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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Ukraine in danger: Administration curtails freedom of assembly

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

*Ukraine in Danger: Ukraine's civil society has begun to report on authoritarian policies and rights abuses by the administration of Viktor Yanukovich and the government led by Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, which was formed on March 11 with the appointment of the Cabinet of Ministers. This article examines reported violations of freedom of assembly.*

KYIV – The first hint that freedom of assembly would be curtailed by the administration of Viktor Yanukovich surfaced on the very day of his presidential inauguration, when a group of about 20 protestors were blocked from protesting the visit of Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill I.

Soon after the Cabinet of Ministers was formed in March, the government began forbidding demonstrations that sprung up throughout Ukraine against the scandalous Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk, who has expressed contempt for Ukrainian culture and history.

Then came the raucous April 27 protests outside of Parliament, after which the Internal Affairs Ministry, which gov-

erns Ukraine's national police force, began demanding lists of participants from the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the opposition's biggest force.

"The new government considers a protest meeting of democratic forces a crime, based on which a criminal investigation has begun," said Anatolii Semynoha, a national deputy of the Tymoshenko Bloc.

In the few months since the Yanukovich administration has taken power, the freedom to gather in public spaces and protest the government has been significantly curtailed, with the Internal Affairs Ministry employing tactics not seen since the reign of former authoritarian President Leonid Kuchma.

"Employees of the Internal Affairs Ministry violated the freedom to peaceful assembly, using force against participants of peaceful events," said an April 22 statement issued by the Ukrainian Helsinki Union on Human Rights.

"In Kyiv alone, such violations were observed on March 14, 25 and 27, and April 8, 9 and 13. On March 25 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine ordered the Kyiv City Administration (City Hall) 'to use exhaustive measures to organize work with citizens and their groupings, including precluding and forbidding fur-

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## Medvedev praises Yanukovich policies during state visit to Kyiv

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Russian Federation President Dmitry Medvedev visited the Ukrainian capital on May 17 and 18 to pursue his nation's fast-track policy of deepening cooperation and integration with Ukraine.

It was Mr. Medvedev's first visit in six years to Kyiv after boycotting Ukraine during the presidency of Viktor Yushchenko, whose cultural and foreign policies infuriated the Kremlin. The Russian president praised the policies of President Viktor

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Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Viktor Yanukovich shake hands during a state visit in Kyiv on May 17-18.

## CCRDF's 20th anniversary celebration raises funds for Kyiv children's hospital

by Zoryana Bruher

KYIV – Over 200 guests gathered on Saturday, April 24, at Kyiv's InterContinental Hotel to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund. The fund's primary objective is to strengthen the Women's and Children's Health Initiative Programs and to improve quality of life of disabled orphans. This charity event's purpose was to raise funds to purchase life-saving medical equipment for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the Kyiv City Clinical Children's Hospital No. 2.

The event was attended by diplomats, the business elite and other members of Kyiv's international community, as well as doctors from partner hospitals who have been working with CCRDF for many years. Among the guests were U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John F. Tefft, National Deputy Volodymyr Yavorivsky and actor Bohdan Stupka.

CCRDF's Country Director Alexa Milanytch was the mistress of ceremonies for the evening.

Individuals who played a major role in the fund's development and provided

enormous support to CCRDF throughout many years were honored with awards.

National Deputy Yavorivsky was honored with CCRDF's Humanitarian Award. Mr. Yavorivsky, one of the founding fathers of the organization, initiated the work of CCRDF and supported it throughout the past 20 years.

Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, who presented the award to Mr. Yavorivsky, said: "It has been 20 years since I first met this dynamic patriot of Ukraine – an individual whose concern is the well-being of his people – and I remember the statement he made at the Washington Press Club saying, 'Without healthy children, Ukraine as a nation has no future.' This statement prompted our [Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky's] immediate reaction."

Accepting the award, Mr. Yavorivsky said, "During my first visit to the United States back in 1989, I appealed to Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky with an urgent request to help the children in Ukraine suffering from the horrifying accident at the Chernobyl nuclear station. At that time, Dr. Zenon was a prominent general surgeon in the U.S.A., and his wife, Nadia, had been actively involved in charity work for over 25 years. They



At the 20th anniversary celebration of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (from left) are: Ukrainian National Deputy Volodymyr Yavorivsky; CCRDF President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky; Philip Morris Ukraine, Caucasus and Moldova Director Elena Khomenko; Nadia Matkiwsky; and Dr. Oleg Korniychuk, chief of the Neonatal Intensive Care Department of Kyiv City Children's Hospital No. 2.

were truly concerned with the situation in Ukraine and immediately organized a committee to provide the first medical relief cargo to Ukraine. It was just the

first step in implementing the long-term mission of CCRDF, which has become

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## ANALYSIS

## Russia poised to leapfrog Ukraine and Moldova in EU visa drive

by Ahto Lobjakas  
RFE/RL

BRUSSELS – Russia is putting pressure on the European Union to turn the next top-level meeting between the two – the Rostov-na-Donu gathering on May 31 – into a “visa summit.”

Officials in Brussels say the EU and Russia will jointly sign a document at Rostov-na-Donu outlining “common steps” toward visa liberalization. This would represent a significant advance for Russia in its decade-long drive toward visa-free travel in the EU.

At the same time, it would hand Russia a psychological and political victory over countries like Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, who have long awaited visa liberalization and have offered political reforms to get it.

If Russia, which has no obligations to reform, steps ahead of those countries in the visa-free queue, it will only serve to emphasize that the status of the EU’s Eastern Partnership countries matters very little when it comes to strategic concessions from the bloc.

Diplomats say a majority of EU foreign ministers, debating the issue in Brussels on May 10, supported the plan. (Under EU rules, a qualified majority decision is sufficient.) A concession on visas is seen as essential to ensure the success of the Rostov-na-Donu summit on May 31.

There, the EU wants Russia to commit to a broad “modernizing partnership” by reaffirming its commitment to concluding a new strategic partnership agreement, joining the World Trade Organization, and cooperating on a range of issues from border management to trade issues.

Russia’s champions in this debate are Germany, France and most of the EU’s southern member states – along with, somewhat surprisingly, Finland. Poland continues to sound a cautionary note, but even the plan’s detractors now see it as a foregone conclusion.

### ‘Road map’ in all but name

In all but name, the common steps constitute a “road map” – the EU term for an agreement committing the bloc to dropping its visa requirement for short-stay visitors to its Schengen space (comprising all EU countries except Britain, Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania; as well as Switzerland, Norway and Iceland) once its conditions have been met.

So far, only countries in the western Balkans have been awarded such road maps. No ex-Soviet country outside the EU has managed to secure one.

A visa-liberalization road map sets out detailed requirements for reforms to be implemented in key areas. Chief among the EU’s concerns are document security – above all, the introduction of biometric passports; border management; combating illegal migration; and the fight against organized crime and corruption.

The road map does not fix the date when visas will be lifted, but it effectively commits the EU to doing so once all its conditions have been met. In the western Balkans, Serbia, Croatia and Macedonia late last year became the first countries to complete a road map – and are now seen as having set a precedent for others.

Top EU foreign policy official Hugues Mingarelli made the link at the European Parliament in early April, when he said a number of EU member-states are reluctant to give Ukraine a road map for fear of making movement toward the abolition of visas a virtually “automatic process.” Instead, these EU countries would like to retain

what Mr. Mingarelli described as their “political discretion.”

### Most desirable goal

Visa-free travel in the EU has become the most desirable goal for all of the bloc’s Eastern neighbors, who see in it great psychological, political and economic benefits. Most EU member-states, on the other hand, are fearful of greater immigration and crime, and generally do not want to send Eastern neighbors signals which could be interpreted as encouragement to pursue a course aimed at eventual accession.

As a result, movement toward visa liberalization has been a drawn-out process. Russia was the first to secure it as a “long-term” goal in 2003. Ukraine followed suit in 2008, and Moldova did the same earlier this year.

A number of ministers on May 10 warned that Russia is attempting to manipulate the EU, offering unenforceable promises of partnership and cooperation in return for what remains effectively the bloc’s only real leverage.

### Visa ‘currency’

Poland’s Radoslaw Sikorski warned that visa liberalization is a “currency” the EU should spend wisely. Mr. Sikorski noted that the EU’s visa policy “must not go against its foreign policy,” with its declared aim of transforming Russia into a European society where the rule of law prevails. Talks on a new EU-Russia strategic partnership treaty have stalled, largely as a result of Russia’s palpable lack of interest in saddling itself with further obligations.

Mr. Sikorski, along with the ministers of the Baltic and Nordic countries as well as Romania, also argued that Russia must not advance ahead of Ukraine, Moldova and the EU’s other Eastern neighbors, who this week celebrated five years of membership in the European Neighborhood Policy and last week the first year of their Eastern Partnership with the EU.

A number of ministers said the issue should be linked to Russia’s cooperation on frozen conflicts involving Georgia, Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

But the Friends of Russia club appears to have carried the day, supported by the EU’s executive arm, the European Commission. France, Spain and Portugal once again emerged as champions of “positive interdependence” between Russia and the EU. Greece and Cyprus highlighted the prospective benefits of visa-free travel with Russia. All were identified as primary targets for Russian foreign policy engagement in a memo published last week by the Russia version of Newsweek.

Officials say the outcome of the Brussels meeting was decided by Germany. Traditionally skeptical of immigration, Berlin appears to have concluded that the economic benefits of improved ties with Russia will be sufficient to offset the downside.

After the Brussels meeting on May 10, Germany was described as the “swing state” by the Finnish Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Stubb – representing another country which has pursued an increasingly pragmatic course in its relationship with Moscow over the past few years.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Anti-Medvedev protest prevented

KYIV – Kyiv police prevented a protest against visiting Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at a university in the Ukrainian capital, RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service reported on May 18. About 20 activists of the nationalist group Svoboda planned to gather near the monument to Ukrainian poet and writer Taras Shevchenko in front of the university named after him while Mr. Medvedev was meeting with students inside. But police blocked their way to the square and to the nearby park, preventing the protest. Police told the activists that city authorities had not received an application from Svoboda officials to hold the gathering. But Svoboda activists said their application was sent to Kyiv’s Mayoral Office. The protesters decided not to confront police and the rally was called off. President Medvedev began his two-day official trip to Kyiv on May 17. (RFE/RL)

### Ukraine and the Sochi Olympics

KYIV – Ukraine is ready to take part in the preparations for the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, President Viktor Yanukovich said on May 18 at the seventh Ukrainian-Russian economic forum in Kyiv. “We have completed legislative preparations for the 2012 European Football Championship, and are ready to make a contribution to the preparations for the Olympic Games in Sochi,” he said, adding that this is only one variant of deepening cooperation between Ukraine and Russia in the future. The Russian state corporation Olimpstroy has invited Ukraine to participate in the construction of the Sodruzhestvo hotel complex in preparation for the Sochi Olympics. The total volume of investments in the project is estimated at \$1.2 billion; the construction cost of one hotel is \$ 115.8 million. (Ukrinform)

### Opposition proud of its position

KYIV – Mykola Tomenko, the vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and a member of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, said that he believes the position of experts and journalists, and the active protests of the opposition, did not allow Ukraine’s authorities to sign agreements proposed by

Russia that threatened Ukraine with a loss of strategic sectors of the economy. The agreements were to be signed during the visit of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to Kyiv. Mr. Tomenko said he does not rule out that the official position of Ukraine was based on the government’s report in Parliament on the content of those agreements. He noted that, until the last moment, the Russian side insisted on agreeing or signing a number of extra agreements, including those pertaining to a merger of the assets of Naftohaz Ukrainy and Gazprom, and a joint nuclear power venture involving Russian Energoatom. It is clear that in both cases the management of the companies would wind up in Russia’s hands, Mr. Tomenko said. He also commented that the agreement on demarcation of the state border signed by the two countries requires a detailed analysis. There are suspicions that it has certain clauses that call into question the current territorial positions of Ukraine and Russia, formed on the principle of administrative boundaries of the Soviet-era republics. (Ukrinform)

### Medvedev invites Ukraine to CSTO

KYIV – Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, addressing the students of Kyiv’s Shevchenko National University on May 18, said that Russia is satisfied with the status of Ukraine as a neutral country. At the same time, he invited Ukraine to participate in the Collective Security Treaty Organization, whose members are, in addition to Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. “If there is any doubt, we take it with respect. If in the future you consider it right to join the CSTO, we’ll be happy,” President Medvedev said, noting that Ukraine may take such decisions on its own. The Russian president stressed that the CSTO was not created as a counterweight to NATO. “We do not want any confrontation between NATO and some other military bloc,” he said. (Ukrinform)

### European Parliament loan for Ukraine

KYIV – The European Parliament voted in Strasbourg on May 18 to grant Ukraine

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

## Moscow seeks to remove restraints on naval base upgrade in Ukraine

by Vladimir Socor  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich has dismissed reports about the possible basing of Russian naval units in Mykolayiv, Odesa, and the Danube estuary as “fantasies” (Interfax-Ukraine, www.news.ru, May 13).

Such reports had leaked out of the preparatory work for Russian President Dmitry Medvedev’s May 17-18 visit to Ukraine. Among a host of other issues, the visit’s agenda included modernization and possible expansion of Russia’s naval presence in Ukraine. This is expected to be agreed in follow-up to the recent agreements that prolonged the deadline on the basing of Russia’s Black Sea Fleet in Ukraine from 2017 until at least 2042.

President Yanukovich and Medvedev signed the prolongation agreement in Kharkiv on April 21. The prolongation does not affect the content of the main basing agreement, signed in 1997 and valid until 2017, which stipulates that the Russian Black Sea Fleet’s (BSF) main base is in Sevastopol. Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, insists the agreement retains full force, without any changes or additions to its content (Interfax-Ukraine, April 26).

Under that agreement, any changes to the Russian fleet’s equipment, such as replacing ships or armaments (on the ships or onshore), are not allowed without the Ukrainian side’s consent. If consent is given, any changes can only be made on a “class-for-class” or “type-for-type” basis (Dzerkalo Tyzhnia, April 30).

Introduced at Ukrainian insistence, these provisions have enabled Ukraine to resist modernization or any upgrading of the Russian ships and armaments from 1997 to date. The BSF has decayed dramatically in terms of size and combat readiness.

The ban on modernization seems about to be lifted, however, following the recent regime change in Ukraine and the April 21 prolongation agreement. The Russian side has been quick to advertise a modernization program for its BSF, with ships newly built in Russia to replace the old ones in this fleet’s inventory. According to the Russian chief of the General Staff, Army Gen. Nikolai Makarov, the program for the fleet’s comprehensive modernization until 2020 envisages deploying new surface ships, submarines and land-based aircraft organic to the fleet (Interfax, May 7).

Launched in 2005, that program had assumed that the new ships and other assets would be based on the Russian coast at Novorossiysk. Thus, the fleet modernization program was launched jointly with a 15-year program to expand the Novorossiysk naval base. Moscow anticipated using two main bases (Sevastopol and Novorossiysk) until 2017; and it prepared for the contingency that Ukraine would terminate the basing agreement on deadline. This explains the launch of base construction at Novorossiysk in 2005, the year of the Orange Revolution in Ukraine. The new base installations were planned to accommodate Russian ships relocating from Sevastopol by 2015.

The April 21 prolongation agreement with President Yanukovich, however,

**Modernization and expansion of Russia’s naval presence in Ukraine now seem to be on the agenda.**

changes Moscow’s planning assumptions. It will enable Russia to maintain two main naval bases, Sevastopol and Novorossiysk, and to modernize the naval assets in Sevastopol despite the 1997 agreement’s restraints. Russian officials and commentators reflecting official positions are discussing openly the prospects of adding ships and installations to the Sevastopol base (Interfax, RIA Novosti, May 5, 7; Nezavisimaya Gazeta, May 13).

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, Gen. Makarov and the head of the Agency for Special [military] Construction, Gen. Nikolai Abroskin, inspected the Novorossiysk naval base construction site on May 7 to assess the progress made. In parallel, Mr. Putin and other Russian officials are discussing possible upgrading of the Sevastopol base (Interfax, May 7).

The apportionment of naval assets and construction funding between Sevastopol and Novorossiysk is yet to be determined.

The Russian Defense Ministry has set up a working group to look into those issues and report within the next few months its conclusions on technical issues. The political decision, however, has clearly been made in Moscow to modernize the fleet both in Novorossiysk and in Sevastopol. The Russian BSF commander, Vice-Admiral Aleksandr Kletskov, anticipates new construction of base installations and personnel accommodation, along with rearmament, at both bases (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, May 13).

Additionally, Russian commentators have speculated about a return of Russia’s naval presence at some of the other Soviet-era naval bases and installations in Ukraine. Those include the Balaklava submarine base in Crimea, as well as naval and coastal guard bases and installations in Feodosia, Kerch, Donuzlav, Ochakov, Mykolayiv, Odesa and Izmail on the Danube opposite Romania. All those locations are disused or dilapidated (Balaklava is currently a naval museum).

Any decision to reactivate one or more of these would be purely political. It could, for example, feature joint basing of Russian and Ukrainian units. Russian naval units appearing regularly in Odesa or Izmail, or being stationed there, could encourage local pro-Russian political forces to become more aggressive and play the Novorossiysk card in that area, where the borders of Ukraine, Moldova and Romania intersect.

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

## The ‘temnyky’ are returning

by Myroslav Otkovych

On Tuesday, April 27, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich took one more conscious step towards dividing the country.

At the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Mr. Yanukovich cast doubt upon the fact of genocide against the Ukrainian people – a fact that has been recognized by many countries of the world.

In Ukraine, there’s a corresponding law that states: “Public denial of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine dishonors the memory of the millions of victims of the Holodomor, denigrates the dignity of the Ukrainian people and is unlawful.”

Therefore, President Yanukovich committed an illegal act, in the view of experts.

However, punishment is not foreseen. Proposed changes to the Criminal Code, where sanctions would be provided, weren’t approved by Parliament, and they’re unlikely to be passed now.

As a result, according to Ukrainian law, the most Mr. Yanukovich deserves is public censure, just as any other person who allows himself to denigrate the dignity of Ukrainians and dishonor the victims of the Holodomor.

I am sure there’s a similar point of view among the representatives of the Presidential Administration. They say, “It’s not necessary to claim ownership of the misery of many peoples. People died in the Volga region and Kazakhstan.” Yes, that’s true. But what’s stopping Kazakhs and Russians from putting forth analogous issues before the global community?

We researched our own history. A Ukrainian court delivered a verdict against nine people accused of genocide, among them Joseph Stalin, Stanislav Kosior, Pavlo

Postyshev.

The case is closed today. The court’s decision can’t be appealed, nor can the guilty persons be rehabilitated.

Accordingly, a demographic study conducted during the pre-trial investigation by the Mykhailo Ptakhy Institute of Demography and Social Research at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine concluded that 3,941,000 people died as a result of the genocide committed in Ukraine.

Therefore, is there any point in offering a legal analysis of the president’s statements in PACE in light of all this? Obviously yes!

That’s precisely what I proposed to the editors of the Television News Service (TSN) on the 1+1 channel – comments from experts and positions “for” and “against.” At their preference, they could weigh the expert commentary in order to offer equal access.

Now let me offer only the facts about the state of the TSN news kitchen as of today.

Editors approved the report at the first stage, yet said carefully; “Convince the chief editor yourself.” Obviously, troubling the management with such subjects isn’t fashionable nowadays.

I called the chief editor and briefly laid out the gist of the proposal. I hear this on the receiver: “The item is interesting, but the directives must be approved.”

Your attention! TSN has been working along the lines of “approving directives” ever since the day Maksym Shylenko was dismissed from his responsibility as chief editor of news on 1+1.

For those who still don’t understand: “directives” are those same “temnyky,” only they’re verbally communicated now.

[Editor’s note – “Temnyky” were writ-

ten missives issued by the Presidential Administration under former President Leonid Kuchma instructing editors how to portray events, people and images to the public.]

It was known by lunchtime that a “directive” emerged following a meeting of the top managers. The report was removed from broadcast, as if to show it later (that week) in the “Pidsumky” (Sunday week-in-review).

After a while the editors informed others; “The maximum – a ‘nachytka,’ ” or a short text from the anchor with one or two interviews.

The editors predicted that the material with the legal analysis of the president’s

statements wouldn’t end up on the air on Sunday in any form. When asked, “Why?” everyone conspiratorially laughed and glanced towards the ceiling.

As a result, the subject of the Holodomor was censored.

It was then that this subject became the Rubicon for me, after which it was not possible to keep silent. The feeling of having a conscience overcomes fear.

I know that “airing your dirty laundry” is always difficult. Yet this is not a written complaint. This is a warning of lackeys. It’s yet another attempt to prevent and discard the subject of the genocide of Ukrainians from the television airwaves.

(Continued on page 21)

## Quotable notes

“... the Black Sea Fleet is a source of destabilization and a permanent threat to Ukraine’s territorial integrity. Let’s recall the Black Sea Fleet’s participation in the Russian-Georgian war. It delivered strikes against Georgian towns and, according to the rules of war, Georgia, had it had the capability, could have retaliated not only against the warships but also their bases – in other words, against our territory, the territory of Crimea, the territory of Ukraine.

“And this time Russia waged a war against a weak Georgia, which basically doesn’t have a navy of its own. Imagine a similar adventure against our neighbor across the Black Sea. They wouldn’t think too much about [Crimea] being [a foreign base] if their own towns came under fire.

“Secondly, at a time when high-ranking [Russian] officials constantly make territorial claims on Ukraine and say that Crimea will sooner or later become part of Russia again, hosting that country’s navy on our territory is absolutely unwise.

“And thirdly, this goes against the Ukrainian Constitution, whose Article 17 states that no foreign military bases may be permitted on Ukrainian territory. Yes, we allowed [the Black Sea Fleet] to remain there, as an exception, until 2017 because there was an agreement. But this 25-year extension is simply astonishing. These people signed [the deal] on behalf of entire generations to come. I think it is outrageous.”

– Mustafa Dzhemilev, chairman of the Mejlis (Parliament) of the Crimean Tatars, speaking on April 28 with RFE/RL’s Tatar-Bashkir Service about the Russian-Ukrainian base-for-gas deal.

# Chicagoland Ukrainians demonstrate in defense of Ukraine

CHICAGO – Nearly 500 members of Chicagoland's Ukrainian Community came out on Sunday, May 9, to protest the anti-Ukrainian policies of Ukraine's current president, Viktor Yanukovich, and to support their patriotic brothers and sisters in Ukraine. The protest was held in front of the Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago located at 10 E. Huron St.

Speeches were given by the Rev. Melnyk, Oleh Striltschuk (Ukrainian Congress Committee of America – Illinois Division), Pavlo Bandriwsky (Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine), Julian Kulas (Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, National Board), Oleh Muzyka (Orange Wave), and Maria Klimchak ("Ukrainian Wave" radio program).

Mr. Striltschuk and Ms. Klimchak presented a letter of protest to the Ukrainian government and a cover letter to Consul General Konstyantyn Kudryk, who promised to forward it up the chain of command through the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington.

News media covering the protest included television stations CBS and WGN, the newspaper Chas i Podii, Medill News Service and the radio programs "Ukrainian Wave" and "Independent Community Radio."



Chicago-area Ukrainians protest the policies of the Yanukovich administration in Ukraine.

Ivanka Bryan

## The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: April

Amount	Name	City
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	Oksana Zakydalsky	Toronto, ON
\$108.00	Anna Nakonecznyj/ Liudmila Galai (in memory of Anton Nakonecznyj	Wethersfield, CT
\$105.00	Melania Banach	Woodbridge, NJ
\$100.00	Dorothy Chupa	Briarwood, NY
	Ada Kulyk	Washington, DC
	Andrei and Raissa Kushnir	Bethesda, MD
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	Ronald Boyd	Port Charlotte, FL
	Edward Boyd	Port Charlotte, FL
	W. Cetenko	Venice, FL
	Nicholas and Slawka Hordynsky	Springfield, NJ
	Bohdan Hryshchshyn	Bethel Park, PA
	Adrian Kozak	Silver Spring, MD
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	John Pluta	Wallingford, PA
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Gazeta.ua

Supporters of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc demonstrated at the police headquarters in Ternopil on May 11, the day they were supposed to be in Kyiv, protesting violations to their right to freedom of assembly.

## Ukraine in danger...

(Continued from page 1)

ther acts of protest near the Presidential Administration and Cabinet of Ministers.' Such 'orders' are brutal violations to the freedom of peaceful assembly and several articles of the Constitution."

Following the April 27 protests, measures to preclude demonstrations escalated.

To prepare for the May 11 demonstrations at Parliament, numerous reports surfaced of police and traffic officers pre-

venting buses with Ukrainian citizens from leaving the Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Ternopil, and Lviv oblasts.

The Svoboda nationalist party reported that State Traffic Inspection (DAI) officers in the Khmelnytskyi Oblast threatened private bus companies that provided the party with transportation for the April 27 protests in Kyiv.

"Carriers said they were threatened by people who claim to be traffic officers and demand that they cease to offer transportation services to Svoboda supporters," the party reported in a May 7 press release. "In another case, they were threatened with numerous inspections and denial of licenses for transportation."

On May 10 on the eve of the protest, bus companies hired by the Tymoshenko Bloc in the Chernihiv Oblast told their clients they had to decline their business because they were threatened with having their licenses confiscated.

The morning of the protest, six cars of traffic and police officers arrived at the gathering spots for demonstrators. They approached the bus drivers and confiscated their inspection stickers without so much as identifying themselves.

The officers told the drivers not to drive the demonstrators to Kyiv and stopped all other automobiles arriving at the gathering points.

For those buses of protestors that managed to depart for Kyiv, the State Traffic Inspection (DAI) posted its officers all along the highways to stop them and force long delays. All of the Tymoshenko Bloc's buses were prevented by traffic police from leaving the Lviv Oblast, the party organization reported.

Meanwhile three Tymoshenko Bloc buses that departed for Kyiv from the Ternopil Oblast never made it, said Vasyl Derevlianyi, the party's oblast organization chair.

"One bus was stopped by DAI not long after, and another two were pursued and were stopped about 11 p.m. on the border with the Khmelnytskyi Oblast," he said. "At that, no explanations for such actions were offered."

The party's remaining buses never even departed, said Mr. Derevlianyi, who led a protest of 200 demonstrators at Ternopil's Internal Affairs Ministry local administration on the same day they were supposed to be in Kyiv.

"We planned to transport to Kyiv 500 people in 12 buses," he said. "We signed an agreement with the carrier and they obtained the necessary permit from DAI. Yet the traffic officers began to place spokes in the wheels of the carriers, looking for a hook. They said, 'that chair isn't standing right,' 'that bumper isn't placed

## Ukrainian Canadians express concern over recent developments in Ukraine

The statement below was issued by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress on May 11.

There are 1.2 million Canadians who trace their roots to Ukraine – the second largest Ukrainian community outside of Ukraine, with a 120-year distinguished history in Canada. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress represents the interests of this vibrant and active community that closely follows developments in their ancestral homeland, for which they wish nothing more than peace, prosperity, and the ability to pursue a full independent, democratic and dignified existence.

Our community is deeply disturbed by recent events in Ukraine, namely:

### Black Sea Fleet

The decision to extend Ukraine's port lease to Russia's Black Sea Fleet by 25 years was highly inflammatory and divisive among the people of Ukraine. Overlooking the question of the constitutionality of this move, such a significant decision was made precipitously and rushed through Parliament without any consultation with Ukraine's citizens or its neighbors.

Political commentators around the world have been critical of these actions. Among these was Canada's highly respected national newspaper, The Globe and Mail (April 29, 2010), which criticized President Viktor Yanukovich for having sold Ukraine into Russia's sphere of influence in exchange for subsidized natural gas which will largely be enjoyed by Ukraine's oligarchs and industrialists.

### Holodomor

Our community is deeply distraught by President Yanukovich's recent remarks in Strasbourg which continue to aggravate tensions in Ukraine by diminishing the enormous suffering of the Ukrainian people in the Holodomor, by saying it was a consequence of Stalin's totalitarian regime, rather than a genocide.

This position is contrary to the law of Ukraine, the vast body of recent academic research based on original Soviet archives in Ukraine, the position of the previous Ukrainian government, the current government of Canada, the Ukrainian World Congress and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, instead putting it in accord with Russia's interpretation.

The Famine was largely engineered by the Soviet regime of Joseph Stalin, and it was so extreme and purposeful in Ukraine that it can reasonably be called an act of ethnic genocide. In terms of its cost in human lives, the Famine was the most costly of all genocidal operations of Stalin and the Communist Party. It targeted the destruction of the Ukrainian intelligentsia/ Ukrainian national elites. What happened in Ukraine respects the definition of genocide in the U.N. Convention.

The areas outside Ukraine where the famine took place were largely populated by Ukrainians. Dr. Raphael Lemkin, the father of the United Nations genocide convention, declared that the Holodomor was a genocide as it involved "the destruction, not of individuals only, but of a culture and a nation." The genocidal nature of the Holodomor is enshrined in Ukrainian law as it is in a great number of countries around the world, including Canada (which had the unanimous support of all political parties and Members of Parliament).

### Ukraine's Parliament

Ukrainians around the world watched with apprehension as Ukraine's Parliament (the Verkhovna Rada) spiraled into chaos

last week. Our community is concerned by the physical brawls and complete lack of respect for Ukraine's hard-fought democratic institutions. Ukraine's image in the international arena, which we and millions of other Ukrainians around the world struggle desperately to promote positively, is in shambles.

### Ukraine's strategic assets

According to recent statements by Ukraine's Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, Ukraine is considering the proposal put forth by Russia's Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to merge Russia's Gazprom with Ukraine's Naftohaz, as well as the nuclear energy assets of both countries. There are numerous recent examples of Russia leveraging energy to extort various concessions from Ukraine. Merging Ukraine's state-owned energy companies, which own its gas transportation and distribution system, its oil and gas exploration, production and deposits, as well as its nuclear companies with those of their Russian counterparts will make Ukraine entirely dependent on Russia. Such a move would be an unpardonable sell-out of Ukraine's principal strategic assets and, indeed, its independence – something that no other nation in the world would countenance.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress calls upon the president and the Parliament of Ukraine to reassure Ukrainians and the world:

Sovereignty of Ukraine – Reassure Ukrainians that Ukraine has not fallen into Russia's sphere of influence by committing Ukraine on a path to remain outside Russia's political and economic sphere of influence. To do so we request President Yanukovich:

- does not sign the extension of the Russian Black Sea Fleet lease;
- cease all discussions regarding the sale or merger of Ukraine's state assets to Russia or any other party in the areas of energy, infrastructure, aviation or other strategic industries or assets of Ukraine; and
- modernize Ukraine's gas transit system in a manner that leaves the ownership of this strategically important energy and economic asset in the hands of Ukraine, such as the current proposal from the European Union which includes financing.

Holodomor – President Yanukovich's recent public statements about the Holodomor are as harmful and divisive as saying that the Holocaust was not a genocide against the Jewish people because many Ukrainians were also murdered by the Nazis. We call upon President Yanukovich to issue a public statement and appear on Ukrainian television to reaffirm Ukraine's position that the Holodomor was an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people.

Upholding the Constitution of Ukraine – The most important job of the president of Ukraine is to uphold the letter and the spirit of the Constitution of Ukraine. Recent regulatory change to the Verkhovna Rada coalition requirements and cancellation of local city and regional elections without setting an alternative date were unconstitutional and appear to have been made for political advantage. New municipal elections and new election dates should be set immediately.

New parliamentary elections in Ukraine – Recent events have demonstrated that the current Verkhovna Rada is dysfunctional and no longer represents the will of the Ukrainian people. We call upon President Yanukovich to call a new election of Ukraine's Parliament at the earliest possible time.

(Continued on page 22)



Zenon Zawada

The administration of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich has been brutally violating the rights of Ukrainian citizens to peaceful assembly, said Volodymyr Yavorsky, the executive director of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union of Human Rights in Kyiv.

## Demjanjuk suffers heart pain, trial is postponed

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – According a report filed by the Associated Press on May 18, John Demjanjuk was sent to a private medical clinic to undergo tests after he complained of heart pain.

As a result, this week's sessions of Mr. Demjanjuk's trial on Nazi war crimes charges were postponed.

A court physician, Dr. Albrecht Stein, told the AP he did not believe the pains were serious, but did not want to risk having the 90-year-old defendant suffer a heart attack in the courtroom.

(Continued on page 19)

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

# Yanukovych and the Holodomor

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych shocked Ukrainians throughout the world with his statement on the Holodomor delivered on April 27 before the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

"These were the consequences of the Stalinist totalitarian regime and its attitude towards people. But we believe it's incorrect and unjust to recognize the Holodomor as genocide against one or another people. This was a tragedy, a common tragedy of peoples which once belonged to a single state – the Soviet Union."

"The territories where these tragic events of the 1930s occurred are well-known. These are the former nations of the U.S.S.R. Today we know that a Holodomor occurred in Ukraine, in Russia, in the Stavropol and Krasnodar regions, in the Volga basin, in Belarus and Kazakhstan."

The president delivered his falsehoods the day before PACE was to vote on a resolution on the Holodomor. It came as no surprise that his misguided remarks drew applause from the Russian Duma deputies, who serve to propagate the historical lies of the Kremlin, dominated by former KGB agents.

It came as no surprise that Mr. Yanukovych's denial of the Holodomor as genocide led the 55 members of PACE, squeamish of the prospect of riling the Russians, to vote against recognizing the genocide that killed millions of Ukrainians.

It was committed by sealing Ukraine's borders, preventing the starving from fleeing to neighboring Russia, where no starvation was occurring, according to the testimony of hundreds of survivors. And the overwhelming majority of Ukraine's victims were themselves ethnic Ukrainians.

"If we don't make an effort, we might lose Ukraine," Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin is reported to have said before the genocidal winter of 1932-33.

Yet somehow the deniers insist that this wasn't targeted against Ukrainians.

For many Ukrainians throughout the world, Mr. Yanukovych crossed the Rubicon with his statement. The truth of the Holodomor is something sacred that can't be bargained or negotiated with the authoritarian Putinist regime.

Opposition deputies protested Mr. Yanukovych's denigration of Ukrainian memory by walking out of the PACE session hall.

"It was the governor of the Ukrainian oblast of the Russian empire speaking, not the president of Ukraine," said Olha Herasymiuk, a national deputy with the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc.

In his Holodomor denial, Mr. Yanukovych was not only ignoring the mountain of documentary, testimonial and statistical evidence proving that Stalin wanted to crush the Ukrainian spirit in his grand experiment called the Soviet Union. The Ukrainian president violated Ukrainian law, which states, "Public denial of the Holodomor of 1932-33 in Ukraine dishonors the memory of the millions of victims of the Holodomor, denigrates the dignity of the Ukrainian people and is unlawful."

One brave television correspondent, Myroslav Otkovych of the 1+1 television network, wanted to produce a news report examining whether Mr. Yanukovych indeed violated Ukrainian law when denying that the Holodomor was genocide against the Ukrainian people.

Yet he found out, after proposing the idea to his editors, that the Holodomor is no longer a "fashionable" news subject in Ukraine now that Mr. Yanukovych is president. It's particularly not acceptable to suggest the president is a law-breaker.

Mr. Otkovych's news report, offering both favorable and critical views of Ukrainian legal experts on Mr. Yanukovych's statement, was duly rejected. He subsequently wrote an article about the incident for the Ukrayinska Pravda web site, which The Weekly translated and published on Page 3 of this issue.

Mr. Otkovych led reporters at 1+1, and other television networks, to declare that the Yanukovych government has returned censorship after the Orange era had largely eliminated it.

Only now network managers have to abide by verbal "directives" to comply with government filters of news, rather than the written "temnyky" of the Kuchma era.

Even if Mr. Yanukovych doesn't agree with Ukrainian law, he has the responsibility as president to abide by it, particularly when representing the nation in foreign countries.

The president's denial of the Holodomor as genocide is merely the latest in a series of illegal acts committed by the Ukrainian government, whose very formation (between individual deputies instead of factions alone) violated the Ukrainian Constitution.

His words at the April 27 PACE session deserve severe condemnation. His punishment will come at the next elections, God willing.

May  
26  
2000

## Turning the pages back...

Ten years ago, on May 26, 2000, Ukraine's Minister of the Economy Sergey Tigipko (whose name was then transliterated as Serhii Tyhypko) announced his resignation from the Cabinet of Ministers. Speaking in Pavlohrad, Dnipropetrovsk

Oblast, he indicated his intention to run for Parliament in a by-election to be held on June 25, 2000.

The relationship between the government and the Verkhovna Rada prompted Mr. Tigipko to become a national deputy. "I'm absolutely certain that no matter how intelligent and strong people are in a government it cannot work effectively until there are better relations with the Parliament's majority," he said. "Today most of the issues are decided in consultations between the president and the parliamentary majority. That is not normal."

Mr. Tigipko promised voters at a meeting in Pavlohrad that if he were elected he would try to implement the concept of a coalition government. The by-elections were

(Continued on page 21)

## NEWS AND VIEWS

# An enlightened liberation movement

by Askold Lozynskyj

The recent Bandera/Shukhevych/OUN/UPA debate has evoked a panoply of positions. Its gamut ranges from glorification to opprobrium. Somewhere in between there have been a number of academic and non-academic papers stating that Bandera et al. were heroes, not Nazi collaborators, potential but frustrated German allies with a non-democratic and often fascist ideology.

On the subject of alliances, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) was never reticent about its loyalty. As early as June 4, 1935, OUN leader Yevhen Konovalets presented a memorandum to the British seeking support for the Ukrainian cause: "We... are fighting for the total independence of Ukraine... we are actively challenging all foreign occupiers of Ukrainian lands, and although we consider Russia to be the main occupier, we shall... challenge unilateral attempts of any foreign invader to solve the affairs of Eastern Europe without the participation, or against the will, of the Ukrainian people."

*Askold S. Lozynskyj is an attorney based in New York City. He is a former president of the Ukrainian World Congress.*

Similarly, on the eve of the Nazi invasion on June 15, 1941, the new OUN leader, Stepan Bandera, reiterated essentially that position in a memorandum presented to the Germans: "Even if the German troops were welcomed as liberators upon their arrival in Ukraine, this attitude can soon change if Germany shows no intention of restoring the Ukrainian State..."

The OUN and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) were not a form of government, but a liberation political movement and an army. The concept of such formations being entirely democratic is ridiculous and certainly has no examples in history. Still, the leader of the OUN was elected through a representative democracy at a clandestine convention. Once elected, he, like any commander-in-chief, was the ultimate authority. Since the purpose of the movement and the army was to liberate occupied Ukraine, the OUN was responsible for a number of targeted political assassinations and the UPA was responsible for waging an armed struggle against the occupying Polish, German, Hungarian, Romanian and Soviet armies and partisans. Certainly there were civilian casualties. Regrettably, even some completely innocent civilians die in

(Continued on page 22)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Yanukovych and elections

Dear Editor:

I just read the May 2 edition of The Ukrainian Weekly. I've been reading the Ukrainian Weekly for over 20 years and have never written to you before. My parents were both from the Ternopil region and came to America after World War II, and I was born in America. We made our lives in Woonsocket, R.I. I'm a CPA who's very proud to be Ukrainian and felt compelled to write and share my opinion at this time.

This edition of The Weekly was full of articles about President Viktor Yanukovych's "base for gas" deal and also his promise to give up highly enriched uranium. I deplore both decisions. In fact, I deplored Ukraine's decision to become a nuclear-free country back in the 1990's. Given our history and proximity to our historical enemies, we need to be strong and should have kept our nuclear deterrent.

Anyway, in a democratically elected country, there's nothing we can do about Mr. Yanukovych's decisions now. The voters elected Mr. Yanukovych and if you truly believe in the rule of law, you have to accept it. The good news is that there will be another election in a few years which may change the current tide.

Frankly, I blame Yulia Tymoshenko and Viktor Yushchenko for Mr. Yanukovych's election and his deals. They both had such an amazing opportunity back during the Orange Revolution to truly bring Ukraine into the Western world with democracy and capitalism. Unfortunately, because of their own selfish political ambitions, they split their political support and ruined the opportunity they had. Shame on both of them. Neither deserve our support in the future. They sacrificed their country for their individual political ambitions.

Of course, the above happens all the time in politics everywhere around the

world. It is, however, far more exacerbated in a fledgling democracy that needs to implement radical change to prosper than in a mature democracy like ours here in America.

The solace I take in the bad news published is that Ukraine remains an independent country with very divided constituencies that has accepted the rule of law and democratic elections (albeit, not yet well and with corruption that will decline with time and generational change). That's big. There will be another election coming and, hopefully, the pro-Western parties learn from their past mistakes and take back the vote!

As much as I don't want to see Russia with a base on Ukrainian land, this is common in global politics. America still has bases in Japan, Germany, the Philippines, etc. decades after a war without any threat to the sovereignty of those countries. As much as Yanukovych is leaning Eastward politically, I can't believe he's looking to become part of the old Soviet Union. If he does, there will be another election or else a revolution.

**Ted Klowan Jr.**  
Franklin, Mass.

## We welcome your opinion

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

Letters should be typed and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com). The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions.

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

## From a Canadian Angle

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn



## Celebrating 120 years in Canada

Next year will mark 120 years of Ukrainian settlement in Canada – a good time to evaluate accomplishments and prepare for the future.

Pioneer beginnings were grim. In 1891, western Canada, where Ukrainian immigrants were unceremoniously dumped, was little more than “a few acres of snow” rather than, according to United Nations surveys, one of the best countries in the world to live in. And abandoning ancestral homes to cross the Atlantic was, in today’s terms, as daunting as settling permanently on the moon. Yet, the handful of Ukrainian settlers has grown to a 1.2 million presence.

The community has prospered but there’s room for improvement.

There have been notable successes in politics; two governors general – heads of state – Ramon Hnatyshyn and Ed Schreyer. Don Mazankowski was a deputy prime minister, the second most senior post in government. John Sopinka served as one of nine judges on the Supreme Court of Canada. Roy Romanow was premier of Saskatchewan. Currently, Ed Stelmach is leading oil-rich Alberta, while Tim Hudak is hoping to see his Conservative party win Ontario. Ukrainians in Canada have produced several senatorial appointments and numerous elected members of Parliament.

Where votes matter, we’ve done well – a testament to leadership and citizen activism. This contrasts sharply with appointments to senior positions where merit is meant to be the deciding factor but too often it’s an insiders game. Nationally, we’ve had only one deputy minister or equivalent-ranking official, and only a handful of assistant deputy ministers.

With 120 years of nation-building, this indicates a strong under-representation. French Canadians, for instance, are present in about 25 percent of some half-million jobs in the federal government. This assures them excellent employment in government and spills over to other sectors. Most importantly, it gives them control over some 600 governor-in-council appointments, jobs charged with running Canada such as regulating banks, participating in NATO efforts in Afghanistan and granting funding for heritage language retention. There are very few Canadians of Ukrainian descent among these key decision-makers.

Given their power and presence, it is not surprising that Canada is currently in loud debate over qualification criteria for replacing a recently retired Supreme Court justice. (Is it to be French-language skills or merit?) Like French Canadians, women, native Canadians and the disabled fall under special hiring practices, the talent pool from which the new justice, and other opinion leaders, tend to be selected. Ukrainian males are excluded. (Mr. Sopinka’s appointment may be credited to his brilliance as much as to the fact that Mr. Hnatyshyn was the Justice minister at the time.)

Another way to measure the success of Ukrainians in Canada is to examine the ethnic origin of recipients of the Order of Canada – the country’s highest citizen awards – presented to nearly 6,000 Canadians since its inception in 1989. Only some 30 Ukrainian Canadians have been deemed worthy.

Surely we deserve better. And here are a few initiatives for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the community’s lead organization, and others to consider in honoring the

120th anniversary of our settlement.

Start with exceptional nominations for the job of the governor general and the Supreme Court justice. Without nominations there are no appointments! But hurry, candidates are already being considered. Identify top positions in other sectors – industry, mining, academe, hospital administration – and persuade competent people to apply. Do the same with school boards, unions and cultural entities. Aim for a 5 to 10 percent increase. And remember: no appointments without applications.

Next, make the Ukrainian presence in Canada better known. Ensure commemorative stamps and coins are issued to mark the historic occasion. Lobby to name mountains, rivers, islands etc. after individuals or events representing our community. Encourage cities to dedicate streets, malls, schools or other civic places to do likewise. What about a Ukrainian pioneer trail comprising a designated system of highways through western Canada marking the first settlements?

Here’s another idea. The Ukrainian community in Ottawa has been exploring, for some time now, the possibility of erecting a monument to Taras Shevchenko. There is one in Washington. Perhaps, on the occasion of the first settlement from Ukraine – the country which 300 years ago gave the world its first democratic constitution – Canada’s capital could create a Freedom Park or Park of Democrats honoring the globe’s champions of democracy. The first contribution would be Shevchenko’s statue. East Indian Canadians might follow with one to Gandhi; Poles with one to Pope John Paul II. The Tribute to Liberty, a monument devoted to the 100 million victims of Communist governments – now in the fund-raising stages – might find a home there too.

Time is short; there are only six months left to the anniversary year. The significant marker calls for a lasting contribution to celebrate the seeds sown back in 1891. Any other proposals?

### Correction

A correction to my column titled “Ask the oligarchs the hard questions” (February 12): It should have read that “many Communists in Ukraine during the Holodomor genocide were Jewish.”

In December 2006, Ynet published Sever Plocker’s commentary “Stalin’s Jews,” in which he says: “In 1934, according to published statistics, 38.5 percent of those holding the most senior posts in the Soviet security apparatuses were of Jewish origin. They too, of course, were gradually eliminated in the next purges.”

He also writes that “Stalin’s close associates and loyalists included member of the Central Committee and Politburo Lazar Kaganovich,” noting that “those starving to death in Ukraine, an unparalleled tragedy in the history of humankind aside from the Nazi horrors and Mao’s terror in China, did not move Kaganovich.”

Ynet News describes itself as “the English-language sister-site to Ynet, Israel’s largest and most popular news and content website” and “part of the prominent Yedioth Media Group, which publishes Yedioth Ahronoth – Israel’s most widely read daily newspaper.”

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## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



## Socialism?

Ukrainians know as much about radical socialism as any other people on earth. For three-quarters of a century, from 1919 to 1991, they endured its Soviet-Internationalist form, interrupted only by three years of the National Socialist (Nazi) variation during World War II. The horrors of these two systems are well-known.

And so, painfully aware of what socialism has been historically, I find references to President Barack Obama promoting a “socialist agenda” to be false and offensive – not only because they trivialize that system’s actual record, but also because they distort what Americans, through government, have accomplished working together.

I was 21 when the U.S. first landed astronauts on the Moon, arguably the most spectacular example of what a government-funded program can do. Now that I’m 62, I’m equally impressed by the way government takes care of more mundane things, starting with personal hygiene. When the need arises, we (ahem) do our business, push a handle and the mess goes away. To enjoy this luxury, we pay a tax that government bureaucrats collect, so that other bureaucrats can hire people to design, build and run a sewage treatment system to dispose of our collective waste. You could call that socialism. I call it civilization.

Or consider food inspection. A free market purist might argue that a supplier selling meat that kills people will lose market share, then go out of business as customers move to vendors with safe products. Well, we don’t think that way. The government mandates that food be safe or else.

(I’ve been to countries with neither food inspection nor decent toilets. The worst ones were socialist. Yuck!)

American society expects government to do a lot of things because they make sense. We collect taxes from younger people and transfer the money in the form of pension checks to the old and infirm. To defend our way of life, we recruit and equip an enormous military. Through the Veterans Administration, we care for veterans who suffered physical or emotional trauma. To ensure a future, we provide schools for the young. Government runs the air traffic control system, allocates broadcast frequencies, punishes people for dumping chemicals into rivers, and makes it illegal to commit burglary, murder, etc.

We register births, deaths, marriages, cars, drivers, fishermen, dogs, boats and property (but not guns). We certify, doctors, dentists, pharmacists, lawyers, engineers, teachers, pilots and barbers.

Government built the Erie and Panama canals, the transcontinental railway system, airports across America, the interstate highway system, dams and hydro-electric plants, created the network of national parks, did the research that led to the Internet, and developed thousands of medical procedures, vaccines and pharmaceuticals that enhance the quality of life.

None of this minimizes the role that private enterprise has played and continues to do to maintain a prosperous America, whether led by Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Warren Buffett, Bill Gates or the thousands upon thousands of people who run small businesses. The country’s success has always depended on a healthy interplay between government and the private sector. An inescapable aspect of that is financing what people expect from government, either by levying taxes or selling debt. Unfortunately, with the exception of Bill

Clinton, every president for the past 30 years has relied increasingly on borrowing, deferring payment of our bills to future generations. Well, the future is here. To address a looming budget crisis, President Obama set up a bipartisan commission that will propose a combination of spending cuts and tax increases. Implementing those will not be easy. If it were, Mr. Obama’s predecessors would have already done so.

President Obama took office less than a year and a half ago in the worst economy since Franklin Roosevelt succeeded Herbert Hoover in 1933 – plus he inherited two costly and seemingly intractable wars. Immediately upon becoming president, Mr. Obama took bold and unpopular steps to bring us from the brink of fiscal catastrophe.

Over the past quarter, there has been steady improvement, but, you can’t cut a ribbon on a Depression averted. And so, with times tough for many millions of Americans and the country still at war, Mr. Obama is vulnerable to opponents’ attacks, many of whom started wishing for him to fail the day he took office. To a sizable fringe, he’s a socialist, fascist, communist; a tyrant who pals around with terrorists, wants to take your guns away and pull the plug on grandma’s respirator – and worse. None of it is true.

What is it, you have to ask yourself, that President Obama is doing that’s so different from what President Johnson did when he created Medicare, Richard Nixon the Environmental Protection Agency, George W. Bush the prescription drug program for seniors or President Ronald Reagan when he cut taxes to cope with recession, the same thing Mr. Obama did last year? Well, nothing really. It’s just that “socialism” sounds bad and Mr. Obama’s opponents, unable to oppose him on substance, are demonizing him instead. Google “Obama myths” and you’ll find more than 3 million references. I get a couple in my e-mail every day.

One last thing: I’d like to correct a bit of misinformation about President Obama and Ukrainian Americans that was printed in this same space a few weeks ago. For the record, Mr. Obama has indeed appointed Ukrainian Americans to prominent positions, most notably Dr. Jane Lubchenco, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Melanne Vereer, a high-ranking State Department official who represented the U.S. at President Viktor Yanukovich’s inauguration. It’s also encouraging that the State Department and National Security Council have engaged Ukrainian Americans (including me) in conference calls regarding U.S. policy toward Central and Eastern Europe.

And by the way, as someone whose family was denied health insurance some 15 years ago because I had a pre-existing medical condition, I appreciate the president’s toughness in winning the battle for health care reform. (I’m fine now, thank you.)

There are many serious problems out there. Working together to solve them does not make us socialists. For a whole lot of reasons, I’m opposed to socialism and will be the first to rise up should I see Mr. Obama or any other president promoting it. I’m also opposed to nonsense, and that’s why I decided to write this column.

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## Medvedev praises...

(Continued from page 1)

Yanukovich, offering as evidence a double increase in trade between the two nations in the first quarter.

"To a considerable degree, this is because the Ukrainian state has another administration," Mr. Medvedev told Mr. Yanukovich, reported the Interfax news wire. "It's simpler for us to talk with you."

He pointed out it was the seventh meeting between the nation's leaders since Mr. Yanukovich took over as president in early February.

"This frequency of contacts shows that we have things to take care of," he said. "Things need cleaning up."

Indeed since the formation of the Cabinet of Ministers in early March, Russian and Ukrainian leaders have engaged in extensive dialogue that resulted in swift, radical measures such as the April 21 Kharkiv Agreement, which extended the lease of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol for 25 years.

Mr. Medvedev's May 17-18 official visit to Kyiv was the latest round of meetings between the delegations of Russia and Ukraine that produced more agreements on cooperation.

The two presidents signed three agreements on May 17 on security in the Black Sea region, improving systems of European security and resolving problems in the TransDnister region.

Mssrs. Medvedev and Yanukovich also presided over the signing of a series of bilateral agreements that involved demarcating the Russian-Ukrainian border, cooperating in using and developing the Russian global satellite navigation system GLONASS, cooperation between the Russian and Ukrainian Ministries of Education in 2010-2012, cooperation between the Russian and Ukrainian Ministries of Culture in 2010-2014, and cooperation between UkrExImBank and Russia's VTB Bank.

(VTB Bank reportedly won a tender to place Ukraine's Eurobonds on foreign exchanges.)

Regarding Black Sea security, the leaders pledged in their agreement to actively develop bilateral dialogue and consultation on security issues and welcomed the participation of all the region's nations in this process.

They pledged to continue active cooperation with the goal of combating threats from international terrorists and transnational crime organizations, particularly those that engage in illegal drugs and weapons trafficking.

Ukrainian and Russian agencies will also cooperate in ensuring safety on the Black Sea, as well as enhancing the exchange of information on ensuring sea-faring safety.

While the leaders achieved much of what they planned for the two-day official visit, Mr. Medvedev assured the public that "this was only the beginning" as the leaders plan many more agreements for more extensive cooperation.

"No one expects that we will resolve all problems immediately, but the main thing is not to lower the pressure and not to shift to a lower gear," Mr. Medvedev told the Ukraine-Russia Interstate Commission on May 17, reported Interfax.

He lamented the Commission met for only the third time in the last five years, insisting that it ought to convene at least twice a year.

At the meeting, the presidents gave their governments 14 orders on which to prepare future bilateral agreements between the governments and ministries.

The leaders said they plan to develop an interstate program of socio-economic and humanitarian cooperation between Ukraine and Russia for 10 years, which Mr. Yanukovich said would enable the legal realization of the conditions of the "Great Agreement" of 1997 between Ukraine and Russia.

The leaders said they ordered their governments to continue work on developing agreements in many economic spheres of cooperation, including ship-building, aviation manufacturing, the space industry, as well as energy, all of which "create the conditions for economic growth and gaining a financial result."

Mr. Yanukovich suggested creating holding companies and corporations within these industries between the two countries.

Most notably, the Russian government has considered proposing the merger of Naftohaz, Ukraine's natural gas transit intermediary, with Gazprom, Russia's natural gas monopoly. Mr. Yanukovich subsequently rejected the proposal.

Kyiv political insider Ivan Lozowy, a graduate of New York University Law School, said nothing significant emerged from Mr. Medvedev's visit.

Instead it demonstrated that certain leaders within the government, notably Mr. Yanukovich and Vice Prime Minister Andrii Kliuyev, want to slow down the fast-integration process favored by Prime Minister Mykola Azarov.

"We reached the conclusion that we can't work this way, in which we've conducted seven meetings in such a short period of time and driven the leaders of our working groups into a situation where they are supposed to prepare various decisions in accelerated tempos," Mr. Yanukovich said at their May 17 joint press conference.

To which Mr. Medvedev responded, "Viktor Fedorovich said we can't work this way, but I would like to add that we're led to work this way" in light of how time was lost during the last five years.

Yet in the view of many observers, it was the Medvedev administration that was reluctant to cooperate with the Yushchenko administration.

Details or texts of the May 17 agreements weren't released to the public, which drew criticism from pro-Western opposition leaders.

Observers are already concerned that the demarcation agreement was reached at the expense of Ukraine's position on a future agreement expected on delimiting the maritime borders between the two nations.



Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Viktor Yanukovich tout their work on improving relations .



The Russian and Ukrainian presidents receive a blessing by Metropolitan Volodymyr of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Moscow Patriarchate.

"If there's an agreement on demarcating the land border, then that agreement is only possible on one instance – if Ukraine relinquishes its main trump card during the talks, which is preserving the line of administrative distribution between the former Soviet republics," Dr. Halyna Yavorska, an expert at the National Institute of International Security Problems.

Specifically, Russia has insisted on moving the demarcation line so as not to give Ukraine control of the critical Kerch-Yenykalskyi Canal of the Kerch Strait, between the Azov and Black seas.

Under the current delimitation lines, Ukraine has possession of two-thirds of the Azov Sea, including the Kerch-Yenykalskyi Canal.

Prime Minister Azarov touted his government's ability to resolve "large scale, perennial problems on the basis of mutual understanding, taking into account the national interests of both sides."

Yet Oleksii Haran, a professor of political science at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, said the demarcation agreement had been ready for years, yet Russia didn't want to sign an agreement with the pro-Western Yushchenko administration.

As for Mr. Medvedev's claim first quarter trade between the two nations doubled following the emergence of a pro-Russian government in Ukraine, Mr. Haran said trade between Russia and

Ukraine was estimated at \$17.7 billion in 2004, which increased to \$35.2 billion in 2008.

"Until the global crisis, economic relations developed absolutely normal regardless of politics," Mr. Haran said, rejecting Mr. Medvedev's claims that a pro-Western government worsened economic relations between the countries.

"This subject is being used for political motives," he said.



Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Viktor Yanukovich share ideas on cooperation.



The presidents visit a memorial monument dedicated to the victims of the Holodomor.



## CCRDF's 20th...

(Continued from page 1)

one of the leading charity organizations in Ukraine."

As an ambassador of goodwill, Vera Farmiga, nominated for the 2010 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, was recognized with CCRDF's Distinguished Achievement Award. As a Ukrainian American growing up in the United States, Ms. Farmiga was instilled with a Ukrainian identity which taught her to respect her parent's and ancestor's homeland and to help those in need. Through her active participation in CCRDF's commemorative event of the Chernobyl catastrophe in 2006, she helped shed light on what occurred 20 years ago and its continuing ramifications.

"I believe in the work that has to be done by CCRDF," said Ms. Farmiga in her acceptance video. "I know of the great need to help the medical sector in Ukraine. I know that the hospitals are constantly seeking better and more equipment. I know that the doctors' hands need to be filled with the proper medical supplies to help their patients. I know of the parents' pleas to help their suffering children. And, as a parent expecting my second child, I can imagine the relief to know that my children can be treated because the equipment, supplies, and medicines exist in the hospitals." Ms. Farmiga addressed the guests, saying, "I urge you all to support CCRDF's humanitarian mission and help make a difference for the children."

CCRDF founder Ms. Matkiwsky presented Elena Khomenko, managing director of Philip Morris Ukraine, Caucasus and Moldova, with a Distinguished Achievement Award for continuous support of the fund's humanitarian mission and contribution to its development.

Ms. Matkiwsky referred to the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's book "It Takes a Village" to emphasize that even a small group of people can make a big difference. Ms. Matkiwsky noted: "Recently, Elena Khomenko was recognized as one of the top three women business leaders in Ukraine. This caring woman has been determined to make a difference in the well-being of humanity. Elena Khomenko took a leadership position and made a difference."

CCRDF's 20th anniversary celebration marked another milestone: the honoring of two individuals who were recognized for their massive efforts, instrumental work and daily service to the fund for the benefit of the children. Their boundless energy and compassionate dedication to the children of Ukraine inspire thousands of supporters throughout the world to



Nadia Matkiwsky is caught by surprise when recognized with CCRDF's Lifetime Achievement Award. Behind her (on the right) is actor Bohdan Stupka.

help the children in need. Presented by Mr. Yavorivsky, the Lifetime Achievement Award was given to the founders of CCRDF, Dr. Zenon and Mrs. Matkiwsky. The award was kept secret until the very moment it was presented. All the guests welcomed the honorees with a standing ovation. The applause continued through the moving picture slideshow, showing 20 years of their dedicated work at CCRDF. As a special surprise, the Matkiwsky's four children and 13 grandchildren sent their congratulations.

"Ukraine's Got Talent" winner Kseniya Simonova dedicated a video compilation of her award-winning sand artwork for the 20th anniversary of CCRDF, which was shown as a video clip to conclude the official ceremony of the charity gala.

Throughout the evening, guests were invited to make their winning bids on auction prizes. Generous in-kind sponsors provided prizes for the silent auction and prominent Ukrainian artists donated their paintings for the art auction. The artists who donated their works included Anna Kryvolap, Maksim Vityk, David Sharashidze, Serhiy Savchernko, Olena Ryzhukh, Victor Ryzhykh, Larisa Klyushkina, Anna Gidora and Volodymyr Zinchenko. Kyiv.Fine Art gallery donated a painting by Ihor Galan, while Persona Gallery donated Igor Gubskiy's artwork.

Medical equipment was displayed as a special exhibit at the charity gala. Guests had a chance to see the equipment, learn how it works and talk to Dr. Korniychuk, chief of the Neonatal Intensive Care Department of Kyiv City Children's Hospital No. 2.

He stated, "Establishing one NICU station for newborns increases our chances of saving children with critical weight at birth (less than 1 kilogram) and children born with respiratory complications and birth defects. It allows saving between 60 to 80 newborns per year." "By providing hospitals with needed equipment, CCRDF creates an opportunity for our doctors to work efficiently and save the lives of children."

The president and founder of CCRDF, Dr. Matkiwsky, said, "I am pleased to acknowledge the increase in the quality of health care in Ukraine in the past 20 years of our foundation's work here. There are wonderful talented doctors here, devoted to their work, but there is still an issue with providing hospitals quality equipment. We at CCRDF thoroughly investigate the needs of Ukrainian doctors, listen to them and do our best to support their tremendous work by providing the needed equipment, medicines, professional literature, as well as organizing professional trainings and conferences."

On the night of the gala, the sixth edition of the "Neonatal Manual," translated into Ukrainian and printed by CCRDF, was presented. This is the third Ukrainian edition of the "Neonatal Manual" that has been translated, published and distributed free of charge by CCRDF. This medical textbook is recommended by Ukraine's Ministry of Health as a textbook for medical universities. Translation and publication of the "Neonatal Manual" was sponsored by the CCRDF's New Heaven Chapter.

Thanks to charitable donations from sponsors and partners in Ukraine and abroad, CCRDF raised \$171,000 for the needs of the Kyiv City Children's Clinical Hospital No. 2. An unexpected donation was made by Tatiana Franchuk of Kyiv. Fine Art gallery and her husband, Manuel Alves of MCA Grupo. That evening, the couple first had a chance to personally learn about CCRDF's humanitarian work. The fund's accomplishments motivated them to make a generous donation of \$25,000 to benefit the hospital.

The funds raised have been used to purchase two fully equipped neonatal intensive care units, an electroencephalo-



At the celebration (from left) are: CCRDF Country Director Alexa Milanytch, U.S. Ambassador John Tefft, National Deputy Volodymyr Yavorivsky, Elena Khomenko of Philip Morris and CCRDF founders Nadia and Zenon Matkiwsky.

graph, and four compressors for the Kyiv City Children's Clinical Hospital No. 2 valued at \$171,000.

CCRDF's 20th anniversary celebration event took place at InterContinental Kyiv, which chose CCRDF as its Charity of Choice for 2009-2010 and allowed the organization to broaden its funding capabilities.

CCRDF's charity gala was made possible thanks to the leading sponsors, partners and in-kind contributors. Sponsors and in-kind contributors were: Salans, Ukraine International Airlines, American Medical Center, Philip Morris Ukraine, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Bank Forum, Allianz, SPRI Clinical Trials, Guliev Wine, Euroholod, Avis, and Admiral Club. Partners were: LeoBurnett, Running Code.

Media support were provided by: Kyiv Post, What's On, Korrespondent, Business Ukraine, ICTV, Radio Kyiv and Business Radio.



CCRDF Country Director Alexa Milanytch introduces CCRDF's Distinguished Achievement Award winner, Hollywood actress Vera Farmiga, who addressed the audience via video.

## CCRDF: a record of accomplishment

Since 1989 CCRDF has delivered 32 airlifts and 18 sea shipments with medical aid valued at over \$63 million for the implementation of medical programs at 31 partner hospitals and three orphanages for disabled children all over Ukraine. CCRDF's primary objective is to strengthen the Women's and Children's Health Initiative Programs in the fields of neonatology, perinatology, infant cardiac surgery and pediatric oncology.

CCRDF creates medical grants, programs and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects; provides medical equipment, organizes medical conferences and trainings; translates, publishes and distributes medical books.

CCRDF's achievements include:

- Establishing the first MRI system in Ukraine in the Emergency and Trauma Hospital of Kyiv that resulted in thousands of life-saving surgeries.
- Delivering life-saving medication and surgical supplies for hundreds of children with thyroid cancer and blood disorders that helped to reach Western rates of remission in the Lviv Specialized Children's Regional Hospital.
- Modernizing children's Cancer

Centers in Kharkiv, Rivne and Zhytomyr; providing hematology and laboratory equipment and supplies.

- Increasing partner hospitals' capacities in performing life-saving surgeries for children with different birth defects.

- Organizing over 15 medical conferences and trainings for thousands of doctors and nurses, aimed at improving their skills in neonatology, pediatric oncology, perinatology and pediatric cardiac surgery.

- Translating, publishing and distributing over 7000 volumes of medical textbooks free of charge for doctors, nurses and medical students.

- Improving the quality of the lives of disabled orphans in Ukraine by providing orphanages with food supplies, as well as implementing educational and rehabilitation programs.

- Doctors credit CCRDF for establishing neonatology as a branch of medicine in Ukraine.

Thanks to the many years of CCRDF's hard work, thousands of seriously ill children and newborns can receive effective treatment in Ukraine.

The CCRDF offices are located in Whippany, N.J., and Kyiv.

## COMMENTARY

## Stopping Yanukovich – one book at a time

by Alexander J. Motyl

That the Yanukovich regime has embarked on a full-scale rollback of Ukrainian language, culture and identity is now amply clear. Education, films, television, books, discourse and scholarship are being progressively de-Ukrainized as Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk and Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Semynozhenko do their utmost to promote Russification and Sovietization.

If current trends continue, Ukrainian language, culture and identity will soon be relegated to impoverished Bantustans.

As Ukrainians in Ukraine fight the Yanukovich regime's anti-Ukrainian measures, Ukrainians in the diaspora can actually make a sizeable difference.

In general, there is little that the Ukrainian diaspora can do to affect developments in Ukraine. The diaspora is too weak, and social, political and economic processes in Ukraine are too complex.

Except in this instance.

The revival since 1991 of Ukrainian language, culture and identity has been inextricably connected with the emergence of a thriving Ukrainian-language press and publishing. Go to any Ukrainian bookstore and you'll see that the number and variety of books by Ukrainians, in Ukrainian and about Ukraine has grown exponentially.

Put simply, books have become the heart and soul of Ukrainian language, culture and identity since 1991.

*Alexander J. Motyl is professor of political science at Rutgers University.*

But books are now under a twofold threat. First, the economic crisis has cut deeply into profits and forced many publishers to manage on shoe-string budgets. Second, the Yanukovich regime is actively considering imposing a ruinous value-added tax (VAT) on books. Since most Russian-language books are published in Russia and sold for far less than Ukrainian-language books published in Ukraine, the VAT promises to deliver a body blow to Ukrainian publishing and, by extension, to Ukrainian language, culture and identity.

Here's where the Ukrainian diaspora can push back and effectively stop the Yanukovich regime's assault. All diaspora Ukrainians have to do is follow two simple, and perfectly doable, steps.

First, every tourist to Ukraine should buy \$100 worth of books. Since thousands travel to Ukraine annually, systematic book-buying would translate into a massive subsidy of Ukrainian-language publishing. If you don't need the books, give them away – preferably to Ukrainian students. They'll gladly take them. Just be sure to buy all kinds of books, from novels to histories to art collections.

Second, every Ukrainian diaspora institution should "adopt" two to three Ukrainian journals, presses or magazines and provide them with a direct subsidy – subject to strict accounting and reporting, of course – equal to the amount the journals, presses or magazines estimate the VAT will cost them. That amount is highly unlikely to exceed \$5,000 per year.

(Continued on page 22)

## Ukraine's judiciary needs immediate judicial reform

by Bohdan A. Futey

The April 8 decision of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine about the formation of a majority coalition once again raised the issue of judicial reform in the country. I will not dwell on the court's decision, because in my opinion, the Constitutional Court has the authority to render a decision that the majority of judges agrees upon. Nevertheless, such a decision, disregarding the Constitution and the laws of Ukraine, has its consequences: it undermines the rule of law and the separation of powers.

Ukraine's Constitution is very clear on this subject – that a majority in the Verkhovna Rada can be formed only by factions, not by individual defecting deputies – and yet the present coalition of the new government came about as result of individuals switching sides. The recent decision is a reversal of a previous decision of September 17, 2008, just one and half years ago dealing with the same subject matter.

Legally, nothing has changed save for the government. Therefore, if the rule of law and democracy are to survive in Ukraine, its judiciary must undergo changes, the sooner the better. What is needed is an independent, impartial and transparent court system that supports public trust and confidence.

Furthermore, more than 400 participants at the judicial conference "International Courts and Society Summit," sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development Rule of Law Project in Ukraine and held on April 20-22, emphasized that judicial reform is timely and needed both by the courts and the citizens of Ukraine.

The following recommendations may serve as a guideline for the Working Group on Issues of Judicial Reform appointed by the president of Ukraine and headed by the minister of justice.

## Recommendations

A strong, independent judiciary holds all citizens and officials accountable to the written law and thus is vital for the proper functioning of a democracy. First, the rule of law must be upheld. Second, governmental powers must be adequately separated so that they can check each other. Third, the judiciary must be strong and independent.

## I. Rule of law

The rule of law is the lynchpin to promoting democracy throughout the world. Speaking before the United States Congress in 1861 about the establishment of the U.S. Court of Claims, President

*Bohdan A. Futey is a judge on the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, appointed by President Ronald Reagan in May 1987. Judge Futey has been active in various rule of law and democratization programs in Ukraine since 1991. He has participated in judicial exchange programs, seminars, and workshops, and has been a consultant to the working group on Ukraine's Constitution and the Ukrainian Parliament. He also served as an official observer during the parliamentary elections in 1994, 1998, 2002 and 2006, and the presidential elections in 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2010, and conducted briefings on Ukraine's election law and guidelines for international observers.*

Abraham Lincoln said, "It is as much the duty of government to render prompt justice against itself, in favor of its citizens, as it is to administer the same, between private individuals."

The rule of law has numerous meanings, but two are especially relevant at any time.

First, law must be supreme. Each person, whether a private individual or a government official, is subject to the law, and no special status can prevent the application of law. As Lincoln said, the government must swiftly render justice against itself, and the rule of law guarantees that the law is supreme not just to ordinary citizens but also to the government itself.

Second, the law must be centered upon a concept of justice that emphasizes interpersonal adjudication. Not only must the substance of the law be the same for everyone, but the procedures by which law is carried out must be the same. Special rules that take important officials outside the purview of the law cannot be tolerated, and the procedures of the law ought to be blind when looking at litigants.

## II. Separation of powers

A political system based on the separation of powers with appropriate checks and balances is vital to the preservation of democracy. The aim of a judiciary and, more broadly, of a government, is to provide stability through the consistent application of the law and adherence to the Constitution. The separation of powers is an especially effective way to do this, since it sets up a system of balances under which the different branches watch each other and keep each other in check.

In order for separation to be effective, the different branches of government must be co-equal, with each wielding sufficient power; no one branch can so dominate the government as to render separation irrelevant. This type of balancing is especially important in regard to elections. If citizens cannot be assured of a fair and honest election process, they will have no faith in other components of the political process. Social stability rests on the individual's confidence in the electoral process to function correctly in every respect. Separation of powers bolsters this confidence by using the judiciary to check any undue pressure that might be exerted by the executive or legislative branches.

## III. An independent judiciary

A strong, independent judiciary is one of the most important ways to separate power and uphold the rule of law. Three aspects of an independent judiciary are relevant to its success in upholding the law: procedures to enable independence; treatment of the judiciary as an independent body; and judicial conduct that accords with and bolsters its independence.

The first aspect, procedures for independence, requires that judges be granted protections to ensure their ability to remain independent. In the United States, the Constitution guarantees the protections of life tenure and non-reduced salaries so that federal judges will not fear repercussions for making an unpopular decision.

The American Bar Association noted in 2005 that judicial salaries in Ukraine are "universally regarded as too low" and that under-funding of judicial facilities is a serious problem. Adequate funding must be made available to enable the judiciary to become self-sufficient and independent

(Continued on page 21)

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## Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus elects new conductor, Bohdan Heryavenko

DETROIT – At its Biennial Meeting held on May 1 in Warren, Mich., the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus membership elected Bohdan Heryavenko its eighth conductor in North America since 1949. Maestro Heryavenko will immediately begin working with the UBC.

In December of 2009, the UBC executive board appointed a Conductor Search Committee which included the following UBC members: Ihor Kuznir, Committee chairman and current UBC assistant conductor; Anatoli W. Murha, Committee Secretary and current UBC President; George Metulynsky, Roman Beley, Andrij Kytasty, Andrij Birko and Myron Trembly.

Mr. Kuznir stated that, “The search process revealed several highly qualified candidates. The initial search identified potential candidates throughout North America. A select number of candidates were contacted, all of whom were honored to be considered for the position. Candidates were given a detailed job description, asked to submit a resume and, upon committee review of the resumes, interviews were held with select candidates. Following the interviews, candidates were invited to participate in a working session with the full UBC concert ensemble.”

Mr. Heryavenko started his formal musical studies at the Lviv Musical Pedagogical College, where he received an honors degree. Following graduation, he completed choirmaster education at the Lviv State Conservatory and then continued his studies at the Lviv Conservatory in opera and symphonic conducting, graduating under the direction of renowned composer and conductor Mykola Kolessa.

Prior to immigrating to the United



The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus.

States, Maestro Heryavenko held the prestigious position of chief choirmaster of the Lviv Opera and Ballet Theater in Lviv. His professional career began in 1978 and, over the course of the next 16 years, he held positions of conductor and choirmaster of various choirs, resulting in his appointment in 1994 as of chief choirmaster of the Lviv Opera and Ballet Theater. There one of his most significant contributions was working on the premiere of Myroslav Skoryk’s opera “Moses,” which debuted in 2001.

In addition to his many distinguished awards, Maestro Heryavenko is recognized for his expertise in sacred music. His performance experience has taken him to Bulgaria, Lebanon, Germany, Austria, Poland and the United States. He resides with his family in Chicago.

UBC President Murha commented: “The artistic director and conductor leads the UBC’s artistic activities, but his most important function is to define a higher artistic potential and lead the UBC toward achieving it. This incredible responsibili-

ty requires an individual of great musical integrity, creative talent, appreciation and, most importantly, respect for the history and tradition of the UBC and everything they represent. The strength, soul, and passion of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus is based on and grounded in, the longstanding history and traditions of the kobzari. Maestro Heryavenko’s extensive experience will help us expand our ambassadorial mission.”

Mr. Murha was re-elected president of the executive board for a sixth term. Mr. Murha, 32, joined the UBC in 1992 at the age of 14. Since 2000, Mr. Murha has led the UBC’s executive board and spearhead many of the UBC’s projects, including concerts and tours in Ukraine, England, France, Germany, Austria, Canada, and the United States. Mr. Murha noted, “I’ve had a great team of people to work with who are always willing to volunteer their time for the best interest of the UBC.”

The other newly elected members of the executive board are: First Vice-President Roman Beley, Second Vice-

President John Kytasty, Secretary Bohdan Pryjma, Treasurer Volodymyr Murha, Archivist Ihor Stasiuk, Chorus Elder Bohdan Sklierenko, and Members-at-Large Ihor Kuznir, Andrij Sklierenko, Jeff Smolilo and Volodymyr Brechun.

The UBC also welcomed new members into its ranks at the biennial meeting. When one first steps into the UBC, he is granted the status as “candidate for membership.” For a period of two years, the candidate must meet artistic requirements set forth by the UBC’s Artistic Council. Once a candidate has met the requirements, can be elevated to active member status by a majority vote amongst the active members. The UBC class of 2010 includes: Markian Gowda of Edmonton, Jeff Smolilo and Alexander Lys of Cleveland, and Adrian Kwitkowsky and Joseph Tobianski of Detroit.

The UBC will soon be announcing its concert and tour plans for 2011 under the direction of Maestro Heryavenko. For the latest news and more information, readers may visit [www.bandura.org](http://www.bandura.org)

## Hrynkiw and Cybriwsky present all-Ukrainian program at the Lyceum

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Audiences at The Washington Group Cultural Fund Music Series concerts over the years have heard many Ukrainian artists performing the world’s classical masterpieces, including some by prominent Ukrainian composers. In the most recent concert on May 2, pianist Thomas Hrynkiw and cellist Nestor Cybriwsky went a step further. Their program was devoted exclusively to Ukrainian composers.

Mr. Hrynkiw began the afternoon at the Lyceum, in Old Town Alexandria, with “Ukrainka,” a folk-theme piece by Iosyf Vytvytsky (1813-1866). The rest of the program featured 20th century composers: Lev Revutsky (1889-1977), Viktor Kossenko (1896-1938) and Vasyl Barvinsky (1888-1963).

Following another solo performance – Revutsky’s Sonata in B-Minor – Mr. Hrynkiw was joined by Mr. Cybriwsky for the rest of the program: Revutsky’s “Ballade” and, after intermission, Kossenko’s Sonata in D-Minor and Barvinsky’s “Nocturno.”

As Oksana Skidan of the Cultural Fund noted in her introduction, Mr. Hrynkiw is a second generation Ukrainian American who hails from Wilkes-Barre, PA.

A winner of many international competitions, he has performed on prominent concert stages in Europe and the United States, including New York’s Lincoln Center, Philadelphia’s Constitution Hall

and the Kennedy Center in Washington. His last performance here was in 2007 at the National Gallery of Art.

Mr. Hrynkiw is also known for his annual appearances at the Newport Festival in Rhode Island and for his long association with Metropolitan Opera basso Paul Plishka, accompanying him in concerts in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Cybriwsky comes from a long line of musicians with direct links to some of Ukraine’s greatest composers. His father, George Cybriwsky, found many of the manuscripts Nestor Cybriwsky used during his own studies in Ukraine and Vienna. A graduate of the Juilliard School, he has been performing for more than 40 years – from Broadway to Carnegie Hall to The Kennedy Center.

As Mr. Hrynkiw pointed out during a break in the program, he, Mr. Cybriwsky and violinist Amelia Christian are involved in a project of recording two CDs featuring the works of Ukrainian composers, including those in this concert program and others. He said he expects the project, which is sponsored by the Ukrainian Institute of America, to be completed in the fall.

The Hrynkiw-Cybriwsky concert concluded The Washington Group Cultural Fund’s 2009-2010 Music Series, in which they were preceded by harpist Odarka Polanskyj Stockert, violinist Zino Bogachek and a few of his friends from the Kennedy Center Opera Orchestra, and violinist Oleh Krysa accompanied by Tatiana Tchekina.



Thomas Hrynkiw and Nestor Cybriwsky accept the acclaim of the audience at the conclusion of their concert in Alexandria, Va.

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- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

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# Folk singer Nina Matvienko: the singing conscience of Ukraine

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – Folk singer Nina Matvienko has been Ukraine's pride and joy for decades. Her pure mezzo-soprano voice is the quintessence of traditional Ukrainian folk singing in the "bilyi holos" style – a technique that has its roots in the plaintive singing of village women describing the variegated life of the Ukrainian people, often through poetic images or symbols such as birds.

Ms. Matvienko is known to millions of Ukrainians at home through numerous public performances and to countless others abroad through her recordings and concert tours. She is famous and well-respected even today, more than four decades after she came on to the musical scene in Ukraine.

Bilyi holos (translated freely as white voice), is based on a breathing technique, common in Eastern Europe, that primarily exploits the chest register and is akin to controlled breathing, encouraging a robust, unphrased sound. The vocal range is restrictive and in a lower tessitura (the general range of a melody or voice part). Much of bilyi holos music carries a melancholy sound, embodying it with an almost spiritual quality.

Ms. Matvienko mastered this vocal technique by age 19. In 1967, when she auditioned for the Veriovka Chorus, a renowned Ukrainian choral ensemble often accompanied by orchestral music and sometimes by a group of dancers, she was accepted immediately; in less than a year, she became a soloist in the famous troupe. Her beautiful, deeply emotional delivery of cherished Ukrainian folk songs captured the hearts and souls of Ukrainian citizens, who began to speak of her as the "spivucha sovist Ukrainy," the singing conscience of Ukraine.

Commenting on one of her recordings, a reviewer said that with her voice and her soul, not only is a song revived, but so are the hearts of those listening. "Wherever they live, whatever language they speak, Nina Matvienko in some magical way manages to release the light of this world, to make it close and clear and warm. Even when she sings sheer sorrow."

Following many years with Veriovka, she was lead vocalist with the Zoloti Kluichi women's trio that included Valentyna Kowalska and Maria Mykolaychuk. More recently, she was associated with the celebrated chamber music orchestra Kyivska Kamerata. In the past few years she has been singing with her daughter, Tonia Matvienko; before the 2010 presidential election, they appeared in TV commercials in support of presidential candidate Yulia Tymoshenko.

Last month, mother and daughter were featured at the LaMama Theater in the Yara Arts Group's latest production, "Scythian Stones," appearing with two women from Kyrgyzstan in a touching musical piece portraying the parallel journeys of two young women who leave their mothers and village life to face the travails of life in the big city. The women were complimented by critic Mitchell Conway of NYTheater.com, who said their voices "are what makes this production so worth seeing."

On opening night, before a pre-show rehearsal, Nina Matvienko and I met at the LaMama Theater in the East Village for an interview. As director Virlana Tkacz and other cast members began arriving at the theater, while bandurist Julian Kytasty practiced quietly in a corner and Tonia Matvienko was occupied backstage, her mother talked with me about her life and her career.

In a soft voice colored by the accent typical of western Ukraine, Ms. Matvienko recounted some of the highlights of her life: growing up in the village of Nedilysche, Yemilchyn raion, Zhytomyr oblast, where "we always sang – every holiday, every

christening, every wedding," and of leaving her parents, Antonina Ilkivna Matvienko and Mytrofan Matvienko, to travel alone to Kyiv to audition for the Veriovka Chorus.

Her talent and some of her songs come from her mother, a folk singer in her own right who handed down to her daughter folk songs she had preserved from her youth.

## Gracious and warm-hearted

Besides Tonia, 29, who has an 11-year-old daughter named Ulana, Ms. Matvienko and her husband, painter Petro Honchar, have two sons, Andriy and Ivan, who are in their 30s.

Despite her fame and popularity, Ms. Matvienko is a modest woman, gracious and warm-hearted, preferring to talk about the achievements of other people rather than her own. She speaks enthusiastically of Kyiv's Ivan Honchar Museum, directed by her husband, that has become a cultural center in Ukraine's capital city and has been given national status – a place for scholars to hold meetings and exhibits, and various arts groups can function for free.

She said the center hosts amateur choruses and weekly folk dance sessions directed by the Bozhychi folk ensemble, which collects ancient Ukrainian songs and dance-instrumental traditions by way of canoe expeditions to villages and farms along the rivers of Ukraine.

Often invited to perform at Ukrainian state functions like the Holodomor commemoration in Kyiv, she tells me proudly that she supported former President Viktor Yushchenko in 2004 as well as recent presidential candidate Ms. Tymoshenko. She backed the Orange Revolution, seeing it as an opportunity for Ukrainians to strengthen democratic ideals, and laments the fact that "there are no true patriots, no true politicians" at this time to lead Ukraine.

"We will hope for the best, but it's absolutely necessary that everyone work together," she said.

Unless an occasion demands formal attire, Ms. Matvienko appears on stage in authentic village dress of the Poltava region – ankle-length linen shirt with embroidered sleeves, dark sleeveless jacket and woven wool skirt, accessorized with a multi-strand coral and bronze coin necklace. On some occasions she wears the wide-collared silk brocade coat and matching pearl-studded hat of a Kyivan noblewoman of an earlier era. Petite in stature, she has a commanding stage presence that draws the attention and admiration of audiences.

At 62, she can look back on a career filled with accomplishments; in addition to her singing, she has made numerous television and radio appearances, toured extensively, recorded several albums and authored two books – in 2003 "Spohady Moyi z Pisniamy" (Memories and Songs) and in 2009 "Viknamy do Neba" (Windows to Heaven).

For her extraordinary achievements in Ukraine's cultural sphere, she was awarded the National Shevchenko Prize in 1988.

Her latest recording, an MP3 disc titled "Nina Matvienko Sings," is a collection of songs recorded at various stages of her career, from a 1967 rendition of "Hey, Dolyno, Dolynochku" (Oh Valley, Dear Valley) to a schedrivka (New Year's carol) in 2002.

The disc includes a beautiful reading of "Oy, Hore Tiy Chaitsi" (Pity the Poor Seagull) sung to the accompaniment of the choir and orchestra of the Ukrainian Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments. With the Zoloti Kluichi trio, she sings traditional folk songs such as the spring song "Dudochka" (Flute) and the lively "Vyidy, Vyidy Ivanochku" (Come to Me, Dear Ivan).

She is accompanied by the Veriovka Chorus in a memorable performance of "Tsvite Teren" (The Blooming Thorn-bush) and by the Veriovka women's chorus in the



Margaret Morton

Tonia Matvienko, Ainura Kachkinbek kyzy and Nina Matvienko in Yara Arts Group's "Scythian Stones."



Victor Marushchenko

The Ukrainian mother in "Scythian Stones" (Nina Matvienko) wraps a sash around the waist of her daughter (Tonia Matvienko) as the young woman prepares to leave home.



Margaret Morton

Pictured in a scene from the musical piece "Scythian Stones" are (from left): Cecilia Arana, Nina Matvienko, Kenzhegul Satbaldieva, Ainura Kachkynbek kyzy and Tonia Matvienko. The screened projection (in the background) of the play's Ukrainian mother in her youth is that of Nina Matvienko as a young woman.

sorrowful "Lelechenky" (Storks).

The famed Dudaryk boys' capella joins Ms. Matvienko in the gentle lullaby "Oy, Spy Dytia" (Sleep My Child). With soloists of the Kyivska Kamerata, she sings a portion of the panakhyda for the victims of the Famine-Genocide and a trio of songs set to the words of Taras Shevchenko in a symphonic arrangement.

Ms. Matvienko has been in the U.S. before, on one occasion to perform in the Yara Arts Group presentation "Waterfall/Reflections." She has visited Ukrainian organizations in New York City, but has yet to see two places in New York state that stir her imagination – the UNA's Soyuzivka resort in Kerhonkson and the wooden Ukrainian church in Hunter. "It's extremely pleasing to note the Ukrainian presence here [in the U.S.] – you can certainly believe that

if you are Ukrainian you will never be lost."

When it was time for me to leave, she asked me to wait a moment and hurried backstage, returning soon with a copy of her disc and presenting it to me with an affectionate hug. As I headed for the exit, she returned to my side to add a comment.

"You mustn't forget to mention Virlana [Tkacz] – she's a tireless worker and she deserves great credit for her outstanding work in preserving Ukrainian traditions and Ukrainian folklore."

At home, I fed the MP3 disc into my computer, sat back and listened for over two hours to Nina Matvienko's enchanting voice, in solos, duets and trios, a capella or with orchestral accompaniment, relating the hopes, dreams, joys, sorrows and all the important events in life from the cradle to the grave of the village folk of Ukraine.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

macro-financial assistance from the European Union in the form of a loan for 500 million euros. European MPs are convinced that this amount will help the country find a way out of its economic crisis. The decision was welcomed by the president of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, who said he strongly supports the decision by the to help Ukraine using a credit instrument. Ukraine is a close strategic partner of the European Union, and this assistance is provided at the time when the EU is helping to mobilize funding to support reforms in Ukraine's energy sector, including the development of solid solutions for medium-term gas transit by Ukraine and the obligations to pay for gas, Mr. Buzek said. He stressed that the macro-financial assistance of the EU could play a good role in economic stabilization only if the major political forces in Ukraine ensure political stability and achieve a broad con-

sensus on resolute implementation of necessary structural reforms. (Ukrinform)

### Tymoshenko summons postponed

KYIV – Ukrainian justice officials have postponed a summons for former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to appear for questioning about a six-year-old bribery case, it was reported on May 16. Ms. Tymoshenko was due to meet with investigators on May 17. Ukrayinska Pravda reported that the delay resulted from one of the investigators being called away on an "urgent official trip." No new date for the meeting with investigators has been named. On May 12 prosecutors reopened the May 2004 case against Ms. Tymoshenko, which was closed in June 2005. Ms. Tymoshenko has always claimed that politics was behind the case, which alleged that she attempted to pay judges \$125,000 to free her assistants who were being tried for corruption. She has long insisted that the case was fabricated by former President Leonid Kuchma, a Yanukovich ally, as part of a

political vendetta. Ms. Tymoshenko has accused President Viktor Yanukovich, who defeated her in a bitterly fought election in February, of being behind the summons and of conducting "open repression" against her. If Ms. Tymoshenko's meeting with investigators had gone ahead on May 17 as planned, it would have coincided, uncomfortably for Ukrainian authorities, with the arrival of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on a two-day official visit. (RFE/RL)

### Our Ukraine will not join committee

KYIV – The political council of Our Ukraine, headed by ex-President Viktor Yushchenko, has decided not to join the Committee for the Protection of Ukraine, created around the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. The OU Presidium, meanwhile, supported the establishment of the committee and its purposes, it was reported on May 13. "The committee should really be an organization of citizens in the struggle for a democratic European Ukraine, and not become a platform for political competition and individual leadership, or an instrument of gaining political dividends," the statement said. Our Ukraine promised to coordinate its activities for the protection of national interests with the committee and to provide the committee with comprehensive assistance in public resistance, rather than declaring a legal entry into the committee. In parallel, Our Ukraine said it was establishing its own social protection committees in the regions. The party explained that "the anti-Ukrainian policy of the ruling regime can be stopped only by mass popular resistance and consolidated actions by the majority of Ukrainian citizens who advocate freedom and independence." (Ukrinform)

### Opposition demands investigation

KYIV – The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) faction in the Verkhovna Rada is demanding the immediate establishment of an interim commission of inquiry into the situation in Parliament on April 27, the day of ratification of the agreement extending the stay of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on Ukrainian territory, the vice-chairman of the faction, Andrii Kozhemiakin, said on May 18. He stressed that the YTB considers "illegal" the institution of criminal proceedings only against the deputies representing the OU-PSD. "We are against the selective approach in the search for the perpetrators. What happened on April 27 requires a careful study and investigation. The Kharkiv agreement will have fateful aftereffects for this country, but we need to examine what namely they bring for Ukraine," the deputy said. (Ukrinform)

### Anniversary of Crimean Tatar deportation

KYIV – State and republican flags were at half-staff on all government buildings in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on May 18 in memory of the tragic deportation of the Crimean Tatars from Crimea 66 years ago. In only one day, May 18, 1944, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin deported the Crimean Tatars, accusing them of complicity with the Nazis. According to Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in Crimea Serhii Kunitsyn, some 266,000 Crimean Tatars are currently living in Crimea. President Viktor Yanukovich in his address on the occasion of the solemn anniversary said that "deportation is a common pain of all citizens of Ukraine." (Ukrinform)

### Parliament OKs military exercises

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on May 18 passed a law allowing foreign military forces to enter the territory of Ukraine for participation in military exercises in 2010. The bill, filed by President Viktor Yanukovich, was supported by 394 members of the coalition and the opposition, who were present in the session hall. The

Communist Party faction did not participate in the voting. The law provides for participation in international exercises on Ukrainian territory of military units from 16 countries, among them Russia, Belarus, Romania, Germany, Greece, Canada, the United States, Poland, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Slovakia, Hungary and Georgia. (Ukrinform)

### St. Sophia may be off UNESCO list

KYIV – UNESCO has threatened to withdraw the St. Sophia Cathedral national reserve in Kyiv from the World Heritage List in August, when UNESCO's next session will take place, the newspaper Segodnia reported on May 17. The reason for the possible action is the chaotic construction development around the historic cathedral. According to a member of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO, Yaroslav Yatskiv, there has been talk about this drastic move during meetings. "It is very difficult to get on the World Heritage List, but rather simple to get off it," he said. Municipal authorities say that the construction in the zone is sanctioned "from above." The chief of the Cultural Heritage Department of the Kyiv City State Administration, Ruslan Kukharenko, said he has never authorized any construction project in the protected zone around St. Sophia Cathedral. (Ukrinform)

### Will Kerch-Kuban bridge be built?

KYIV – Experts believe that the construction of a bridge across the Kerch Strait, from Ukraine's Crimean peninsula to Russia's Kuban region, is a very expensive project, and it is unlikely to be carried out soon, Radio Liberty reported. Nevertheless, said Viktor Chumak, director of programs for policy analysis and security at the International Center for Policy Studies, if the overpass was built, "it would be very good for this country, and would stimulate different areas of businesses." Crimean experts say the bridge across the Kerch Strait is not needed by Crimea, noting that the functioning ferry operates at only one-third capacity. (Ukrinform)

### NATO chief on Ukraine's prospects

KYIV – NATO's policy toward Ukraine is based on the decisions of the alliance's Bucharest Summit of 2008, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told a press conference in Brussels on May 17, following the presentation of a report by the working group of high-level experts concerning NATO's new strategic concept. Answering the questions of an Ukrinform correspondent in Belgium about what opportunities for Euro-Atlantic integration could be lost as a result of current developments in Ukraine, Mr. Rasmussen said that NATO is still of the opinion that Ukraine, as well as Georgia, will become NATO members if they have the desire and meet the necessary criteria. This is a matter of each particular country, including Ukraine, to decide on its own path, Mr. Rasmussen said, noting that the government of Ukraine had confirmed its intention to continue cooperating with NATO within the current framework of the NATO-Ukraine Commission. (Ukrinform)

### EU on agreement with Ukraine

KYIV – The European Union hopes that an Association Agreement with Ukraine, which will set up a comprehensive free-trade area, will be signed this year, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton said in a video address to Ukrainian citizens on the occasion of Europe Day in Kyiv on May 15. "The EU and Ukraine are successfully working on the conclusion of the future Association Agreement which will also set up a deep and comprehensive free-trade area; if we are lucky there is hope to con-

(Continued on page 15)

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

clude it even this year," she said. Ms. Ashton noted that such close political association and economic integration would "bring about practical benefits and new opportunities to our peoples, including the opening up of a market of about 500 million people for Ukrainian products." (Ukrinform)

### Ukraine to intensify participation in CIS

KYIV – Ukraine will intensify its participation in the Commonwealth of Independent States, but it is not planning to become a full member of the CIS, Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko said in an interview with the Kommersant Ukraine newspaper. "First of all, it would be expedient to abandon the previous approach that we will not receive anything good from the CIS. Kyiv has been guided by this approach over the past five years. Perhaps, it's impossible to hope that the CIS will resolve all problems it deals with. But the effectiveness of its work also depends on Ukraine's activity. If a free trade area is created, we'll only benefit from this. We'll proceed from our national interests in each issue, rather than just adhere to a certain common approach with everybody," he said, according to news reports on May 14. Mr. Gryshchenko said Ukraine's current status is quite sufficient to step up its involvement in the CIS. "We once even held the CIS chairmanship with this status. The approach is more important than the format," he noted. (Ukrinform)

### Minister: no joint history textbook

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers has no intention to work on a common Ukrainian-Russian textbook on history, Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Semynozhenko told journalists on May 14. "When they say that there will be a Ukrainian-Russian text on history, I would like to say that this was not planned and it is not planned. We will have Ukrainian textbooks, and in Russia – Russian ones," Mr. Semynozhenko said. At the same time, he noted that, in his opinion, it is necessary to set up a joint commission of Ukrainian and Russian historians to discuss disputed themes in past relations. Earlier, Education and Science Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk stated that Ukraine and Russia would prepare a common textbook for teachers of history by the end of 2010. (Ukrinform)

### Yanukovich dismisses ambassadors

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich has dismissed Andriy Veselovsky from the post of Ukraine's ambassador to the European Union. Mr. Veselovsky had occupied that post since March 2008. The head of Ukraine's Mission to NATO, Ihor Sahach, who was tapped for the position in January 2008, also was dismissed. By another presidential decree, Dr. Oleh Shamshur, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United States of America, Antigua and Barbuda, was dismissed. Ambassador Shamshur had been based in Washington since December 2005. President Yanukovich also dismissed Oleksander Motsyk from the post of ambassador to Poland, where he had served since December 2005. (Ukrinform)

### D.C. company to conduct audit

KYIV – A company from Washington has been selected to conduct an audit of activities of the previous Ukrainian government, as it is one of the best companies in the sector, according to Ukrainian Finance Minister Fedir Yaroshenko. "[The company] is one of the best in the world. This is a public prosecutor's company, and prosecutors from Washington work at the company, the so-called law elite of the United States. The company has a great deal of experience in the sphere," the minister told the press on May 12. Mr. Yaroshenko also said that an agreement on the audit has not been signed, and talks are under way. However, he expressed hope that the agreement would be signed soon. (Interfax-Ukraine)

### Remembering victims of repression

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich addressed the people of Ukraine on May 16, the Day of Memory for Victims of Political Repression. He said: "Today is a day of sorrow for Ukraine. We honor the memory of millions of our countrymen who became victims of a totalitarian regime. We remember everyone who was destroyed by the punitive system, was imprisoned in the gulag, or was deprived of his home and sent to a foreign land. In the '30 and '40s of the 20th century, Ukraine suffered heavy losses. Stalin's repressive machine destroyed all who attempted to resist. Anyone could become a victim – a peasant or an intellectual, a teacher or an engineer, a worker or a scholar. It was a time of despair, desperation and hopelessness. The best way to honor

those who died is our memory and prayer; and those who survived those terrible years – by daily concern for them. We express our sympathy to all nations who experienced the terror of totalitarian regimes. May our common memory be a guarantee that similar tragedies are never repeated." (Official Website of Ukraine's President)

### Crimean Tatar groups issue appeal

PRAGUE – Crimean Tatar organizations in Germany have sent an open letter to Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich urging him to "protect Crimea's indigenous people from discrimination," RFE/RL's Tatar-Bashkir Service reported on May 13. In their letter, the authors wrote that some pro-Russian groups in Ukraine's Crimea are trying to disband the Crimean Tatars' autonomous bodies. Last month, Crimean political groups such as the Russian Bloc, the Russian Community of Crimea and the Tavria Union officially demanded that President Yanukovich ban the Crimean Tatars' Mejlis (Parliament) and its Kurultai (Congress), calling them organized criminal groups. The Crimean Tatars first established their own Mejlis and Kurultai in 1917. But they were abolished by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, who ordered the mass deportation of the Crimean Tatars to Central Asia in May 1944. In 1991 the Crimean Tatars received official permission to return to Crimea and the Mejlis-Kurultai structure was revived. Crimean Tatars make up more than 12 percent of Crimea's current population of some 2.1 million. Hundreds of thousands of Crimean Tatars and their descendants are currently living in Europe, North America and Central Asia. (RFE/RL)

### Luhansk monument to OUN-UPA victims

KYIV – The city of Luhansk on May 8 unveiled a monument "To People of Luhansk Who Perished at the Hands of

Nationalist Chasteners From OUN-UPA" [the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army]. The monument represents a composition with figures of a mother chained to a post, a child stretching his hands toward the mother and a man with tied hands who tries to protect them. The monument is located in the Young Guard Park in the center of Luhansk and was designed by sculptor Mykola Mozhayev. The unveiling ceremony was attended by Vice Prime Minister Viktor Tykhonov; the leader of the parliamentary faction of the Party of Regions, Oleksander Yefremov; Russian State Duma Deputy Konstantin Zatulin; Luhansk Regional Governor Valerii Holenko; and Luhansk Mayor Serhii Kravchenko. The cost of the monument is nearly 1 million hrv. The Luhansk Oblast Council on January 15, 2009, had announced a tender to select the design for a monument to "Victims of Soldiers of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists-Ukrainian Insurgent Army." (Ukrainian News)

### Zaporizhia students get revenge

KYIV – Police detained two students in Zaporizhia who at night on May 9 defaced the Dzerzhinsky monument in one of the city's central squares with radical inscriptions. The students may face punishment in the form of restraint of liberty for up to five years or deprivation of freedom for up to four years. The students were motivated in their actions by the fact that they could not hamper the unveiling of a monument to Stalin on May 5 near the Regional Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine. The monument is being guarded around the clock. Earlier in the evening, an unknown person threw a polyethylene package with red paint onto the Dzerzhinsky monument. (Ukrinform)



Anatole "Oleg" Domaratzky, 88, died Tuesday, May 4, 2010, at Runnells Specialized Hospital, Berkeley Heights, NJ. Born October 2, 1921, in Kremenets, Ukraine, he served in the Ukrainian Insurgent Army as a young man. He later emigrated to France. In Paris, he met his wife to be, Marie Haniak, and worked as a linotypist at Ukrainske Slovo (Ukrainian Word).



In 1954, Mr. Domaratzky came to the US and settled in Newark. He resided in Irvington for 16 years, then Springfield, until being hospitalized eight years ago. He worked for the Svoboda Press, Jersey City, for 32 years. In 1959 he became the Print Shop Foreman, responsible for printing the Ukrainian Weekly, the Veselka children's magazine, the annual UNA Almanac, and numerous other magazines and books. He often wrote about the Ukrainian liberation struggle and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. He served as editor of several publications, including the MUN (Young Ukrainian Nationalists) Almanac, the News of the Association of Veterans of the Ukrainian Resistance, and the Visnyk of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. He retired in 1986.

Mr. Domaratzky enjoyed dancing and gardening, raising delicious tomatoes. Having lived under the Russian and German regimes in his youth, he valued free speech and freedom of the press, and loved the US, his adopted country. He was a very active member of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Irvington, and had served as secretary for the church. He was a member of the Ukrainian National Association.

Mr. Domaratzky was pre-deceased by his wife, who died in 2002. He is survived by his sons, Bernard A. Domaratzky of Tabernacle, Daniel O. (Ann Marie) Domaratzky of Long Valley; his daughter, Lydia (Kevin) Haynes of Hillsborough, and ten grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 11, 2010, at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, South Bound Brook, N.J. Interment took place in St. Andrew's Cemetery on the church grounds.

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## Delegation of Ukrainian educators visits UNWLA in Detroit

by Elizabeth Kuczer

WARREN, Mich. – Five leading educators from Ukraine spent eight days, April 16-24, visiting the Detroit metropolitan area, where they were hosted by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), Detroit Regional Council. The visitors came to observe and learn about the American educational system.

The program, managed by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation based in Washington, is sponsored by the Open World Leadership Center, the U.S. legislative branch agency in charge of Open World. The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation recruited the UNWLA in February of this year through Vera Andrushkiw, its vice-president for external relations. Local families from the UNWLA hosted the delegates in their homes in order to provide a first-hand glimpse into every day American life.

The U.S. Congress established Open World in 1999, and the program was initially between the United States and Russia. All of the former Soviet states became eligible for the program by 2003. Its intent is to provide a venue that exposes future leaders to democratic ideals and practices that can be adapted for use within their developing countries. Besides Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have benefited from this partnership.

The first leg of the trip for all delegations begins with a two-day orientation in Washington, before the groups travel to their respective home cities. Upon their arrival in Detroit, the guests were welcomed in the Ukrainian tradition with a korovai by UNWLA President Lydia Jachnycky. A welcome reception followed at which delegates interacted with UNWLA members and were introduced to their host families. They were also briefed about the full schedule of events that had been carefully planned for the week ahead. Matilda Kuklish was assigned as the official interpreter for this delegation.

Although the theme was primarily focused on preschool education, the delegates met not only with a local school superintendent and administrators, but also with the staff of U.S. Rep. Sander Levin's local office (12th District), State Rep. Lesia Liss and various local government officials, including Andrey Duzyj of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, and Mayor James Fouts of Warren. A meeting with the Warren City Council was organized by



The UNWLA's Detroit Regional Council welcomes a delegation of educators from Ukraine at its headquarters.

Councilman Mark Liss.

Additionally, the delegates toured two local libraries, the Rochester Hills Library (organized by Olya Koniuch) and the Warren Library (organized by Oksana Urban). Educational institutions visited were Oakland and Wayne State universities, the Warren Consolidated School system, the Waldorf School (organized by Dzvinka Hayda), BPS Early Childhood Center and Brookfield Academy – a Montessori-based school. The educators also spent a whirlwind day visiting facilities at the Warren Consolidated School system (organized by Doris Duzyj, content specialist in social studies and visual arts). They also participated in cultural excursions that included a performance by the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, conducted and directed by Volodymyr Shesiuk, Meadowbrook Hall, Cranbrook Institute of Science and the Detroit Institute of Arts (organized by Iva Lisikewycz, manager of curatorial affairs).

The itinerary consisted of meetings at Ukrainian educational institutions as well, including Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Grade School and Academy, Ridna Shkola, Lesia Ukrainka Saturday School of Religion and Ukrainian Studies, and the UNWLA Branch 76 "svitlychka" (preschool). The delegates also went to local Ukrainian churches, credit unions, the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum, and the Ukrainian Village.

The members of the delegation were: Tamara Fedorova, psychologist, prenatal

psychologist and project manager of the Association for the Protection of Families and Individuals, Kyiv; Alla Kolupayeva, deputy director for science, Ukrainian Academy of Education, Institute of Special Education; Oksana Kovalenko, lead facilitator for Open World delegates and head of the Human Resources Department for the law firm of Sayenko Kharenko, Attorneys-at-Law; Nina Omelyanenko, head of the Preschool and Elementary Education Division, Ukrainian Department of Education and Science, Kyiv; and Halyna Pascal, Coordinator in the Center for European Information at the Institute for Political Technology, a Lviv-based NGO.

At the Warren Consolidated Schools,

Ms. Kolupayeva observed a major distinction between Ukrainian and U.S. schools. "The main difference is that in Ukraine the educational system is centralized and administered by the government of Ukraine." She further stated the system of financing is government-based and that American students seem to have a greater choice over their course schedules.

The week culminated with a Friday evening farewell reception at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren organized by the UNWLA. This event allowed the delegates to meet with the local Ukrainian community, present some background information about themselves and share impressions related to their Detroit visit.



Adrian Kwitkowsky

Delegates and UNWLA members during a visit to the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. (from left): Lydia Taraschuk, Oksana Kovalenko, Nina Omelyanenko, Tamara Fedorova, Lydia Jachnycky, Halyna Pascal, Alla Kolupayeva, Lydia Kazewych.

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# SPORTSLINE

## Soccer

• Shakhtar Donetsk defeated rival club Dynamo Kyiv 1-0 on May 5 to win its fifth Ukrainian Premier League title. The winning goal was struck in the 15th minute of play by Brazilian Ilninho. Shakhtar finished with 77 points. The league's top goals scorer for 2010 was Dynamo's Artem Milevsky, with 17 goals.

• Myron Markevych has formally taken the reins as team manager for the Ukrainian National Soccer Team after the contract was signed by Hryhoriy Surkis, president of the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU), it was reported by Ukrinform on April 20. Markevych was appointed to the post on February 1 by the FFU.

• In a poll conducted by the Sport of Ukraine news agency and Poland's advertising agency Havas, Andriy Shevchenko was voted Ukraine's best and most legendary soccer player. Following Shevchenko (with 1,531 votes) in the voting for best soccer player were Anatoliy Tymoshchuk (815), Oleksandr Shovkovsky (625), Oleksandr Aliyev (574) and Serhiy Nazarenko (542). Oleg Blokhin was also nominated as Ukraine's most legendary soccer player, with Shevchenko garnering just 32 more votes.

• President Viktor Yanukovich signed a decree creating a committee for the preparation of the Euro-2012 soccer tournament. Kyiv's First Deputy Mayor Anatoliy Holubchenko said on May 4 that in addition to hotels and hostels, some visitors would be accommodated aboard ships docked on the Dnipro River.

Holubchenko added that fans would also be housed in light construction settlements to be built by investors.

## Boxing

• Wladimir Klitschko will defend his WBO title against European champion Albert Sosnowski (45-2, 27 KO) on May 29 at Veltins Arena in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Klitschko's previous fight was against American Eddie Chambers on March 21, when he defended his IBF and WBO titles. Klitschko (54-3, 48 KO) holds the IBF, IBO and WBO world heavyweight titles.

• Oleh Nekliudov (61 kg-64 kg) won the gold medal at the World Youth Boxing Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, on May 3. Oleksandr Skoryi (+91 kg) won the bronze medal. The event was sponsored by the Amateur International Boxing Association.

• Oleksandr Hvozdk (81 kg) defeated Pavel Bykov of Russia and won gold at the Turkish Prime Ministry Boxing Tournament in Ankara on April 6-12.

• Wladimir Klitschko, the IBF, IBO, WBO heavyweight title holder, released a video last month, calling for WBA title holder David Haye of Great Britain to fight him. Haye was scheduled to fight Klitschko in June 2009, but the Briton sustained an alleged back injury and called off the fight. On May 17 Haye indicated that he preferred to fight Vitali Klitschko, instead of the younger Wladimir. Klitschko also has a mandatory fight against Alexander Povetkin of Russia, but negotia-

tions stalled and a 30-day negotiation period began on May 17.

• Denis Lazarev (69 kg), Ivan Senay (81 kg) and Denys Poyatsika (91 kg) won the first International Gagik Tsarukyan Boxing Tournament in Yerevan, Armenia, on April 5-11. Boxers from 10 countries, including Russia, Iran, Georgia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Moldova and Bulgaria, competed.

## Fencing

Olha Kharlan, Olena Vornina, Alina Komashchuk and Olena Kravatska won the gold medal in the saber event at the Junior and Cadet World Fencing Championships on April 2-10 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Ukraine defeated Poland 45-31. This is Ukraine's fourth consecutive title at the junior fencing championships, beginning with its first gold medal in 2007. In the cadet individual competition, Komashchuk and Maryna Semenko won first and second place, respectively. Kharlan won in the junior division in the women's saber event. Stanislav Konopatskiy tied for bronze with Aron Szilagy of Hungary in the men's junior saber event. Roman Svichkar tied with Yuval Shalom Frielich of Israel for third place in the men's cadet epee event.

## Tennis

Alona Bondarenko was eliminated by 13th-seed Li Na of China (3-6, 4-6) in the quarterfinals at the Mutua Madrilenia Madrid Open on May 7-16. Along the way, Bondarenko defeated No.2-seed Caroline Wozniacki of Poland (6-2, 6-3). This was her first victory over a tennis player among the top three. Bondarenko is ranked in 28th place by the Women's Tennis Association, and her sister, Kateryna, is ranked 33rd.

## Chess

Sergey Fedorchuk won the 12th International Chess Open Vila de Salou in Spain on May 4-12. The tournament attracted 69 competitors, and Fedorchuk, a grandmaster, won seven out of nine points to win the tournament. Other Ukrainian chess players included Andriy Sumets and Viktor Moskalenko, who scored 6.5 points each and won fourth and fifth places, respectively.

## Weightlifting

Ukraine won the International Girya Sport Federation World Kettlebell lifting championship in Bobruisk, Belarus, on April 2-4. Volodymyr Andriyчук (70 kg) became the world champion for the 16th time after lifting two 32-kg kettlebells 66 times. Viacheslav Zadorozhny (60 kg) and Vasyl Prontenko (65 kg) also won first place in their respective weight classes. Valentyn Bondarenko (75 kg) and Volodymyr Pozdniakov (80 kg) won second place.

## Handball

Ukraine's women's team leads Group 1 with seven points at the ongoing 2010 Women's European Handball Federation Handball Championship qualifiers, being held in Norway and Denmark. Other members of the group include Romania – five points, Switzerland – four points, and Portugal – zero points. Ukraine plays against Switzerland on May 26 and against Portugal on May 30.

## Wrestling

Vasyl Fedoryshyn, a 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic silver medalist, won the bronze medal at the European Wrestling Championship in Baku, Azerbaijan, on April 13-18. The Ukrainian Greco-Roman wrestling team tied for second place with Turkey in team competition with 38 points.

Kostiantyn Balytsky (60 kg) won the silver medal and Vugar Ragimov (55 kg) and Dmytro Pyshkov (74 kg) won bronze medals.

## Marial arts

• Ukraine's national judo team won the third place at the World Cup competition in Cairo, Egypt, on May 15. The team collected two gold, two silver and eight bronze medals in various weight classes.

• Yulia Shtanova, 16, won the bronze medal at the Youth and Junior All-Kyokushin Karate European Championship in Szentes, Hungary, on April 17. Ukraine's karate team won second place. Shtanova's trainer, Mykhailo Chunhion, was named the best judge of the competition, which attracted athletes from 12 countries.

## Gymnastics

Ukraine's Nataliya Kononenko won the bronze medal in the uneven bars at the European Gymnastics Championships in Birmingham, Great Britain, on April 28 through May 2.

## Archery

Tetiana Dorokhova, Viktoriya Koval and Kateryna Palekha won the team event at the first stage of the World Cup in Porec, Croatia, on May 4-8. Ukraine routed Russia (209-205) and Poland (212-211), and defeated China in the semifinals (219-209). In the finals, Ukraine tied with Belarus 197-197 and claimed the victory 29-25 in overtime.

## Shooting

• Vladyslav Pryanyshnikov and Anastasia Savelyeva won the gold medal in mixed running target events at the 41st Grand Prix of Liberation in Pilsen, Czech Republic, on May 6-9. In the 10-meter running target event, Viktoriya Rybalova and Halyna Avramenko won the silver and bronze medals, respectively.

• Mykola Milchev, the 2000 Sydney Summer Olympic Champion, won silver in men's skeet shooting with 146 points at the International Sport Shooting Federation World Cup Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun competition in Beijing held on April 16-25. Oleh Omelchuk won bronze in the men's 50-meter pistol event.

## Triathlon

Andriy Glushenko won the elite men's division of the ITU Triathlon European Cup in Atalya, Turkey, on April 18. The course included a 1.5-kilometer swim, a 40-kilometer bike ride and a 10-kilometer run. Inna Ryzhykh and Inna Tsyganok finished in fourth and fifth place, respectively, in the women's division.

## Acrobatic sports

Ukraine's athletes won eight medals, four in the senior division and four in the junior division at the 22nd European Championships in Trampoline, Double Mini-Trampoline and Tumbling in Varna, Bulgaria, on April 20-25. Viktor Kyforenko won first place in men's tumbling with 73 points. Olena Chabanenko won third place in women's tumbling with 63.60 points. Ukraine's women's tumbling team of Chabanenko, Kateryna Bayeva and Nataliya Kalytina won third place, and the men's team of Kyforenko, Artem Pysaryev, Dmytro Zalizniak and Igor Lisnyak won second place. In the junior division, Ukraine won gold in men's synchronized events, silver in men's trampoline, and bronze in men's team trampoline and men's team tumbling.

– compiled by Matthew Dubas



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## Ukraine in danger...

(Continued from page 5)

right.”

Meanwhile DAI traffic officers set up more than 10 traffic posts along the Chernihiv-Kyiv highway, where they randomly stopped buses and cars.

“The Chernihiv Oblast Organization of Batkivschyna declares the intolerability of the violation of civil rights and illegal pressure from government representatives,” said a May 11 statement.

“Party members point out that the ban on transporting people to Kyiv to participate in peaceful protests violates Article 39 of the Constitution, which provides for the rights of citizens to gather peacefully, with weapons, and conduct assemblies, meetings, marches and demonstrations. Through their actions, law enforcement organs are ruining democratic values in Ukraine and are voicing disrespect to the people of Ukraine.”

### Quotable notes

“Today is a day of sorrow for Ukraine. We honor the memory of millions of our countrymen who became victims of a totalitarian regime. We remember everyone who was destroyed by the punitive system, was imprisoned in the gulag, or was deprived of his home and sent to a foreign land.

“In the 30s and 40s of the 20th century, Ukraine suffered heavy losses. Stalin’s repressive machine destroyed all who attempted to resist. Anyone could become a victim – a peasant or an intellectual, a teacher or an engineer, a worker or a scholar.

“It was a time of despair, desperation and hopelessness. The best way to honor those who died is our memory and prayer; and those who survived those terrible years – by daily concern for them.

“We express our sympathy to all nations who experienced the terror of totalitarian regimes. May our common memory be a guarantee that similar tragedies are never repeated.”

– President Viktor Yanukovich’s address to the people of Ukraine on the occasion of the Day of Memory for Victims of Political Repression, May 16.

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## Tymkiw wins in tennis at Tryzubivka

by George Sawchak

HORSHAM, Pa. – Jerry Tymkiw of Philadelphia became the first Ukrainian tennis tournament winner of the 2010 season by defeating all of the participants of the U.S.O. Tryzub Spring Tournament held here at Tryzubivka (Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub) during the May 1-2 weekend. Tymkiw won all matches without losing any sets.

In the first match of the round-robin tournament, Tymkiw defeated George Hrabec of Danvers, Mass., 6-1, 6-2 and followed with a win over Ihor Buhaj of Bethlehem, Pa., 6-1, 6-4. After receiving a walk-over from George Tarasiuk of Newtown, Pa., he completed the sweep when, with the score of 6-6 in the first set, George Walchuk of Clifton, N.J., decided not to continue.

However, with wins over Hrabec (6-3, 6-4), Buhaj (7-5, 6-3), and Tarasiuk (4-0, ret.), Walchuk took second place in the tournament followed by Hrabec, Buhaj and Tarasiuk. In the best match of the tournament, Hrabec overcame the first set loss and defeated Buhaj 2-6, 6-4, 10-1 in a tie-breaker to claim third place in the group.

Throughout the tournament, play was



At Tryzub’s Spring Tennis Tournament (from left) are: George Hrabec, tournament director George Sawchak, Jerry Tymkiw, George Walchuk and Ihor Buhaj.

hampered by excessive heat and humidity, which was predominant on the East Coast during that early May weekend, causing some withdrawals from play. With air temperatures over 90 degrees, the playing conditions were similar to July or August, not early May.

At the closing ceremonies, presenting

trophies were George Sawchak, USCAK’s tennis and tournament director, and Mr. Hrabec.

The next Ukrainian tennis tournament will be the singles and doubles USCAK-East Championships held at Soyuzivka in Kerhonkson, N.Y., during the weekend of June 26-27.

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## Scholar lectures on Ukrainian-Jewish topics at University of Alberta

EDMONTON – Dr. Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, associate professor of Jewish history in the Department of History and the Crown Family Center of Jewish Studies at Northwestern University in Chicago, on March 10-11 visited the University of Alberta, where he gave two lectures and a seminar in a lecture series at the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies.

The presentations were organized jointly by the Ukrainian Culture, Language and Literature Program, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the Religious Studies Program, and the Department of History and Classics.

On his way to Edmonton, Dr. Petrovsky-Shtern gave two talks in Winnipeg, hosted by the departments of Religion, and German and Slavic Studies at the University of Manitoba, as well as the Ukrainian Labor Temple.

In his first lecture, "Power, Victims and Poetry: The Choice of Leonid Pervomaisky," Dr. Petrovsky-Shtern addressed a challenging and unexplored question: Why did some Ukrainian Jews, whose historical experience was incompatible with that of Ukrainians and burdened with ethnic conflict, and who could freely draw on the great tradition of imperial Russian culture, nevertheless identify themselves with Ukrainian culture? Aside from the poet Leonid Pervomaisky, examples of such cultural figures are the writer Sava Holovanivsky, the composer Ihor Shamo and the politician Solomon Goldelman.

In Dr. Petrovsky-Shtern's opinion, the main reason for this "irrational" decision was the experience of colonization and persecution among both Ukrainians and Jews in the hierarchical structure of the Russian Empire and, later, the USSR. The lecturer pointed out that, despite the dominant discourse of historical opposition between Ukrainians and Jews, little has been said about the record of collaboration and solidarity between them. This, he believes, provides a basis for the construction of an alternative history.

Dr. Petrovsky-Shtern's second lecture, "What Did They Read? The Shtetl Jews and Their Kabbalistic Books," was devoted to the cultural history of Jewish communities in Ukraine, particularly Volhyn, Podilia and the Kyiv region, in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In response to Enlightenment trends, Jewish book printing in Yiddish and Hebrew increased enormously in this period, stimulating progress in education and culture in the Jewish settlements.

This book production was, however, limited mainly to kabbalistic (mystical) literature and the promotion of a new religious doctrine, Hasidism, that stressed the preservation of traditional Jewish identity. As autocratic rule was consolidated in Russia, Jewish book printing was banned, as was printing in the Ukrainian language. Both cultures fell victim to the new imperial policy, the scholar noted.

At the end of his visit, Dr. Petrovsky-Shtern conducted a Ukrainian-language



Dr. Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern

seminar on "Moisei Fishbein and His Poetry" as part of a Ukrainian literature course taught by Dr. Natalia Pylypiuk. He emphasized the significant contribution of this Ukrainian-Jewish poet, a native of

Bukovyna, to contemporary Ukrainian literature, as well as his sense of mission with regard to maintaining positive Ukrainian-Jewish relations.

Dr. Petrovsky-Shtern was born in Kyiv. After graduating from the Spanish program in the Department of Romance and German Philology at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, he earned a candidate degree in comparative literature from Moscow University (1988) and a Ph.D. in modern Jewish history from Brandeis University (2001).

He is the author of three books: "Jews in the Russian Army, 1827-1917: Drafted into Modernity" (Cambridge University Press, 2008), "The Anti-Imperial Choice: The Making of the Ukrainian Jew" (Yale University Press, 2009) and "Lenin's Jewish Question" (forthcoming from Yale University Press).

He is currently working on a book about Jewish shtetls between 1790 and 1830 with the goal of reconstructing and contextualizing the material culture of these market towns of Eastern Europe.

A recipient of many awards, Dr. Petrovsky-Shtern has lectured at many universities, including the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

## Ukraine's judiciary...

(Continued from page 10)

from other branches of government. Absent these protections, judges' ability to make politically or socially unpopular decisions is imperiled, since they could lose their jobs or salaries for the content of their decisions.

In addition to salary and job protection, procedures should be put in place to ensure the prompt publication and availability of judicial decisions, so that the judiciary can truly act as its own body. Procedures must also be in place to enforce judgments adequately and in a timely manner, so that judicial commands are not ignored. These protections insulate judges from the pressure to conform decisions to prevailing political sentiment and allow them to focus on and uphold the rule of law.

Second, the judiciary must act as and be treated as an independent branch of the government. The judiciary, as well as each individual judge, must act as co-equal to and independent of the other branches of the government. Judges are independent in this sense if they are not beholden to any other branch of government or any political party. It is vital that the legislative and executive branches refrain from attempting to influence the judiciary, and it is even more vital that the judiciary resist and rebuff any attempts at influence.

In a 2005 review of the state of the judiciary in Ukraine, the American Bar Association noted that "[t]he perception of judicial corruption is widespread" and that "[g]overnment officials employ an array of means in their attempts to influence the judicial decisions." Judges must fight these improper influences and assert their independence. Judges will not be respected until they respect themselves enough to act with the courage and conscience required of an independent judiciary.

Third, the judiciary must act as an independent body that impartially applies the law. Even with the best procedures in place, the judiciary will never earn the trust of the people and the rest of the government if the judiciary itself does not act as an independent body. Judges must be honest brokers, in that they are independent from and neutral among the parties that appear before them. Judges must decide matters before them impartially, on the basis of facts and the law, without any restrictions, improper influences, inducements, or threats, direct or indirect, from any party or institution for any reason.

A judge's moral commitment to this form of independence eliminates favoritism and corruption from the nation's judicial system. If judges fail in this duty the public will lose confidence in the basic equity of its society, generating cynicism, anger and instability.

Viacheslav Pikhovshek or Dmytro Dzhahirov, both of whom, by the way, direct the president's information policy.

[Editor's note: Mr. Pikhovshek served as the editor-in-chief at 1+1 and led his staff in complying with former President Kuchma's "temnyky" leading up to the Orange Revolution. Mr. Dzhahirov hosted a 1+1 political program that was geared toward smearing then-presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko.]

– Translated by Zenon Zawada. The original Ukrainian-language article was published by *Ukrayinska Pravda* on April 30.

## The 'temnycky'...

(Continued from page 3)

To sell the memory, pain and suffering of your own people for a salary is a crime! It's pitiful that an experienced journalist, a talented anchor and a person who stood at the beginning of TSN serves the political regime so complacently today. And regardless of whom!

[Editor's note: The author is referring to Oleksander Tkachenko, the general director of the 1+1 television network.]

A little more, and his name can be written next to the masters of censorship –

## Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

held in 10 electoral districts to fill vacant seats in Parliament. The Central Election Committee (CEC) announced that 159 candidates were running: 60 candidates were nominated by political parties and 99 were independents.

The *Batkivshchyna* party and the Revival of the Regions nominated six

candidates each; the Communists and the Kostenko-chaired *Rukh*, five each; the Agrarians, Socialists and Udovenko-led *Rukh*, three each.

CEC Chairman Mykhailo Riabets confirmed that Yulia Tymoshenko, who was vice prime minister, would not run in the 99th electoral district.

Source: "Tyhytko resigns post to run for Parliament," (*Eastern Economist*) *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 4, 2000.

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## Stopping...

(Continued from page 10)

Three adoptees would therefore cost a Ukrainian diaspora institution no more than \$15,000 annually. Obviously, if you can't adopt three, adopt one.

There's no need for this activity to be coordinated – if only because any effort to establish some diaspora mega-fund is almost certain to fail. Individual institutions should pick publishers that fit their own profile. The Shevchenko Scientific Society, for instance, could support the Lviv-based journal *Yi* and the Kyiv-based *Krytyka*. The Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences could support the Kharkiv-based *East/West* and the *Courier of the*

*Kryvbas*.

There's obviously a place at the table for everyone, from the Ukrainian National Association to the Ukrainian National Women's League of America to the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies to the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute to the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress to Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Ukrainian American Youth Association.

The Yanukovich regime may implode in a few years, or it may be around for a while. With a little effort and a few dollars, the Ukrainian diaspora can stop it from pushing Ukrainian language, culture and identity into Bantustans – one book at a time.

## Ukrainian Canadians...

(Continued from page 5)

Ukrainians Canadians remind President Yanukovich that he campaigned on the promise to bring stability and seek consensus in Ukraine. We sincerely hope that in recognition of the fractured nature of Ukrainian society, as the President of Ukraine he will take a consultative, cautious and even-handed approach to dealing with some of the difficult issues and choices that currently confront Ukraine.

As one of Canada's largest and most influential ethnic communities, we continue to promote the special partnership between Canada and Ukraine. We believe that this relationship will provide long-term and mutual benefits to the economy and society of both Canada and Ukraine.

We pray for the people of Ukraine during these trying times and that its leadership will have the moral and civil fortitude to do

what is in the best interest of all its people.

**Paul Grod, National President**  
Ukrainian Canadian Congress

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About the Ukrainian Canadian Congress:

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is the voice of Canada's Ukrainian community. The Congress brings together under one umbrella all the national, provincial and local Ukrainian Canadian organizations. Together with its member-organizations, the Congress has been leading, coordinating and representing the interests of one of Canada's largest ethnic communities (1.2 million) for 70 years and is instrumental in shaping Canada's social, economic and political landscape. The UCC is a founding member of the Ukrainian World Congress.

## An enlightened...

(Continued from page 6)

wars.

The OUN was founded on its own set of 10 commandments titled the "Decalogue" adopted at its first gathering in Vienna in 1929. There is absolutely nothing within those 10 precepts that can be considered fascist. They are heroic and revolutionary, perhaps best exemplified by the first commandment which states: "You will achieve a Ukrainian state, or die in the struggle for it." Some of the more extreme are, "Do not be afraid to carry out the most dangerous act if such is necessary for the good of the cause. ... You will meet your enemies with disdain and unconditional fight..." Interestingly, the OUN never embraced integral nationalism (devotion to one's nation to the exclusion of all other nations), even though there were many adherents of that ideology throughout the world, as well as in Ukraine, at that time.

The issue, however, remains whether the OUN was undemocratic and fascist as far as its ideology or view of a world order and the Ukrainian state within that order.

While the OUN was a clandestine organization, its basic founding documents, resolutions and manifestations are readily available for review to anyone interested in the subject. In fact, one need not go into German, Soviet or any other archives. Today, OUN documents are bound in books available for purchase by the general public. Precisely for that reason I am somewhat confused by the "scholars," who, on one hand, have defended the OUN and the UPA and their leaders, yet, on the other, perpetuate the anti-democratic and fascist diatribe. However, these scholars fail to produce evidence of such an ideology.

Fascism is defined as "1. the doctrines, methods or movement of the Fascisti. 2. a system of government characterized by rigid one-party dictatorship, forcible suppression of the opposition (unions, other, especially

leftist, parties, minority groups, etc.), the retention of private ownership of the means of production under centralized governmental control, belligerent nationalism and racism, glorification of war."

In December 1940, not long before the German invasion into Soviet territory and when Germany's intentions were relatively clear, the OUN issued a "manifesto." It set out a "new just world order" after "dismantling the appalling prison of nations – the Russian empire." The first items on the agenda were, not only the liberation of Ukraine was, but of "all nations enslaved by Moscow." The OUN declared itself to be "the bearers of freedom for all nations subjugated by Russia, so that they can live freely in accordance with their own will."

The 1940 "Manifesto" outlined the OUN's social program as being against: "the degradation of the individual at work and at home, ... deprivation of the individual's happiness in life, ... the general impoverishment of the citizens, ... the oppression of women..." The OUN stated that it was fighting for: "dignity and freedom of the individual, ...the right to freely express one's beliefs, ...freedom of religion, ...freedom of conscience, ...the right of workers to freely express their political beliefs in word and print, ...the right to free assembly, ...the right to form political, social and professional organizations..."

These positions can in no way be related to fascism. They are clearly democratic and enlightened for that time. The OUN's ideology was at odds with much of that era's totalitarian Europe. It was, in fact, a liberation movement directed against that very totalitarianism.

The liberation struggle waged by the Ukrainian people before, during and after World War II, under the auspices of the OUN and UPA led by Bandera and Shukhevych deserves genuine attention and study. Ostensibly defending the struggle but mischaracterizing, it even in good faith, is offensive and irresponsible.

# OUT AND ABOUT

- May 28-31  
Horsham, PA  
Ukrainian Nationals Invitational Soccer Tournament, Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub, 215-343-5412
- May 29  
Toronto  
Dance, "Vyshyvanyi Vechir," featuring music by Klooch, Ukrainian Youth Association in Canada, Lithuanian Hall, 416-566-2664
- June 6  
Brooklyn, NY  
Children's Festival of Ukrainian Art and Culture, Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, info@nationalpearls.org or 646-894-8534
- June 11  
Webster, NY  
Pub Night, featuring accordionist Matthew Dubas, Ukrainian Cultural Center of Rochester, 585-872-0240
- June 12  
New York  
Concert, "Seven Deadly Sins," Ukrainian Women's Voices and the New York Bandura Ensemble, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110
- June 12  
Horsham, PA  
Golf outing and banquet, Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub, 215-343-5412
- June 12  
Yonkers, NY  
Kozak Tournament, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian Youth Center, Samuel.warycha@ey.com or 914-476-6781
- June 18  
Syracuse, NY  
Acoustic Night with Sean and Nick of Vorony, Ukrainian National Home, 315-478-9272
- June 18  
Perry Hall, MD  
5th annual Ukrainian Crab Feast, Baltimore Ukrainian Festival Committee, Columbus Gardens Hall, 410-591-7566  
or daria.kaczaniukhauff@verizonwireless.com
- June 18-20  
Yonkers, NY  
25th Yonkers Ukrainian Heritage Festival, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, <http://www.brama.com/yonkersukrainianfest/>
- June 19  
Halton Hills, ON  
Zoloty Klen festival, featuring bands Zrada and Ephyra, Ukrainian Youth Association Camp Veselka,

519-853-2659 or [www.zolotyjklen.com](http://www.zolotyjklen.com)June 20  
Horsham, PA

Father's Day festival, Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub, 215-343-5412

July 2-5  
Ellenville, NY

Lemko Vatra, Organization for the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine, Ukrainian American Youth Association resort, 845-647-7230

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to [mdubas@ukrweekly.com](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com).

## To: Our advertisers

## Re: Upcoming events

Due to the substandard delivery by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) of *The Ukrainian Weekly*, we are compelled to advise our advertisers – as well as those who submit listings for our "Preview of Events" and "Out and About" columns – to submit their information well in advance.

We respectfully suggest that events should be advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly* three to four weeks in advance (please judge by the newspaper delivery in your area and the location of your target audience) in order to allow readers who subscribe to our print edition enough time to plan on attending or participating in your events.

To be sure, online subscribers of *The Ukrainian Weekly* will always be able to view information about upcoming events in a timely manner.

In the meantime, please be assured that our administration is in touch with officials of the USPS and is continuing to seek a resolution to the problem of poor mail delivery.

We thank you for your patience and your cooperation.

– Editorial staff and administration of *The Ukrainian Weekly*

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For further information, please call 973-292-9800 ext. 3040 or visit [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com)

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Friday, June 4**

**WASHINGTON:** Dr. Ihor Poshyvailo, Fulbright scholar at the Smithsonian Institute, will speak on "Ivan Honchar and his Famous Museum: Safeguarding National Treasures." Sponsored by the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Washington, D.C. branch and The Washington Group, the talk will be in English and will take place at 6:30 p.m. the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, 1701 K St. NW, Suite 903. (The USUF is located near Metro Farragut North.) Admission is free of charge; donations are welcome. For further information call 240-205-1889.

**Sunday, June 6**

**BROOKLYN, N.Y.:** The second annual Children's Festival of Ukrainian Art and Culture will take place at Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church, 160 N. Fifth St., Brooklyn, NY 11211 at noon to 6 p.m. The festival venue is in the heart of the most eclectic place in the U.S. – the Northside of Brooklyn, between Bedford and Driggs avenues. The highlight of the event is Ukrainian dance, singing and instrumental performances, and arts and crafts expositions by talented Ukrainian children from all over the country. Also featured: food vendors of Ukrainian and international cuisines, workshops, exhibits, screening of Ukrainian cartoons, clowns, games and fun for all – adults and children.

For information log on to <http://national-pearls.org/festival2010> or call 646-894-8534 or call 646-894-8534. (Editor's note: This listing appeared previously with the wrong day [Saturday], although the date was correct.

**Sunday, June 20**

**HORSHAM, Pa.:** The popular Father's Day Ukrainian Folk Festival will commence at noon, at Tryzubivka, the Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub, County Line and Lower State roads. A 2 p.m. stage show will feature the Voloshky School of Ukrainian Dance, soloist-singer Julia Stupen and violinist Julia Kourelec. A "zabava" (dance) to the tunes of the orchestra will follow. There will be plentiful Ukrainian homemade foods and baked goods, picnic fare and cool refreshments. Admission: \$5 for adults; children 14 and under: free. (That weekend Tryzubivka is also hosting the U.S. Amateur Soccer Association Men's U-23 National Cups Region I Championship Tournament from 10 a.m. through 7 p.m., on both Saturday and Sunday, June 19 and 20. Some of the best amateur soccer teams in America will compete for the U.S. Open and Amateur Region I Cups.) For more information call 215-362-5331, e-mail [eluciw@comcast.net](mailto:eluciw@comcast.net) or visit the websites [www.tryzub.org](http://www.tryzub.org), or [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com), Tryzub UkrainianClub.

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

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

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