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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Obama congratulates Yanukovich on Ukraine's independence anniversary

Ukraine's president received a letter of congratulations on the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence from U.S. President Barack Obama. The text of the letter was released by the Press Office of President Viktor Yanukovich.

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the people of the United States, I congratulate you and the people of Ukraine on the 20th anniversary of your nation's independence on August 24.

Twenty years ago, the people of Ukraine regained the lost independence and freedom they had long desired. All Americans, especially those who have come to this country from Ukraine, welcomed that historic event. Since that time, the United States has strongly supported Ukraine's democratic development and European aspirations and will continue to do so, and has worked to deepen our strategic partnership. On this important occasion, the people of the United States join me in celebrating Ukraine's independence and in looking toward a future of increasing opportunity for all Ukrainians.

Sincerely,
Barack Obama

Canada's prime minister issues statement on Ukraine's anniversary

Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada issued the following statement on August 24 on the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Twenty years ago, on August 24, 1991, Ukraine seceded from the USSR and asserted itself as a sovereign state.

Canada was the first Western nation to recognize Ukraine's independence and we continue to be a strong proponent of Ukraine's democratization, given that Canadians and Ukrainians share a steadfast respect for freedom, human rights and the rule of law. Just last year, our government sponsored more than 300 election observers to travel to Ukraine to monitor voting during the presidential elections.

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Ukraine marks 20th anniversary of independence



Andrey Skakodub/UNIAN

Opposition activists in Kyiv celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day by marching through the city center with a huge national flag.

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukraine marked the 20th anniversary of the re-establishment of its independence with events throughout the country ranging from flag-raising to celebratory marches and concerts.

Opposition activists also staged a march in Kyiv to protest the continued imprisonment of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who is on trial on charges of abuse of office for signing a 2009 gas deal with Russia.

The day's celebrations in Ukraine's capital were low-key this year due to President Viktor Yanukovich's decision back in July to scrap the holding of the annual parade down the Khreschatyk, as well as parades in Odesa, Sevastopol and

other cities where Ukrainian military units are based. He cited budgetary concerns and said the money would be better spent on social programs benefitting the people of Ukraine.

Among the events held in the capital were various concerts and a parade of "vyshyvanky," or embroidered garb, that took place near European Square. The parade's participants posed for a group photograph that was claimed to be the largest photo of people dressed in embroidered outfits.

The Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations in Kyiv were marred by a clash when some 5,000 people, many dressed in embroidered shirts, tried to walk from the Taras Shevchenko monument through the

city center toward the Presidential Administration Building but found their path blocked by police. The activists were protesting the prosecution and detention of Ms. Tymoshenko.

Video footage showed marchers breaking through the first police line but then being halted by hundreds of police in riot gear. There were no arrests. The marchers were defying a court ruling that banned opposition rallies in central Kyiv during the Independence Day observances.

Led by Oleksander Turchynov, an aide to Ms. Tymoshenko, the marchers chanted "Out with the gang," "Shame" and "Revolution"; they waved blue-and-yellow

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International Plast Jamboree held in N.Y. state



Deanna Yurchuk

EAST CHATHAM, N.Y. – Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization concluded the International Plast Jamboree, which was held at the Vovcha Tropa campground in upstate New York on August 6-13 to kick off the yearlong celebrations of the organization's centennial year. Seen above are the participants of the jamboree's closing ceremonies as they formed a huge 100 on the campground's sports field. A story and photos from the event appear in the centerfold.

ANALYSIS

Reflections on the putsch that failed: 20 years on

by Jacob W. Kipp
Eurasia Daily Monitor

If we can accept the results from a recent survey on what contemporary Russians know about the putsch of August 1991, there are good reasons to be depressed. Moscow News reports that 8 percent of those surveyed did not know anything about the coup, 27 percent said that they had heard something, while 64 percent remember and know something about these events. For 11 percent in the survey it was described as a "seizure of power," 10 percent said it was "the collapse of the Soviet Union," and 5 percent called it a "re-division of power" (Moskovskie Novosti, August 8).

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin declared in April 2005, when he was president of Russia, that the events of the summer and fall of 1991 leading to the collapse of the USSR were "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe" (Associated Press, April 25, 2005).

Recently Gavril Popov, the first mayor of Moscow and a leading democratic reformer, addressed the meaning of the failed Communist putsch and declared that the August coup was "one of the greatest events of the end of the 20th century." In terms of consequences that statement is surely correct, for the failure of the putsch marked the de facto end of the Soviet Union which followed at the end of the year. Mr. Popov went on to question the commonly accepted narrative of the putsch as a response to the threat of a new union treaty as a unifying myth that conceals a more complex political process: "The country was pregnant with crises" (Moskovsky Komsomolets, August 12).

The complexity of this situation had emerged over the course of two years and was connected with President Mikhail Gorbachev's attempt via perestroika and glasnost to reform the Soviet system from its authoritarian mobilization regime into some version of socialism with a human face. The crisis did not begin in the Soviet Union but in Eastern Europe, where the international and domestic ramifications of the Velvet Revolutions transformed the continent.

Mr. Gorbachev had gambled on using the party to reform the Soviet system because the two other major levers, the KGB and the military, had too much to lose from reform. Instead, he had fractured the party, removed its political monopoly and set off a struggle for power that brought national self-determination into politics, as Boris Yeltsin, a Communist insider, transformed himself into the spokesman for a democratic, nationalist Russia, which was willing to accept self-determination among the other union republics.

By December 1990 it was very clear that perestroika was in trouble politically and economically. Eduard Shevardnadze, who had pushed Mr. Gorbachev for more liberal reforms in the face of rising pressure from hardliners, resigned as foreign minister, but took the opportunity to warn the Supreme Soviet of a wave of reaction: "Reformers have gone and hidden in the bushes. Dictatorship is coming."

On December 11, the chairman of the KGB, Vladimir Kriuchkov, made a "call for order" on Soviet television. Stalin's heirs had been fearful of the power of the secret police and had created the KGB as an agency penetrated by and under the control of the Communist Party. But by late 1990 the party itself was in disarray, and Mr. Kriuchkov could begin to plan for the restoration of order by co-opting Mr.

Gorbachev or overseeing his removal.

The military and the KGB attempted to "restore order" in Vilnius and Riga in January 1991, but Mr. Gorbachev refused to sanction extreme measures, and Mr. Yeltsin, the president of Russia's Supreme Soviet, openly embraced peaceful self-determination.

The demands for self-determination among and within other republics had already mounted. There were ethnic tensions across the Transcaucasus with riots and pogroms in Azerbaijan and Armenia, and nationalist demonstrations in Tbilisi, Georgia, where national minorities saw opportunities to present their claims for independence against each other and the Soviet Union. By the summer the situation was coming to a head.

The election of Mr. Yeltsin as president of the Russian Federation by popular vote on June 12, 1991, with 57 percent of the vote gave him a democratic mandate to join the intense political maneuvering over the reform of the union treaty, which was supposed to radically reshape the Soviet Union and create some mechanism for union republics to redefine their membership or opt to leave, which clearly seemed to be the intent of the Baltic republics.

Mr. Gorbachev, the appointed president of the Soviet Union, was under extreme pressure from conservative forces in the Communist Party, the state, the KGB and the military to leave office. His candidate for the presidency of Russia, Nikolai Ryzhkov, running on the ticket of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) had lost badly to Mr. Yeltsin.

On June 17, 1991, Mr. Kriuchkov, the head of the KGB, spoke to a secret session of the Supreme Soviet, laying out the case for Mr. Gorbachev's removal. He demanded extraordinary measures to meet what he described as a deepening crisis. But the conspirator's attempt failed (Novaya Gazeta, August 12, 2011).

Mr. Popov's interpretation of the events leading up to the August putsch and its failure brought to my mind the views expressed by Col.-Gen. Dmitry Volkogonov in late June 1991 in Binge, Belgium, during the first visit of a Russian delegation to NATO.

I had arrived in Belgium following a conference on the 50th anniversary of the Great Patriotic War held at Lake Como, Italy. I was there at the invitation of Christopher Donnelly, special assistant to the secretary-general of NATO, to take part in the NATO-Russian discussions.

I had met Gen. Volkogonov in Helsinki in 1988, when he was head of the Institute of Military History and he was about to publish his "Stalin: Triumph and Tragedy." Thereafter, we met several times and discussed both Russian history and the contemporary situation in the USSR. By June 1991, Gen. Volkogonov had been removed from the Institute of Military History by Marshal Dmitry Yazov because of the anti-Stalinist content of the proposed "History of the War of the Soviet People." Gen. Volkogonov was now an ally of Mr. Yeltsin and had traveled as a member of the Russian delegation that came to NATO that June. However, he was not in good health and was going to have surgery for cancer later that summer.

At the request of Sergei Stepashin, the head of the Russian delegation, I agreed to accompany Gen. Volkogonov and see that he was not overstressed. Over the next several days we had conversations on histori-

(Continued on page 21)

NEWSBRIEFS

SBU claims to have prevented terror attack

KYIV – Officers with the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) have arrested three members of an organized criminal group in the town of Vasylkiv, Kyiv Oblast, who were allegedly planning a terrorist attack during Independence Day celebrations on August 24. While searching an office leased by the suspects, the police discovered an improvised explosive device filled with nails, bolts, etc. Experts said in preliminary conclusions that the blast radius of the device could have reached more than 100 meters, which could have caused significant casualties. Investigators claim the suspects had planned bombings on August 24 in Kyiv or suburbs during celebrations. Apart from explosives, the police also found about 100 copies of extremist leaflets. (Ukrinform)

Herman comments on Tymoshenko case

KYIV – The developments involving Yulia Tymoshenko are being used by forces who want to distract Ukraine from Europe, Hanna Herman, an adviser to the president of Ukraine and chief of the General Directorate for Humanitarian and Socio-Political Affairs of the Presidential Administration, said on August 22 at a news conference titled "20 Years of Ukrainian Independence: Humanitarian Aspects." "The whole idea of the case is very simple: to turn Ukraine to the other side from the West," Ms. Herman emphasized. According to her, "Yulia Tymoshenko has fallen in to this trap, I'm sorry for her." At the same time, she noted that the West understands this. "I believe that European integration will be saved and the plan for the Association Agreement in the second half of this year will not be broken," the advisor to the Ukrainian president stressed. Ms. Herman also denied accusations that the trial is being orchestrated by the Presidential Administration. "I think that the trial of Yulia Tymoshenko is being effectively used by forces who want a repeat of the Kolchuha case," she said. In 2002, the United States accused Ukraine of supplying Kolchuha radars to Iraq for Saddam Hussein's regime. This conclusion was

based on the recordings of Maj. Mykola Melnychenko. Later, U.S. officials acknowledged that the allegations were false and that Ukraine did not sell radars to Iraq. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine holds negotiations with IMF

KYIV – Finance Minister Fedir Yaroshenko and Energy and Coal Industry Minister Yuriy Boiko are in Washington, holding negotiations with heads of the International Monetary Fund, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said at a briefing on August 23. "Credits should be taken only in case of urgent need, if it is necessary to launch our own economy and to settle the debts accumulated by predecessors. We only take the amount we need. ... We are constantly in the process of negotiations, in the process of contacts, since they are our creditors, they should know how we conduct the economy, what is our budget, incomes and expenses. We report to them, since they credit us," Mr. Azarov said. Earlier, it was reported that the Ukrainian government expects to receive two IMF tranches valued at \$1.5 billion each by the end of the year. From August 29 to September 9, the Ukrainian government and the IMF Mission will hold negotiations in Kyiv regarding the renewal of credits within the stand-by program, suspended this year due the non-fulfillment of promises by Ukraine to initiate pension reform and to raise gas prices for households. The stand-by agreement totaling special drawing rights (SDR) of 10 billion (about \$16 billion U.S.) was approved on July 29. The aim of the program is to support the government's program of the economic reform by the Fund. (Ukrinform)

Political analyst: Russia needs Ukraine

KYIV – The Russian Federation needs Ukraine in the Customs Union, but not as a country that will dictate its own terms, Russian political analyst Andrei Okara told the press on August 22 after an international conference in Kyiv titled "Ukraine's Independence in a Globalized World: The Vectors of the 21st Century." They need the gas transit system, and not so much the

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THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

NEWS ANALYSIS: Disappointment in Ukraine widespread 20 years after independence

by David Marples

EDMONTON – Twenty years ago this week, the Ukrainian Parliament declared the country's independence, following a failed putsch in Moscow. The dramatic move virtually guaranteed the end of the Soviet Union, as Mikhail Gorbachev admitted. It also raised hopes that the new state of 52 million people would emerge as a democratic and strong country through its strategic location in Central Europe.

The late 1980s saw a cultural revival and a popular movement led by leading writers who spearheaded the move to independence. Catalyzed by the USSR's failure to respond to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, it revisited "blank spots" of the past, such as the tragic Famine of 1932-1933 and Stalin's purges. Fuelled by activists from a plethora of informal associations – environmental, political and religious – it signaled real hope for Ukraine, a resource-rich country endowed with valuable agricultural land. The future seemed bright.

However, two decades of independence have brought deep disappointment. Ukrainian intellectuals are virtually falling over each other with cynical remarks about the rates of corruption, alcoholism, infectious diseases and lack of freedoms.

Conversely, Western analysts seem slightly more upbeat, if only because they compare Ukraine favorably with other former states of the USSR like Russia and Belarus, or the monolithic dictatorships of Central Asia. Despite difficulties, the economy has returned to positive growth. And, the mere

David Marples, a history professor, directs the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at the University of Alberta's Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. The article above was originally published in the Edmonton Journal. It is printed here with the author's permission.

fact of survival is an achievement – the longest period of independence in modern Ukrainian history.

It is impossible, however, to avoid an impression of fading optimism.

On the eve of Independence Day, the government banned any public demonstrations other than the official celebration.

Yulia Tymoshenko, a former prime minister and a co-leader of the 2004 Orange Revolution, remains on trial for a 2009 gas deal with Russia, despite coming down with a debilitating illness. Her one-time ally, former President Viktor Yushchenko, testified against her at the trial – further testimony to the disintegration of the democratic forces.

The current president, Viktor Yanukovich, has filled the Cabinet with cronies from the Donbas region, few of whom even speak Ukrainian. He appears every inch the Soviet bureaucrat, thuggish and vindictive, and actively using the security forces against his enemies.

The failure to live up to early expectations can be attributed to several factors.

First, there were inevitable teething problems. The parliamentary chair, Leonid Kravchuk, former ideological secretary of the Communist Party, became Ukraine's first president in December 1991. By declaring independence on August 24, 1991, the Communists managed to retain power and remained strong during the following years, paralyzing government and opposing their former mentor, Mr. Kravchuk.

Second, Ukraine's eastern cities were a stronghold of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Nikita Khrushchev made his political career in Donetsk; Leonid Brezhnev was born in Kamenskoye – today known as Dniprodzerzhynsk after the founder of what became the KGB, Felix Dzerzhinsky.

These cities fought for supremacy after independence, struggling for control of vital resources in coal mining, ferrous metallurgy and chemicals. The Dnipropetrovsk group

triumphed in the mid-90s with then-Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko and Vice-Minister of Energy Tymoshenko. But the notoriously corrupt Mr. Lazarenko looted an estimated \$200 million from Ukraine in 1996-1997 and was eventually tried and convicted in the U.S.

Today it is the Donetsk group that wields power. It suffered a severe setback with the Orange triumph, but the leniency of the Yushchenko presidency ensured its recovery. There is a notable continuity from former Soviet bosses to the current "clan" leaders of the region. Backed by magnates like Rinat Akhmetov, the Yanukovich regime is interested in empowerment rather than democratic ideals. Above all, it wishes to prevent a return to the Orange movement of 2004.

Third, and crucially, the Yushchenko presidency (2005-2010) became mired in fractious disputes and failed to build on the energy created in the streets of Kyiv. Not only did it avoid addressing corruption, it failed to bring to trial the main transgressors and restored Mr. Yanukovich to eminence by, improbably, making him prime minister in August 2006.

Fourth, neither the European Union nor Russia under Vladimir Putin and Dmitri Medvedev has supported Ukraine adequately. The EU failed to live up to its promises for early membership during the Orange Revolution, whereas Russia started a war over gas prices with the Yushchenko administration, and today is an uncomfortable and intrusive neighbor that seeks much tighter integration with Kyiv.

Critically, the government of Ukraine has failed to enunciate a national vision for Ukraine. On the contrary, President Yanukovich and his associates encourage regionalism, divisions and extremism in order to pose as the voice of moderation. The growing authoritarianism poses a serious threat to democracy that can no longer be ignored by European leaders or by Ukrainians themselves.

Press statement by U.S. secretary of state

Following is the full text of the press statement on "Ukraine's National Day" issued by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in Washington on August 23.

On behalf of President Obama and the people of the United States, I am delighted to congratulate the people of Ukraine as you celebrate the 20th anniversary of your independence this August 24. Twenty years ago, Ukraine emerged from the shadow of the Soviet Union and charted a new path toward democracy and freedom.

Over the last two decades, you have made democratic advances and important contributions to global peace and stability. Supporting and sustaining democracy is never easy. It takes hard work and there are roadblocks along the way, but the people of Ukraine have made it clear that they are yearning for greater democratic systems and freedoms. More than 200 years after the framers of our own Constitution wrote of our desire for a "more perfect union," we are still working towards that goal, and I urge you to continue to do the same.

The United States remains committed to helping Ukraine as a partner and friend as you look for ways to promote democratic institutions, encourage greater prosperity and pursue European integration. Through our Strategic Partnership, we will continue to work together on a range of important issues that strengthen not only our government-to-government relations, but also the ties between our peoples.

Once again, congratulations on this important milestone and best wishes for a year of peace and prosperity.

Twenty years of Ukraine: Our path is only beginning

by Viktor Yanukovich

The article below was posted on the Official Website of the President of Ukraine on August 20 (<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/20963.html>).

Twenty years is enough time for a human to develop. But in the growth of a state they are only the first steps. Our main achievement at this moment in history is clear understanding of our common goal. We know what to do and understand how to achieve it. We have defined a development strategy, and we have enough political will to realize it. Our goal is [a] European, democratic, prosperous Ukraine, a free state where people feel secure, and it will be achieved. And we hope for the support of all Europeans on the way.

On August 24, 1991, Ukraine was reborn as an independent state, [an] integral part of the European family of free nations. The dream of many generations came true. The spirit of unity, willpower of the nation, faith in a better future were realized into reality. The Act of Declaration of Independence became an important step of our country's historical path. Since then and forever, the future of Ukraine has been in the hands of its nation. By supporting the December 1, 1991, decision of the Verkhovna Rada, the Ukrainian society has made a final choice in favor of sovereignty and responsibility for its own actions. The Ukrainian idea of independence has become a unifying force, the pillars of which were and are fundamental values: freedom, humanism, democracy, tolerance, justice and social cohesion.

The 20 years that have passed since then were not easy. Harsh reality has destroyed hopes for a rapid improvement of life, building a prosperous free society and [a] legal democratic state in a short time. Romantic admiration of the fact of independence has grown into a need for real actions, the need for pragmatic, informed and responsible approach to every decision.



Official Website of the President of Ukraine
President Viktor Yanukovich in a photo taken on August 23, Ukraine's National Flag Day.

It is not the first decade that the society has been struggling to overcome the Soviet legacy. No matter how painful it is to recognize, the state has been often behind its neighbors in development. Through all these years, corruption has been eroding the management system, making it for Ukrainians difficult to breathe freely. But despite the difficulties, the main step has already been done: we have finally decided our future. European choice has become the basis of [the] foreign political identity of Ukraine. European values have become the foundation of our development.

Ukraine not only wishes to be a European country. This geographical fact does not require extra proof. We wish to join the great European project – building a united Europe based on the values of freedom, democracy and law. We wish to join it in a difficult time, seeking not subsidies or indulgences, but opportunities and rights. Join it, despite the hard

pressure and conscious hindering, as equal partners. Join it for our common future.

We believe that the Association Agreement and establishing a deep and comprehensive free trade area is what Ukraine and the European Union need now. We hope our partners understand that too.

Ukraine is difficult to call time-serving or inconsistent. For centuries, even in the toughest conditions, our society has remained European, and its best representatives have put much into the cultural treasury of Europe. Evidence of our heritage are golden-domed Kyiv, medieval Lviv, diverse Odesa, modern-constructivist Kharkiv. We cannot imagine the Ukrainian land without the ancient Greek Olbia, Genovese Sudak and Feodosia, Jewish shtetls and Polish palaces. Our history is rich and multicolored, our people is multinational, and it is our common world heritage.

We are united not only by the past, but also by the present. And, I am sure of that, by the future. Examples of that are many. And possibilities are too.

Next year, together with our strategic partner Poland, Ukraine will be hosting the UEFA European Football Championship finals – Euro-2012. This event will give European Union citizens another chance to see today's Ukraine, and to Ukrainians – the chance to communicate with tourists and fans from the EU.

Ukraine needs not only economic cooperation, but, first of all, the radical expansion of human contacts with the European Union. Not the government, but the society, every citizen needs that. [The] Ukrainian government will do everything to implement the national plan to introduce visa-free travel. We hope the EU side will understand our capabilities and limitations, and help the citizens of Ukraine to exercise their right to freedom of movement.

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Melanie Glubisz (foreground) dances during the August 6 finale in Kyiv.



Probably the most modern of Hromovytsia's numbers, "Smile, Please."

Chicago's Hromovytsia dancers dazzle audiences in Ukraine

by Mark Raczkiewicz

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – Chicago's Hromovytsia dance ensemble keeps springing higher. It took its signature brand of Ukrainian folk, ballet and modern dance for a second tour of Ukraine in late July, capping it off with a standing-room-only performance at the Kyiv Academic Theater of the Young Spectator on August 6.

More than 400 concert-goers were treated to sets ranging from traditional Ukrainian folk numbers such as, "The Hutsul Rhapsody" and the turbulently fast-paced Hopak, to a contemporary duet, lyrical numbers and ballet-infused character dances.

"Each dance is different, the ballet elements make them difficult, more challenging," said Roxanna Pylypczak, the troupe's co-founder and choreographer since its inception in 1980.

Hromovytsia's repertoire is a collection of numbers that display the American side of modern dance yet show audiences that traditional Ukrainian dance is practiced and performed outside Ukraine.

Their diverse dances were interspersed with solo performances by virtuoso violinist Vasyl Popadiuk, a Ukrainian who now is based in Toronto.

Touring six cities during their debut tour of Ukraine in 2003, Hromovytsia members this year strapped on their boots and ballet slippers for shows in the western Ukrainian cities of Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Rivne, in addition to the capital – all to capacity audiences.

"In my 30 years of training experience, I strive to convey each dance with authenticity... without sacrificing each form of dance... we're from America yet consider ourselves Ukrainian, though we want to show modern dance," said Ms. Pylypczak



Hromovytsia after its August 6 finale concert in Kyiv joined by choreographer and group co-founder Roxanna Pylypczak (center).

during a concert-day recital on August 6.

Hromovytsia's tour came on the heels of another North American Ukrainian dance troupe's triumphant trip to Europe.

Earlier in July, Edmonton's Cheremosh took top honors at Euro Fest 2011 hosted by Bulgaria, Europe's premiere folk dance competition. They became the first North Americans to win the rather hulky sounding title of Absolute European Champion of Folklore for 2011. (See *The Ukrainian Weekly*, July 31.)

During both the 2003 and 2011 Hromovytsia tours audiences were surprised to see the mostly teenaged and 20-something group of Chicagoans emulate the swift footwork of Hutsul folk

dance or the acrobatic, gravity defying leaps of Kozak solos.

"We always get the same reaction, and that is why we are doing this," said Ms. Pylypczak. "And each time people have been open and grateful, but at the same time stunned that American youth want to dance [traditional Ukrainian folk]."

And while it's always rewarding performing for audiences, the Ukraine tour also had symbolic meaning to its 29 on-tour members, 11 of whom were born in Ukraine.

Ms. Pylypczak, a former pupil of the Ellis DuBoulay School of Dance and Lou Conte Studio, said the purpose of the Ukraine tours is to keep Chicago's ethnic Ukrainians interested in folk dance and to show that their "sacrifices and hard work aren't just for fun or socializing but part of something bigger."

And that higher purpose is what keeps some in the group well into their 30s still performing.

Mark Wasylyszyn who at age 35 has been dancing with Hromovytsia well beyond the age when many leave to focus more on studies or careers, is one of them.

He has seen at least five different age groups come and go while he and a handful of others have remained with the group.

"I try to show others how to do things right, to do things the best way that I can," said Mr. Wasylyszyn, a stocks and bonds trader at the Chicago Board of Exchange.

Dancing since he was 5, Mr. Wasylyszyn said the main reaction among Ukrainians is one of awe and amazement. In his conversations during both Ukraine

tours, he said, "many look down at their own culture" and look to hip-hop and break dancing more.

But despite his wealth of experience, including being a part of Hromovytsia's 2007 tour of Florence, Munich and Rome, he said still gets nervous before going on stage.

"Up until the first song, I'm nervous, [and] then I let it go and enjoy the ride," said Mr. Wasylyszyn, before Hromovytsia's Kyiv concert.

His poise and leadership on and off stage are part of the reason Mr. Wasylyszyn was in the majority of the 12 dance numbers with prominent roles and solo performances.

In the end, Hromovytsia received a standing ovation from the crowd followed by a singing of the Ukrainian anthem.

"Thanks for promoting Ukrainian culture and traditions in the U.S.A.," a spokesperson read for Oleksander Popov, head of the Kyiv City State Administration, read from a statement.

The city's top manager had allowed the theater for the evening's concert to be used free of charge.

Back in Chicago, the ensemble was gearing up for performances at the city's annual Ukrainian Days Festival taking place August 20-21 and is mulling a repeat appearance at the annual Thanksgiving Day parade downtown.

Next spring Hromovytsia will hold its annual fund-raiser – Cabaret Night, featuring cocktails and dinner, during which the dancers will provide entertainment, including two new additions to its repertoire, Ms. Pylypczak noted.



Markian Pylypczak dazzles with a solo in the Hopak. He is flanked by Danusia Pylypczak and Nina Kocko.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM



Hutsul Night festivities during the first week of Heritage Day Camp.



Children participating in morning prayer.

Children enjoy Soyuzivka's Heritage Day Camp



Young campers cooling down in the pool.



Bubble time with junior counselor Roman Danyluk.



Junior counselor Marichka Siryi with campers during snack time.



The groups Banduras and Trembitas hold the flags for morning assembly.

by Bohdana Puzyk

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – As July came to an end so did Heritage Day Camp at Soyuzivka.

For two weeks, 40 children between the ages of 4 and 8 vacationed with their families at Soyuzivka and attended Heritage Day Camp. The theme for this year's program was Ukrainian musical instruments with the children making their own instruments – banduras, trembitas, drums and tambourines.

Morning activities included music, dance, crafts, storytelling and games. Olya Savchuk conducted games and playtime the first week, and Bohdanka Puzyk led them the second week. The games the children played were all about learning Ukrainian, counting, colors, the days of the week, the seasons, the alphabet, writing their names in Ukrainian and the months.

Christine Williams was "Pani Spiv," who taught the children Ukrainian songs, which they performed on Hutsul Night and at the camp's closing ceremonies at

Odesa Night. Since the theme was musical instruments the children enjoyed learning a favorite, "My Muzykanty z Kyieva" (We're Musicians from Kyiv) among many other traditional Ukrainian camp songs. Ms. Williams has been teaching the children songs for the past four years, adding new songs each year.

Larissa Krul taught dance during the first week of camp, while Peter and Adriana Fil taught the second week. The younger children had their first introduction to Ukrainian dance while the older children learned new steps to add to their repertoire. Their lessons were showcased during the closing ceremonies on Friday at Odesa Night. This final performance was amazing and very energetic, captivating the audience.

Natalka Junas coordinated the crafts for this year. With the theme of musical instruments and each group representing an instrument, they were able to make that instrument. They also decorated their own T-shirts and hats, which they wore for Hutsul Night. Some of the other crafts

that the children made included a sopilky, treasure chests and a mug with an Ukrainian design. Natalka Doblosky created and designed the T-shirts for Heritage Day Camp.

Christine Danyluk not only introduced the children to some new Ukrainian tales, but also reacquainted them with favorites from the past. The "kazky" are read in both Ukrainian and English, and often the children are able to act out the story. Mrs. Danyluk also was the director of the camp for the second week.

Assisting with the children this year were five junior counselors: Marichka Siryj, Alexandra Lemekha, Roman Danyluk, Tessa Junas and Adriana Cherniak-Mack. The junior counselors

are an integral part of the camp; they help with the children, especially when the youngest campers sometimes need that special one-on-one attention.

After the morning sessions everyone had lunch in the dining room. During the afternoon sessions the children participated in group sing-alongs, crafting, playtime on the new playground set and, because of the very hot weather, water play in the pool. The week ended with the traditional Friday ice cream party in the Main House lobby.

At the closing ceremonies, each child was presented with a certificate of attendance, a goodie bag with all of their projects, and a stuffed teddy bear to remember this fun-filled time at Soyuzivka.

UNA's main phone number experiencing difficulties

The UNA is experiencing difficulties with incoming telephone calls to its main number (973-292-9800). Due to the strike at Verizon, the situation cannot be remedied until September 1. In the meantime, readers are advised to use the following telephone numbers to contact the UNA Home Office:

973-267-5469 973-267-5570 973-267-5661

A word from the coordinator

I would like to express my gratitude to all of the families who have brought their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to Soyuzivka to participate in the Heritage Day Camp.

I have participated in this program for the past 10 years as a counselor and coordinator/"komandantka." When I started it was known as Chemney Camp, and even though today we call it Heritage Day Camp it is still known affectionately to most of us as Chemney Camp.

This was my last year as coordinator/komandantka for this camp, and I look forward to participating as a counselor under the wonderful and talented leader-

ship of Christine Danyluk.

Christine has participated in Heritage Day Camp for the past three years and brings a wealth of talent and energy to the camp. As an elementary school teacher her creative approach will ensure that the Heritage Day Camp program continues at Soyuzivka for many more generations, to foster Ukrainian pride.

On behalf of the Ukrainian National Association, the Soyuzivka Heritage Center's management and myself, thank you for supporting Heritage Day Camp and Soyuzivka. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone next summer.

– Bohdana Puzyk

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Of spirit and identity

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John F. Tefft in a post on the U.S. Embassy Kyiv Blog titled "Ukraine: 20 years of independence," writes that "Ukraine has gone through a long and difficult historical journey to achieve independence as a modern nation" and notes that "It's easy to be distracted by the immediate problems and daily challenges that Ukrainians face." But, he underscores, "we should always remember that Ukraine's existence as an independent nation is a triumph of the human spirit."

The Ukrainian nation has survived foreign occupations, wars, famines, ethnocide, genocide, political repression. Millions died as a result. And yet, the human spirit and the Ukrainian quest for freedom could not be extinguished.

Any student of Ukrainian history and literature can point to many who kept that spirit alive through centuries of foreign rule. And we can point to many during recent decades who did their share for the Ukrainian cause. Some of them, to be sure, are well-known, but others have labored and continue to labor in anonymity for the good of the Ukrainian nation.

We recall a trip to Ukraine in 1988, during the bad old days of the Soviet empire. That was when the editor-in-chief of this newspaper had the opportunity to meet a number of Ukrainian patriots in various parts of the country who were active in protecting and nurturing the Ukrainian heritage, whether that was in Lviv, or Kyiv, or Crimea. Among them was one gentleman, whom we came to call Vuyko (Uncle) Dmytro. He shared with us his handwritten book about Ukraine's history and culture – a true labor of love. He intended to pass this painstakingly prepared manuscript on to his sons and their children in order that they might know about their nation even though it was under Soviet domination.

More recently, as the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor was approaching, our Kyiv correspondent at that time, Zenon Zawada, interviewed local activists who collected information about the victims of the Famine-Genocide for the National Book of Memory. Many of them had to deal with the ire of, shall we say, less patriotic citizens in their localities, but they continued their efforts nonetheless in order to right a historical injustice and out of a sense of debt to their once-downtrodden nation.

Through the years, there have been notable Ukrainians who have awakened national consciousness and pride among the public. Take Oleh Skrypka, one of Ukraine's leading rock musicians, who in 2008 organized the first ever parade of "vyshyvanky" with participants wearing colorful embroidered shirts and blouses representing all the regions of Ukraine. We still recall the beautiful photo that graced the front page of our newspaper – it featured Mr. Skrypka in his Ukrainian vyshyvanka surrounded by children in traditional Ukrainian costumes. (The story headlined "'Vyshyvanka' parade celebrates Ukrainian heritage" by our colleague Illya M. Labunka appeared in the issue dated May 11, 2008. You can view it online at www.ukrweekly.com.) By the way, the vyshyvanka tradition continues and this year was part of Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations.

There were and are Ukrainian composers, writers, artists, singers and other creative types who promote love of the Ukrainian heritage. The hugely popular songs of the young Volodymyr Ivasiuk stirred a profound love for Ukraine. The songwriter/composer ran afoul of Soviet authorities and was found hanged in a forest in 1979 under mysterious circumstances. Today there are artists who perform and write only in Ukrainian, including Ruslana and Maria Burmaka. For them it is a matter of principle to perform in their native language even though the Russian market is far more lucrative.

However, one of our favorite examples of a project aimed at raising national consciousness is a simple desk calendar, the brainchild of Mykola Tomenko, who initiated a project called "Ridna Krayina" (Native Land). The foreword to the calendar issued in 2011 notes that it was compiled to provide information on each day of the year about national holidays, holy days, notable personages from Ukraine's past and quotations from writers, poets, philosophers, etc. But perhaps what is most exemplary is a section that appears at the bottom of each calendar day, "What I did for Ukraine." A space is provided for the calendar's owner to make his or her own daily notations. It's a JFK-esque approach to encouraging Ukrainians to think about their country ("...ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country").

In this 20th anniversary year of Ukraine's restored independence we should be thankful for such activists and patriots in our midst. We hope that Ukraine's people will rediscover their long-suppressed and long-disparaged identity, that they will once again take pride in their heritage, and that there will be a reawakening of the national spirit so necessary for a great nation.

Aug.
30
2010

Turning the pages back...

Last year, on August 30, 2010, the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) led its parliamentary coalition in approving amendments to the local elections law that opponents said were designed to entrench its political dominance nationwide

and make it easier to falsify votes. The amendments came in the wake of polls that revealed the party's declining popularity with voters.

An amendment was approved that removed the previously adopted provision in the law that prohibited parties whose local organizations were formed less than a year before elections day from fielding candidates in the local elections.

The amendments enabled the PRU to determine most, if not all, the members of the territorial and district election commissions, even those representing opposition parties. Local organizations would not be able to selection commissioners, and such control

(Continued on page 19)

COMMENTARY

Ukraine after 20 years: The glass is still half empty

by Mykola Riabchuk

Ukrainian Independence Day is still an event that evokes a flood of articles, memoirs, speeches and debates in the national mass media, sometimes pathetic and pompous, but in most cases embittered, frustrated and utterly sarcastic.

Oleksander Irvanets, a renowned Ukrainian writer, very popular inter alia through his ad hoc poetical parodies, produced a sham "ode" with the explicit dedication to the national Independence Day – "Our Victory" (<http://www.ut.net.ua/Columns/50/5793>). The bogus ode is composed of poetical clichés borrowed from both the socialist realist and nationalist writing of the "heroic" genre.

This combination is pretty funny in itself, but the main comic effect comes from the names of "heroes" inserted within the "ode" and from their purported "national-liberation" activity. All the names represent the so-called Ukrainian elite – the top politicians and oligarchs who in fact had never dreamed about any kind of national independence (some of them actually worked within the ancien regime to suppress it) but who, ironically, appear to be the main, if not only, beneficiaries of Ukraine's independent statehood.

Lina Kostenko, another prominent Ukrainian writer, published a scornful feuilleton – "Dress Ranks to the Podium!" – in which she mockingly suggested substituting the traditional military parade with a carnival procession of all the corrupt officials, judges and other government folk who have raped and pillaged the country over the past 20 years. All four Ukrainian presidents, she suggested, should stand at the podium greeting the parade and displaying on their chests the list of who ceded and wasted what over the past two decades – "either nuclear weapons, or the Black Sea Fleet, or national industry and strategic objects, or the Orange revolution, or the entire country" (<http://www.day.kiev.ua/214296>).

The reputable Dzerkalo Tyzhnia weekly (Mirror Weekly) commemorated the jubilee with a number of articles headed by graphic titles such as "Twenty Years of Solitude" and "Twenty Years of Discontent," or merely featuring Ukraine's place in various international rankings: No. 1 in the world for alcoholism among children, no. 1 in Europe for the spread of HIV, No. 2 among the International Monetary Fund's biggest borrowers (\$12.66 billion debt), No. 5 for the biggest suppliers of emigrants (6.6 million people have left the country since independence – nearly 15% of today's population), No. 5 in the world for alcohol consumption, No. 7 for computer piracy, No. 10 for the number of prisoners (334 per 100,000 people), No. 69 (among 169 surveyed) on the human development index, No. 73 (out of 192) for quality of life, No. 110 (out of 177) for prosperity, No. 131 for freedom of speech, No. 134 (out of 180) for corruption, No. 164 (out of 179) for economic freedom, No. 181 (out of 183) for the simplicity of taxpaying procedures (an average Ukrainian entrepreneur, according to the World Bank data, spends 657 hours annually filing tax-related documents and settling business issues) (<http://dt.ua/articles/86389>).

Either deliberately or by coincidence, the same issue of Dzerkalo Tyzhnia features an overoptimistic article by the Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich himself. Here, he trumpets Ukraine's "European choice" and commitment to "European val-

ues," boasts about large-scale reforms and anti-corruption measures, and professes, on behalf of the government, the highest respect for the national constitution and rule of law (<http://dt.ua/articles/86421>).

As a speech writer's product it seems pretty good, but the reality resonates differently. All the "reforms" to date have noticeably improved the well-being of the president's friendly oligarchs and brought misery to the life of the common people; all the "anti-corruption measures" so far, have resulted in the persecution of opposition figures under dubious charges and in a higher than ever corruption and lawlessness within the president's inner circle; all the "respect for the Constitution" is demonstrated by multiple violations of its clauses in the most blatant way since Mr. Yanukovich's accession to power. The hard fact is that under his leadership Ukraine has dropped in numerous international rankings – including in political and economic freedoms, administrative efficacy and quality of life.

Remarkably, it is foreigners rather than Ukrainian citizens who express some optimism about Ukraine's development in their comments. Steven Pifer, a former American ambassador to Ukraine, believes that the emergence of a national identity spanning all of Ukraine is among the country's key achievements of the last two decades.

"In eastern Ukraine it may not be quite as thick as it is in the west, but I think most Ukrainians now see Ukraine as an independent state and whatever issues they are going to face, they want to resolve those issues as a Ukrainian state," writes Ambassador Pifer. (http://www.rferl.org/content/russia_soviet_union_august_1991_coup_yeltsin_gorbachev/24301212.html).

Matthew Rojansky, director of the Carnegie Endowment's Russia and Eurasia Program, agrees, according to the same source, that the most significant change in the post-Soviet republics has been "the creation and re-establishment and re-creation of new, independent identities," "which includes seeking to differentiate themselves from Russia even when people had been very heavily Russified and economies had been heavily Sovietized." Ukraine, he contends, stands prominently among those countries in which a new generation of leaders has emerged that "has confidence in democracy and is willing to source its power from their electorates rather than from chummy relations with Moscow."

In this regard, he considers the wave of colored revolutions in Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan as an important development in the right direction, "a sign of the generational weakening of the sociopolitical legacies of the Soviet experience."

And Alexander Motyl, in his recent blog on Ukraine's Independence Day, envisions, rather unexpectedly, the country's bright future despite the fact that the Ukrainian rulers, in his own terms, are just a bunch of greedy and incompetent thugs who captured the state (the view actually is not so unique and extravagant since Ukrainian publicists often describe Mr. Yanukovich's clan as a "Donetsk mafia," meaning not necessarily a deliberate insult but, rather, the pedigree and the way in which the inner circle of the Party of Regions is organized).

Prof. Motyl believes, nonetheless, that these people are doomed to Europeanize/modernize Ukraine despite themselves, i.e., notwithstanding their entire set of beliefs, habits and basic instincts. They simply have no choice: "Unfortunately for Ukraine's

(Continued on page 9)

NEWS AND VIEWS

The ongoing battle to protect the rule of law in Ukraine

by Bohdan A. Futey

Those who drafted and ratified Ukraine's Constitution in 1996 realized something rather important: they understood that one of the lynchpins of democracy is respect for the rule of law. They realized that a system where one person's whims or a specific group's interests can overcome the written law is not, in fact, a democracy.

For the past 15 years, Ukraine's Constitution has guaranteed that "in Ukraine, the principle of the rule of law is recognized and effective." The Constitution also divides up the state power of Ukraine into three distinct bodies — the legislature, the executive and the judiciary — and requires that these bodies exercise their power only within the proscribed limits.

Finally, in trials, the Constitution guarantees numerous rights, such as the right of all participants to have "equality before the law and the court," and the right to present evidence, to have an open trial and to have a trial conducted according to the laws of the country.

As the drafters of the Constitution realized, without these guarantees, democracy is ineffective. Without a stable and consistent application of law, whimsical and contradictory judicial rulings will instill uncertainty and confusion, and destroy any trust law-abiding citizens may have in an impartial legal system. Without the rule of law, a country becomes divided into those who are above the law and those who are below it, or into those who write the rules and do what they want and those who are expected to follow the rules.

Without a judiciary to ensure that individual liberties such as free speech, freedom of the press and due process of law are respected, the rights of minorities and of unpopular groups may be diminished. Without a judiciary that is truly independent, there can be no respect for the rule of law. Without these protections, Ukraine's continued democratic, political and economic development as it seeks to move closer to European standards of living will be negatively impacted.

Two recent events have shattered confidence in whether the rule of law and these other protections are being upheld in Ukraine.

Bohdan A. Futey, a Judge on the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C., was 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 Ukrainian Parliament. He also served as an official observer during the parliamentary elections in 1994, 1998, 2002 and 2006, and presidential elections in 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2010, and conducted briefings on Ukraine's election law and guidelines for international observers. The article above, dated August 9, was posted on Gazeta.ua (<http://gazeta.ua/articles/394611>). It is reprinted here with the author's permission.

First, the trial and imprisonment of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko have created, at the very least, the appearance of impropriety, which has tarnished the image of Ukraine's legal system and judiciary.

The potential violations of procedural and Constitutional rules are numerous, and her imprisonment was swiftly questioned by countries, organizations and leaders across the world, including former President Leonid Kravchuk, former Chairman of Parliament Arseniy Yatsenyuk, former head of the Security Service of Ukraine Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, numerous members of Parliament and executives of the European Union, the U.S. Department of State, and U.S. Senators John McCain and Richard Lugar.

Those procedural violations raise questions far beyond the guilt or innocence of one specific individual who just happens to be the leader of the opposition; they raise questions about whether the fundamental protections of liberty enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine protect everyone, or merely the ruling elite and the politically connected.

In the midst of these potential violations, one must ask: Where is Ukraine's legal community? Where is the Supreme Court's plenum? In the United States, an array of non-governmental organizations, such as the American Bar Association, help to ensure that proper procedures are followed, but where are these neutral organizations in Ukraine? Furthermore, Ukraine's attempts to integrate itself into the larger European community are extremely hampered by the taint of illegality.

Second, the passage in July 2010 of the new Law on the Judiciary and the Status of Judges highlights a weakened, overly political judiciary. That law contemplates a system in which the president can liquidate courts, in which the Supreme Court has lost power to lower courts that decide whether or not to refer cases to the Supreme Court, in which the High Council of Justice exercises a politicized role, and in which the Constitution's guarantee of a right to a jury trial continues to be ignored. The weakening of the judiciary and its growing subservience to the executive branch reduce the protections that the Constitution promises to all Ukrainians.

With these recent events, Ukraine finds itself at the brink, with its image diminished. Ukraine must ask itself what exactly the Constitution means to the country.

If the Constitution is what it says it is — "the highest legal force" of the country and the guarantor of a democratic state — then its words must be respected, its principles kept.

If, however, the Constitution is something that can be abandoned when inconvenient, it is nothing more than words on paper and will do little to ensure the freedoms for which Ukrainians have fought. Without those freedoms, Ukraine's future as a democratic nation is imperiled.

I remain confident in Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

INDEPENDENCE DIARIES: Vigilance is the mantra

by Askold S. Lozynskyj

"We must openly state that no American should participate in meddling in the internal affairs of other countries. Of course, we all dislike the abhorrent bolshevism and its sinful work in Russia and all over the world, but this does not mean that we should also hate Russia and her people. In trying to destroy bolshevism, we have no right whatever to undermine the former Great Russian Empire by striving, as the Ukrainian separatists do (assisted by good and honest, but misled Americans), to detach from her the 'Little-Russia' (known at present as the 'Ukraine') only because some arrogant Galician aggressors, instigated by Polish and Austro-German enemies, deliberately changed 'Little Russia' into 'Ukraine!'"

These sentiments were expressed by Archpriest Peter G. Kohanik of the Russian Orthodox Church in an article with an equally strongly worded title "The Biggest Lie of the Century 'The Ukraine.'" The article appeared in a Russian American monthly in December 1952.

How is this relevant today? Well, bolshevism is dead, but the Great Russian Empire is very much alive, spanning many time zones but bereft of its jewel, Ukraine. The Russian Orthodox Church in America is reunited with the Moscow Patriarchate despite the latter's legacy of work as an intelligence service and subservience to the Kremlin. In fact the Russian Orthodox Church has always done a little of this and that. Frankly, its power in Russia was exceeded only by the tsar and today only by Vladimir Putin and, maybe, Dmitri Medvedev.

Were he alive today Archpriest Kochanik would be very much involved in realizing his vision of the Great Russian Empire with "Little Russia" intact. In the past, the tsar would simply overrun Ukraine. Today the Russian Empire has to take little steps in order to reconstitute itself, the world be damned.

Russia's disregard for human rights and minority rights within its borders is notorious. During a recent visit to Russia, the United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights reported, "Russia currently has the highest number of cases pending before the European Court of Human Rights." This was attributed in part to endemic problems within Russia's own legal system. Still this sentiment communicated a level of opprobrium with little or no consequences.

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

Russia's law on religion recognizes only religions that had been active under Joseph Stalin, with Russian Orthodoxy the pre-eminent force. Ukrainian Orthodoxy or Ukrainian Catholicism are outlawed officially, although permitted to function without legal registration or property ownership. Minorities function, but receive no state assistance. In fact, Russia does not have a ministry dealing with minorities despite the Council of Europe mandate.

In the case of the Ukrainian minority, which is the largest in Russia, most recently Russia has undertaken serious steps to limit further its activities. Dissolution of the two major Ukrainian umbrella organizations is currently before the courts in Russia and Strasbourg. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has acknowledged the political nature of the dissolution.

Several years ago, I attended annual observances of Ukrainian independence hosted by the Ukrainian Embassy at the Ukraina hotel in Moscow. Among the attendees was the notorious xenophobe Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. In the course of the evening, Mr. Zhirinovskiy and I raised several toasts together — he, mockingly, for the health of the Ukrainian diaspora, and I, that his political party reflect its liberal and democratic name.

After several toasts, Mr. Zhirinovskiy said to me, "You know this Ukrainian independence is only temporary." At this point the bonhomie ribbing ceased.

Unfortunately, Prime Minister Putin, President Medvedev and Patriarch Kirill are much more like Mr. Zhirinovskiy than the late Andrei Sakharov. Come to think of it, the late gifted writer and ostensible human rights defender Alexander Solzhenitsyn was a Great Russian chauvinist. Anti-Ukrainian xenophobia amongst Russians is not only governmental, but institutional and societal. It's endemic because of hundreds of years of propaganda and skewed historiography.

Ukraine is now celebrating 20 years of existence as an independent and somewhat democratic state. By English common law practices as to real estate, the people of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people are, at the very least entitled, to their land by adverse possession. Language and historiography have a long way to go. So the mantra at hopefully this first jubilant 20-year celebration has to be vigilance.

God gave Ukrainians a beautiful and rich land and wonderful, hard-working and intelligent people, but he also gave them Russians as neighbors. Oops! Some xenophobia of my own. I hope so. Were I simply paranoid, I would have no reason to be concerned.

Ukrainian World Congress greets Ukrainians on Independence Day

Following is the text of greetings on the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence issued on August 24 by the Ukrainian World Congress.

Twenty years ago, on August 24, 1991, Ukrainians worldwide welcomed with great enthusiasm the solemn declaration of Ukraine's independence and the establishment of a free Ukrainian state, thus realizing the age-old aspiration of Ukrainians for statehood while simultaneously resulting in the fall of the totalitarian Soviet empire.

God's invaluable gift of indepen-

dence became a triumph over the many years of oppression, the relentless destruction of all manifestations of the Ukrainian national spirit, genocide and famine, with which our enemies attempted to subdue Ukraine and forever keep the country enslaved.

The Ukrainian World Congress greets the entire Ukrainian nation on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence and believes, that with God's providence, the country will overcome the current crises to become a fully democratic, Ukrainian and European state.

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THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

Lessons of Ukrainian independence: Democracy demands determination

by Lindsay Pearlman
UCCA

This is the second in a series of articles commemorating the 20th anniversary of Ukrainian independence. This article assesses the civil and political reforms Ukraine has undertaken since 1991.

NEW YORK — On August 24, 1991, scholar Francis Fukuyama woke to find that, halfway around the world from his home in the United States, Ukraine had finally cast off its Soviet shackles and declared independence. For Dr. Fukuyama, this was hardly surprising; his 1989 article “The End of History?” had predicted something of a reverse-domino effect: as communism’s downfall accelerated, emerging countries would increasingly turn to democracy as their permanent political equilibrium. For the rest of the world, the surprise of Ukrainian independence sparked unparalleled excitement and an overwhelming sense of hope that the long-suppressed nation would soon see better days.

Twenty years hence, the sense of promise has become much more complex. Early economic stagnation and political unrest culminating in last year’s parliamentary egg fight may have shaken expectations among the Ukrainian community. Responses to Ukraine’s success have simultaneously grown more nuanced. When asked about her feeling regarding Ukraine’s progress, former Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Irene Jarosewich responds with, “It’s mixed.”

This has become a common answer; after all, when the initial elation of achieving independence wore off, Ukrainians were faced with the tremendous task of rebuilding a social and political framework independent of Soviet precedence. Along the way, Ukraine has learned an important lesson: democracy demands determination.

The road has not been an easy one. Stability has often been secured at the expense of civil and political rights, and this has been consistently crystallized in the complex and, often, contradictory goals of Ukraine’s leaders. Former President Leonid Kuchma, for example, advanced Ukraine’s economic prowess through comprehensive reforms, but was

a suspected opponent of the independent media and transparent elections. Former President Viktor Yushchenko revived the Ukrainian national identity at the detriment of economic reform and political infighting. And current President Viktor Yanukovich endangers the stability of his own nation by detaining multiple opposition leaders and harassing independent civic organizations.

Over the past 20 years, Ukrainians have learned that their leaders, like their country, cannot always perform perfectly. What matters most in Ukraine is the overarching support for democratization among the populace that transcends the oscillating highs and lows created by changing administrations.

“In terms of other democratic standards, yes, absolutely, I think Ukraine is in a very different place than it was,” says Christina Pendzola-Vitovych, country director for Ukraine with the American Councils for International Education. “People understand that they have rights, or at least they understand that ... if they want something to happen, it’ll be up to them to make that happen.”

The mantra to remember when examining Ukraine’s progress is that nothing is either all good or all bad. “To some extent, it’s a question of the glass is both half full and half empty. There are a tremendous amount of missed opportunities,” comments Dr. Taras Kuzio, author and political analyst.

Yet Ukraine also boasts multiple democratic victories, particularly the strengthening of bottom-up political expression via the Orange Revolution. “Revolution appeared because society needed changes,” insists Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations. “[Ukrainians] demanded the fundamental principles to be installed to protect human rights. I remember the December days of 2004, when practically all of society, from the east and west, north and south, were all different colors, orange and blue, but they had practically the same slogans: we need changes.”

Yet many agree that Ukraine has, as Dr. Kuzio puts it, “taken two steps forward, one step back” under the Yanukovich administration.

Another thing observers agree on: Ukraine’s judicial system needs reform. From 2005 to 2008, Ukraine had a 95.5 percent conviction rate — the same as the Soviet Union. “The judicial system was inherited from the former Soviet Union,” says Ambassador Sergeyev. “What we need: to modernize what we inherited, because the system and the management of the system is out of date.”

Dr. Kuzio believes that judicial reform is more than just another step in the marathon of development. It is, he says, the keystone of any liberal democracy. “You cannot have democracy without the rule of law,” he argues. Only when we “criticize the selective use of justice,” continues Dr. Kuzio, will Ukraine finally separate its legal system from the influence of political banter.

Reformers are targeting not only the court system, but also the very legal foundation of Ukraine. “We need changes in our old constitutional documents, including the Constitution itself,” says Ambassador Sergeyev. Ukraine’s Constitution has undergone its own batch of transformations since independence and is, in more ways than one, a paraphrasing of two decades of Ukrainian growth.

Beginning in 1991, the nation’s legal code was still based on the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR. President Kuchma introduced the modern framework of the current guiding document in 1995, then came a massive set of reforms in 2004 that were later deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Today, the Constitution of Ukraine has decisively emerged from the shadow of the Soviet Union, but its progress is fragile; corruption and power plays still threaten the rule of law.

“If the present Constitution was implemented,” argues U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Bohdan A. Futey, “many of these problems would disappear.” Most importantly, he continues, the Ukrainian court system must “offer anyone an equal playing field.” In other words, says Judge Futey, all individuals deserve “equal application of the law.”

Adds Ambassador Sergeyev, “We need these reforms, but the reforms should be supported and motivated [by international organizations].”

One victory Ukraine can claim is its successful management of a religiously and ethnically diverse population.

“This is one of the advantages of our society, one of the achievements, that with around 127 different ethnic groups, each of them has their interest and their demands. So, we managed to move smoothly through any ethnic collisions and religious differences,” asserts Ambassador Sergeyev. “Compared to Russia,” continues Dr. Kuzio, “anti-Semitism in Ukraine is very low.” Ukraine has consistently supported tolerance and respect for all cultures, religions and beliefs.

In terms of its indigenous culture, Ukraine has also experienced a revival of interest. Though the Ukrainian language was marginalized under the Soviets, it has been reinstated through multiple efforts to promote “Ukrainianization.”

This has occurred “despite the efforts of those with power and money in the country,” says Dr. Mark Andryczyk, the administrator of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University. He continues, “The Ukrainian language is capable of connecting [Ukrainians] to interesting, fun and profound things happening in the world.”

Even within the diaspora, efforts have been made to extend awareness of Ukrainian issues outside of the immediate Ukrainian community. Marika Shust, director of The Ukrainian Museum in New York City, helps prepare exhibits that touch upon Ukraine’s cultural history, particularly the Holodomor. “It’s something that people should really be aware of,” she says. Besides 1932-1933 Famine projects, the museum has showcased Ukrainian art and the Chernobyl disaster. (Its current exhibit, which runs until October 30, focuses on wedding textiles and embroidery.)

While Ukraine has many possible paths to pursue, the persistent oscillation of progress can become frustrating at times. “The problem that Ukraine has is its constant shifting,” says Dr. Kuzio. “Will Ukrainians finally say ‘enough is enough,’ will they demand the change they deserve? ‘Ukraine is again at a crossroads,’ he notes.

Ukraine after...

(Continued from page 6)

current mafia, their thuggish godfather to the north is stronger than they are... Vladimir Putin’s Russia knows no bounds on its appetites toward Ukraine... If you give them an inch, they’ll take a mile. If you give them a mile, they’ll take 10. Jeeze, what’s a poor Ukrainian capo to do? The answer is obvious: go straight. Get rid of those black shirts and wide lapels, stop smoking cigars and packing heat, cut your fingernails, brush your hair, buy yourself a nice house and mow the lawn, start a respectable business, and join a country club, preferably in Brussels” (http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/new/blogs/motyl/Ukraine_Turns_20).

“Oh, and one more thing,” Dr. Motyl suggests acerbically, “Declare Putin and his sidekick Dmitri Medvedev Heroes of Ukraine. They deserve it. Their thuggishness might just make Ukraine fully independent.”

Whatever the reason for optimism and/or pessimism about Ukraine, the main differ-

ence between the two approaches stems not so much from different views of Ukraine and its internal developments, but rather from different views of the context within which the country is placed.

The “pessimists” consider Ukraine as a part of Europe and gauge it against the experience of much more advanced Western neighbors. The “optimists” still perceive it primarily as a “Eurasian” state, which is definitely more advanced in many regards than virtually all its post-Soviet brethren. It is still like a glass of water that can be considered either half full or half empty, depending on the predisposition of the speaker.

The “pessimists” seem to be right about Ukraine’s present, whereas the “optimists” may be right about its future. To be sure, the incumbent regime is no friend of Europe, democracy, freedom of speech, and fair economic competition. Russian-style authoritarianism or Belarus-style dictatorship would have been their most favored system of government. Yet they lack resources to afford the former and are too vulnerable to inevitable international sanctions to move toward the latter. And to

make bad things worse, they lead a restive society that may require even more resources than Russia has to bribe it, and more coercion than Alyaksandr Lukashenka applies to ensure it is pacified.

So, the paradoxical shift of the staunch authoritarians toward Europe, and therefore toward European practices, envisioned by Prof. Motyl cannot be excluded. President Yanukovich’s speech signals this possibility not only by multiple references to “our European choice” but also by a carefully worded resentment vis-à-vis Moscow: “The past years have proved undeniably that good neighborly relations with Russia are possible only if they are based on an equal balance of national interests and the mutual respect of both sides for each other. The state and its leadership will do everything they can to construct such a balance.” Diplomatic niceties aside, the statement means that Ukraine cannot perform a friendship dance alone, and that Russia should show equal respect for Ukraine and its national interests.

Of course, there is a long and sometimes insurmountable distance between words and deeds, intentions and practices. Even if

the Ukrainian “mafia,” under domestic and international pressure, decides ultimately to follow Prof. Motyl’s advice — to get rid of bad habits and start a respectable business — it might be a very difficult task, as the last part of “Godfather” illustrates graphically. Third-party enforcement (or at least arbitration) in such a transition might be the key factor. But it is not very clear whether the European Union is ready and able to play the sort of role in Ukraine that it played successfully in the Balkans.

If such a shift happens — as seemed likely after the Orange revolution — we may call the Ukrainian glass half full. So far, alas, it remains half empty.

Mykola Riabchuk is an author and journalist from Ukraine, and a leading intellectual who is affiliated with the journal Krytyka.

The article above is reprinted from the blog “Current Politics in Ukraine” (<http://ukrainiananalysis.wordpress.com/>) created by the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine, a program of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta.

Ukraine marks 20th...

(Continued from page 1)

national flags and banners of the Yulia Tymoshenko bloc, as well as other opposition groups.

In another protest action, dubbed "Auto-Maidan," opposition activists drove through Kyiv in cars and stopped at the Lukianivka detention center, where Ms. Tymoshenko continues to be imprisoned, to tie blue-and-yellow ribbons at the entrance to the building. Among the participants of the Auto-Maidan was Ms. Tymoshenko's son-in-law, rocker Sean Carr, who rode on motorcycle.

The Kyiv court hearing the Tymoshenko case on August 23 rejected – for the 10th time – a defense petition to release her from custody. The trial was to resume on August 25.

There are concerns about Ms. Tymoshenko's health. The German newspaper Bild reported on August 22 that her adviser Hryhoriy Nemyria had voiced fears she may be a victim of systematic poisoning by her opponents.

"We are very worried. She has bruises, spots and lumps on her hands and other parts of her body. We do not rule out poisoning," Mr. Nemyria told the newspaper, adding. "Criminal circles around current President Yanukovich, who is friendly towards Moscow, want to physically destroy pro-Western politician Tymoshenko."

However, Interfax-Ukraine reported on August 23 that the opposition leader and head of the Batkivschyna party had been examined by Health Ministry specialists, her consulting doctor and an assisting nurse. "The patient rejected the offer of a thorough medical examination. The examination methods allowed by the patient revealed that her condition is satisfactory," the Health Ministry reported.

Official celebrations

Meanwhile, President Yanukovich on August 24 attended a thanksgiving service at the historic Pecherska Lavra (Monastery of the Caves) conducted by Metropolitan Volodymyr of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate. Among others present at the service were Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov and the chief of the Presidential Administration, Serhiy Lyovochkin.

The president and his entourage then laid flowers at monuments honoring Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's national bard, Mykhailo Hrushevsky, president of Ukraine in 1918, and St. Volodymyr, grand prince of Kyiv-Rus' in 980-1015.

In an Independence Day address to the citizens of Ukraine, Mr. Yanukovich said:

"...The true foundation of these 20 years is the ancient experience of Kyivan Rus'. In those glorious times our land was one of the spiritual centers of European Christian civilization. Ukraine is proud to continue this mission today. Our history is inextricably tied to modern Europe.



Opposition activists, who attempted to walk to the Presidential Administration Building to present a resolution adopted at a public meeting held near the Taras Shevchenko monument, were stopped by police of the special Berkut unit.

"Through the centuries the worthiest daughters and sons of Ukraine have dreamed of an independent country, one based on freedom, humanism and democracy. And their dream has come true. We have gained independence and witnessed a wonderful event – the appearance of Ukraine on the world map."

In the address, the president also stated: "We stand on a platform of national pragmatism and defend primarily the interests of our country, of Ukrainian citizens. Ukraine will become truly independent only if it has a strong economic foundation. Ukrainians will feel confident in the world only when their rights are really protected. Every citizen's welfare will be stable when corruption is eliminated at all levels. The nation will be strong when all the democratic institutions work. And this is our goal."

Chernihiv on August 24 raised the largest state flag of Ukraine – 30 by 45 meters in size. The flag was sewn in 2007 by Maria Belyatkova, the widow of a Donetsk miner. Ukrinform noted that it is listed in the Ukrainian Book of Records and has been raised more than 100 times.

A day earlier, August 23, Ukraine celebrated National Flag Day. In Lviv, youths carried a blue-and-yellow flag, measuring 8 by 12 meters, down the city's streets. On Khortytsia Island, a huge flag was hoisted atop a flagpole 90 meters above the Dnipro River, establishing an official new record for the highest-flying Ukrainian national flag. In Sevastopol, activists of the nationwide Student Brotherhood marched with Ukrainian flags to celebrate Independence Day.

In Kyiv, President Yanukovich participated in a flag-

raising ceremony at the Presidential Administration Building. The national flag was raised with an honor guard in review, the national anthem of Ukraine was performed, and a gun salute was fired.

In remarks at the ceremony, President Yanukovich said:

"Under the blue-and-yellow banner the Ukrainian nation has been realizing the eternal dream of freedom, statehood and unity. It was this flag that was brought into the Verkhovna Rada session hall 20 years ago, which symbolized the beginning of a new page in our history – the establishment of the modern Ukrainian state. ...

"The National Flag of Ukraine is the embodiment of our national unity, honor and dignity. ...The blue-and-yellow flag is the unifying symbol, consolidating us into one – the Ukrainian people, regardless of nationality, language, or faith."

Also on August 23, President Yanukovich conferred Hero of Ukraine titles on the occasion of the independence anniversary. According to the Official Website of the President of Ukraine, the honor was conferred on: Borys Bilash, writer, poet; Oleksander Kliuchnykov, director of the Institute of Nuclear Power Plants Security of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine; Borys Rybak, mineshaft sinkers crew chief at the SE Sverdlovantratsyt; Mykola Stepanenko, metal heating worker at the Interpipe Nizhnedneprovsky Tube Rolling Plant; Bohdan Stupka, artistic director of the Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theater, People's Artist of Ukraine; Serhiy Troshyn, test pilot first class at the SE Antonov; Larysa Shytkova, mathematics teacher at Kharkiv Gymnasium 47. The president has presented the national decorations at a solemn gathering held at the Ukraina National Palace.

The Press Office of Ukraine's President reported on August 23 that Mr. Yanukovich had signed a decree awarding medals to 2,000 citizens who have made significant personal contributions to the establishment of Ukraine's independence, its sovereignty, economic development, and strengthening of its international image. The medals were to be presented during the festivities related to the 20th anniversary of independence across all the regions of Ukraine. However, no information was given about the recipients of the award.

Sources: RFE/RL, Voice of America, Bild, UNIAN, Interfax-Ukraine, Ukrinform, Reuters, Channel 5, Official Website of the President of Ukraine.

Embassy of Ukraine celebrates Ukrainian Independence Day



WASHINGTON – The Embassy of Ukraine marked the 20th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine on August 24 with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington. Close to 70 people joined in the celebration headed by the Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Vadym Prystaiko, shown here with his back turned as he addresses the participants, among them the Rev. Volodymyr Steliac, pastor of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church, who opened the morning event with a prayer. The Shevchenko monument did not appear to be damaged by the previous day's earthquake in Virginia, which shook a large part of the northeastern United States and left its mark on some buildings and monuments in the nation's capital, among them the National Cathedral.

– Yaro Bihun

Canada's prime minister...

(Continued from page 1)

More than 1.2 million Canadians trace their ancestry to Ukraine, and we are proud this year to mark the 120th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada. Ukrainian Canadians continue to make significant contributions to Canada's cultural, political and economic life, and have played a major role in the development of the Canada we know today.

As I expressed during my visit to Kiev [sic] last October, Canada will continue to strengthen bilateral ties with Ukraine and help in the building of a democratic, independent and prosperous society.

On behalf of all Canadians, Laureen and I extend our best wishes to all Ukrainians and Canadians of Ukrainian heritage celebrating this important anniversary.

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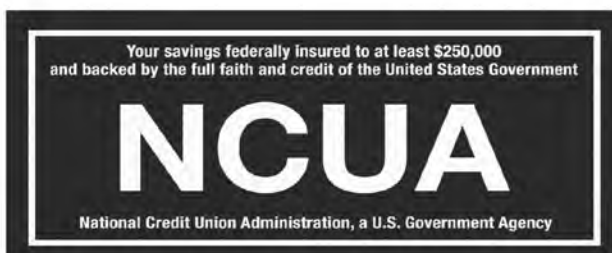
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The flags of countries where Plast is active are raised during the opening ceremonies of the International Plast Jamboree. (In the upper left-hand corner is the jamboree emblem.)



Dignitaries, special guests and Plast leaders during the opening ceremonies.

Plast concludes jamboree marking beginning of centennial year



A view of the opening ceremony of MPZ.



Yunachka Maya Lopatysky at the opening ceremonies.

by Deanna Yurchuk

EAST CHATHAM, N.Y. – Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's Vovcha Tropha campground in East Chatham was bustling during the week of August 6-13 with over 500 scouts arriving to participate in the 2011 International Plast Jamboree to kick off the year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of their organization.

Scouts of all ages from six different countries – primarily the United States and Canada, but with representatives also from Ukraine, Australia, Great Britain and Germany – arrived to set up camp on August 6. The official opening took place the following day, starting with a divine liturgy led by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka and the Rev. Ivan Kaszczak and followed by the lighting of the eternal flame and a celebratory parade of all campers with their units' flags and banners around the campground's main sports field.

Among the distinguished guests greeting them on the occasion of Plast's jubilee were: Vasyl Zvarych, representative from the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington; Andriy Bihun, president of the Ukrainian American Youth Association's national executive; Volodymyr Bazarko, head of the World Plast Executive; Lubomyr Romankiw, Plast's chief scout; and Petro Stawnychy, chairman of the national executive board of Plast U.S.A.

Among other community leaders present at the jamboree's opening ceremonies were: Stefan Kaczaraj, chairman of the board of Selfreliance New York Federal Credit Union and president of the Ukrainian National Association; Bohdan Kurczak, president and CEO, Bohdan Sawycky, treasurer and CFO, Selfreliance New York; Christine Balko, president of the Ukrainian National Credit Union; Dr. George Kuritza, member of the board of directors of the Pobratymy Foundation; Andriy Horbachevsky, chairman of the board, and Roman Kozicky, member of the board, SUMA Federal Credit

Union (Yonkers, N.Y.); and Marianna Zajac, president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

According to Mr. Stawnychy, the idea for the jamboree originated three years ago. "We wanted to hold an event in North America for those members of Plast, who may not be able to travel and participate in the centennial jamboree planned for 2012 in Ukraine," he stated.

Vovcha Tropha, a large Plast-owned facility in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, was chosen as the venue due to its prime location and suitable infrastructure, which is able to accommodate the large number of participants.

"By selecting the Vovcha Tropha locale, we were able to plan hikes at various skill levels, a bike trip and three canoe trips. In addition, we were able to provide for all of the four Plast age groups: the cub scouts (novatstvo, ages 7-11), scouts (yunatstvo, 12-18), young adult scouts (starshi plastuny, 18-35) and senior scouts (seniory, age 35 and up) with the yunatstvo being further divided into



A presentation of various jamboree badges.



Participants of the camp of young adult Plast scouts.



A view of the camping skills competition.



Plast scouts participating in various events of the athletic competition.



four sub-camps, each of which occupied a separate part of the campground," Mr. Stawnychy added.

Yunatstvo comprised the largest group at the International Plast Jamboree (known by its Ukrainian acronym as MPZ) with 371 campers. Their program included three-day trips that featured hiking, backpacking, canoeing and bicycling trips in Harriman State Park, the High Peaks region in the Adirondacks, the Green Mountains in Vermont and the White Mountains in New Hampshire.

For Michael Powers, 17, of Chicago, the backpacking trip to Franconia Notch in New Hampshire was the highlight of his week. "The views were awesome and it was fun being with my friends in the mountains," he commented. Upon their return to Vovcha Tropa the pre-teens and teens had a jam-packed program with various events including a cook-off, an orienteering run, camp crafts competition and athletic championships led by Plast fraternities and sororities.

On Thursday evening, August 11, the duo of Foma and Denisov from Mandry, a folk rock group from Ukraine, played a lively concert, followed by a dance on the sports field.

Older members of Plast also had a program with ample opportunities to help out with the MPZ programming, tour the beautiful Berkshire and Catskill mountain areas and socialize with friends.

Zenia Brozyna, who was in charge of the Plast senior

campsite, revealed that her favorite part of the week at Vovcha Tropa were the small nightly bonfires filled with singing, camaraderie and good humor.

This daily tradition culminated on Friday, August 12, when all of the hundreds of MPZ scouts and numerous guests convened at the celebratory farewell campfire, the "Sviatochna Vatra." Seated amphitheater fashion on the hillside behind the main field, scouts and guests alike all had a good vantage point of the huge, perfectly constructed log-cabin-style bonfire in the clearing below.

As the flames blazed upward, Taras Ferencevych and Stephanie O'Connell encouraged young and old to participate in a program of skits and good-natured take-offs on Plast life with everyone joining in the interim singing.

"The bonfire was very well done, with good skits and a very happy atmosphere," said Boyan Woychysyn, 17, of Ottawa.

The jamboree wrapped up on Saturday morning. The eternal flame was extinguished and the ashes passed on to Plast's Australian contingent to be lit at the next leg of Plast's 100th anniversary celebration to be held in December in Australia.

After the closing ceremony, participants lingered in formation saying their good-byes.

"They remained on the sports field for a long time, not wanting to part from old friends with whom they had reconnected and from the new friends that they had made," Mr. Stawnychy noted. "Plast, in my opinion, is in

fact a family. While we should never lose focus of our goals, of what it is that we try to accomplish in Plast with our educational programs, for me one of the most wonderful byproducts of the Plast experience are the friendships that you make and which stay with you for the rest of your life. It is at events such as MPZ that new friendships are formed and existing ones are strengthened," he added.

The jamboree celebrated Plast's history in Ukraine and in the diaspora throughout the past century, often noting the ways that Plast has changed over the years and at the same time marveling at the many ways it has remained unchanged by time.

What does today's generation wish for Plast in the future?

"My hope for Plast is that it moves forward with the times, yet stays true to its original goals," shared Natalka Kostraby, 22, of Melbourne, Australia.

"I hope that in the future, participants of similar jamborees will continue to be as enthusiastic about Plast as they are today," added Ivanka Siolkowsky, 29, of St. Catharines, Canada.

The 100th anniversary celebration of Plast will continue through 2011 and 2012 with an MPZ in Canberra, Australia, in late December of this year, and with the official International Centennial Plast Jamboree in Lviv, Ukraine, in August 2012. The motto for the centennial celebrations is "Honor the past – embrace the future."



Andres Durbak, head organizer of the 2011 International Plast Jamboree (MPZ), lights the final ceremonial campfire.



Stephanie O'Connell leads the final campfire.



Demyan Hryciw plays guitar at the campfire.



Participants at the final campfire of MPZ 2011.



Lead singer Serhiy "Foma" Fomenko of Mandry.

Deanna Yurchuk

NEWSBRIEFS...

(Continued from page 2)

pipe as the gas storage facilities; the grain transit system is also very important as it passes through the port of Odesa; and Ukrainians are important, as they are a people who can work for a lower salary for Russia's development," Mr. Okara emphasized. At the same time, the analyst said Russia would not like and would not benefit if Ukraine became a member that defends its own position, that imposes terms and conditions. "But I understand that in Ukraine there are no politicians who, after accession into the Customs Union, could dictate to Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus its rules," he said. (Ukrinform)

Lytvyn: change needed in political elite

KYIV – It is extremely necessary to change the political elite in Ukraine, but only in the terms that are set out in the Constitution of Ukraine, Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn said in his speech at an international conference titled "Ukraine's Independence in a Globalized World: The Vectors of the 21st Century." Mr. Lytvyn believes that this must be done in order to decide on how Ukraine will live in the future. At the same time, he spoke against numerous proposals to hold early parliamentary and presidential elections. Their date, Mr. Lytvyn said, has been determined in the Constitution of Ukraine. "And when respective political initiatives and proposals are made, they obviously don't take into account these circumstances." (Ukrinform)

76% of Ukrainians say they are patriots

KYIV – About 76 percent of those polled by the Research & Branding Group consider themselves patriots of Ukraine, while 72 percent say they are proud to be Ukrainian nationals, and one in two Ukrainians (52 percent), if necessary, is ready to defend their country. According to

the poll, a plurality of respondents (41 percent) believe today that Ukraine is not really an independent state, compared to 24 percent who say Ukraine is really independent and 28 percent believe that Ukraine is partially independent and dependent. An overwhelming majority of Ukrainians (93 percent) see the country as their motherland. The survey was conducted July 15-25 through personal interviews in 24 regions of Ukraine and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Respondents were selected by quota sampling, representing the adult population by place of residence, sex and age. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich on EU integration

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich has said that movement towards Europe is the unambiguous foreign policy choice of Ukraine. The head of state wrote about this in an article titled "Twenty Years of Ukraine: Our Path Is Just Beginning" for the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia newspaper issue dated August 19-26. "Despite the difficulties, the main step has already been taken – we have finally decided on our future. The European choice has become the basis of Ukraine's foreign policy identity, while European values have become the basis of our development," Mr. Yanukovich said. "We are confident that the agreement on association and the creation of a deep and comprehensive free trade area is what both Ukraine and the European Union currently need. We hope that our partners will also understand this," the president said. The head of state also wrote that Ukraine understands quite well that European progress "is impossible without good relations with Russia," which should be based on strict adherence to the balance of national interests and mutual respect. The president also stressed the importance of relations with the United States and China. In his opinion, Ukraine will continue to develop cooperation with NATO and other institutions on matters of security in Europe.

"National pragmatism based on the interests of Ukrainian citizens is our guideline in building relationships with other countries," Mr. Yanukovich said. "Time will come, and in about a decade Ukraine will be in the European Union, in a circle of developed countries. I am convinced of this." (Ukrinform)

Crimean PM Vasyl Dzharty dies

KYIV – Vasyl Dzharty, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, has died. "Vasyl Dzharty has died in Crimea after a serious illness," reads an official statement of the Crimean government. "Many considered him a leader that can unite the entire Crimea. His work in Crimea is associated with many successful affairs which Vasyl Dzharty has had time to do as head of the Crimean government for half a year," the report says. A memorial service was to be held in Symferopol August 17, in the newly built Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. Mr. Dzharty was born on June 3, 1958, in the village of Razdolnoye, Donetsk region. During the 2006 parliamentary elections he was elected a national deputy from the Party of Regions of Ukraine. In August 2006 he joined the government of Viktor Yanukovich, taking the post of minister of environmental protection of Ukraine, and served in this position until December 2007. Mr. Dzharty was chairman of the Council of Ministers of Crimea since March 2010. (Ukrinform)

Fewer Ukrainians support independence

KYIV – If a referendum on Ukraine's independence were held in April, the majority of people would vote for sovereignty, it was reported on August 3. At the same time, over the years of independence a portion of the population has formed who do not care about the country's independence. The poll found that 47 percent of those surveyed would vote for independence in a hypothetical referendum in April compared to 28 percent who wouldn't. In comparison with 2001 the number of independence supporters decreased by 10 percentage points; they are not opponents of independent Ukraine, but are indifferent. These are the results of a multi-year project of the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, titled "Monitoring Social Change," released at a press conference by Iryna Bekeshkina, a senior researcher at the Institute of Sociology, director of the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation. On the eve of the 20th anniversary of independence, 47 percent of respondents voiced regret about the collapse of the USSR (30 percent, mostly in western Ukraine, have no regrets). In comparison with 1994, almost no change has happened to those who definitely welcome the changes in the country. At the same time, the thesis "Changes are necessary, but not at such a cost" has lost popularity. In 1994 it was shared by 43 percent, but now by only 25 percent. The "Monitoring Social Change" project was launched in 1992-1994. Every year, interviewers polled an average of 1,800 people. The April survey interviewed 1,200 people. (Ukrinform)

Kravchuk: Yushchenko should be in the dock

KYIV – Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk (1991-1994), has said he believes that the country's third president, Viktor Yushchenko (2005-2010), is also responsible for the signing of gas contracts with Russia in 2009. "He's one of those guilty, and he should sit in the dock next to [former Prime Minister Yulia] Tymoshenko, rather than provide testimony," he said at a press conference in Kyiv on August 18. Mr. Kravchuk noted that all of the country's presidents without exception "intervened and are intervening in the

energy sector, even when they did not and do not have any grounds to do so." He said that Mr. Yushchenko, under the Constitution of Ukraine that was in effect during his presidency, "had no such right, but he intervened." He added, "Who is guilty? It's necessary to prosecute everybody, perhaps, starting with Kravchuk, all 17 prime ministers and four presidents, and then say what they did for Ukraine and what they did for themselves. I'm ready for such a scenario, because I did everything for Ukraine, rather than for myself." (Interfax-Ukraine)

PM Azarov on Customs Union

KYIV – Ukraine is ready to join the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, but only in a 3+1 format, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said at the Ukrainian-Russian Economic Forum in Kyiv on August 10. He added that the issue of Ukraine's cooperation with the Customs Union would be discussed by the presidents of Ukraine and Russia at their August 11 meeting in Sochi, Russia. Mr. Azarov emphasized that, despite restrictions on the supply of Ukrainian goods to the Customs Union countries, economic relations with them, and in particular with Russia, are developing rapidly. "I do not share the view that these measures are allegedly called to encourage us to join or not to join the Customs Union. Our stand is that at the negotiation table with the Russian side, especially with our Belarusian and Kazakh colleagues, studying their experience in terms of creating the Customs Union, considering those specific legal instruments and agreements, we will gradually adopt these or other documents, that is, filling the 3+1 formula [three Customs Union countries plus Ukraine] put forward by our president, with specific economic content. This is the point of our position, which we have reiterated to our negotiating partners." (Ukrinform)

Ukraine, China to intensify cooperation

KYIV – Ukraine and China will intensify military cooperation, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said at an August 11 meeting with a member of the Central Military Commission, the chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China, Col.-Gen. Chen Binde. "Ukraine is ready to intensify military cooperation, the exchange of military delegations, attachés, training of China's military at higher educational establishments of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine," Mr. Azarov emphasized. He also added that military-technical cooperation could be improved with the help of an intergovernmental commission on military-industrial cooperation between Ukraine and China. The Ukrainian prime minister stressed that there is also promise in cooperation in the development of heavy transport aircraft, heavy hovercraft, tanks and air defense systems. Mr. Azarov called on the Chinese side to deepen cooperation in aircraft construction. "I would especially like to draw attention to aircraft construction. Chinese aircraft corporations and the Ukrainian Antonov company need to enhance cooperation." He noted that Ukraine has advanced technology, such as heavy transport aircraft, which have no analogue in the world. At the same time, Mr. Azarov briefed the Chinese side that Ukraine produces energy-efficient engines for helicopters. The prime minister added that he visited the Zaporizhia-based Motor Sich company, which produces the latest engines for airplanes and helicopters. "I was very surprised by the high efficiency of our engines. Compared with foreign analogues the Ukrainian engines with equal power consume 18 percent less fuel," he noted. The prime minister ordered representatives of the Ukrainian military and the military-

(Continued on page 15)

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NEWSBRIEFS...

(Continued from page 14)

industrial sector to intensify military cooperation with China. In turn, Col.-Gen. Chen Binde said that Ukraine and China have prospects for enhancing both interstate and military-technical cooperation. "Our cooperation at the state and army levels has very good prospects. We need to intensify our cooperation and bring it to a higher level," he said. (Ukrinform)

Needed: budget with huge safety margin

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers must strengthen coordination between fiscal policy of the government and the monetary policy of the National Bank of Ukraine, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said at a Cabinet of Ministers meeting on August 10. "Consultations between the Ministry of Finance and the NBU [National Bank of Ukraine] should give us a mechanism: how to reorient consumer lending to consumption of domestic goods and how to give effective support to the dynamic sectors of the economy," he said. According to the prime minister, we first "must address housing construction, individual construction in rural

areas, youth construction, food production," and continue developing social infrastructure at high speed. Mr. Azarov also noted that the state budget deficit for 2012 must be reduced to a minimum, and the budget program must be based on import substitution. "The Ministry of Finance finalizes the draft state budget for 2012. This budget needs a big margin of safety. Figuratively speaking, we need to create a protective levee against possible challenges and risks in the global market. Therefore, the budget must be very economical. The budget deficit must be reduced to minimum. Government spending must be targeted on social protection and creating back-up resources that will allow us to survive the tough times," he stressed. Mr. Azarov added that the main task of the government is to provide conditions for a decent competition of domestic producers, who face a flood of cheap but low-quality products. He noted that the budget must be based on import substitution. (Ukrinform)

Poland supports Ukraine's Euro-integration

KYIV – Ukraine is an important partner of Poland, and the goal of Warsaw is to show to Kyiv that it has an open road

(Continued on page 16)



Ділимося сумною вісткою з друзями, знайомими та українською громадою, що 11 серпня 2011 р. з волі Всевишнього відійшла у Божу Вічність на 91-му році життя наша найдорожча і незабутня МАМА

СВ. П.

ГАЛИНА ПЕТРЕНКО

з дому ЧУЙКО

вдова Євгена-Романа Петренка („Омелько“; „Юрко“) нар. 14 квітня 1921 р. в с. Журбинці на Житомирщині.

Покійна була активною церковною та громадською діячкою, головою Об'єднання Українських Православних Сестрицтв у США, засновницею і довголітньою головною редакторкою журналу православного сестрицтва „Віра“, зв'язковою УПА та учасницею Української Визвольної Боротьби 40-их років, яку Покійна описала у своїй книзі спогадів „На вибоях епохи“. Після еміграції до США з чоловіком та сином Юрієм, сім'я Петренків проживала у місті Buffalo, NY, де народився другий син Орест. Потім разом з батьком Петром Чуйком, який до них приєднався з Німеччини, родина виїхала на ферму у Dolgeville, NY. Згодом вони переїхали до Вашингтону, де Покійна працювала короткий час у „Голосі Америки“ та перекладачем для уряду США. З виходом на пенсію, Покійна з чоловіком вибрали собі на заслужений відпочинок мальовничу гірську місцевість Eldred, NY. Однак похилий вік та недуга змусили їх покинути улюблене „українське село“ і повернутися до району Вашингтону, де оселилися в домі сина Юрія та Ані. Там, під доглядом та опікою дітей, Вони прожили понад 15 років.

ПАНАХИДУ було відпавлено у неділю, 14 серпня в Українському православному соборі св. Андрія Первозванного у Силвер Спринг, Мд. ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбулися у понеділок, 15 серпня о год. 8:30 ранку в Українському Православному Соборі св. Андрія Первозванного, а відтак на цвинтарі св. Андрія у South Bound Brook, NJ, де тіло Покійної спочило біля сина Ореста (1952-1998) і чоловіка Євгена-Романа (1913-2008).

У глибокому смутку залишилися:

син – ЮРІЙ з дружиною АНЕЮ
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ВІЧНА ЇЇ ПАМ'ЯТЬ!

Замість квітів на свіжу могилу Покійної, бажаючих просимо складати пожертви на St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral (Halyna Petrenko Memorial Fund), c/o Anya Dydyk Petrenko, 137 Crystal Spring Dr., Ashton, MD, 20861.



With great sorrow we announce that our beloved mother, grandmother and sister

Irena (Orysia) Mandicz née Dziubina

Passed away into eternity suddenly and unexpectedly on Tuesday, August 9, 2011, at the age of 84. She was born in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, on June 8, 1927.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, August 13, 2011, at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven, CT, followed by interment at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Ansonia, CT.

In deep sorrow:

- sons – Ihor with his wife Valentyna and children Alexander, Toma and Khrystyna,
– Myron with his children Katherine and Kristen;
- daughters – Oksana with husband Michael Hoobchaak and children Daria and Gregory,
– Chrystyna with husband Frank Centore and children Daniel and Arianna;
- brother – Bohdan with wife Rachel and family;
- sister – Dozia with husband Wasyl Bystrianyuk and family;

Extended Family: Zynycz, Welyczko, and Melnyczuk

Вічная Її Пам'ять



With profound sorrow and great sadness we announce the passing into eternity on August 8, 2011 of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother

Anna Maria Marta de Lodzia Rostkowycz Pidwerbetsky

born July 16, 1924 in Werchrata, Ukraine. She was the loving daughter of the late Tadey de Lodzia Rostkowycz and Maria Chominska.

Funeral services were held on August 11, 2011, at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Watervliet, NY, followed by interment at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Hamptonburgh, NY.

She is survived by those who cherish her memory:

- husband – Andre Pidwerbetsky
- son – Alex Pidwerbetsky
- daughters – Areta Pidwerbetsky
with her husband Myron Dytiuk
– Adriana Pidwerbetsky
- grandchildren – Nina Dytiuk
– Andrew Dytiuk
- nephew – Askold Wynnykiw
- cousins – Tania, Ihor, and Nestor Borowets

In memory of Anna Pidwerbetsky, contributions may be made to Our Mother of Perpetual Help Society at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 2410 Fourth Ave., Watervliet, NY 12189



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NEWSBRIEFS...

(Continued from page 15)

to the West and a road to dialogue with the United States. The head of the Polish state, Bronislaw Komorowski, said this during his August 3 meeting with the press in Warsaw on the occasion of the first anniversary of his presidency. President Komorowski reiterated that the meeting between Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and President Barack Obama during the Central European summit in Warsaw on May 27 this year was a success in this context. Mr. Komorowski said that the U.S. is perfectly aware of Ukraine's importance in the region. He also stressed that Poland will support Ukraine in making decisions that would bring the country closer to the Western system, adding that this is now possible without creating tensions in Russian-Ukrainian or Polish-Russian relations. (Ukrinform)

Sevastopol officers to produce documentary

KYIV – The Sevastopol Union of Officers has called on the Lviv Oblast Council to provide assistance in the creation of a documentary film about the role of Ukrainian sailors of the Black Sea Squadron in the events of 1917-1921. The request was announced by the deputy head of the Sevastopol Union of Officers, Timur Barotov, who arrived in Lviv at the end of July with this goal in mind. "This film will discuss little-known stories in the history of struggle for Ukrainian independence. We dedicated this film to the 20th anniversary [of Ukraine's independence]. We believe that it will promote the military-patriotic education of young people and the staff of the Navy and Armed Forces of Ukraine," Mr. Barotov said. (Ukrinform)

Most migrant workers want to return

KYIV – The main goal of Ukrainian migrant workers is to return to Ukraine to start their own businesses, the president of the Association of Ukrainian Emigrants in Portugal, Pavlo Sadokha, said during a Kyiv - Lisbon link-up conducted on August 11 by the National Radio Company of Ukraine. "The Ukrainians who went to Portugal, from the very beginning sought to make money and then invest this capital to Ukraine," Mr. Sadokha emphasized. However, he said, Portugal reasonably uses the potential of migrant workers, integrating them into various projects to promote work according to their specialties. Since the Portuguese legislation permits the association of families, there was a second wave of migration from the far east of Europe to the far west. According to another participant in the link-up, an

adviser to the Directorate of the National Institute for Strategic Studies, Dr. Olena Malynovska, the Ukrainian state must develop and endorse the concept on the return of Ukrainian labor migrants to their homeland. She added that in parallel with the unfolding of Ukrainian migration to Portugal, there is growth in the investment of Portuguese capital in Ukraine. It is therefore extremely important for Ukraine to encourage migrants to return, to create the appropriate conditions, in particular, improving the ease with which businesses can be started. (Ukrinform)

Illegal employment could reach 5 M

KYIV – According to various estimates, the number of people illegally employed in Ukraine is between 2 million to 4.7 million in Ukraine, but there are no official statistics about the scale of illegal employment, State Labor Inspection Chairman Andriy Cherkasov said in an exclusive interview with Ukrinform. "Unfortunately, there isn't an exact index of the labor resource balance. By various estimates, in particular, those of the Social Policy and Trade Ministry, the World Bank and the Demography Institute, presently, between 2 million and 4.7 million persons have been illegally engaged in different types of labor activities," he said. According to Mr. Cherkasov, most people, without guarantees of labor rights, are used by employers in construction, trade, the restaurant business, transportation and agriculture. "The total shadow economy is based on illegal employment, non-full payment of wages and wages in envelopes. Illegally hired labor makes a worker actually a labor slave. If a person is fired, if the wage is not paid in a timely fashion to him, or an accident occurs, he has no rights," the official said. The State Statistics Service says that the unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 1.8 percent in June. As of July 1, 506,100 jobless persons have been registered at State Employment Service. (Ukrinform)

Chocolate museum opens in Ternopil

KYIV – The Chocolate Country museum has opened in Ternopil in conjunction with the Feast of Chocolate on August 7. The museum presents a variety of sweet pieces of black and white chocolate from Ukrainian masters. Visitors can also learn about the history of chocolate art and how chocolate is created. Before visiting Ternopil, the museum of chocolate art opened its doors in Lviv, Chernivtsi, Poltava, Rivne, Odesa, Uzhhorod, Ivano-Frankivsk, Vinnytsia, Odesa and Zhytomyr. Every Ukrainian city has its own unique feature of the museum. (Ukrinform)



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5:30 p.m. – Gala Banquet and Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus Concert

Patriarch Sviatoslav (Shevchuk), Keynote Speaker, Hyatt Regency McCormick Place
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Sunday, September 25, 2011

2:00 p.m. – Public Assembly to Welcome the Patriarch
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3:00 p.m. – Pontifical Divine Liturgy of Thanksgiving

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Dallas hopes big Oleksiak is star on defense

Comparisons include Stanley Cup champion and Boston Bruins captain Zdeno Chara, 2010 Calder Trophy winner as top rookie and Buffalo Sabres young stalwart Tyler Myers, and even elder veteran of several defense corps, current Montreal Canadiens Hal Gill. Should Ukrainian Jamie Oleksiak's wealth of potential talent manifest itself anywhere near any of the above three proven defensemen, the Dallas Stars organization will be extremely satisfied.

Dallas selected the Northeastern University defender with its first round pick (14th overall) at the 2011 NHL Entry Draft. Oleksiak measures up to the aforementioned trio: at 6-foot-7, he is one inch shorter than Myers and Gill, two inches less than Chara. He weighed in at 244 pounds and counting. The 18-year-old potential blueline monster is probably several years away from active duty on Dallas' defense.

"I think the first thing that's catching is his size, 6-7, 240, and still room to grow in that frame, but he's a kid at Northeastern University that our scouts have followed closely," said Dallas General Manager Joe Nieuwendyk in an interview with John Tranchina of Stars.nhl.com. "He moves well for a big man. We've seen the impact over the years that big men can have on the game, and it goes back with us with Derian Hatcher and the success that he had. He has Chara-type size and he skates well and moves the puck. The offense is probably not overwhelming, but he plays an all-round game, and the important thing is

he's a guy that size who skates that well, he's hard to play against."

Defense first

The young draftee believes he has the skill set to be a contributor all over the ice, though his forte at this time is being strong in the defensive zone.

"I'd probably say I'm a defensive defenseman," said Oleksiak in his conversation with Mr. Tranchina. He tallied 13 points, including four goals with 57 penalty minutes in 38 games as a freshman at Northeastern in 2010-2011. "I think I have the ability to make plays in all three zones and I think I can really be a reliable player in any situation and I think I have a good shot from the point and I can use my size and my stick to kind of take away scoring opportunities from the other team and start the transition."

Referencing comparisons to proven big defensemen in the NHL, Oleksiak readily admitted Zdeno Chara, captain of the Stanley Cup champion Boston Bruins and Norris Trophy winner, is a role model.

"Obviously I try and take away as much as possible from a lot of players in the NHL, but if I had to narrow it down to one player, I'd probably say Zdeno Chara," Oleksiak said. "He's a guy I really look up to [by two inches] and someone I really enjoy his style of play and try and model my game after. I think he's had great success and that's something I want to do."

His game will grow

For a young man of his size, Oleksiak, similar to Zdeno Chara, shows much ath-

leticism and impressive coordination. Exactly for this reason the Dallas scouts were taken by him and his potential, believing as he matures his game on both ends of the ice will continue to progress.

"He's not awkward out there. He makes plays, he can stickhandle and he can move," Nieuwendyk said. "He'll have some growth in his game to develop, but our scouts have seen him a lot this year and they're comfortable that he's going to be a big-time prospect."

Oleksiak is fully aware he must continue building more muscle as he fills out his tall physique. Part of his growth as a future NHL defenseman will be to grow out physically – already a prime focus of his off-season workout plan.

"I'm working out with the strength coach back at Northeastern," revealed Oleksiak, who was raised in Toronto, but at age 14 moved to Detroit and is a citizen of both the U.S. and Canada. "Over the last year, I've been working on strength training and kind of into my body, a big part of me as well as kind of working on fast footwork and overall mobility. I think I'm working on that off-ice over the summer and I'm working hard to get ready for next season. My goal for next season is to hit 250 [lbs.], but I'll have to talk to some strength coaches and see where I should end up. I don't want to sacrifice mobility for strength, so we'll figure that out."

Next year's plans

Prior to being selected 14th overall in this year's entry draft, Oleksiak's plan was to return to Northeastern for his sophomore year in 2011-2012. This now needs to be re-examined, especially since the school's head coach, Greg Cronin, departed for greener pastures with the Toronto Maple Leafs as an assistant. Oleksiak's development has options aside from Northeastern: he could play juniors in the Ontario League or even turn pro and shoot for a roster spot with the parent club or their AHL affiliate, the Texas Stars.

"Northeastern has been phenomenal for me and has really helped in my development, but as for what's happening next year, it's all up in the air," said Oleksiak in his conversation with John Tranchina during the draft. "My goal is to play professional hockey one day and I really want to go where it's going to continue my development and get to my goal and help me achieve the most. Right now I haven't committed to anything and there are some decisions coming up."

The Dallas Stars organization will obviously have a say in the decision making process pertaining to the next phase of Jamie Oleksiak's development.

"Those are things that we'll discuss," G.M. Nieuwendyk said. "I know the coach at Northeastern has left to join the Leafs' staff, so we'll have a chance to sit down with the kid and his agent. I suppose he could play [in the NHL] if we wanted him to turn pro, but I don't think that's the case. Obviously he's had one year in college hockey. He may have some options facing him, but those are things we'll have to discuss with him. I think it was a good year for him at Northeastern, the program has come a long way, but I can't speak for the kid because I know that the coach had a relationship with him."

The Stars are confident their top draft pick will maintain his upward development aiming for an NHL job no matter where he ends up next season. The Dallas defense corps is looking up with the addition of Alex Goligoski in a trade from Pittsburgh last season, coupled with prospect Philip Larsen's development and the

drafting of Oleksiak. The talent these three youngsters possess will make the Stars formidable on the blueline for many years to come.

"You got Larsen knocking on the door, too, so yeah, I think 12 months ago, we were talking a lot about our defense," said Nieuwendyk. "And I think the cupboard is starting to get stocked and it certainly got stocked in a big way with this kid."

"I think it's a good fit for me," Oleksiak concluded of being chosen by Dallas. "I'm really looking forward to it and it's a real honor to be selected by the Stars and it's a great experience."

OLEKSIK ORIGINALS: Second-youngest player invited to Team USA's final camp for the 2011 World Juniors... represented Team USA on the Under-18 team at the 2009 Ivan Hlinka tournament... his Ukrainian father, Richard, hails from Buffalo... played minor hockey for the Toronto Young Nationals and Detroit Little Caesars... also played in the USHL for Sioux Falls and Chicago prior to Northeastern University... he shoots left... ex-G.M. and NHL Network analyst Craig Button says Oleksiak is more developed and has better coordination than Zdeno Chara had at same age... he zoomed up in Central Scouting's rankings, jumping from No. 27 in the mid-term rankings to No.13 on the final ranking of North American skaters in April... had six fights in 53 games while playing in the USHL... Ukrainian Tyler Beskorowany is a goalie prospect in the Stars organization... Oleksiak clearing the crease for Beskorowany a couple of years down the road?

Oilers pick Ewanyk in third round

The Edmonton Oilers, in full rebuild mode with choice draft positioning, selected Ukrainian Travis Ewanyk in the third round, 74th overall. Ewanyk played his junior hockey very close by with the WHL's Edmonton Oil Kings. In 2010-2011, the 6-foot, 178-pound left winger notched 16 goals and 11 assists for 27 points in 72 games. He was scoreless in four playoff games.

Ewanyk played for Canada at the 2011 Under-18 World Junior Championship, tallying a lone assist in seven games. Despite negligible scoring totals, he reaffirmed a solid reputation for efficient two-way play. He has shown himself to be a strong faceoff man, who can slide to the center spot when needed, showing excellent versatility. He has a gritty game, willing to battle for pucks all over the ice. Speaking of battling, he's more than competent when the gloves are dropped.

In his rookie juniors season of 2009-2010, Ewanyk saw action in 42 games for the Oil Kings, scoring one goal and four assists for five points and 45 penalty minutes.

Sharks select Sobchenko in sixth

San Jose picked Ukrainian center Daniil Sobchenko with their first selection in the sixth round (166th overall) of the 2011 NHL Entry Draft. The 6-foot-2, 192-pound native of Kyiv, Ukraine, spent the past two seasons playing for Yaroslavl of the Kontinental Hockey League in Russia. In his two years there, he scored 6 goals, 2 assists and had 10 penalty minutes while dressing in 51 total games. The 20-year-old notched one assist in eleven KHL playoff games this past season. Sobchenko also played for Russia in the World Junior Championships, posting seven points (4 goals) in seven games.

(Ihor Stelmach may be reached at iman@sfgsports.com)

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SPORTSLINE

by Matthew Dugas

Soccer

• In the UEFA Champions League play, Dynamo Kyiv was eliminated in the third qualifying round by Rubin Kazan of Russia, losing 0-2 on July 26 in Kyiv and losing again 1-2 on August 3 in Kazan, for an aggregate of 1-4. Shakhtar Donetsk, which defeated Metalurh Donetsk 2-0 in the Ukrainian Premier League championship on May 6, was an automatic entrant in the group stage. The group stage is to begin on September 13, with matches to be announced.

• In the UEFA Europa League play-offs on August 18 Dynamo Kyiv defeated Litex of Bulgaria 2-1 at Lovech Stadium, in Lovech, Bulgaria. Karpaty Lviv lost 0-2 to PAOK of Greece at Toumbas Stadium in Salonika, Greece. Metalist Kharkiv tied 0-0 with Sochaux-Montbéliard of France at Metalist Stadium in Kharkiv. Dnipropetrovsk Dnipro lost 0-3 to Fulham of England at Craven Cottage stadium in London. On August 4, the second leg of the third qualifying round, Karpaty Lviv defeated St. Patrick's of Ireland 3-1 at Tallaght Stadium in Dublin. Karpaty won the series 5-1 on aggregate, defeating St. Patrick's 2-0 on July 28 in the first leg of the third qualifying round at Ukrayina Stadium in Lviv. At press time, results were unavailable for the follow-up matches for Dynamo Kyiv versus Litex, Dnipro versus Fulham, Metalist versus Sochaux, and Karpaty versus PAOK, which played on August 25. Results and group stage assignments will appear in the next Sportsline.

• The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) has allocated 500 million euros to Ukraine and Poland in preparation for the 2012 European Championship (Euro-2012). "This is an investment in the UEFA tournament itself for Ukraine and Poland," Markiyanyan Lubkivsky, tournament director in Ukraine, told the press on August 16. "The funds are designated for the work of specialists and the city local committee, and other operational activities." The previous European Championship, hosted by Switzerland and Austria in 2008, brought approximately 1 billion euros in profits for the host countries.

• Ukraine lost to Sweden 0-1 in an international friendly match on August 10. Scoring for Sweden in the final minutes of injury time in the second half was Tobias Hysen, a second-half substitute who beat the offside trap and poked the ball past goalkeeper Andriy Dykan. Ukraine's defense was described as inexperienced without Dmytro Chygrynskiy and Yaroslav Rakytskiy. Chances for goals came from Maksym Kalynychenko in the 30th minute and a shot from Andriy Shevchenko two minutes later; in the second half substitute Yevhen Konoplyanka hit two dangerous free kicks – first in the 83rd minute with a screamer from 35-yards out, and a second curling effort four minutes later. Ukraine has only won one game in the last 10 matches.

• Ukraine's U-21 team lost to Uzbekistan at the ninth Valeri Lobanovsky Memorial soccer tournament, hosted at Kyiv's Obolon stadium on August 9-10. After a scoreless final match, the game was decided by penalty kicks, with Uzbekistan winning 8-7.

• Andriy Shevchenko of Ukraine was named by FIFA as the European Zone's all-time record goal scorer, with 26 in

FIFA World Cup qualifying matches. Shevchenko debuted in 1995 and played in more than 100 matches for the Ukrainian National Team, scoring 45 goals. Shevchenko is currently sidelined after suffering a broken jaw on August 13 in a league match against FC Arsenal Kyiv. Shevchenko is seeking medical treatment in England and is expected to be out of action for at least a month.

• Dynamo Kyiv goalkeeper Maksym Koval, 18, topped FIFA's list of Europe's most promising players. The Netherlands, Switzerland and Turkey had three players for each country named to the list.

• Shakhtar Donetsk tied with Olympique Lyon of France 1-1 on July 27 at the Donbas Arena in Donetsk. The international friendly was in preparation for the UEFA Champions League group stage. Scoring for Shakhtar was Jadson in the 69th minute off a penalty. Michel Bastos responded for Lyon in the 79th minute off another penalty.

Boxing

• Vladyslav Mykhailov (75 kg) won the gold medal at the AIBA Junior World Boxing Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, on July 20-31, after defeating Omer Dincer of Turkey 14-9. Bronze medalists for Ukraine included Dmytro Zamotayev (46 kg), Oleksandr Meleniuk (48 kg), Viktor Petrov (50 kg), Borys Kaplin (54 kg) and Arsen Ablayev (57 kg).

• The International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) announced that starting in 2016 professional boxers will be able to compete in the Olympic Games. Wladimir Klitschko said the idea would benefit boxing, but that he does not intend to compete.

Chess

• Yuriy Kryvoruchko won the fourth international chess tournament in Paleochora, Greece, on July 20-27. The grandmaster scored 7.5 out of 8 points, in the tournament, which attracted 248 players.

• Kostiantyn Tarlev won the FIDE President Cup chess tournament in Suzdal, Russia, on August 15-18. Tarlev scored 6.5 points out of 7 possible. The tournament was attended by 251 players from 12 countries.

• Ukraine's national chess team defeated Azerbaijan at the World Team Chess Championship in Ningbo, China, on July 26. Ukrainian team players included Vasyl Ivanchuk, Pavel Eljanov, Zahar Efimenko and Alexander Moiseenko.

Tennis

• Alexandr Dolgoplov won the ATP clay-court Croatia Open in Umag, Croatia, on August 1. In the final, Dolgoplov defeated Marin Cilic of Croatia 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. This was Dolgoplov's first singles title in his professional career. Dmytro Poliakov was the first Ukrainian to win the title at Umag in 1991.

• Valentyna Ivakhnenko, 18, won the ITF Moscow 2011 tennis tournament on August 1-7 after defeating Velria Solovieva of Russia, 6-1, 6-3. This was Ivakhnenko's first title this season and the fourth of her professional career. In doubles, Ivakhnenko and Kateryna Kozlova of Ukraine defeated Vasylisza Bulgakova of Hungary and Anna Rapoport of Russia 6-3, 6-0.

• Maria Koryttseva advanced to the semifinals of the Baku Cup tennis tournament in Baku, Azerbaijan, on July 18-24. In the semifinal match, Koryttseva lost to Vera Zvonareva of Russia, 1-6, 2-6. In the quarterfinals, Koryttseva defeated Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine, 7-5, 6-4. In doubles, Koryttseva teamed up with Tatiana Poutchek of Belarus to defeat the Bondarenko sisters, Alona and Kateryna, in the second round, 3-6, 6-4, 13-11. Koryttseva-Poutchek won in the final match against Monica Niculescu of Romania and Galina Voskoboeva of Kazakhstan, 6-3, 2-6, 10-8.

Archery

Yulia Zakharchenko won the bronze medal in the junior women's recurve event at the second leg of the European Junior Cup in Paphos, Cyprus, on August 18-23. The tournament was held under the auspices of the European and Mediterranean Archery Union. Zakharchenko won the silver in the recurve team event and scored the most points for the all-around individual title.

Wrestling

Ukraine's wrestlers collected five medals at the Junior Wrestling World Championship in Bucharest, Romania, on July 26-31. Zhan Beleniuk (84 kg) won the silver medal. Bronze medalists included Ihor Didyk (120 kg), Vitaliy Hursky (55 kg), Muradin Kukhshov (120 kg), Alina Makhynia (67 kg).

Pentathlon

Dmytro Kyrpuliatsky and Viktoria Tereshchuk won bronze medals in the 2011 European Modern Pentathlon Championships in Medway, Great Britain, on July 28-August 1.

Mountaineering

Rescuers have found the body of a Ukrainian climber who died after a fall while climbing the Tsei gorge in North Ossetia. Another climber is still missing. The incident occurred on August 12.

Diving

Ukraine's divers won four medals at the FINA World Junior Championships in Lima, Peru, on August 16-21. Maksym Shemberev won the men's 400-meter individual medley, and Daryna Zevina

won three events – the 50-meter backstroke, the 100-meter backstroke and the 200-meter backstroke.

Olympics

• Ukrainian athletes secured 142 berths for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, that are to be held on July 27 through August 12, 2012. This will be London's third time hosting the Games, previously held in 1908 and 1948. Ukraine's athletes will include 71 in athletics, 46 swimmers, seven shooters, two modern pentathletes, six divers, six archers and four horse racers.

• Ukraine finished in sixth place by medal total and seventh place by rank, collecting 44 medals – 11 gold, 19 silver and 14 bronze – at the 26th Summer Universiade in Shenzhen, China, on August 12-23. Competition included fencing, archery, artistic gymnastics, athletics, beach volleyball, chess, track cycling, diving, judo and rhythmic gymnastics.

• Ukraine's athletes won 15 medals at the European Youth Summer Olympic Festival in Trabzon, Turkey, on July 23-29. Ukraine's team included 53 athletes in six sports – athletics, swimming, judo, rhythmic gymnastics, tennis and cycle racing. The competition attracted athletes from 49 European countries. In team classification, Ukraine won third place.

Athletics

Olha Saladukha won the women's triple jump at the 11th leg of the DN Galan – Samsung Diamond League in Stockholm, Sweden, on July 29. Saladukha's first attempt was a wind-assisted jump of 15.06 meters. In overall standings, Ukraine is in second place with 12 points.

Martial arts

Kyiv hosted the World Judo Championship for Cadets at the Sports Palace on August 11-14. The event attracted 650 athletes from 57 countries. Pavlo Skopenko (55 kg) won gold, Serhii Zvieriev (+90 kg) and Viktor Makukha (66 kg) tied for bronze. In the women's division, Yelizaveta Kalanina (+70 kg) won silver and Anastasiya Turchyn (+70 kg) tied for bronze.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

would ensure falsification, opposition deputies charged.

"The Stalinist norm is in effect – it's not important who votes, but who counts the votes," said Viacheslav Kyrlyenko, a national deputy and chair of the For Ukraine party. "Local citizens are denied the opportunity to influence this process. The law enables the Regions and Communists to select their representatives to election commissions first, followed by all other political forces," he explained.

Local elections were scheduled for October 31, 2010, and for the first time were being held independently of a major election. Thus, it was feared that the West would overlook the legitimacy of the election results.

Each territorial election commission included 18 members, with the PRU and Communists selecting three representatives each, enabling them to choose and recruit the most influential commission

members ahead of the three other parliamentary factions.

The Central Election Commission (CEC), which was loyal to the PRU, had authority in determining which three commissioners would represent each of the three remaining parliamentary factions, the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense Bloc.

Even if the opposition parties submit the applications for nominating candidates on time, the CEC had the right to deny the nominations without any concrete ruling.

When President Viktor Yanukovich signed the amendments into law on September 1, 2010, he noted that certain provisions in the July 10, 2010, legislation "didn't conform to democratic principles and international standards," overlooking the fact that it was his own parliamentary faction that led their approval in the first place.

Source: "Amendments to local elections law still aimed to help PRU, say critics," by Zenon Zawada, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 5, 2010.



60-ий Всеамериканський Маніфестаційний

Здвиг СУМ

на Оселі СУМ в Елленвіл
2,3,4-го вересня, 2011р.

У програмі:

- Служба Божа у неділю о 10-ій год.
- Маніфестаційна частина Здвигу
- Святкове слово - Леся Гаргай,
спів-референт дружинників КУ СУМ в США
- Дефіляда Осередків з участю оркестри "Батурин"



"Україна"

Мистецькі концерти

(субота: 5 год. - неділя: 2 та 5 год.)

Оркестра "Батурин" - (Торонто)
Солістка Людмила Фесенко
Солістка Христина Шафранська
Табір Мистецтва та Культури
(неділя 2-ій год.)



Людмила Фесенко

Танцювальний ансамбль "Україна" - (Торонто)

- Табір Дружинників -

Спортивні змагання з футболу в суботу

10:30 год – змагання Молодшого Юнацтва
12:00 год – змагання Старшого Юнацтва



Оркестра "Грім"



Оркестра "Світанок"



Христина Шафранська



Ігри для дітей

Забави

П'ятниця: вечірка - дует "Зукі й Майк"
Субота: забава - оркестра "Грім"
Неділя: забава - оркестра "Світанок"

Reflections...

(Continued from page 2)

cal topics, on NATO and finally on the situation within the Soviet Union. Gen. Volkogonov prided himself on his gift for prognostication, and in past exchanges I had asked him about where he saw events going in the Soviet Union.

This time he spoke of the impact of Mr. Yeltsin's recent popular election as President of the Russian Federation and its impact on his political legitimacy; the curious rise of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and his Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, who had finished third behind Messrs. Yeltsin and Ryzhkov; the failed efforts of hardliners to force Mr. Gorbachev's removal through a no-confidence vote in the USSR Supreme Soviet; and the question of a new union treaty, which was due to be resolved in mid-August, would undermine the hardliners' positions of power in the union state apparatus. Gen. Volkogonov said that the hardliners could not tolerate the rewrite of the union treaty to reflect a real decentralization of power. What Mr. Gorbachev would do, was still unclear. And, therefore, there was no possibility of foreseeing the political future beyond mid-August.

Events thereafter played out as Gen. Volkogonov had foreseen. The core issue involved the efforts of the hardliners to ensure the survival of the power institutions of the Soviet state. In July the journalistic voice of the hardliners, *Den*, under the editorship of Aleksandr Prokhanov, published "Slovo k Narodu," which expressed the hardliners' demands for a restoration of order before the fatherland was destroyed. Using a combination of Soviet clichés and Church Slavonic, the authors, who included artists, writers, soldiers and political figures, invoked the will of all to resist the collapse and destruction.

"The Soviet Union is our home and bulwark, created by the great efforts of all peoples and nations, save us from shame and slavery in the times of dark invasions! Russia is the one and only beloved! It beseeches our help" (*Den*, July 1991).

On July 29, President Gorbachev, President Yeltsin and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan were heard by KGB phone taps discussing the possible removal of hardliners from the power institutions of the Soviet state.

By early August everyone was feeling boxed in. Facing this risk, the hardline conspirators who had been organized around the head of the KGB, Vladimir Kriuchkov, decided to act. When Mr. Gorbachev left Moscow for the south without resolving the issue of the new union treaty, they set out to get his voluntary resignation and to impose their restored order in the name of the State Committee for Emergency Situations (GKChP). The conservative conspirators, counting on controlling the traditional levers of power within the Soviet system, i.e., the Party, the KGB, and the Soviet army, expected to be able to carry out their putsch without any large-scale use of force. The conspirators included the chairman of the KGB, the minister of defense, the minister of internal affairs, the prime minister, the vice-president, the deputy chief of the defense council, the head of Gorbachev's secretariat, the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the deputy minister of defense.

They struck on August 18, and immediately things began to go wrong. The delegation sent south to convince Mr. Gorbachev to resign failed to secure his agreement. In the absence of his public agreement to resign, the hardline conspirators decided to go ahead with a seizure of power on the claim that Mr. Gorbachev was ill and there was disorder in various, unspecified parts of the Soviet Union. Gennady Yanaev signed the decree naming himself as acting president of the USSR on the pretext of Mr. Gorbachev's inability to perform presidential duties due to "illness."

To deal with this self-proclaimed crisis the conspirators announced the formation of the GKChP at 7 a.m. on August 19. The putschists failed to arrest President Yeltsin, who made it by 9 a.m. to his office in the White House, where his supporters had rallied. Mr. Yeltsin and his supporters denounced the coup as a reactionary attempt to seize power and asked the military not to support the putsch. Very quickly, the White House was surrounded by a crowd of supporters of Russian democracy. A tank unit deployed at the White House announced its loyalty to President Yeltsin and the Russian government and Mr. Yeltsin came out to climb upon it.

On August 20, Mr. Yanaev ordered the putschists' appointed commander of the Moscow garrison to declare a curfew for the city from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m., which was

taken as a sign that an assault on the White House would be mounted. Operation "Grom" (thunder) was supposed to storm the White House at 2 a.m. using Special Forces from the Alpha Group of the KGB and the Vypel Group from the Internal Forces along with armor and motorized infantry units and airborne forces under the command of Maj.-Gen. Aleksandr Lebed. The White House defenders led by Army-Gen. Konstantin Kobets set about trying to prepare a defense. Gen. Lebed seems to have been following the orders of the Chief of the Airborne Force, Lt.-Gen. Pavel Grachev, who while involved in the planning of the putsch also kept lines of communication open to President Yeltsin.

But it was becoming very clear that the troops, which the putschists were now depending upon to impose order, were not necessarily going to obey their orders. At 1 a.m. there was a confrontation between demonstrators and troops in an underpass near the White House and three protesters were killed. Alpha and Vypel Groups did not attack at 2 a.m., and Defense Minister Yazov ordered the troops to pull out of Moscow, which began at 8 a.m. on August 21. A putschist delegation, led by Messrs. Kriuchkov and Yazov, flew to Crimea to negotiate with Mr. Gorbachev, but he refused to meet with them, and when his communications with the outside world were restored, he declared all the actions of the GKChP to have been illegal.

Mr. Yeltsin emerged as the immediate winner because he was on the ground in Moscow when the putsch collapsed. Mr. Gorbachev was left as the leader of a state, which was collapsing as its republics declared their independence. The power centers of the Soviet state effectively collapsed because their leaders had been compromised as incompetent adventurists. Mr. Yeltsin, when he came to sovereign power in Russia, set out to break up the KGB into parts, distrusted the military and put it in the hands of his "loyal general" Lt.-Gen. Grachev, who oversaw its decline. Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were considered useful to maintain order inside Russia and became favorites of President Yeltsin when they played a positive role in putting down the parliamentary opposition to Mr. Yeltsin in November 1993.

Twenty years is not a long time to gain historical perspective on great events. Serious study of the French Revolution did

not begin until almost 50 years after the event. And all early historians, regardless of their perspectives, agreed that the revolution for good or ill defined modern France. The exception was Alexis de Tocqueville, who wrote about the revolution in 1857. Several of his observations about the ancien regime and the French Revolution are relevant to us: "The regime which is destroyed by a revolution is almost always an improvement on its immediate predecessor, and experience teaches that the most critical moment for bad governments is the one which witnesses their first steps toward reform."

I was one caught up in the events of 1991 and they left a deep impression upon me. But as a historian I am also aware of the need to step back from the events and take a longer view. Twenty years on, the collapse of the Soviet Union, which began its fatal spiral after the failure of the coup, invites comparison with the collapse of the tsarist regime in 1917 and the revolutionary process that brought the Bolsheviks to power. For me as a historian, there is wisdom in the observations of Alexis de Tocqueville about the French Revolution, which began precisely as the ancien regime was in the process of reform and when it was over the republic of *liberte, equalite et fraternite* gave rise to a powerful centralized state.

In Russia also, much was swept away. The Communist Party lost its monopoly on power, Marxism-Leninism as an ideology collapsed under the weight of its own contradictions, the Soviet Union itself disappeared, and the planned economy collapsed. Yet, 20 years on Russia is once again a centralized state under what has been called "managed democracy." The KGB was, indeed, broken up, but under leaders from within its ranks there has emerged what Nikolai Patrushev, the former head of the Federal Security Service, calls "a new nobility," whose officers selflessly serve to protect the state itself. Their precursors, however, are not just the chekisty of Felix Dzerzhinsky but also the sky-blue gendarmes of Count Aleksandr von Benkendorff's Third Section (*Moskovskie Novosti*, September 3, 2004).

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Twenty years...

(Continued from page 3)

Ukraine has deeply realized that our European progress is impossible without good relations with Russia. Years of independence have irrefutably proven that such relations are possible only in strict compliance with bilateral balance of national interests and mutual respect. The state and its government will do everything in their power to construct such a balance.

We understand the importance of relations with the leading country of the world – the United States, and hope these relations will be developing in the coming years. Realizing the enormous potential available here is our main goal.

It is absurd to neglect relations with the People's Republic of China in the world of today. Over the last year, much has been done for the development of these relations, and this is only the beginning of a promising cooperation.

National pragmatism, based on the interests of Ukrainian citizens, is our roadmap to building relations with other states.

The world respects the strong. Ukraine will continue reforming the armed forces, other security sector agencies, introducing European principles and standards, developing cooperation with NATO and other security institutions in Europe.

We do contribute to international stability and security, resolution of conflicts on the basis of strict compliance with the international law. And not only in Europe. Ukrainian peacekeepers also perform complex tasks of maintaining peace in Asia and Africa.

We realize that the road to Europe runs through every village and town of our country. And this road will be paved by not only diplomats, but by all of us – citizens of Ukraine of all nationalities, those for whom statehood is not just a word, but a common cause.

Ukraine urgently needs modernization of all areas of public life. Further delay threatens not stagnation, but a slow suicide of the state. In order to avoid tragedy we have stepped on the path of reform. This decision was not easy. And although we may not always succeed, the direction is correct, and there is no doubt about it.

We set ambitious goals for the state. We target the heights Ukraine really deserves. We should enter the club of world leaders. We should give Ukrainian business an opportunity to breathe freely. We will remove administrative barriers preventing citizens from feeling comfortable in their own land.

After decades of empty talk and attempts to avoid responsibility, drastic changes occur in Ukraine for the second consecutive year. Tax and budget legislation was changed, administrative and pension

reforms are pending, a large experiment in healthcare is being realized, there is discussion of a new Criminal Procedure Code and electoral legislation. New serious action is being prepared. Ukraine has already changed, and the transformations in the interests of the Ukrainian people will continue. Regardless of whether the advocates of the old system and irresponsible populism want it or not.

The success of reforms will be guaranteed by overcoming corruption – the priority threat to [the] national security of Ukraine. For the first time in many years we are taking real steps, not decorative ones, as it has often been. But corruption cannot be crushed without ensuring the full equality of all citizens before the law.

An important step was made – there is no more caste of untouchables now in Ukraine, and I am sure there will never be in the future. And if anyone believes this is a separately taken campaign, he is deeply mistaken. No position, no wealth, past or present, will protect the criminals. The basic principle of justice has been restored – the inevitability of punishment. Ukrainian Themis's eyes will be closed, her focus will be only justice, and her scales will be calibrated in accordance with European standards.

Not everyone likes that. Our actions often encounter strong resistance. But we are confident that the chosen course is right, and the results will help all citizens of Ukraine to get rid of the corruption tax and protect their

own dignity in the face of today's and tomorrow's officials.

I will not deny that the government has made mistakes. And more than once. Unfortunately, we are not immune to them in the future. But we learn. Time has proven conclusively that the current leadership of Ukraine is able to do its homework.

[The] Ukrainian government strictly complies with the provisions of the Constitution regarding the rights and freedoms of a man and citizen, and does everything necessary to fill these provisions with real content. And here we count on the support and assistance of Ukrainian civil society and general public of all European countries.

We are open to dialogue, but will not give up our principles, the main of which is serving the interests of Ukrainian society and democratic state.

All these factors give me full confidence that today, in the days of the 20th anniversary of independence, Ukraine has broad consensus. Each of us is fully aware what country we are building together. This is a modern, democratic, legal, high-tech and advanced country that is an integral part of [the] European cultural space. And this goal unites all the Ukrainians, regardless of their political affiliation or belief. The way to achieve it has no alternatives to a deep modernization of the country. Time will come and in 10 years Ukraine will be in the European Union, [it] will enter the circle of developed countries. I am convinced of that.

Columbia's Ukrainian Studies Program announces courses and events for fall semester

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute is gearing up for a busy fall semester at Columbia University. The Program will be offering six courses, host and present three visiting scholars, organize five public lectures (featuring presenters speakers from the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada and Ukraine) and present a series of at least four film events, and two newly published books by its faculty.

This semester's courses will be taught by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, Ambassador Valerii Kuchynskyi and by Serhiy Bilenyk, who will be one of the three scholars visiting Columbia for the fall semester.

Dr. Bilenyk is an associate at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and is presently working on an upcoming publication that has the draft working title "Documents of Ukrainian Historical and Political Thought: Kostomarov, Drahomanov, Antonovych." Dr. Bilenyk's monograph, titled "Romantic Nationalism in Eastern Europe: Russian, Polish and Ukrainian Political Imaginations," will be published by Stanford University Press, in the spring of 2012.

Dr. Bilenyk will teach two courses at Columbia in the fall semester.

The first, course, "History of Modern Ukraine" (Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:10-5:25 p.m.), will concentrate on the formation of modern Ukraine as a home country of ethnic Ukrainians and diverse ethnic, cultural and religious minorities. Ukraine will be studied as a territorial concept encompassing different historical experiences of major communities such as Ukrainians, Poles, Jews and Russians who have lived for centuries on the territory of present-day Ukraine. Students will learn

how Ukrainians have become the dominant national project in Ukraine during the last 300 years.

The second course, titled "Nationalities in the Russian Empire," (Mondays, 6:10-8:00 p.m.) deals with nationalist challenges and nationality policies in imperial Russia. Particular emphasis will be placed on the imperial policies vis-à-vis national peripheries (primarily Poland, Ukraine, the Baltic and Volga region) as well as religious minorities (particularly Jews, Roman Catholics and Muslims). The course will also analyze the relationship between the imperial government and Russian nationalism.

Ambassador Kuchynskyi will be teaching a newly revised course titled "Ukrainian Foreign Policy: Russia, Europe and the U.S." (Tuesdays, 11AM-12:50 p.m.) which provides historical perspectives on Ukraine's foreign relations and examines the trajectory of its foreign policy since independence in 1991 through the Orange Revolution in 2004 until the 2010 presidential election and beyond. While providing an assessment of political, social and economic transformations and their impact on foreign policy, the course will focus on Ukraine's current relationship with its major partners: Russia, Europe and the US, and its role at the United Nations.

The class will be able to analyze Ukraine's renunciation of its nuclear arsenal, its quest for Euro-Atlantic integration and the obstacles thereto, its participation in regional structures and the new elements in its current foreign policy doctrine. The course delivers first-hand insights by a career diplomat who has been actively involved in the implementation of Ukrainian foreign policy.

Dr. Shevchuk (Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures) will teach the course "Soviet, Post-Soviet, Colonial and Post-Colonial Cinema" (Tuesdays 6:10-10:00 p.m.). The course will overview discuss how filmmaking has been used as an instrument of power and imperial domination in the Soviet Union, as well as in the post-Soviet space since 1991. A body of select films by Soviet and post-Soviet directors that exemplify the function of filmmaking as a tool of appropriation of the colonized, their cultural and political subordination by the Soviet center will be examined in terms of post-colonial theories.

The course will focus both on Russian cinema and on the often overlooked work of Ukrainian, Georgian, Belarusian, Armenian, etc. national film schools and will examine how they participated in the Communist project of fostering a "new historic community of the Soviet people" as well as resisted it by generating, in hidden and, since 1991, overt and increasingly assertive ways their own counter-narratives. Close attention will be paid to the new Russian film as it re-invents itself within the post-Soviet imperial momentum projected on the former Soviet colonies.

Also, Dr. Shevchuk will continue to teach three levels of Ukrainian language at Columbia this fall: Elementary Ukrainian (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:10-10:25 a.m.), Intermediate Ukrainian (Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:35-11:50 a.m.) and Advanced Ukrainian (Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:40-3:55 p.m.).

As usual, the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University will regularly be presenting films throughout the semester.

Its first event, "New Names and New Films from Ukraine," slated for September 22, will present a line-up of U.S. film premiers of the most recent works by young Ukrainian film talent.

On October 15, the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University, together with the Ukrainian Institute of America and KinoFest NYC, will co-sponsor a tribute to Maryna Vroda, this year's winner of the world's most prestigious Golden Palm for the Best Short at the Cannes Film Festival.

The club also plans to screen a newly restored Ukrainian classic by Ivan Mykolaichuk and Yuri Illienko, as well as brand new narrative feature films by Valentyn Vasyanovych and Mykhailo Illienko to be released in Ukraine this fall. It will continue its series "Rediscovering Silent Ukrainian Film" by showing works from the silent era for the first time outside Ukraine since their restoration.

Dr. Valentyna Kharkun and Dr. Oksana Kis will also be visiting scholars at Columbia this fall.

Dr. Kharkun, associate professor of Ukrainian literature at Mykola Hohol State University of Nizhyn, will be a visiting Fulbright Scholar at Columbia for the entire 2011-2012 academic year, during which she will be working on a research project titled "The Ideological World of Volodymyr Vynnychenko's Emigrant Heritage." While at Columbia she plans to study Vynnychenko's New York-based archive and to work with leading American scholars who have studied Vynnychenko.

Additionally, the Ukrainian Studies Program will be welcoming back Dr. Kis, senior research fellow, Department of Modern Ethnology, Institute of Ethnology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, to Columbia for the upcoming academic year. As a 2011-2012 Fulbright Research and Teaching Fellow, Dr. Kis will be studying "Invisible Agency:

Representation of Gendered Historical Experiences and Social Identities in the Ukrainian Women's Personal Narratives." Also, she will teach the course "Women in Post-Socialist Transformations in Ukraine, Poland and Russia" during the spring 2012 semester.

Several events have already been scheduled that promise an exciting autumn in New York for people interested in various facets of Ukraine.

Dr. Giovanna Brogi (Milan University) will give a talk on October 13th at noon in Room 1219, International Affairs Building. The title of her talk is "mmm" during which she will discuss the problem of establishing a "canon" in pre-Modern Ukrainian literature.

On October 19, Ms. Svitlana Pyrkalo will be presenting at Columbia at 7 p.m. in the Harriman Atrium (12th Floor, International Affairs Building). Ms. Pyrkalo, a journalist who has worked at the BBC Ukrainian Service in London, is also a successful writer of fiction and is the compiler and publisher of a dictionary of contemporary Ukrainian slang. At Columbia she will discuss Ukrainian media as well as language and literature in today's Ukraine.

On October 24 the ongoing Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series will feature Ivan Malkovych. Mr. Malkovych is one of Ukraine's most beloved poets and is the mastermind behind the very successful publisher of children's books, A-BA-BA-HA-LA-MA-HA. (An evening with Mr. Malkovych at the Kennan Institute in Washington will take place on October 27.)

On November 10, Dr. Marta Dyczok (University of Western Ontario) will speak on "The Politics of History: Ukrainian Refugees and the Cold War Now, 1944-2011." Dr. Dyczok's talk will take place at noon in Room 1219 International Affairs Building.

Finally, one of Ukraine's leading ethnomusicologists, Dr. Yevhen Yefremov will also be giving a presentation at Columbia this fall on a date and at a location to be determined.

A presentation of a new textbook: Yuri Shevchuk. Beginner's Ukrainian. With an Interactive online Workbook, published in September 2011 by the Hippocrene Books, will also take place at Columbia in the fall semester at a later announced date. The richly illustrated book based on the latest language teaching methodology and can now be ordered at: <http://hippocrenebooks.com/book.aspx?id=1699>

All of the above mentioned Ukrainian Studies Program events are free and open to the public. Courses at Columbia are open to students from other universities in the New York metropolitan area seeking credit. (Readers should contact the university at where they are enrolled to determine whether it participates in this manner with Columbia University.) Some courses are also open to outside individuals interested in non-credit continuing studies. Additionally, through the Lifelong Learners program, individuals over age 65 who are interested in auditing courses may enroll at a discount rate as Lifelong Learners. For more details readers may long on to the homepage of the Columbia University School of Continuing Education (<http://www.ce.columbia.edu/auditing/?PID=28>).

Classes begin Tuesday, September 6, and Friday, September 16 is the last day to sign up for a class. For more information about courses or the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, readers may contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk at ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu or 212-854-4697.



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OUT & ABOUT

- September 3-5 *Tennis tournament and swim meet, Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada, hosted by the Carpathian Ski Club (KLK), Soyuzivka Heritage Center, www.soyuzivka.com*
Kerhonkson, NY
- September 3-5 *Kozak tournament, Ukrainian American Youth Association - Chicago Branch, UAYA resort in Baraboo, 773-486-4204*
Baraboo, WI
- September 4 *Labor Day Barbecue picnic with Cossacks, featuring live acts, music and guided museum tour, New Kuban Free Cossack Community and Cultural Center, 856-697-2255 or 609-356-0165*
Buena, NJ
- September 9-11 *Ukrainian Festival, Parc de l'Ukraine, info@ukefestmontreal.org or 514-885-6419*
Montreal
- September 10 *Canada vs America golf challenge, Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada, Ukrainian Golf Association of Canada, Wooden Sticks Golf and Country Club, www.ugolf.ca or 416-232-0998*
Uxbridge, ON
- September 10 *Sci-Fi costume party, featuring music by "DJs From Outer Space," Ukrainian Center Dnipro, 716-856-1000 or djspaceshow@yahoo.com*
Buffalo, NY
- September 10 *Golf tournament, Meadows Golf and Country Club, 613-834-9935 or merizok@hotmail.com*
Ottawa
- September 10 *Golf tournament, St. John the Theologian Ukrainian Catholic Church, Rockaway Glen Golf Course and Estate Winery, www.stjohnuc.com/2011golf*
St. Catharines, ON
- September 10 *Ukrainian Festival, St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church, 732-921-5654*
Toms River, NJ
- September 10 *Ukrainian Festival, St. Anthony Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 780-487-2167*
Edmonton
- September 10-11 *35th annual Ukrainian Festival, Patterson Park, 410-697-0501 or 410-870-1720*
Baltimore, MD
- September 10-11 *Open house, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020*
Chicago
- September 10-11 *Ukrainian Village Fest, Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church, 312-829-5209 or stsvo@sbcglobal.net*
Chicago
- September 11 *Golf tournament, Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko, Country Meadows Golf Course, 604-274-2025 or 604-274-4119*
Richmond, BC
- September 11 *Golf tournament, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club, 630-484-3740 or www.golfinvite.com/plastchicagogolf*
Chicago
- September 15 *20th anniversary of Ukrainian independence commemoration, Ukrainian National Information Service and the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, U.S. Congress - Hart Office Building, 202-547-0018 or unis@ucca.org*
Washington
- September 15 *Golf tournament, Royal Woodbine Golf Club, 905-576-0809 or oleh1109@rogers.com*
Etobicoke, ON
- September 16-17 *Ukrainian Festival, Bloor Street West, 416-410-9965 or www.ukrainianfestival.com*
Toronto
- September 16-18 *Conference for Ukrainian Museums and Archives, Hyatt Regency Cleveland at the Arcade, 440-567-6986 or 440-331-6153*
Cleveland
- September 17 *50th anniversary banquet, Ukrainian American Youth Association - Chicago Branch, 773-486-4204*
Chicago

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



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Labor Day week August 28 - September 5

Sunday to Wednesday -

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Wednesday -

Kozak night dinner - Ukrainian evening

Thursday -

DJ Thursday on the Tiki Deck

Friday -

Mini Golf Tournament during the day -
Odesa Night Dinner - in the evening Zabava
with Klooch at 10 pm

Saturday -

Evening Zabava with Tempo 10 pm

Sunday -

Divine Liturgies - Catholic at Holy Trinity
Church at 8:30 am & 10 am Orthodox at St
Volodymyr Chapel at 10 am.

Evening concert with Syzokryli Dance
Group and Zabava with Zahrava at 10 pm

September 11 -

UNWLA Br 95 - 20th Anniversary Luncheon

September 11-15 -

Reunions - Bayreuth, Berchtesgaden,
Karlsfeld, Landshut, Regensburg

September 19-21 -

Reunions - Mittenwald and Salzburg

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday-Sunday, September 10-11:

CHICAGO: Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church will host the parish's ninth annual "Ukrainian Village Fest 2011" on the parish grounds, located in the heart of the Ukrainian Village at 739 N. Oakley Blvd., at the corner of Oakley and Superior streets, one block south of Chicago Avenue. Festival hours: Saturday, 1-11 p.m., with indoor and outdoor zabavy, both starting at 9 p.m.; Sunday, 1-10 p.m., with an outdoor zabava under the big tent and non-stop stage activity featuring the Hromovytsia dance ensemble, with their Blyskavytsia School of Ukrainian Ballet, the Ukraina dance ensemble and other local dance groups. The festival also features street vendors with arts and crafts from all over North America, local ethnic cuisine, children's games and rides, Bingo with prizes, and a grand lottery with a first prize drawing of \$2,500. Festival entrance fee is \$5 per day for all age 13 and older. For information on being a vendor, contact the parish office at 312-829-5209 or stsvo@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, September 11:

STAMFORD, Conn.: The 44th Ukrainian Day Festival, sponsored by the Connecticut State Ukrainian Day Committee at St. Basil's Seminary, begins at 9 a.m. with coffee and donuts before the 11 a.m. liturgy celebrated by Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford. There will be over 20 Ukrainian vendors, Ukrainian and picnic food, as well as a lively program at the outdoor pavilion featuring: the Zoloty Promin,

Zorepad, Kalynonka and Barvinok dance ensembles; violinist Innesa Tymochko; singers, including the Pavlishyn sisters, the Oros sisters, the Korenovsky sisters, Andriya Popovici and Liliya Ostapenko. The Halychany band will provide music for dancing after the program. There will be a moonwalk and games for children. Admission for all age 12 and over: in advance, \$5; at the gate, \$10. For tickets call 203-324-4578 (Seminary Office). Parking is free. For more information or to volunteer call 203-269-5909.

Thursday, September 15

WASHINGTON: The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), in co-sponsorship with the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, will hold the 20th anniversary commemoration of Ukrainian Independence Day on Capitol Hill at noon-4 p.m. The event will feature a formal luncheon at 12:30-2 p.m. with a presentation of special awards to members of Congress for their role and support in helping to achieve and sustain Ukraine's independence. Afterwards, a panel discussion on "Ukraine's Independence: Perspectives - Past, Present, and Future" will be held with various governmental and non-governmental officials leading the dialogue. The Ukrainian community from throughout the U.S. is invited to attend, as well as to inform their representatives in Congress about the event and request their participation. Further information and details of the event will be provided in forthcoming weeks. Information is available from the Ukrainian National Information Service, 202-547-0018.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, senders are asked to include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours, as well as their complete mailing address.

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

Labor Day Festivities

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Fri. Sep. 2 10AM Golf Tournament at Hudson Valley Resort Call 845-626-5641 for info
2-4PM Ladies' Happy Hour -Tiki Deck
9PM Zabava Dance with **KLOOCH**

Sat. Sep. 3 All day USCAK- Tennis & Swim tournaments; Spartanky Volleyball tournament
2-6PM **Zorian DJ** at Tiki Deck
9PM Zabava Dance with **TEMPO**

Sun. Sep. 4 2PM "Hot Tub Happy Hour" & **Dance-off** Tiki Deck—music by **Matt Dubas**
7:30PM **SYZOKRYLI Dancers** Concert with **Korinya**
9PM Zabava Dance "**Zahrava Live at Soyuzivka**" recording a new album live

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