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Tymoshenko begins hunger strike

RFE/RL

KHARKIV, Ukraine – Ukraine's jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has launched a hunger strike to protest her treatment by prison authorities.

Ms. Tymoshenko's lawyer Serhiy Vlasenko announced on April 24 that she began her protest fast on April 20. He told journalists at the Kachanivska labor colony, where Ms. Tymoshenko is serving her seven-year prison term, that Ms. Tymoshenko sustained bruises on her hands and body after she was forcibly brought to the central clinic in Kharkiv on April 20.

"Yulia Tymoshenko has declared a hunger strike," he said. "Her arms are

covered in bruises; she has a very large hematoma on her stomach." Mr. Vlasenko also read out a written statement from the opposition leader in which she described being forcibly brought to the clinic.

The deputy warden of the Kachanivska labor colony, Ihor Kovpashchykov, denied Ms. Tymoshenko's statement, saying the penitentiary personnel merely escorted her to the clinic. "That didn't happen," he said. "She was transported by ambulance personnel; our staff only accompanied them. That is all."

According to Mr. Vlasenko, Ms. Tymoshenko is seriously ill and cannot

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Opposition parties unite for parliamentary elections



UNIAN/Vladimir Gontar

Arseniy Yatsenyuk (left), leader of the Front for Change, and Oleksander Turchynov, first vice-chairman of the Batkivshchyna party, exchange signed copies of the declaration of unity by Ukraine's opposition, which will join forces for the upcoming parliamentary elections. The documents were signed by Batkivshchyna leader Yulia Tymoshenko, who is currently imprisoned, and Mr. Yatsenyuk.

KYIV – Six opposition parties in Ukraine announced on April 23 that they will join forces for the parliamentary elections in October in order to challenge President Viktor Yanukovich's grip on power.

Two of the six parties – Batkivshchyna and the Front for Change – are considered the most powerful opposition forces. Batkivshchyna is led by jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, while

the Front for Change is led by former Verkhovna Rada Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

In the October 28 elections, half of the Verkhovna Rada's 450 seats will go to politicians elected on party tickets. The other half will be selected in individual races.

Mr. Yatsenyuk told journalists on April 23 that Ms. Tymoshenko's party will take

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UNIAN/Vladimir Andreev

Supporters of Yulia Tymoshenko gathered on April 19 in Kharkiv where a district court began hearings into a new case against the opposition leader – this one related to the United Energy Systems of Ukraine that she once headed. Opponents of Ms. Tymoshenko also held a public meeting near the court.

Rada approves new revision of Criminal Procedural Code

by Zenon Zawada

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – Ukraine's Parliament has approved a new Criminal Procedural Code for the country, its first wholesale revision since 1960, when Stalinist holdovers in Moscow had last drafted the rules and procedures for establishing crimes and applying punishment.

Rights advocates and opposition leaders criticized the parliamentary coalition for approving the new code on April 13 via fraudulent voting, in which a handful of deputies cast votes on behalf of others who were absent, in violation of the Ukrainian Constitution. No more than 30 coalition deputies were present throughout the all-night voting session, which concluded after 4 a.m.

"The haste with which the Criminal Code was passed demonstrates that the government doesn't want cardinal changes in this sphere," Yevhen Zakharov, the co-chair of the Kharkiv Human Rights Group, told the Gazeta.ua news site.

Rights advocates said the new code is a step in the right direction, but were dissatisfied with its reported shortcomings, such as maintaining bench trials and failing to reform Soviet practices like transferring all evidence collected by the defense to the state investigator's discretion. Coalition deputies ignored more than 4,000 amendments to the proposed code submitted after its first reading was approved on February 9.

Ukrainian legal authorities have been drafting the new Criminal Procedural Code since 2005 in a process that involved not

only politicians but also leaders of civic organizations, including the Kharkiv Human Rights Group, the Center for Political-Legal Reforms and the Ukrainian Helsinki Union for Human Rights, led by Executive Director Arkadii Bushchenko.

Among the new code's strengths are the elimination of a judge's ability to refer a case for further investigation, a tool often used when prosecutors failed to present adequate evidence, said Dmytro Groisman, the coordinator of the Vinnytsia Legal Rights Group. It also prohibits confessions from being submitted as evidence, which makes it pointless for police to continue obtaining forced confessions through beatings, he said.

The new code introduces bails, raises the requirements for taking suspects into custody, reduces terms spent in pretrial

prisons and fixes those terms based on the severity of the crimes committed, Mr. Bushchenko said in pointing out the code's strengths.

The approval of the legislation's first reading was a positive step, he said, though he warned that coalition deputies could have stripped its second reading of important clauses. The second reading of the Criminal Procedural Code won't be published for public review until it's signed by President Viktor Yanukovich, therefore Mr. Bushchenko and other rights advocates haven't been able to offer an assessment of the document approved by the Rada.

Yet that hasn't stopped opposition leaders from offering their criticism. They attacked the extension of the Soviet tradition

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ANALYSIS

Tymoshenko faces murder accusations

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian prosecutors have announced that former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko (2005; 2007-2010) and former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko (1996-1997) were suspected of commissioning several murders in the 1990s. This looks like a last-ditch attempt to influence public opinion – both at home, ahead of the October parliamentary election, and in the West, where the opposition leader is regarded as a political prisoner – that she is a monster who deserves to be in jail.

A court in Kyiv last October imprisoned Ms. Tymoshenko for seven years for exceeding her authority in preparing the controversial January 2009 contracts with Russia's Gazprom, while Mr. Lazarenko, who is Ms. Tymoshenko's former ally, is serving a prison sentence for money-laundering in the United States.

First Deputy Procurator General Renat Kuzmin spoke last fall about Ms. Tymoshenko's possible involvement in the 1998 murder of Yevhen Shcherban, who was an influential national deputy and businessman from Donetsk. Mr. Kuzmin admitted then that the prosecutors lacked evidence (Ukrayinska Pravda, October 31, 2011).

It has since become obvious that public opinion and Western policy-makers do not trust Ukrainian prosecutors on the Tymoshenko case, which has been jeopardizing Ukraine's European integration. The European Union has made it clear that the association and free trade agreement with Ukraine will not be signed if Kyiv does not change its attitude toward justice in general and Ms. Tymoshenko in particular (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 28, April 2).

What is more, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich himself admitted in Davos this year that Ms. Tymoshenko had been indicted under an outdated Soviet law (Ukrayinska Pravda, January 27). The rul-

ing team has apparently decided that it is now time for more serious charges against Ms. Tymoshenko to influence Western opinion.

Mr. Kuzmin has told FT that he had evidence that companies, which were linked to Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Lazarenko, transferred money to Mr. Shcherban's killers. Mr. Kuzmin also chided the West for defending Ms. Tymoshenko: "What is your view in the West of political persecution? Does this mean that the leader of the opposition cannot be prosecuted even for murder?" (FT via inopressa.ru, April 2).

Simultaneously, Mr. Shcherban's son Ruslan Shcherban, who is a deputy of the Donetsk Oblast Council from the ruling Party of Regions (PRU), wrote a letter to U.S. Ambassador John Tefft saying that European and U.S. politicians should not defend Ms. Tymoshenko who, he claimed, had commissioned his father's killing. Ruslan Shcherban alleged that he had heard threats from Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Lazarenko, whose businesses, he said, competed with his father's. He also accused Washington of blocking Kyiv's attempts to establish the truth (ostro.org, April 3). The gas trader United Energy Systems, which Ms. Tymoshenko headed in the mid-1990s, was a bitter rival of Mr. Shcherban's businesses on the energy market when Mr. Lazarenko was prime minister.

On April 5, Procurator General Viktor Pshonka announced that his team had relaunched the investigation into the Shcherban murder, which was closed a decade ago. Also, commenting on old embezzlement cases against Ms. Tymoshenko, Mr. Pshonka claimed that several of them were closed in January 2005 by his predecessor, Svyatoslav Piskun, because then-President Viktor Yushchenko had threatened Mr. Piskun with dismissal if he did not close the cases (Kommersant-Ukraine, April 6). In the meantime, the per-

(Continued on page 5)

NEWSBRIEFS

Karpachova on Tymoshenko's treatment

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada's Human Rights Commissioner Nina Karpachova told journalists on April 25 that all persons involved in the rough treatment of Yulia Tymoshenko during her transit from the Kachanivska labor colony to a hospital in Kharkiv should be dismissed and proceedings should be instituted against them by the procurator general. The ombudswoman demanded that the head of the Main Penitentiary Service urgently provide the necessary medical assistance "in compliance with a decision of the European Court of Human Rights and conclusions of independent foreign doctors." Ms. Karpachova explained that on April 24 she sent her representative, Serhii Kudruk, to conduct a surprise inspection of the Kachanivska colony, where he met with Ms. Tymoshenko. Mr. Kudruk investigated claims of Ms. Tymoshenko's mistreatment by prison officials during her transit from the colony to the hospital on April 20. According to Ms. Karpachova, in the presence of the head of the Kachanivska colony, Ms. Tymoshenko gave her consent to the ombudswoman's representative for an external examination of her injuries. During the examination, bruises were discovered on her forearm, on the elbow joint of her right arm, as well as a considerable bruise on the right inguinal part of the abdomen, the human rights commissioner noted. Ms. Karpachova also noted that, as of the end of the working day on April 24, the public procurator's office did not properly respond to Ms. Tymoshenko's complaint of battery and she, as ombudswoman, "has to state this." She believes that both the procurator general and head of the State Penitentiary Service should immediately respond to the former prime minister's statements. The ombudswoman said she was informed of Ms. Tymoshenko's request that she visit her in the labor colony, adding that she plans to visit the prisoner shortly. (Ukrinform)

Akhmetov halts development after protests

KYIV – Ukraine's richest man, 45-year-old steel and coal tycoon Rinat Akhmetov, has been forced to scrap plans to build a glitzy

business center at a historic tourist site in Kyiv after a public outcry in which he was accused of "spitting on the soul" of the capital. Several hundred protesters, alerted by the social networking site Facebook, turned out to rally on April 25 night against plans by Mr. Akhmetov's System Capital Management (SCM) company to build a multi-story business center on Andriyivsky Uzviz. But the protests came too late to stop bulldozers from destroying at least one 19th century building and wrecking another built 40 years ago in mock 19th century style, cultural officials said. Chanting "Get Akhmetov out of town," several protesters dumped building material near SCM headquarters to signify their disgust. "The ESTA company [a subsidiary of SCM], having polled the opinions of Kyivans, decided back in March to cancel the construction of the business center," Mr. Akhmetov said in a statement issued by his press service. "Unfortunately, after this decision, there were two bad errors. Firstly, the actions of the company were not coordinated. Secondly, they were not explained to the public." Mr. Akhmetov, whose net worth Forbes puts at \$16 billion, added: "I promise that SCM will return the original look to the destroyed facades. We will also help the town restore Andriyivsky Uzviz. Andriyivsky Uzviz, or St. Andrew's Descent, a half-mile historic street from the administrative center of Kyiv to a riverside quarter, is a top tourist destination featuring chic restaurants, arts and crafts studios and souvenir stalls. Construction on the eve of the Euro-2012 soccer championships in June included work to install new drainage and upgrade the quarter's infrastructure; the work has reduced the cobblestone street to a sea of building sand, bricks, mud and heavy machinery. The target date for completion of construction is May 27. (Reuters)

PGO: Yulia's treatment abroad unlawful

KYIV – Sending former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko abroad for medical treatment is impossible because such a step is not envisioned by Ukrainian legislation, Procurator General Viktor Pshonka said during a general board meeting of the

(Continued on page 12)

Ukraine's culling of stray animals continues to draw protests

RFE/RL

PRAGUE – Despite media coverage and protests at home and abroad, and even an official moratorium by the Environment Ministry, animal-rights activists in Ukraine say that a systematic culling of stray animals continues ahead of the Euro-2012 soccer championships this summer.

On March 31, more than 300 protesters marched through central Kyiv brandishing signs reading "Football does not need blood" and "Yes to sterilization, no to murder"

They accuse local authorities of using inhumane, even illegal methods such as poisoning to reduce the country's large population of stray animals ahead of the European soccer finals to be co-hosted with Poland this summer.

They have been joined by European celebrities such as German Princess Maja von Hohenzollern, who campaigns for animal welfare, and even players on Germany's national soccer team.

Activists have demanded that President Viktor Yanukovich impose a country-wide ban on the killing of stray animals, which they say continues on a local level despite

the official moratorium.

This despite donations from other European countries of mobile sterilization vehicles for use and a Kyiv plan to find homes for strays.

Activists call for a program of sterilization and humane euthanasia, as practiced in other countries.

Tamara Tarnawska, head of the SOS International Animal Protection Society, says that according to official sources 4,000 dogs were sterilized in Kyiv in 2011. But she's sure that more than 2,000 of them were poisoned afterward anyway.

Local authorities are not interested in dealing with Ukraine's large population of stray animals in a humane fashion, Ms. Tarnawska says. It would take decades to resolve the problem because "society is sick and doesn't have a humane upbringing," she adds.

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NEWS ANALYSIS: Ukraine's former defense minister is jailed

by **Pavel Korduban**
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Pechersky District Court in Kyiv on April 12 sentenced Valerii Ivashchenko, who was acting minister of defense from June 2009 until April 2010, to five years in jail. This is despite the European Union's warnings that more persecution of ministers from the former government of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko (2007-2010) would put into question Ukraine's European integration. Mr. Ivashchenko has been the fourth imprisoned former top official from Ms. Tymoshenko's government.

Like Ms. Tymoshenko, former Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko and former Environment Minister Heorhii Filipchuk before him, Mr. Ivashchenko was indicted under Article 365 of the Criminal Code "for excess of authority," inherited from Soviet law, which President Viktor Yanukovych himself had admitted was outdated (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, April 10).

Mr. Ivashchenko was arrested in August 2010, long before Ms. Tymoshenko, Mr. Lutsenko and Mr. Filipchuk. The Procurator General's Office holds Mr. Ivashchenko responsible for the illegal sale of the Defense Ministry's shipyard in the Crimean port of Feodosia. According to prosecutors, he approved the shipyard's bankruptcy and subsequent sale to a private company. This scheme has been widely used in Ukrainian privatization. The shipyard reportedly came under the ownership of a company linked to a national deputy from Ms. Tymoshenko's party (Rosbalt, August 31, 2010; Ekonomicheskije Izvestia, April 13). The deputy in question, Andrii Senchenko, has denied any involvement in the affair.

The court said that while the shipyard's market value amounted to the equivalent of \$9 million, it was sold for a little more than \$2 million so the state was defrauded of the difference in price. Mr. Ivashchenko claimed that evi-

dence in the case against him had been fabricated by former Deputy Defense Minister Ihor Montrezor and former Deputy Procurator General Vitalii Shchetkin in revenge for demoting Mr. Montrezor in 2009. Mr. Ivashchenko's lawyers have the right to appeal within two weeks, but they are pessimistic about the outcome (Kommersant-Ukraine, April 13).

Former Defense Minister Anatoliy Grytsenko (2005-2007), who is a prominent opposition leader, has said the Ivashchenko case is obviously one of score-settling as many other officials who had been involved in the Feodosia shipyard affair had not even been questioned, let alone punished (Ekonomicheskije Izvestia, April 13). Commenting immediately after Mr. Ivashchenko's arrest in 2010, Mr. Grytsenko, who used to work with Mr. Ivashchenko, had opined that Mr. Ivashchenko was a person who could make a wrong decision under pressure (Rosbalt, August 31, 2010). Unlike Ms. Tymoshenko or Mr. Lutsenko, Mr. Ivashchenko has never been active in politics. As a person who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, Mr. Ivashchenko has been made a scapegoat for somebody else's corrupt decisions. It is telling that the court decided not to punish Mr. Ivashchenko with property confiscation, as is usually the case when somebody is indicted for corruption.

Selective justice is too obvious in the Ivashchenko case. The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine released a statement on April 13 expressing its "deep disappointment in this latest example of selective justice" and calling for Mr. Ivashchenko's release taking into account the state of his health (Ukrayinska Pravda, April 13). Mr. Ivashchenko's spinal problems forced him to lie down rather than stand during the hearing of his verdict. He also reportedly has problems with his thyroid.

European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton expressed her disap-

pointment as well. Ms. Ashton said that, in spite of repeated calls for Kyiv to comply with international standards of fair trial, Mr. Ivashchenko's trial demonstrated significant shortcomings as far as law and procedure were concerned. Ms. Ashton also expressed concern over the April 5 sentencing of Mr. Filipchuk to three years in jail. She stressed that respect for the rule of law was crucial to Ukraine's political association and economic integration with the EU (UNIAN, April 13). The EU last December put off the signing of an association and free trade deal with Ukraine over the Tymoshenko indictment. The Lutsenko indictment on trumped-up charges in February strengthened the positions in Europe of those who believe that Ukraine's ruling class is not ready for integration with the EU (see EDM, April 2). If Messrs. Ivashchenko and Filipchuk are not freed any time soon, their indictments will be two more nails in the coffin of Ukraine's European integration.

Meanwhile, Javier Solana, Ms. Ashton's predecessor as the EU's foreign policy chief, has called Ukraine one of the biggest frustrations of his life. He said he was not sure whether Ukraine and Georgia would ever become part of the EU. Mr. Solana, who took an active part in the talks between the government and the opposition during the anti-Yanukovych Orange Revolution in 2004, regretted that the Orange period was very short. While Ms. Tymoshenko remains in prison, former President Viktor Yushchenko is sitting at home having lost his political clout; at the same time, their arch rival Mr. Yanukovych, who lost the 2004 election, is running the country. Mr. Solana described Ukraine's political class as immature and weak, and its political institutions as shaky (RFE/RL via Ukrayinska Pravda, April 14).

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Rada approves...

(Continued from page 1)

of bench trials (instead of trials by jury), the prohibition against the participation of human rights advocates for the defense and the expanded ability of prosecutors to conduct remote hearings in prison cells.

"The procedure alone of approving this document, let alone its contents, clearly demonstrated that Ukraine became a police state with its approval," said a statement issued by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. "Practically, the government gained the possibility to designate the guilty, according to the new code."

Oleksander Paliy, a political and historical expert, said the criminal code transfers the responsibility for investigations from the investigators themselves to prosecutors, thereby enhancing their ability to fabricate evidence.

"There are some progressive moments in the new code, such as provisions on home detention" for those charged with crimes that could lead to imprisonment, he said. "But a lot depends on how the law is truly implemented. In Ukraine, legislation is written with the intent of creating means of circumventing it. One comma is changed in a different direction and the essence suddenly is changed."

As voting dragged on into the wee hours of April 13, the few remaining reporters witnessed the absurd scene of no more than 30 deputies casting vote after vote that gave the series of bills the 226-vote required majority. By the final vote at 4:13 a.m., about 50 deputies had registered 283 voting cards, casting 271 votes on behalf of their absent colleagues, the Ukrayinska Pravda website reported.

Among those who allegedly voted was Inna Bohoslovsk, a national deputy of the Party of Regions who was in Brussels that very night as part of her several-month-long campaign to convince European Union politicians of the criminality of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

The new Criminal Procedural Code was applauded by officials at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Nevertheless, they asked Mr. Yanukovych not to sign the new code into law until it's been reviewed by the Council of Europe for compliance with European standards and norms.

Ukraine's Criminal Code has been amended several times since the 1960 draft, Mr. Bushchenko said. The biggest reform prior to this year occurred in 2001, he said, when radical judicial controls were introduced in arrests.

Rights lawyers were involved in drafting this code up until 2008, before they were pushed aside, Mr. Bushchenko

noted. Most of their concerns were ignored afterwards, and they weren't involved once Mr. Yanukovych became president in 2010.

The reported architect of the new Criminal Procedural Code is Andrii Portnov, a close associate of Viktor Medvedchuk, a Soviet-era defense lawyer who became a mega-millionaire and served as the Presidential Administration chair in the last years of the authoritarian presidency of Leonid Kuchma.

Mr. Portnov served as the deputy chair of the Tymoshenko Bloc faction in 2008, led the legal department of the Tymoshenko Bloc and even represented Ms. Tymoshenko in her appeal of the 2010 presidential election results.

Therefore, Mr. Bushchenko dismissed certain criticisms from the current opposition about the unfairness of the code that their own politicians drafted when the Tymoshenko-led opposition was in power.

"Essentially, they are correct in stating that investigators lose the independence they allegedly had," he said. "But I can't say it's all that bad because the new code gives prosecutors all accountability in an investigation, whereas they used to shift such responsibility. All those conditions of prosecutors getting more authority were adopted in 2008, so the criticisms are pseudo-political rather than professional."

But Mr. Groisman didn't agree, pointing out that the Ukrainian Constitution makes no mention of prosecutors leading criminal investigations.

A little more than a month after Ms. Tymoshenko withdrew her appeal, Mr. Portnov ditched the embattled opposition leader to take a post as the deputy chair in the Presidential Administration. A year later he was appointed as the director of its Main Administration on Judicial Reform.

He claimed the new code's reforms would reduce pre-trial incarcerations by 30 to 40 percent, acknowledging this number of citizens is being detained unjustly. Yet, experts such as Mr. Bushchenko and Kyiv lawyer Ivan Lozowy didn't share such optimism, expecting the status quo to remain for some time.

"There are a lot of things in the Tax Code or Criminal Code that should be applied but aren't because of endemic corruption," Mr. Lozowy said.

"Let's not forget that the laws on the books currently aren't that bad. On account of corruption, though, they're simply not applied. There's no indication that the Party of Regions will address that principle. If this was genuine, I think the code would be much better and accompanied by actions that demonstrate the Regions' sincere efforts," Mr. Lozowy added.

Canada's Parliament passes resolution honoring Sheptytsky

OTTAWA – Canada's House of Commons on April 24 unanimously approved a historic motion introduced by Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney recognizing the courageous deeds of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky in rescuing Jews during the Nazi occupation of Ukraine.

The resolution reads:

"Whereas Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky (1865-1944) of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, was the leader of Western Ukraine's largest faith group during the period of the second world war; and

"Whereas in the darkest period of Europe's history, with the deepening horrors of the mass murder of Jews in their homelands in Eastern Europe under German occupation during World War II, he spoke out eloquently against anti-Jewish violence and urged his congregants in a famous homily: 'Thou Shalt Not Kill'; and

"Whereas leaders and representatives of all Ukraine's major faith denominations – Christian, Jewish and Muslim – are visiting Canada to acknowledge Metropolitan Sheptytsky's good works; and

"Whereas Metropolitan Sheptytsky acted to shelter and rescue Jews, saving over 160, including some present with us in this House today;

"This House is united in expressing Canada's recognition of Andrey Sheptytsky's courageous actions, compassion for his oppressed Jewish Ukrainian countrymen, and enduring example of commitment to fundamental human rights as humankind's highest obligation."

The resolution was passed in the presence of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and members of his government, as well as a delegation of Ukrainian prelates who were in attendance.

The initiative took place during the April 22-29 visit to Canada and the United States of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations. The group of religious leaders traveled to Canada on the invitation of the Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter. The visit was dedicated to Metropolitan Sheptytsky and his legacy of harmony between ethnic and religious groups.

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\$5.00	Ewhen Brenycz Larysa Fontana Paula Holoviak Nick Lewczyk Eugenia Podolak Zoriana Siokalo Stacey Basniak-Lecuivre Michael Trenza	Whitehouse Station, NJ Potomac, MD Sugarloaf, PA Depew, NY Lehighon, PA Newtown, PA Lunenburg, MA Carle Place, NY

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UCC seeks long-term observers for Ukraine elections

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF), which have successfully monitored several elections in Ukraine since 2004, are organizing an election observer mission for the parliamentary elections, scheduled for October 28.

The UCC-CUF mission is looking for highly qualified individuals to serve as long-term observers (LTOs) on the ground in Ukraine. These LTOs will be responsible for: monitoring the run-up to the elections in Ukraine to ensure that the election is being organized in a fair and transparent manner; monitoring such things as voter's lists and the voters' registers; monitoring access of parties and candidates to mass media; monitoring

the formation of election commissions; and overseeing the formation of new electoral boundaries for the 225 districts, the registration of single-mandate district candidates and the electoral campaign.

Availability and a commitment from June 1 to November 3 are desirable, but shorter time commitments from highly qualified individuals will also be considered. Election experience in Canada and/or Ukraine is an asset. Applicants must be Canadian citizens and have a good working knowledge of Ukrainian and/or Russian. Financial arrangements will be discussed and determined with the successful applicants. All direct expenses for LTOs will be covered.

In order to apply, interested persons should send a detailed CV, a filled-out

questionnaire (available by clicking on the link at <http://www.ucc.ca/2012/04/18/ucc-cuf-call-for-long-term-election-observers/>) and indicate the dates of their availability to ukrelection2012@gmail.com. Questions may be directed to the UCC office in Winnipeg at 204-942-4627 or 1-866-942-4627.

The deadline to submit applications is May 15.

The UCC and the CUF will also be sending a large mission of short-term observer (STOs) to monitor the immediate time-frame around election day. Those interested in serving as STOs may e-mail their contact information to ukrelection2012@gmail.com; they will receive detailed instructions in the near future.

New terminal is opened at Lviv International Airport in advance of Euro-2012

LVIV – President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine and Michel Platini, president of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), took part in the opening ceremony on April 12 of a new terminal at the Lviv Danylo Halytsky International Airport in advance of this summer's European soccer championship, which is being jointly hosted by Ukraine and Poland.

President Yanukovich called the event another victory for Lviv on the way toward the Euro-2012 soccer championships, which will take place June 8 through July 1. "We are opening a new, modern terminal," he said, adding that its capacity will be about 2,100 passengers per hour.

According to Mr. Yanukovich, the Lviv local government's next major task is building a modern infrastructure around the airport.

The UEFA president praised the work carried out by Ukraine in the framework of preparations for the Euro-2012. "It is amazing what the small soccer ball can do," Mr. Platini said, expressing his belief that the Euro-2012 in Ukraine will be a grand event for soccer fans.

Messrs. Yanukovich and Platini, joined by Vice Prime Minister for Infrastructure Boris Kolesnikov, together cut the symbolic ribbon opening the new terminal and unveiled a bust of King Danylo Halytsky inside the new terminal.

Source: Official Website of Ukraine's President



Official Website of Ukraine's President
A bust of King Danylo Halytsky is unveiled inside the new terminal.

UCC remembers Chornobyl anniversary

OTTAWA – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, in a news release issued prior to April 26, the 26th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine, underscored: "The Chornobyl nuclear disaster drastically transformed the lives of thousands of people in Ukraine and Belarus. Even today, Ukraine continues to cope with the long-term health, economic and environmental consequences of this preventable disaster."

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC)

asked that all Canadians take the time to commemorate those affected by this tragedy.

"As Ukrainian Canadians, we pray for those that suffered and continue to suffer, the aftermath of this disaster, and others like it that have devastated parts of our world," said UCC National President Paul Grod. "Let us come together and commemorate the 26th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster in our communities and let us not forget this event that

changed Ukraine and the world."

On April 26, 1986, Chornobyl was the site of the world's worst nuclear accident. The world was kept ignorant of the accident by the Soviet authorities, the UCC noted. However, as a result of the release of substantial amounts of radiation into the atmosphere, it was not long before other countries became aware of the disaster and the utter failure of the Soviet authorities to ensure the safety of those living closest to the nuclear plant.

U.S. changes visa processing fees

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of State has adjusted visa processing fees as of April 13. The fees for most non-immigrant visa applications and Border Crossing Cards will increase, while all immigrant visa processing fees will decrease.

The State Department is required to recover, as far as possible, the cost of processing visas through the collection of application fees. For a number of reasons, the current fees no longer cover the actual cost of processing non-immigrant visas. The non-immigrant visa fee increase will support the addition and expansion of overseas facilities, as well as additional staffing required to meet increased visa demand.

Although most categories of non-immigrant visa processing fees will increase, the fee for E visas (treaty-traders and treaty-investors) and K visas (for fiancés/fiancées of U.S. citizens) will decrease.

Because of a reallocation of costs associated with immigrant visas, all categories of immigrant visa processing fees will decrease.

Non-immigrant Visa Processing Fees		
Type of visa	Previous fee	New fee
Tourist, Business, Transit, Crew Member, Student, Exchange Visitor, Journalist visas	\$140	\$160
Petition-Based visas (H, L, O, P, Q, and R)	\$150	\$190
Treaty Investor and Trader visas (E)	\$390	\$270
Fiancé(e) visas (K)	\$350	\$240
Border Crossing Cards (age 15 and older)	\$140	\$160
Border Crossing Cards (under age 15)	\$14	\$15

Immigrant Visa Processing Fees		
Type of visa	Previous fee	New fee
Immediate Relative and Family Preference Applications	\$330	\$230
Employment-Based Applications	\$720	\$405
Other Immigrant Visa Applications	\$305	\$220
Diversity Visa Program Fee	\$440	\$330
Determining Returning Resident Status	\$380	\$275

Fee information may also be found on the Bureau of Consular Affairs website, travel.state.gov, and on the websites of U.S. Embassies and Consulates.

Tymoshenko...

(Continued from page 2)

son who confessed to killing Mr. Shcherban a decade ago, Vadym Bolotskikh, has been reportedly transferred from a distant prison to Kyiv for questioning (UNIAN, April 6).

Asked during a talk show why Ruslan Shcherban had not come up with his accusations earlier, Mr. Kuzmin said that he was afraid for his life. What's more, Mr. Kuzmin said that his team suspected Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Lazarenko of also commissioning the murders of another Donetsk businessman, Oleksander Momot, in 1996, and former National Bank of Ukraine Governor Vadym Hetman in 1998.

Mr. Kuzmin also said that the prosecutors were targeting the deputy chairman of Ms. Tymoshenko's Fatherland party, Oleksander Turchynov, who de facto heads Fatherland while Ms. Tymoshenko is in prison. He said Mr. Turchynov was suspected of illegally awarding an apartment to his spokesman when Mr. Turchynov headed the security service in the government of President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Ms. Tymoshenko in 2005 (Inter, April 6). Another ally of Ms. Tymoshenko, former Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko, was sentenced to four years in jail earlier this year for awarding an apartment to his former driver.

Mr. Turchynov has dismissed all the new accusations against his boss and himself as a smear campaign, and he suggested that

the prosecutors' goal was to shock Europe into stopping its defense of Ms. Tymoshenko. He also alleged that those who commissioned the Shcherban murder must be among the PRU ranks as several influential members of the PRU had built their business empires on the ruins of Mr. Shcherban's business (Channel 5, April 7).

Meanwhile, another former minister from Ms. Tymoshenko's government has received a prison term. On April 5, a court in Kyiv sentenced former Environment Minister Heorhii Filipchuk to three years in jail for exceeding his authority in preparing a ministry contract with a legal company (Ukrinform, April 5). Mr. Filipchuk was indicted under the same law under which Ms. Tymoshenko was indicted last October and which President Yanukovich called

"outdated."

Fatherland has claimed that Mr. Filipchuk was punished for opposing the U.S. company Vanco's attempts to "snatch the Black Sea shelf from the state" (byut.com.ua, April 6). Ms. Tymoshenko's Cabinet canceled Vanco's license to develop the Prikerchenskaya oil field in the Black Sea in April 2008 claiming that it had been awarded the license illegally. Vanco planned to develop the field in partnership with Donetsk-based tycoon Rinat Akhmetov, who is a senior member of the PRU.

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Zakerzonnia and Akcja Wisla

Sixty-five years ago the Communist government of Poland perpetrated the forced resettlement of some 150,000 Ukrainians from ethnically Ukrainian lands in the southeastern part of the country, close to the border with the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, to territories in northwestern Poland known as the "recovered territories" (ziemie odzyskane), which were part of pre-war Germany but became part of Poland after World War II.

The swift military operation – a clear example of ethnic cleansing – began in the early morning hours of April 28, 1947. Its purpose, according to a secret document dated April 16, 1947, was "To finally solve the Ukrainian problem in Poland, ...to evacuate from the southern and eastern border region all individuals of Ukrainian nationality and resettle them on the northwestern lands..." It was underscored that "The evacuation must include all elements of the Ukrainian nationality, including Lemkos and those of mixed Ukrainian-Polish marriages. ..."

By means of Akcja Wisla, or Operation Vistula, the Ukrainian character of the Lemko, Sian, Kholm and Pidliashia regions was to be destroyed, and the Ukrainians of Poland were to be totally assimilated into the Polish milieu. That is, the Ukrainians, as an organized community in Poland, were to vanish.

As noted by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America in its statement issued on the 65th anniversary of Akcja Wisla, "The official purpose of the military operation ...was to incapacitate the active units of Ukraine's liberation force, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), in the Lemko region, and deny it a source of local support. In fact, the action was a premeditated plan conducted by Soviet and Polish authorities during and after World War II 'to resolve the Ukrainian question...' " Indeed, according to ample documentation, the planning for Akcja Wisla had taken place well in advance.

It must be noted that Akcja Wisla was in fact the continuation of Polish and Soviet policy adopted in 1944 and their proposed demarcation of the border between them based largely on the Curzon Line (established in 1919 as the border between the opposing powers of the Second Polish Republic and Bolshevik Russia). Poles and Jews on Soviet territory were to be resettled west of the line to Poland, while Ukrainians, Belarusians and Lithuanians were to be transferred eastward to Soviet territory. For Poland, this "exchange" of populations was key to achieving the goal of a more Polish Poland; for the USSR it was the solution to a multitude of regional issues and had international ramifications as approval was sought for a shift in the border.

This forced "repatriation" and the subsequent forced resettlement, according to Dr. Taras Hunczak, editor and compiler of the new book "Zakerzonnia: Ethnic Cleansing of the Ukrainian Minority in Poland 1944-1947," had "devastating consequences for Poland's Ukrainian minority," leaving the community scarred for decades. (The title of the book, "Zakerzonnia," refers to the territory west of the Curzon Line.)

The new book, a collection of articles by scholars from the United States and Poland, including Yale's Prof. Timothy Snyder, known for his book "Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin," aims to acquaint English-language readers with the history of the Ukrainian people who lived in Zakerzonnia, perhaps the ultimate borderland, which suffered so much upheaval and bloodshed. It is a book well worth reading to learn about this often overlooked aspect of the history of the Ukrainian people.

The publishers of "Zakerzonnia," the Organization for the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine and The Lemko Research Foundation, have found a most fitting and valuable way to commemorate the 65th anniversary of Akcja Wisla.

April
30
2007

Turning the pages back...

Five years ago, on April 30, 2007, President Viktor Yushchenko issued a presidential decree and dismissed Assistant Court Chair Valerii Pshenychnyi of the Constitutional Court, who violated the secrecy of the deliberation room by publicly disclosing how judges voted on several matters. Mr. Pshenychnyi also illegally appointed fellow Judge Suzanna Stanik as the court's reporting judge. The following day, May 1, 2007, President Yushchenko signed another decree dismissing Ms. Stanik. She was indirectly accused by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) on April 16, 2007, of accepting \$12 million in bribes through her elderly mother.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers met on May 3, 2007, to discuss the recent firings of the two Constitutional Court judges by President Yushchenko. "The president's latest unlawful decree to dismiss a second Constitutional Court judge forces us to state that Viktor Yushchenko is pushing Ukraine down a path of anarchy and chaos with his anti-constitutional acts," said coalition partners Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, Verkhovna Rada Chair Oleksander Moroz and Communist Party of Ukraine Chair Petro Symonenko in a joint statement.

The decision came following the president's fears that the Constitutional Court would overturn his decree to dismiss Parliament and call for pre-term elections. Mr. Yushchenko's supporters argued that it is the president's prerogative to dismiss judges that he appointed who violate the law, while opponents alleged that he was sabotaging the Constitutional Court.

"It looks suspiciously like politically motivated actions by Yushchenko, but given the machinations taking place between the judges, it seemed sufficient cause," said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Institute of Statehood and Democracy in Kyiv.

(Continued on page 12)

COMMENTARY

Sixty-five years ago

by Askold S. Lozynskyj

The operation began at 4 a.m. on April 28, 1947. The result was that over a period of roughly three months some 20,000 soldiers of the Polish People's Army, the Internal Security Corps and special personnel of the police Milicja Obywatelska and the Security Service Urząd Bezpieczeństwa forcibly changed the ethnic composition of the southeastern regions of Poland, relocating some 150,000 Ukrainians to the Northwest.

Many died during the roughshod process of ethnic cleansing. The authorities were discriminate enough to single out intellectuals and clergy, who were then incarcerated in the Jawozno concentration camp. Many were tortured and later died in the camp. The resettlement directive for the general Ukrainian populace was very specific: no more than a 10 percent concentration of Ukrainians could constitute the population of any urban or rural location.

Some Poles even recently have tried to justify "Akcja Wisla" (the operation's Polish name) as retribution for the Ukrainian-Polish massacres in Volyn in 1943. Others have pointed to the ethnographic Ukrainian lands such as Lemkivschyna and others, which were made a part of Communist Poland and continue as part of the Polish Republic today, serving as the main base of operations for the Ukrainian Insurgent Army in the post World War II period.

Nevertheless, the current Republic of Poland has recognized the crimes of its predecessor state. The Polish Senate in 1990 apologized to the Ukrainian community. In 2002 Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski apologized as did President Lech Kaczynski in 2007. However, the Polish Parliament (Sejm) and its governments headed by its many prime ministers since independence have remained silent. The more significant problem is that little or no tangible effort has been made by Poland to liquidate the effects of Akcja Wisla or provide restitution, except for minor gestures such as permitting a return to once-occupied lands after more than half a century and the return of the Ukrainian home to the Ukrainian community in Przemyśl (Peremyshl).

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1948, and entered into force on January 12, 1951. Article 2 of the convention defined genocide as an act committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such, by "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part." Both effect and motive of "Akcja Wisla" are clear. In 1947, just prior to the operation, there were 500,000 Ukrainians in Poland. According to the last census there are currently 37,000 Ukrainians. The intent is transparent from the directives of resettlement and its manner: the directive for no more than a 10 percent concentration of Ukrainians and special directives depleting the nation of intellectuals and clergy, whose torture and confinement in a concentration camp that was a part of the notorious Nazi camp at Auschwitz and ultimate death, ensured the dearth of that stratum of Ukrainian society.

The organized Ukrainian community in Poland has sought rehabilitation through liquidation of the lasting negative effects of Akcja Wisla. It has pursued many options,

administrative and judicial inside Poland, all to no avail. Finally on March 19, 2010, it filed a complaint with the European Court of Human Rights seeking redress from the current Republic of Poland for declining substantive action meant to rehabilitate the Ukrainian minority in Poland.

On February 16 of this year the European Court notified the Union of Ukrainians in Poland that this matter did not fall within its jurisdiction. There are no avenues of appeal. Legally the European Court is correct since Akcja Wisla took place several years before the European Court had come into existence.

Akcja Wisla's resettlement directive for the general Ukrainian populace was very specific: no more than a 10 percent concentration of Ukrainians could constitute the population of any urban or rural location in Poland.

The current Republic of Poland, irrespective of governments or party affiliation, has been one of the staunchest supporters of an independent and democratic Ukraine, perhaps most importantly advocating bringing Ukraine into the European Union and NATO. Together the two countries will be hosting the European Cup this June. These manifestations of a good neighbor policy has been laudable. True, some cynics, and I am one of them, insist that Poland's affability towards Ukraine has been less altruistic and more strategic, seeing a strong and democratic Ukraine as a buffer between itself and Russia.

On historical issues, frankly, Poland has been unyielding. This in spite of the fact that historically the Poles invaded Ukrainian territory three times. Ukrainians never once occupied Polish territory. There is no legal mandate that Poland admit its transgressions against Ukrainians and work towards genuine reconciliation, but there certainly may be a moral element that good willed Poles should consider.

Ukrainians should forgive Poles not only for Akcja Wisla but for all the historical inequities. What the Poles do is besides the point. Forgiveness simply is the moral and Christian way.

While it should not involve geo-political strategy, the two sometimes are in tandem assuming good faith. However, forgiving does not mean forgetting. Not only Lemkos and Boykos, but all Ukrainians dare not forget the victims of Akcja Wisla or any other tragedy that has befallen Ukrainians over centuries of foreign occupation and rule. We must remember for the sake of the victims because they deserve our consideration. Our ancestors suffered so much. But we must remember also for our children.

Today's problems pale by comparison with our past. We must live and work to ensure a future less tragic and more peaceful. Ensuring that future often means remembering the past, no matter how difficult that may be.

NEWS AND VIEWS

The debasement of Ukraine's youth

by Bohdan Pechenyak

I am writing this commentary to draw readers' attention to a phenomenon that is widespread in today's Ukraine – namely, the debasement of its youth. What compelled me to write this letter was a brief discussion via an e-mail list that focuses on Ukrainian politics and society.

In recent years, in many cities, towns and villages across Ukraine, teenagers can frequently be seen smoking, drinking, loitering and aimlessly hanging out in broad daylight, when they should be at school, developing their minds and bodies, their social and emotional skills, their ability to think and create.

In addition, many girls, particularly in smaller towns and villages, tend to adopt an eclectic clothing style gleaned from glamour magazines and other media. These poor attempts at imitation of fashion icons, presented as "sexy," "cool," "mysterious," "seductive," etc., usually communicate lack of taste, are sexually provocative and imply promiscuity. I realize that I'm generalizing here, but, accounting for variations and subtleties, this description reflects the reality fairly accurately.

It would be possible to allay this concern by remembering how each of us used to be – young, rebellious and eager to discover the world, how we made all kinds of mistakes and misjudgments in fashion, in social behaviors, in cultural expression – only if this phenomenon weren't so widespread and a symptom pointing to a serious dysfunction in Ukrainian society: that the general morale among the young is exceedingly low.

Does this surprise you? Well, it shouldn't. After all, what else is to be expected? Ukrainian society is still sick – it is still post-Soviet, with everything that term implies. Soviet anomie (a lack of social norms, a breakdown of social bonds between an individual and their community) has been replaced by anomie of a semi-democratic – these days it's closer to semi-authoritarian – state with a vulture capitalist economy, in which bureaucrats, the oligarchs and organized crime (almost synonymous terms) amass capital, while the people stay poor.

The state does not care the least bit about the people, including the teenagers, the students, and the young workers and professionals. Those who have the means, leave. Those who stay behind either lack the means and opportunities to do the same, or tend to value their families, friends and homeland more than individual economic and professional success. A few of the former choose to return, because of patriotism, nostalgia or social ties. Some are even able to make their way, possibly start a small business or achieve some success in their chosen profession.

Indeed, I don't want to paint the picture in overly dark tones. Some young people, who are smart, educated (often mostly due to their own efforts rather than to formal institutions), enterprising, open to the world and cognizant of the newest developments in their chosen field, are able to achieve considerable success in Ukraine and enjoy a relatively comfortable life as a middle-class professional or a business owner. Regrettably, those are few and far

between. Corruption, rent-seeking and thievery reign. There is a humorous saying in Ukraine: "If you're poor, at least you know you've been honest." Yes, bittersweet humor.

As you are reading this, many young Ukrainians are breaking their backs doing dirty, often illegal, jobs in various countries across Europe. Sure, they are able to make more money than they would if they stayed in Ukraine. Yes, they faithfully send remittances to Ukraine to support their children and, usually, grandparents who watch after them. But consider the price: their children grow up deprived of parental love, support and care. Slavko Vakarchuk sings about this in his song "Fun times have come, brother": "The soul has woken up and is asking itself – why I am alone? There's no one to ask – gold instead of the father, instead of the mother – a deaf wall."

Growing up this way, the children often acquire a distorted hierarchy of values, where monetary interests trump morality, spirituality, humanity. They come to expect easy money, not understanding its value, the effort required to make it, or the increasing importance of education in today's fast-paced, global information age. Moreover, they grow up in a corrupt society and quickly lose any illusion of fairness or justice, if they ever had one.

As if that weren't enough, the culture of consumerism and the vulgarity of low brow, lowest-common-denominator pop culture glorify the superficial over the meaningful, appearances over substance, and wastefulness over resourcefulness. This breeds ignorance and prejudice, cynicism and hedonism, and civic and political apathy at the time when knowledge, faith, idealism and activism are most needed. Regrettably, nihilism rules the day.

This is, of course, the worst-case scenario. There are cases when, even in the absence of parents, caretakers are able to provide the children with a wholesome, nurturing environment. Unfortunately, even in these cases and even those children who have parents to bring them up, who are able to find opportunities, gain a good education and achieve a certain higher level of social scale, frequently are subject to the same nihilism and anomie. After all, they also see the corruption and injustice around them, they see that anything can be bought and sold, that morality is a useless luxury. So, deliberately or not, they act to maintain the status quo of widespread corruption and moral bankruptcy.

It's a very bleak picture that I've painted. It's not all bad, of course. There are good families that bring up good children, teaching them to recognize right from wrong and to live a principled life. Although they are few, there are organizations and institutions in the Ukrainian society that help foster responsible, informed and capable citizens.

The National Scouting Organization of Ukraine, Plast, with which many of you are very familiar, is one such organization. Many of these children manage to be successful, to become leaders and to make their contributions, ranging from small to very significant, toward changing things for the better.

So, not all is lost – not by a long shot. However, the problems exist, are serious and cannot be ignored. The magnitude of the problem becomes evident, when you consider that even Plast is not immune to

(Continued on page 8)

From a Canadian Angle

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn



Fight corruption: Hit where it hurts

Among the leading issues of concern to the Ukrainian community in Canada and throughout the free world is the relentless and systematic elimination of Ukraine's political opposition. President Viktor Yanukovich has yet to grasp the dangerous nature of the reign of terror he has perpetrated against political rivals. As bad as this is for democracy, it is just as bad for him and his cohorts. Sooner or later they will pay.

Since coming to power two years ago, the president has been playing barbaric cat and mouse games with the opposition. Snubbing public opinion at home and abroad, he has presided over the arrests and incarceration of more than 100 of its leaders, forcing others into exile, into silence or betrayal. Yulia Tymoshenko is but the best known. She is also the greatest thorn in his side, having lost the presidency to him by a mere 5 percent and now she is mustering her party to join a new opposition force under Arseniy Yatsenyuk. Her trial, incarceration and now, medical mistreatment – is condemned internationally; to the president and his cohorts, it's a sport.

It is unclear as to what Mr. Yanukovich hopes to gain by turning Ms. Tymoshenko into a global martyr along the lines of Nelson Mandela and Myanmar's Aung San Sui Kyi. No matter what "crimes" the justice system throws at her, both he and the system have lost credibility. Whether he lets her go, keeps "torturing" her – this from an examining German doctor – or even allows her to die as Sergei Magnitsky did in Russia, the president has sealed his place in history. At best, he will be remembered as a subservient lackey to Russia and a pariah among world leaders.

His woman-hating and democracy-hating will be his demise. Mr. Yanukovich has been seduced by the power and wants more as he throws caution to the winds and friendly advice back at Ukraine's few remaining friends. This was made abundantly clear as insult was added to injury during the visit there by Canada's Minister of International Cooperation Bev Oda.

One could almost see the man snickering when, during Minister Oda's visit, it was announced that another oppositionist, former Acting Minister of Defense Valerii Ivashchenko, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. The message from Ukraine's leaders was clear: We care nada about letters of friendly advice and warnings penned by Canada's prime minister and his minister of foreign affairs. The arrest was to show Canada who's in charge, that there is nothing Western democracies can do about it, and that the more persuasive model of behavior is the ultimate bully, Russia.

It was a strong signal, a spit at Canada's extended hand, for Canada had

just cut back its international commitments around the world but spared Ukraine. In fact, during the visit Minister Oda announced a new nearly \$14 million agriculture program. However, on a conference call back to Canada she could not hide her displeasure at reporting on the arrest's timing and the silent treatment in the media – now mostly under state control – that Canada's rebukes about the need to return to democratic principles had received.

In view of such behavior it might have been an equally strong message for Minister Oda to have left Ukraine immediately. But diplomacy is nothing if not hopeful. She was pleased to report that Ukraine agreed to welcome election observers.

Pleased?

How can Canada trust Ukraine after the insult of another in-your-face arrest designed to undermine friendly gestures? The official "welcome" to observers reeks of duplicity. It reminds us of how, in the earlier days of their ascendancy, the oligarchs mocked Western values while devouring Ukraine's national economic wealth and democratic institutions. Human rights, they jeered dismissively? Give them human rights – we'll take everything else!

The arrest was a similar taunt: Come and observe the elections in the thousands, more if you wish; it is not how the little people vote, it's how we count. Besides, we have well-paid international consultants to advise us how to pull the wool over your eyes.

The menacing mood is clear. The time has come for Canada to join other like-minded countries moving from a friendly but critical stance to the more targeted name-and-shame-the-culprits regime. Or get tougher – hit the abusers where it hurts most: restrict their travel by disallowing visas and freeze their ill-gotten assets.

The United States has already begun this process. The Magnitsky List, named after the Russian whistle blowing lawyer who died in prison after 11 months of horror, means to blacklist those implicated in his death. Russia is feeling the heat, calling the gesture "an unfriendly step against Russia..., disrespect... of its judiciary's independence."

The list means to be "unfriendly." It aims to deprive criminals of their safety nets – an escape abroad to gentrification via illicit gains. Europe, too, is moving in that direction. Canada should not stay behind.

As for Canada's election observer mission? Go and be most vigilant. And remember, in Ukraine fat cats have sharp claws.

Oksana Bashuk Hepburn may be contacted at oksanabh@sympatico.ca.

We welcome your opinion

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Letters should be typed and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at staff@ukrweekly.com. The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions.

Please note: THE LENGTH OF LETTERS CANNOT EXCEED 500 WORDS.

Bohdan Pechenyak, who is originally from Lviv, now resides in Philadelphia. He holds a dual master's degree in social work and public health from Temple University.

REDISCOVERING HISTORY

Luba Saj-Cholhan: woman of valor

by Taras Hunczak

Back in October 2009, a remarkable story appeared in the Jewish Community News about 91-year-old Luba Saj-Cholhan of Passaic, N.J., who was recognized by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority, as one of the Righteous Among the Nations.

The honoree, Ukrainian-born Mrs. Saj-Cholhan, is a descendant of the distinguished Hirniak family, whose one uncle, Nykyfor Hirniak, was a unit commander of the Legion of Ukrainian Sich Riflemen while another, Yosyp Hirniak, became a famous actor in the leading Ukrainian theaters. As a young lady she married Dr. Thaddeus Saj, who was arrested by the Communists in 1941 and sent to the Ural Mountain region from which he never returned. When the German forces came to Ternopil in 1941, Mrs. Saj was with her year-old son Yuri. In this difficult situation she enjoyed the close support of her family.

With the advance of the Germans, the Ukrainian people, having survived Communist rule, had all kinds of expectations for the possibility of political independence. Soon they learned, however, that Germany's real plans were to turn Ukraine into a colony, which included exploitation of Ukrainians and extermination of the Jewish people. Anybody who dared to help a Jew was condemned to death.

It was under these circumstances that Mrs. Saj decided, at the risk of her own life as well as that of her little son, to do everything to save her friend Mina Shulster. She hid Mina in her own house and later provided her with a false passport by using her late mother-in-law's paperwork.

Having this document, Ms. Shulster was able to go to Austria, where she worked as a streetcar conductor. Being in Austria saved Ms. Shulster's life. Eventually she moved with her family to Israel, where her children and grandchildren now live, thanks to the heroic and selfless actions of Mrs. Saj-Cholhan.



Luba Saj-Cholhan as a young woman.

A ceremony in Mrs. Saj-Cholhan's honor was held on October 5, 2009, at the Consulate General of Israel in New York, and she was presented the Righteous Among Nations medal – inscribed with the words “They who have saved a single life, it is as if they have saved an entire world” – and a certificate of honor.

(Continued on page 18)

The debasement...

(Continued from page 7)

encroachments of glamour-obsessed consumerist culture, political opportunism, financial malfeasance, etc. It stands to reason, since Plast is also a part of the wider social fabric, and each member is first and foremost a fallible human being.

In other words, the way to address these problems is to transform the culture and strengthen civil society. Of course, without changing the current government – run by criminals and aggressively anti-Ukrainian post-Soviet bureaucrats – as well as the way it functions, progress is bound to be piecemeal and excruciatingly slow.

It doesn't have to be that way. In 2004 we witnessed Ukrainians believing in themselves and their ability to effect social change. Unfortunately, they also succumbed to the Messianic syndrome, believing the politicians' promises to do the right thing and save the country. Well, the upside is that they will not make that mistake ever again. They realize that ultimately they have only themselves to rely on and that the next generation of political leadership must come from among themselves.

This is where organizations like Plast can be useful. Through mentoring and encouragement, it is possible to teach how to practice good judgment, how to think critically and creatively, how to appreciate beauty, truth and wisdom, how to cultivate tasteful esthetics and positive ethics, and, most importantly, how to be an active member of society without falling victim to peer pressure and conformism. In fact, there is a whole generation of such individuals that has recently entered adulthood. Many of them were schooled by the Orange Revolution. Their destiny is to change Ukraine and lead the country.

You may not agree with everything I've said so far. Welcome or not, these are my views. Unfortunately, they reflect the current realities of life in Ukraine only too well. However, as I've argued, optimism is warranted. In fact, it is required. We all need to come to terms with reality in the face of hard facts of life. However, when our attitude affects the outcome, optimism gives us an important advantage.

Let's not forget that “together we are many and we cannot be defeated!” Nobody will ever change that.

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New book, "Zakerzonnia", recounts plight of Ukrainians in Poland

WHIPPANY, N.J. – More than 50 people gathered at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, here in Whippany, N.J., on March 25 to hear Prof. Taras Hunczak present his newest publication, "Zakerzonnia: Ethnic Cleansing of the Ukrainian Minority in Poland, 1944-1947." This is the first English-language treatment of the subject.

"Zakerzonnia" is dedicated to the 65th anniversary of Akcija Wisla, the forced deportation of Ukrainians to Poland. It was a collaborative effort of the Lemko Research Foundation and the Organization for the Defense of Lemo Western Ukraine (ODLWU).

The event, sponsored by the ODLWU, was opened by Zenon Halkowycz, president, who thanked the audience for coming and introduced Dr. Hunczak, professor emeritus of Rutgers University, the editor and compiler of the book.



Matthew Dubas

Organizers of the book presentation for "Zakerzonnia" at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany, N.J., on March 25.

ZAKERZONNIA

Ethnic Cleansing of
the Ukrainian Minority
in Poland

1944-1947

tus of Rutgers University, the editor and compiler of the book.

Prof. Hunczak explained, "This book tells part of a history about the Lemkos of Ukraine." Ukraine was divided among many empires, he said, and the toughest part of completing this book was a standardization of names of places and people, because there were multiple authors translating the material and the differences between Polish and Ukrainian transliterations.

"The ethnic identity of the Lemkos survived in exile, beyond the borders of Ukraine," Prof. Hunczak noted.

The book includes chapters by Roman Drozd, Timothy Snyder, Yewhen Misylo, Diana Howansky Reilly and Mykola Duplak, with assistance by Marie Duplak and Mykola Darmochwal. Translators included Evhen Ladna, Volodymyr Hrycyk and Dr. taras V. Shmihir.

Following the presentation by Prof. Hunczak, bandurist

Alla Kusevych sang selections of Ukrainian and Lemko songs. As part of the program, the film "Fire and Sword" was screened; it details the fight of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in the Zakerzonnia region.

In gratitude for his work on this latest book, Mr. Halkowycz named Prof. Hunczak an honorary Lemko.

The event was concluded with remarks by Stephen Howansky, president of the Lemko Research Foundation, who thanked Prof. Hunczak and the authors and individuals involved with the publication of "Zakerzonnia."

Prof. Hunczak, who is a retired professor of history at Rutgers, signed copies of the new book for audience members.

Readers may purchase books for \$25 (\$30 with postage) by sending a check made out to ODLWU Inc., P.O. Box 7, Clifton, N.J. 07015. Readers may also telephone Vasyl Harhaj, 973-772-3344, for more information on the book.

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Session 1: 7/22-7/28 • Session 2: 7/29-8/4

Weekly rate overnight stay \$450 • Daily commuter for the week \$250
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Roma Pryma Bohachevsky

Ukrainian Dance Camp

Session 1: 7/22-8/4 • Session 2: 8/5-8/18

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Directed by Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych (daughter of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky), this camp is for ages 8-16, and offers expert instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced students. Room, board, 24-hour supervision, expert lessons and loads of fun are included. Each camp ends with a grand recital. Attendance will be limited to 60 students



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CONCERT REVIEW

Zuk duo offers inspired performance in Montreal



Luba and Ireneus Zuk

by José Vásquez

MONTREAL – The internationally renowned Canadian Ukrainian piano duo of Luba and Ireneus Zuk presented an ambitious, dynamic and eclectic program to a large and enthusiastic audience on February 27 at Pollack Hall of the Schulich School of Music of McGill University.

The Zuk duo treated its guests to a diverse repertoire of genres, each highlighting the duo's exquisite playing and mastery of classical and modern musical idioms.

The evening's program began with Franz Schubert's "Grande Sonata" in B-flat, Op. 30. The Zuks adeptly captured the piece's charming youthful energy in their

José Vásquez is a musicologist and conservatory course instructor at Montreal's McGill University.

affectionate phrasing and carefully balanced ensemble performance, beautifully underscoring the passion of the melodic composition.

The concert also included "Six Pièces Ukrainiennes" by Théodore Akimenko, a Ukrainian composer of international repute.

Later in the evening, Ireneus Zuk paid tribute to Prof. Istvan Anhalt, former director of Queen's School of Music, who passed away on February 24 in Kingston, Ontario. The Zuk duo also dedicated Akimenko's "November" to Prof. Anhalt's memory.

The Zuk duo is recognized worldwide for its fervent advocacy of Canadian composers. The Zuks have also received awards from the Ukrainian government for their "significant personal contribution to

(Continued on page 18)

Tenor John Daszak to debut at Metropolitan Opera on May 4

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – British-born tenor John Daszak, the son of a Ukrainian émigré who settled in England after World War II, will make his first appearance on the Metropolitan Opera stage on May 4.

Mr. Daszak, considered one of the most versatile of Britain's new generation of tenors, will sing the role of Captain Vere in Benjamin Britten's retelling of Herman Melville's shipboard drama "Billy Budd." Appearing with him will be baritone Nathan Gunn as the innocent hero Billy Budd and bass-baritone James Morris as Budd's nemesis.

The three-hour production will be presented again on May 10 and 12.

Mr. Daszak is the nephew of Zenon Dashak (they spell their last names differently), who was a professor of viola and the long-time rector of the Lviv National Academy of Music and taught the celebrated viola player Yuri Bashmet.

His Met debut comes during a season that includes the title role of Zemlinsky's "Der Zwerg" at Munich's Bavarian State Opera, Jim Mahoney in "Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny" with the De Vlaamse Opera in Belgium, and Grishka Kuterma in "The Invisible City of Kitezh" with the Netherlands Opera.

A former member of English National Opera, Mr. Daszak has performed frequently with major U.K. opera companies, including the Royal Opera House, Glyndebourne Festival and Welsh National Opera.

Based in London, Mr. Daszak has made many important international debuts – Vienna's Staatsoper, Frankfurt and Hamburg Operas, Opera National de Paris, La Scala Milan and Valencia's Palais de les Arts.

His performance as Loge in "Das Rheingold" won critical acclaim: one reviewer who pointed to his "lyrical, musi-



John Daszak

cal, dramatic presence with a voice the timbre of which reminded me of the late, great Gerhard Stolze." Another critic declared that "John Daszak has a flexible, beautiful voice combined with a most intelligent, effortless characterization."

The tenor's career highlights include Aaron in "Moses und Aron," Mephistopheles in "Dr. Faustus" and the title role of "Peter Grimes." He has also sung the role of Zinoviy in "Lady Macbeth of Mitsensk" and Prince Golitsin in "Khovanshchina."

A popular concert performer with a repertoire ranging from Mahler and Janacek through Rossini, Beethoven and Verdi, Mr. Daszak has collaborated with such world-renowned conductors as Kurt Masur, Leonard Slatkin and Sir Colin Davis.

His recordings include the role of Loge in "Das Rheingold," conducted by Zubin Mehta, and Pfitzer's "Palestrina," conducted by Simone Young, both on DVD.

Mr. Daszak was born in Manchester, where he studied at Chetham's School of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music.

Virlana Tkacz speaks at the University of Alberta

by Natalie Kononenko

EDMONTON, Alberta – Virlana Tkacz, founding director of Yara Arts Group, a resident company at La MaMa Experimental Theater in New York, spoke at the University of Alberta on February 2 and 3. She gave one talk as part of the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies seminar series and another as part of the Kule Folklore Center Graduate Lunch talks.

In addition to her formal talks, she visited Ukrainian language and folklore classes and shared her knowledge with students.

Ms. Tkacz is the creator of 21 original theater pieces that have been performed all over the world. She shows her work not only at La MaMa and The Ukrainian Museum in New York, but has had shows in Ukraine and brought her creations to vil-

(Continued on page 18)



Virlana Tkacz speaks at the University of Edmonton about her many unique projects, including the discovery of the "koliadnyky" (carolers) of Kryvorivnia, Ivano-Frankivsk region of Ukraine.

'Transformation of Kyiv through art' discussed at Wilson Center in D.C.



WASHINGTON – Natalia Moussienko, senior research fellow at the Department of Culture Strategies, New Technologies and Innovations, Modern Art Research Institute at the Ukrainian Academy of Arts in Kyiv, recently discussed "New identities for an ancient city: the transformation of Kyiv through art" as part of the Kennan Institute's lecture series at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. Her presentation on February 27 focused on the interaction of art and politics in Ukraine, from the beginning of the 20th century to the present, covering the early steps taken by the leadership of the Ukrainian National Republic; the 1960s, which saw the internal opposition movement in Ukraine evolve from cultural opposition to political dissidence; the early 1990s independence period; and the most recent years of metropolitan development that threatens the aesthetic, social and historical face of that ancient capital.

– Yaro Bihun

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

procurator's office and interior administration in Zaporizhia Oblast on April 20. "This treatment of Ms. Tymoshenko outside Ukraine is not stipulated by law. Moreover, no country in the world has a law allowing convicts to go abroad for treatment," Mr. Pshonka said. The procurator general added, "The refusal of treatment in a specially created hospital ward in Kharkiv is just an attempt at delaying the trial." (Ukrinform)

Health Ministry on German MDs' assessment

KYIV – On April 20, the Ukrainian Health Ministry received the official conclusion from German doctors from the Charite Clinic regarding the therapeutic capabilities of Ukrzaliznytsia's Central Clinic No. 5

in Kharkiv, where it was proposed that imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko be treated. The ministry said that the official letter says the chosen clinic "has a wide range of equipment meeting the most modern medical standards, there is no criticism with respect to the building itself, while the material equipment of the diagnostic and therapeutic departments is broad and helps conduct a significant number of therapeutic measures." The statement notes that the hospital has proper facilities, with all sanitation elements and good equipment. German doctors said they were pleased that the hospital has telemedicine devices that help conduct telemedicine conferences, in particular, with other European countries. German doctors also noted the readiness of the Ukrainian side to cooperate. In their opinion, the attitude of the institution's specialists is unbiased, the level of professional skills of the clinic's management is not in doubt, while

the proposed methods of general rehabilitation medicine are in line with European standards. (Ukrinform)

Tefft: more evidence of selective justice

KYIV – U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Tefft has said that the latest court case against former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko is a continuation of selective justice in Ukraine. "I think that this is a continuation of the process of selective justice," he said on April 19 when asked to evaluate the start of a new trial on the activities of the United Energy Systems of Ukraine (UESU) in Kyiv during a meeting with students of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Ms. Tymoshenko refused to attend the preliminary hearings, citing health problems in a letter filed with the State Penitentiary Service. Ambassador Tefft added that the U.S. Embassy had earlier criticized the guilty verdict passed

against former Acting Defense Minister of Ukraine Valeriy Ivashchenko. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Kharkiv court limits peaceful assembly

KHARKIV – Protesters gathered in the square outside the Kharkiv Court of Appeals, where a preliminary hearing on April 19 was held in the case against former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko concerning her activities while head of the United Energy Systems of Ukraine (UESU). According to the police, some 4,000 people gathered on the square. Supporters of the Batkivshchyna party surrounded Ms. Tymoshenko's opponents, who chanted "Put Tymoshenko in prison for life!" Supporters responded with calls of "Freedom for Yulia!" State law enforcement officers read out through loudspeakers a ruling by the District Administrative Court

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Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

During the May 3, 2007, Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Yanukovich called for renewed roundtable discussion to hammer out a law on pre-term elections. "We are not supposed to allow the country to be divided, or spill a single drop of blood," he said. "There's not a country in the world in which a president, who is responsible for upholding laws and the Constitution, himself destroyed the legal playing field with his own hands."

Ms. Stanik met with Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun, a Party of Regions national deputy who served under former President Leonid Kuchma, to review the legality of the president's dismissal decrees, while Mr. Pshenychnyi had a personal meeting with Mr. Piskun to air his complaints.

President Yushchenko announced that Stepan Havrysh, a leading supporter of former President Kuchma and a member of the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine – United, would be a replacement judge. Mr. Lozowy said that the decision was likely influenced by Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha, who had ties to the SPDU.

The press office of the European Commission for Foreign Neighborhood Policy stated that the European Union was maintaining its position that the Ukrainian political crisis was a domestic matter. A compromise should be reached based on the Constitutional Court's verdict, and the EU would not get involved because Ukrainian politicians have "all the democratic instruments to resolve the situation," the statement added.

Source: "President fires two judges from Constitutional Court, as political crisis continues," by Zenon Zawada, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, May 6, 2007.

Opposition...

(Continued from page 1)

the Front for Change votes in the proportional ballot. He also said that the two parties will agree on individual candidates they will support.

Mr. Turchynov, who was chosen as chairman of the common campaign headquarters of the united opposition, said it is time for all democratic parties to understand that they cannot have separate interests and priorities because they must work together in fighting the current regime.

Four smaller parties – the People's Movement of Ukraine (Rukh), People's

Self-Defense, For Ukraine, and Reforms and Order – have also joined the united opposition.

In related news, the united opposition is prepared to support UDAR party leader Vitali Klitschko in Kyiv's mayoral elections. Mr. Yatsenyuk made the announcement at his April 23 press conference.

"We will provide full support for this candidate. We cannot lose the mayoral election in Kyiv," Mr. Yatsenyuk stated.

Mr. Turchynov expressed the hope that Mr. Klitschko's party – the Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform – would decide in the near future to join the united opposition.

Sources: RFE/RL, Ukrinform, Ukrainian News Agency.

Tymoshenko begins...

(Continued from page 1)

get up from her bed. He added that Ms. Tymoshenko started her hunger strike to protest "lawlessness in jail" and the situation in Ukraine.

A local official in Kharkiv said on April 22 that Ms. Tymoshenko was returned to prison after she "categorically" refused medical treatment at the clinic.

[As reported by Interfax-Ukraine, Mr. Vlasenko rejected a statement of the Kharkiv region procurator, Hennadii Tiurin, who said that Ms. Tymoshenko had refused to undergo a medical examination.]

Western doctors who had examined

Ms. Tymoshenko earlier said the former prime minister had expressed fear she would be poisoned or deliberately infected with a disease if placed in a Ukrainian medical facility.

Ms. Tymoshenko was convicted of abuse of power last October. She says she is a victim of politically motivated repression by the government of her rival, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

of Kharkiv to limit citizens' rights to peaceful assembly, the use of loudspeakers and the installation of tents. In addition to national deputies of the Batkivshchyna faction, also present was the first vice-chairman of the Batkivshchyna All-Ukrainian Union, Oleksander Turchynov, who arrived at the court. A police cordon was formed to separate supporters and opponents of the jailed opposition leader. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Gryshchenko: Russia is 'biggest dilemma'

KYIV – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko has said that Russia is the biggest dilemma for Ukrainian foreign policy. There are a number of psychological barriers between the two countries, and these can be overcome only through dialogue, Mr. Gryshchenko wrote on April 19 on his blog, responding to the reaction of critics who joined the discussion regarding his article titled "Strategic Balance as a Chance for Ukraine in a Multi-Polar World." He noted: "I'd like to say a few words about the biggest dilemma for national foreign policy – about Russia. Some people view my article as a show of respect for Moscow, and some people (mostly radical supporters of turning back to the EU) as an affront. Russia is more than a partner for us. But there are a number of psychological barriers between us, which can be overcome only through dialogue and mutual respect. These questions cannot be solved 'through raid.'" He offered his opinion that Ukraine needs an individual approach in its foreign policy. "I am not a supporter of sharp political changes. I also don't share the opinion that, until the country becomes stronger eco-

nomically, it should move without any will in someone else's fairway and cannot have its own approach to foreign policy. But Ukraine needs an individual approach – both in view of national identity and in view of its very specific foreign policy environment, which is formed right before our eyes," the minister said. Mr. Gryshchenko believes the key provision in his article was the statement that, after the accession of the Balkans to the European Union, there will most likely be "a durable and very long pause in the enlargement process." If so, then it is not ruled out that there will be a quite lengthy uncertainty about the prospects of Ukraine's membership. "Not because we are bad and not because 'we are not wanted there.' This is the specificity of the current political situation in the EU," the foreign affairs minister said. He said he believes Ukraine will enter into an association with the EU, while being in a fundamentally different situation than any other European country that has ever made this step. "The parallels between Ukraine and Poland, the Czech Republic, Serbia or Albania are wrong. And not because we are worse than Serbia and Albania, but because there has long been a fundamental political decision with respect to Serbia and Albania, unlike Ukraine," Mr. Gryshchenko explained. He said there are those who want to shift the blame for this only onto Ukraine, and that's their business. But those who know the situation in the European Union and who are honest to the end will not do that, the minister said. "In this situation, we have to build a Europe in Ukraine, but be prepared that it will be mainly our national interest and it will be mainly conducted at the expense of our national resources. It's hard, but possible. And I see the success of Turkey as a sign that it is possible," Mr. Gryshchenko noted. (Ukrinform)

European Court: Katyn was war crime

KYIV – The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) concluded on April 16 that the mass murders of Polish prisoners of war in the former Soviet Union in 1940 were a war crime, but found no new evidence requiring the Russian authorities to reopen the Katyn case. The court said it had concluded that the executions of Polish prisoners of war were a war crime, as the humane treatment of POWs and the ban on murders were a part of the conventional international law that Soviet authorities were compelled to observe. The judgment was made on the lawsuit of 15 family members of the Polish citizens executed in the USSR in 1940. Although war crimes have no statute of limitations, no new evidence was found in the period since the ratification of the Human Rights Convention to compel the Russian authorities to reopen the case, the court said. The court said that states are bound to investigate violent or suspicious deaths and that commitment exists irrespectively of whether the death occurred before or after the Human Rights Convention entered into force. In this case, Russian authorities did much of the investigation before Russia ratified the conven-

tion (on May 5, 1998), the court said. No significant investigative procedures were held after the ratification. What is more, Russia ratified the convention 58 years after the family members of the plaintiffs were killed. That is an extremely long period, which, above all, exceeds the periods of similar cases. Hence the court is unable to establish a link between the death of the plaintiff's family members and the convention's entry into force. The investigation of the mass murders of more than 20,000 Polish citizens in 1940 started in 1990 and lasted until 2004 when the case was dropped. The ECHR judgment is not final and either side may appeal for a hearing at the ECHR Grand Chamber within three months in exceptional cases. According to Andrei Fyodorov, the chief of the office of Russia's ECHR envoy, Russia does not plan to appeal the European Court of Human Rights ruling for now. "Since violation of Article 2 of the European Convention [on the mandatory resumption of the Katyn case investigation], which is the key aspect of this lawsuit, has not been acknowledged by the court, this gives reasons to believe that the ruling is in Russia's favor, and, accordingly, there is no need to appeal it," he said. (Interfax-Ukraine)



Basilus Olijnyk

92, a long-term resident of Pittsburgh, and most recently of Mountain Lakes, NJ, peacefully entered into eternal rest and joy on April 9, 2012.

Born in Ukraine, he witnessed first hand as a young man the devastation of war in Ukraine and Germany during the 1940's. After the war, he immigrated with his wife to the US in 1948. They settled in Pittsburgh, PA in 1949. Basil, along with his twin brother, Michael, and sister-in-law, Maria, was a founder of the Olijnyk Brothers Meat Packing Co., which for many years was well known for its custom meats, especially their highly popular kovbasa.

Basil was a long-term parishioner at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Pittsburgh, PA. He maintained a strong sense of national pride for both his home country of Ukraine and the United States.

A fan of soccer and boxing, he and his brother Michael could most often be found watching sporting events on TV and playing chess most Sunday afternoons.

Basil was predeceased by wife, Stefania, and earlier this year by his twin brother, Michael.

He is survived by his niece, Helena Mazur, with husband Leonard of Mountain Lakes, NJ; he is also survived by his grand nieces and nephew, Maria, Michael and Irene; his great-grand nieces and nephew, Walter, Helena and Evelyn, and a great-great-grand niece, Alicia. Other survivors include numerous family members in Ukraine.

Funeral Services were held at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, NJ, followed by interment in St. Mary's Cemetery in Jenkintown, PA.

In honor of Basil, donations to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church Building Fund, 60 N. Jefferson Rd., Whippany, NJ 07981 would be gratefully appreciated.

Eternal memory!



With deep sorrow
we announce that

Irene Kindrachuk

of Glen Spey, NY and a long time resident of the area, died Saturday, April 14, 2012 at Cornerstone Living in New Tripoli, PA. She was 92.



She was born November 25, 1919 in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine the daughter of the late Michael and the late Clementine Mychailuk Zahaykewych.

Irene was married for 55 years to Michael Kindrachuk prior to his death on January 10, 2000.

She was also predeceased by her brother Bohdan Zahaykewych.

Irene was a member of: St. Volodymyr's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Glen Spey where she was very active in community affairs.

Irene Kindrachuk was a very active and dedicated member of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc. and held many leadership positions. She was elected president of the UNWLA New Jersey Regional Council 1970-1971. In 1971 she headed the XVI UNWLA National Convention Committee. 1975-1978 Irene was elected to the UNWLA National Board as a Chairwoman of the National Membership Committee. Later (1978-1984) she served as a member of the UNWLA National Auditing Committee, and elected its Chair from 1984-1990.

She was instrumental in founding UNWLA Branches, including Branch 62 in Glen Spey, NY in 1977. She served as its president for many terms. In 2003, together with other former presidents of the branch, she was awarded an "Honorary Branch 62 President Citation" in recognition of her dedication, volunteerism and hard work for the organization. Her cheerful disposition, her determination and her trust in Ukraine and Ukrainian American women to continue to nurture Ukrainian cultural heritage will never be forgotten.

A family statement read: Irene was a loving wife, mother and grandmother and always placed her family above all else. She was always in good spirits, carried herself with dignity and set an example of how to lead a good, charitable and loving life. She will be missed by all who knew her, and we are proud of the legacy she has left and the good deeds she is remembered for by her community.

Surviving are:

son: Jerry Kindrachuk and his wife Alexandra, Allentown, PA
sister: Natalia Chaykovsky, Morris Plains, NJ
3 grandsons: Roman Kindrachuk, Peter Kindrachuk, Mark Kindrachuk
sister-in-law: Luba Zahaykewych
Also several nieces and nephews

Eternal memory!

Panakhida was held on April 21, 2012 at the Gray-Parker Funeral Home, in Port Jervis.

Funeral services were held on April 21, 2012 in St. Volodymyr's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Glen Spey, NY, followed by interment at Glen Spey Cemetery, Glen Spey, NY.

Memorial contributions may be made to: St. Volodymyr's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Glen Spey, NY, The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E 6th St, New York, NY 10003, or to your favorite charity.



Ukrainian pro sports update: basketball

by Ihor Stelmach

Hoops history: Kupchak the player

Even before July 1981 when he signed an offer sheet with the Lakers for \$800,000 a year for seven years, forcing the Washington Bullets to trade him to Los Angeles, Mitch Kupchak was winning over friends and influencing games with his attitude. If it takes a good attitude to recognize one, then Kupchak's judgment on such matters is quite reliable.

"Mitch helps a team in a lot of ways that can't be measured in box scores," said Tom LaGarde, an ex-teammate of Kupchak's at the University of North Carolina, in a 1981 Sports Illustrated interview with Bruce Newman. "You've got to keep on your toes against him because he plays hard all the time. The guy's relentless."

The fact that Kupchak started only 15 games in five campaigns with the Bullets and that he suffered through two back operations in six years made many basketball experts skeptical of his worth. "I don't think \$800,000 a year for Mitch Kupchak, a second-stringer with a bad back, is good judgment," San Diego Clippers owner Donald Sterling said at the time of the trade. Cynics claimed Kupchak's value as a free agent was inflated because he was white.

At 6-foot 10 and 235 pounds, Kupchak was mobile enough to play power forward and big enough to play center. Coach Paul Westhead would use him at both positions, starting Kupchak in the corner, moving him to the middle when Kareem Abdul-Jabbar went to the bench. Westhead was enthusiastic about his newcomer. "I can't believe that a player of his ability and intensity is here," Westhead said told Sports Illustrated in 1981. "He's the kind of player who will knock you down, say excuse me, and then knock you down again."

If the NBA had an all-floor burn team, Kupchak would have been the team's captain. While playing for Washington he once hit the court 14 times in a game against Kansas City diving for loose balls. "Some guys can use their speed to get to loose balls," Kupchak said, "but I have to dive on them. Most players don't do it because it doesn't feel good. Unless you're conditioned to it, it's a hard habit to get into."

All along, Kupchak wanted to stay in Washington, hoping to be with the team for-

ever, but the Bullets were unable or unwilling to match the Lakers' offer. When Kupchak took his offer from the Lakers to Bullets boss Abe Pollin, he offered to stay for \$700,000 per year, a \$100,000 discount from his Lakers deal. Pollin countered with a \$500,000 a year deal guaranteed for five years. Kupchak accepted the Lakers offer after calling a Washington reporter to explain what happened: it was important for him the D.C. fans understood he wanted to stay and be a part of the team's rebuilding process after helping win a championship.

His best year with the Bullets was 1977-1978 as a backup center when Washington defeated Seattle for the NBA title. Despite missing four weeks in the middle of the season with torn thumb ligaments, Kupchak returned for the stretch drive to average 19.2 points in their final 22 games.

Tall and lanky from his early years, Kupchak was always urged to try out for the basketball team at Brentwood Junior High in Brentwood, N.Y., 35 miles out on Long Island, but he always declined. He started playing basketball in eighth grade, and the only reason he made the team was because of his height. His self-consciousness about his height precluded him from loving basketball – playing the sport would be admitting he was tall. A few weeks after making the team he broke his right wrist, ending his eighth-grade career.

Between ninth and 10th grades Kupchak attended a basketball camp run by his high school coach, Stan Kellner. By his sophomore year he had grown from 6'4" to 6'7". By his senior year at Brentwood High he was averaging 30 points and 24 rebounds per game, being recruited by many of the top collegiate basketball programs.

The son of a Ukrainian-Polish construction equipment manager, Kupchak grew up in tract housing with lots of other children around. When the time came to select a university, Kupchak picked North Carolina because he admired the Tar Heels' closely knit group of players, he was impressed with coach Dean Smith and because he liked their blue V-neck uniforms.

During the spring of his sophomore season Kupchak began experiencing back pain.

Hopping out of a car one day he felt his right hamstring muscle pop. The leg pain stemmed from his back problem, which grew worse all summer. His entire junior season he played in constant pain before finally undergoing surgery for a herniated disc. He started his senior season along with Tommy LaGarde, Walter Davis, Phil Ford and John Kuester, winning Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year. He then started for the 1976 U.S. Olympic team and was selected in the first round of the NBA draft by the Bullets.

Health issues remained an obstacle to a successful NBA career. Although the first operation was successful there wasn't significant improvement. Toward the end of the 1978-1979 season, Kupchak got pulled down backward going up for a rebound of a missed foul shot, reinjuring his back, forcing a June 1979 operation. Recovery from the second operation was way slower. Three months turned into a full year before normalcy returned. A month before the end of the 1979-1980 season, suffering from an aching back and hepatitis, poor performance and personal problems, Kupchak relented and was placed on the injured list.

Kupchak's personal credo is perfectly described by the end of a poem: "So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit/It is when things seem worst that you musn't quit." Right after the horrendous 1978-1979 season ended, Kupchak hit the weights, believing if he overdeveloped the muscles surrounding the scar tissue it would compensate for his weak back. In 1980-1981 he returned to the court and played in all 82 games with a 12.5 scoring average and almost seven rebounds per game.

The true test of Kupchak's back was how well he carried the burden he took upon himself every time the Lakers lost a game. Being the only new addition to a veteran-laden team, he had a tendency to take losses very personally. It was then he had to put his head down, swallow some sweat and kick up some dirt. He had to elevate his game and help lead his Lakers team to at least the same number of wins as the prior year.

Kupchak seemed to finally be in his element on the West Coast.

Kupchak as general amanager

A few minutes after the Los Angeles Lakers advanced to the NBA Finals in 2008, General Manager Kupchak found himself in the spotlight and feeling uncomfortable. His mentor, Jerry West, handed him the Western Conference championship trophy at Staples Center's center court and referred to him as "one of the most incredible people I've been associated with in my life." Guard Derek Fisher rubbed Kupchak's shoulders and Kupchak never cracked a smile until Kobe Bryant patted him on the chest. Kupchak then raised the trophy to the sellout crowd, said a few brief words, and quickly moved to his preferred place: the background.

Just a year earlier, Kupchak was making headlines after superstar Bryant begged West to take control of the team, which West handed to Kupchak in 2000 after a 14-year apprenticeship. Bryant went further, making a very public trade demand, criticizing Lakers' management for not maintaining a competitive team and requesting that young center Andrew Bynum be moved.

The conflicted Kupchak never gave in to the pressure. The logical and analytical GM did not trade Bryant or Bynum; instead, he calmly assembled the pieces that had his team in position to win the franchise's 15th championship against arch-rival Boston in 2008. (The Lakers would lose to the Celtics, but go on to win championships in 2009

and 2010.) He signed free agent Fisher to stabilize the point guard slot, picked up a young athletic defender in Trevor Ariza, and then made a mid-season trade that cemented his profile and reputation when he acquired Pau Gasol from Memphis.

Bryant himself came full circle regarding his General Manager, at one time rating him as going from "an F to an A plus."

To his credit, Kupchak said he never took his star player's earlier criticism personally. "I understand from a player's point of view, particularly when you've had the type of success that he had early," Kupchak said in a 2008 telephone interview with The Washington Post's Michael Lee. "Perhaps you're looking at your window beginning to close a bit, and there is a great concern you're not going to get back to winning. It's got to take some patience. Players have a hard time with that sometimes."

Kupchak understood the pressure to make a move might have been more intense if not for the strong support he received from Lakers owner Jerry Buss and his son, Executive Vice-President of Player Personnel Jim Buss, who both never doubted Kupchak's judgment.

"I never felt alienated or alone," Kupchak told The Post. "I always felt I had the support of ownership and our coaching staff, and I think that was important because, if you don't have that, you're very susceptible to outside influences. If you're not careful, it could lead to decisions that are not thought out."

Twenty-six games into his Lakers career Kupchak tried to avoid charging into San Diego Clipper Joe Bryant (Kobe's father) and blew out his left knee. His dream of spending the prime of his career alongside Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson was derailed. Kupchak began thinking about his post-basketball career. He took classes at UCLA, which culminated with a master's degree in business administration. After a lengthy rehab and a short-lived comeback with the Lakers, the architect of the great Lakers teams, Jerry West, asked Kupchak to be his assistant.

When West came to realize watching his team was unbearable, the long-time Laker handed control of the team to Kupchak, who won championships in each of his first two seasons as the new general manager. His run at one last title with Shaquille O'Neal in 2004 proved to be unsuccessful, despite the signing of Karl Malone and Gary Payton. The organization went into rebuilding mode around Bryant when coach Phil Jackson left and O'Neal was dealt to Miami for three players and a first-round pick.

The sailing was not so smooth – the rebuilding took some time.

"You knew it was going to take two or three years to get back to where you were, hopefully," he said. "There were going to be some twists and turns and pain along the way."

The vaunted Lakers even missed the playoffs for the first time in 11 seasons. GM Kupchak rehired supreme guru Phil Jackson to resurrect the franchise, then found new talent in first-round draft picks (Jordan Farmar and Sasha Vujacic) and second-round selections (Luke Walton and Ronny Turiaf). The ultimate missing piece of the puzzle was Pau Gasol, who offset the loss of All-Star forward Caron Butler. Gasol spurred his new mates to a tremendous second-half run right through the final playoff round.

Mixed emotions notwithstanding, Kupchak was happy for the team and its fans advancing to the finals in 2008. Having great friend and mentor West return to present the Western Conference trophy was a very good thing – even if it made Lakers GM Kupchak a bit uncomfortable.

Ihor Stelmach can be reached at iman@sfgsports.com.

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Cleveland marks Women's History Month with presentation of World War II memoir

by Nadia Deychakiwsky

CLEVELAND – In observance of "Women's History Month," the Cleveland community was treated to a presentation of the book "Scratches on a Prison Wall," a gripping World War II memoir by Luba Komar and translated into English by Christine Prokop. The event was organized by the Ohio Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, on March 24.

After a few words of welcome by the Ohio Regional Council President Daria Fedoriw and introductory remarks by Branch 12 President Halya Pohlid, the guest speaker, Lida Prokop, took the podium. She explained the process behind the creation of the book and summarized the historical background of the events in the memoir.

"Scratches on a Prison Wall" first appeared in Ukrainian as the "Protsey 59-ty" (Trial of 59). Christine Prokop, the author's daughter, translated the book into English, adding her mother's diaries and recollections to craft a fascinating and very readable memoir. The speaker emphasized the importance of the English translation, so that the younger generation as well as the public at large would be able to learn details of that horrendous time in Ukrainian history.

Ms. Prokop then read a few excerpts from her mother's book. The presentation was enhanced by some videoclips of the author herself (who passed away in 2007), as well as remarks by the translator and editor, Christine Prokop.

As a 21-year-old student in Lviv, Ms. Komar joined the underground Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists

(OUN) and in 1940 was arrested during the night and whisked away into prison by the NKVD (Soviet secret police). Despite brutal interrogations by depraved and sadistic NKVD officers who attempted to break her will by beatings, humiliation and threats, Ms. Komar refused to bend. She was sentenced to death together with other young students.

Eventually, several of them, including Ms. Komar, had their sentences reduced to 10 years' hard labor and five years of exile. On the way to Siberia, with the war raging and the Germans pushing towards Moscow, the group of prisoners was detained in a transit prison in Berdychiv. The retreating Soviets attempted to burn down that prison with all the inmates still inside. As frantic prisoners tried to break out and escape, many were shot and killed by NKVD machine guns. During those terrifying moments, Ms. Komar and several others had the good fortune to escape. Ms. Komar clandestinely returned to Lviv and continued her underground work – now under German occupation.

This book is an extraordinary multi-faceted story and a powerful page-turner that reads like a thriller. It describes interactions of the underground resistance movement, as well as life in Soviet prisons and on death row in a vivid detail. It is an honest, never exaggerated and fascinating insight into the psychology and behavior of young people under unbearable stress. There are passages, like the descriptions of the beauty of the Carpathians, as the author travels as a courier between the OUN and the UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army), that read like belles-lettres.



Lida Prokop signs copies of the book "Scratches on a Prison Wall" by her mother, Luba Komar.

The book vividly portrays the invincible spirit of the "Greatest Generation" of 20th century Ukraine. It conveys the depth of human courage and dedication to the noble cause of freeing one's country from brutal foreign occupation.

The English translation is surprisingly effective, preserving the intensity and freshness of the original.

Gypsy Night in North Port raises funds for scholarship

by Ann-Marie Susla

NORTH PORT, Fla. – The Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida held its annual scholarship fund-raiser at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Religious and Cultural Center (Oseredok) in North Port, Fla. This year's affair, Gypsy Night, was very successful and all proceeds benefitted the scholarship endowment fund. The January 29 event was well covered by the local newspaper, the North Port Sun.

Guests in gypsy attire danced to the music of Double Effects and enjoyed a delicious buffet prepared by ladies of the Ukrainian American Club. There was much laughter and cheering during the contest to choose the best gypsy outfit.

Scholarship committee members, together with a very enthusiastic audience, chose Zenon Shpon of Warm Mineral Springs and Ulana Rondiak of Osprey to be crowned as "Gypsy King and Queen."

Three artworks were raffled off and raised a considerable sum for the scholarship fund: a seascape photograph by Natalie Sluzar, "Sunflowers," a painting by Volodymyr Voroniuk and a portrait of a young girl in a traditional Ukrainian headdress painted by Ron Sanders. Mr. Sanders is an accomplished artist from the North Port Art Center who was chosen by the United States Mint to work on coin and medal design programs through its Artistic Infusion Program. The painting was completed on site on the evening of our very first scholarship fund-raiser in 2009 and donated to the Ukrainian American Club by the artist for this raffle.

The evening's mistress of ceremonies and president of the Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida, Daria Tomashosky, introduced the club officers: Lieda Boyko, Doris Horbachevsky, Halya Lisnyczyj (chair), Christyna Bodnar Sheldon, Natalie Sluzar, Klara Szpiczka and Nancy Wosny as well as the scholarship

committee members: Victor Lisnyczyj, Vira Bodnaruk, Christyna Bodnar Sheldon, Ann-Marie Susla, Gene Tomashosky and Roxolana Yarymowych.

The board and committee succeeded in providing everyone with an evening of great fun, good food, dancing and entertainment while it raised funds for the club's scholarship endowment fund.

Every year since 2007 the Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida has bestowed a scholarship on a high school senior from North Port High School who submits the winning essay on a topic relating to Ukraine. In addition, a \$250 award is given to the previous year's winner for the purchase of books. The club has realized its initial endowment fund goal and the annual scholarship granted is now \$1,000.



Ulana Rondiak and Zenon Shpon, "Gypsy King and Queen."

Ukrainian Homestead elects officers

by Halya Dubil

LEHIGHTON, Pa. – The Club at the Ukrainian Homestead in Leighton, Pa., held its annual meeting and election of officers and directors on Saturday, March 3.

A record number of club members attended to hear the officers and directors present their annual reports, and take part in the election process.

Alex Prociuk officiated at the meeting, and Kristine Rizanow was selected as the secretary.

The minutes from last year's annual meeting were read by Nadia Andrejko and were accepted unanimously.

Halya Dubil, financial secretary, presented the financial statements for both the club and the Ukrainian Homestead. Both entities were in the black as of December 31, 2011, with a little help from individual donors, a donation from Self-Reliance Ukrainian Credit Union in Philadelphia and a subsidy from the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine, (known by the acronym ODWU), the parent organization of the Club and the Ukrainian Homestead.

Ihor Rizanow, club president and appointed administrator of the Ukrainian Homestead, told the members about the past 12 months, highlighting great achievements such as renovations of four hotel units, the hosting of three summer camps, a successful Ukrainian festival and various other events throughout the year.

The club's vice-president, Peter Medynski, shared his thoughts about the obstacles that were overcome this year. Reports were also given by the other members of the executive committee: recording secretary Ulana Prociuk, and treasurer Walter Andrejko. Reports were presented by directors Clare Chomyn, Ihor Czenstuch and Mike Duda, as well as the membership chairperson, Lesia Stecyna.

The annual meeting continued with a discussion of the reports and suggestions for future events and fund-raisers and the need for more volunteers and a cooperative environment for the club and the Ukrainian Homestead.

The Audit Committee verified that the

club's financial and administrative records were in order, and proposed a vote of confidence for officers and directors. Members voted unanimously in favor of this proposal.

The Nominating Committee, represented by Ms. Rizanow, proposed its slate of candidates, and a separate slate was proposed by Paula Holoviak. All candidates had an opportunity to stand and acknowledge acceptance of their nomination.

The ballots were distributed and the votes were counted by the Verification Committee, consisting of Christine Bak-Boychuk, Ulana Prociuk and Ms. Stecyna. The voting resulted in the election of the first-ever female president and female vice-president of the club at The Ukrainian Homestead.

The newly elected officers were: President Nadia Andrejko, Vice-President Clare Chomyn, Recording Secretary Ihor Czenstuch, Financial Secretary Halya Dubil, and Treasurer Orest Hanas. Elected to the Audit Committee were: Ihor Rizanow, Ihor Chymych and Dmitro Luci. Board of directors members are: Mike Duda, Ihor Jadlicky, Russ Kerick, Mr. Medynski, Ihor Prociuk and Roman Zulak.

The president-elect then addressed the members, asking them to support the club at the Ukrainian Homestead so that it succeeds and so that future generations of Ukrainians and Ukrainian Americans will have the opportunity to enjoy its beauty and continue the mission of sharing the Ukrainian heritage.

The annual meeting of the club at the Ukrainian Homestead concluded with Mr. Prociuk, president of ODWU, congratulating the new president and informing the club members that an administrator for the Homestead would be named at the next ODWU meeting.

All members and guests were then invited to a light buffet.

To check the calendar of events for the club at The Ukrainian Homestead readers may log on to www.urkhomestead.com. For information about the club or to volunteer, send an e-mail to ukrainianhomestead@aol.com.

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Stephanie Whittier and David Budinger discuss the Ukrainian Catholic University's future plans with Alex Kuzma and Daniel Szymanski of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation.



Adrianna Melnyk-Hankewycz admires art work at the silent auction to benefit the Ukrainian Catholic University.

Art auction at Ukrainian Institute benefits Ukrainian Catholic University

by Andrea Kebalo

NEW YORK – A silent art auction to benefit the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv was held on Saturday evening, March 24, at the historic Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City. One hundred people attended the auction, which raised \$20,000 toward the funding of UCU's diverse educational programs.

The auction, co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation and the Ukrainian Institute of America, featured the works of such renowned Ukrainian American and Ukrainian artists as Sviatoslav Hordynsky, Liuboslav Hutsaliuk, Mykhaylo Demtsiu and Anton Kashay.

Besides the beautiful oils, watercolors and graphic pieces, the show was complemented by icons, Ukrainian embroidery, books about Ukraine and Ukrainian culture, magnificent pieces of jewelry by Ukrainian artisans, as well as a Euro-2012 soccer ball and soccer jersey.

The evening's program also featured a 10-minute video about the university, titled, "A Mustard Seed," emphasizing the mission of this institution of higher learning, which is to promote an "open academic community living the Eastern Christian tradition and forming leaders to serve with professional excellence in Ukraine and internationally – for the glory of God, the common good and the dignity of the human person."

Guests mingled throughout the evening, viewing the art auction lots, placing bids, munching on savory hors d'oeuvres and listening to the jazz sounds of the Askold Buk Trio. An added treat was a Viennese table, filled with delicious tortes baked by volunteer ladies who always support the university. A group of student volunteers served as wait staff at the event.

UCU is the first and only Catholic university on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Its new campus, which includes a res-

idence hall for students, called a collegium, is located on the site of the former Communist KGB headquarters in Lviv. The beautiful, architecturally modern building – scheduled to be consecrated by Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk on Sunday, August 26 – contains very few walls to symbolize togetherness and unity, and also to encourage intellectualism and education.

Olena Dzhezdzhora, one of the speakers at the auction, is the international academic relations director at the Ukrainian Catholic University. Ms. Dzhezdzhora, who has been working at UCU for nearly 20 years, spoke about how the university is working to reverse the negative effects that communism has had on Ukraine. She explained that the university's goal is to re-create Ukrainians who value intellectualism, openness, the Church and art.

Ms. Dzhezdzhora recalled first meeting the Rev. Borys Gudziak in 1990. "The Soviet Union had fallen apart, but Ukraine did not yet exist," she explained. "Mr. Gudziak [he was not ordained until 1998] seemed to shine with light. He genuinely loved everyone whom he met. This expression of emotion was unusual at the time because Soviet culture taught people to keep their emotions to themselves. The Rev. Gudziak has a deep, unmistakable faith that helps him to trust others, and to teach people to trust each other. Because of this I followed the Rev. Gudziak."

"I could see that this was more than a university he was trying to found, it was the birth of a new nation," she continued. "I also experienced a rebirth of myself, and learned many things about culture and religion. It was because of the gifts that the Rev. Gudziak bestowed upon me that I wanted to share what I learned with others. The most important thing that I learned from the Rev. Gudziak is how to give back to others, how to share. This concept was almost completely foreign under the Soviet Union, and this is why UCU is so important to me."

UCU is currently one of the most important Catholic learning centers in the world, and it is helping to spread Western values into the East. The university recently ran a successful outreach program in which Fordham University students visited UCU to encourage open borders between the United States and Ukraine. The trip was so successful that Fordham's Global Outreach program will continue to send students to Ukraine to visit UCU.

Another speaker at the event was Alex Kuzma, executive director of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation. Mr. Kuzma emphasized that UCU is instrumental in creating a democratic society, since change will not happen in a "top-down" fashion. "Real change must come from the ground up," said Mr. Kuzma. "If a nation wants to change its circumstances, then its people must work together to do so," he continued. The students of UCU are those kinds of people. One prime example is that UCU students were on the front lines during Ukraine's Orange

Revolution in 2004.

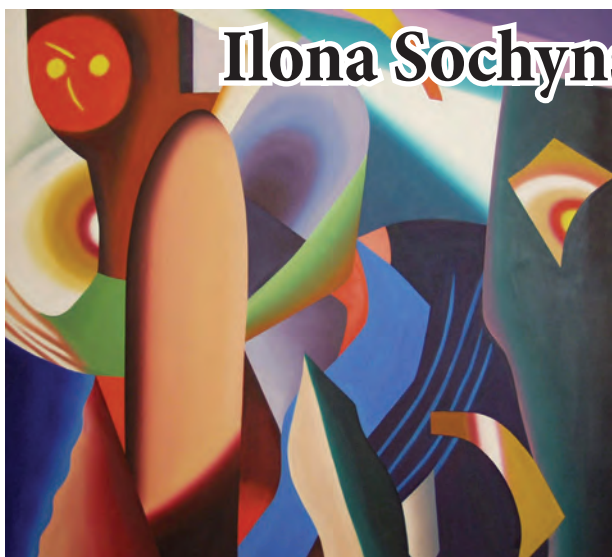
The university's programs draw students from all over Ukraine and Eastern Europe. The University delights in this fact because these diverse students will help to spread the values that UCU hopes to instill in all Ukrainian and Eastern European youth.

One of the things that UCU needs at this moment is funds to continue to carry out its mission. UCU has excellent faculty and students, but it needs to be able to create tenured faculty positions and research fellowships. Because of economic realities in Ukraine, each dollar donated will have a much larger effect on the university's well-being than it would on a more established American or Canadian institution. For example, the cost of one student's college tuition in America will cover the tuition of 10 UCU students.

For more information on the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation and the Ukrainian Catholic University, readers may visit www.ucef.org.



A group of young professionals (from left), Dan Saval, Ulyana Bardyn, Tamara Tershakovec, Andrew Lencyk and Roman Chwyl, in conversation at the art auction hold to benefit the Ukrainian Catholic University.



"The Red Moon" (1991, oil on canvas, 66 by 66 inches) by Ilona Sochynsky.

Ilona Sochynsky retrospective at The Ukrainian Museum

NEW YORK – "A Singular Vision: Ilona Sochynsky, Retrospective of Painting," a comprehensive exhibition of more than 50 paintings, including many large-scale works from all phases of the artist's development, opens to the public on May 13. Curated by Jaroslaw Leshko, professor emeritus at Smith College, the exhibition will be on view through October 7.

Ms. Sochynsky's painting career, entering its fourth decade, presents an oeuvre of visual beauty, intelligence, intensity and complexity. At its core, it is a profoundly personal journey of discovery. Her earliest paintings explore the imagery of Pop Art (she was especially drawn to the works of James Rosenquist) and Photorealism, a movement prominent in the 1970s. She responded to the latter's hyperrealism and its subject matter of cars, motorcycles and street scenes, which she reinterpreted in her work to

extraordinary effect.

By the 1980s, her focus shifted to a more personal iconography of revealing self-portraits, images of her husband, her sister and other psychologically compelling imagery that carry within them the universal code of contemporary existence. It is during this probing period that she briefly experimented with a more painterly, expressionist style in order to explore its impact on the content of her work and partly in response to the neo-expressionist movement that dominated the 1980s.

In recent decades, Ms. Sochynsky has set aside the subjects of her earlier paintings and made the formal concerns the focus of her art. Thus, a series of small paintings done over a period of five years (2006-2011) is titled "Fragment."

(Continued on page 18)

Ilona Sochynsky...

(Continued from page 17)

These and other recent works encompass both abstract forms and recognizable natural forms. They are often rendered in interactive fragments and in a series like "Capriccios" (2006), break out of the rectangular boundary into irregularly shaped canvases. These works are at once exuberant and complex in their formal presentation and in their content. They are, as well, among the artist's most compelling images. To engage them is to discover the richness of the creative process.

Works for "A Singular Vision: Ilona Sochynsky, Retrospective of Painting" were drawn from private collections, including the artist's own holdings, as well as from The Ukrainian Museum's permanent collection of fine art.

Ms. Sochynsky received her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in 1969 and her MFA from Yale University in 1972. After graduation she successfully ran the Ilona Sochynsky Associates, a graphic design firm, until 1979 when the imperative to paint won out.

She has had solo exhibitions at The Noyes Museum of Art, the Ukrainian

Institute of America, and her works may be found in the collections of the Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, The Ukrainian Museum, The Noyes Museum of Art and Morris Propp Foundation, as well as in private collections.

* * *

The Ukrainian Museum acquires, preserves and exhibits articles of artistic or historic significance to the rich cultural heritage of Ukrainian Americans; its collections include thousands of items of folk art, fine art and archival material.

At its founding in 1976 by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, the museum was hailed as one of the finest achievements of Americans of Ukrainian descent. Since then, and particularly since its move in 2005 to a new, state-of-the-art building in Manhattan's vibrant East Village, it has become known as one of the most interesting and dynamic smaller museums in New York City.

Each year, the museum organizes several exhibitions, publishes bilingual (English/Ukrainian) catalogues, and presents a wide range of public and educational programs, including concerts, films, lectures, courses, workshops and special events.

For information log on to www.ukrainianmuseum.org or call 212-228-0110.

Luba Saj-Cholhan...

(Continued from page 8)

During the ceremony, Mrs. Saj-Cholhan expressed her philosophy of life, which was the basis of her assistance to her friend Mina: "I only wish that people could have enough love, courage and good will in their hearts to continue helping each other. This world and this life are wonderful, only some folks make it horrible. Think on this: Only love, goodness, honesty, and under-

standing make life worthwhile."

The honoree, who was born in Ukraine and immigrated to the United States in 1949, is one of only a handful of American citizens to receive the highest honor awarded to non-Jews by the state of Israel through Yad Vashem.

Her name is among the over 20,000 inscribed on the Wall of Honor in the Hall of Memory at Israel's national Holocaust memorial.

Mrs. Saj-Cholhan was, indeed, a woman of valor.

Rhythmic gymnastics for girls to be offered at UACCNJ

WHIPPANY, N.J. – For many years, Ukraine has been one of the world's strongest competitors in the beautiful and artistic sport called rhythmic gymnastics. The athletes move like dancers, exhibiting grace, flexibility and poise, while performing physically demanding techniques, as well as showing mastery of elements like the ball, rope, hoop, ribbon and clubs. The sport has been described as a mix between ballet, gymnastics and circus technique.

The Ukrainian American community does not have any schools dedicated to rhythmic gymnastics; sadly, many in the community do not even know what rhythmic gymnastics is. All of that is about to change thanks to accomplished dancer, teacher, rhythmic gymnast and coach Natalia Ejova. Beginning in May, Ms. Ejova will begin offering classes for girls at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, located at 60 N. Jefferson Road in Whippany.

The daughter of a Ukrainian mother and Russian father, Ms. Ejova was hand-picked at a young age in the former Soviet Union to train extensively with some of the best coaches in the world. After competing for 12 years, she changed her focus to dance and had a very successful career. Now her focus has turned back to gymnastics and training a



Natalia Ejova

new generation of artists athletes.

Girls age 4 and up will be taught stretching, ballet, jumps, turns and all of the skills necessary to master the elements of ball, hoop, ribbon and clubs. Classes will be held in the basement of the UACCNJ on Sundays at 1-2 p.m., beginning May 6. More classes will be added as needed for various age groups and skill levels.

For more information readers may contact Ms. Ejova at NERhythmicGym@hotmail.com.

Zuk duo offers...

(Continued from page 11)

the popularization of Ukrainian culture in the world."

As such, it would seem apt that they also performed "Concerto da Camera" by the Ukrainian Canadian composer George Fiala, "Three Dances" by Myroslav Skoryk and "In a Measure of Time" by Ann Southam.

The Zukus once premiered these pieces and now reinterpreted them with their hallmark artistry and evident mastery of technique that captured so many beautiful

nuances of style and tone color.

Throughout the performance, the duo synchronized keyboard sonorities with élan, in delicate passages and stirring finales alike, each alive in chordal splendour.

At evening's end, the performers were received with enthusiastic applause and elegant bouquets. In turn, the Zuk duo surprised the audience with an encore from the second movement "Andante" of the "Sonatina" by Ihor Bilohrud based on a lyrical, lilting Ukrainian melody.

The eclectic program and refined performance were an evident pleasure for the performers and for their audience.

Viriana Tkacz...

(Continued from page 11)

lages in Kyrgyzstan and Buryatia, Siberia.

Ms. Tkacz creates her pieces by talking to people and by recording their stories and their music. A conversation with the acclaimed Ukrainian singer Nina Matvienko, for example, led to a piece about mothers and daughters and their inevitable parting as the daughters leave home. Ms. Tkacz combined Ukrainian lyric songs and laments, performed by Ms. Matvienko and her daughter, Tonia, with similar songs performed by Ainura Kachkynbek kyzy and Kenzhegul Satybaldieva to create the successful "Scythian Stones" that played in New York on April 16-May 2, 2010.

While in Edmonton, Ms. Tkacz discussed her creative process. She described traveling to Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Buryatia, and talking to people and collecting material. She showed pictures of the places she visited and the people she met. She described coaxing songs out of people in villages – a detail useful to graduate students who are themselves in the process of gathering information for their theses and dissertations. She also talked about working with local professional singers to help document village stories and songs.

Not all of the material which Ms. Tkacz

has collected over the years has been used in her theater pieces, and she has published a number of books of songs, stories and photographs, often providing parallel texts: the originals and their English translations. She brought a number of these books to Edmonton and displayed them during her talks.

Ms. Tkacz also described the many special experiences that she has had while collecting material. She met whisperer-healers in Ukraine and a shaman in Buryatia. One of her most special discoveries, she said, is a group of "koliadnyky" (carolers) in Kryvorivnia, Ivano-Frankivsk region of Ukraine. These are men who, during most of the year, are ordinary villagers working as the local blacksmith and other typical village professions. But at Christmastime everything changes.

These men become artists and magicians. They tour every house in the village and sing to every soul resident in that house. This means that they sing to each of the members of the household and also to all the ancestors whose spirits are still present.

Ms. Tkacz hopes to bring a group of koliadnyky to Edmonton next winter and to do a series of shows where she would work with the musicians from Ukraine and local Edmonton talent. For more information, readers may contact Ms. Tkacz at yara.arts.group@gmail.com.

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OUT & ABOUT

Through
September 16
Winnipeg, MB

Exhibit, "Legacy of the Cossack Elite," Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218 or ucec@mymts.net

May 3-6
New York

KinoFest-NYC film festival, The Ukrainian Museum, Anthology Film Archives, www.kinofestnyc.com

May 4-6
Toronto

Conference, "Ukrainian Schooling in Canada: Be Canadian but Stay Ukrainian," Ukrainian National Federation building, http://shkola.ucc.ca/2011/08/ukrainian-schooling-in-canada/

May 4-6
Lehigh, PA

Annual meet, Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society, Ukrainian Homestead, 610-377-4621 or www.ukrainianhomestead.com

May 5-6
Silver Spring, MD

Art exhibit, "Andriy Maday: 50 Recent Woodcuts and Giclées," Holy Trinity Particular Ukrainian Catholic Church, 301-361-2486 or iygraves@comcast.net

May 6
Toronto

Markian Ochrymowych Humanitarian Award Banquet, honoring Erast Huculak and Zenia Kushpeta, Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, The Old Mill Inn, 416-763-4982

May 7
Cambridge, MA

Presentation by Ostap Sereda, "Russian Opera and Ukrainian Musical Theater in 19th Century Kyiv: A Case Study in Empire-Nation Relations, Cultural Politics and Public Reception," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu

May 7-26
Toronto

Performance by Luba Goy, "Luba, Simply Luba," The Berkeley Street Theater - Downstairs, 416-368-3110 or www.canadianstage.com

May 10-13
Hamilton, ON

National Congress, Ukrainian Canadian Student Union, McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association, McMaster University, www.suskcongress.ca

May 11
Winnipeg, MB

Performance, "Mad Dogs and Ukrainians: A Musical Revival," Park Theater, www.facebook.com/events/240340409369904/

May 12
Baltimore

Art sale, "Art Under the Domes," St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-375-4862 or www.artunderthedomes.com

May 12
Toronto

Golf tournament, Knights of Columbus Sheptytsky Council, Lionhead Golf and Country Club - Masters Course, 416-559-4474 or emasney@trebnet.com

May 12
Chicago

Film screening, "Genocide Revealed" by Yuriy Luhovy, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 or info@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org

May 16
Ottawa

Presentation by Olya Grod, "The Odynsky Story - A 15-Year Fight - Was It Worth It?" Ukrainian National Foundation, Villa Marconi, 613-596-8188

May 16
New York

Benefit, "Fashion for a Cure," featuring the collection of Vito Emanuele, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Ukrainian Institute of America, 914-400-8663 or www.MODABenefit.com

May 16-
October 7
New York

Art exhibit, "A Singular Vision: Ilona Sochynsky, Retrospective of Painting," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or info@ukrainiamuseum.org

May 16
Ottawa

Presentation by Olya Odynsky, "WWII Ukrainian War Criminals in Canada," Ukrainian National Federation of Canada, Villa Marconi, 613-596-8188 or vkarpiak@rogers.com

May 18
Whippany, NJ

Summer party, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, www.uaccnj.org

May 18
Toronto

Lecture by Valentyna Kharkhun, "Depictions of WWII in Ukrainian Socialist Realist Literature, 1941-1943," University of Toronto, tarn@chass.utoronto.ca

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. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.

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2012 Summer Events

May 18-20

Journalists Convention

May 25 May 28

Memorial Day weekend

Friday:

Pub Night with DJ Zorian

Saturday:

Zabava with Fata Morgana
(9:30pm)

Sunday:

Pub Night

June 4 June 7

Retreat

June 10 June 15

UNA Seniors Week

June 17

Father's Day

June 22 June 24

Official Start
of the Summer Season

St George School
reunion & Soyuzivka
70's Bash

June 24 June 30

Tabir Ptashat Session 1

June 24 July 5

Tennis Camp

Fourth of July Weekend

Zabavas to be announced

July 1 July 7

Tabir Ptashat Session 2

July 1 July 14

Dance Workshop

July 7

To be announced

July 12 July 15

**Ukrainian Cultural
Festival**

July 15 July 20

Heritage Camp Session 1

July 15 July 21

Discovery Camp

July 21 July 22

Adoption Weekend
Zabava to be announced

July 22 July 27

Heritage Camp Session 2

July 22 July 28

Sports Camp Session 1

July 22 August 4

Dance Camp Session 1

July 28

Zabava to be announced

July 29 August 4

Sports Camp session 2

August 4

Dance Camp Recital (3pm)
Zabava to be announced

August 5 August 18

Dance Camp session 2

August 11

Miss Soyuzivka
Zabava to be announced

August 18

Dance Camp Recital (3pm)
Zabava to be announced

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, April 27-Sunday, May 13

NEW YORK: Yara Arts Group presents "Dream Bridge," an original, experimental theater piece based on Ukrainian poetry by Oleh Lysheha. The production, created by Virlana Tkacz, features music by electronic music composer Alla Zahaykevych from Kyiv. It depicts how our dreams can bring to light the mystery that swirls silently inside; how, at night, our brains, freed of their burdens, soar like music; how space turns fluid, as we swim through the universe and through time. Tickets are \$18; \$13 for students and seniors. La MaMa Experimental Theater is located at 74 E. Fourth St. Show times are Thursday through Saturday, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, 2:30 p.m. For more information call 212-475-7710 or visit www.lamama.org.

Saturday, May 5

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Zenko Stakhiv titled "Environmental Policies, Global Warming and National Security Concerns." Mr. Stakhiv is the director of strategic planning and operations at the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers. The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Saturday, May 12

CHICAGO: The Illinois Chapter of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North

America (UMANA) invites seniors in high school to participate in its traditional banquet and ball with presentation of debutantes to be held February 2, 2013. An informational meeting will be held Saturday, May 12, at 10 a.m. at the Ukrainian Cultural Center 2247 W. Chicago Ave. For further information e-mail UMANADeb@aol.com.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**.

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 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, senders are asked to include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours, as well as their complete mailing address.

Information should be sent to: preview@ukrweekly.com or Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**



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