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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Tymoshenko cancels visit to Moscow, demands Russian respect for Ukraine

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — In a demand for respect from the Russian Federation, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko abruptly canceled her first visit to Moscow the day after Russia's top prosecutor said criminal charges were still pending against her.

Russian Procurator General Vladimir Ustinov said on April 12 that Ms. Tymoshenko could visit the Russian Federation without arrest because of immunity provided by state leaders, but that she remains "on the wanted list."

The remark angered Prime Minister Tymoshenko, who immediately stated her official reason for canceling the trip as needing to prepare for Ukraine's spring field work. Days later, however, she revealed her indignation with Mr. Ustinov in an April 15 interview with British Broadcasting Corp (BBC).

"I want to believe the statement is just the stupidity of one bureaucrat and that it is not the national politics of Russia," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "If that is the case, then that bureaucrat must correct his stupidity."

She also used the cancellation as an opportunity to demand new relations between Russian and Ukrainian government authorities, criticizing Russian leaders for their attitude toward their counterparts to the west.

"I know the Russian political elite has gotten used to Ukraine suffering from an inferiority complex, but I want this to disappear from our relationship," she said.

Ukraine's prime minister was scheduled to visit Moscow on April 15 and 16.

The Russia Procurator General's Office alleges that Ms. Tymoshenko bribed Russian defense officials while in charge of United Energy Systems of Ukraine, the nation's main gas distribution company at the time. Russian authorities also accuse her of forgery and gas smuggling, according to her website.

Ms. Tymoshenko has maintained the charges are part of a concerted effort by Russian authorities intended to destroy her political career.

Russian authorities could not have arrested Ms. Tymoshenko because the Vienna Convention of 1961 provides diplomatic immunity to high-ranking government officials on foreign visits, said Kirill Kulikov, acting chief of the Ukrainian Interpol bureau.

As a result of her immunity status, Interpol suspended its international search for Ms. Tymoshenko, Timur Lakhonin, Interpol's Russia Central Bureau chief, told Interfax on April 14. "This is not the first decision of Interpol to suspend the search for a person enjoying immunity," Mr. Lakhonin said.

Ms. Tymoshenko's announcement, which was first reported as a postponement, came as a result of a convoluted

note sent to the Russian Federation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and made public by Vsevolod Shmatkov, an advisor-embassy of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine.

"Due to spring field work and the necessity of resolving tasks in order to eliminate complications arising at their implementation, the Ukrainian side is forced to postpone Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's visit to the Russian Federation," Mr. Shmatkov quoted.

Within an hour of notification, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov attempted damage control by telling journalists that there are no obstacles to Ms. Tymoshenko's visit. By then, it was too late.

Hours later, the Cabinet of Ministers press office issued a second statement, attributing Prime Minister Tymoshenko's cancellation to a presidential order requiring those Cabinet Ministers directly involved with preparing the nation for "spring field work," or the agricultural sowing season, to refrain from embarking on any business trips.

President Viktor Yushchenko's press secretary, Iryna Heraschenko, confirmed this in a statement on the presidential

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Ukraine's minister of justice assailed over academic credentials

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — For the last eight years, Roman Zvarych, today Ukraine's minister of justice, has been claiming that he earned a graduate degree in philosophy from Columbia University.

He also has been saying he was a New York University professor between 1983 and 1991.

Yet, officials at both universities have verified that neither statement is accurate. Instead, they are part of a web of lies woven by Mr. Zvarych that served to elevate him from a national deputy in the Verkhovna Rada to the highest echelons of the Ukrainian government.

The American-born son of a building contractor who grew up in Yonkers, N.Y., is now enmeshed in his second major scandal after taking office just two months ago. Mr. Zvarych caused the first scandal of President Viktor Yushchenko's administration when he threatened to resign and then backed off following a controversy over a government ban on the re-export of oil and his wife's employment with a firm that resells oil.

Now it is known that not only does Ukraine's new justice minister lack any

formal legal education, he also has no graduate or post-graduate college degree, despite his insistence to the contrary to Ukrainian reporters in recent weeks.

"I received the diploma of a master in philosophy," Mr. Zvarych told the popular Russian-language newspaper Fakty i Kommentarii in an interview published on March 25.

He repeated that claim as late as April 19 to Ukrainska Pravda, the Internet newspaper that first broke the news about Mr. Zvarych's deceit on April 14 in a story reported by Washington correspondent Luba Shara.

The lies about Mr. Zvarych's background were disseminated primarily through the Who's Who in Ukraine directory that is released annually by the publisher Kyiv Informatsia Servis (KIS) and available electronically.

The Who's Who entries are influential because they appear to be the only source of biographical information for Cabinet Ministers and Verkhovna Rada employees.

In fact, Ukraine's government pays KIS for the unverified information as

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Plast fights for recognition from world scouting movement

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Plast, Ukraine's largest scouting organization, is engaged in one of the most significant struggles in its 84-year-history: fighting for recognition by the Geneva-based World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).

Recognition would enable Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization to represent Ukraine on the world arena as the nation's premier scouting organization. WOSM allows only one scouting organization from each nation to send delegates to its World Scout Conference, and Ukraine currently has no representative.

WOSM is on the verge of designating a group called SPOK (Spilka Pionerskykh Orhanizatziy Kyieva) as Ukraine's representative, despite objections from Ukraine's leading political and spiritual authorities.

President Viktor Yushchenko, Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church — Kyiv Patriarchate and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, have each written letters to the WOSM asking that it reconsider SPOK's membership in the 154-member conference.



Serhii Letenko

Yunachky (Plast girls age 11-17) pledge a Plast oath on the Ukrainian flag during a Day of the Plastun ceremony in Lviv in April.

"I am not indifferent to the fate of Ukrainian scouting organizations that act according to WOSM principles," President Yushchenko stated in his letter.

He concluded the letter: "I express deep respect to the political independence of WOSM, and turn to you with

the proposition of making an objective decision. From my end, in the future, my government and I will assist the development of the national scouting movement in Ukraine that truly represents the goals and principles of the

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ANALYSIS

Tymoshenko takes on the oligarchsby **Taras Kuzio***Eurasia Daily Monitor*

A congress of Ukraine's oligarchs was scheduled for April 13 under the guise of the "Assembly of Ukrainian Metallurgists" (ukrudprom.com, April 11). Representatives from 62 metallurgical enterprises were to attend the "Extraordinary" congress in Kyiv. Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko described the event as an attempt to lobby the government to reverse its decision to raise transportation charges on Ukraine's railways by 50 percent.

Ms. Tymoshenko's ongoing fight against the oligarchs will likely increase her popularity even more. As she has pointed out, five families control Ukraine's metallurgical industry, and she plans to audit every one. Russian investors own the four largest Ukrainian oil refineries.

Vice Prime Minister Mykola Tomenko has openly accused oligarchs and regional barons of systematically sabotaging the government's work and pointed to rising fuel and food prices as proof. The "sabotage" is directed against the government's plan to cut the hidden subsidies, unfair privileges and excessive profits enjoyed by the oligarchs.

"President [Viktor] Yushchenko is mobilizing all government agencies at the central and regional level, in particular law-enforcement bodies, in order to make the Ukrainian authorities work as a single and well-coordinated team," Mr. Tomenko warned (*Uriadovi Kurier*, April 7).

Two other factors will also affect this looming clash between the state and the oligarchs.

First, Ukraine's largest metallurgical

plant, Kryvorizhstal, will lead the participants at the "extraordinary" congress. The plant was privatized for only \$800 million in June 2004 as a pre-election bribe for the Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk clans, represented by Viktor Pinchuk and Renat Akhmetov, respectively. Mr. Pinchuk is also former President Leonid Kuchma's son-in-law.

The new Ukrainian authorities have stated their readiness to re-nationalize Kryvorizhstal and re-submit it for tender. They hope to raise \$3 billion from the new sale. Prime Minister Tymoshenko predicted that re-privatization would take place later this month.

The oligarchs became noticeably nervous in March, when Ms. Tymoshenko mentioned that 3,000 enterprises would be subjected to re-privatization, a statement that also alarmed Western investors. President Yushchenko and other government ministers have calmed Western fears by reiterating that re-privatization would only apply to 30 companies – although which 30 has not been made public.

Second, on April 6 the head of Donetsk Oblast Council, Borys Kolesnykov, was arrested on suspicion of corruption, extortion, and attempted murder, charges that could lead to 12 years of imprisonment (see EDM, April 11). Kolesnykov is a high-ranking member of the Party of the Regions led by defeated presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich.

Centrist parties have pointed to his arrest to claim that the new authorities have launched a campaign of political repression. Mr. Yanukovich wrote a long open letter to the European Union and

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Russia becomes a haven for those fleeing Ukrainian justiceby **Taras Kuzio***Eurasia Daily Monitor*

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko cancelled her first official visit to Russia this week. The Russian Procurator General's Office has continued to insist that she be brought in for questioning in connection with a long-forgotten case from the 1990s in which she is accused of bribing Russian Defense Ministry officials. Ukrainian authorities under former President Leonid Kuchma unsuccessfully tried to smear her with these and other charges in 2001-2003.

Russia, in a bid to demonstrate its support for Mr. Kuchma last year, placed Ms. Tymoshenko on the Interpol wanted list. Interpol, meanwhile, removed her from all wanted lists on March 3-4; now she cannot be arrested on the charges laid out by Russia. Yet Moscow doggedly insists that the case remains open.

Although Prime Minister Tymoshenko has diplomatic immunity, the Ukrainian government decided to cancel the visit for legal reasons and to protest Russia's refusal to close the case. The cancellation confirms that Russia still is unable to come to terms with Viktor Yushchenko's

election victory last December.

Moscow is at a loss about what to do with a Ukraine under President Yushchenko. This bewilderment compounds Russia's pre-existing inability to deal with Ukraine as a truly foreign country. In an interview given to *Kommersant* (April 12), Russian President Vladimir Putin compared Russia and Ukraine to East and West Germany. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry dismissed this comparison as both "absurd and illogical" (*Ukrainska Pravda*, April 13).

What then is the source of this newfound uncertainty in Moscow? As Sergei Karaganov, deputy director of the Institute of Europe, pointed out, it is the threat of the entire western ex-USSR joining NATO and then moving on to join the European Union (*RIA-Novosti*, April 11). The idea of Belarus and Moldova joining NATO is far fetched for now, as one is ruled by a neo-Soviet autocrat and the other by Communists who only have set their sights on the EU. The reality, as *Izvestia* (April 8) explained, is that Ukraine and Russia see the United States and the West in different ways, with Moscow viewing "America through Cold War stereotypes" and Kyiv seeing "America as its ally."

Tensions between the former allies are likely to increase as Russia increasingly becomes a haven for people fleeing justice in Ukraine.

For example, Maxim Kurochkin, formerly vice-president of the Russian Club

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NEWSBRIEFS**Rice concerned by trends in Russia**

EN ROUTE TO MOSCOW – U.S. Secretary of State Rice told journalists aboard her plane as she flew to Moscow on April 19 that "the centralization of state power in the presidency at the expense of countervailing institutions like the Duma or an independent judiciary is clearly very worrying," according to a State Department press release. She added that "the absence of an independent media on the electronic side is clearly very worrying." Dr. Rice noted that she understands how difficult it can be to reach a correct balance between political freedom and efficient government in a "huge and complicated" country like Russia. She warned, however, that the Russian Federation should not "mimic the Soviet state." Talking about Russian participation in the group of the world's most-developed countries, the Group of Eight, the secretary of state said she does not see any reason "to see Russia isolated" and that "threatening to exclude the Russians from various organizations" doesn't make sense. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rice: U.S. did not foment revolutions

MOSCOW – U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Ekho Moskvoy on April 20 that the United States does not consider it necessary to "export democracy." Dr. Rice said that the United States did not foment revolutions in Georgia, Ukraine or Kyrgyzstan, but merely supported people "in their right to express their opinions." She said she does not believe that the peoples of those countries want to see a reduced role for Russia in the region of the former USSR. The secretary of state added that the United States "respects" the development choice that Russia has made, but added: "We understand that Russia is finding its own way. ... All that we are saying is that for U.S.-Russian relationships to really deepen and for Russia to gain its full potential, there needs to be democratic development. There should not be so much concentration of power just in the presidency. There needs to be an independent media. ... We think that our relations will improve if Russia is able to exploit fully its potential, if democracy is strengthened." She denied that the United States is seeking to expand its influence in the former Soviet Union, but said that both Russia and the United States must develop economic ties in the region. "It is a game in which there are no losers," Dr. Rice said. She said the United States is monitoring the Yukos case in order to evaluate the state of rule of law in Russia. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Group protests 'colored revolutions'

YEKATERINBURG – Several hundred

people demonstrated on April 19 near the U.S. Consulate in Yekaterinburg to protest against U.S. policies in former Soviet states, *Interfax-Ural* reported. The demonstration was organized by the "trade-union of the middle class, PROFI," which was recently created by Duma Deputy Anton Bakov. Participants in the rally told *Interfax-Ural* that the United States is the main source of instability in the CIS and said it incites and supports "colored revolutions." The U.S. Consulate responded that "every man has the right to his own opinion," *Interfax-Ural* reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Pavarotti sets record in Kyiv

KYIV – The great Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti's concert in Kyiv has set the record as the most expensive performance in Ukraine's history. The legendary singer's program "A Night To Remember," which he presented accompanied by the National Philharmonic Society Symphony Orchestra, included classical selections and Italian folk songs. President Viktor Yushchenko and his spouse, Kateryna, who were among the concert's attendants, met with Mr. Pavarotti after the performance and thanked him for having treated them to what was a genuine luxury. President Yushchenko thanked Mr. Pavarotti for having included Kyiv on his farewell tour's itinerary. (Ukrinform)

Orel wants to rehabilitate Stalin

OREL – The Orel city legislature on April 13 adopted a resolution asking the government to rehabilitate Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, arguing that Stalin's responsibility for the deaths of millions of Soviet citizens has never been proven. The *Moscow Times* reported on April 15. Thirty-three of the legislature's 35 members signed the appeal. "The idea belongs to Deputy Mikhail Vdovin, who said that veterans' groups had urged him to demand historical justice for Stalin and to ask that people stop smearing his name," a spokeswoman for the legislature told the daily. Local human rights advocate Vladimir Krayukhin told the daily that in 1993 the city legislature adopted a resolution commemorating September 11 as the anniversary of the 1943 killing of some 150 local political prisoners by Stalin's secret police. He added, however, that no city official has showed up at commemorations of the day in the 12 years since the resolution was passed. Earlier this month, a group of cultural figures published an open letter to President Vladimir Putin asking him to stop the installation in Volgograd of a statue of Stalin, U.S. President Franklin

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Ruslana to perform benefit concert for Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Rock star Ruslana announced this week that she will perform a benefit concert during the week of Eurovision 2005 to raise money for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

Proceeds will supply hospitals in Kyiv and Dnipropetrovsk with high-quality neo-natal intensive care equipment and support the Dzhherelo physical rehabilitation center in Lviv.

Ruslana's concert is slated for Tuesday, May 17, in the courtyard of the Arena Entertainment Complex at Bessarabska Square near Kyiv's main train station.

Organizers expect it will draw between 3,000 and 4,000 concert-goers, who will already be in Kyiv to attend the Eurovision 2005 semi-finals and finals on May 19 and 21.

"In this way, through the possibility of Eurovision, we will be able raise the issue, not just quietly or with a whisper, but very loudly, confidently and at one moment," Ruslana said at the fund's April 19 press conference in Kyiv.

It was Ruslana's initiative to dedicate her concert to Ukraine's ill children, and she selected the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund as her charity of choice, according to the press release announcing

the concert.

Ruslana has worked with the Dzhherelo Children's Rehabilitation Center since 1999 – years before her international fame – and has been providing assistance and support, as well as performing for its patients.

The singer described her close relations with the children, who look up to her and reveal their thoughts and worries to her.

"I don't have any personal interests to gain, and I don't have interests in improving my image," Ruslana said. "I'm doing this simply because I believe it's needed."

Among those hospitals benefiting from Ruslana's effort is Children's City Clinical Hospital No. 3 in Dnipropetrovsk headed by Dr. Ihor Makedonskyi.

The hospital hopes to increase the number of beds it has for infant resuscitation from 12 to 25, Dr. Makedonskyi said. A children's hospital catering to newborns needs one bed per 1,000 deliveries, he said, and the hospital handles 25,000 deliveries a year.

"It's very important and pragmatic that the fund and Ruslana turned their attention, above all, toward newborn babies, because it's a realistic possibility of giving children a chance to survive, and we need to start at that point," Dr. Makedonskyi said. "This offers a real possibility of reducing disability in children."



Joseph Sywenkyj

Michelle Poliwka, CCRF event manager; Olena Welhasch-Nyzhnykevych, country director; Ruslana; Marta Nykolayeva, student of the Dzhherelo School and Physical Rehabilitation Center for children with special needs; Oleksander Ksenofontov, Ruslana's producer and husband; Alexa Milanytch, CCRF director of procurement; and Olya Datsenko, CCRF Ukraine's accountant.

Dzhherelo Managing Director Myroslav Nikolaev also expressed gratitude for Ruslana's role in supporting his center, and particularly in the life of his

disabled daughter, Martusia.

An example of Ruslana's support is a concert she organized at the center that

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Ukraine's minister...

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part of its Intranet system, said Yuri Marchenko, director of KIS.

When Ukrainska Pravda broke its story, it cited the Cabinet of Ministers' Internet site as the source of information on Mr. Zvarych. In fact, the webpage's content looks identical to the entries in Who's Who based on the format, content and style. A Cabinet of Ministers spokeswoman who did not give her name would not comment on the matter.

In his first submission to Who's Who in 1994, Mr. Zvarych never claimed to have any college degree. He listed his education only as Columbia University. He also wrote that he was a "candidate of sciences in philosophy," a statement Europeans understand to mean someone who has already obtained a master's degree.

It's not until his second submission to the Who's Who directory in 1997 that Mr. Zvarych claimed to have earned a master's degree in philosophy. He also added that he studied at Columbia University's philosophy department between 1976 and 1981.

In fact, Mr. Zvarych did study at Columbia University, The Weekly learned. However, he had registered himself for classes only between 1976 and 1978, according to the university Registrar's Office, which handles student records.

Columbia University spokeswoman Katie Moore confirmed on April 21 that Mr. Zvarych did not earn any degree from Columbia University.

The same facts were obtained and verified by Ukrainska Pravda.

Given that Mr. Zvarych obtained no degree from Columbia University, that would throw into question another item on his Who's Who biography.

In his submission in 1997 Mr. Zvarych claims to have been an assistant professor at Columbia University between 1981 and 1983. The Weekly was unable to confirm the validity of this claim.

Mr. Zvarych also claimed in his 1997 submission to Who's Who that he was a New York University professor for seven years, between 1983 and 1991.

In fact, Mr. Zvarych did teach at New York University, said university spokesman Josh Taylor, but only between

1989 and 1992, or three years.

Mr. Zvarych was no professor, however. He was "a part-time lecturer at NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies, teaching sections of a social science class," Mr. Taylor said.

KIS does not verify the information provided by the contributors to its annual Who's Who directory partly because it wouldn't have the resources to verify the biographies of its 14,000-plus contributors, Mr. Marchenko told The Weekly.

It's also not the role of the publisher to censor or police its contributors, he said.

Mr. Marchenko said he is confident that Mr. Zvarych himself authored all the educational information in his biography, as well as his professional experience in the U.S.

The only time KIS editors change biographies is to add governmental positions, he said, but never to subtract or change information.

As proof of Mr. Zvarych's direct involvement in writing his biography, Mr. Marchenko provided copies of two of Mr. Zvarych's handwritten attestation forms submitted to Who's Who – one of which contained meticulous editing notes.

In the five business days since the story broke, the Justice Ministry's press office, led by press secretary Olena Iskorostenska, has stonewalled media inquiries.

Ms. Iskorostenska declined to answer any of The Weekly's questions on Monday, April 18. On Tuesday, lower-ranking officials answered the phones and took messages.

One of these officials picked up the phone on Wednesday morning, April 20, and took a message, but then the press secretary's phone gave a busy signal all Wednesday afternoon.

No one at Mr. Zvarych's office answered repeated calls on Thursday, April 21, and Ms. Iskorostenska never responded to The Weekly's repeated requests to interview Mr. Zvarych. As of press time, there still was no response from Mr. Zvarych or his office.

As a result, The Weekly was not able to confirm with Mr. Zvarych whether he has any college degree at all. None of his three biographical submissions to Who's Who between 1993 and 2004 make any reference to a bachelor's degree.

Mr. Zvarych's biographical informa-

tion about his professional background in Ukraine also has raised eyebrows.

In the Fakty i Kommentarii interview, Mr. Zvarych stated, "I wasn't a practicing lawyer in the U.S., only in Ukraine."

But Mr. Zvarych makes no mention in his biography of studying law at any Ukrainian educational institution or working for any Ukrainian law firm.

His most relevant legal experience would have been his work as a member of the Verkhovna Rada's Legal Reform Committee beginning in 1998, according to his 1999 Who's Who entry.

During the interview, Mr. Zvarych also waxed about being 17 years old and attending Columbia lectures in 1969 that were taught by Prof. Zbigniew Brzezinski, "who took an interest in me."

This story is entirely inconsistent with his claim that he attended Columbia University between 1976 and 1981.

Despite what would be considered a serious ethical breach in the U.S. that would almost surely demand resignation, virtually all of the Ukrainian media have avoided or ignored the story.

Roman Chaika, the host of a popular Saturday night political talk show, "Five Cents," on Channel 5, was the only Ukrainian television reporter who raised the question of Mr. Zvarych's diploma. The show aired on April 16.

Amidst all the avoidances, denials and deceptions involved in this ongoing fiasco, Mr. Zvarych did manage to admit one of his lies to Ukrainska Pravda.

Ever since 1994, or his first Who's Who submission, Mr. Zvarych has claimed to have written a "candidate's dissertation" on the "Ontological Foundations of Platonic Ethics" in 1981.

When asked by Ukrainska Pravda on April 12 whether he actually wrote a dissertation, Mr. Zvarych admitted: "I didn't write a dissertation. I didn't reach that level. I earned a master's degree, a master's of philosophy."

"Therefore the work on Plato – that was your master's degree work?" the Ukrainska Pravda reporter prodded.

"About Plato? That was a work in the context of a so-called colloquium," Mr. Zvarych responded.

Mr. Zvarych's colleagues also demonstrated a remarkable silence on the mat-

ter. When asked at an April 20 press conference about Mr. Zvarych's lies, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko offered a humorous answer without confirming Mr. Zvarych's educational background.

"It would be wonderful to place in the press club the diplomas of all the ministers with their supplements, their grades – including California diplomas, physics-mathematical school certificates – so that you would be able to check the expertise of those working in government," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

The California diploma was a reference to Viktor Yanukovich's claim to have a diploma from what turned out to be a non-existing institution.

Her second reference was to a comment made earlier in the week by Transport Minister Yevhen Chervonenko, who prided himself on graduating from an elite physics-mathematics school in Dnipropetrovsk.

Members of the Ukrainian American community in Kyiv responded with cynicism and disbelief when asked to consider that Mr. Zvarych told lies that are scandalous by American standards.

Some suspected a smear campaign.

In May 1998 Mr. Zvarych gave an interview to Roman Woronowycz of The Ukrainian Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau when he was first elected a national deputy in the Verkhovna Rada. He informed The Weekly that he had earned a Ph.D. in philosophy.

He also told The Weekly that he renounced his U.S. citizenship and applied for Ukrainian citizenship because he considered himself a Ukrainian, not a Ukrainian American. He said he accepted Ukrainian citizenship – which he was granted in January 1995 – in order to resolve "an internal contradiction that would lead to various psychological problems."

"In order to alleviate any possible problems, psychologically and otherwise, this was the right thing for me to do," Mr. Zvarych told The Weekly.

Mr. Zvarych also said in the interview that he always wanted to be a politician, "but never really saw my place in American politics."

The Ukrainian Weekly editor Andrew Nynka contributed to this story.

OBITUARY: Ukrainian Canadian pianist Daria Telizyn, 44

by George Sajewych

SILVER SPRING, Md. – Ukrainian Canadian pianist Daria Telizyn, whose concert performances took her to venues throughout North America and Europe, died on March 21 in Florida. She was 44.

She performed to critical acclaim for over two decades, as demonstrated by the following reviews.

"Telizyn made the piano sing, even in powerful tone clusters, but especially in more gentle, single-line melodies, soulful and zealous." — Albany Times Union

"Heightening the concerto's piquancy was Telizyn, whose lithe fingers, by turns, caressed and stormed the keyboard with delicate dance motions, singing tone and fierce attacks. Her pianism is phenomenal." — The Berkshire Eagle

"There were moments of sheer bril-

liance, and Telizyn fully deserved the standing ovation that followed." — The Washington Post

Critical acclaim also followed the release of Ms. Telizyn's three CDs, all on the Claudio Records label: "Daria Telizyn Plays Liszt" (1988), "Grande Fantasia Symphonique/Totentanz" (a world premiere recording of the two Liszt works with the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra, 1990), and "Tchaikovsky: Tranquillity" (2002).

Ms. Telizyn was born March 31, 1960, in Toronto. She inherited her love of the arts from her parents. Her father, Emil Telizyn, is a widely known icon painter and designer of iconostases, church decorations and monuments. Her mother, the late Nina Telizyn, was an opera singer and an actress with the Zahrava Theater.

It was in Toronto that Ms. Telizyn

began her musical education at the age of 3 at the Royal Conservatory of Music, going on to study at the University of Western Ontario, from which she received a bachelor of music degree in 1980. She studied for two years at the Paris Conservatory, then moved to the United States, to Baltimore, where in 1985 she graduated from the Peabody Conservatory with a master's degree in piano performance.

Moving to Washington, Ms. Telizyn quickly established herself as a musical presence in the U.S. capital. On different occasions, The Washington Post wrote that: "Telizyn immediately displayed deep musicality and sensitive phrasing and construction"; "She produced a strong, beautiful sound from deep within the keys. She offered thoughtful and persuasive playing that incorporated a dazzling lightness and clarity of chromatic runs into the music's formal outline"; and "The young Canadian's virtue of delicious sensitivity showed in her countryman Oscar Morawetz's 'Fantasy, Elegy and Toccata.' Two concert études by Franz Liszt unleashed Telizyn's wilder temperament and technique."

Ms. Telizyn's concert career took her to London, Paris, Kyiv (where she performed Revutsky's Piano Concerto with the National Symphony of Ukraine), Washington, Frankfurt, Brussels, Toronto and Mexico. She toured Germany and Austria with the Washington Symphony Orchestra and the United States with the Kyiv Chamber Orchestra (twice).

Over the past few years Ms. Telizyn, who lived in Florida, went through a series of illnesses and was not able to play. Recently, she had returned to the piano with a new strength and resolve to return to the stage. However, this was not to be; on March 21, after emergency surgery in Dunedin, Fla., Ms. Telizyn passed away, 10 days shy of her 45th birthday.

Very few pianists could enchant an audience the way Ms. Telizyn did. Such was the effect of her October 1986 concert at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw that the eminent Dutch critic and musicolo-



Daria Telizyn

gist Jan van Voorthuysen wrote in Het Vederland:

"Even if I had heard only Liszt's notorious, grand Sonata in B minor, I would have been convinced that I had heard one of the greatest pianists. Years ago I heard her first teacher more than once and I am sure he could not have equalled her, for he could not have equalled Horowitz or Andor Foldes, whereas Daria Telizyn did! And with the greatest of ease! After having heard more than 10,000 concerts and after having written more than 8,600 reviews, after having heard the Liszt Sonata countless times, I simply feel bound to declare that after Daria Telizyn's unbelievable performance I feel completely flabbergasted."

Throughout her life Ms. Telizyn would say with pride that she saw herself as: "woman, Ukrainian, pianist." She was a woman of great beauty and spirit, a passionate Ukrainian and a pianist of incomparable talent, dedication and resolve. Hers was a star that burned brightly in the heavens and was extinguished much too soon.

Plast fights...

(Continued from page 1)

WOSM constitution,"

According to that constitution, if SPOK's membership is unopposed or opposed by 5 percent or less of World Scout Conference members, the organization will be declared a member of the WOSM, as the national scout organization of Ukraine, as of May 1.

Nachalni Plastun (Chief Scout) Lubomyr Romankiw arrived in Kyiv on April 18 in order to rally support for Plast and to meet with lawyers.

He said eight votes out of 154 are needed to break the 5 percent barrier. Dr. Romankiw has already recruited Poland, Argentina and Germany to oppose SPOK's entry. The United States delegate also will write a letter in opposition, he said.

Since Ukraine's independence in 1991, Plast has swelled to 10,000 members, said Serhii Letenko, the organization's spokesman.

Plast is already playing a leading role in developing the nation's youth and producing positive leaders in society, Mr. Letenko said.

Oleh Klymchuk, First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko's press secretary, is a Ukrainian-born Plast member, as is Evhen Hlibovyt'skyi, a news director at Channel 5, Ukraine's 24-hour news channel.

Plast encompasses Ukraine's diversity, and includes scouts who are Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant and Muslim, Dr. Romankiw said. Ethnic Russians and Crimean Tatars have also become members of Plast, he said. In fact, two Tatar troops are active in Crimea, he added.

In official letters to WOSM, SPOK claims to have 3,500 members. Plast leaders firmly dispute that estimate, and Mr. Letenko said the group has about 350 members.

SPOK violates numerous WOSM conditions, Dr. Romankiw said, most significantly that it is supported with funding from the Ukrainian government. As a result of this funding, SPOK acted in support of the former party in power, he said. In fact, SPOK's official address is that of the Ministry of Family, Children and Youth.

Plast has written to Dr. Eduardo Missoni, the secretary general of WOSM, in order to inform him of these viola-

tions, but has received no response.

In a letter addressed to Dr. Missoni, Ukraine's current minister of family, children and youth, Yurii Pavlenko, also pointed out that SPOK has no religious or spiritual program. One of WOSM's fundamental principles is "duty to God and respect for individual beliefs."

SPOK doesn't have a consistent education or training program, no regular weekly activities and its scouting program takes place only at its summer camps, Mr. Pavlenko wrote in his letter.

The Weekly's attempts to reach SPOK were unsuccessful, and the organization has no apparent website. The Mangup Tourist Club, which identifies itself as a member organization of SPOK, has a website but no contact telephone numbers.

Attempts were also unsuccessful in trying to reach Oleksander Bondar, the head of WOSM's Eurasia Scout Region, which is headquartered in Yalta. According to Plast officials, Mr. Bondar submitted SPOK's application to join WOSM.

Unfortunately, Plast is in this position because Mr. Bondar never allowed the organization to attempt entry into WOSM on its own, Dr. Romankiw said.

Plast's leadership had decided to try to work with Mr. Bondar and cooperate with other scouting groups, he said.

Plast agreed to work with SPOK because its leaders thought that they could easily win the SPOK scouts over, Dr. Romankiw said. They were convinced of the superiority of the Plast program, which had been developed and refined for decades, he said.

But it's precisely for that reason that SPOK entered into partnership: to access superior methodology and experience, Mr. Pavlenko wrote in his letter.

Mr. Bondar stands to lose a comfortable salary and generous traveling perks from WOSM if he loses his control over scouting in Ukraine, which is why he is fighting Plast, Dr. Romankiw commented.

The chief scout said he hopes to resolve the situation positively, or Plast may resort to legal action against the World Scout Bureau – the secretariat that carries out the instructions of the World Scout Conference and the World Scout Committee, the conference's executive body – for not upholding its own rules and requirements.

Tymoshenko...

(Continued from page 1)

website, adding that the goal of keeping ministers from traveling abroad was to concentrate on stabilizing the economy.

In the BBC interview three days later, Ms. Tymoshenko said it's time that Russia accepted Ukraine as its equal partner – not like a "younger brother" – and treat the nation and its politicians with respect.

Certain Russian actors fought against her and her allies at the request of former President Leonid Kuchma, Ms. Tymoshenko said, and made her a prime target for political destruction.

"Now, in the post-election period, it's likely very hard for them to drop old tactics which they used to destroy politicians in other nations," she said.

Ms. Tymoshenko said she hopes that Ukraine and Russia will together get through this "painful period of transition."

She said she believes Russian President Vladimir Putin, along with his prime minister and those Russian intellectuals who can objectively examine Russian-Ukrainian relations, will quit employing the political technology schemes that were employed in the 2004 presidential elections.

"I know there was a wonderful and warm meeting between the presidents of Russia and Ukraine, and my meeting with Mr. Putin was wonderful, construc-

tive and very well-meaning," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

"And I believe that at the highest levels of both nations are very honest intentions to build equal standing, partnerly, long-lasting and very hopeful relations," she added.

Ms. Tymoshenko's colleagues immediately supported her decision. Serhii Teriokhin, Ukraine's minister of the economy, said Russian officials should think before speaking. "It was going to be the first visit – a milestone event," Mr. Teriokhin said. "Something is always off with the procurator generals in Russia."

Ms. Tymoshenko was planning to discuss the Single Economic Space and other important matters, Mr. Teriokhin noted.

Although Ukrainian officials had been preparing hard for the visit, "we as an independent nation will find the possibility to defend the dignity and authority of Ukraine, and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko," said Anatolii Kinakh, Ukraine's first vice prime minister.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council Secretary Petro Poroshenko will lead a delegation visiting Moscow on April 21, according to his official website.

Mr. Poroshenko will discuss creating the Yushchenko-Putin Commission that was announced during the Russian president's visit to Kyiv in March. During the visit, Presidents Putin and Yushchenko agreed to have their nations' defense council leaders lead the commission.

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Northern New Jersey District Committee holds annual meeting

by Roma Hadzewycz

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Northern New Jersey District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association, which encompasses 18 branches, held its annual meeting here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters on Friday, April 15.

The meeting was brought to order by District Chairman Stephan Welhasch, who welcomed branch representatives, district officers and two members of the UNA General Assembly, UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj and Advisor Eugene Oscislawski. Fifteen people representing the district's various branches participated in the meeting.

Mr. Welhasch opened the meeting and called for a moment of silence in honor of Northern New Jersey District members who had passed away during the past year. Mr. Oscislawski was elected to chair the meeting; while Roma Hadzewycz recorded the minutes.

In lieu of the minutes from the previous annual meeting, Mr. Welhasch read the official report on the meeting that was published in the UNA's newspapers.

The district chairman then delivered his report, thanking all for their cooperation and noting that in his first year as chairman he was still learning a lot about the organization's work. He thanked UNA National Secretary Christine Kozak for her assistance.

The chairman also cited the district's successful bus trip to Soyuzivka for Father's Day in 2004 and the involvement of the district's members – especially Stefko Woch, Christine Brodyn and Oksana Trytjak – in manning UNA information tables at various festivals around the state and beyond, including New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

As well, Mr. Welhasch reported on the Northern New Jersey District's organizing accomplishments, pointing out that the district experienced a 10 percent growth in



Roma Hadzewycz

At the Northern New Jersey District Committee's annual meeting (from left) are: District Chairman Stephan Welhasch, UNA Advisor Eugene Oscislawski, who chaired the meeting, and UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj.

Young UNA'ers



Sophia Yamanishi, daughter of Alexandra C. Bodnar and Mike Yamanishi, is a new member of UNA Branch 13. She was enrolled by her parents, who live in Pepperell, Mass.



Mark Andrew Rokycky, son of Svetlana and Andrew Rokycky of Wethersfield, Conn., is a new member of UNA Branch 277. He was enrolled by his grandparents Vira and Lubomyr Rokycky.



Pavlo Odemchuk, son of Halyna and Oleksandr Odemchuk of Kent, Wash., is a new member of UNA Branch 496. He was enrolled by his parents.



Pavel and Lidiya Pashchuk, children of Oksana and Andrij Pashchuk of Kent, Wash., are new members of UNA Branch 496. They were enrolled by their parents.

members and was responsible for \$1.5 million in new insurance. However, he added, the district's membership quota for 2004 was met by only 54 percent.

Vice-Chairman Julian Kotliar then reported, joking that it's easy to be vice-chairman when the chairman does everything. He focused on organizing activity, stating that it is hard to enroll new members these days and suggesting that a new approach is needed to attract younger members.

Speaking on behalf of the Auditing Committee, Mr. Oscislawski, chairman, said that he and his committee members, Christine Brodyn and Lydia Ciapka, had reviewed the district's books and had found everything to be in order. He expressed commendations for a job well done to Treasurer Walter Honcharyk and reported that the district had a balance of \$2,046.54 in its account.

The reports were unanimously approved by meeting participants.

Next on the agenda was the election of district officers for the new term. A proposal from the floor to re-elect the entire slate of officers was greeted with applause and the slate was re-elected by acclamation.

District officers are: Mr. Welhasch, chairman; Mr. Kotliar, vice-chairman; Daria Semegen, secretary; Mr. Honcharyk, treasurer; Ms. Hadzewycz (The Ukrainian Weekly editor-in-chief), English-language press liaison; Irene Jarosewich (Svoboda editor-in-chief), Ukrainian-language press liaison; Ms. Trytjak, organizing director; Lon Staruch and Michael Bohdan, members-at-large; Mr. Oscislawski, Ms. Brodyn and Ms. Ciapka, auditing committee. Wolodymyr Bilyk and John Chomko remain as honorary district chairmen.

UNA President Kaczaraj then addressed the gathering, reporting on the state of the organization for 2004. He noted that insurance sales were up slightly, but not enough to cover costs of UNA operations. Expenses of Soyuzivka nearly doubled, he said, explaining that while the resort had more guests than during the previous year, expenses increased to \$620,000. The UNA's newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly also had increased expenses, up from

\$161,000 in 2003 to \$240,000 in 2004.

Mr. Kaczaraj then revealed that discussions are under way about transferring Soyuzivka from a limited liability corporation that is wholly owned by the UNA to a foundation that would be created as a separate entity. It is hoped that the foundation could then secure a significant loan for the purpose of renovating facilities at Soyuzivka, in particular its Main House, in hopes of attracting corporate business year-round.

In regard to the UNA's newspapers, Mr. Kaczaraj said that the UNA had hired a consultant, who is to report on how to cut down expenses. Later, during the question and answer session, the UNA president explained that the consultant is also to suggest how the publications can increase income.

Among other subjects discussed during the open discussion part of the meeting were: renovations and town houses at Soyuzivka; the importance of both the UNA's newspapers and Soyuzivka to the UNA as fraternal benefits; and the new foundation for Soyuzivka, which will have 501 (c) (3) status.

The final item on the meeting's agenda was a plan of activity for the year. Mr. Welhasch said that the district will once again organize a bus trip to Soyuzivka for Father's Day. He also underscored that the district needs to devote more attention to new immigrants and their needs, and he opened a discussion on how the UNA can reach this new wave.

Meeting participants, including professional sales agents and one member of what is known as the Fourth Wave of immigration, expressed various ideas on how to accomplish this, as all agreed that the UNA has something to offer these newcomers to the United States. Nina Bilchuk of the UNA's Home Office noted that, with the positive changes in Ukraine, there is an increase of interest in identifying with Ukraine. She said she is optimistic that members of the latest wave of immigrants will eventually join the UNA, though it may take time. She also noted that UNA brochures must be written in a language they understand

(Continued on page 31)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Chornobyl's 19th anniversary

April 26 marks the 19th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear catastrophe in Ukraine – the world's worst nuclear accident. For most of the world, Chornobyl is a word from the past, a tragedy that happened a generation ago and has been largely forgotten.

But, for Ukraine and Belarus, and parts of western Russia, Chornobyl is also the present, and the future, as the effects of the accident at the Chornobyl nuclear power station can be felt to this day and will be felt for many years down the road.

To illustrate this bitter reality, we cite information newly released by Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

An astounding total of 2,646,106 citizens of Ukraine – among them 643,030 children – are officially classified as victims of the Chornobyl accident as of January 1, 2005.

During the course of the 19 years since the accident, 164,700 people were relocated to 213 population centers. The zone around the nuclear power station will remain uninhabitable for hundreds of years due to radioactive contamination.

In 2004, more than 2,318,300 people, including 451,800 children, were under medical care in Ukraine as a result of Chornobyl's effects.

A total of 2,242,111 people are currently being monitored to determine the accident's effects on their health.

The portion of people suffering the ill effects of the 1986 disaster continues to grow. Among Chornobyl "liquidators" – those sent into the zone at the time of the disaster in an attempt to "eliminate the consequences" of the accident – 94.2 percent are ill; among evacuated citizens the figure is 89.8 percent; and among those who live on territory affected by radiation, 84.7 percent.

As for Ukraine's children – the country's future – 79.8 percent of those classified as victims of Chornobyl are also officially listed as ailing.

Needless to say, the costs of caring for Chornobyl's victims – who suffer from a variety of ailments ranging from thyroid cancer to illnesses of the circulatory and nervous systems, and immuno-deficiency problems – are astounding and a severe strain on Ukraine's budget. And, lest we forget, there are the children born with birth defects that can be linked to Chornobyl's aftereffects.

In addition, there is the matter of the Chornobyl plant itself. The Shelter Implementation Project, whose goal is to stabilize the damaged sarcophagus at the plant is ongoing, with completion scheduled for 2006. After that, plans call for the construction of a new confinement structure over the No. 4 reactor. However additional funding must be found to cover its cost of more than \$1 billion.

That, dear readers, is only a fragment of the harsh actuality that is Chornobyl's legacy in Ukraine, the epicenter of the disaster.

As we observe the solemn 19th anniversary of the Chornobyl catastrophe, let us recall that in Ukraine today millions of our brothers and sisters need our help. Can we ignore their plight?

April
27
2004

Turning the pages back...

In conjunction with the 18th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear accident in Ukraine, on April 27, 2004, the United Nations hosted a special screening of the Academy Award-winning documentary film "Chernobyl Heart." The 39-minute

film, produced and directed by American documentary filmmaker Maryann DeLeo, was shot predominantly in Belarus in 2001-2003. The Academy Award-winning documentary follows a group of officials from the Chernobyl Children's Project International, a New York-based international humanitarian aid organization that has worked in Belarus for the past 12 years.

Speaking at the U.N. prior to the film's presentation, Ms. DeLeo told the audience that she contacted CCPI Founder and Executive Director Adi Roche in 2001 with the idea of making a documentary after having seen a photography exhibit on the subject at the U.N. headquarters building earlier that year. Ms. DeLeo said she remembered being astonished to learn that, while the number of children suffering from radiation-related illnesses was increasing, "international aid and attention has been progressively diminishing." Birth defects and cancer rates in the region have reportedly shot up over the past few years.

The film also featured the work of Dr. William Novick, a cardiac surgeon and founder and medical director of the International Children's Heart Foundation, who has traveled to the region on a number of occasions, performing surgery on children who have a condition that is referred to in the region as "Chornobyl heart." Speaking at the U.N., Dr. Novick said that in 2003 7,500 children in Belarus required the corrective surgery, while only 300 received it. In Ukraine, the film notes, there are 10,000 children on the waiting list for the surgical procedure, and only 2,500 will receive the operation. Many of the rest, Dr. Novick told the audience that greeted him with a standing ovation, will die while the waiting list will continue to grow.

"For my country, Chornobyl is not only a pain of the past, but a problem of the present and a challenge of the future," said Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky, Ukraine's permanent representative to the U.N., prior to the screening. "Unfortunately, with the passage of time – particularly since the closing of the Chornobyl station in 2000 – the problem of Chornobyl is gradually losing its momentum and is becoming, for some, yet another boring issue on the United Nations agenda."

"I think that the documentary film we are going to see tonight will speak to these people, especially children, much better and more effectively than hundreds of officials. We are very grateful to Ms. DeLeo and her team for the great work done in reflecting on today's consequences of the Chornobyl accident," Mr. Kuchinsky said.

Source: "Screening of Chornobyl documentary is centerpiece of U.N. commemoration," by Andrew Nynka, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, May 9, 2004, Vol. LXXII, No. 19.

EASTER PASTORAL

The Power of God is revealed

Following is the Paschal greeting of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops beyond the Borders of Ukraine to the clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine and throughout the world.

May the peace offered by our Risen Lord to His Holy Disciples following His Resurrection be with you at all times and in all places.

Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen!

The Apostle Paul has written: "If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and, in the same way the Resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all die in Adam, so all will be brought to life in Christ ... When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of Scripture will come true: 'Death is swallowed up in victory' ... So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 15:19-22,54,57)

Our mission – that of every single Ukrainian Orthodox Christian – is to spread the Good News that the victory has been won, that the time of peace has been established, that the time for reconciliation is at hand, that the world has nothing to lose and everything to gain by embracing the new order of life established by the Risen Lord. Our mission is to tell our brothers and sisters who are still making alliances with the forces of greed, hatred, war, bigotry, fierce competition and exploitation, that their allies are already defeated – that judgment has been rendered – that Christ is Lord! Our mission is to let them in on the Good News: "It is true. He is Risen."

Some people want a scientific explanation for all this. But science can only analyze one event by comparing it with other events. The Resurrection of Jesus cannot be compared to anything else. What the Easter Gospel proclaims has never happened before and it has never happened since. Other people have returned from the dead – even the Bible gives examples of that – but they returned only to die again. Our Lord rose, never to die again. He rose to New Life, where death is abolished, opening the road to the Kingdom of God and Salvation for us all.

Our Lord's death was not a symbolic death, but a real death, unaccompanied by cosmetics and flowers and sweet music. And our Lord's resurrection from the dead was not a symbolic resurrection, but a real Resurrection – the real return

of Jesus of Nazareth in the fullness of His Divinity and His Humanity. The Church fathers never attempted to evade this startling fact by saying that "His Spirit lives on," or that "His ideas live on," or simply that "He lives on in the lives of those who believe." No, Jesus Christ – Lord and Savior – lives on!

As we Ukrainian Orthodox Christians revel in this fact at Pascha 2005, we, your archpastors, ask ourselves and each of you entrusted to our spiritual care: Having proclaimed to one another and to the world "Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!" during the holy and wondrous liturgical celebrations of this Feast of Feasts, are we prepared to fulfill our mission? What difference will proclaiming "Christ is Risen!" make in our lives as we wake up to Bright Monday? What difference will proclaiming "Christ is Risen!" on Pascha make in our relationships with the members of our families, with our co-workers, with our neighbors, with our enemies? What difference will proclaiming "Christ is Risen!" make in our concern for justice, peace and service in our local communities and in the world at large?

We who bear the Name of our Lord – Christians – must place ourselves directly in position to reflect the Light that shines forth from the empty tomb into the world, into our communities and into the lives of all those we confront as we walk the temporal path of this world. We are created to image – to reflect – the love of Christ, the compassion of Christ, the peace of Christ into our world. Are we prepared spiritually to fulfill our mission? Through solid preparation throughout the Great Lenten season and through continued and frequent participation in the Precious Eucharist – the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – we are and shall always be.

On Pascha – Resurrection Sunday – we celebrate the awesome reality that not only was the Power of God revealed, but also that the Power is now being revealed. Pascha is not only a past event, it is an eternally present reality. The Power of God manifested in the Resurrection is revealing to us now that all the problems we can ever imagine already have been resolved. That Power is working deep within us now to sustain us in our mission and on our journey to abundant life and to empower us to achieve it. We have witnessed that Power in the recent peaceful transition of authority in our native Ukraine. We have witnessed that Power in people gathered together in peace and singleness of mind and the face of a nation was forever changed. It is this same Power that can

(Continued on page 29)

EASTER GREETING

Message from Ukraine's ambassador to the U.N.

Below is the text of Easter greetings to the Ukrainian diaspora from Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations.

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations and on my personal behalf, please accept the most cordial greetings on the joyous holy day of the Resurrection of Christ – a holy day of joy, hope and purity.

For millions of people all over the

world Easter is a bright and joyful day that strengthens them along life's way, awakening the best of feelings and thoughts.

Extending my greetings on this majestic day, I sincerely wish that this Easter may bring comfort to your hearts, happiness and well-being to your families, and hope for a better future.

May this blessed day be for all of us a source of peace, harmony, good and love for many happy years to come.

Happy Easter! Khrystos Voskres!

COMMENTARY

History, its uses and its misuses, Prof. Himka and getting off our knees

by Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky

"Since the days of Bogdan Chelmenitzky [sic], the Jewish people has a long score to settle with the Ukrainian people ... To you and your friends, I suggest that you go to church not only on Sunday but also every day of the week, and that you kneel there until bleeding at the knees in asking forgiveness for what your people has done to ours." – Excerpt from a letter written in October 1986 by Dov B. Ben-Meir, the deputy speaker of the Israeli Knesset, to Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine [published in The Ukrainian Weekly, January 11, 1987].

In a letter to The Weekly (March 6), Prof. John Paul Himka suggested that anyone who makes mention of facts such as that Trotsky, Kaganovich and other Jews played an important role in the first decades of Soviet Communism is "grinding an axe against the Jews" and is guilty of anti-Semitism and xenophobia. He also advised that "this whole keeping of national scorecards – what the Russians, Poles, Jews, etc. did to the Ukrainians – is such a discredited and restrictive mode of thought, that we should really make an effort to abandon it altogether. It is a mental fixture of the 1930s and 1940s that that needs to be thrown out." He concludes by further suggesting that if Ukrainians don't stop talking about such subjects, we are doomed: "if we don't clean our house now, it will be impossible to hide the stink."

Prof. Himka acknowledges that Trotsky, Kaganovich and other Jews played an important role in creating Soviet rule and that Jews were over-represented in the Soviet secret police and related criminal organizations. But, he complains, why be selective in focusing on these facts? And, he explains, statements of facts are not made in a vacuum. They are objectionable, even if true, because "There's an ugly history in Ukrainian wartime journalism of identifying Jews and Bolsheviks to justify German policy towards Jews."

I realize that logic is not a required subject for historians, but where is it written that they can take a holiday from it altogether? Ukrainian Americans should not in 2005 make mention of the leadership role that individual Jews played in the first decades of the Soviet state because of something that some Ukrainian said a continent away 60-some years ago during World War II?

Prof. Himka's point about selectivity is equally puzzling. After doing research at Yad Vashem and the Hebrew University, Prof. Himka authored a long article published in 1997 on the subject of "Ukrainian Collaboration in the Extermination of the Jews During World War II." More recently, he has written "War Criminality: A Blank Spot in the Collective Memory of the Ukrainian Diaspora." So, making mention of Jewish participation in the leadership or the secret police of the criminal Soviet state is being objectionably "selective," but writing about Ukrainian "collaboration" with the criminal Nazi state is laudably universal? Some more of that special logic?

Bohdan Vitvitsky is an attorney, writer and lecturer who holds a Ph.D. in philosophy.

Who has an axe to grind against whom?

Leaving Prof. Himka's idiosyncratic sense of logic aside, his claim that it is Ukrainian Americans who have an axe to grind against Jews suggests that he has just recently returned from several decades of travel in a distant galaxy. Was it a Ukrainian parliamentarian who wrote that Ukrainians have a long score to settle with Jews and that Jews should kneel until they bleed to ask forgiveness, or was it a Jewish parliamentarian who wrote that to Ukrainians? No other member of the Knesset would criticize or repudiate the 1986 letter by Mr. Ben-Meir, even when asked to do so by the letter's recipients. Yet, our Prof. Himka thinks it is Ukrainians who have an axe to grind?

Was it a Ukrainian columnist who wrote recently that he wasn't sure whether Jews existed, but that if they did, they had the blood of Ukrainians on their hands, or was it a columnist in the Jerusalem Post who wrote in December 2004 that "whether or not a Ukrainian nation exists, insofar as Jewish history is concerned, it will live forever, since no other nation other than the Germans seems to have more Jewish blood on its hands"? And yet, our Prof. Himka thinks it is Ukrainians who have an axe to grind?

Was it a Ukrainian school that staged a play portraying Jews as the enemy or, as reported in the May 24, 2001, Bergen Record in New Jersey, was it a play staged by high school students at the Yavneh Academy in Paramus, titled "Faith, Rebellion and Fate", that unjustly portrayed Ukrainians? As the paper reported: "The play begins in the early 1990s in Tomaszov, Poland, the home of a large Hasidic settlement, showing how Lerman, then only 7, got his first taste of anti-Semitism, when his family was attacked by Ukrainian soldiers who often preyed on Jews and wanted to annex the region." And yet, our Prof. Himka thinks it is Ukrainians who have an axe to grind?

When one goes to a college bookstore or to a Barnes & Noble-type bookstore today – not in the 1930s or 1940s – and looks through the books in the Jewish history section, one will repeatedly encounter the extraordinary libel that, purportedly, Bohdan Khmelnytsky was the anti-Semitic precursor to Hitler. And when one looks up references to Simon Petliura, one also repeatedly finds the slanderous claim that, purportedly, Petliura, too, was an anti-Semite and pogromist. And yet, our Prof. Himka thinks it is Ukrainians who have an axe to grind?

In 1926, a man named Samuel Schwartzbard, who was in all likelihood a Soviet agent, assassinated Simon Petliura in Paris. The assassin, a Jew from Bessarabia, claimed in his defense that the murder was supposed retribution for Petliura's purported pogroms. The Jewish community took up the defense's cause and helped to assassinate Petliura a second time, this time via character assassination accomplished with the help of distorting the documentary evidence relating to what Petliura had and had not done. The first assassination was the work of an individual, culpability for which lay exclusively with that individual and those, if any, who sent him. But

(Continued on page 26)

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Third Rome resurgent

As Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice prepares to travel to Russia to raise U.S. concerns over Russia's fading "democracy," President Vladimir Putin must be laughing up his sleeve.

Mr. Putin, a former KGB officer, knows his people. He understands the three historic instruments of the Russian soul, the ruling troika of autocracy, orthodoxy and "narodnichestvo." He is busy fine-tuning all three.

The one-time intense, pre-Soviet intellectual debate between "Westernizers," who favored democratic processes, and "Slavophiles" who shunned Western ideals, is long past. Autocracy, part of the Russian condition since the founding of Muscovy, won the day.

The Russian nation never experienced the Renaissance, the Reformation or the Enlightenment, cultural phenomena that produced such liberating ideals as that of the independent individual, a person with unique thoughts, feelings, moral conscience, freedom and, of course, control of his/her destiny. From tsar to commissar, the Russian people have lived under a series of brutal sovereigns who ruled with an iron fist.

Democracy never took root in Russia because for many Russians, even today, it is associated with decadence, anarchy and uncertainty. As bad as tsar and commissar were, they provided a certain stability, even predictability. As social psychologist Erich Fromm reminded us in "Escape from Freedom," given a choice between freedom and predictability, people tend to prefer predictability. Individuality can lead to isolation, alienation and bewilderment. Freedom can be confusing and threatening. Conformity is simpler, less frightening. This is especially true of Russians who, according to philosopher Nicholas Berdyaev, constantly seek certainty. "The Russian spirit craves for wholeness," he writes.

Mr. Putin is returning power to the Kremlin, slowly and methodically weaning the Russian people of their quest for freedom. Few Russians seem to mind. According to a poll of Russian sentiment taken in March, Mr. Putin's approval rating stands at 66 percent. Apparently, scrapping the election of governors by popular vote, state control of oil firms, censorship of the media, the brutal repression of Chechnya, and blatant interference in the political fortunes of neighboring nations are not reasons for concern. What matters is that Mr. Putin is bringing stability to his country.

The Russian Orthodox Church, a tool of the ruling elite, whether tsarist or Soviet, supports authoritarian rule because that is how the patriarch and his army of willing clerics remain in business. As the Russian army expanded the empire during tsarist times, the Russian Orthodox Church was close behind pushing conversion as the first step toward russification. During Soviet times, the Russian Orthodox Church was complicit in the destruction and brutal suppression of the Ukrainian Catholic Church – an act of genocide for which we are yet to hear remorse. This outrage continues today as the Russian patriarch demands that Rome shelve its support of the Ukrainian Catholic Church before any

further talk of Catholic-Orthodox unification can go forward. "We hope a spirit of competition will be replaced by a spirit of dialogue," stated a spokesman for the Moscow patriarch following the death of Pope John Paul II. "We hope the new pontiff will understand our tradition."

And what is that tradition? The idea that Moscow is the third and final Rome. "It has long been a feeling which was native to Russians," wrote Nicholas Berdyaev in *The Russian Idea*, "that Russia has its own peculiar destiny, that the Russian people are a peculiar people. Messianism is almost as characteristic of the Russian people as it is of the Jews," which is why, Mr. Berdyaev believes, an "active share of the Jews in Russian communism" was possible.

Finally, there is the question of "narodnichestvo," that mystic veneration of the Russian soul. "Narodnichestvo is not the same thing as nationalism, although it might take on a nationalist color," explains Mr. Berdyaev. The concept has religious overtones in which "the people is a sort of mystical organism which goes deeper into the spirit than the nation, which is a rationalized, historical organization in connection with the body politic ... The people are a concrete community of living persons, whereas the nation is a more abstract idea."

This Russian troika remained deeply imbedded in the Russian psyche even in Soviet times. Autocracy was part of the Bolshevik way. Marxism/Leninism was the new orthodoxy. And the Third International supplanted the third Rome as the new Russian vehicle of messianism.

During the Gorbachev and Yeltsin eras, Russia temporarily lost its compass. Glasnost and perestroika were foreign ideals, quickly discarded. After the Soviet collapse, a temporary power vacuum emerged as Communists changed hats and pretended to support democracy. That, too, died. Under Mr. Putin, there is no longer any need for pretense. The third Rome is up and running.

In May Russia will commemorate the "great victory against fascism." The crimes of the past are forgotten. As one Russian told Anne Applebaum recently, "The Gulag isn't relevant any more." No need to acknowledge the evils of the Holodomor, the Nazi-Soviet pact, Katyn Forest, the 40 million murdered by government fiat. Apologize? Only American presidents and popes apologize.

Stalin, the Georgian who came closest to establishing Moscow as the world's third Rome, is back in favor. A survey conducted by the All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion in March asked Russians if they think their country needs a ruler similar to Stalin. Among those 45 to 59 years of age, 52 percent said yes. Russian youth, those between age 18 and 24, favored the tyrant by 45 percent.

Dr. Rice is a brilliant woman and a Russian expert thoroughly familiar with Stalinism. I hope she succeeds in Moscow, for our sake and the sake of the world. She needs our prayers.

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REFLECTIONS ON PRESIDENT VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

The good, the bad and the ugly: a look at the visit to Boston

by Prof. Peter T. Woloschuk

The recent visit of President Viktor Yushchenko and his wife, Kateryna, to Boston was clearly a great success. The Ukrainian president came to Boston at the invitation of the Kennedy family to receive the prestigious John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award and he also made time to visit 5-year-old Nastia Ovchar, who is being treated at the Shriners' Burn Center for third-degree burns on over 80 percent of her body. Media coverage was comprehensive and positive. From an organizational perspective the event demonstrated that some members of the Ukrainian American community have the ability to help organize such an event.

With the event still in our memory, it is appropriate to examine and learn from what worked and what didn't, and then to constructively go forward.

Approximately 900 people turned out for the event, including some 550 prominent Bostonians invited by the Kennedy

Peter Woloschuk is a professor of communication and journalism at Boston College and Northeastern University; he also occasionally lectures at the University of Massachusetts and Pine Manor College. He is the editor-in-chief of the Pine Manor College Alumnae Bulletin and spent more than 10 years working for the Boston Globe. Mr. Woloschuk has served as the deputy director of communications for the city of Boston and director of media for the Boston Police Department. He has traveled extensively for the White House Travel Office working on events and media for the president and the first lady and has helped coordinate media and security for all seven papal visits to the United States for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Mr. Woloschuk is the head of Ukrainian Americans for Democracy in Ukraine – Boston (UADU) and has worked on numerous events at the Kennedy Library. He and the UADU were approached by the library staff and asked for assistance with the visit of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko.

Library Foundation and 350 members of the local Ukrainian American community. The latter were invited by the Kennedy Library Foundation staff, who had insisted that the broader Ukrainian American community be present and participate. The Kennedy Library Foundation asked the Ukrainian Americans for Democracy in Ukraine (UADU) to assist in the coordination of the event and act as the go-between with both Ukraine's Consular officials and Ukrainian American community leaders.

UADU is an ad-hoc volunteer organization that was formed in November 2004 to conduct a petition drive asking the Massachusetts congressional delegation to intervene in the Ukrainian elections (more than 1,000 signatures were collected in one weekend). UADU has members who have existing relationships and expertise required for such a high-profile event.

As a result of UADU's intervention, the community was present as the Yushchenko motorcade arrived, witnessed the formal award ceremonies simulcast into a separate theater (the main hall at the Library only holds 550), and attended the VIP reception with live classical music, gourmet food and an open bar.

In addition to the formal presentation of the award itself, there were a number of electric moments in the nearly five hours that the Yushchenkos spent with the Kennedy family. The first occurred after a formal private exchange of gifts between the Yushchenkos and Sen. Edward Kennedy in the family's private function rooms of the library when the senator, moved almost to tears, searched among the various mementos displayed in the room, and then picked up a very valuable bust of President Kennedy created by an internationally known sculptor, and presented it to President Yushchenko, saying that his brother, President Kennedy, would have been proud to have met him. He then concluded by saying that he hoped that the bust would serve as a reminder of the esteem that the entire Kennedy family had for Mr. Yushchenko.

The second came during a dinner for the



Tania D'Avignon

President Viktor Yushchenko is flanked by Sen. Edward Kennedy and Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg during the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award ceremony at the Kennedy Library.

Kennedys, the Yushchenkos, their seniors staffs, and trustees of the Kennedy Library and Kennedy Foundation, when Sen. Kennedy stood up and told the assembled guests that the Kennedys were not only proud of their Irish roots but of their Ukrainian roots as well. People smiled at first, but the senator indicated that he was serious and called on his niece, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, to explain. She then stood and said that both of her husband's grandparents came to the United States as small children from villages in the Poltava Oblast and that they were Ukrainian. She added that, as a gift to her husband, she had made arrangements for the two of them to travel to Ukraine this summer to visit Kyiv and Poltava, and then to go to the two villages to trace his roots.

The third and final moment came near the end of the evening when the Yushchenkos learned that the Kennedys had missed the final commercial flight back to Washington, because the event lasted more than two hours longer than scheduled and quietly invited them to fly back to Washington on the Ukrainian presidential aircraft.

In retrospect, the Yushchenkos' visit to Boston went better than could be expected. The Kennedys were pleased, the Yushchenkos were pleased, and everyone who came to the Kennedy Library was ultimately included in the event. Media coverage was very positive, and a number of local newspapers even did follow-up editorials and op-ed pieces.

However, it should be noted that the event almost didn't happen. In dealing with the representatives of the Ukrainian diplomatic service, and through them, with the so-called leaders of the Ukrainian American community of Boston, Kennedy staffers and Library foundation employees developed such frustration that they held several meetings exploring alternatives including canceling and/or postponing the event.

Issues ranged from staffers' inability to get an official commitment for the visit from the Ukrainian side, a schedule that changed a number of times even after the invitations were printed and mailed, a fundamental misunderstanding of whose event it was and the protocol of the welcoming ceremony, to the role of the local Ukrainian American community.

These problems were compounded by the fact that the local Ukrainian leadership did not act in the best interests of the community but sought to take care of itself. When invitations and tickets originally were made available by representatives of the Ukrainian Consulate in New York which they had received from the

Kennedy Library (and there were only 17 of them), their division and disposition was nothing short of scandalous.

Although there has been an organized Ukrainian community in Boston for almost 125 years, it is sad to note that the community, and, more particularly, its leadership, has not been able to develop a sense of professionalism or a desire to showcase what is truly good and notable before the broader American community. The "selo" mentality of some of the earliest settlers, unfortunately, is still very evident.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) which has acted as an umbrella agency coordinating local activities for decades has been weakened by scandal and is now moribund. It is concerned with purely Ukrainian matters on a very basic level. It does not think about interfacing with the local government, other ethnic groups and organizations, or the local media and it has no master plan for growth or development.

As a result, when UCCA was contacted by representatives of the Ukrainian Consulate in New York who said that they were in charge of President Yushchenko's visit to Boston and were working with the Kennedy Library, it was unable to pull together a committee to work on the visit that truly represented the community.

At the first meeting, the Consulate officials were clear that Mr. Yushchenko was coming to Boston to get the award at the Kennedy Library, that he would speak at the Kennedy Library and that he would visit the Shriners' Burn Center. There was no room in the schedule for anything else.

Unfortunately, no one listened. Most of the four-hour meeting was dedicated to a discussion of the need for the Yushchenkos to visit the local churches, credit union and other institutions. Several hours were spent debating how many children in Ukrainian dress should greet the guests and whether they should all have flowers.

The following week the Consulate informed the UCCA that it obtained only 17 invitations to the Kennedy Library event and that the community was basically excluded. When they came for their second meeting, invitations in hand, they found that only three members of the group from the week before had been notified of their coming. The three took the invitations and proceeded to divide them in a most interesting fashion (for example, the Orthodox community of Boston was allotted a single ticket).

In concert with the Consulate staff, a welcoming ceremony was then put together which involved the president of the

A journalism student's view of the big event in Chicago

by Christina Paschyn

My hands were shaking. As my work-study boss drove me to the Palmer House Hilton Hotel in Chicago, my shoulders tensed and I could feel my heart thumping in my chest.

I knew eventually I would cover a "big" story – one that all the Chicago TV stations and newspapers would cover too. That's what all of us "up-and-coming" journalists at Northwestern University were training to do. But I had no idea that big story would materialize while I was still an undergraduate. Nor did I ever imagine the story would include me filming a head of state's speech – not just any head of state, but one I had a personal connection to: Viktor Yushchenko.

Christina Paschyn is a sophomore in the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. Her concentration is in broadcast journalism and sociology. She grew up in Parma, Ohio, and belonged to the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) and the Kashtan School of Ukrainian Dance. She hopes to be a foreign correspondent in the future.

Of course, I had never met the man in my life. But I felt he would be the type of guy to share a plate of pyrohy with a person just because they were Ukrainian. So as my boss dropped me off in front of the hotel, I took a deep breath and tried to block out the voice inside me saying, "Don't screw this up!"

Although stressed (I was covering this story for Northwestern's student newspaper, television station and public relations newsletter), I felt confident carrying my camera equipment and wearing my newly purchased black suit and Nordstrom shoes. And I was proud to be wearing my Ukrainian blouse – although by doing so I probably wasn't presenting myself as a true unbiased and objective reporter. But I didn't care. Here was my chance to do something for Ukraine and the Ukrainian American community; this was my opportunity to pop Northwestern's little bubble and to expose the students to an icon who was not part of the American mystique.

Okay, so maybe I was a bit cocky when I flashed my press pass to the security guard and pretentiously sauntered into the ballroom while the Chicago Ukrainians who actually paid the \$25 to get in waited

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NEWS AND VIEWS: St. Wolodymyr Parish in Monmouth County not ready to fade away

by Victoria Mischenko, Walter Pitio, Anna Poruchynsky and Anita Roik

MIDDLETOWN, N.J. – Twice, on March 31 and April 7, an article headlined “In the Christian Spirit: Area Church comes to aid of St. Wolodymyr Parish on Easter” by staff writer Alesha Williams was printed in the Asbury Park Press, in the newspaper’s separate inserts for Marlboro/Manalapan and Middletown.

The reporter was inspired to write about the upcoming Easter celebration after a parish-sponsored event held at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan, N.J., on March 13 sparked her interest. The event, titled “An Eyewitness Account of the Historic Ukrainian Elections,” was a panel discussion of official Ukrainian election monitors that was sponsored by a group of St. Wolodymyr’s parishioners. After interviewing a few church members, Ms. Williams uncovered what she thought was a newsworthy story.

The story took another turn when, three days before Easter, the most holy day on the Christian calendar, the parish found itself without a priest to celebrate the liturgy.

St. Wolodymyr Parish has existed for almost a quarter of a century. The parishioners are proud of all their efforts to sustain a Ukrainian Catholic community in Monmouth County, N.J. The unique parish community is still going strong in spite of the many difficult hurdles that have come its way. With the 1988 millennium of Ukrainian Christianity approaching, Msgr. Anthony Borsa came out of retirement in 1980 to help establish St. Wolodymyr Parish as a mission church. The parish was founded by six families who originally met at Msgr.

getting a chance to know the families.

Second, when the lease with St. Gabriel’s ended in 2002 the parish obtained rental space at the Monmouth County Chinese Christian Church in Lincroft. Unfortunately, the church was available only on Saturday or Sunday evenings.

Predictably, some parishioners became discouraged and sought to fill their spiritual needs elsewhere. Attempts to secure a facility, preferably in a Catholic setting, were initially unsuccessful. But parishioners persevered and their hopes were restored when in 2004, the Old First Church, a historic congregation dating back to the late 1700s, generously opened its doors to St. Wolodymyr Parish.

The facility, centrally located in Middletown, N.J., was available immediately. Plans were made to move the parish to the Old First Church by the end of November. Good news the parishioners thought – until yet another hurdle appeared.

On November 21, 2004, at the end of Sunday liturgy, the parish received an unscheduled visit from Father Joseph Szupa. He was sent by the archepiscopal office in Philadelphia to read a letter from Metropolitan Stefan Soroka. The parishioners heard a formal notification that a priest would no longer be provided to St. Wolodymyr Parish and that the trustees had been relieved of their duties. The parishioners were stunned. Father Szupa was not able to answer many of the parishioners’ questions or offer a rationale for the sudden decision to close St. Wolodymyr’s.

The parishioners scattered for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, wondering what the next steps would be. Everyone was in disbelief that it took only one letter from the metropolitan to

agreed to perform the Easter liturgy for the parish was notified by Metropolitan Soroka that he was not granted permission to celebrate the Easter liturgy with the parish and that there would be consequences if he chose to do so. The metropolitan’s letter from November 21 had stated that due to the critical shortage of priests, he was not able to provide a priest for St. Wolodymyr’s faithful. However, when the parish had found an available priest through their own efforts, this priest was told not to help the parishioners of St. Wolodymyr’s celebrate Easter.

No attempt was made by the archepiscopal offices and Metropolitan Soroka to contact the parish directly. Even requests

for comments from the local newspaper, the Asbury Park Press, went unanswered by the metropolitan’s office.

So, with only lay spiritual leaders, the members of the parish held a small and personal family service on March 26 to continue the mission of St. Wolodymyr’s faithful. The Ukrainian Catholic Easter traditions were modified for the special circumstances. An introduction to the Ukrainian Church’s Easter traditions started the gathering for visitors, and then traditional Stations of the Cross were read followed with selections from the Easter vespers.

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Parishioners participate in the blessing of Easter baskets.



The parish’s event focusing on Ukraine’s presidential elections of 2004.

Borsa’s Matawan home to celebrate Sunday liturgy. Later the parish was able to move to the Chapel of St. Gabriel Roman Catholic Church in Marlboro.

The parish worshiped there for more than 20 years. The parishioners dreamed of establishing a permanent residence and virtually everyone in the mission church worked hard on fund-raising efforts and a substantial church building fund was established. However, rising real estate values in Monmouth County increasingly became a major issue.

Then, two more serious obstacles came in their path.

First, the death of Msgr. Borsa in 1997 led to a string of short-term assignments of more than seven priests in the next seven years. Each came and went before

Victoria Mischenko, Walter Pitio, Anna Poruchynsky and Anita Roik are members of St. Wolodymyr Parish.

dissolve a parish that had existed for over two decades with the hard work and generous financial contributions of nearly 80 families. Was this the end?

A group of well-meaning parishioners decided to make formal attempts to communicate with the metropolitan and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar in Philadelphia in February and March of this year, but to date there have been no responses.

The parishioners searched for a solution and found a Ukrainian Catholic priest willing to celebrate Easter liturgy and bless the Easter baskets on March 26. Plans were made, all the parishioners were notified, and the parish looked forward to once again celebrating together a traditional Ukrainian Easter liturgy.

Unbelievably, however, St. Wolodymyr parishioners learned they had yet another hurdle to deal with.

Three days before Easter, a shocking phone call came. The priest who had

Chicago parish begins its centennial year with Lenten Day of Reflection and Renewal

CHICAGO – A group of 80 women and members of the clergy gathered at the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School for a Lenten Day of Reflection and Renewal on Sunday, February 13.

Dr. Lesya Nahachewsky, professor at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, presented “A Celebration of the Mystery of Woman.” Those attending learned about the Old and New Testament images of women, how women’s roles in the Church and in society evolved historically, and how women are perceived by the media and in advertisements versus the deeper concept in which beauty is a mystery that arises from within a woman’s heart.

With her presentation of how women

are portrayed in religious icons, Dr. Nahachewsky graphically illustrated the idea that women’s tendencies and inclinations lean toward nurturing, intimacy and living lives, which are more reflective and connected to nature.

This event, sponsored by the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral Parish Centennial Committee, brought together Ukrainian Catholic women from throughout the city and its outlying areas. The committee plans to sponsor a golf outing, a family day, a youth day and a closing banquet as part of the parish’s 100th anniversary celebration. For more information about the 100th anniversary celebration readers may call (773) 486-3891.



Bishop Richard S. Seminack and speaker Dr. Lesya Nahachewsky (second from right), and members of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Munster, Ind.

Shevchenko Scientific Society hosts conference on archeology

by Lubomyr S. Onyshkevych

NEW YORK – The Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York held a unique scholarly archeological conference titled “Ancient Ukraine: New Perspectives in Archeology” on Sunday, April 9. The conference consisted of six presentations by Ukrainian archeologists from Ukraine and from the United States supplemented by commentaries.

The so-called ancient period in Ukrainian history, the period from about 800 B.C. to about 400 A.D., was a time when the steppes of Ukraine were dominated by ancient nomadic peoples, the Scythians and Sarmatians; it was also a time of establishment and growth of many ancient Greek (and later Roman) cities-colonies on the Black Sea littoral.

The first presentation of the evening was on “The Pontic Steppe and the

2500 B.C.), confronted the incoming tribes of the Maikop culture – Central Asiatic nomads who reached Ukraine via the Caucasus mountains. There were hostilities between the two radically different cultures, but also trade and eventually a cultural exchange, which led to a partial synthesis of the two cultural life-styles. Dr. Rossamakin studied these processes by doing extensive excavations of the archeological remains of the steppe people.

The steppe cultures, specifically that of the Scythians, were further discussed in the talk “The Scythians of the Pontic Steppe” by Yuriy Boltryk, also from the Institute of Archeology (NANU). He concentrated on the period of Scythian movement into the territories of Ukraine (8th to 7th centuries B.C.). The nomadic horsemen, who came from the Caucasus, fought and subjugated the agricultural



Vasyl Lopukh

Speakers at the Shevchenko Scientific Society conference on archeology: (from left): Valentyna Krapivina, Yuriy Rassamakin, Lada Onyshkevych, Titus Hewryk and Oleksander Leskov.



Vasyl Lopukh

Archeology conference participants and organizers (from left): Yuriy Boltryk, Olena Fialko, Titus Hewryk, Larissa Onyshkevych, Yuriy Rassamakin, Valentyna Krapivina, Oleksander Leskov, Renata Holod, Lada Onyshkevych and Oleksander Symonenko.

Trypillian Culture: Problems of Interpretation of Their Relationships,” by Yuriy Rassamakin of the Institute of Archeology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (NANU). The lecture tackled the perennial problem of the interaction between the agricultural societies of the forest-steppe zone of Ukraine and the nomadic people of the Ukrainian steppes.

The agricultural Trypillian culture, and other similar peoples who inhabited a large portion of Ukraine from the Neolithic period through the Early Bronze Age (4750-

pre-Slavic inhabitants (of the so-called Zarubnitska culture) along the Dnipro and Sula Rivers, and also in the Kerch area of the Crimea.

Dr. Boltryk excavated a number of Scythian tumuli (“kurhany”), as well as the remains of the settlements and their fortifications. Some of the battlefields of the clashes between the two cultures were found, with numerous remains of weapons and burials. Dr. Boltryk showed many illustrative slides of his finds.

Olena Fialko, Institute of

Archeology, NANU, described many aspects of the material culture of the Scythians. These people were mainly engaged in animal husbandry and were nomadic; they lived mostly in their beautifully embellished wagons. Dr. Fialko showed slides of their dress, their art objects, instruments, weapons, etc. The Scythians were rather war-like and had excellent military technology, which allowed them to prevail over not just the Greek colonies and the neighboring tribes, but also the invading Persians.

Dr. Fialko stressed that at least 25 percent of the burials of Scythian warriors were of women, who were fighting alongside their men; this, probably, was the origin of the Greek myths of the Amazons. She showed numerous slides of various Scythian finds, especially the wonderful gold jewelry and other objects for which the Scythians are justly world-famous.

“The Treasures of the Sarmatian Nobility” was the topic for Dr. Oleksandr Symonenko, Institute of Archeology, NANU. He stressed that the territory of Ukraine during the ancient period (especially from the end of the Bronze to the beginning of the Iron Age) was a bridge between cultures of Central Asia, Trans-Caucasia, the Balkans and Central Europe.

He described his excavations of the remains of the Sarmatians, who arrived in Ukraine (probably from the Altai Mountains) and displaced the Scythians, around the time of Christ. The Scythians and Sarmatians were related, but were distinct cultures. Dr. Symonenko described the excavated kurhany with burials of Sarmatian noblemen and women (Sarmatian women were also quite often warriors). Some slides of exquisite items of Sarmatian costumes, jewelry and weapons were shown. From these items, it was obvious that the Sarmatians were engaged in very wide trade: the items included things from Rome, Egypt, China, Central Asia, Greece, the Balkans, etc.

The Sarmatians occupied the steppe territories of present-day Ukraine until around 350 A.D., when they were, in turn, displaced by the next Asian conquerors – the Huns. Henceforth the Sarmatians, like various Germanic tribes, traveled all the way to the Iberian peninsula and Northern Africa. It was interesting to learn that the Ossetians, a Caucasian ethnic group, retained a lot of Sarmatian language and culture.

Valentyna Krapivina, Institute of Archeology, NANU spoke about “Pontic Olbia (Olvia): A Review of the Most Recent Finds and Analyses.” Throughout the time of the Asiatic nomads’ dominance of the Ukrainian steppes, there existed and flourished on the Ukrainian

Black Sea coast a series of Greek city-states, the most important of which were: Tyras (at the Dnister estuary), Olbia (at the Dnipro estuary), Tauric Chersonesus (in Crimea, at Sevastopol) and Pontikapeion, part of the Bosporan Empire (in Crimea at Kerch).

Dr. Krapivina described the ruins and remains of the ancient city of Olbia, which existed from the 6th century B.C. until about the 4th century A.D. The city was Greek in its culture and religion (it worshipped Apollo Delphinios, along with other cults), but with time it absorbed some cultural traits from the surrounding populations. Dr. Krapivina showed numerous slides of the remaining ruins and artifacts at Olbia.

The final presentation was given by Dr. Lada Onyshkevych of the University of Pennsylvania. In her talk, titled “An Ancient Greek Bone Inscription about Apollo, Found on the Berezan island,” she presented an epigraphic study of a graffito found among the ruins of a Greek colony in the Ukrainian Black Sea littoral. Specifically, she presented her analysis of a bone plaque (a flat polished bone fragment) found on the island of Berezan, not far from the ancient city of Olbia. The archaic form of the letters dates the inscription to the end of the 6th century – beginning of the 5th century B.C. (the Greek colony on Berezan preceded the city of Olbia).

A previous analysis of this inscription (by A. S. Rusiaeva and others) identified it as oracular, an answer to a query of an oracle. However, Dr. Onyshkevych proposed a much more convincing interpretation of the inscription by pointing out that it is much more likely to be a hymn, a prayer to Apollo, the major deity of the area, because the enigmatic references in the text are all pertinent qualities traditionally associated with Apollo, particularly to the Apollo of the dolphins and Apollo the healer, and because the text features standard elements of known Greek hymns.

The conference was opened by Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, president of the society; she thanked Titus Hewryk, director of the society’s Arts Section, for his input in organizing the program, and especially Dr. Renata Holod for bringing to New York this group of archeologists, with whom she is now writing a textbook of Ukrainian archeology.

The speakers were introduced by Dr. Holod and Oleksandr Leskov of the University of Pennsylvania. After the presentations, there were many questions from the audience, which filled the hall to capacity, and a lively open discussion over tea and coffee during the subsequent reception.

‘Between Hitler and Stalin’ to air in Ukraine

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – The Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC) has been successful in making arrangements to premiere its film “Between Hitler and Stalin – Ukraine in WWII” by Slavko Nowytski in Ukraine before the official commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II begin.

The premiere of the film was to be held in Kyiv at the KINO film theatre on April 18. The showing of the Ukrainian-language version of the film is an invitation event for 500 persons, and is being organized by the Kyiv Memorial Society under the direction of Roman Krutysk, a collaborator in the production of the film.

As well, the film is scheduled for Ukrainian television broadcast on May 3 on the national network UT-1, where it will air together with a discussion panel. Representing the UCRDC on the panel will be historian and advisor to the film, Professor Roman Serbyn from Montreal, who is well known for his



Prof. Roman Serbyn

challenges of the official Soviet version of World War II as the Great Fatherland War (Velyka Vitchyzniana Vynna) – still the most widely accepted interpretation of the conflict in Ukraine.

Stamford Eparchy's Women's Day highlights Eastern Church traditions

by Anisa Handzia Sawyckyj

STAMFORD, Conn. – “We’re here because we love our Church” – this was the phrase heard over and over again at the Eparchial Women’s Day celebration on Sunday, April 10, at St. Basil College in Stamford, Conn. The event drew about 150 women from across the eparchy, some from cities such as Buffalo in the western reaches of the eparchy, others from Long Island and some from as far north as Boston.

This is the third such women’s event to be called by Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy to honor and celebrate the special contribution of women laity to the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

This year’s conference had as its theme “Ukrainian Catholic Women: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” The goals of the program were to recall the contribution of generations of women to the life of the Church; to learn more about the uniqueness of the Kyivan Christian spiritual tradition; and to consider ways that the laity can help the Church respond to its needs now and in the future.

The program was structured in the form of morning discussion groups, as well as an afternoon keynote presentation, panel discussion and question and answer session.

Six morning discussion groups led by facilitators met simultaneously in the 75 minutes prior to an 11 a.m. divine liturgy. In those six sessions, the participants focused on different issues depending on their interests.

In one session, women talked about

ways in which to engage children and youth in liturgical life and in activities in the parish. Other groups discussed the unique spiritual traditions of the Eastern Church, the power of liturgical prayer, the relationship between the Church and Ukrainian community life in the United States, as well as the role of the Church in the Orange Revolution.

In the different sessions, facilitators offered information on such important topics as: the concept of the family as a “domestic Church,” the divine liturgy as dialogue and as a source of spirituality, Willow Sunday, the Paschal meal, the icon corner (“pokuttia”), the significance of parental blessing, “myrovannia” (anointing), metania (forgiveness), and other unique aspects of Ukrainian religious and traditional life. These concepts evoked interest because they offered new perspectives on spiritual issues in one’s personal and family life.

The theme of the uniqueness of the Ukrainian Catholic Church’s Kyivan spiritual traditions, which are worthy of reverence and celebration, was continued in the remarks of the keynote speaker, Iryna Galadza.

Dobrodiika (priest’s wife) Iryna is a high school religion teacher and the mother of six grown children. Married to Father Roman Galadza, pastor of St. Elias the Prophet Ukrainian Catholic Church in Brampton, Ontario, she has worked for more than 25 years with children and youth. She is studying for a Certificate in Eastern Christian studies through the Sheptytsky Institute in

Ottawa, and has taught catechists in Ukraine through a program with the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

Ms. Galadza’s talk focused on the vital role of women in the spiritual life of each family (the domestic Church) and in the life of the Church as an institution, from ancient times to the present. She also highlighted the important role women are being called to play in the Ukrainian Catholic Church of today and tomorrow.

There is a great strength and spiritual

These are contrasting visions of salvation as expressed in the Latin Church (the passion of Christ) vs. the Eastern Church (the glory of the risen Christ), says Dr. Daddona. This difference is apparent in liturgy, prayers, music and religious art of the Western and Eastern Churches.

According to Dr. Daddona, the emphasis of the Eastern Church is on the glory of Christ’s resurrection, hence the golden glow of icons, the images of transformation and the absence of the tradition of Stations of



Sophia Galadza and Sister Julia Nagornyak read the Epistle during the divine liturgy.



Keynote speaker Iryna Galadza addresses the audience at the Eparchial Women’s Day 2005 event in Stamford, Conn.



A book table gives women an opportunity to heed the call of the keynote speaker “to read, study and learn more about the hidden spiritual treasures of our Church.” Father Jonathan Morse helps with book selection.

insight that comes from the faithful practice of liturgical prayer, the speaker emphasized. This is what has sustained the faithful for a millennium and will ensure the Church’s survival in the future.

The Church of tomorrow will need the intelligence and commitment of its women laity more than ever, said Ms. Galadza. She encouraged the gathered women to add education and spiritual self-development to the list of their goals and to “head for the library to learn more about the hidden spiritual treasures of our Church.”

“Read, form prayer study groups, discuss and meditate,” the speaker urged. “And take a fresh look at the matins (“utreni”) and vespers (“vechirni”), which are both a beautiful and inspirational feature of our Church tradition.”

Ms. Galadza also encouraged women to support their priests in trying to foster a better appreciation and practice of the Kyivan religious tradition, which is a part of the Ukrainian Catholic Church’s rich spiritual inheritance and the source of her beauty and strength.

Another featured speaker at Women’s Day 2005 who echoed this sentiment was Dr. Maureen Daddona of St. Andrew the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church in Westbury, N.Y., who in her presentation spoke on the theme “Being Byzantine in a Western World.”

Dr. Daddona, a college professor who holds a Ph.D. in neurology, speaks frequently on Eastern Church traditions. From her perspective as a member of the laity who came to the Eastern Church in her adult life from a background of Roman Catholicism, Dr. Daddona offered very interesting comparisons of the differences in theology and expressions of faith between the Eastern and Western Church.

She said this was vividly illustrated for her years ago when she saw the well-known Roman Catholic Bishop Fulton Sheen, who dramatically highlighted the difference in the two mainstreams of Christian tradition by holding up in one hand a crucifix with the figure of the crucified Christ and in the other hand an icon of the risen Christ.

the Cross in the Eastern Church.

These examples and others piqued the interest of many in the audience who are familiar with both Eastern and Western religious traditions.

During Women’s Day 2005, the main celebrant at the divine liturgy held in the chapel of St. Basil College was Bishop Losten, with congregational singing led by Maria Olync. Following the liturgy, a buffet luncheon and fellowship hour in the refectory gave an opportunity for women from far-flung parishes of the eparchy to meet old friends and make new acquaintances. Many women also took the opportunity to tour the impressive Ukrainian Museum on the eparchy’s grounds with its curator, Lubow Wolynetz.

Women’s Day was full in terms of its program, level of participation, spiritual insights and novel ideas, which many participants said they were eager to share with women in their parishes.

For Mary Ann Chomiak of Easton, Conn., the event highlighted “the importance of actively participating for the growth of the Church.” Irene Jadlicky of Flushing, N.Y., said she felt she had learned much about the differences between the Eastern and Western Church traditions in general and the difference between their two versions of the “Hail Mary” prayer in particular. Irene Komarynsky of Stamford, Conn., said she was most interested in hearing about the concept of “the domestic Church” and also intrigued by examples from other parishes of “church services, which are bilingual yet able to retain their authenticity.”

The Women’s Day 2005 organizing committee was co-chaired by Roma Hayda and Father Jonathan Morse, with members from eight parishes in the eparchy. They were: Irene Badiak, Jennifer Chomiak, Jenny Czyrko, Irene D’Alessio, Ksenia Dragan, Dorette Gallan, Maryana German, Anna Maria Hirniak, Christine Majewski, Anisa Handzia Sawyckyj, Ms. Olync, Myroslava Rozdolska and Cathy Pompetti-Szul.

The next Women’s Day is slated to take place in 2007.

Maria Burmaka: from the “maidan” to Manhattan

by Adriana Melnyk

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

NEW YORK – Throughout the history of modern protest movements, the arts in general, and music in particular, have frequently played an integral role in unifying the masses. The reason for this is simple: by putting forth a transcendent message that taps into the depths of human emotions, musicians have long been able to inspire feelings of unity and cohesion among protesters, even if their music is not political in nature. Ukraine’s Orange Revolution witnessed something hitherto inconceivable in Ukraine: the mobilization of musicians who, as a result of their support of President Viktor Yushchenko, could well have been committing career suicide.

One of the few disappointing realities of the Orange Revolution in Ukraine was the Faustian pact that was struck between members of the former ruling elite and many performance artists. It is by now a well-known fact that along with many other members of the Ukrainian population, musicians were also threatened and bribed, but mostly bribed, to support Viktor Yanukovich, the candidate of the former ruling regime. In a nation that has a long-standing history of governmental patronage of the arts, the fact that these bribes were accepted is not surprising.

Though smaller in number, those musicians who took the higher moral ground more than made up for their numbers with their boundless energy, their unstoppable verve, and the inspiration and entertainment they provided last November and December to the huddled masses on wintry Independence Square in Kyiv.

Many of these musicians had long been household names in Ukraine and elsewhere: Okean Elzy, VV, Maria Burmaka, Taras Chubai, Eurovision champion Ruslana, Taras Petrynenko and Oksana Bilozir. Their role in the Orange Revolution elevated them to a new status: where previously they were entertainers, they became national heroes of a sort for their ability to rouse, and to put into words and song what many protesters on the streets were feeling, but couldn’t express.

From March 30 to April 1, New York had the honor of hosting singer-songwriter Maria Burmaka on the first stop of her three-city inaugural North American tour, which included New York, Philadelphia and Toronto. Longtime fans had an opportunity not just to hear her music, but also to listen to stories about her life and about the role she played the events of late 2004. In addition to her musical talent, Ms. Burmaka has a unique genuineness and expressiveness, and an astounding ability to reach out to audiences with her stories and anecdotes.

Ms. Burmaka began her tour on the evening of March 31 at Columbia University’s Faculty House. She was introduced by Prof. Ana Maria Ochoa from Columbia University music department’s Center of Ethnomusicology. Prof. Ochoa spoke about the relationship between music and politics, saying that, in general, music is inherently apolitical. What politicizes music, she said, is the context in which it is performed, who performs it, and when and where they perform.

The following evening during Ms. Burmaka’s performance in New York’s East Village, Ms. Burmaka touched on that very topic. While still a university student, she told the audience, she was on more than one occasion questioned by authorities about a possible subtext to her music. “How ridiculous it was,” she said. “I only write songs about love, about emotions, about human feelings, and I couldn’t understand why, if none of my songs were political, they were scared to let me perform. It was only later I under-

stood their fears – they thought I was hiding political messages in my music.”

There were many aspects of Ms. Burmaka’s tour that represented a break from the past. The tour was organized by the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group (BUG), a New York-based grass-roots organization comprising young 20- and 30-somethings whose mission is to support each other and the Ukrainian community in the propagation of Ukrainian arts and culture.

“We decided to bring Maria to North America because of our deep-seated respect for her as a musician, and particularly for her as a Ukrainian-speaking musician from Kharkiv, where her love of things Ukrainian posed many challenges to her throughout her life,” said Yuri Pylyp, one of the organizers and a BUG member.

Many members of the audience voiced their admiration for the organizers, whose professionalism and age was an indicator that young members of the diaspora are active, enthusiastic, and alive and well.

The charitable nature of Ms. Burmaka’s tour was also a first. “The fact that she sang not for her own profit, but for these worthy causes, helped to overcome the diaspora stereotype of Ukrainian musicians touring the United States to raise money for themselves,” said one member of the audience at the New York City performance.

Proceeds from Ms. Burmaka’s tour benefited three charitable causes: the production of “Folk!” – Roxy Toporowych’s upcoming documentary film about traditional Ukrainian folk dancing in the United States; Help Us Help the Children, a project of the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund, and a voluntary, non-profit charitable initiative dedicated to improving the quality of life of children living in orphanages in Ukraine; and the Bohdan and Natalia Kowal Scholarship Fund for needy students attending the prestigious National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

Ms. Burmaka’s music, and particularly her delivery of it, afforded diaspora audiences the chance to be a part of what had taken place in Ukraine during the Orange Revolution.

“Both Ukrainians and the Ukrainian diaspora got the same thing out of her music: the hope, the energy, the positive feelings her music conveys,” said Ada Helbig, a Ph.D candidate in ethnomusicology at Columbia University.

“She afforded members of the audience who did not have a chance to visit Ukraine in November and December the opportunity to share and have a part of the events of those months,” said Roman Chwyl, another organizer.

During her performance, Ms. Burmaka’s worldliness and sophistication were evident (she is a doctoral candidate in philology at Kharkiv State University). In between songs, she quoted Paolo Coelho, the internationally acclaimed Brazilian novelist. “Know what you want, and all the world conspires with you to achieve it,” she told audiences, quoting his best-known work, “The Alchemist.” She added, “This notion is something that has kept me going in life.”

Ms. Burmaka’s music is highly accessible to audiences of all ages, for as she puts it, she sings about “universal human emotions.” Before singing her well-known “Ne Biisia Zhyty” (Don’t Be Afraid to Live), she prefaced her performance by talking about the emotions of protesters in November and December 2004.

“This is a song about loneliness and although I did not write it specifically for these events, in fact none of the songs I performed on Independence Square were new songs,” she said, “this one was particularly relevant. Everyone would go home to the apartments from the maidan and



Lida Kryzaniwsky

Maria Burmaka in concert.

feel lonely. They would eat something and go back to the square as soon as possible to avoid feeling as though they were alone, and there they would see that there were many others like them, that everyone was experiencing the same emotions.”

Her motivation for performing for days on end was obvious from the beginning, she told this writer. “I didn’t care what I looked like, there were moments when my fingers were freezing, but it didn’t matter. I realized that this was my small contribution – the tiny part that I was meant to contribute to the tremendous events going on around me. I had been a friend of President Yushchenko’s for many years. I remember in 1998 he told me that I should always consider him a friend. And I knew that if there was something I could do for Ukraine, for this country that had given birth to me, I had to do it.”

During her performance and in a personal interview, the singer spoke about other aspects of the revolution. One facet in particular that she emphasized was the unity that existed between eastern Ukrainians and western Ukrainians. “Skhid i Zakhid Razom” (East and West Together) was one of the mantras of the protesters. “Language became irrelevant,” she said.

“This is something I want to communicate. This was not a political fight, it was not battle of regions, nor was it a battle of candidates. It was a battle of the forces of good and evil, of human dignity and human rights versus the forces of repression. This was the only chance we were going to get. I am from Kharkiv, and I want to say that I sing in Ukrainian because it is the language of my heart. However, Russian-speaking Ukrainians in the east of the country are victims of history, it is not their fault that they did not have access to information, and their choice of language is not a political choice,” she said.

Indeed, in addition to her original compositions, Ms. Burmaka’s repertoire included the traditional Ukrainian ballad “Rushnychok,” as well as two folk songs from Lemkivshyna, the Ukrainian region now part of Poland. “People who live in Donetsk are also Ukrainian, even if they speak Russian,” she said. “I will now play a personally beloved song of mine from another region of Ukraine, from Lemkivshyna. The person who taught me this song told me that there is a legend that goes along with it: that if you sing it to a man, he will fall in love with you. I have tested this legend, and it has come true for me, and on more than one occasion,” she said, eliciting laughter

from the audience.

Before performing “Ivanku, Ivanku,” she dedicated it to the memory of Kvitka Cisyk, whose untimely death left a gaping hole in the fabric of diaspora Ukrainian music. “I would like to sing a song that an irreplaceable Ukrainian-American, Kvitka Cisyk, used to sing, and to say that no matter where someone is from, they are Ukrainian if in their hearts they feel Ukrainian.”

A first cousin of Ms. Cisyk’s, Maya Lew, described this dedication as being particularly poignant for her and for her sisters. “It meant so much to us because after her death, various musicians have tried to imitate her songs and her style. What Maria did was different,” said Ms. Lew. “She sang this song to keep her spirit alive, and there is no one I would rather have doing that.”

Ms. Burmaka also told *The Weekly* of the integral role that international musicians played in boosting the hopes and the morale of musicians and protesters alike. “For me, for us, hearing the statements made by Bono (lead singer of the Irish band U2), of Jethro Tull, of Chris DeBurgh made us see that we have the support of the international community, that we were not alone, and that the triumph of democracy was possible.”

But really, it was in large part due to the dedication of Ms. Burmaka and of performers like her that the protesters held their resolve through the most trying of circumstances. She was on constant call, as were the handful of other musicians who took turns playing around the clock.

Ms. Burmaka recalled one moment that was pivotal for her: “It was the 25th of November. I heard on television that President Yushchenko had taken his symbolic oath of office, and I immediately left home to go Independence Square. When I got there, I was backstage and heard that people were going to the Presidential Administration Building, and that my song ‘My Idemo’ was playing, and that this is the song to which they would be walking. It was only then that I realized the importance of what I had done. I am a strong woman, and rarely cry, but when I heard my song, tears streamed down my face, for I understood that I had somehow done what I was put on this earth to do.”

So how was the idea for her North America tour conceived, and what are its implications? According to Ms. Helbig, this event should signal a new way of doing things, and is sure to herald a new dynamic of exchange of musical ideas between the diaspora and Ukraine. “Her

(Continued on page 31)

Hromovytsia celebrates 25 years of talent, heart and soul

by Greg Karawan

CHICAGO – Whether viewed as a thrilling end to the first 25 years, or a riveting launch of the next 25, the Hromovytsia Ukrainian Dance Ensemble's jubilee concert on March 20 was nothing short of a sight and sound extravaganza.

Under the artistic direction of Roxana Dykyj-Pylypczak, Hromovytsia spent over a year and a half painstakingly preparing an almost all-new repertoire for this celebratory concert and, based on audience reaction and feedback, the hard work, quite simply, paid off.

Mrs. Dykyj-Pylypczak's meticulous nature and never-ending imagination once again reached new heights, as the audience could not have expected what it was about to see.

The elegant North Shore Center for the Performing Arts – what Hromovytsia has called home for its last several Chicago concerts – filled up quickly on this mild Sunday afternoon, the first day of spring. In fact, a ticket for the event

was quite a hot commodity as theatergoers vied for any possible open seat even minutes before the curtain opened, reminding the ensemble that its next venue should be a larger one.

The sold-out audience watched Hromovytsia take the stage by storm in "Pryvit," the traditional welcome dance. Men dressed as Ukrainian Kozaks confidently clutched seven-foot-tall spears, and women gracefully maneuvered embroidered ritual cloths in an opening number that has now been performed in three different countries.

As Hromovytsia made its way off the stage, a future generation of Hromovytsia – Hromovytsia II – made its way onto the dance floor. The troupe showed exuberance and energy and confirmed that the future of the ensemble is in good hands.

Seamless transitions continued throughout the show as Hromovytsia took over with a duet of traditional folk numbers, "Metelytsia" and "Rakivchanka," and a stylish ballroom tango, "Hutsulko Ksenu," unveiled to audiences for the first



Olya Soroka-Striltschuk

Hromovytsia performs "The Magic Key."

time. "The Magic Key," a storytelling dance, explored the local village toyshop. This piece also made its debut as the performers blurred the line between reality and make-believe.

The first half ended with yet another premiere, "Change the World," set to the music of award-winning Ukrainian artist/musician Ruslana. This powerful and acrobatic number was a clear audience favorite and featured clever costumes and daring choreography. Perhaps much of the appeal could be attributed to the unisex flavor of this piece, which found no variation in costumes, and very little variation in the steps executed by the men and women in it, regardless of how masculine or feminine.

While Hromovytsia changed costumes throughout the show, audience members were treated to the eccentric, yet methodical artistry of renowned violinist Vasyl Popadiuk. Mr. Popadiuk, who toured Ukraine with the ensemble in 2003, also made numerous appearances on stage with the ensemble, playing live as the dancers performed.

Hromovytsia picked up right where it left off opening the second half of the show with "The Enchanted Forest." Also a storytelling dance, this 32-minute, mystical production was set deep in the forest. As a young couple desperately battled for their

love, they encountered a fairy, gypsies, nymphs, forest guards and demons. One segment of the dance saw the black-clad demons envelop the young couple amid a fury of heavy metal music and haunting lighting. With her creation of "The Enchanted Forest," Mrs. Dykyj-Pylypczak set new standards for choreography, music, and costume and technical design.

Hromovytsia continued its energetic assortment of new pieces with "You Are My Soul," a romantic duet with a jazzy flare, the 40s-era flirtatious, whimsical "Triplets of Bellville" and "Drianda." Set to the music of the spirited Ukrainian band VV from Kyiv, "Drianda" was a hand-clapping, toe-tapping pleasure for the audience as it made its Chicago debut, previously seen last summer by crowds in Detroit, Toronto and Dauphin, Manitoba.

Hromovytsia fittingly ended its 25th anniversary concert with the "Hopak" – the ensemble's trademark dance, and one that has remained with the group for its entire 25-year existence. Although it has gone through some revision and modification over the years, the framework of this dance and its accompanying music have remained untouched. A standing ovation followed, proving that audiences don't want to see a different "Hopak" anytime soon.

While the concert officially kicked off the celebration of its 25 years of dance, Hromovytsia also includes its recent past as part of this commemoration. On April 4, the ensemble helped welcome President Viktor Yushchenko and his wife, Kateryna, to Chicago by performing "Pryvit" and "Hopak" during the first couple's visit to the Palmer House Hilton in front of a crowd of 1,400, and greeted the Ukrainian president with a traditional "korovai" and salt.

Along with President Yushchenko and his wife, also present were Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and world champion boxer Dr. Vitali Klitschko.

The summer of 2004 saw the company perform at a number of festivals across the United States and Canada, including the official grand opening of Chicago's Millennium Park, Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, and the Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival in Toronto – boasting an annual attendance of over 250,000 people.

Hromovytsia spent Thanksgiving morning performing for over 350,000 parade-goers, and 1.5 million television viewers at Chicago's State Street Thanksgiving Parade broadcast live on ABC. This parade was nationally syndicated and available in approximately 90 million households.



Olya Soroka-Striltschuk

Gypsies in "The Enchanted Forest."



Olya Soroka-Striltschuk

The Hromovytsia Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Chicago.

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Columbia's Ukrainian Film Club spotlights many faces of contemporary Ukraine

by Stefan Rak

NEW YORK – Columbia University's Ukrainian Film Club on Thursday, April 7, hosted another event titled "The Many Faces of Contemporary Ukraine: Films by Valentyn Vasyanovych, Olena Fetysova, Oles Sanin and Serhyi Bukovsky." Yuri Shevchuk, the founder and leader of the Ukrainian Film Club, introduced and screened four compelling films by these accomplished filmmakers.

"Counterclockwise" (Proty Sontsia, directed by Valentyn Vasyanovych, 2004) was the first film of the evening. It relates the narrative of a young sculptor who seeks to escape the frustrations of his life through his art. Throughout the short film, a voiceover of his nagging wife follows him – whether he is working in his studio at home or outside on the beach, where the greater part of the film occurs. "Counterclockwise" explores the protagonist's ability to find himself within his art, enabling him to achieve the greater harmony he desires. Out on the beach, the sculptor spends several days repeatedly creating and destroying works in a ritualistic manner – until he finally finds what it is he's looking for.

Shot on old, defective film stock, Mr. Vasyanovych deliberately employs black and white, yellow tinting, and even a very brief color sequence to help express his character's psychology. The film works as a meditation on both the artist's craft and the natural elements – which are inseparable in sculpture. The earth that produces the clay, the water that helps the artist mold the clay, and the air and the fire that bake the clay – all figure prominently in the film's diegesis.

The title of the film, "Counterclockwise," refers directly to the protagonist's left-handed spinning of his potter's wheel. The literal translation of the film, "against the sun," unites the film's indivisible interest in art and nature. Mr. Vasyanovych's provocative short film was awarded the coveted Special Jury Prize at the prestigious 17th

International Short Film Festival at Clermont-Ferrand, France, in February.

The other three films screened that night were all documentaries. "Christmas" (Rizdvo, directed Oles Sanin, 1999) is a film that focuses on the social and religious rituals of the Hutsuls. Mr. Sanin, who also directed the acclaimed feature film "Mamay" (2003), began his career as a documentary filmmaker in the mid-1990s. Since then, he has made numerous documentary films, admirably insisting on staying and making films within his homeland of Ukraine.

The film provides an interesting account of the lifestyles and customs of the Hutsuls during the winter and spring months, highlighting Christmas and Easter. Mr. Sanin's versatile camera attentively captures human life in the Carpathians – at home, at work, inside, outside, eating, praying, both as individuals and as a culture. The film begins and ends with a man praying, emphasizing the importance of religion, while structurally bringing the documentary full circle. Music is also of central importance, and Mr. Sanin capably weaves a veritable tapestry of Carpathian music (with the dominant sounds of fiddles, Jews harps, bagpipes, drums) that runs throughout the film. Mr. Sanin's use of intertitles (instead of the common documentary trope of voiceover narration), in addition to his shooting in black and white begs comparison to silent era filmmaking.

Ultimately, "Christmas" functions as a testament, an incredibly absorbing visual and aural tribute to the complex and rich Hutsul culture.

The next film screened was Olena Fetysova's "If I Were a Saxophone" (2004), a documentary about the Ukrainian musician Veronika Kozhukhariova. The film follows Ms. Kozhukhariova around the world, from her hometown in Symferopol, Ukraine, to conservatories and performances in Kyiv, Paris and Moscow. Ms. Fetysova films Ms. Kozhukhariova playing solo and per-

forming in orchestras, giving the audience the opportunity to judge her playing, while also including the insights of her instructors in Paris and Moscow.

Interviews with Ms. Kozhukhariova and her foster mother reveal a troubled childhood spent in orphanages. At one point, she tersely recounts being beaten at the age of 5, but quickly puts an end to that line of questioning. Clearly, they were difficult times for her. Her foster mother recalls that she was a very independent child, full of aggression, and asserts that she probably would have ended up in prison – probably, that is, if she had not discovered her love for playing the saxophone.

"If I Were a Saxophone" is a well-composed, intriguing documentary about a girl who is able to rise above the limitations of her environment and the social expectations ascribed her to become a woman of great talent and promise.

The final film screened on Thursday was Serhyi Bukovski's "Red Soil" (Chervona Zemlia, 2001), a documentary that focuses on the Ukrainian community in Brazil. Panorama views of the lush vegetation and beautiful countryside contrast with intimate shots of daily life. From a wedding to a party in someone's home, from feeding the livestock to chopping wood to tilling the soil, it is interesting to see how the Ukrainian expatriates have made a new home in Brazil.

Comparable to Mr. Sanin's "Rizdvo" in its ethnographic mode, "Red Soil" is altogether a very different documentary. Filmed in color to accentuate the verdant landscapes and, indeed, the distinctly red soil, Mr. Bukovski's film also features a live recorded soundtrack, literally giving the Ukrainian Brazilians a voice, and capturing the sounds of their daily lives, their music and their environment.

An attentive audience of about 30 individuals attended the event, which also included a post-screening discussion of the films. Audience members expressed their opinions on the films, elaborating

on what impressed them most about the particular works, or even what they found problematic.

The undeniable significance of the Ukrainian Film Club is becoming increasingly apparent. Not only does the club provide an opportunity to see Ukrainian films in America, it is also working to establish a much-needed forum of ideas to help foster a greater consciousness of contemporary Ukrainian film.

The idea of enabling a dialogue and increasing awareness around Ukrainian film is further evidenced in the Ukrainian Film Club website, which features an online forum through which interested parties can post their own thoughts and reflections. For example, Patricia Coale, who attended the screening last Thursday, posted her thoughts on each of the films – and received a response from Ms. Fetysova, director of "If I Were a Saxophone."

Ms. Coale wrote, "I applaud Ms. Fetysova for bringing this story to the screen. It is important that it be told. It is awesome to see an upbeat film from Ukraine. And I hope to listen to Ms. Kozhukhariova either via cd or in concert." To which Ms. Fetysova replied, "Thanks a lot for your feedback on the film. You've felt the things I would like [the] audience to feel. Your comments are of great importance for me because just now I am in the beginning of the new [documentary] about one foster family in Ukraine. Best wishes, Olena."

In addition to the forum, the website also offers biographical information on many of the featured filmmakers, a newsreel that highlights significant news and developments in Ukrainian filmmaking, and a statement of purpose explaining the ideological foundation and the goals of the Film Club. The website also posts information on upcoming events, and includes posters, stills, links, and a guestbook. The website address is <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc/>.

Ukrainian Folklore Center holds graduate lunch and lecture series

by Natalie Kononenko

EDMONTON – The Ukrainian Folklore Center at the University of Alberta and the Kuryliw Family Endowment this year initiated a new non-credit lunchtime seminar that proved enormously popular. Every Thursday a graduate student, former student, or faculty member would speak about his or her

research. The topics ranged widely and covered material culture, music and dance, the pioneer experience and contemporary ritual. All lectures were well-attended and followed by lively discussion and debate.

Among the many presentations were talks about Ukrainian life in Alberta such as Vita Holoborodko's discussion of Ukrainian museums, Katherine Bily's description of rural churches, Vince



Svitlana Kukharenko, Nadya Foty, Katherine Bily, Vincent Rees, Bohdan Medwidsky and Natalie Kononenko at a recent lunchtime seminar at the Ukrainian Folklore Center.



Andriy Hornjatkevych and Andriy Nahachewsky discuss the presentation, while Mariya Lesiw watches.

Rees's analysis of dance costume, and Andriy Chernevych's comparison of rural Malanka celebrations to urban ones. Monica Jensen presented her study of the recollections of ritual celebrations which she collected from her aunts, and Maureen Stefaniuk discussed her grandmother's home in Saskatchewan as a microcosm of Ukrainian prairie life.

Weddings were a popular topic and Nadya Foty spoke about the mock wed-

dings that follow the serious and solemn church ceremony, while Svitlana Kukharenko analyzed magic elements in contemporary marriage practices. Sogu Hong looked at Ukrainian-Canadian weddings as expressions of identity. His presentation included a full-length video which he himself created and which has since been used in teaching.

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**Головний Екзекутивний Комітет
Українського Народного Союзу**
Редакція „СВОБОДИ“, „THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY“ та УПРАВА СОЮЗІВКИ

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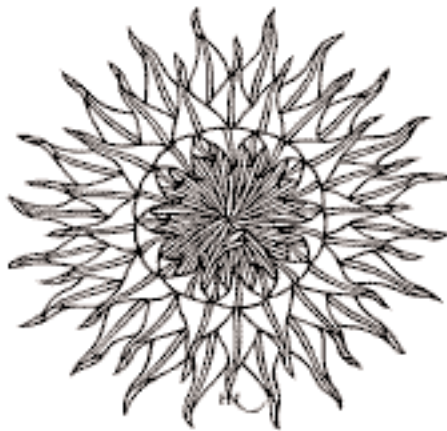
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Tymoshenko...

(Continued from page 2)

the Organization for Security and
Cooperation in Europe in which he
accused the authorities of launching "ter-
ror" against their opponents
(ya2006.com.ua).

However, opposition-sponsored
protests have been few, as the former
parties of power are finding it difficult to
work in opposition. Centrist parties have
no real memberships and have tradition-
ally paid or forced state employees to
join their rallies and protests. Currently,
protestors in Kyiv are paid 30-50 hrv
(about \$8) to attend rallies against the
government.

As "roofs" for business interests, cen-
trist parties are inclined to closely coop-
erate with the authorities rather than go
into opposition, according to former
Yanukovych election consultant Dmytro
Vydryn (rep.int.ua). Their only ideology,
according to former Donetsk adviser
Volodymyr Kornilov, is to support the
current authorities in order to protect
their businesses. As they are business
rivals, they are rarely a united force
(glavred.info, April 5).

One of the first acts of Internal Affairs
Minister Yurii Lutsenko was to increase
the strength of Internal Affairs Ministry
(MVS) Troops in two key regions,
Donetsk and Zakarpattia. Under
President Kuchma both of these regions
became de facto autonomous fiefdoms
totally controlled by the Party of the
Regions and Social Democratic Party -
United (SDPU), respectively. Mr.
Tomenko undoubtedly had these regions
in mind when he warned, "In certain
regions a conglomerate involving local
authorities, business, and law enforce-
ment leaders ... has not been defeated
yet" (Uriadovyi Kurier, April 7).

Following Donetsk, the next area tar-
geted for anti-corruption efforts will be
Zakarpattia, where senior SDPU leaders,
such as Kuchma crony Viktor
Medvedchuk, were elected to Parliament
in 1998. The region became notorious
for "corruption, banditry, election falsifi-
cations and poverty" (Ukrainska Pravda,
April 5).

During the Orange Revolution, lead-
ers tried to incite violence in the Donetsk
region in order to give the authorities an
excuse to introduce a state of emergency.
Local MVS personnel themselves
worked to thwart the organized-crime
skinheads who, along with the regional
governor and the regional MVS leader-
ship, had been preparing the provocation.

On April 7 Channel 5 television's
"Zakryta Zona" investigative program
researched how millions of hryvni were
extorted from businesses to support the
2004 Yanukovych election campaign. If
businesses refused to pay, they would
receive frequent visits from government
agencies. Also, local Zakarpattia busi-
nessmen were forced to sell some of their
assets to senior SDPU leaders. Former
Donetsk Oblast Chairman Kolesnikov
was charged with both of these crimes
and his arrest could be the first of many.

Another senior SDPU leader elected
in Zakarpattia in 1998, Hryhorii Surkis,
has been accused of donating 6 million
hryvni (\$1.12 million) to Mr. Kuchma's
Ukraine Foundation from offshore
accounts. The MVS has called Mr.
Surkis in for questioning.

Prime Minister Tymoshenko has
declared that the oligarchs will no longer
be able to earn super profits from
monopolistic rents and channel the
resulting funds into offshore accounts.
Needless to say, the government is also
attempting to block the return of these
"shadow funds," so that they do not back
the opposition in the 2006 parliamentary
elections.

Russia becomes...

(Continued from page 2)

in Kyiv, is in hiding in Moscow after Ukraine's procurator general launched charges against him. The Russian Club was created in summer 2004 as a lobbying center for Russian interests and the headquarters of the Russian "political technologists" working for Viktor Yanukovich's campaign. The Russian Club was officially opened by the Russian Embassy and Mr. Yanukovich.

Mr. Kurochkin is wanted on at least three charges, including extortion and theft of state property through Ihor Bakai, then head of the State Directorate for Affairs, a government branch that controlled Kyiv's Hotel Dnipro, various markets and tourist resorts.

Mr. Kurochkin is also accused of having links to organized crime and even survived a mafia-style hit in Kyiv in November 2004. The links among organized crime, Russian "political advisors" and the Yanukovich campaign have been publicly exposed. Deputy Internal Affairs Hennadii Moskal outlined that state property worth close to \$1 billion was transferred illegally to this "Muscovite criminal authority" (Ukrainska Pravda, March 22).

Mr. Moskal believes that extradition would be a long process, as Mr. Kurochkin is both a Russian citizen and "he is an influential person with many ties" (Ukrainska Pravda, April 13). When he resided in Ukraine, "The entire leadership of the Internal Affairs Ministry and the presidential administration were his best friends." Meanwhile, Mr. Kurochkin is living quite comfortably in Moscow and is not worried about being deported to Ukraine (Lvivska Hazeta, March 24).

Mr. Bakai, another high-ranking official from the Kuchma regime, is wanted on countless corruption and money-laundering charges.

Mr. Bakai's extradition would also be difficult. According to his former allies in the Social Democratic Party - United (SDPU) Mr. Bakai is a Russian citizen. However, Ukraine does not recognize dual citizenship.

Mr. Bakai is living near Moscow, where he fled in late December 2004. According to Minister of Transport Yevhen Chervonenko, Mr. Bakai fled Ukraine with "five sacks full of cash." One private plane flew Mr. Bakai to the Maldives and a second transported his personal property to a dacha near Moscow (Ukrainska Pravda, April 12).

As head of the State Directorate on Affairs between 2002 and 2004 (and formerly CEO of Naftohaz Ukrainy in the 1990s), Mr. Bakai is a controversial figure. President Kuchma brought him back to divide up remaining state property among his allies as election bribes. The spoils included the Hotel Dnipro, which was transferred to Mr. Kurochkin between the first and second rounds of the presidential elections. The procurator general has launched seven serious criminal charges against Mr. Bakai that relate to widespread, officially sanctioned theft of state property and theft from the state budget (Ukrainska Pravda, March 22).

Mr. Chervonenko linked Mr. Bakai and former Transport Minister Heorhii Kirpa (who committed suicide in December 2004) to Viktor Medvedchuk, head of the presidential administration under Mr. Kuchma. Mr. Medvedchuk accused Mr. Chervonenko of "character assassination" on 1+1 television (April 12). Nevertheless, the connections between Kurochkin's Russian Club, Mr. Bakai's State Directorate for Affairs and the presidential administration are easy to prove. Warehouses controlled by Mr. Bakai's State Directorate were used during last year's elections to store anti-Yushchenko leaflets, while the Russian political advisors used the Russian Club for offices and a press club.

Ukrainian Anthony Fedorov among top six on 'American Idol'

PARSIPPANY, N.J. - The final seven contestants on the popular television program "American Idol," the reality show currently in its fourth season, have been whittled from the original 100,000 who auditioned. Among the remaining six contestants vying for the right to be called the next "American Idol" is 19-year-old Anthony Fedorov, a Ukrainian who lives in Trevoze, Pa.

Mr. Fedorov was born in Ukraine and is now in his third semester at Bucks County Community College near his home in Pennsylvania. In addition to his school work, Mr. Fedorov is pursuing a singing career in New York City.

According to the Associated Press, Mr. Fedorov began singing when he was 6 and has no formal training. When he was a baby he had a lump near his vocal cords removed. Later, when he was 4, surgeons removed the rest of the lump and then performed an emergency tracheotomy, leaving him with a pronounced scar on his throat. Soon after the surgery doctors told Mr. Fedorov he would never be able to speak, much less sing again.

Mr. Fedorov auditioned for a spot on "American Idol" in Cleveland, and later spoke about what it meant to be a finalist on the show.

"My definition of an 'American Idol' is someone who is dedicated to what they do, someone who is real and true, and someone who affects all the lives he/she touches in a positive way. This does not only apply to music," Mr.



Anthony Fedorov

Fedorov told the AP.

Mr. Fedorov said he considers his family to be heroes in his life and said he would thank them first if he won the competition. If he doesn't win, Mr. Fedorov said he plans to pursue his dream of signing professionally and finishing college.

The Bucks County (Pennsylvania) Courier Times reported that Anthony's real name is Anatoliy.

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6/12-17 UNA Senior's Week
6/19- Father's Day Luncheon and Program
6/26- 7/3- Tabir Ptashat Camp, Session #1
6/26-7/8 Tennis Camp
6/27-7/1- Exploration Day Camp, Session #1

JULY

7/1-7/4 Fourth of July Festivities
July 1 Luna performs at Tiki Bar
July 2- Zabava- LUNA AND Teen Dance Night- HRIM & DJ
July 3- Zabava, band to be announced
7/3-7/10 Tabir Ptashat Camp, Session #2
7/4-7/8 Exploration Day Camp, Session #2
7/10-16 Discovery Camp, Session #1
7/20- Hutzul Night with performance by Olya Fryz
7/17-22 Chemney Camp Session #1
7/17-7/23 Discovery Camp, Session #2
7/17-7/23 Adventure Camp, Session #1
7/22- Odessa Seafood Night with Chemney Camp Performance
7/24-29 Chemney Camp Session #2
7/24-7/30 Discovery Camp, Session #3
7/24-7/30 Adventure Camp, Session #2
7/27- Hutzul Night with performance by Olya Fryz
7/29- Entertainment at Tiki Bar, performance TBA
7/29- Odessa Seafood Night with Chemney Camp Performance
7/29,30,31- A Day in the Life of an UPA Partisan
7/30-Zabava- Na Zdorovya AND Teen Dance Night-HRIM & DJ
7/31-8/5 Scuba Diving Course

AUGUST

8/1-5 Golf Week
8/5-7 Sports Jamboree
8/5 Caberet Show with Ron Cahute and company
8/6-Afternoon Performances- Barabolya Show
with Ron Cahute & Company followed
by entertainment with HRIM
Zabava with Burya on Veselka Patio and
DJ in Veselka Hall
8/7-8/20 Traditional Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp
8/12 Twisted Kieshka performs at Tiki Bar
8/13 Miss Soyuzivka Weekend & Zabava with Tempo
8/20 Dance Camp Recital Performance
and Zabava with Fata Morgana

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Weekend Festivities

9/2 Zabava with Luna
9/3 Afternoon festivities- Dance Ensemble,
Palylyk and DJ
9/3 Zabava with Luna and Fata Morgana
9/4- Afternoon Dance Ensemble performance
followed by entertainment at the Tiki Bar
Zabava with Fata Morgana and Teen Dance
Night with Hrim & DJ



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St. Andrew's Church in Orange County, N.Y., to bless crosses and dome

CAMPBELL HALL, N.Y. – The blessing of the crosses and dome at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church on the Grounds of Holy Spirit Cemetery will take place here on Sunday, April 24.

Since the start of construction in October of last year, in spite of inclement weather and numerous other obstacles, the parish is now at the stage of installing the roof on its new spiritual home. A necessary element is the blessing of the crosses and dome before they are set upon the new roof, explained the Rev. Yaroslav Kostyk, administrator, while issuing an invitation to one and all to join the parish for this celebration.

The blessing of the crosses and dome will take place immediately after the pontifical divine liturgy scheduled for noon. The main celebrant will be Bishop Basil Losten of the Eparchy of Stamford.

A picnic featuring traditional Ukrainian food will follow at 2 p.m. The celebration will take place at 141 Sarah Wells Trail in Campbell Hall, N.Y. Proceeds from this event will benefit St. Andrew's Building Fund.

Father Kostyk noted: "We cannot imagine completing the building of the new church without the community's help. We ask all our brothers and sisters to contribute a brick worth \$250 toward

the construction of the first Ukrainian Catholic Church in Orange County, N.Y."

For those who may be interested in making a more substantial contribution, Father Kostyk said the following items are available for sponsorship: for example, golden domes, \$50,000; large cross on dome, \$5,000; small crosses on dome (four) \$3,000 each; and pews, \$2,500

each.

Tax-exempt donations may be mailed to: St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church, 141 Sarah Wells Trail, Campbell Hall, NY 10916 (checks should be made payable to St. Andrew's Church Building Fund). For further information readers may call (845) 496-4156.



St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church under construction.



Artist's rendering of the soon-to-be-completed church.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. (RFE/RL Newline)

Yanukovych likely to be charged

KYIV – Ukraine's Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko said during an Internet conference on the Ukrainska Pravda website on April 14 that criminal charges will probably be brought against former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych. Mr. Lutsenko said, "It looks like we've found the main vein that was feeding the pro-power candidate's presidential election campaign – the so-called charitable foundations." According to Mr. Lutsenko, the charges that are likely to be filed against Mr. Yanukovych are not connected exclusively with improper financing of his presidential election campaign. Asked about whether charges will be brought against President Viktor Yushchenko in the bankruptcy case of Ukraina Bank, Mr. Lutsenko said such charges are not ruled out "but are within the competence of the Procurator's Office." Mr. Yushchenko, speaking to reporters in Dnipropetrovsk on April 14, said he is prepared to initiate a case regarding the bank, with which he "had four years of professional and honest work." (RFE/RL Newline)

Opposition parties sign agreement

KYIV – The leaders of four opposition parties, Party of the Regions Chairman Viktor Yanukovych, Progressive Socialist Party Chair Natalia Vitrenko, Derzhava Party Chairman Hennadii Vasyliiev and New Democracy Party Chairman Yevhen Kushnariov, have signed a communiqué outlining the principles under which they will seek to form a wide coalition of opposition forces, Interfax-Ukraine and proua.com reported. According to the document, the leaders charge that "persecution of uncooperative media, administrative pressure on businesses, and the use of the courts, the prosecutors, the Security Service and the Internal Affairs Ministry to attack opposition politicians and citizens" are all currently ongoing under the present administration. According to Interfax, Social Democratic Party – United (SDPU) leader Viktor Medvedchuk did not sign the communiqué as the press service of the Progressive Socialist Party had reported earlier. Aleksei Mustafin, a member of the SDPU's political council, said that party's politburo will possibly examine this question, but he added that he doubts the party will join the effort. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kuchma may be questioned

KYIV – Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko is considering calling in former President Leonid Kuchma for questioning if Russia confirms that Ihor Bakai, the former head of the presidential property office, held Russian citizenship while serving in the post, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported on April 18. According to Ukrainian law, only a Ukrainian citizen can hold such a position. Mr. Bakai is accused of large-scale misuse of government funds and of illegally selling state property. On April 17 Mr. Lutsenko told Channel 5 that Mr. Bakai has been summoned to appear for questioning at his office but did not appear. Mr. Bakai is said to be living and working in Russia. (RFE/RL Newline)

Officials wanted for questioning

KYIV – The Internal Affairs Ministry press service announced that an additional list of former high-level government officials wanted for questioning has been compiled, Ukrainska Pravda reported on April 18. The list includes, among others, former Central Election Commission Chairman Serhii Kivalov, former Zakarpattia Oblast Chairman Ivan Rizak,

former Sumy Oblast Chairman Volodymyr Scherban and Kherson Oblast Council Chairman Volodymyr Khodakovskiy. All are being asked to testify in connection with cases of suspected large-scale fraud in their regions. (RFE/RL Newline)

Oil execs seek dialogue with government

KYIV – The CEOs of petroleum companies in Ukraine urged the Ukrainian government to participate in a dialogue to overcome what they describe as a fuel crisis on the domestic market, Interfax reported on April 19. During a news conference in Kyiv, oil executives complained that the government has refused to hold talks with them. The oil executives said a 54 percent rise in the price of crude oil, a 30 percent increase in the excise tax, and increased tariffs for rail transport have contributed to higher fuel prices. The oil lobby has urged the government to control price rises through reduced corporate tax rates. Ukraine imports 80 percent of its oil. (RFE/RL Newline)

Russians interested in reprivatization

KYIV – Fakty reported on April 14 that the prospect of reprivatization of some Ukrainian enterprises is attracting the interest of a number of Russian financial-industrial groups. For example, Dmitrii Cherniavskii, chairman of the Russian investment firm Avrora Capital, told reporters in Kyiv recently that the Russian companies Severstal and Evrazholding are potential competitors in any new tender for shares in Kryvorizhstal steel mill. Severstal is also reportedly interested in obtaining the Dnipropetrovsk metallurgical industrial complex, Zaporozhstal, and other enterprises. Evrazholding is interested in Pavlohradugol, Ukrstalkonstruksiya and Luhanskugleavtomatika. In February President Viktor Yushchenko said that in the coming weeks the government would review the privatizations of 30 to 40 enterprises. (RFE/RL Newline)

Nashi aim to stop an Orange Revolution

MOSCOW – The pro-Kremlin youth organization Nashi (Ours) held its inaugural congress on April 15, adopting a political program and electing Vasiliy Yakemenko and four others as "commissars," or leaders, of the movement, RosBalt and other Russian media reported. Addressing the congress, Mr. Yakemenko, the former leader of the pro-Putin organization Walking Together, said that Nashi considers all those who oppose President Vladimir Putin's policies as "enemies." "Today, an unnatural alliance of liberals, fascists, Westernizers, ultranationalists, international funds and terrorists is forming, united by a common hatred of Putin," he said. He labeled self-exiled tycoon Boris Berezovskii a "traitor" and National Bolshevik Party (NBP) leader Eduard Limonov a "fascist," and said that Our Choice leader Irina Khakamada and Committee-2008 Chairman Garri Kasparov "are sympathetic to fascists." Another of the group's leaders, Aleksandr Gorodetskii, said that Nashi's goal is to be the "next elite of Russia" and "to stop an Orange Revolution," RTR reported. Education Minister Aleksei Fursenko addressed the congress as a guest. (RFE/RL Newline)

Decree orders withdrawal from Iraq

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has signed a decree authorizing the withdrawal of Ukrainian peacekeepers from Iraq by the end of 2005, Interfax and UNIAN reported. According to the decree, the Ukrainian government will approve within two months a program for long-term cooperation with Iraq that will include projects on oil and gas development, and energy transportation. Last month Mr. Yushchenko told U.S. journalists that Ukraine might

(Continued on page 25)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 24)

withdraw its entire military contingent from Iraq by mid-October. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Melnychenko tapes arrive in Kyiv

KYIV – Two close associates of former Russian oligarch Boris Berezovskii, Aleksandr Goldfarb and Yurii Felshtynskii, arrived in Kyiv on April 13 to give testimony in the case of slain journalist Heorhii Gongadze, Ukrainian media reported. Mr. Goldfarb, who is head of the Civil Liberties Fund, told Interfax that he was bringing “recording devices, decoded recordings and supplementary documents of [former presidential security officer Mykola] Melnychenko.” Mr. Melnychenko made secret tapes in the office of former President Leonid Kuchma, including one that some believe implicates Mr. Kuchma in the Gongadze killing. According to the Ukrainska Pravda website, Mr. Goldfarb said, “Our lawyers believe these materials are sufficient for the ‘Kuchma conversations’ to be included in the criminal case and used as evidence.” Mr. Kuchma has claimed that the tapes are fake and were part of a plot to depose him. (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM's trip postponed at last minute

KYIV – A planned visit by Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to Moscow set for April 15-16 has been postponed, Ukrainian news agencies reported on April 13. The Ukrainian government said Ms. Tymoshenko's visit was delayed because President Yushchenko told her to tackle urgent problems associated with the spring sowing campaign and rising fuel prices. However, Ukrainian Minister of the Economy Serhii Teriokhin said earlier that the visit was put off because of recent remarks by Russian Procurator General Vladimir Ustinov, Ukrainska Pravda reported. Mr. Ustinov said on April 12 that Ukraine's prime minister could come to Russia in accordance with international legislation and protocol, but he said charges against her have not been dropped and she is still on the wanted list. Last January Mr. Ustinov said that a Russian court could issue an arrest warrant for Ms. Tymoshenko and in that case she could be detained by police if she traveled to Russia. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ternopil street to be named for pope

TERNOPIL – One of the streets or squares in Ternopil will be renamed to honor Pope John Paul II. This decision was reached by the deputies of the Ternopil City Council on April 5. The deputies started a working group that is to hold public hearings and discuss the idea with the clergy by the end of April, and propose a street or square to carry the name of John Paul II in their next session. The deputies also voted in favor of proclaiming April 8 a memorial day for the pope. National flags with black ribbons were hung around the city that day. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Moscow asks OSCE to refocus

SOCHI, Russia – Speaking to journalists in Sochi after a meeting between President Vladimir Putin and European Union High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana on April 5, presidential aide Sergei Yastrzhembskii said that Russia wants to reform the priorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), strana.ru and other Russian media reported. Mr. Yastrzhembskii said President Putin supports the organization itself, but wants to refocus its activities. “In recent years, the OSCE has focused on the problems of the post-Soviet region, not paying any attention to the rest of Europe,” he said. “We dislike this one-sided approach.” Moscow has

clashed with the OSCE in the past over Kremlin policies in Chechnya. Council for Foreign and Defense Policy President Sergei Karaganov told RIA-Novosti on April 5 that “the Russian political elite believes that Russian-EU relations are in a hidden crisis. There is no long-term constructive agenda for bilateral relations, and differences in Russian and European political values are becoming more acute.” The next Russia-EU summit is scheduled to be held in Moscow on May 10. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Chornobyl relocations an issue

HOMIEL, Belarus – The Homiel Oblast Administration has submitted to the Belarusian government a plan for resettling residents of sparsely populated rural areas with radioactive pollution above one curie per kilometer, Interfax-Belarus reported on April 12, citing Halina Akushko, head of the radiation safety department for the oblast. The contaminated areas include 188 small villages with 410 families. Most of the residents are elderly people who refused to be evacuated after the 1986 blast at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant. Last month, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka called for a revision of the relocation program adopted following the 1986 disaster, because many people demanded relocation for the sole purpose of improving their material position. Meanwhile, opposition activists announced on April 12 that they will depart from the years-long tradition of commemorating the April 26 anniversary of the disaster with a march in downtown Miensk because the authorities oppose such demonstrations and end up dispersing them, according to Belapan. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lviv UAOC seeks Orthodox unity

LVIV – Participants of the eighth Lviv Eparchial Sobor (Assembly) of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) have requested that Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko call Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople to support the unification process of all branches of Orthodoxy in Ukraine. The sobor took place on March 3 with participation of delegates from more than 350 religious communities of the Lviv Eparchy of the UAOC. “Through a joint decision, the Lviv eparchy of the UAOC considers it appropriate to point to the only way to resolve today's situation in Ukrainian Orthodoxy and the correct path to unification by adopting direct subordination to the ecumenical patriarch. For he is the only one with the right to grant autocephaly to the Ukrainian Church as a filial Church, through the mediation of a hierarch with unquestionable authority among the clergy of all the branches of divided Orthodoxy in Ukraine, Archbishop Vsevolod (Majdanski) of Skopelos (Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.), curator of the unification process,” the address of the sobor reads. The participants of the sobor asked the president to “turn to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with an official letter, asking him to support the unification process of all the branches of Orthodoxy in Ukraine.” The president was also asked to support the next National Sobor of the UAOC in Kyiv, scheduled to take place in June, at which documents should be agreed on for an All-Ukrainian Unification Sobor of all branches of Orthodoxy into a single Ukrainian National Orthodox Church. The sobor also reached a decision on direct subordination of the Lviv Eparchy to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and a decision to stop mentioning the name of Metropolitan Mefodii (Kudriakov), head of the UAOC, in churches of the Lviv Eparchy of the UAOC during religious services. Archbishop Vsevolod was proclaimed mediator for administration and communication between the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Lviv Eparchy of the UAOC. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)



XVI Велика Рада УПС

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ПРОГРАМА

П'ятниця, 13 травня 2005

8:00 вечір Зустріч – вечірка сеніорів

Субота, 14 травня 2005

8:30 рано реєстрація
10:00 – Відкриття – пл. сен. Христина Ковч, Головна Булавна УПС
Привіт Голови ГПБ – пл. сен. Ярослави Рубель
Вибір Президії і комісії
11:00 – 75 років Українського Пластового Сеніорату доповідь – пл. сен. Романа Грицива
12:00 пол. Звіт Верифікаційної Комісії
Прийняття Протоколу XV-ої Великої Ради УПС
Звіти – Булави Головної Булавної УПС
Дискусія над звітами
1:00 по пол. Обід
2:00 – „Сеніорські справи - проблеми“ – модератор: пл. сен. Надя Нинка
4:00 – Перерва і кава
4:30 – Удільнення абсолюторії
Звіт Номінаційної комісії
Вибір нового Проводу
Схвалення резолюцій
5:00 веч. Крайовий З'їзд УПС Америки
6:30 – Богослуження
7:30 – Святкова вечеря з програмою – пл. сен. Зеня Брожина
Слово Начального Пластуна – пл. сен. Любомира Романкова
10:30 – Закриття З'їзду.

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History...

(Continued from page 7)

the second assassination was a community effort. Yet, no one has ever apologized for it nor for the concomitant demonization of "Ukrainian nationalism." And yet, our Prof. Himka thinks it is Ukrainians who have an axe to grind?

In the first year of its independence, the Ukrainian capital city presented a city-wide commemoration to the specifically Jewish and non-Jewish victims of Babyn Yar. In addition to commemorative ceremonies, there were huge glass-encased photo-montages along Kyiv's main street viewed by thousands of pedestrians. A specifically Jewish monument was added at Babyn Yar to the unspecific Soviet one that had been erected years before. In Israel, a small monument to the Ukrainian victims of the Holodomor, the genocidal Famine of 1932-1933, was quickly vandalized and destroyed. And yet, our Prof. Himka thinks it is Ukrainians who have an axe to grind?

When in 1988 John Demjanjuk was erroneously convicted of being "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka, Israelis in the courtroom chanted "death to Demjanjuk, death to Ukrainians." And yet, our Prof. Himka thinks it is Ukrainians who have an axe to grind?

Moral positioning

There sometimes appears to be a tendency in the Jewish community to presume and to portray itself as morally superior. On a general level, one encounters claims about how the Jews invented ethics, how Judaism is essentially the religion of social justice and so on. In many Jewish accounts of history, Jews portray themselves principally as heroes or martyrs. But one cannot be morally superior in a vacuum; one has to be morally superior to others, and Ukrainians, in this distortion of history into a false morality play, are among those cast in the role of such others: the morally inferior.

Various Jewish leaders and writers portray Ukrainians as stupid,¹ vicious² and evil,³ people who need to kneel until they bleed seeking forgiveness. Remarkably, in this era of heightened sensitivities, there is a kind of unself-conscious open season on Ukraine and Ukrainians, no matter how preposterous given statements may be. In the cover feature story in the July 14, 2002, issue of The New York Times Sunday

Magazine titled "Before the Holocaust Fades Away," Daniel Mendelsohn wrote that his grandfather used to tell him: "The Germans were bad, the Poles were worse. But the Ukrainians were the worst of all." Then, he added, "A month before our journey, I waited for a visa in the stifling lobby of the Ukrainian Consulate on East 49th Street, and as I looked around at the people standing next to me, the line the Ukrainians were the worst went through my mind, again and again." My letter to the Times pointed out that it would be inconceivable for that paper to print an article in which a Gentile ruminated about how "Jews were the worst" and then I asked, why the double standard? Although the Times printed a series of letters in response to its article, it did not see fit to print my letter nor any other that may have raised this obvious point. Apparently, prejudice against Ukrainians seems so normal to some that it never even registers on their mental radar screens.

Two of the strangest encounters I have ever had involved the inability or unwillingness of Jews to contemplate revising their prejudices in the face of facts that could contradict those prejudices. In February 1987 I spoke at an international conference at the State Department hosted by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council on the topic of the non-Jewish victims of the Nazi Holocaust. During a breakout session, the Jews in the room refused to admit it possible that a Ukrainian who sat before them and explained that he had been in Auschwitz for his membership in a Ukrainian nationalist organization was telling the truth. He rolled up his sleeve and showed everyone his concentration camp number. They still didn't believe him. Finally someone said that any Ukrainians who had been in Auschwitz must have been there on vacation. Apparently, Stepan Bandera's two brothers and the other Ukrainians who died there must have perished from too much vacationing there.

The second encounter occurred in New York at an informal meeting with some members of the American Jewish Committee (AJC). The four or five gentlemen from the AJC were all lawyers or investment bankers. They were very highly intelligent and sophisticated people. I spoke about problems related to Jewish prejudices against Ukrainians. I showed them specific, obvious examples, such as Elie Wiesel's writings in "Jews of Silence." It was as though I were speak-

ing in a foreign tongue. Remarkably, no one seemed to understand what I was talking about.

The same moral posturing arises when Jews ask accusatorily why there were not more "righteous Gentiles" in Ukraine, or elsewhere, during the Nazi Holocaust. Perhaps a fair question, but at least there were some Ukrainian righteous Gentiles. How many righteous Ukrainian Jews were there during the Holodomor?

Context

Prof. Himka is right about one thing: context is important. What, then, is the context in which in the last decade some discussion about the role that individual Jews played in the first decades of the Soviet regime has arisen? It has arisen exclusively as a defensive reflex to the repeated attacks, intensified over the last two and a half decades, by some Jewish writers and spokespersons against Ukrainians and against the efforts by some in the Jewish community to portray Ukrainians as morally inferior, as supposedly "historically," "traditionally" or "genetically" anti-Semitic. Why has the reaction taken place only within the last decade or less? Because it is only recently that specific documentation of who did what during the first decades of Soviet rule has become available.

It was stunning for me to learn within the last five or so years that in the 1920s and 1930s, the period in Ukrainian history during which the Soviet war against the Ukrainian population was the most destructive, a majority of the leadership of the Soviet secret police in Ukraine was Jewish. Specifically, of the total of 550, the ethnicity of 69 could not be determined. Of the remaining 481, 261, or 54 percent, were Jewish, 106 were Russian, 48 were Ukrainian, etc.⁴ It was equally stunning for me when in the late 1990s my cousin's wife managed to research the details of the Soviet state murder of her father in 1930 and found that a majority of the Soviet secret police, "prosecutors" and "judges" who participated in that murder was also Jewish.

These discoveries bring at least two issues to mind. First, if, for example, the co-founder of Nazism happened to have been a Ukrainian, and if the second in command during Nazism's reign of terror happened to have been a Ukrainian, and if 54 percent of the Gestapo's leadership happened to have been Ukrainian etc., it would, to put it mildly, be disingenuous to pretend that these facts would not have been trumpeted endlessly and have been the subjects of innumerable books, articles and movies. Yet, the co-founder of the Soviet state happened to have been a Jew; Stalin's second in command in the 1930s was a Jew; and 54 percent of the identifiable leadership of the Soviet secret police in Ukraine in the 1920s and 1930s was Jewish. But, according to Prof. Himka, it is "improper" even to mention this?

Second, why in 2005 should any of this be of any interest to anyone? In most contexts, it should not be to anyone. For example, since I first moved to the New York area in 1971 to attend Columbia, most of my teachers, students, graduate school friends and colleagues have been Jewish. We have spent thousands of hours discussing Aristotle, Kant and Marx, foreign movies, college football, politics, legal issues and so on. It has never once occurred to me to ask any of my friends or colleagues why there were so many Jews involved with the Soviets in Ukraine in the '20s and '30s. Why? Because whatever happened then and there has absolutely nothing to do with our relationships or our shared interests.

I do not anticipate anything changing

in that respect. Why and when then, if ever, might I be prompted to speak or write about that topic? Answer: if and when, and I again emphasize the if, I am yet again confronted by yet another attempt to distort history for the purpose of promoting the construction of a false morality play to elevate the self-esteem of others, then for that purpose and in the context of that discourse, and that purpose alone, the Trotskys and Kaganoviches and all those leaders of the Soviet secret police in Ukraine start becoming relevant.

Conclusion

No one in his right mind wants to grind any axes or pick any fights with the Jewish or any other community. To begin, it makes no sense to speak of grinding an axe against a community of people. Second, some or many of us have close professional, personal and social relationships with men and women who happen to be Jewish. And, for example, most of my many colleagues and friends who are Jewish simply have no particularly strong views about Ukraine or Ukrainians one way or the other.

I know of no instances during the last 40 or 50 years of any diaspora Ukrainian writer or organization taking a public position adverse to Israel. Of several thousand Ukrainians before whom I have lectured, whom I interviewed or with whom I had discussions, I have never met anyone who lived in Ukraine during World War II who in any way minimized the Nazi depredations against the Jews.⁵ So where is the putative conflict?

If it arises, it arises exclusively in reaction against the attempt by some in the Jewish community to bully Ukrainians into accepting with equanimity the status of historically moral inferiors. For reasons that should be obvious, that is an outrageous attempt at group libel, outrageous principally because it is historically dishonest, but also because it is politically racist insofar as it is premised on the assumption that Ukrainians are second-class.

Happily, during the recent Orange Revolution even the most obtuse have been given a vivid opportunity to realize that in fact Ukrainians are as first-class as anyone in the world. Will they now avail themselves of that opportunity?

¹ "[T]he Germans and their local collaborators here did not bother with statistics. . . perhaps because Ukrainians have no head for figures." - Elie Wiesel, "The Jews of Silence," p. 35.

² For Robert Kaplan, Ukrainian "Cossacks" represent the forces of mindless and unparalleled savagery. Thus in his essay titled "Euphoria of Hatred," he reflects upon Gogol's (Hohol's) Taras Bulba and writes that, supposedly, the world of the Ukrainian "Cossacks" was a world in which "a fury burns that is beyond the cultivated bourgeois imagination," a world in which "violence is a way of life, an expression of joy and belief, unlinked to any strategic or tactical necessity," where the "rare breaks in the fighting are given over to 'spellbinding,' prolonged drunken orgies." Robert D. Kaplan, *Atlantic Monthly*, May 2003, pp. 44-45.

³ "Babi Yar is not in Kiev, no. Babi Yar is Kiev. It is the entire Ukraine. And that is all one needs to see there." "Jews of Silence," p. 43.

⁴ Summarized in Taras Hunczak's "Problems of Historiography: History and its Sources," *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, Vol. XXV, pp. 134-135; the original research has been conducted and published by Yuri Shapoval, Volodymyr Prystaiko and Vadim Zolotariov.

⁵ I have met one Ukrainian American born in the U.S. after the war who was a Holocaust denier. Unfortunately, I have also met many Jews who have either denied, minimized or trivialized the victimization of Ukrainians during the Holodomor and/or the Nazi Holocaust.

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Attention, Students!

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MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.

Chornobyl Charity Bazaar slated at United Nations for April 26

UNITED NATIONS – On April 26, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations is organizing at the United Nations headquarters the annual Chornobyl Charity Bazaar to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the Chornobyl tragedy, the gravest technological catastrophe of the 20th century.

The purpose of this charity event is not only to mobilize additional funds to support the medical institutions in Ukraine, which provide treatment for the children from the Chornobyl zone, but also to renew international attention to the problems of Chornobyl.

Participation of the Ukrainian community in this event has already become a tradition. Anyone can make an individual contribution to the charity event in the form of various books, crafts, arts, gift items, food, beverages and other items which will be exhibited for sale during

the bazaar, as well as donation checks for any amount.

Those who wish to take part in the Chornobyl Charity Bazaar are asked to send donations to the Permanent Mission of Ukraine, 220 E. 51st St., New York, NY, 10022. Checks should be payable to the Permanent Mission of Ukraine with the notation "Chornobyl Bazaar." Donors are invited to provide brief information about themselves, so that the list of benefactors is properly presented to all guests and participants of this event in the United Nations. Those wishing to attend are asked to notify the Permanent Mission of Ukraine, (212) 759-7003 (ext. 100, 118) so that appropriate arrangements for receiving a pass to the U.N. building could be made in a timely manner.

– Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations

Ruslana...

(Continued from page 3)

drew Lviv's entrepreneurs, who got their first glance at the work the center was doing for children with cerebral palsy and neurological disorders.

Since its establishment in 1993, Dzherelo has received more than \$1 million in support from Ukrainian Canadians, Mr. Nykolaev said.

The Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund is a U.S.-based charity that has worked in Ukraine for the past 15 years, delivering more than \$52 million worth of hospital supplies and medical equipment.

The fund is looking for corporate

benefactors to join firms such as Ernst & Young, McDonalds and KP Publications, said Olena Welhasch-Nyzhnykevych, the fund's country director.

Tickets to Ruslana's benefit concert will go on sale some time this week, and those seeking further information can visit the fund's website at www.childrenofchornobyl.org.

A VIP section will offer comfortable seating and access to a catered after-party reception, where concert-goers will have the opportunity to meet Ruslana and get her autograph.

Information can be obtained by calling the fund directly in Kyiv at (044) 494-1535 or e-mailing crf@voliacable.com.

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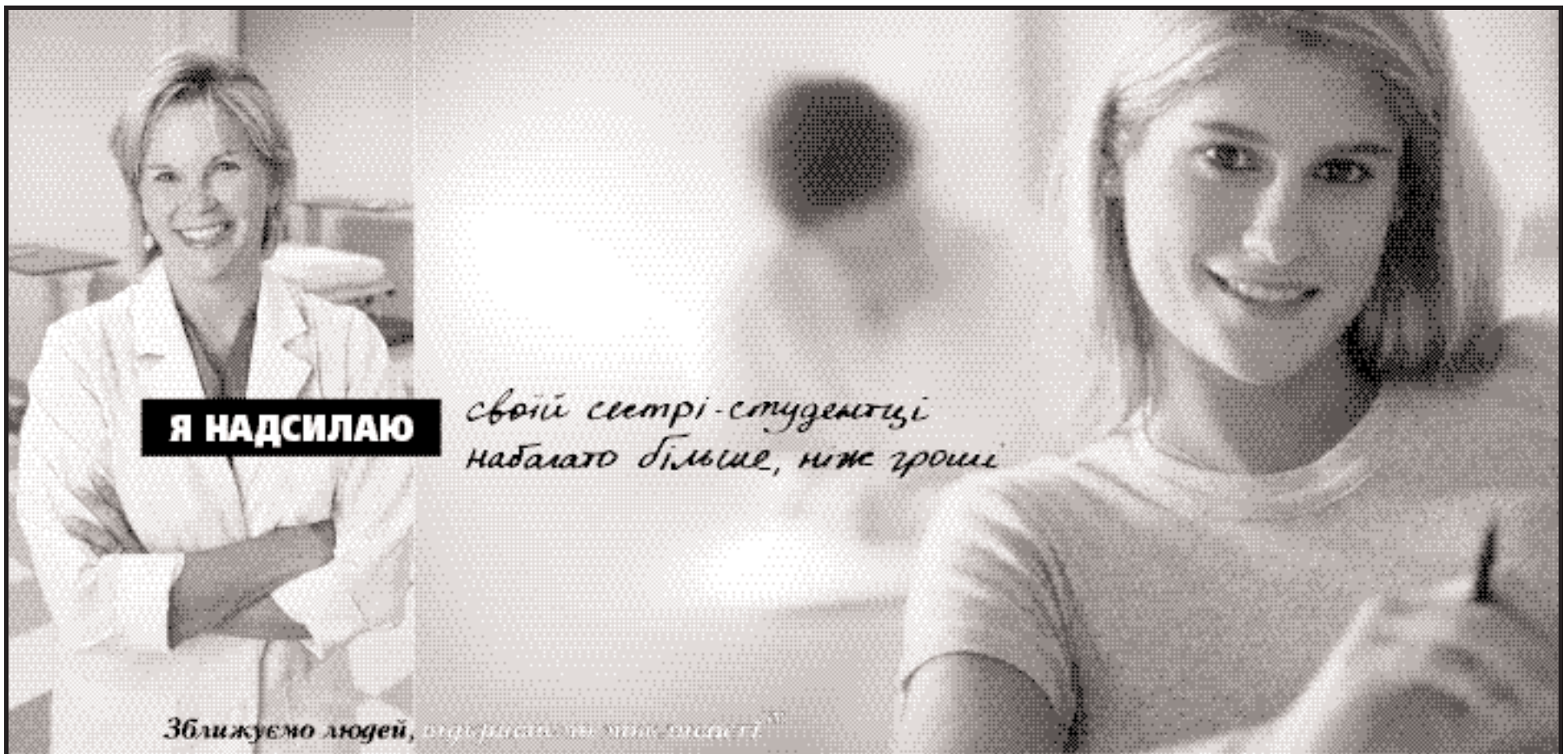
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The good, the bad...

(Continued from page 8)

Boston UCCA making extended remarks, the Ukrainian Catholic priest and his wife presenting an icon, and the priest's children presenting a korovai. There was talk of a red carpet, a podium and a microphone. There was also talk of preparing banners and placards in both Ukrainian and English with messages of welcome.

Unfortunately, no one thought to check with the Kennedy Foundation staff who believed that the event was theirs and the only people greeting the Yushchenkos should be the Kennedy family. No one checked to see if a red carpet, podium or microphone were being planned, and no one bothered to find out that library policy prohibits any type of banners for safety reasons.

No one asked if there was material for either the American or Ukrainian press, no one wondered about the need for translation of documents, no one thought about contacting some of the local political leaders, and no one thought about getting any official recognition for the visit.

As a result of a lack of cooperation from the Ukrainian side, the Kennedy staff had to work all the harder. And they succeeded in pulling off a spectacular event against all odds. Press releases and translations were written overnight and last-minute calls were made to all invited guests after Ukrainian officials significantly changed the arrival time almost at the last minute.

Both bouquets and brickbats are due for those involved. The following list should give some insight into their distribution.

The Good:

- the Kennedy staff for refusing to limit Ukrainian attendance to the 17 designated by the Ukrainian Consulate and UCCA and who opened the event to the

entire Ukrainian American community;

- the Kennedy staff for caring enough to make sure that the Ukrainian media had Ukrainian translations of all documents;

- the Kennedy Library staff for seeing that all floral decorations were composed of blue, yellow and orange flowers;

- the Kennedy Family who spent more than \$100,000 on the event;

- the Kennedy Family and staff who all wore something orange;

- The Kennedy Foundation staff for commissioning a special Ukrainian flag for the podium and for purchasing 300 small Ukrainian flags which were given to the Ukrainian community members waiting outside the library for the arrival of the motorcade;

- Secret Service and library security for dealing patiently with members of the Ukrainian community who didn't think that the rope barriers were intended for them;

- the media who stayed in place at the Kennedy Library even though the Ukrainian president ran more than 1.5 hours late;

- Tania Mychajlyshyn D'Avignon, who translated both Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg's remarks and a backgrounder into Ukrainian overnight and who also acted as official photographer for the Shriners' Burn Center, welcomed the president to the facility as the only Ukrainian present, and shared in the translation duties on site;

- John Didiuk, who worked as translator and baby sitter for the government officials accompanying the president from Ukraine;

- Alexander Gamota, who helped draft proclamations for the mayor of Boston, City Council and State Legislature, got them promulgated in a single day, and then worked with the American media at the Kennedy Library;

- George Gamota Jr., who acted as translator and baby sitter for the media

from Ukraine;

- George and Oksana Kyrychok, Michael Nosal and Ulana who had the unpleasant duty of trying to keep the Ukrainian community behind the security barricades; and

- Mary Joyce Morris who worked with the American media.

The bad:

- the Ukrainian official who planned the president's trip to Boston from Chicago and who did not realize that there was a one-hour time difference between the two cities thus making his arrival an hour late;

- the Ukrainian officials who decided that there would be no welcoming ceremony at the airport;

- the Ukrainian official who distributed invitations to selected Ukrainian Americans in Boston and then failed to tell the Kennedy Library who they were;

- the Ukrainian officials who, in spite of numerous requests, failed to provide the Kennedy Library with a list of the party traveling with the president so that adequate arrangements could be made for them;

- the Ukrainian officials who failed to make a copy of President Yushchenko's remarks available to the library and the media either in Ukrainian or in English;

- the Ukrainian security officials who ate and drank at the reception while their American Secret Service colleagues remained at their posts and did their duty;

- the Boston Ukrainian community leaders who failed to communicate with the neighboring Ukrainian communities of Salem and Woonsocket and invite them;

- the members of UCCA who were told twice by phone and once in an e-mail that Kennedy Library policy forbade signs and banners on library property and who went ahead and made and attempted to display them anyway;

- the members of the Ukrainian community who made difficulties about their seating assignments;

- the Ukrainian community leaders who refused to leave security areas after repeated requests;

- the Ukrainian community leaders who wanted the president to meet with local survivors of the Holodomor and listen to their stories;

- the local Ukrainian leaders who wanted UPA songs included in the program; and

- the Ukrainian community for failing to say thank you.

The ugly:

- the Ukrainian official who decided to move the scheduled arrival of President Yushchenko to the Kennedy Library up one hour after 2,000 invitations had been mailed;

- the Ukrainian official who decided to cancel a speech at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government a few days before the scheduled event;

- the Ukrainian protocol official who tried to tell the Kennedy staff what Kennedy family members should say;

- the Ukrainian officials who decided that there would be no press conferences and no direct media contact in Boston, the nation's fifth largest media market;

- Askold Lozynskyj of New York who broke through Secret Service security barriers and almost knocked several members of the Kennedy family over in his determined haste to be the first to kiss President Yushchenko and Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk in spite of the fact that it was not his party and he was not the host (His actions did not endear him to Boston media who were trying to get a clear picture of the Yushchenkos and the Kennedys by themselves particularly when he did not have the sense to step back, and, as a result, ruined every shot);

- Zenoviy Protz, president of the Boston branch of the UCCA, ditto;

- the UCCA welcoming committee

with their icon and Korovay, ditto;

- the members of the Ukrainian presidential staff and security team who exclusively spoke Russian amongst themselves and used it in all of their radio transmissions. (One perplexed Kennedy staffer was heard to ask, "Why are they still speaking Russian after the Orange Revolution and after all that Putin and Kuchma tried to do to them?");

- the Ukrainian consul of New York who personally invited a number of prominent Ukrainian Americans, including Church hierarchs, to come to Boston to participate in the ceremonies and to meet the president and then failed to let the Kennedy Library know that they were coming or to make any provisions for them whatsoever;

- the members of the Ukrainian community who tried to enter the VIP hall without proper invitations and who then caused scenes when staffers questioned them (They fooled no one);

- Ditto for those who passed their invitations to others to sneak them in;

- the Boston branch of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America which suddenly decided to take an interest in Nastia Ovchar at Shriners' and who even called an emergency meeting to figure out a strategy after they learned of Kennedy family interest. Since Ukrainian independence there have been scores of patients from Ukraine in various Boston hospitals and they all needed help. Interestingly, Soyuz Ukrainok never got involved before.

Boston is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the United States. It is a center of high culture, finance, high technology, higher education and medicine. It has an old Ukrainian settlement with many individuals who have distinguished themselves over the years and who play an active role in the life of the city and the region. However, almost none of them are active in the Ukrainian community, and, as a result, it is a community that is virtually invisible.

For the past 125 years the Ukrainian community of Boston has been plagued with bad leadership and one crisis after another; it has continually lost or alienated people of talent and ability. As a result, although there are more than 75,000 people of Ukrainian ancestry in the Boston area, fewer than 1,000 belong to any of the local Ukrainian organizations, including the churches, and most refuse to have anything to do with events sponsored by them.

With the advent of the post-Orange Revolution government in Ukraine and its desire to be open to the West, it is more imperative than ever that Ukrainian Americans and their communities act as interpreters, lobbyists and bridge-builders.

Unfortunately, events like the Yushchenko visit to Boston show that community leaders still aren't mature and that they still don't understand the task at hand. They continue to conduct business in the same old ways that clearly didn't work in the past. As long as the wrong people are in charge, Ukrainian Americans will continue to wonder why they have no voice — why no one pays attention to them.

The Yushchenko visit to Boston was a success in spite of the efforts of the Ukrainian Embassy and the official Ukrainian American community leaders. The success happened because a number of people with the requisite skills and experience stepped forward and put in many hours of effort in a very short time. It is clear that the broader Ukrainian American community has the resources to put it on an equal footing with any other. It is time to redefine what constitutes our community and take full advantage of a very talented resource pool. The Ukrainian American community can continue to hold its own against others, or it can remain a backwater.

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A journalism...

(Continued from page 8)

an extra hour before being seated.

And, yes, I relished mingling with reporters from the Associated Press and Reuters, something only a nerd such as myself would find pleasure in.

But networking wasn't my goal that evening. As far as I was concerned, my purpose in life that night was to give back to the community that raised me.

And even though I had grown up in Parma, Ohio, and barely knew a handful of the Ukrainians in the audience, there was a bond that existed among all of us that night. I felt as if I, too, was a Chicago Ukrainian. I was one of them as I stood up with the rest of the crowd to chant, "Klitschko Champion!" when the boxer walked into the room. And I certainly was one of them when a security guard nearly grabbed my digital camera out of my hand as I pushed my way through the crowd to snap a picture of the overwhelmed world champion.

But it was when President Yushchenko and his wife took the stage that I realized I belonged. As the other members of the press stoically listened to the president's speech, I cheered with the rest of the crowd, wishing I had brought my orange scarf and mini Ukrainian flag to wave. Tears flooded my face as I watched a video montage of the Orange Revolution, and I yearned to have been in Ukraine when Mr. Yushchenko tore down the country's own iron curtain. But it was when President Yushchenko said Ukraine was finally free and democratic, that my heart melted in admiration for the man.

Ukraine might have gained its independence officially in 1991, but that wasn't a complete victory for the Ukrainian

people. For more than a decade, our homeland was run by corrupt, Russian-backed puppets who did little for the dignity of Ukraine or its people. It took a man who suffered a rigged election and dioxin poisoning to pull Ukraine out of the mud in which it was drowning.

President Yushchenko was right when he said, "This is the kind of country for which our grandparents and parents sacrificed their lives." My grandparents and parents certainly answered Ukraine's call. My dido (grandfather) almost lost his life while fighting in the Galicia Division in World

War II. And I suppose it's rare to find a suburban mom who was willing to protest and be arrested for Valentyn Moroz. Even I did my part when I rallied for Mr. Yushchenko in Chicago and New York.

For three generations my family has fought, protested and rallied for Ukraine's freedom, and finally that was achieved through President Yushchenko and his administration. Ukraine's Independence Day does not fall on August 24, 1991, but on January 11.

If only my dido had been alive to see it ... how satisfied he would have been to know

that all his sacrifices were not in vain.

Needless to say, President Yushchenko's speech on Monday, April 4, was an inspiring experience for me. And I'm happy to report that – with God's help – my filming turned out great and my editors were quite pleased with the final product. But most importantly, I went away from the event believing I had just accomplished something worthwhile. As I climb up the journalism ranks in the future, perhaps I'll get the chance to report on Mr. Yushchenko again. Maybe then he'll share a plate of pyrohy with me...



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The Power of God....

(Continued from page 6)

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Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

+ **Constantine – Metropolitan,** Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Diaspora

+ **John – Archbishop,** Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ **Antony – Archbishop,** Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

+ **Vsevolod – Archbishop,** Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

+ **Ioan – Archbishop,** Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

+ **Yurij – Archbishop,** Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

+ **Jeremiah – Bishop** Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy in South America (UOC of U.S.A.)

Hromovytsia...

(Continued from page 13)

As it reflects back on the last 25 years, one thing has remained evident and unchanged. Hromovytsia is a dance ensemble based on talent, heart and soul. It prides itself on a 25-year history made up of unique choreography, varied styles of dance, diverse talent and deep friendships that form a family-like environment in which to create and learn.

As it looks toward the future, the Hromovytsia Ukrainian Dance Ensemble hopes to continue to reshape the very definition of Ukrainian dance, deliver innovative works that will reach new choreographic heights, and surprise and delight audiences everywhere.

AN OPEN INVITATION TO LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

Would you like fellow Ukrainians know about events in your community?

Would you like to become one of The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondents? Then what are you waiting for?

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions from local community activists.

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

Summer Camps at Soyuzivka

Discovery Camp 8-12

Calling all future explorers! Begin to rock-climb, hike and swim in mountain lakes. Learn about wildlife eco-history, basic first aid, survival.

Week 1 July 10 - 16

Week 2 July 17 - 23

Week 3 July 24 - 30

\$400 UNA member

\$450 non members

Adventure Camp 13-16

New adventures every day! Learn camping essentials: orienteering, wilderness first aid and rescue, water safety, tracking and survival skills, wildlife awareness and eco-history.

Week 1 July 17 - 23

Week 2 July 24 - 30

\$500 UNA member

\$550 non members

Tennis Camp 10-18

Intensive two weeks with instruction and competitive play directed by George Sawchak. Limited to 45 participants.

Weeks June 26 - July 8

\$540 UNA member

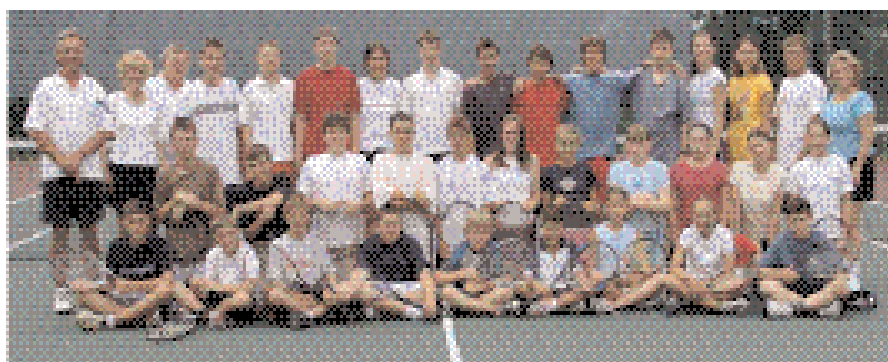
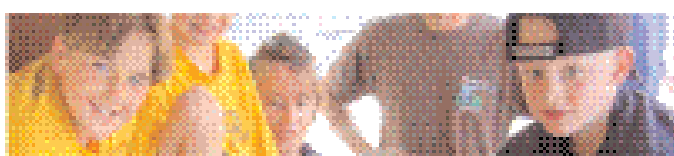
\$590 non members

+ \$120 instructor fee per student

Additional brochure information about camps and requirements is available online at www.Soyuzivka.com

A \$75 deposit is required for pre-registration.

All camps are bi-lingual and geared toward a better understanding of Ukrainian culture and heritage.



Chemney Youth Camp 4-7

A day camp filled with daily activities of dance, song, games and crafts. Includes kid's lunch and T-shirt. Unless noted, is based on in-house occupancy of parent or guardian.

Week 1 July 17 - 22

Week 2 July 24 - 29

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM Daily

\$150 per camper

\$190 if not an overnight guest

Exploration Day Camp 7-10

Six hours of fun-filled activities in this new day camp.

June 27 - July 1

July 4 - July 8

\$100 per week or \$25 per day

Soyuzivka Scuba Diving Course 12 and up

One week will complete academic, confined water and open water for PADI open water certification. Classes given by George Hanushevsky, scuba diver instructor. Pre registration is required. Check on line brochure for additional information.

July 31 - August 5

\$400 course fee

\$120 deposit required

All fees payable to George Hanushevsky

Traditional Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp 8-16

Directed by Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych (daughter of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky). Expert instruction for beginner, intermediate and advanced dancers. The camp will end with a grand recital on August, 20. Limited to 60 participants.

August 7 - 20

\$610 UNA members

\$660 non members

+ \$275 instructor's fee payable to "UCDA"

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Ukrainian Folklore...

(Continued from page 14)

Other video presentations included a premier of a video produced in Ukraine about an interesting and unusual Christmas custom that involves leading a horse into the home. This video was presented by Mariya Lesiw. Several talks were based on published sources. Roman Shiyan discussed prose stories about the Kozaks, while Greg Borowetz presented folklore elements in Ukrainian Canadian calendars. These sources of folklore data have been neglected in the past.

Students who have already completed their degrees returned both to attend the seminars and to give talks. Brian Cherwick spoke about Ukrainian Canadian popular music. He focused on the duo Mickey and Bunny and their understanding of tradition.

Faculty and retired faculty also spoke. Andriy Hornjatkevych talked about traditional musical instruments, specifically the kobza and the bandura, and the relationship between them. Andriy Nahachewsky and Natalie Kononenko spoke mostly about practical matters, specifically archiving principles and

techniques and their impressions of professional conferences that they had attended. Both hope to have a chance to present their research in the future.

Gregory Forth of the anthropology department spoke about the Wildman on the Island of Flores in Indonesia, probing the relationship between narratives told by the island inhabitants of today and recent archeological discoveries. The grand finale was Jars Balan of the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies speaking about the Kalyna Country Ecomuseum, a project in which he played a pivotal role.

The Graduate Lunch and Lecture

Series will be back next year by popular demand. Student and community interest has been high. Students want to present their latest work, and the community wants to find out about the interests of the next generation of scholars and to offer their own ideas through formal presentations and through discussion of the topics presented by others. Everyone is welcome to attend the lunch and lecture series and organizers will be happy to receive suggestions both for future guest speakers and for future topics. For information readers may call (780) 492-6810 or log on to <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/uvpl>.

St. Wolodymyr...

(Continued from page 9)

Families later came one by one to perform the Ukrainian tradition of "blessing the food baskets." While there was no priest present to perform the ritual, families used holy water blessed in the previous year to sprinkle their own Easter baskets. Afterwards, participants approached each other with the traditional Ukrainian greetings, "Khrystos Voskres" – Christ is Risen – and "Voistynu Voskres," – "Truly, He is risen.

It was a happy day for St. Wolodymyr Parish, yet a somewhat solemn one. The 40 to 50 parishioners joined together during a coffee hour that followed the service and shared their feelings and desires to persevere in keeping St. Wolodymyr Parish alive.

The hope of finding a priest is not gone, nor is the parish commitment after nearly a quarter of a century. The parishioners respectfully wait, and wait, for a message or response from the Archeparchial Office.

To contact St. Wolodymyr Parish readers may e-mail SaintWolodymyrTheGreatParish@yahoo.com.

Maria Burmaka...

(Continued from page 12)

music is different from what the diaspora is used to hearing. It shows us that maybe there is something called Ukrainian pop music. It is now our turn to send one of our young musicians to Ukraine, and to keep the exchanges going, on our generation's terms," said Ms. Helbig.

As for the tour's conception, Lubomyr Konrad, another organizer explained: "While in Ukraine in December, Yuri Pylyp introduced me to Maria, and we met up with her to discuss the idea of her touring some cities in North America. When we returned home, we got to work on planning the logistics of her trip, because we saw that we had no choice but to make good on a casual promise made at Bar Baraban in Kyiv."

And, much to the delight of audiences in Philadelphia, New York and Toronto, make good on that promise they did.

Maria Burmaka's tour was the first of what its organizers hope will be many such tours of various visiting musicians from Ukraine. Anyone interested in becoming involved in volunteering to assist with future initiatives may contact the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group via their website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BrooklynUkrainianGroup/>.

For more information on "Folk!," log on to <http://www.kinorox.com>.

For Help Us Help the Children, please visit: <http://www.chornobyl.ca/page-helpus.htm>.

For the Kyiv-Mohyla Foundation, please visit: <http://www.kmfoundation.com>.

Northern New Jersey...

(Continued from page 5)

and that there are many Ukrainians in Brooklyn who can be approached.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Staruch mentioned that there will be a Ukrainian Day at Giants Stadium on September 17 and that the UNA should participate with an information table. Likewise, Mr. Bohdan suggested that a UNA information table be set up at St. Thomas Sunday (Providna Nedilia)

observances at the Ukrainian Orthodox Center in South Bound Brook, N.J., as the event attracts thousands of people.

Mr. Welhasch read a notice from National Secretary Kozak about a special course on annuities that is planned to be held at the UNA Home Office. Ms. Trytjak, who is president of the UNA Seniors, distributed leaflets about the organization's annual seniors' conference, which will take place at Soyuzivka on June 12-17.

Once the meeting was adjourned, discussions continued over refreshments.

Notice to publishers and authors

It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- April 23, 2005**
"Holiday Cooking in the Ukrainian Tradition" organized by Plast Kurin "Spartanky"
TAP New York Beer Festival at Hunter Mountain, round-trip bus from Soyuzivka, special room rate - \$60/night
Klitschko Boxing Night at Suzy-Q pub
- April 29-May 1, 2005**
Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at State University of New York New Paltz
- May 1, 2005**
Traditional Blessed Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m., \$17++/per person
- May 20, 2005**
Ellenville High School Junior Prom
- May 20-22, 2005**
Girl Scout Troop 856 Camp Out
- May 27-30, 2005**
Memorial Day Weekend BBQ and Zabava
Adoptive Parents Weekend, sponsored by the Embassy of Ukraine and the UNA
- June 1, 2005**
Ellenville High School Scholarship Banquet
- June 2, 2005**
Wedding
- June 6, 2005**
Highland High School Senior Day
- June 6-9, 2005**
Clergy Days
- June 10-12, 2005**
Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at State University of New York New Paltz
- June 11, 2005**
Wedding
- June 12-17, 2005**
UNA Seniors' Week and Conference
- June 18, 2005**
Wedding
- June 19, 2005**
Father's Day Program
- June 25, 2005**
Wedding
- June 26-July 3, 2005**
Tabir Ptashat - Session #1
- June 26-July 8, 2005**
Tennis Camp for ages 10-18
- June 27-July 1, 2005**
Exploration Day Camp - Session #1, for ages 7-10
- July 3-July 10, 2005**
Tabir Ptashat - Session #2
- July 4-July 8, 2005**
Exploration Day Camp - Session #2, for ages 7-10
- July 8-10, 2005**
Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at State University of New York at New Paltz
- July 10-July 16, 2005**
Discovery Camp - Session #1, for ages 8-12
- July 17-July 22, 2005**
Chemney Day Camp - Session #1, for ages 4-7
- July 17-July 23, 2005**
Discovery Camp - Session #2, for ages 8-12
- July 22-24, 2005**
Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekends offered at State University of New York New Paltz
- July 24-July 29, 2005**
Chemney Day Camp - Session #2, for ages 4-7
- July 24-July 30, 2005**
Discovery Camp - Session #3, for ages 8-12
Adventure Camp - Session #2, for ages 13-16
- July 24-August 6, 2005**
Teachers Seminar, Ukrainian Educational Council of New York City
- July 29-31, 2005**
"A day in the life of a UPA Partisan Soldier" event
- July 31-August 5, 2005**
Scuba Course for ages 12 and up



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 24

WARREN, Mich.: The Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor (UGDW), an international organization with a tradition of over 50 years of service to the Ukrainian communities of Metropolitan Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, will meet at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren at 2 p.m. Guest speaker at the meeting will be Dr. Ina M. Daniv, chiropractor, who will discuss holistic health and nutrition, and will take questions. (The speaker is bilingual, Ukrainian and English). The public is invited to attend. For additional information contact Joseph Elnick, UGDW president, (586) 751-5607.

Monday, May 2

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host the Bohdan Krawciw Memorial Symposium given by George G. Grabowicz, Dmytro Cyzevskyj Professor of Ukrainian Literature, Harvard; Halyna Hryn, senior editor, HURI; and Tamara Hundorova, corresponding member, Institute of Literature, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. "Ukrainian Modernism Reconsidered: The Literary Dimension" will be held in the Kresge Room of Barker Center, 12 Quincy St., at 4-6 p.m. For further information contact HURI, (617) 495-4053, or visit the HURI website at <http://www.huri.harvard.edu/>.

Up-and-coming filmmaker's work at Tribeca festival

NEW YORK - A new Ukrainian film - "Zimove Vesilya" (Snowblink) - co-directed by Andriy Parekh and Sophie Barthes, is currently being shown as part of the Tribeca Film Festival in the short film category.

The film, described as "A couple's honeymoon journey across the snow-covered steppe of Ukraine [that] is inexplicably troubled by a bleeding finger" - will be screened on April 25 at 10 p.m., April 27 at 8:15 p.m. and April 30 at 11:30 p.m. Screenings are held at the Regal Battery Theatre, 102 North End Ave. (at Vesey and West streets).

A Minnesota native of Ukrainian and Indian descent, Mr. Parekh, 33, studied cinematography at the FAMU film school at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague and at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he received his M.F.A. in 2001.

He has made more than 50 films, music videos and commercials, many of which have won awards. "Zimove Vesilya" is his fourth short film, following "Mertvi Pivni" (Dead Roosters), shot in Ukraine, which won the Grand Marnier Prize at the New York Film Festival (2004) and the Future Filmmaker Award at the Palm Spring Film Festival (2004).

In its annual survey of new talent, Mr. Parekh was recently named one out of the "25 New Faces of Independent Film" by Filmmaker Magazine (summer 2004), where he was ranked No. 5.

Mr. Parekh, whose connection to Ukraine is matrilineal, has been spending a lot of time in Ukraine, where he has many

contacts, including Americans who opened up a production company. Since shooting his thesis film there, he visits Ukraine frequently to work. His thesis film subsequently won a student Academy Award.

In the Filmmaker profile, Mr. Parekh credits Harris Savides ("The Game," "Elephant") with instilling in him a passion for cinematography when he served as his apprentice on James Gray's "The Yards."

In his cinematography, which he characterizes as "very director-bound," Mr. Parekh underscores that it is essential for him "that the image feels like something - that it is soulful. If not, there's nothing there."

Among Mr. Parekh's cinematographic credits are such feature films as Jessica Sharzer's "Speak," Philip Farha's sci-fi thriller "Messengers" and Kirill Mikhanovsky's Portuguese drama "Sonhos de Peixe" (Dreaming of Fish), shot last year in Brazil.

Co-director of "Zimove Vesilya" is Sophia Barthes, a 1998 graduate of the Paris School of Management (École Supérieure de Commerce de Paris) in media and cultural management. Ms. Barthes worked for two years as a journalist for the press agency Medialink in the Philippines, Mongolia, Lebanon, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Greece, and Colombia.

Tickets for "Zimove Vesilya" (Snowblink), at \$10, general screening, may be purchased online at tribecafilmfestival.org (24 hours) or by phone, (866) 941-FEST (3378). For additional information access the website: www.tribecafilmfestival.org.



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