lysenko
39. Andriy Deryzemlya
49. Olexander Bilanenko
54. Alexei Korobeynikov

Nordic Combined – Individual Gundersen 15 km

45. Sergei Diyachuk
48. Volodymyr Trachuk

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Alpine Skiing – Men's Downhill

47. Nikolay Skriabin

Cross-Country Skiing – Ladies' 15 km Pursuit

14. Valentina Shevchenko
26. Vita Jakimchuk
40. Kateryna Grygorenko
45. Tatjana Zavalij

Cross-Country Skiing – Men's 30 km Pursuit

47. Mikhail Gumenyak
50. Roman Leybyuk
53. Olexandr Putsko
58. Alexander Batyuk



Elena Grushina and Ruslan Goncharov of Ukraine, bronze medalists in ice dancing.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Biathlon – Women's 15 km Individual

21. Oksana Khvostenko
30. Olena Petrova
37. Lilia Efremova
47. Valj Semerenko

Figure Skating – Pairs

12. Tatiana Volosozhar/Stanislaw Morozov
19. Julia Beloglazova/Andrei Bekh

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Skiing – Men's Combined Downhill

DNF Nikolay Skriabin

Biathlon – Men's 10 km Sprint Biathlon

29. Andriy Deryzemlya
36. Olexander Bilanenko
46. Ruslan Lysenko
74. Vyacheslav Derkach



Torino 2006 Olympic medals.



Getty Images

Biathlete Lilia Efremova of Ukraine.

Cross-Country Skiing – Ladies' Team Sprint

DNQ for final Marina Malets Lisogor and Tatjana Zavalij

Cross-Country Skiing – Men's Team Sprint

DNQ for final Ivan Bilosyuk and Vitaly Martysy

Luge – Women's Singles

6. Liliya Ludan
DNS Natalia Yakushenko

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Luge – Men's Doubles

14. Andriy Kis/Yuriy Hayduk
DNS Oleg Zhrebetsky/Roman Yazvinsky

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Biathlon – Women's 7.5 km Sprint

3. Lilia Efremova
44. Olena Petrova
49. Oksana Khvostenko
50. Nina Lemesh

Cross-Country Skiing – Women's 10 km Classical

21. Valentina Shevchenko
27. Tatjana Zavalij
44. Kateryna Grygorenko

Figure Skating – Men's

20. Anton Kovalevski

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Cross-Country Skiing – 15 km Classical

18. Roman Leybyuk
57. Vladimir Olschanski
61. Vitaly Martysy
64. Alexander Batyuk

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Alpine Skiing – Men's Super G

53. Nikolay Skriabin

Biathlon – Women's 10 km Pursuit

8. Lilia Efremova
41. Nina Lemesh
DNS Olena Petrova
Lapped Oksana Khvostenko

Biathlon – Men's 12.5 km Pursuit

33. Andriy Deryzemlya
43. Ruslan Lysenko
DNS Olexander Bilanenko

Cross-Country Skiing – Ladies' 4x5 km Relay

8. Kateryna Grygorenko, Tatjana Zavalij, Vita Jakimchuk, Valentyna Shevchenko

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Cross-Country Skiing – Men's 4x10 km Relay

14. Roman Leybyuk, Vladimir Olschanski, Olexandr Putsko, Mikhail Gumenyak

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Alpine Skiing – Men's Giant Slalom

26. Nikolay Skriabin

Figure Skating – Ice Dancing

3. Elena Grushina/Ruslan Goncharov
20. Julia Golovina/Oleg Voiko

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Biathlon – Men's 4x7.5 km Relay

7. Olexander Bilanenko, Andriy Deryzemlya, Alexei Korobeynikov, Ruslan Lysenko

Nordic Combined – Individual Sprint 7.5 km

45. Sergei Diyachuk
48. Volodymyr Trachuk



Getty Images

Winners of the 7.5-kilometer sprint of biathlon (from left): silver medalist Anna Carin Olofsson of Sweden, gold medalist Florence Baverel-Robert of France and bronze medalist Lilia Efremova of Ukraine.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Alpine Skiing – Ladies' Slalom

45. Yulia Siparenko

Cross-Country Skiing – Ladies' Sprint

36. Vita Jakimchuk
43. Marina Malets Lisogor



Reuters

Ukraine's Natalia Yakushenko competes in the women's singles luge event at the Winter Olympic Games. Yakushenko, who was in seventh place in the World Cup standings, crashed during one of her runs and did not finish the competition.

Cross-Country Skiing – Men's Sprint

40. Ivan Bilosyuk
42. Vitaly Martysy
62. Mikhail Gumenyak
66. Olexandr Putsko

Freestyle Skiing – Ladies' Aerials

13. Olga Volkova
18. Tatiana Kozachenko
20. Nadiya Didenko

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Biathlon – Women's 4x6 km Relay

11. Oksana Khvostenko, Olena Petrova, Nina Lemesh, Lilia Efremova

DNQ = did not qualify

DNS = did not start

DNF = did not finish

Source: Torino 2006 website

Ukraine's new ambassador addresses Famine-Genocide committee

by Serhiy Zhykharev

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – Ukraine's new ambassador to the United States, Dr. Oleh Shamshur, attended a meeting of the Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933, which was held on Saturday, February 4, in the conference room of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America at 203 Second Ave.

The chairman of the Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933, Michael Sawkiw Jr., greeted Ambassador Shamshur and welcomed the Ukrainian government's recent measures to turn the world's attention to the genocide that occurred in Ukraine nearly 75 years ago.

"Indeed, President [Viktor] Yushchenko's first public speech after his inauguration last year," stated Mr. Sawkiw, "dealt with the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 and how the Ukrainian people must learn the truth about its circumstances. Furthermore

President Yushchenko raised the Ukrainian genocide on the world forum when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly in September 2005."

The Ukrainian ambassador thanked the committee for the invitation to attend its deliberations and to address its participants. "The world must understand that this was a genocide against the Ukrainian people," stated Ambassador Shamshur.

The ambassador also thanked the Ukrainian American community for its diligent efforts in advocating a monument to the victims of the Ukrainian Genocide on federal land in Washington. "Your hard efforts were fruitful," continued Ambassador Shamshur, "and together with the Ukrainian government we will leave a lasting legacy for all in Washington to see."

Following the ambassador's initial comments, participants at the meeting were afforded an opportunity to ask questions. Many issues of concern were broached, including the upcoming Ukrainian parliamentary elections, the

(Continued on page 17)



During a meeting in New York with Ukraine's new ambassador to the United States (from left) are: Larissa Kyj, UCCA executive vice-president; Askold Lozynskyj, president, Ukrainian World Congress; Michael Sawkiw Jr., president, UCCA and Ambassador Oleh Shamshur.

The Ukrainian Museum hosts Ukraine's new envoy to U.S.

by Marta Baczynsky

NEW YORK – Since The Ukrainian Museum became operational in 1976 on two top floors of a New York brownstone on Second Avenue, a great number of people from all walks of life have come through its doors – a testament to the value of the treasures within. This measure of success has been magnified in the museum's elegant new building, which, since its opening 10 months ago, has hosted such distinguished guests as the president of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, and Kateryna Yushchenko; and Patriarch Filaret, the head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate.

On Saturday, February 6, the museum had the distinct honor to welcome the new ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Dr. Oleh Shamshur. The ambassador arrived at the museum accompanied by Consul Andrii Olefirov from the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York City and Natalia Holub, second secretary at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington.

The ambassador was greeted by Olha Hnateyko, president of the museum's board of trustees, Maria Shust, museum director, board members and staff. He toured the current exhibition, "The Tree of Life, the

(Continued on page 17)



Ambassador Oleh Shamshur (center) at The Ukrainian Museum in New York, with Olha Hnateyko, board president, and Maria Shust, director (on the right), members of the Ukrainian diplomatic corps consul Andrii Olefirov, Second Secretary Natalia Holub, members of the museum's board of trustees and staff.

Shamshur pays a visit to the Shevchenko Scientific Society

NEW YORK – Dr. Oleh Shamshur, the new ambassador of Ukraine to the United States paid a visit to the headquarters of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) on

February 4. The ambassador was accompanied by the Embassy's cultural attaché, Natalia Holub, and by Ukraine's acting consul-general in New York, Andrii Olefirov.



At the Shevchenko Scientific Society (from left) are: Svitlana Andrushkiw, Dr. Orest Popovych, Dr. Roman Andrushkiw, Ambassador Oleh Shamshur and Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych.

The diplomatic entourage was welcomed by NTSh Executive Board Members Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych, president; Drs. Roman Andrushkiw and Orest Popovych, vice-presidents; and Olha Kuzmowycz, recording secretary, as well as Svitlana Andrushkiw, library director; Dr. Vasyl Lopukh, office manager; and Prof. Vasyl Makhno, program coordinator.

After a brief tour of the NTSh building, focusing primarily on the library, all assembled for a roundtable of informal exchanges of ideas and plans for mutual cooperation.

Dr. Onyshkevych presented a list of suggestions on how Ukraine's diplomatic institutions could support a more visible and effective Ukrainian presence at American and international scholarly conferences on Slavistics.

Ambassador Shamshur was very forthcoming in his responses, promising, among other things, to host a reception for those scholars in Ukrainian studies who will participate in the convention of the American Association for the

Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) in Washington in November. Similarly, Consul Olefirov reiterated his earlier offer to NTSh of co-sponsoring scholarly and cultural events.

Dr. Andrushkiw informed the visitors about the Shevchenko Society's ongoing efforts to bring about the Ukrainization of Microsoft and Linus computer programming in Ukraine. He suggested steps by which the Ukrainian government could help in these endeavors.

Many other issues were raised, and the full texts of the NTSh suggestions and comments were presented to the ambassador in writing. Ambassador Shamshur repeatedly expressed his readiness to cooperate with and assist the NTSh in every possible way with the objective of promoting Ukrainian scholarship and Ukraine's image abroad. The entire meeting took place in a very friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

Before their departure, the guests from the Embassy of Ukraine received as gifts several of the books and bulletins recently published by NTSh.

Language and elections in Ukraine discussed at NTSh

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – Any program dealing with the status of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine is likely to draw a crowd, but the January 28 roundtable at the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) headquarters titled “Language and Elections in Ukraine, 2004-2006” must have set a record, judging by the packed lecture hall.

After a brief welcome by NTSh President Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych, Prof. Vasyl Makhno, who emceed the program, introduced its roundtable participants: Dr. Onyshkevych, and Prof. Yuri Shevchuk, Antonina Berezovenko, Mykola Ryabchuk and Alexander Motyl.

Dr. Onyshkevych noted the idea that a country has the right to its own language, and that the Ukrainian language represents the only possible unifying factor capable of securing an independent Ukrainian state. On the other hand, if Ukraine were to become officially bilingual, continued Dr. Onyshkevych, the Russian language would certainly win out and Ukraine would find itself politically and culturally in a similar state with respect to Russia as Ireland and Wales are with respect to England.

She then presented a detailed chronology of the events and pronouncements over the past year that illustrate recent developments on the language front in Ukraine.

Among them the most significant were: the initiative on the part of Oleksander Moroz, the Socialist Party chairman, to introduce official multilingualism (actually, bilingualism) in Ukraine (January 21, 2005); Mr. Moroz’s

bill received a powerful rebuttal from the Institute of the Ukrainian Language of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (February 5); the unconfirmed report from Moscow (December 8, 2005) citing Volodymyr Lytvyn, the chairman of Ukraine’s Verkhovna Rada, as being opposed to Ukrainization and favoring official status for the Russian language in Ukraine; in January, Viktor Yanukovych, the ex-prime minister of Ukraine, came out in favor of Russian as a second state language, while his immediate successor, Yulia Tymoshenko, said she opposed the idea. Academician Pavlo Hrytsenko has called for a moratorium on the language debate until after the elections to Verkhovna Rada in March.

Dr. Onyshkevych recalled several efforts on the part of the Shevchenko Scientific Society on behalf of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine. Most significantly, she showed excerpts from the official video footage where she is addressing Ukraine’s Verkhovna Rada on March 12, 2003, in defense of the rights of the Ukrainian language.

Next to speak was Prof. Shevchuk, who teaches Ukrainian language and culture at Columbia University. Prof. Shevchuk has investigated the language used in the pre-election campaign by the major Ukrainian political parties on their websites and documents.

The website of Our Ukraine is in Ukrainian only, while there is no reference to languages in the party literature; the Party of the Regions has a Russian-language website and a bilingual text in its party program. The latter, however, makes no reference to the idea of Russian as a second state language. The website



At the Shevchenko Scientific Society (standing from left): Alexander Motyl, Yuri Shevchuk, Larissa Onyshkevych, Antonina Berezovenko and Mykola Ryabchuk.

of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc displays good Ukrainian, while its program literature is available also in Russian and English. Again, there is no mention of the word “language” in it. Both the Socialist and the Communist parties have Ukrainian-language websites, but their programs call for elevating the Russian language to the status of a second state language.

The overall impression in the view of Prof. Shevchuk is that Ukraine’s political parties are trying to avoid any politicization of the language problem.

Prof. Berezovenko, who teaches Ukrainian at Columbia and Rutgers universities, has been monitoring the

dynamics of the language developments in Ukraine before, during and after the Orange Revolution. Prior to the revolution, expressions of Ukrainian patriotism were often sarcastic or placed in quotation marks; during and after the revolution it became prestigious to be Ukrainian, according to the speaker.

In the case of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, however, the orange color of the revolution has been complemented by the white-and-blue of its opponent, Mr. Yanukovych, which attests to a certain ambivalence and immaturity within Ukrainian society, concluded Prof. Berezovenko.

Prof. Ryabchuk, a political scientist teaching at Columbia University, started by declaring that the language policy in Ukraine has not changed over the years because that problem is of little interest to the majority of the population. The language problem is acute only for nationally conscious Ukrainians, who represent a minority.

Among the majority there exists an ambivalence with respect to language, as only 50 percent of the people speak Ukrainian at home, according to Prof. Ryabchuk. On the positive side, more people today declare themselves and their mother tongue to be Ukrainian than ever before. This is true in all regions of Ukraine, except for the Donbas and Crimea. According to the lecturer, the ambivalence with respect to language will persist in Ukraine for a long time, and will require a flexible policy from the Ukrainian government.

Prof. Motyl, a political scientist from Rutgers University, confronted the audience with the provocative supposition that in the next parliamentary elections in Ukraine the Party of the Regions might prevail, making Mr. Yanukovych the next prime minister. He then allayed any fears such a scenario might engender by explaining that the post-election behavior of any party is likely to be much more moderate than its pre-election stance.

Specifically on the subject of language, Prof. Motyl sounded rather fatalistic: the Ukrainian-Russian bilingualism in Ukraine has not changed in the last 15 years and no declarative measures will change that status.

The program continued with each of the roundtable participants first answering a specific question posed to them by Dr. Onyshkevych and then summarizing his or her views on the current language situation in Ukraine. The floor was then opened to a barrage of questions and comments from a deeply engaged audience.

Researcher speaks on Orange Revolution folklore

by Natalie Kononenko

EDMONTON – Oleksandra Britsyna, senior researcher at the Rytsky Institute of Art, Folklore and Ethnology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kyiv, spoke on January 17 on the folklore of the Orange Revolution at the University of Alberta. Dr. Britsyna and her colleague Inna Holovakha conducted fieldwork among the residents of the tent city on the “maidan” – Kyiv’s Independence Square, the focal point of the revolution – photographing graffiti, collecting jokes, and recording text messages where people transmitted folklore by cell phone.

According to Dr. Britsyna, folklore played a most important role in the Orange Revolution, and it took many forms. People used traditional folk sayings and manipulated them to communicate their sentiments.

Thus, the expression “Moia khata z kraiu” (my house is at the edge of the village), an expression used to excuse non-involvement, was changed to the slogan, often written on banners, “Moia khata na maidani” (my house is on the maidan) to voice deep commitment to the Orange Revolution.

Similarly, headgear typically worn at weddings and stars traditionally carried at Christmas were modified and used to convey the joyous, virtually carnivalesque, atmosphere of the tent city on the maidan.

As folk expressions were modified to suit the goals of the Orange Revolution, so were traditional jokes. The good news/bad news jokes were transformed to comment on vote-count rigging by Viktor Yanukovych and his supporters, for example. Graffiti played an extremely important role. Usually relegated to alley-

ways and other places where it would be visible only to the few, graffiti showed up everywhere: on subway entrances, fences and even people’s clothing. Words and drawings played on the infamous egg incident in which Mr. Yanukovych was supposedly injured by an egg, and on the orange as revolutionary symbol. Some graffiti were obscene, but tolerated in the context of the carnival atmosphere.

Interestingly, folklore about Mr. Yushchenko generated today, one year after the revolution, draws more on television commercials than on folk sayings. Perhaps this is an indication that President Yushchenko has lost some of his status as folk hero, the speaker observed.

In addition to giving a lecture on the folklore of the Orange Revolution, Dr. Britsyna visited folklore classes and spoke about her work in the village of Ploske, where she studied the preservation and transmission of folktales and other prose texts.

Dr. Britsyna came to the University of Alberta to serve as an outside examiner on a doctoral defense. After the defense, she was able to share her expertise through the lectures described above.

She also explored Canadian repositories of Ukrainian folklore, specifically the Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archive at the University of Alberta and the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village east of Edmonton.



A tent city dweller decked out in orange and graffiti.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

better if this \$3 billion were in the coffers
of Ukraine or Russia," Mr. Herbst said.
(RFE/RL Newsline)

Russian fleet to be gone by 2017

SEVASTOPOL – Ukrainian Defense
Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko said on
February 16 in Sevastopol that Russia's
Black Sea Fleet will not remain in
Ukraine after 2017, Interfax reported.
Mr. Hrytsenko, who was attending a
Ukrainian naval ceremony for a new
Ukrainian-made corvette, a small anti-
submarine ship, added that the withdraw-
al of the Russian fleet should be a
planned action that "will not cause dam-
age to the combat capacity of the fleet"
and "will settle social and economic
issues." However, Viktor Yanukovich,
Ukraine's former prime minister and the
leader of the popular Party of the
Regions, said the same day that Ukraine
will improve its relations with Russia
after the March 26 parliamentary elec-
tions and "make a carefully weighed
decision on the Black Sea Fleet."
(RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv seeks invitation to NATO summit

KYIV – First Vice Minister of Foreign
Affairs Anton Buteiko said on February
16 that NATO members will soon receive
a letter from Ukrainian President Viktor
Yushchenko expressing Ukraine's hope of
being invited to join the alliance's
Membership Action Plan at a meeting
between Ukrainian and NATO officials in
Sofia in April, Interfax reported. Mr.
Buteiko said Ukraine, if invited, will be
ready to implement the first stage of the
plan this autumn. He also noted that
Ukraine hoped to be invited to become a
full-fledged NATO member at the alliance
summit in 2008. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Former convicts on candidates' lists

SYMFEROPOL – Minister of Internal
Affairs Yurii Lutsenko told a press con-
ference in Symferopol on February 17
that 45 former convicts have been found
among candidates who are running for
the Crimean Verkhovna Rada. Mr.
Lutsenko said it is not only his right, but
also his duty under the law, to inform citi-
zens about persons who had conflicts
with the law, who were convicted or
amnestied for their misdeeds, who served
sentences or whose sentences were form-
ally extinguished, who are running, en
masse, for the Crimean Parliament.
(Ukrinform)

NSA, NASA consider flights to moon

KYIV – The National Space Agency
(NSA) of Ukraine and the United States'
NASA are planning unmanned flights to
the moon to explore the planet's natural
satellite, NSA Director General Yurii
Alekseyev told a press conference in
Kyiv on February 17. According to Mr.
Alekseyev, the moon flights will rely on
Ukraine's carrier rocket Dnpr, which is
the civilian version of the ICBM RS-20
Voyevoda ("Warlord"), known in the
West as the SS-18 Satan. The Dnpr's
maiden launch was performed in 1999
from Kazakhstan's Baikonur space cen-
ter. To date, several launches have been
performed of the booster to place 19

satellites into orbit. According to the
NSA director general, space exploration
within the framework of the Earth-Moon-
Mars system is among the NSA's new
strategy priorities. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine to set up info centers abroad

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko
on February 20 signed a decree commis-
sioning the establishment of cultural-
information centers within Ukrainian
diplomatic missions abroad. The centers
are to promote the development of inter-
national cooperation between Ukraine
and host states in the spheres of culture,
education, science and technology,
tourism and sports, and disseminate
information about Ukraine. Mr.
Yushchenko also charged the centers
with the function of familiarizing foreign
citizens with the history and culture of
Ukraine, promoting study of the
Ukrainian language and maintaining con-
tacts with the local diaspora to promote
satisfaction of its cultural, language,
information and other demands.
According to various estimates, some 7
million to 10 million ethnic Ukrainians
live outside Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Regular flights link Lviv to Madrid

LVIV – Regular passenger flights were
launched between Lviv and Madrid on
February 18. The maiden flight was per-
formed by a YAK-40 plane, which
belongs to the company Lvivski
Avialiniyi (Lviv Airlines). The company's
weekly flights between Lviv and Madrid
are quite affordable as tickets cost \$345
(U.S.) (excluding airport charges).
Ukrainian experts believe the new route
will be rather popular among passengers
who visit their relatives in Spain and
Ukrainian nationals who either work or
study in Spain. Lviv Airlines also has reg-
ular passenger flights to and from
Moscow, Rome and Lisbon, and charter
flights to many countries. (Ukrinform)

Visas extended for foreign students

KYIV – The U.S. Department of State
has extended the length of time prior to a
program's start date during which foreign
students may be issued student visas. This
is one of the elements of the recently
announced Rice-Chertoff Joint Vision that
will enhance border security while stream-
lining security processes and facilitating
travel for visitors to the United States,
Ukrinform reported on February 17, citing
the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine. Students
applying for initial-entry F-1, F-2, M-1
and M-2 visas may now be issued those
visas up to 120 days before their academic
program start date (as compared to 90
days under previous regulations). J-1 and
J-2 visitors may be issued visas at any
time before the beginning of their pro-
grams. These changes apply only to ini-
tial-entry students. Continuing students
may apply for new F or M visas at any
time, as long as they have maintained their
student status and their Student and
Exchange Visitor Information (SEVIS)
records are current. As part of the joint
vision announced by Secretary of State
Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of
Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, this
change reflects an ongoing commitment to
ensuring the safety of U.S. citizens and
U.S. visitors by keeping U.S. borders
secure, while also taking significant steps
to ensure that U.S. doors remain open to

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

those seeking to visit, study or conduct business in the country. (Ukrinform)

Yulia urges challenge to gas deal

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko said on February 17 that the Ukrainian-Russian gas deal that raised the gas price to \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters is contrary to “Ukrainian legislation and international standards,” Interfax reported. “Under former agreements, the Ukrainian state has every legal reason to continue buying gas at \$50 [per 1,000 cubic meters],” Ms. Tymoshenko said, adding that President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine should dispute January’s deal at the Stockholm Court of Arbitration. Reuters reported that Ms. Tymoshenko told journalists on February 20 that she could rebuild an Orange Revolution coalition with Mr. Yushchenko if he renounced the January gas deal. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Shamshur meets with Rep. Gallegly

WASHINGTON – Newly appointed Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Shamshur continues to meet with key figures on

Capitol Hill. On February 15 he visited office of Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-Calif.), who chairs the House Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats. They discussed the coming 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, including preparation of a special congressional resolution dedicated to this tragic date. Mr. Gallegly assured the ambassador of his full support and awareness of the political importance of this issue. Thanking the congressman for his initiative, Ambassador Shamshur underscored the relevance of holding congressional hearings on Chernobyl. Also discussed was the political situation in Ukraine in the context of the upcoming parliamentary elections. (Embassy of Ukraine)

Ternopil-Buchach metropolitan dies

TERNOPIL, Ukraine – Metropolitan Vasyl (Bondarchuk) of Ternopil and Buchach, a hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP), passed away at the age of 81 on January 21. With the blessing of Patriarch Filaret, head of the UOC-KP, the burial liturgy took place on January 24 with Metropolitan Yevsevi (Politylo) of Rivne and Ostroh presiding. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)



У глибокому смутку повідомляємо,
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СВ. П.

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4 березня 2006 р. о год. 7:45 ранку;
- Святого Юра в Нью-Йорку, в суботу,
4 березня 2006 р. о год. 6-їй веч.

Про молитви за спокій душі Покійної просять:

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Крайова Управа Спілки Української Молоді
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повідомляє своїх членів та українську
громаду, що в неділю, 5-го лютого 2006 р.
відійшла у вічність

св. п. Христя Цебрій-Різзо

член Крайової Булави СУМ

Христина Марія Цебрій-Різзо народилася 21 травня 1956 року у місті Нью-Йорку у родині національно свідомих батьків. Її родичі були кацетники і активними членами української громади. Христя вступила в ряди Спілки Української Молоді в 1961 році при Осередку Нью-Йорк, а в 1994 році стала членом Осередку СУМ у Виппані, Нью-Джерзі.

Молодою дівчиною Христя брала участь в сходах, у музичній школі при Осередку де грала на фортепіяні, деклямувала на сцені, брала участь у драматичному гуртку при Осередку під проводом Мирослави Ласовської і виступала у п'єсах “Цар Ох” і “Попелюшка”, здобула медалі на Злеті у конкурсі знання і спортові медалі за кидання кулі.

Христя співала понад 10 років у сумівському хорі “Жайворонки”, співала у церковному хорі, здала матуру з дуже добрим вислідом в 1973 році, учителювала у Школі Українознавства Осередку, і стала впорядником а пізніше виховником роя. В Нью-Йорку, у роках 1976-1987 подр. Христя була членом управи Осередку де виконувала функції секретаря, булавної та референта преси.

Вступивши до Осередку СУМ у Виппані, подр. Христя відразу включилася до активної праці. Вона перебрала рій “Олені” і була виховницею цього роя від молодшого до старшого юнацтва, аж поки двоє членів цього роя склали другий іспит старшого юнацтва і стали дружинниками.

При Осередку Виппані, в роках 1995-2005, подр. Христя виконувала функції писаря, референта юнацтва, булавної, архівіста та головної виховниці. Останньо, подр. Христя була Булавною Відділу.

При Крайовій Управі СУМ в Америці подр. Христя була членом Крайової Булави (2002-2006) де виконувала функцію референта Злету, та була членом Крайової Виховної Ради СУМ. Христина одержала III ступень Виховника в 1999 році.

При Осередку Виппані Христина завжди дбала про молодь, і під її впливом організовано оркестру під проводом д. Михайла Козюпи, відновлено спортову дружину відбиванки під проводом д. Богдана Куцини, відновилися різні дружні прогульки 2-3 рази в рік, продовжувалися апелі і спільне майстрування, розпочався День Юного Сумівця, передання казок для молодшого юнацтва, спільний Андріївський Вечір з Осередками Йонкерс і Гошен, і спільна юнацька забава з Осередком Йонкерс.

В 1974 року Христина закінчила середню школу Святого Юра в Нью-Йорку. В 1979 році вона здобула BS (Bachelor of Science) з Hunter College і працювала при американському уряді 10 років при своєму улюбленому фаху, Industrial Hygienist, при агенції OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration).

Вона запізнала свого мужа Anthony Rizzo в Нью-Йорку і вони одружилися на сумівській оселі в 1985 році. Христя залишила двох синів – Христофора, 17 років, і Стефана, 14 років.

Після короткої але болючої недуги Христя ввійшла у вічність на 49-му році життя.

Вона жила гаслом СУМ – Бог і Україна. Вона сильно вірила в Бога, ходила з родиною до церкви щонеділі, невпинно працювала при громаді. Вона дорожила своєю родиною і була горда своїх синів. І за це вона отримала глибоку любов від родини і пошану від сумівського членства.

Похоронні відправи почались в четвер, 9 лютого 2006 р., Панахидою яку відправив Всеч. о. Йосиф Шупа у похоронному заведенні, участь в якій взяли сумівці в одностроях із всіх Осередків СУМ східного побережжя та численне українське громадянство. Вислови співчуття виголосили голова КУ СУМ д. Богдан Гаргай, д. Микола Грицьков'ян від Осередку СУМ в Нью-Йорку та подр. Зірка Ковбаснюк від Осередку СУМ у Виппані. На закінчення, при похилених прапорах відспівано “Вічна Пам'ять” та сумівське “Ніч Вже Йде”.

Наступного дня, в церкві св. Володимира Великого в Елізабет, Н.Дж, о. Й. Шупа, у сослуженні о. Мітрата Романа Мірчука, сумівця, і близького друга пок. Христі, відправлено поминальну Службу Божу та Панахиду. Глибоко-зворушливу проповідь-прощання виголосив о. Р. Мірчук. Відтак тлінні останки перевезено та поховано на цвинтарі св. Духа в Гамптонбургу, Н. Й.

Спи спокійно, Дорога Подруго Христю, а американська земля хай буде тобі легкою!

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The Yulia Tymoshenko...

(Continued from page 3)

This week, she will spend several days in the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts. "I will try to explain to people that they can't vote for the Party of the Regions under any conditions," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "I think I will find arguments to convince people."

She said her bloc will never form a coalition with the Party of the Regions, and wants a coalition only with the Our Ukraine bloc, which in turn has firmly rejected her for the prime minister position again.

Ms. Tymoshenko doesn't need to engage in the standard fare of radio and television ads, said Ihor Balynskiy, the editor-in-chief of Zakhidna Informatsiyna Corp., an information-analytical news agency based in Lviv. She is most effective in conveying her political message through public speeches and appearances, he noted.

After the Tymoshenko Bloc voted alongside the Party of the Regions and the Communists to sack Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov and his Cabinet of Ministers, Ms. Tymoshenko immediately traveled to western Ukraine to convince voters that she represented patriotic interests.

"Tymoshenko can turn an audience of 15,000 people in her favor," Mr. Balynskiy said. "I have seen with my own eyes how she turned people who were against her to her side after delivering a speech."

The Tymoshenko Bloc commands 15 percent of the electorate, according to the National Institute for Strategic Research, compared with 22 percent for Our Ukraine and 24 percent for the Party of the Regions. The National Institute of Strategic Research is a government research agency that often performs work for the president and his Secretariat.

According to the Western-financed Democratic Initiatives Foundation, the Tymoshenko Bloc has the support of 16 percent of the electorate, compared with 13 percent for Our Ukraine and 31 percent for the Party of the Regions.

U.S. grants...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukraine's bid for market economy status began in 2002 in relation to an anti-dumping investigation on steel wire rod. "Anti-dumping" refers to government efforts to prevent importation or sale of foreign-made goods at prices significantly lower than domestic prices for the same goods.

With its new status, Ukrainian companies are further protected from U.S. anti-dumping sanctions or investigations, Mr. Tarasyuk said.

The European Union officially recognized Ukraine's as a market economy on December 21, 2005, and Ukraine officially acquired this status on December 30, 2005.

During his visit to Kyiv, Mr. Sampson also met with Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, First Vice Prime Minister Stanislav Stashevskiy, Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk and Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk.

"I congratulate all Ukrainians for making positive changes and achieving market economy status. This determination reflects the impressive economic developments that have occurred in Ukraine over the past several years," said Mr. Sampson. "Today's announcement underscores our commitment to expanding our bilateral economic relationship that will lead our two countries to peace, prosperity and stronger commercial ties."

U.S. President George W. Bush and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko met in April 2005 in Washington, where the two leaders discussed integrating Ukraine into the world economy and promoting investment and trade between the two countries.

450 attend...

(Continued from page 8)

began. "Blessed is this day created by God - blessed for me since I begin to serve you as a new bishop in America." He thanked the numerous people who have helped him in life, among them Pope Benedict and Cardinal Husar for their confidence in appointing him eparch, and his parents, now deceased, "for providing the faith-filled home in which my vocation could grow."

He ended by turning to Bishop Losten: "I thank you for your remarkable achievement. I am truly proud to receive the mantle of your stewardship, and I pray that I may be worthy."

Irene Jarosewich, editor-in-chief of Svoboda, frequently wrote on Ukrainian Church topics while on staff at The Ukrainian Weekly.

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Massive real estate...

(Continued from page 1)

times over to five different buyers.

Once the victims became aware of the scandal, the swindlers fled Ukraine some time in late January, taking with them a stunning \$78 million they had collected.

One of the partners, Oleksander Volkonskyi, was a Russian citizen with an Israeli passport, according to Ukrayina Moloda, a leading daily newspaper in Ukraine that broke the story.

The current whereabouts of Mr. Volkonskyi and his partner, Kyiv resident Oleh Shestak, are unknown. Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Lutsenko confirmed that the funds had been embezzled months earlier and the suspects were abroad.

The scheme they hatched was typical of any contemporary residential Ukrainian construction project.

Investors interested in a new apartment (known as condominiums in the U.S.) provide cash at the project's start, when they can lock in an inexpensive price.

In the interest of securing a low price, they often put down as much as the entire cost of the apartment. In this manner, building companies also benefit because they're able to raise the necessary start-up capital to launch the first stages of construction.

As construction progresses, more investors buy into the project at more expensive prices per square meter.

In the Elite-Center scam, victims bought into the various advertised projects as early as 2004 and as late as January this year, just before the partners fled.

Investors began to grow suspicious when they couldn't contact the construction company managers at their offices or on their cellular phones, Ukrayina

Moloda reported.

Some employees were noticed carrying documents and furniture out of offices, never to return.

Through discussion groups on various Kyiv real estate websites, investors also began discovering that their particular apartments had been sold to other buyers, Ukrayina Moloda reported.

In some instances, a sold three-room apartment had been re-sold again as three separate one-room apartments.

Finally, a group of investors called upon the police to investigate, who discovered that Elite-Center's bank accounts contained a mere \$2,940, Ukrayina Moloda reported.

Beyond the shock that such a large-scale fraud could take place, Kyiv residents were equally stunned by the indifferent and even critical reaction of government officials.

Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko, already under heavy criticism for turning Kyiv into a playground for real estate developers, placed the blame on victims themselves for trusting the real estate company.

"The Elite-Center crash was caused by two factors: the company leadership's shocking, fraudulent scheme and citizens who trusted their money with a company that had a dubious reputation and fell for the promise of gaining a residence that was 50 percent cheaper (than market prices)," he said.

In fact, Elite-Center was not a back-alley construction company, but one widely advertised throughout Kyiv on billboards, subway posters, real estate magazines and the radio.

Many of the duped investors acknowledged they were attracted to Elite-Center because of the affordable prices it was asking for apartments in a city where buying real estate is too expensive for most.

However, the prices weren't excessively unrealistic.

The apartments offered by Elite-Center were only 20 percent below market rates, Main Administration Chair Vitalii Yarema of the Ministry of Internal Affairs told Ukrayina Moloda.

Mr. Omelchenko also made the claim that, "We didn't allocate this company a single square centimeter of land."

However, Mr. Volkonskyi invested nearly \$10 million in buying seven properties, Mr. Yarema said, even beginning construction at one site.

Scam victims have been gathering on the steps of Kyiv's City Council on the Khreschatyk, Kyiv's main boulevard, every few days to learn more information or carry placards demanding justice and reform.

The victims ranged from newlyweds investing in their first home to pensioners who had sold their apartments in order to purchase new ones.

Many worked with real estate brokers; those who didn't thought they had done their research.

Tetiana Tarasenko said she shopped around many development companies before selecting Elite-Center. She examined the contracts carefully, acknowledging she had slight suspicions about the Elite-Center contract she signed because it had no start date for the construction.

But such lapses are typical in Kyiv real estate. "Based on their documentation, they didn't look any different from

any other company," she said.

She bought a 65-square-meter apartment for \$600 a square meter, which she insists was near market rates in May 2005.

Given that the scandal erupted during a very competitive mayoral race in Kyiv, Mr. Omelchenko's opponents seized the moment to attack his government as corrupt and inept in defending the interests of Kyiv residents.

"The Omelchenko team of Kyiv officials who built this pyramid bear the main responsibility for this problem," said Anatolii Seminoha, a national deputy with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. "Companies like Elite-Center are beneficial to Kyiv government officials because they can gain enormous bribes that don't go into the city budget but directly into their pockets."

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc staged a demonstration on February 17 on the steps of the Kyiv City Council demanding that the Kyiv government pass a law determining how to either return the lost money or complete construction.

The government should perform an immediate inventory and assessment of all construction projects under way in Kyiv, Mr. Seminoha said.

Tymoshenko Bloc leader Mykola Tomenko accused mayoral assistant Valerii Borysov of direct involvement, a charge he firmly denied.

While some preferred to blame corrupt officials and leaders, others faulted Ukraine's woefully inadequate construction and real estate development laws that allow for such scams to occur.

"I thought such scams weren't possible in the capital of Ukraine," Ms. Tarasenko said.

Election Notebook

(Continued from page 3)

pointment and dissatisfaction with the President's actions."

- SYMFEROPOL – The Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea voted on February 22 to hold a referendum on election day on whether Russian should be the second language of the Ukrainian government. Crimean Procurator General Viktor Shenchuk immediately filed a legal complaint against the bill and President Viktor Yushchenko called it illegal.
- KYIV – If the parliamentary elections in Ukraine were held this coming Sunday, the new Verkhovna Rada would be composed of deputies who represent the Regions Party (31.5 percent of the voters), the Our Ukraine People's Union bloc (22 percent), the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (15.3 percent), the Socialist Party (6.1 percent), the Communist Party (6 percent) and the Lytvyn People's Bloc (5.7 percent). These were the results of a sociological survey by the Ukrainian Institute for Social Studies and the Social Monitoring Center, reported Ukrinform.

As far as regional differences are concerned, in western Ukraine the OUPU is the obvious leader. Eastern, southern and central Ukraine, as well as the city of Kyiv are dominated by the Tymoshenko Bloc. Meanwhile, northern Ukraine is split between the OUPU and the Tymoshenko Bloc.

The three top politicians trusted by the public are Party of the Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich, President Viktor Yushchenko and Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz, who are trusted by 42 percent of the respondents.

The poll also revealed that over 80 percent of eligible voters intend to cast their ballots on March 26.



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Vladimir Putin's...

(Continued from page 2)

replace Miller at the helm of Gazprom.

But it is not only President Putin's former classmates and mayoral co-workers who have found a role in the current government. Former agents of the KGB, the predecessor to the FSB, also enjoy crucial influence in the Kremlin and are known as the "siloviki," or "power men." These men have an impact on both government energy policy and the way in which it is implemented.

One of these men is Aleksander Ryazanov, the deputy chairman of Gazprom and reportedly the head of the "siloviki" faction within the gas giant. Mr. Ryazanov became CEO of the Sibneft oil company after it was purchased by Gazprom in 2005. He has also been appointed head of UkrGazEnergo, the newly created Ukrainian-Russian joint venture to act as an intermediary between Ukraine's state-run Naftohaz Ukrayiny

and the Swiss-based RosUkrEnergo.

Another is Viktor Ivanov, another deputy head of the presidential administration. Mr. Ivanov has a colorful history. A graduate of the Leningrad Bonch-Bruyevich Electrical Technical University, Mr. Ivanov worked as an engineer before reportedly joining the KGB in 1977 and fighting with Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

Upon his return, he rose to head the anti-contraband department of the Leningrad Oblast KGB. He retired from service in 1994 with the rank of colonel and was appointed by Mr. Putin to head the administrative departments of St. Petersburg City Hall.

The two groups of men surrounding President Putin – the "siloviki" and the St. Petersburg's Mayor's Office group – have become what one could call an informal "board of directors" of the new Russia. As such, they set the agenda for Russian energy policy and in fact control the country's vast energy resources. Their influence should not be underestimated.

Turkmenistan's...

(Continued from page 2)

His remarks echoed those of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, who said in a February 14 statement that he shared the concern of the European Union and other international organizations regarding the "scarcity of information" about RosUkrEnergo and its partial owner, Raffeisen Investments.

Interfax the same day cited the president as indicating that all attempts by Ukraine to receive necessary information about RosUkrEnergo had been "fruitless."

Appearing on February 16 on Ukraine's Channel 5 television, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov said Kyiv is ready to bypass RosUkrEnergo and sign gas

contracts directly with Gazprom, but added it cannot do so without Moscow's consent.

Mr. Yekhanurov added that he has sent a letter to Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov informing him of this. But Mr. Khristenko, in his remarks in Vietnam, described RosUkrEnergo as a "sufficiently transparent" company and said there was no need to drop it from the existing deal," Interfax reported.

"The situation has been regulated," Mr. Khristenko said. "The agreements that have been reached were based on the stipulation that RosUkrEnergo would be the trader working with the primary supplies of Central Asian gas, and a structure that could position itself on both the Ukrainian and Western markets."

"The structure," he added, "is sufficiently transparent."

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Tchaikovsky's "Mazeppa" to premiere at Metropolitan Opera

NEW YORK – Peter Tchaikovsky's "Mazeppa," an opera in three acts, will premiere at New York's Metropolitan Opera on March 6. Composed by Tchaikovsky and written by Tchaikovsky and V.P. Burenin in 1881, "Mazeppa" tells the story of love and betrayal between Ukrainian Hetman Ivan Mazeppa and his goddaughter Maria, daughter of Kochubei.

The libretto is based on Alexander Pushkin's epic poem "Poltava," which details the historical Battle of Poltava, when Tsar Peter the Great defeated Swedish King Charles XII and Hetman Mazeppa. The opera premiered in Moscow and St. Petersburg in 1884 and has remained in the repertoire of the Mariinsky Theater from that time.

Tchaikovsky, considered one of the greatest Russian composers of the 19th century, was a descendent, on his father's side, of an old Kozak family, Chaika. He frequently visited Kamianka, in the Chyhyryn area, to visit his sister and lived in Nyzy, near Sumy, in 1876-1879. Some 30 of his works have Ukrainian subjects or incorporate Ukrainian folk melodies, among them "Mazeppa," "Night before Christmas" (or "Vakula the Smith," based on the story by Nikolai Gogol), Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 1 in B-flat Minor and the "1812 Overture."

"Mazeppa," according to The Metropolitan Opera Guild, is the tragic story of a young woman whose powerful love for the "17th century Ukrainian separatist" draws her into a catastrophic

downward spiral. In Act 1, the elderly Mazeppa (1640-1709) asks Kochubei for his young daughter's hand in marriage. The later refuses, and Mazeppa, enraged, demands that Maria choose between him and her father. She chooses Mazeppa, and leaves her family home. Kochubei decides to tell Tsar Peter the Great of Mazeppa's plan to align himself with Swedish King Charles XII. Andrei, a young boy desperately in love with Maria, offers to denounce Hetman Mazeppa as well.

At the beginning of Act II, Kochubei, imprisoned, awaits execution. Mazeppa, troubled by guilty visions and worried how Maria will react to her father's execution, tells her that he may soon ascend the throne of independent Ukraine. She assures him of her devotion. Lyubov, her mother, enters the palace and begs Maria to help save her father's life. When Maria realizes what has happened, overcome by guilt, she faints. By the time she and her mother reach the scaffold, they are too late to stop the execution.

In Act III, a defeated Mazeppa is challenged to a duel by young Andrei. Mazeppa shoots the boy, who falls wounded. Maria, mad with grief over the death of her father, comes upon the wounded Andrei. She cradles him in her arms as if a sleeping child and sings him a lullaby. He dies with a last farewell on his lips as she gently rocks him in her lap.

The role of Maria is performed by soprano Olga Guryakova, Lyubov by mezzo-soprano Larissa Diadkova, Andrei

by tenor Oleg Balashov, Mazeppa by baritone Nikolai Putilin and Kochubei by bass Paata Burchuladze.

Cast changes later in the run of "Mazeppa" will include Elena Evseeva as Maria (March 22), Olga Savova as Lyubov (March 22), Victor Chernomortsev as Mazeppa (March 27), and Mikhail Kit as Kochubey (March 27).

The opera is conducted by Valery Gergiev; "Mazeppa" is the third Metropolitan Opera premiere conducted by Maestro Gergiev, who also serves as the Met's principal guest conductor. The Kirov Opera (today known as the

Mariinsky Theater), conducted by its artistic director Maestro Gergiev, first brought "Mazeppa" to the Metropolitan Opera House as part of a 1998 tour.

The director of the Met's production of "Mazeppa" is Yuri Alexandrov; set design is by George Tsypin. Others involved in the production are costume designer Tatiana Noginova, choreographer Sergei Gritsai and lighting designer Gleb Filshinsky.

The approximate running time for "Mazeppa" is 3 hours, 50 minutes. Performances are scheduled through March 30.

Ukraine's new...

(Continued from page 10)

gas crisis between Ukraine and Russia, relations with the West, and general economic reform in Ukraine. The ambassador answered in a very open and cordial manner.

Also present at the meeting of the Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 was Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC). In his greeting and message to Ambassador Shamshur, Mr. Lozynskyj spoke of the various issues of concern to the Ukrainian diaspora worldwide, in particular the upcoming parliamentary elections, but also about the envoy's important duty and role in Washington.

"Your work here [in the United States] may not be easy at times," stated Mr. Lozynskyj, "but rest assured that we, the Ukrainian diaspora, look forward to working with you and wish you the best

of fortunes in your new post."

Following the ambassador's remarks, the Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 formed various subcommittees to begin its work in preparation for the 75th anniversary commemoration in 2008 of the Ukrainian Genocide. The commissions formed include: Fund-Raising; Marketing; Media; Organizational; Duranty; Financial; Program/Exhibit; Building/Planning; and Scholarly.

Each subcommittee is to develop an action plan for commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide.

The Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 requests that individuals interested in being involved with the planning and coordination of the upcoming 75th anniversary preparations contact its chairman at unis@ucca.org.

Future meetings of the Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 and its subcommittees will be announced in the Ukrainian press.

The Ukrainian Museum...

(Continued from page 10)

Sun, the Goddess: Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art," with the curator of the exhibition, Lubow Wolyntez, providing explanations and commentary. Dr. Shamshur also stopped on the second floor to view the installation "Still the River Flows" and visited the museum's administrative offices.

In greeting the ambassador, Board President Olha Hnateyko said, that the museum's mission – to collect, preserve and present in exhibitions the treasures of Ukrainian cultural legacy – is very important, since it presents the opportunity for "our children, grandchildren and future generations to become acquainted with the wealth and beauty of Ukrainian culture. It also instills in them a feeling of pride in their roots." She asked the

ambassador to help the museum in this undertaking.

In turn, Ambassador Shamshur assured his full support of the museum when he signed the visitor's book, where he wrote:

"Best wishes for The Ukrainian Museum in New York, which is the magnificent center of Ukrainian culture in the United States. In anticipating mutual cooperative and fruitful endeavors, I promise the full support of Ukraine's diplomatic delegation in the United States."

As a parting gift and memento of his visit to The Ukrainian Museum, Ambassador Shamshur was presented with several exhibition catalogues published by the museum. Among them was the current exhibition catalogue "The Tree of Life, the Sun, the Goddess," as well as the museum's inaugural exhibition catalogue, "Alexander Archipenko. Vision and Continuity."

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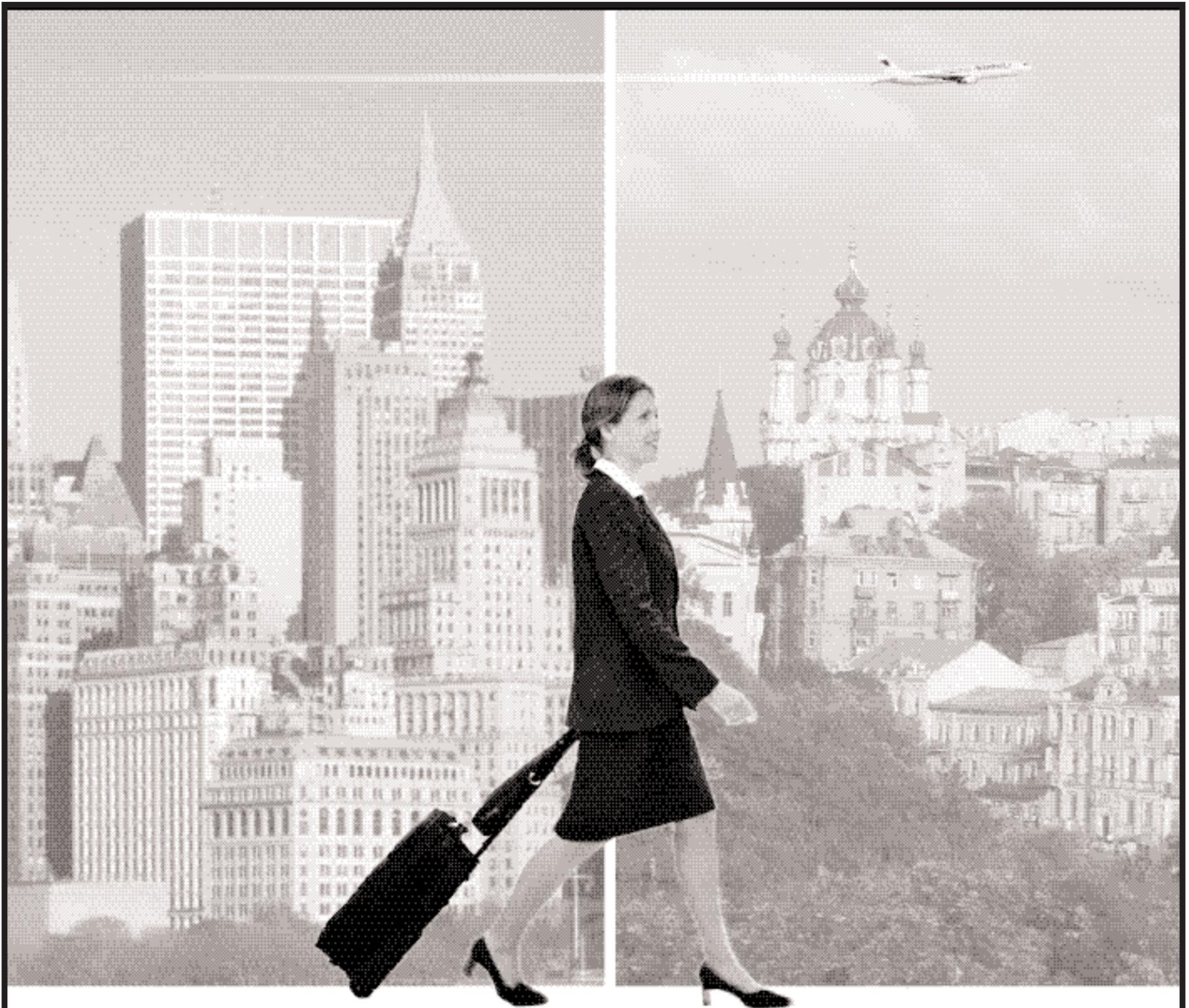
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- March 4
Toronto Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus European Tour Documentary, St. Vladimir's Institute, 734-953-0305
- March 4
New York Lecture about Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky by Kurt Lewin, Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- March 4
Parma, OH Pikkardiyska Tertsia in concert, Pokrova Church 216-240-4997
- March 5
Philadelphia Fashion show and tea reception, Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Philadelphia Regional Council, 215-742-3227
- March 11
Scranton, PA Pysanky Playshop, Pennsylvania Anthracite Museum, 570-963-4808
- March 12
Warren, MI Pikkardiyska Tertsia in concert, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 586-757-1306
- March 12- May 28
New York "Chornobyl + 20: This Is Our Land ... We Still Live Here," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110
- March 19
Winnipeg "The Legend of Rusalka," featuring the Rusalka Dance Ensemble and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, 204-338-6103
- March 23-25
Madison, WI Conference on 20th anniversary of Chornobyl nuclear accident, University of Wisconsin, 608-265-6298

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers; please send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

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March 18, 2006 Birthday Party	May 20, 2006 Wedding
March 24-26, 2006 Grace Church Men's Retreat	May 21, 2006 Communion Luncheon Banquet
March 31 - April 2, 2006 Plast Kurin "Chornomorski Khvyli" Annual Rada	May 26-29, 2006 UNA Convention
April 2, 2006 Wedding Shower	June 3, 2006 Wedding
April 7-9 2006 BUG (Brooklyn Ukrainian Group) Spring Cleaning Volunteer Weekend	June 5-9, 2006 Eparchial Clergy Retreat
April 16, 2006 Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.	June 10, 2006 Wedding
April 18-19, 2006 Mid-Hudson Migrant Education Program	June 11-16, 2006 UNA Seniors' Conference
April 22, 2006 Alpha Kappa Sorority Formal Dinner Banquet	June 16-18, 2006 3rd Annual Adoption Weekend
April 23, 2006 Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.	June 17, 2006 Wedding
April 28, 2006 Ellenville High School Junior Prom	June 18, 2006 Father's Day Luncheon and Program
April 29, 2006 Birthday Party Banquet TAP New York Craft Beer Festival at Hunter Mountain, round trip bus from Soyuzivka, special room rate - \$60/night	June 23-24, 2006 Plast Kurin "Shostokryli" Rada
April 28-30, 2006 UNWLA Branch 95 Spa Weekend	June 24, 2006 Wedding
	June 25-July 2, 2006 Tabir Ptashat Session #1
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Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!

As in the past, The Ukrainian Weekly is planning to publish a special section devoted to the Ukrainian community's debutantes. The 2006 debutante ball section will be published in March. The deadline for submission of stories and photos is March 6.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, February 27

EDMONTON: Volodymyr Kulyk, visiting professor, Stanford University, and senior research fellow, Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, will give a talk at 7 p.m. on "Ukrainian Language Policy: from Kuchma to Yushchenko." Location: 227 Athabasca Hall (Heritage Lounge), University of Alberta. For more information, contact the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 450 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E8, Canada; phone, 780-492-2972; e-mail, cius@ualberta.ca.

Friday, March 3

SARASOTA, Fla.: "The Whisperer." Andrea Odezynska's short documentary film will be shown at the Through Women's Eyes International Film Festival at 2:30 p.m., Hollywood 20, Regal Cinema, 1993 Main St., Sarasota. For more information log on to www.through-womenseyes.com or call 941-284-1027. In its seventh year, Through Women's Eyes is a United Nations-affiliated film festival. Ticket sales raise money for UNIFEM, the Women's Fund at the United Nations, which supports women's and girls' educational programs in over 100 countries.

Friday, March 3

NEW YORK: A fund-raising event for the documentary "Orange Chronicles" will take place at the Ukrainian Institute of America. The event will feature a screening of the work in progress, which documents a personal journey during Ukraine's Orange Revolution. Admission \$20; a wine reception will follow the screening. The Ukrainian Institute is located at 2 E. 79th St. For more information contact OrangeDoc@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 4

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) invites the public to a lecture by Kurt Lewin, a native of the Halychyna region of Ukraine, who survived the Holocaust by hiding in a Studite Monastery. Mr. Lewin's memoirs are titled "A Journey Through Illusions" (Santa Barbara, Calif.: Fithian Press, 1994). His talk at NTSh will be on "Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and Archimandrite Klymentii Sheptytsky: Two Religious and Spiritual Leaders of the Moral and Ethical Values of the Ukrainian People." Dr. Taras Hunczak, professor emeritus of Rutgers University, will deliver an introduction. The program will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th

streets) at 5 p.m. For information call 212-254-5130.

Friday, March 10

EDMONTON: David Marples, professor, department of history, University of Alberta, and director, Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, will give the 40th annual Shevchenko Lecture at 7 p.m. on the topic "Chornobyl in Perspective: The 20th Anniversary of a Nuclear Disaster." Dr. Marples is the author of many articles and two books on the Chornobyl nuclear disaster. Location: 2-115, Education North Building, University of Alberta. For more information contact: CIUS, 450 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E8, Canada; phone, 780-492-2972; e-mail, cius@ualberta.ca.

Saturday, March 11

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), jointly with the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN) and the Harriman Institute of Columbia University (HICU), will host the 26th annual Taras Shevchenko Scholarly Conference. Featured presenters are: Dr. Bohdan Rubchak (UVAN), "Poetry as Conversation"; Dr. Nina Polishchuk (NTSh), "The Poetry of Shevchenko in Modern Philosophical Context"; and Dr. Mykola Ryabchuk (HICU), "Ukrainian-Russian Relations: the Post-Colonial Aspect." Opening remarks will be by Dr. Albert Kipa, president of UVAN; closing remarks by Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, president of NTSh. The conference will take place at the NTSh building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 4 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

VENICE, Fla.: The Ukrainian Club of Southwest Florida presents "Art Ukraine 2006" - an exhibit of Ukrainian icons and other art forms, at the Venice Art Center, 390 Nokomis Ave. S., in Venice. Comprising the exhibit, in addition to icons, will be the following Ukrainian folk art forms: bead work ("gerdany"), ceramics, Easter eggs ("pysanky"), embroidery and wood carvings. Lectures on the exhibited art forms will be presented during the exhibition; there will also be live performances of Ukrainian music. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The exhibition is on view through March 7. For additional information contact Club President Daria Tomashosky, 941-426-2542, or "Art Ukraine 2006" Committee Co-chairs Christyna Bodnar Sheldon, 941-460-9890, or Klara Szpiczka, 941-423-6590.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (**\$20 per submission**) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received **prior to publication**.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, **written in Preview format**, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; all submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$20 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Items may be e-mailed to preview@ukrweekly.com.