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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Diaspora organizations stand up in defense of Yulia Tymoshenko

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Leading organizations of the Ukrainian diaspora reacted swiftly and surely to the arrest of opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko on August 5.

The following were among the statements issued in the aftermath of the arrest.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), in a statement released on August 5, noted:

"The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the umbrella organization of the over 1 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, is deeply concerned about the condition of Ukraine's former Prime Minister, Yulia Tymoshenko. As reported in the press, Kyiv's Pechersk District Court ordered her arrest and detention today.

"The UCCA calls upon Ukrainian authorities to immediately release her from prison. Furthermore, as the representative body of Ukrainian Americans, the UCCA urges the United States government to publicly condemn her political imprisonment and utilize all diplomatic efforts to ensure the safety of her life and her release. The Yanukovich regime's selective use of law enforcement, which has resulted in probes of political opposition leaders and the arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko and others, is one in a series of anti-democratic policies of political persecution. The world's democracies cannot remain silent while basic human rights are being violated and the rule of law is nothing more than a command system."

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) on August 5 issued a news release in which it "expressed dismay with what international institutions have labeled a politically motivated arrest of Opposition Leader and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in Kyiv."

"The government of Ukraine is pursuing what appears to be politically motivated, selective justice in a deliberate and systematic program to remove political opposition. This is another step away from democracy," stated UCC President Paul Grod. "Today's arrest of Tymoshenko is another in an ever-growing list of violations of human rights, democracy and the rule of law which have been regressing under the Yanukovich government."

"The international community cannot sit on its hands as democratic freedoms are being eroded in Ukraine," stated Mr. Grod. "We have formally asked the government of Canada to use all diplomatic tools at its disposal to communicate Canada's displeasure with the anti-democratic developments in Ukraine and call for her immediate release."

The UCC release also noted that the organization "has repeatedly requested that Canada use all of its influence within the Euro-Atlantic community and Euro-Atlantic agencies to maintain pressure on the Yanukovich government to respect democracy and human rights. Furthermore we have called upon the government of Canada to ensure that any Canada-Ukraine free trade agreement be contingent upon Ukrainian government commitments to respecting democracy and human rights."

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations (AFUO) called on the Australian government "to intervene in the politically motivated arrest of opposition leader and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko."

"The court's action in arresting Tymoshenko is another example of the violation of human rights and the Yanukovich government's systematic program of eradicating any form of opposition. Democratic process are being

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Court orders arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko



UNIAN/Andrey Skakodub

A protester holds a leaflet bearing a photo of Yulia Tymoshenko outside the Pechersk District Court in Kyiv on August 10. The words under the photo read: "Freedom for Ukraine."

by Mark Raczkiewicz

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko is back behind bars in the same cell she occupied 10 years ago.

On August 5 Kyiv city Pechersk District Judge Rodion Kireyev ordered Ms. Tymoshenko imprisoned in the capital's main pre-trial detention center for contempt of court charges in her abuse of office trial.

In 1991, the key opposition leader was accused of bribing former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, who is serving sitting out a sentence in a central Californian prison until 2012.

On August 4 donning her signature braided hairstyle, the 50-year-old former presidential candidate pre-recorded a public address. "Today I'm still free, but

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Toronto Ukrainians protest political repressions in Ukraine

by Oksana Zakydalsky

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly



Viktor E. Glasko

A placard focuses on Toronto demonstrators' demands.

TORONTO – Several hundred members of the Ukrainian Canadian community in Toronto held a rally outside Ukraine's Consulate General to protest against increasing political repressions in Ukraine under the regime of President Viktor Yanukovich.

The most recent and most egregious example of these repressions was the August 5 arrest and detention of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Community activists, among them Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) Ontario Provincial Council President Yvan Baker and UCC Toronto Branch President Oksana Rewa, spoke to the crowd. Also addressing the crowd were several Canadian politicians: federal Member of Parliament Ted Opitz (Conservative, Etobicoke-Center), former MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Liberal), and MP and Finance Critic Peggy Nash (New Democrat, Parkdale-High Park).

Ms. Nash said, "To jail a former prime minister and not allow bail is shameful... an affront to democracy. We expect better from Ukraine... We are watching, the world is watching. We expect better."

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U.S. government expresses concern over arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko

The following "U.S. Government Statement of Concern about Arrest of Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko" was released by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv on August 6.

Yesterday's incarceration of former Prime Minister Tymoshenko has raised concerns internationally about the application of the rule of law in Ukraine and further contributes to the appearance of politically motivated prosecutions.

The U.S. government shares those

concerns and urges that Mrs. Tymoshenko's incarceration be reviewed and consideration be given to her immediate release.

We have raised our concerns with the government of Ukraine regarding the legal proceedings against Mrs. Tymoshenko and other opposition figures, and will continue to closely monitor those proceedings.

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv has requested access to visit Mrs. Tymoshenko during her incarceration.

ANALYSIS

Moscow puts the heat on Minsk and Kyiv

by Stephen Blank

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Moscow is turning up the heat on Minsk and Kyiv to subordinate their economies, notably their energy sectors, to Russia and with that accept Russia's political tutelage. In both cases, Moscow is using the instruments of its gas and its customs union (EurAsEc).

EurAsEc has already lent Belarus \$800 million and will lend an additional \$2.2 billion over the next two years on condition that Minsk sells \$7.5 billion in state assets to Russia, including the remaining 50 percent of Beltransgaz, making Russia the sole proprietor of Belarus' gas transmission and distribution company.

Gazprom and Moscow are also refusing to promise any break in gas prices for Belarus beyond 2011 when the current contract expires (Moscow Times July 14; Interfax, June 30). Indeed, Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller strongly denounced Minsk's efforts to secure something in return for yielding its gas and sovereignty to Russia (Rossiya 24, June 30).

At the same time Moscow has proposed a merger of Gazprom and Ukraine's gas company Naftohaz that would swallow up the latter. Yet in return for this, it has hinted that Gazprom might lower gas prices for Ukraine and release funds for the modernization of Ukraine's gas transport infrastructure (Interfax, Rossiya 24, June 30).

The economic difference in prices clearly betrays the ultimately political nature of Russian pricing arrangements and the common political objective: namely, the elimination of these two gas companies as independent arms of their respective states. That outcome then entails the economic and political subordination of both states to Moscow.

However, the difference between Kyiv's and Minsk's responses could not be greater, and this stems from the fact that Ukraine is not a member of EurAsEc and resists calls to join. Instead, President Viktor Yanukovich is holding to a 3+1 formula regarding Ukraine's ties to EurAsEc, whose members are Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan (Interfax, July 8). Even though Mr. Yanukovich has said that Ukraine is "doomed" to cooperate with Russia and despite the fact that Kyiv is soliciting Russian help in developing oil and gas fields in the Black Sea, the Ukrainian president has staunchly refused to merge Naftohaz with Gazprom (Ukrainian Television UT1, Channel 5 TV, July 8, Ekonomicheskije Izvestiya, June 22).

Indeed, Naftohaz Ukrainy has reduced the amount of Russian gas it receives compared to such quantities for June and is reducing imports in general as the prices it

pays for gas are slated to rise from \$264 per 1,000 cubic meters in the first quarter of 2011 to \$400 per 1,000 cubic meters in the fourth quarter (Interfax, July 12). Moreover, Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov maintains that the current gas transport system can fully meet Europe's need for gas, not only resisting a merger with Gazprom, but also suggesting (and doing so correctly) that Russia's program for South Stream is unnecessary and superfluous (Interfax, June 14).

Indeed, Ukraine, like Lithuania, might counter Russia's gas pressure by reconsidering nuclear projects to construct new power generating units of the Khmelnytsky nuclear power plant (NuclearNO.ru, July 3).

Belarus, on the other hand, is falling into ever more dependence upon Russia. Moscow is preparing to buy seven of the state's most valuable enterprises in return for the EurAsEc loan. These firms would be privatized and then essentially turned over to Russian businesses, making Moscow the master of the situation (www.slou.ru, July 13). These sales would be the fruit of a systematic policy of pressure on Belarus. For example, in 2011 alone, Moscow has quadrupled the price of the premium in the oil (and gas) price formula and driven Belarus' petroleum processing sector into the red. And this is in addition to the fact that Belarus' enterprises who export are utterly dependent on the Russian market as well (www.slou.ru, July 13).

Since Minsk has long since burned its bridges with Europe, unlike Kyiv, which is actually strengthening ties to the European Union, Belarus now has nowhere to turn other than Moscow. As a result of the combination of steady Russian pressure and President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's disastrous economic policies, the bills are now coming due, and Moscow is ready to collect.

Both these cases show, however, that pricing decisions on gas remain essentially driven by political considerations and that Moscow's ultimate aim is to strip these states as well as other post-Soviet states of effective instruments of their economic, energy and political independence and sovereignty.

Soon it will be too late for Minsk to retrieve any vestige of these attributes it is now ceding to Moscow.

One can only hope that Kyiv continues to learn this lesson and to take those steps needed for it to avoid its neighbor's fate.

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

NEWSBRIEFS

Tymoshenko thanks journalists

KYIV – Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has registered with the Pechersk District Court office a motion to add to the case record an article from Ukrayinska Pravda that proves that the Presidential Administration is directing the trial. "I thank the journalists who were able to establish the direct connection between the Presidential Administration, meaning President [Viktor] Yanukovich, and those running the trial against me in the Pechersk court. I want to thank them for establishing that witness statements aren't coming from the witnesses but from the Presidential Administration," Ms. Tymoshenko told journalists before the start of the July 29 court session. She said this is further evidence that the trial is political. "This proves that the trial against me is manually managed by Yanukovich and his associates in the administration," she added. Ukrayinska Pravda on July 29 released information indicating that the Presidential Administration is directly influencing the Tymoshenko case, not just by contacting witnesses, but also by trying to influence the information about the trial. By checking the properties of a word document, it was discovered that a personal letter sent to the online publication allegedly by former Deputy Procurator General Tetiana Kornikova, who testified on July 28 at the trial, was actually written on a computer in the Presidential Administration on Bankova Street. (www.tymoshenko.ua/en)

PRU notes pressure on court

KYIV – The Party of Regions (PRU) considers the statements by both foreign and Ukrainian politicians expressing concern about the arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko, former prime minister and Batkivschyna party leader, to be groundless, according to August 9 news reports. In a statement the PRU argued against putting pressure on the court in this case. A number of politicians in Ukraine and abroad are calling on Ukraine's authorities to stop the trial against Ms. Tymoshenko, saying it is politically motivated.

The PRU stated that only the court can take all the necessary legal steps to establish the truth, including changing the preventive measures used against the accused. The party also noted that Ms. Tymoshenko was delaying the legal process, and accused her of preventing consideration of the case, cynically insulting the court and witnesses. In any democratic country, obstruction of justice, no matter where it comes from, is considered a serious offense, the Party of Regions statement noted. Neither politicians, nor the media, nor various organizations have a right to exert pressure on the court, the statement underscored. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko to testify in court

KYIV – Former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko will give testimony in the criminal case against ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko after he returns from vacation, Mr. Yushchenko's press secretary, Iryna Vannikova, said on August 5. She noted that on July 28 Mr. Yushchenko had received a notification on the need to come to Kyiv's Pechersk District Court and testify in the case against Ms. Tymoshenko. But due to the fact that the former president is on holiday outside of Ukraine, he could not appear. "As soon as Mr. Yushchenko returns to Ukraine, he will be able to come to court and testify. Yushchenko is not going to shy away from testifying in the criminal case against Tymoshenko, and is ready to cooperate," Ms. Vannikova stressed, adding that he is due to come back to Ukraine after August 15. (Ukrinform)

Patriarch Sviatoslav on Yulia's case

KYIV – "Without the intention of influencing the court decision, I would still like to draw your attention to the fact that Y[ulia] Tymoshenko is one of the leading state and political figures of modern Ukraine and, therefore, the use of such a severe measure with respect to her provokes considerable social tension and the sharpening of existing divides," wrote the head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC), Patriarch Sviatoslav in

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NEWS ANALYSIS: Ukrainian foreign policy moves toward a crisis

by Taras Kuzio

Eurasia Daily Monitor

The arrest of opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko on August 5 derails Ukraine's integration into Europe at the same time as its relations with Russia are poor (video of arrest here: <http://www.pravda.com.ua/photo-video/2011/08/5/6454611/>).

The disunited opposition has rallied to Ms. Tymoshenko's side with Arseniy Yatsenyuk's Front for Change issuing a press release, noting, "The rubicon has been crossed. Democracy has come to an end. The authorities have become a regime," and warning "no regime ever wins a war against its own people" (<http://frontzmin.org/>).

European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek condemned the arrest, while Western diplomats in Kyiv warned that "this is serious" and would have serious ramifications on the free trade negotiations (Ukrayinska Pravda, Financial Times, August 5).

Up to her arrest the flood of articles in the West on political trials in Ukraine had argued that the Tymoshenko case and other trials are a "selective use of justice" (Kyiv Post, July 28; Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, July 18; Der Tagesspiegel, July 12). The scale of this Western criticism is unprecedented in Ukraine's 20 years of independence.

Much of the disbelief rests on charges relating to the January 2009 gas contract whereby the former prime minister's policies are put on trial (there are no allegations of corruption). Michael Emerson, a senior associate research fellow at the Brussels-based Center for European Policy Studies, points out that, "While Tymoshenko is indicted for taking a procedural shortcut, President [Viktor] Yanukovich shows himself to be a cham-

pion of executive shortcuts even on matters of such strategic significance as the long-term lease of the Sebastopol [sic] naval base to Russia" (www.ceps.eu/system/files/book/2011/07/July%20ME%20on%20Timoshenko.pdf).

Western governments' criticism of the "selective use of justice" is mounting. French Ambassador to Ukraine Jacques Faure described the Tymoshenko trial as "political" and asked, "where are the European values often mentioned by the Ukrainian authorities, especially in discussions between the EU and Ukraine?" (Ukrayinska Pravda, July 28).

Western experts also point out that the trials are a no-win situation for the Yanukovich administration as his "credibility and commitment to democracy are in the dock alongside her" (Economist, July 25; Eurasia Daily Monitor, July 22).

Freedom House President David Kramer and U.S. Atlantic Council Executive Vice-President Damon Wilson advised: "Mr. President, time to stop digging yourself into a hole" (Kyiv Post, July 14).

If Ms. Tymoshenko is released, Mr. Yanukovich will face a reinvigorated and formidable opponent against whom he won a narrow 3 percent election victory in 2010 and, if he loses to her in the 2015 elections, he could face criminal charges. Meanwhile, if Ms. Tymoshenko is imprisoned, he will have an image in the West of a "neo-Soviet autocrat" (Economist, July 25). President Yanukovich has already shown that he is, "in essence, a post-Soviet authoritarian leader" and is establishing a "Putin-lite system" (EDM, July 22, Financial Times, July 19).

A highly critical editorial in the Financial Times (July 19) is a sign of the mounting criticism; it appeared in a newspaper that endorsed Mr. Yanukovich

in last year's election. The editorial compared the Tymoshenko trial to that of Russian oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky and argued that the European Union should suspend negotiations for a Deep Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) if the Tymoshenko trial continues. "Trade privileges should be linked to values," the Financial Times (July 19) argued.

In letters to the Financial Times (July 20, 21) Amanda Paul, a policy analyst at the European Policy Center, argued that the Tymoshenko trial should not obstruct the signing of the DCFTA. Ukrainian Ambassador to Great Britain Volodymyr Khandogiy rejected any comparison of Khodorkovsky and Tymoshenko by claiming there was no executive interference in the courts, itself a highly dubious claim.

The Council of Europe's Venice Commission outlined 28 criticisms of Ukraine's July 2010 judicial reform that increased political interference in the courts and marginalized the Supreme Court (www.venice.coe.int/docs/2010/CDL-AD%282010%29026-e.pdf). The Ukrainian media have also uncovered how the presidential administration is directly interfering in the Tymoshenko and other political trials by instructing witnesses (see Serhiy Leshchenko in Ukrayinska Pravda, July 28).

The most dramatic aspect of growing Western criticism rests upon how the trials will impact on Ukraine's integration into Europe, and specifically the DCFTA. Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer stated that senior European leaders will not "want to meet with a Ukrainian leader whose domestic policies appear to have less and less in common with those of an aspiring EU state," while his policies "have already reduced to near zero the prospects of an invitation for

Yanukovich to visit Washington" (Kyiv Post, July 28).

Mr. Pifer warned that there is a growing clamor for negotiations for a DCFTA to be slowed down, while "others ask whether it is time to apply visa sanctions against selected Ukrainian officials" (Kyiv Post, July 28).

The European Commission issued a statement explaining that politically motivated trials will not impact upon the DCFTA negotiations, but it did state they will have an impact on the DCFTA's ratification (Ukrayinska Pravda, July 25). It took EU members four years from 1994 to ratify the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with a then democratically inclined Ukraine. Mr. Emerson has explained that the DCFTA has to be ratified by the European Parliament and all 27 member-states' Parliaments (www.ceps.eu/system/files/book/2011/07/July%20ME%20on%20Timoshenko.pdf). Mr. Emerson added: "Moreover, all such agreements now include a so-called 'human rights clause,' which generally uses language like 'respect for democratic principles and fundamental human rights constitute an essential element of this agreement.' This means that, if this clause is not respected, there are grounds for a very serious response, such as suspension of the agreement." In addition, Mr. Emerson pointed out the European Parliament is "capable legally of stopping the agreement from entering into force, if the criticisms of the case mount in volume and credibility."

The center-right European Peoples Party (EPP) with 264 members of the European Parliament (MEPs) is the largest political group within that body. Ms. Tymoshenko's Batkivschyna party is an

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FOR THE RECORD: MFA statement

The following English-language statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the arrest of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was posted on the ministry's website on August 6. (Editor's note: The statement was edited for clarity based on the original Ukrainian version.)

On August 5 Kyiv's Pechersk District Court allowed the appeal by the Attorney General's Office [Prosecutor General's Office] on extending the precautionary measures on the former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko to detention. This ruling was made under no influence on the part of the bodies of the executive. According to the principle of an independent judiciary, which is instrumental to a democratic society, any appeals to Ukraine's leadership urging it to reconsider this ruling are essentially groundless. Ukraine's executive stands aside the trial of Yulia Tymoshenko and has no intention to get involved therein.

At the same time, in view of the natural interest of Ukraine's foreign partners in this legal case, the MFA of Ukraine deems it appropriate to stress a number of obvious considerations that are well-known to those who have directly followed the court proceedings.

Respect for the judiciary is the cornerstone of any established democracy. Ukraine's judicial system, like many other political and societal institutes, is currently undergoing the process of overhaul. It's not devoid of imperfections, in the removal of which Ukraine highly

values the expert support of international organizations and partner countries.

At the same time the demonstrative disrespect to the court displayed by the former prime minister creates the impression that a high-ranking politician can afford behaving in a court in a way that would be unthinkable to any average citizen. The conscious, systemic disregard for the legal norms similar to those applied in the absolute majority of the European states, as well as Yulia Tymoshenko's undisguised disregard for most participants of the trial constituted the kind of infringements of the law that couldn't remain without proper repercussions. Yulia Tymoshenko for years has been accustomed to putting herself above the rules and the truth. However, this time around she attempted to put herself above the law as such – and had to be stopped by the court's respective ruling.

An analysis of the legal systems of the United States, EU member-countries and other states conducted by the MFA convincingly demonstrated that this kind of behavior, regardless of the nature of the legal case, would prompt any court to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.

Ukraine's executive will continue to use the authority within our state's legal system to strengthen the legal groundwork of a democratic society, to provide all political forces with an equal opportunity to compete for the right to fulfill the desire of Ukraine's citizens to live in a free society based on the common European values.

Tymoshenko addresses the Ukrainian people

This translation of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's speech to the Ukrainian people, recorded before her arrest on August 5 on contempt of court charges was released on Ms. Tymoshenko's official website (www.tymoshenko.ua).

Good evening everyone. I am addressing you having just received information that Yanukovich has given orders to arrest me.

Today I have every chance of obtaining political asylum in any country and protecting my life, my freedom, being happy with my family. But I'm not going to run from Ukraine. And I have good reason for this.

Firstly, I didn't violate the law. I lived and worked for you. I don't own any factories, power plants, lands, mineral resources or government estates privatized in my favor. I made sure everything the country has served you, not thieves in politics. I didn't break the law trying to act justly. And, therefore, I have no reason to run from my native land.

Secondly, I won't hide anywhere. I worked in politics for the last 10 years and know very well the price politicians and fighters for the people pay. Everything has been bought, sold and resold. You have almost no one to lean on in your times of trouble. So, with all the power and life I have, I will defend you and Ukraine, and will do so as you allow me.

The final and most important reason

that the self-preservation instinct and fear in my case don't work is that in all these years of independence, Ukraine has never been in as much trouble as it is now. Ukrainian families have never been worse off. Never before has Ukraine had its soul snatched so cruelly, the future of its children taken away. Today I am still free, but tomorrow I will be behind bars. Knowing what lies ahead of me, I know that I will return to you even stronger.

There are judges higher than the ones who sold out to Yanukovich. There is the European court, which will prove my legal rightness. There is the court of the Ukrainian people, which will prove my political rightness. And there is God's court, where neither the government nor money will protect those who today are perpetrating injustice.

Rest assured that they will never break me. I will not betray you – the 11 million people who believed in me in the presidential elections. I will not betray those who voted for Yanukovich because I also feel responsible to them for the country.

I ask everyone who's able to fight to rally around those who stood strong before the government's gingerbread and whips.

No matter where I am – free or in jail – I feel strong enough to survive all their planned tests and together with you will put our country back on the path to prosperity, fairness, a strong national spirit and dignity.

Glory to Ukraine! And see you soon, because justice lives if you fight for it!

Diaspora organizations...

(Continued from page 1)

dwindled away,” AFUO Chairman Stefan Romaniw OAM said on August 7.

The AFUO wrote to Australia’s Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs Martin Ferguson to intervene in what it described as “a gross violation of human rights” and to ensure that fundamental rights and freedoms are afforded to all of Ukraine’s citizens, irrespective of race, creed or political persuasion. The AFUO called on the Australian government to demand Yulia Tymoshenko’s immediate release.

“The International community has warned on numerous occasions of the undemocratic processes being implemented by the current regime. Australia has a responsibility as an international stalwart for democracy, not to sit idle,” Mr. Romaniw underscored.

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) – an international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians in over 30 countries – in a news release on August 5 quoted its president, Eugene Czolij, as stating: “Today’s arrest of Ukraine’s former Prime Minister and main opposition leader, Yulia Tymoshenko, during her trial, which is widely viewed as politically motivated, is a major step backwards for the government of Ukraine.”

He added, “Given that Ukraine is representing Europe as Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe until November 2011, is co-host of the Euro-2012, and [will] chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2013, it is critical for Ukraine’s government to release Ms. Tymoshenko immediately,

to comply with its international commitments, and to refrain from using criminal proceedings as a means to achieving political ends.”

In a letter dated August 8, the UWC called upon the international community – the United Nations, European Parliament, European Council, European Commission, Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, European Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Freedom House – to increase pressure on Ukrainian government authorities and demand the immediate release from detention of former Prime Minister Tymoshenko. Copies of the letter were sent by the UWC to President Viktor Yanukovich and to Nina Karpachova, the Ukrainian Parliament’s ombudsperson for human rights.

The UWC noted in its letter:

“As previously raised with the international community by the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) in its letters dated January 12, 2011, and June 17, 2011, the UWC is gravely concerned about the continuing prosecutions of political opponents by Ukrainian government authorities. On August 5, 2011, the UWC denounced the politically motivated arrest of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and called for her immediate release. The international community has already warned Ukrainian government authorities against the use of the state apparatus for political gain, an example of which is the attempt to remove Ukraine’s leading opposition politician from the run-up to the 2012 parliamentary elections. The UWC now calls upon you to increase pressure on Ukrainian government authorities and demand the immediate release of Ms. Yulia Tymoshenko.

“The persistent disregard by Ukrainian government authorities of calls by the international community to

cease the prosecutions of political opponents cannot be tolerated. An unequivocal message needs to be conveyed that Ukrainian government authorities cannot chair the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe while openly disrespecting fundamental European values; otherwise, the international community’s criticism will continue to be ignored, being viewed merely as rhetoric.”

The World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations (WFUWO) – which unites 27 organizations in 17 countries around the globe – on August 5 sent an open letter to President Yanukovich regarding the judicial proceedings against Ms. Tymoshenko.

“The trial of Yulia Tymoshenko, a woman, who is in opposition to the present regime and the ongoing direction of the government of Ukraine, does not appear to be justice, but rather of a purely political nature. The goal seems to be to imprison the opposition and thus provide the opportunity for the uncontrolled actions of today’s government in Ukraine. These steps have become the intimidation of the population and resemble the return of the Stalin era, both of which the people of Ukraine have already endured!” the WFUWO wrote.

The letter went on to state:

“Mr. President, the destruction of democracy in Ukraine, the political persecution of politically active youth, the destruction of Ukrainian national identity will all result in closing the path of Ukraine towards the European Union.

“Today, WFUWO stands in solidarity with Yulia Tymoshenko, Yurii Lutsenko and other political and democratic oppositionists who are undergoing political prosecution. “The World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations appeals to you, Mr. President, and to the government of Ukraine, to release Yulia Tymoshenko and Yurii Lutsenko, in order to stop the repression against them and against other political and democratic oppositionists.”

The Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine (ODFFU) in an August 8 statement demanded freedom for Ms. Tymoshenko and called for a boycott of President Yanukovich.

“The Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, an American organization that has been supporting Ukraine’s independence and sovereignty while upholding American values for nearly 70 years, vehemently condemns the politically motivated arrest of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and demands that the Yanukovich regime immediately release her from incarceration,” the statement noted.

The ODFFU denounced “the anti-democratic activity of the Ukrainian Presidential Administration and government, which has been intensifying since early 2010,” pointing out, “Rather than strengthening Ukraine’s independence and sovereignty, enhancing its democratic institutions, improving the people’s livelihoods, and focusing on building mutually beneficial market relations, the regime of Viktor Yanukovich is endeavoring to assure its own long-term political viability by silencing all Ukrainian civic organizations and individuals that are critical of his anti-democratic and anti-Ukrainian policies.”

The ODFFU went on to state:

“We encourage our American elected officials, the White House and Capitol Hill, to institute without haste policies that would isolate Yanukovich and his cabal from the global community of civilized nations until such a time that they will realize that they are violating Ukraine’s Constitution and universal laws of democratic behavior. This type of boycott should be surgically targeted against Yanukovich and other government and administration officials without hurting Ukrainian civic organizations.

“Failure to do so now will condemn Ukrainians in Ukraine to continued persecution by their government officials and will prompt future generations of Americans to ask ‘Who lost Ukraine?’”

Other statements were issued in the Ukrainian language by the leadership of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (B) and the International Conference in Support of Ukraine.

The OUN (Bandera wing) called for the release of Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Lutsenko, and demanded judicial proceedings based on democratic principles and with the participation of international experts. Otherwise, the organization said in a release on August 6, the correct response on the part of both the diaspora and Ukrainians in the homeland would be a boycott of representatives of the Ukraine’s authorities.

Similarly, the International Conference in Support of Ukraine (formerly known as the World Conference of Ukrainian State Organizations) appealed to Ukrainians around the world to participate in a complete boycott of the Yanukovich regime, which has demonstrated its “undemocratic, anti-Ukrainian and illegal character.”

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: July

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM



Felix Khmelkovsky

Children try their hand at making pysanky, gerdany and T-shirts during the adoptive families' weekend at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center.

Adoptive parents and their children from Ukraine gather at Soyuzivka Annual event is an activity-filled celebration of family and Ukrainian culture

by Felix Khmelkovsky

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – It was a real celebration of family. Everyone who was at Soyuzivka over the weekend of July 22-24 would have agreed that the people gathered seemed like one big happy family. That was because they have something common: they have adopted children from Ukraine and, therefore, are bound by a Ukrainian spirit.

Eight years ago, in 2003, the first meeting of American families that have adopted children from Ukraine took place at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center.

The initiators of that meeting were Ukraine's Consulate General in New York under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine and the Ukrainian National Association. This year, financial support was provided by the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union and the SUMA Federal Credit Union in Yonkers, N.Y.

There were some difficulties in bringing together adoptive families from various parts of the United States. It is obvious that in a multicultural society, such as that in the United States, it is easy to lose one's national identity. To protect and keep the Ukrainian culture and identity in these Ukrainian children's souls is the goal of these get-togethers, now held annually at Soyuzivka.

This year, families began arriving on Friday, July 22. They came from the eight states of the Northeast. Many of them came for the first time, but some have been here in previous years. Bohdana Puzyk was the chief coordinator of this event.

Saturday morning began with the most interesting offerings for participants: Ukrainian workshops. The main hall at Soyuzivka was decorated with posters about Ukraine, Ukrainian customs and traditions. The aim was to remind children about their native land.

There were many good people who gladly shared their knowledge with their guests.

Gloria Horbaty, an advisor on the UNA's General

Assembly, for example, taught the children how to make the inimitable Ukrainian Easter eggs – "pysanky." It was a fun activity that everyone enjoyed. The children's first attempts at creating pysanky may have been a bit simple, but they came from the heart.

Olya Savchuk taught the kids how to make Ukrainian necklaces and bracelets (gerdany). Adriana and Petro Fil demonstrated folk dances and invited everyone to join in. Beautiful Ukrainian songs were performed by singer Olya Fryz, who accompanied herself on the bandura, Ukraine's national instrument.

Serhiy Pohoreltsev, Ukraine's consul general in New York, expressed thanks to UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj, UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich, Soyuzivka Manager Nestor Paslawsky, Administrative Assistant Sonia Semanyshyn, Soyuzivka staffers, as well as to Ukrainian credit unions for making these special weekends possible.

Mr. Pohoreltsev told this correspondent that more than 1,500 children from Ukraine have already been adopted by Americans in only those eight states represented at the Soyuzivka gathering.

Every year more adopted girls and boys arrive in the United States to begin new lives within their new families. The Consulate General provides such families with all necessary legal support. Usually families inform the Consulate about the situation with their new children. Sometimes, Vice-Consul Kostyantyn Vorona makes a special trip to visit these young Ukrainians. This is done not only to keep tabs on the adopted children, but mainly to set up a strong and friendly relationship between Ukraine's diplomats and adoptive families.

Many letters come to the Consulate from Ukraine: orphanages are interested in the destiny of their former children, and the Consulate answers every such letter with words of hope and serenity. These adopted children become the real sons and daughters of those who adopted them in the United States. And, looking at the families gathered at Soyuzivka, one sees that this is true.

The United States is a signatory of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (known in short form as the Hague Adoption Convention). Unfortunately Ukraine hasn't yet become party to this international agreement, but Mr. Pohoreltsev underscored that Ukraine's diplomatic corps is making every effort to encourage Ukraine to sign this convention as soon as possible.

Paul and Sharon Boddy of Waldwick, N.J., adopted two Ukrainian girls – Anna from Chernivtsi and Angela from Lutsk (they are already 12 and 15, respectively). This is the fourth time they have come to Soyuzivka for this special weekend gathering. This time they visited with their entire family, including their grandmother. Mr. Boddy said he thinks it is very important to teach his daughters Ukrainian traditions and customs, and to nurture these within the family. He added that his children have the best of memories from Soyuzivka.

So it is not only the Ukrainian Consulate that wants to preserve these children's Ukrainian identity – that is also the desire of their parents. Thus, the annual weekend at Soyuzivka for adoptive families meetings will continue.

And, what's more, a number of the adoptive parents have expressed an interest in sending their children to camps at Soyuzivka, such as the Heritage Camp and the Ukrainian folk dance camp.

Little Diana Cockerham, who is growing up in the U.S. and speaks English, will surely remember that her roots are Ukrainian.

Her father, Ken Cockerham, wrote in a letter to Consul General Pohoreltsev: "I just wanted to thank you, your wife and everyone else that we met this past weekend at Soyuzivka. Stacey, Nicholas, Diana and I all had a wonderful time participating in the special events and meeting other people who have been blessed with adding Ukrainian children to their families. We feel very lucky to have been given the beautiful gifts of our children and plan to attend next year as well. Thanks again."



Gloria Horbaty helps children make pysanky as Consul General Serhiy Pohoreltsev (center) and Vice-Consul Kostyantyn Vorona observe.



UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich with two of the youngsters.



Bohdana Puzyk, organizer of the special event.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Political prisoners in Ukraine

The events of August 5, which took place after last week's issue of this newspaper went to print, have made it abundantly clear: former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, a leader of the opposition, is now a political prisoner in President Viktor Yanukovich's Ukraine. She was arrested and sent to the Lukianivka Prison, where former Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko also is being held.

To be sure, the U.S. was more cautious in its public pronouncements. The U.S. government issued a "statement of concern" in which it noted: "Yesterday's incarceration of former Prime Minister Tymoshenko has raised concerns internationally about the application of the rule of law in Ukraine and further contributes to the appearance of politically motivated prosecutions." The U.S. statement also urged that the former prime minister's "incarceration be reviewed and consideration be given to her immediate release." (For the record, the judge presiding over the case has since rejected several defense motions for bail.)

Over the weekend of August 6-7 and on Monday morning, August 8, the Ukrainian diaspora shifted into high gear. There were notices of protests to take place in New York City, Toronto and Chicago. And numerous organizations issued their statements and appeals (see stories that begin on page 1). They called for Ukraine's authorities to release Ms. Tymoshenko and for Western powers to condemn selective prosecution and political persecution of persons who do not share the current Ukrainian leaders' vision of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, back in Ukraine, the push appears to be on to complete the trial before the summer is over. Our Kyiv correspondent Mark Raczkiewicz reported that he had witnessed how this trial is being fast-tracked, compared to some other cases (for example, that of Gongadze defendant Oleksii Pukach, which is languishing). And, let there be no doubt, the courts in Ukraine are not independent and most are controlled by the Yanukovich administration and its cronies.

Outside the courtroom hundreds of Tymoshenko supporters rallied for her release, even as Judge Rodion Kireyev apparently issued an order banning demonstrations. At the same time, scores of national deputies and other leaders offered to stand bail for the opposition leader.

One of those was champion boxer Vitali Klitschko, a Kyiv City Council deputy and leader of the UDAR party (Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform), who wrote on his blog that "a real battle for democratic values is unfolding here." At a press conference upon his return to Kyiv from Austria (where he was training for an upcoming bout), he also warned: "The lack of dialogue between the government and the opposition is a direct path to dictatorship."

Let us make this perfectly clear: the issue is larger than Yulia Tymoshenko, it goes beyond one trial. This is about rule of law, justice, freedom and Ukraine's very future as a democracy. The Yanukovich regime is jeopardizing that future – quite a gift for the upcoming 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. We pray that the words of Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who said after Ms. Tymoshenko's arrest that "Democracy is over," do not turn out to be prophetic. The reaction of the people of Ukraine and Western powers that care about the country's future will be key.

Aug.
19
1990

Turning the pages back...

Twenty-one years ago, on August 19, 1990, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian Catholics gathered to celebrate the first liturgy in 44 years at St. George Cathedral in Lviv, the historic see of the Ukrainian Catholic Church before it moved to Kyiv in 2005.

The cathedral complex was under the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) since the 1946 Lviv synod, which liquidated the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Church property was seized by the state after the staged synod, many churches were turned into museums, and others were given to the ROC.

The celebrations on August 19, 1990, began with an early morning liturgy at the Church of the Transfiguration, the first church in the area to return to Ukrainian Catholicism. A procession wound its way through the cobblestone streets to St. George Cathedral, where people lined the streets and sidewalks as far as the eye could see; many held bouquets of herbs and fruit to be blessed during the liturgy and the feast day of Christ's Transfiguration.

St. George Cathedral was filled to capacity, with a live broadcast of the service for the 300,000 faithful gathered around the cathedral complex.

At the end of the liturgy, a tape recording that was found in the days prior to the celebratory liturgy was broadcast that featured a sermon by Metropolitan-Archbishop Andrey Sheptytsky. The sermon called the Ukrainian Catholic Church to be united with the Ecumenical Church of Christ, so that through God's grace the Church could once again be returned to the faithful.

Metropolitan Volodymyr Sterniuk, the primate of the UCC in Ukraine, then addressed the mass of people gathered outside from the church balcony. He was joined by bishops Filemon Kurchaba of Lviv, Mykhailo Sapryha of Ternopil and Sofron Dmyterko of Ivano-Frankivsk.

"This day," he said, "was prepared by God, and we rejoice that God has allowed us to reclaim this temple, which up to now, has been in enemy hands." Underscoring Metropolitan Sheptytsky's sermon on ecumenism, the metropolitan declared that "in reclaiming this [church] we will never again be separated from the Church of Christ."

Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky, the ranking primate of the UCC, sent a letter to the faithful and hierarchy, which was read by Metropolitan Sterniuk. Citing the holiday of Christ's Transfiguration, Cardinal Lubachivsky wrote that the UCC, which had been persecuted and forced into forests and underground, was witnessing a miracle. "As we re-claim this temple of our Lviv bishops," he wrote, "we say, 'Lord it is great for us to be here.'"

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, Metropolitan Sterniuk called on the faithful to sing a traditional song wishing long life for Pope John Paul II.

Source: "Ukrainian Catholics in Lviv celebrate return of St. George's," by Chrystyna N. Lapychak and Irena Chalupa, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, August 26, 1990.

FOR THE RECORD: Statement regarding the political persecution of Yulia Tymoshenko

The following statement, dated July 28, was signed by 29 Ukrainian intellectuals.

The first weeks of the trial against Yulia Tymoshenko have shown that it has nothing to do with justice. It is not a trial. It is a farce, the last act of which will see Yulia Tymoshenko imprisoned not as a person but as the most powerful figure in the opposition, who opposes the regime and its plans.

Not all of us voted for Yulia Tymoshenko, and we are not all her supporters. But we are all absolutely sure that the trial against her is politically motivated. We are aware that the imprisoned opposition means the unchecked government.

The whole society must understand this! The revenge against Yulia Tymoshenko will clear the way for hundreds of thousands of other reprisals against people who are regarded as politically undesirable by the regime, against pensioners, against small business that has almost been destroyed by the government, against youth activists, against anyone who opposes Ukraine's slide toward the state of a feudal-criminal oligarchy, and those who oppose the destruction of the Ukrainian national identity.

The rollback of democracy that we are witnessing will close the road to Europe for Ukraine. At the same time, it will swing open the gates to our Eastern Soviet past.

The Yulia Tymoshenko case concerns all of us. It is a Rubicon, right here and now. If the government crosses it, many of us will be tried tomorrow. Then, there will be nobody to write appeals and convene meetings. We will be crushed quietly and one by one.

It is already obvious that the government wants to harass us, to sow disillusionment and fear among those who have not lost the power to fight for their national, economic, social and political rights.

That is why today we express our solidarity with Yulia Tymoshenko and other members of the opposition who are subject to political-criminal persecution.

We demand that the government close the case against Yulia Tymoshenko, and release Yuri Lutsenko and other political prisoners.

We demand that the government restore freedom of speech, abolish the censorship of TV-news and eliminate the manipulative-zombie techniques used in political talk-shows.

We demand that the government conduct fair parliamentary elections next year on the basis of the current law, and not on the basis of a law drafted to satisfy the needs of one party.

We ask society not to be apathetic and to look at the developments not in the light of the Tymoshenko trial, but as a sad prospect for Ukraine, which concerns

both the 12 million people who voted for her in the runoff and those who voted for the other candidate.

When they came for the Communists, I did not speak up because I was not a Communist. When they came for the Catholics, I did not speak up because I was not a Catholic. When they came for the Jews, I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out for me. This saying from the sad history of the 20th century is as relevant for modern Ukraine as ever.

We still have a chance to stop this! We must not be silent!

Signed:

Yuri Andrukhovych (poet, prose writer and essayist)

Volodymyr Bazylevskyi (Ukrainian writer, literary critic, translator)

Nina Bichuya (writer)

Bohdan Horyn (political, civil and human rights activist, former national deputy, journalist, art critic, political scientist, former dissident)

Serhii Grabovskiy (publicist, journalist, political scientist, historian)

Larysa Denysenko (writer, lawyer)

Anatolii Dimarov (prose writer, laureate of Shevchenko National Prize)

Ivan Dzyuba (literary critic, social activist, dissident, Hero of Ukraine, academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, head of the Committee for Shevchenko National Prize)

Serhii Zhadan (poet, novelist, essayist)

Roman Ivanychuk (writer, poet, social activist, one of the founders of the People's Movement of Ukraine, Hero of Ukraine, laureate of Shevchenko National Prize and many other prizes, former national deputy)

Irena Karpa (writer, singer, journalist)

Mykola Kniazhytskyi (journalist, general director of the TVi channel)

Ihor Losiev (culturologist at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, political scientist, publicist, journalist, member of the National Union of Journalists)

Roman Lubkivskiy (poet, diplomat)

Levko Lukianenko (politician, Soviet-era dissident, and Hero of Ukraine, former national deputy)

Yurii Mushketyk (writer, Hero of Ukraine)

Mykhailo Ratushnyi (politician, former national deputy, a coordinator of the People's Committee to Defend Ukraine)

Iren Rozdobudko (journalist, writer, poet)

Dmytro Pavlychko (poet, translator, scriptwriter, culturologist, political and public figure, dissident, Hero of Ukraine);

Myroslav Popovych (philosopher, professor, academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)

(Continued on page 16)

Quotable notes

"In the light of recent developments in Ukraine, specifically the imprisonment of ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and, earlier, ex-Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko, as well as up to 50 other political prisoners, I call upon Ukrainians in the United States, Canada and elsewhere to boycott official events and celebrations at Ukrainian Embassies.

"It would be inappropriate and contradictory for us to attend these celebrations after firstly condemning arrests in Ukraine and secondly, protesting outside Ukrainian diplomatic premises. If we attend these celebrations we would be indirectly giving our support to the authoritarian regime under the Viktor Yanukovich administration. ..."

— Taras Kuzio, editor of *Ukraine Analyst*, in a letter to the editor posted on the *Kyiv Post* website on August 11.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tymoshenko arrest changes everything

Dear Editor:

The arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko, which I expected, changes everything.

The Yanukovych administration is banking on Ukraine being of sufficient strategic importance to the United States and the European Union, and too big to push around, to have sanctions imposed against them. They are wrong about the U.S., as the Obama administration resembles that of the elder President George Bush Senior in the early 1990s in his Russia-first policy. They are right about the EU, for whom Ukraine is the most important member of the Eastern Partnership. The Deep Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) is the most ambitious EU treaty since the Association Agreements the EU signed with Eastern Europe in the 1990s. If EU policy on Ukraine fails, the entire Eastern Partnership is discredited and disintegrates.

This is where the political trials in Kyiv could play a major role. With Ms. Tymoshenko imprisoned, the signing of the DCFTA will be postponed. It was already going to be difficult to ratify the DCFTA as the majority of the European Parliament (or four political groups) are critical of democratic regression in Ukraine while 17 out of 27 EU members have heads of state who are from parties who are members of the European Peoples Party.

The Yanukovych administration will not give Ms. Tymoshenko a suspended sentence because it would not neutralize her completely, as she will campaign around Ukraine as a martyr. She is very good at doing this and excels at being a mobilizer of crowds, as seen during the 2004 Orange Revolution.

Imprisonment prevents Ms. Tymoshenko from running in the 2012 and 2015 elections, which means that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe could not call these elections "democratic." If elections in Belarus are not "democratic" because opposition leaders are in jail, then how can they be "democratic" if Ms. Tymoshenko is in jail or not allowed to stand?

Taras Kuzio
Washington

The letter-writer is senior fellow of the Center for Transatlantic Relations, School Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

Yulia Tymoshenko: a rising phoenix?

Dear Editor:

Remember the Orange Revolution of 2004? Who organized the demonstrations that led to the downfall of the Kuchma government and precluded Viktor Yanukovych from becoming president even though his party falsified the elections? Who became prime minister twice and tried to enact reforms, stopped Victor Pinchuk from grabbing the steel company in Kryvyi Rih, and organized an ambulance service to assist the villagers? And who is now arrested because of the kangaroo court

proceedings of Judge Rodion Kiriyeu on the instructions of the Yanukovych regime?

Who is wealthy enough to sit on the sidelines in Ukraine, or anywhere else in the world, and enjoy her riches with her family and her husband and not go through this judicial circus? Who is the only high-ranking official who visited her former minister, Yurii Lutsenko, when the criminals in power today locked him up in jail like an animal? Who travelled to see Margaret Thatcher and other foreign officials in Europe and impressed them with her intelligence and personality? Who that endured uncalled for and undeserved mud being thrown at her by the then President of Ukraine? Who remained calm and tried to reconcile the differences with the then President of Ukraine in the hopes of establishing a working relationship with President Yushchenko, even with the help of Baba Paraska?

It is Yulia Tymoshenko, of course. She has stayed in Ukraine and dedicated herself to making Ukraine a world-class place to live.

When I went to Ukraine in 2006 as an election observer, I was taken aback by President Yushchenko's attitude toward her. But she kept quiet and continued to work in the interests of the people.

As a president, Mr. Yushchenko was a failure because he did not imprison the criminals as he stated that he would do. Instead he surrounded himself with them by putting them into high offices.

It was Mr. Yushchenko and only Mr. Yushchenko who broke the unity of the Orange Revolution with his one-sided attacks.

The question is: Where do we go from here? Ms. Tymoshenko was just arrested, and she is calling out to the Ukrainian nation and the diaspora.

We have a true leader in Yulia. Let us rally around her and take action to demand her release so that she can run for national deputy and then for president.

Give her the opportunity to be our leader, and let her rise like the phoenix.

Bohdan Pylypiw
Randolph, N.J.

Let's help author of Boyko dictionary

Dear Editor:

In Zenon Zawada's excellent article "Dictionary of Boyko dialects 15 result of 25 years of research" (July 3) I found a small, but quite significant mistake. It is not the "Skoliv district" or "Turkiv district," but the Skole and Turka districts.

I am sending a very small check to support publication of the dictionary. I wish I could contribute much more to this absolutely significant work of Prof. Mykola Matijiv.

Allow me from this venue to appeal to all lovers of Boyko philology to help Prof. Matijiv to successfully finish his noble work.

I appeal especially to people connected to the Boyko region by birth or association. Please help! (As noted in the article, readers should contact Prof. Matijiv at matijiv62@mail.ru. to support publication of the dictionary.

Orest S. Slupchynskyj
New York

CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

Accumulators or transformers?

Practically every reader of The Ukrainian Weekly has heard of NTSh and UVAN – the acronyms, respectively, for the Ukrainian names of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. If you live in New York, you may have attended some of their events. If you live in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia or Washington, you may have participated in functions of local NTSh chapters. But I suspect that many of us regard these as elite enclaves for elderly erudites. If so, that is unfortunate.

Both NTSh and UVAN have distinguished, sometimes dramatic histories. In 1873, Ukrainophile Ruthenian intellectuals in Austrian-ruled Lviv formed the Shevchenko Society as an institution dedicated to the Ukrainian language and literature. Expanded in 1892 into a full-fledged scholarly society, NTSh thrived under the Habsburgs, survived under Poland and died under the Soviets.

After World War II, it was re-established in several countries. A U.S. chapter was formed in 1947, and incorporated as the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

UVAN goes back to November 1918, when Hetman Pavlo Skoropadskyi created a Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. Renamed the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences (VUAN) by the Bolsheviks in 1921, it was eventually purged and, in 1936, became the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR. Towards the end of World War II, some of its members emigrated to Western Europe. In the fall of 1945, they formed the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences (UVAN). In 1950, it was re-established in New York as the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.

In New York, NTSh and UVAN pursued four main goals: to promote the independent scholarship that was impossible in the homeland; to maintain a library and archive; to present lectures and conferences; and to publish scholarly works. NTSh has produced encyclopedias and a series of "Zapysky"; UVAN has issued its English-language "Annals."

Both organizations remained open to the broader scholarly world. NTSh members have included non-Ukrainians like Oscar Halecki, Clarence Manning and Mark von Hagen. UVAN has sponsored lectures by such as Alexander Dallin, Michael Karpovich and Philip Mosely.

While focusing on Ukrainian studies, these organizations remain committed to scholarly objectivity. In his 1952 annual report, NTSh President Nicholas Chubaty stated, "Ukrainian scholarship must be strictly objective even when it would seem that the scholarly truth is not beneficial to the political interests of the nation. But this only appears to be so, for the truth has never harmed any nation." ("Dukhovnymy Shliakhamy Trokh Ukrainskykh Pokolin," March 9, 1952, p. 12. NTSh Archive file 26.)

Since Ukrainian independence in 1991, these societies' roles have changed. Despite some ominous governmental policies, scholarship has evolved freely in Ukraine. Thus, there is no longer the imperative to save a threatened tradition. At the same time, the very notion of émigré scholarship is in question. Ukrainian American academics who need to publish articles in peer-reviewed English-language journals and books at university or commercial presses are unlikely to submit their work to an émi-

gré organization (Petryshyn, p. 20). Moreover, printing is cheaper in Ukraine.

Do these societies, then, still have a role to play?

Some might say no. After all, Russian émigrés like George Vernadsky left a lasting imprint on historical scholarship in the United States without the benefit of a scholarly society. During his tenure at Harvard, Michael Karpovich inspired a whole generation of eminent Russian historians. Perhaps the three chairs of Ukrainian studies at Harvard, along with the Ukrainian Research Institute, are enough.

Nonetheless, learned societies can still fulfill a useful function, and not just as accumulators of books and papers. They can serve as "cultural intermediaries" between Ukraine and America, rather like the Alliance Française or the Goethe Institutes. One academic has suggested that NTSh and UVAN join forces to sponsor periodic scholarly conferences.

This could also be the occasion for them to act as "cultural intermediaries" of a different sort. For there has been a notable lack of communication, and some bitter and persistent misunderstanding, between our academics and the community that supports them. Here the words of George Shevelov, speaking at UVAN in 1962, remain relevant:

"Every emigration tends to live in a world of illusions, beyond time. This can result in estrangement from the motherland not only in space, but in spirit, and at the same time in a lack of connections with the new world, and as a result of this a loss of the younger generation and the spiritual extinction of the emigration. It is not a very pleasant obligation to awaken the emigration from this stupor, to force it to open its eyes and compel it to see the truth, but it is an obligation..." (Shevelov, p. 9)

Thus, the goal would be not to bring Ukrainian scholarship down to a "popular" plateau, but rather to raise our diaspora's understanding of Ukrainian realities to a scholarly level. This would enable us to represent Ukraine in the informed, intelligent and sophisticated manner that it deserves. By reforming themselves, our scholarly societies could help the Ukrainian American community reform the way it presents its heritage to America. They could thus help transform America's understanding of Ukraine.

Note: This column draws on research conducted at the 2011 NEH Summer Institute "America Engages Eurasia" at Columbia University in New York. The author is a member of NTSh and UVAN.

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International Plast Jamboree begins in East Chatham, N.Y.



EAST CHATHAM, N.Y. – The official opening ceremonies of the International Plast Jamboree, which kicks off worldwide celebrations of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's centennial, took place here at the Vovcha Troja camp-ground on Sunday, August 7. The jam-

boree program continues through August 13. Seen here are: the divine liturgy celebrated by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, assisted by the Very Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak; the opening ceremonies, which featured Plast members from various branches throughout North America car-

rying their banners and flags; and the delegation of the Ukrainian American Youth Association standing before the emblem of the 2011 jamboree. (A complete report on the jamboree will appear in a future issue of The Ukrainian Weekly.)

– Roma Hadzewycz



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Policy forum on U.S. strategic engagement in Central and Eastern Europe held in D.C.

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – The Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) hosted a forum on Capitol Hill on July 26, to discuss the state of affairs in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the role that American foreign policy plays in the region.

Titled “20 Years: Three Perspectives on the Evolution of U.S. Strategic Engagement with Central and Eastern Europe,” the forum brought together two panels consisting of leading authorities on the issues of most concern for the United States and the Central and Eastern European countries.

The Central and East European Coalition is a network of 18 ethnic organizations representing the interests of over 20 million Americans of Armenian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Georgian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, and Ukrainian descent.

Mike Haltzel of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at SAIS at Johns Hopkins University and Janusz Bugajski of the Center for Strategic and International Studies spoke at the event, articulating the U.S. government’s perspective and interests in the region.

Mr. Haltzel, a member of Sen. Joseph Biden’s staff during the 1990s round of NATO enlargement, recounted the process and transition of Central and Eastern European states from Eastern bloc to NATO members.

Mr. Bugajski focused on the enduring U.S. interest in the region for maintaining Central and Eastern European state independence, the rule of law, regional stability, aid for NATO missions, and for helping these states emerge as players on the European scene. He noted, “The inclusion of these countries would also serve to add a pro-American sentiment to the European Union.”

Ambassadors from the region were on hand to provide a regional perspective. Petr Gandalovic of the Czech Republic, Temuri Yakobashvili of Georgia and Dr. György Szapáry of Hungary touched on

their nations’ views on American engagement and NATO expansion eastward with decidedly positive views. Ambassador Yakobashvili remarked, “it is my dream to be at a similar event in the future talking about how Georgia was accepted into NATO.”

Additionally, Simonas Satunas, deputy chief of mission at the Lithuanian Embassy, provided brief remarks on the situation in the Baltic states and concern about Russia’s increasing influence both in the region and in the European Union in general.

After each panel, the audience was able to ask questions of the speakers. The event was followed by a reception that featured a variety of regional desserts during which attendees could discuss the event and other issues relevant to the U.S. and its interests in the region. Reactions to the forum were positive.

“On behalf of the CEEC, we extend our appreciation to our distinguished panelists for their invaluable insights,” stated Michael Sawkiw Jr., director of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America’s Washington public affairs bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service. “We look forward to our next event in September and encourage the active participation of our respective communities,” he added.

During the event, the CEEC distributed its latest policy briefing paper, which details its position and needed action on the topics of: democracy, human rights and the rule of law; Russia’s undue influence in Central and Eastern Europe; visa issues; security in Central and Eastern Europe; and U.S. assistance to the region.

The coalition will be hosting a CEEC Advocacy Day in September on Capitol Hill to help spread its message of U.S. engagement and cooperation in the region.

For further information on the Central and East European Coalition, or the September CEEC Advocacy Day, readers may contact UNIS at 202-547-0018 or unis@ucca.org.

Ukrainian foreign...

(Continued from page 3)

associate member of the EPP, which has been very vocal in its criticism of her trial and democratic regression in Ukraine. The Liberals and Greens have supported the EPP’s criticism; together the three political groups have a combined 405 out of 736 MEPs (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members/expert/groupAndCountry.do>). The European Conservatives and Reformers Group have an additional 56 MEPs. Together the four political groups control two-thirds of MEPs and would therefore be able to stall or oppose the ratification of the DCFTA with Ukraine.

The Socialists are the only political group with whom the Party of Regions has an alliance, but they only control a quarter of the MEPs. EPP member-parties control the heads of states of 17 out of 27 EU member-states, and they will also be in a position to block the ratification of the DCFTA with Ukraine. Another six associate members of the EPP are heads

of states in countries, such as Croatia, which seek EU membership (www.epp.eu/eppHeadsOfStateGov.asp).

Kyiv’s relations are increasingly poor with Russia as President Yanukovich has rejected Russian attempts to take control of strategic sectors of the Ukrainian economy while opting for the DCFTA over the CIS Customs Union (see EDM, July 26, 2010). At the same time, democratic regression in Ukraine and the political trials and arrests of the opposition are derailing integration into the EU. The signing of the DCFTA is put into doubt by Ms. Tymoshenko’s arrest but even if it is signed it could be suspended and not be ratified by the European Parliament and the majority of EU members.

By 2012, the year of the European soccer championship (Euro-2012) that Ukraine and Poland are cohosting, Kyiv could find it has no friends in either Moscow, or Washington and Brussels.

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and the conferral of an honorary doctorate on

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This event is being hosted by Fordham University
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President Dr. Andrew Melnyk (left) honors Dr. Wayne Tymchak for services to UMANA.



Erast Huculak (center) receives the Professional Community Service award from Dr. Andrew Melnyk (right) and Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Yuriy Sergeyev.

Roksolana Tymiak-Lonchyna

UMANA convention in Philadelphia marks association's 60 years of service

by George Hrycelak

PHILADELPHIA – The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held its 41st biennial scientific conference and 34th assembly of delegates on June 22-26, in Philadelphia. The event marked two special milestones in the association's history: UMANA's completion of 60 years of professional service, and UMANA's return to Philadelphia after a 25 year absence.

Nearly 50 members, family and guests of the association traveled to this East Coast city to hear colleagues review "Updates in Medicine" in a variety of medical specialties. The UMANA assembly of delegates, at its regular biennial business meeting, reviewed the association's work and elected a new board of directors for the upcoming term.

The convention commenced with a welcome reception on Wednesday evening in the wood-paneled library of the Hilton Inn at Penn on the University of Pennsylvania campus. The arriving attendees met in a relaxed atmosphere and familiarized themselves with the conference schedule. Dr. Ihor Fedoriw, UMANA Pennsylvania branch president greeted the guests to the convention, wishing them a pleasant and productive time in Philadelphia.

Thursday and Friday mornings were dedicated to lectures. Scientific coordinator Dr. Liza Pilch (Illinois) arranged for a panel of speakers in a range of specialties to cover the program material.

The 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl calamity was commemorated with a screening of Irene Zabytko's "Epiphany at Chernobyl," along with two lectures reviewing the current health impact of the accident. The Chicago Medical Society co-sponsored the educational portion of the conference, designating this live activity for a maximum of 10 AMA PRA (American Medical Association Physician Recognition Award) Category 1 Credits.

Audience participation in the ensuing discussions was active and spirited, with an exchange of opinions between the speakers and audience, which led to a better understanding of issues common to health care professionals. After a busy Thursday morning of educational sessions, the conference participants relaxed on an open-bus tour of Philadelphia's historical sights and vibrant downtown area.

On Friday evening, the group met for an UMANA reunion. The evening featured a revolving slide presentation from the history of UMANA over the last 60 years. Many of those present were delighted to find themselves depicted in historical photographs from the UMANA archive from a multitude of events, both academic and

social, over the past half century. Dr. Leo Wolansky led the group with voice and guitar in a lively sing-along session of well-known Ukrainian folk songs.

Saturday morning was devoted to the 34th Assembly of Delegates, UMANA's highest deliberative body. The two-year term was reviewed, with a detailed examination of financial reports, as well as the state of the organization and a summary of activity in participating chapters.

Forty-nine new members were formally inducted into the association. These numbers reaffirm UMANA's viability as the largest Ukrainian American professional organization in North America.

The biennial assembly of delegates reviewed the slate of officers submitted by the nominating committee. Unanimously elected for two years were President Dr. Andrew Melnyk (Illinois), Vice-President Dr. George Kuritza (Illinois), President-Elect Dr. Andrew Dzul (Michigan), Secretary Dr. Borys Buniak (Syracuse) and Treasurer Dr. Pilch.

The assembly further approved the three elected members to the UMANA Foundation: Dr. Maria Hrycelak, Dr. Yarko Maryniuk and Dr. Ihor Voyevodka. Elected to the ethics committee were Dr. Roman Dykun, Dr. Ronald Liteplo and Dr. Tymish Trusewych.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, the newly elected president greeted the assembly. Dr. Melnyk thanked the participants for the confidence extended to him and his leadership team, and shared his vision of the upcoming two years. The newly elected board of directors then held a brief initial meeting to set an agenda for the next year.

On Saturday evening, June 25, UMANA held a gala awards banquet and anniversary celebration. Over 125 members and guests strolled through the verdant campus of the University of Pennsylvania, past Alexander Archipenko's colossal bronze statue of King Solomon, toward the banquet venue in the historic Hall of Flags in the Perelman Quadrangle. During the cocktail hour, the guests were treated to a performance by a violin quartet of professional musicians from Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music, culminating with a special solo violin performance by the noted Solomiya Ivakhiv, director of the Music at the Institute program at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

UMANA Archivist Dr. Maria Hrycelak began the banquet with a now traditional "outgoing president roast" – a lighthearted review of the work of Dr. Wayne Tymchak. Newly elected president Dr. Melnyk awarded Dr. Tymchak a plaque in recognition of his two years of vol-

untary service to the association. Dr. Laryssa Hud and Dr. Steven Yevich, two newly inducted members present at the banquet, were officially welcomed to UMANA.

This year, UMANA elected to recognize worthy and highly regarded Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian individuals, as well as philanthropic organizations deserving of social commendation. UMANA's Professional Community Service Award was presented to a special guest, Erast Huculak, former Canadian honorary consul for Ukraine, founder and president of Medical Pharmacies Group Inc., philanthropist and humanitarian.

Mr. Huculak graciously received the award presented to him by the UMANA president and the Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations Yuriy Sergeyev. He shared some vignettes from his extensive experience working with Ukrainian social and cultural organizations in the diaspora.

Receiving organizational recognition awards were the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center of Philadelphia, the Ukrainian Federation of America, the Ukrainian Engineers Society of America, Pennsylvania Chapter, and the Ukrainian Institute of America. The awards were received by the presidents of each organization.

Dr. George Hrycelak, UMANA executive director, presented an overview of the history of UMANA since its founding in 1950, describing its creation, remembering the past presidents and their accomplishments, the association's publications and the growing impact of new members on UMANA membership roster.

Pennsylvania Branch President Dr. Fedoriw presented professional achievement award to branch members Drs. Oksana Baltarowich-Hud, Larissa Bilaniuk, George Popel and Peter Kozicky, as well as community activist Ulana Mazukevich, recognizing their input to the professional and cultural atmosphere in the Philadelphia area.

In conclusion, the Pennsylvania branch's past-president, Dr. Wasyl Salak, briefly reviewed the history of the local branch, concluding the evening with a remembrance of the many members who are no longer with us.

The attendees enjoyed a memorable dinner as a fitting conclusion to the conference, with discussions revolving around the new information learned at the presentations. Members were heard actively planning events for 2013, exploring possible locations for the next UMANA scientific conference and assembly of delegates, and looking forward to continuing the long-standing custom of informational and social exchange.



Dr. Andrew Melnyk presents an award to Dr. Larissa Kyj of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee.



Borys Pawluk (left) accepts the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center's award from Dr. Andrew Melnyk.



New UMANA members Dr. Laryssa Hud and Dr. Steven Yevich.

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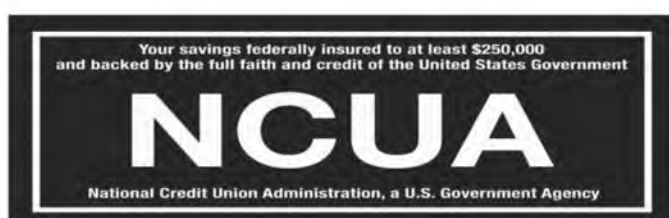
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TRAVELS: An expedition through the “wild Carpathians”

by Yuri Deychakiwsky

Since early childhood, the mystique of the Karpaty, or Carpathian Mountains, was engrained in my consciousness. Songs sung at Plast camps, such as “Pysanyi Kamin” or “Pry Vatri” (Sirily u Sumerku), or reading the novel about Oleksa Dovbush, the legendary Ukrainian Hutsul “Robin Hood” paintings by émigré artists in the Catskill region of New York, and stories about the UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army) freedom fighters hiding out in mountain bunkers all contributed to my imagination.

As an 11-year-old I vaguely remembered a bus ride into the Karpaty as a tourist in Soviet times. In the 1990s, while visiting my brother Mykola and uncle Semen, we drove the loop from Kolomyia, through Kosiv, Verkhovyna, Vorokhta, Yaremche. In 2005, I hiked up with my wife and sons to the summit of Hoverlia. Since then, I dreamed of returning one day for a more prolonged journey.

The Internet led me to the site <http://www.adventurecarpathians.com/>. The “Expedition through the Wild Carpathians” sounded like a good “post-midlife crisis” adventure, particularly for a guy who can’t sing, dance or play golf. I must say that the communication and customer service with Adventure Carpathians was efficient, friendly, professional and very accommodating. Everything was arranged to fit my schedule, and I was assigned a personal guide.

My physical and spiritual journey began with a visit to the Univ Monastery outside of Lviv, and meetings with Ukrainians who participated in a like-minded worldwide fellowship.

On the following day, early in the morning, my guide, Yuriy Eliashkevsky, and I hopped on a small bus heading from Lviv, and were dropped off in the town of Myslivka. It was foggy with a very slight drizzle. Our backpacks were loaded with supplies and food for about eight days.

The very first ascent was moderate, then at times more steep. I recognized that, although my training came in handy, the days ahead were going to be quite a physical challenge.

The first night, after ascending the summits of the Pustoshaks, we set up camp on the Nimetska

Polonyna. The next morning, we awakened to a lifting fog, and had the pleasure of meeting a lone Hutsul shepherd who enthusiastically relayed his adventures of the last few days, including rounding up some 400 lost sheep in the middle of the night, and spotting “Mykhailik” (a bear).

The next seven days were spent summiting an average of two mountains daily, with eight to 10 hours of hiking, all with seriously steep ascents and descents – easy for my 33-year-old Ukrainian guide, but work and wear for this American, 21 years his senior.

Most of the 14 peaks were between 1,700 and 1,800 meters. The vegetation was highly variable, depending on the elevation, with a “zhrep,” or pine brush, lining above the tree lines, and granite boulders lining the mountaintops. The wild flowers were spectacular, and I just couldn’t get over the blue snails on the trail. We obtained water from springs, some of which Yuriy had to reach by scrambling steep slopes. The trails in that region of the Gorgany were well marked with many markers and maps. We respected our environment and “left no trace.”

My guide was incredible. Yuriy has a Ph.D. in physics, and runs a research laboratory and instructs students at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. His father and brother are priests of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, and his grandfather fought in the UPA.

Yuriy has been hiking in the Karpaty since age 14 – in all seasons including winter, and often off-trail. Standing on any mountaintop, he can name every peak in sight, and, moreover, he’s been there. He can judge weather by the clouds, navigate by topographic map and his GPS system, where he tracked our kilometrage and elevation change, and marked the coordinates of the springs into his device’s memory.

All told, we summited 14 peaks and trekked some 110 kilometers. Popadia, Yayko-Ilemske, Moloda, Grofa, Ihrovets, Vysoka, Syvulia, to name a few, were some of the peaks we reached. We camped in the valleys and fields between mountain ranges. Our food consisted of bread, grains (such as buckwheat, or “hrechka”), honey, nuts, chocolate, canned fish, kovbasa, salo, cheese and crackers. Occasionally we would find a patch of mountain berries – “chornytsi” to be exact – and get a natural boost of antioxidant vitamins, or we

would find some edible mushrooms to add to the evening meals. Not to worry, you can eat all of those calories and still manage to lose 15 pounds in eight days.

Besides the physical challenge, the absence of civilization and the beauty of nature helped clear my mind and renew my spirits. We passed one memorial to an UPA commander who was killed by NKVD troops in his “last stand.” The mountaintops were scattered with trenches and fortifications from World War I, where ethnic Ukrainians faced each other fighting on the side of the Austro-Hungarian or Russian empires.

A particularly moving moment for me was traversing the ridge from the summit of Ihrovets to Vysoka, where a cloud stopped right along the ridgeline and demarcated clear sky from oblivion. It was there that I intensely felt the presence of God and heard the voices of my ancestors. We saw the sun setting from the summit.

Our journey ended with a gradual descent along a ridge which is now the border of the Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia oblasts, but was once the border between Poland and Czechoslovakia. That day, a rainbow appeared in the sky. On the last day, we witnessed the sunrise and descended into the village of Bystrytsia.

I then spent a few days in Ivano-Frankivsk, visiting family, meeting my fellows. In Lviv I returned, and attended holy liturgies at St. George Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Cathedral, and at Ss. Borys and Hlib Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, where my guide’s brother serves as the priest.

The beauty of the Carpathian Mountains and the steadfastness of the Ukrainian people left me with only positive emotions. Despite Ukraine’s bloody history, and current socio-economic and political challenges, I remain hopeful for Ukraine’s future and thankful for my heritage.

Yuri Deychakiwsky is a member of the Ukrainian community in Washington. He currently works as an interventional cardiologist. In his youth, he was active in Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and Smoloskyp; he played clarinet in the Dnipro chorus orchestra in Cleveland during his high school years. Dr. Deychakiwsky continues to be active in Plast.



The ridge between the peaks of Ihrovets and Vysoka.



One of the many different types of wild flowers seen along the way.



A blue snail on the trail.



The view from the summit of Grofa.



Guide Yuriy Eliashevskyy immersed in “zherep” – pine brush.



The final ascent on the summit of Syvulia.



Yuri Deychakiwsky atop Syvulia.



Camping on the “polonyna” – a mountain pasture.

NEWSBRIEFS...

(Continued from page 2)

his letter to Judge Rodion Kireyev. According to an August 10 news release from the Information Department of UGCC, Patriarch Sviatoslav addressed the judge to express the concern of a considerable number of his Church's faithful with regard to the arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko. According to the hierarchy, the arrest of Ms. Tymoshenko creates a negative international image of Ukraine as a state with selective justice. "We are asking you to change the preventive measure taken with respect to her to one that does not imply custody," wrote the patriarch. He also wished Judge Kireyev "God's help in establishing the truth and justice, which is the same for all citizens of Ukraine." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Patriarch Filaret seeks Yulia's release

KYIV – "On behalf of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, its bishops, clergy and laity, as well as myself, I ask you to change the preventive measure taken with respect to Yulia Volodymyrivna Tymoshenko, who was arrested on August 5, 2011," reads the appeal of Patriarch Filaret posted by the press service of the UOC-KP on August 8. "Yulia Volodymyrivna Tymoshenko is a member of the Orthodox Church, a believer. Also, as a public and political figure, she is respected and supported by many citizens of Ukraine and is widely known abroad. In view of the above and the opinion of a considerable number of parishioners of the Kyiv Patriarchate who have been approaching me with requests in this regard, and in view of my obligation to

care and intercede for prisoners before the authorities, on behalf of the Kyivan Patriarchate and myself, I ask you to change the preventive measure taken with respect to Yulia Volodymyrivna Tymoshenko and to release her on bail," Patriarch Filaret wrote. "Numerous statements and addresses of the Ukrainian state, political and public figures responding to the arrest of Tymoshenko on August 5 show that the event dramatically sharpened social tension and political confrontation. Judging from statements in this regard, it also provoked the concern of foreign states and public figures, which harms the international authority of Ukraine and can harm the interests of our state," reads the letter of the head of UOC-KP. "All these circumstances and my pastoral duty urge me to ask you to allow Yulia Volodymyrivna Tymoshenko to be released on bail. I am convinced that Yulia Tymoshenko, as an Orthodox Christian, who knows about the example of our Lord Jesus Christ and many saints who did not avoid justice regardless of their personal opinion, will not avoid justice and will not obstruct establishment of the truth in the matter. On my part, I will also do everything in my power to urge Tymoshenko to appear in court on the first notice and assist the court procedure," reads the letter. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Azarov orders restoration of fortress

KYIV – Prime Minister Mykola Azarov has ordered that financing be provided for restoration of the New West Tower on the territory of the historical and architectural reserve in Kamianets-Podilskyi, which was partially destroyed after heavy rains in early August. Given the historical and architectural value of the fortress, the

Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade are instructed to allocate funds for the restoration works from the Reserve Fund of the state budget, the Cabinet of Ministers press office said in a statement released on August 9. At the same time, Prime Minister Azarov drew the attention of Minister of Culture Mykhailo Kulyniak and the governor of Khmelnytskyi Oblast, Vasyl Yadukha, to the improper control over the monuments of history, culture and architecture. (Ukrinform)

Church leaders celebrate feast day

KYIV – On July 28, the feast day of St. Volodymyr, grand prince of Kyiv, and the 1,023rd anniversary of the baptism of Kyivan Rus', Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, Catholicos-Patriarch Ilia II of All Georgia, and Metropolitan Volodymyr, leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, celebrated divine liturgy in the square in front of Holy Dormition Cathedral of the Kyivan Caves Monastery. Bishops and clergy of the Ukrainian, Russian and Georgian Orthodox Churches prayed at the service. Thousands of Kyiv residents and guests of the city attended. At the end of the service, Metropolitan Volodymyr addressed Patriarch Kirill and Catholicos-Patriarch Ilia II and presented them with gifts. In turn, the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church greeted Metropolitan Volodymyr on his name day and presented gifts to him and Patriarch Ilia. Then the primate of the Russian Church gave the faithful small icons of Prince Vladimir. The Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia gave Patriarch Kirill a mosaic icon of St. George the Great, the patron saint of Georgia, and Metropolitan Volodymyr an icon of the Mother of God of Georgia. In commemoration of his first visit to Kyiv and the Kyivan Cave Monastery, the Georgian patriarch donated to the monastery a rendition of the Pochayiv icon of the Mother of God by Georgian artists. The Day of Baptism of Kyivan Rus', July 28, became an official holiday in 2008, in accordance with a presidential decree issued by Viktor Yushchenko. July 28 marked the end of Patriarch Kirill's three-day visit to Ukraine. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Protests against Russian primate

KYIV – The Kyiv branch of the nationalist Svoboda all-Ukrainian Union held a demonstration on July 27 near the Ukrainian House in Kyiv against what it called "clerical occupation" of Ukraine by the Russian Orthodox Church. The demonstrators held national and party flags and banners saying, "Down With Moscow-Colonizing Priest," "Ukrainian Orthodoxy Against Moscow Obscurantism," "For a Unified Local Orthodox Church Centered in Kyiv" and others. The participants in the protest also chanted, "Shame!" As part of the demonstration, the organizers held a photo exhibition titled "Moscow Priests' Seven Deadly Sins," which aimed to show "the hypocrisy of Russian Orthodox Church members, who in fact propagate not Christian values but the Russian world's imperialistic doctrine," said Andriy Illenko, the head of Svoboda's branch in Kyiv. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Yatsenyuk comments on Kirill's visit

KYIV – According to National Deputy Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the frequent visits of the Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill facilitate Russia's influence on Ukraine through religion and have nothing to do with "Ukrainian spiritual freedom." According to August 2 news reports, the leader of the Front for Change said this during a meeting with participants of the Summer School of Journalism of the

newspaper Den. "The idea of the 'Russian world' is rather old. Originally there was an attempt to implement it in the USSR and then in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). But it did not work," said the politician speaking about Patriarch Kirill's recent visit to Ukraine. "Through these so-called pastoral visits, the idea of the 'Russian world' can be successfully implemented," said Mr. Yatsenyuk, emphasizing that the Russian Orthodox Church is "one of the main elements of Russia's foreign policy." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

UGCC celebrates baptism of Kyiv-Rus'

KYIV – On July 31, at the Patriarchal Cathedral of Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv, a hierarchical liturgy was celebrated on occasion of the 1,023rd anniversary of baptism of Rus-Ukraine. The hierarchical liturgy was led by the head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC), Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk in concelebration with Bishop Yosyf Milian and priests providing pastoral care for Ukrainians in Russia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal. "On this Sunday, we would like to celebrate the Baptism of Rus'-Ukraine. We wish to experience again the event when our Prince Volodymyr, equal to the apostles, sought the true God. ... We continue to glorify the great prince even today as we were able to see the action of God in the history of our nation through him." At the end of the celebratory events, the patriarch consecrated the water in the Dnipro River and sprinkled it on the faithful. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

House passes bill on Belarus

WASHINGTON – Support for people struggling to obtain basic human rights in Belarus – often called Europe's last dictatorship – came on July 7, when the House of Representatives passed the Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011. The bill, HR 515, sponsored by Helsinki Commission Chairman Chris Smith (R-N.J.), calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in Belarus, including those jailed in the December 19, 2010, post-election crackdown, and refuses to recognize the results of the flawed election. The bill is now in the Senate, where it was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. "HR 515 states a U.S. government policy of strong support for the Belarusian people in their struggle against the Lukashenka dictatorship, aspiring to live in a free and independent country where their human rights are respected, they can choose their government, and officials apply just laws that they themselves are subject to," said Rep. Smith. "This bill encourages those struggling for decency and basic rights against the overwhelming pressures from the anti-democratic regime." (Helsinki Commission)

Kyiv among most expensive cities

KYIV – The capital of Ukraine, Kyiv, is ranked eighth on the list of most expensive cities for travelers released by TripAdvisor. According to August 3 news reports, the study involved 50 most popular tourist cities in the world. The rankings took into account the cost of: one night's accommodation in a four-star hotel in June-August of this year, a cheese pizza, a dry martini and a taxi trip for a distance of eight kilometers. For all the above, a guest in Kyiv would have to spend \$332 (U.S.). The survey also found that the three most expensive cities were Paris, where tourists will spend \$429 a day; Zurich, \$379; and London, \$374. At the same time the least expensive cities for tourists were Bangkok (\$112), Beijing (\$120) and Sharm el-Sheikh (\$128). (Ukrinform)

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Toronto Ukrainians...

(Continued from page 1)

Rally organizers also announced the establishment of a new non-governmental organization, the Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine. This watchdog organization appeals to "all freedom-loving Canadians to join in calling upon the Canadian government to keep condemning this slide towards dictatorship and, if unheeded, take concrete actions to counter them."

In response to the arrest and detention of Yulia Tymoshenko, Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird on August 5 issued the following statement: "Canada is concerned by the apparently politically motivated persecution, and now arrest, of Yulia Tymoshenko. The appearance of political bias in judicial proceedings undermines the rule of law. Canada urges the Ukrainian government to strengthen judiciary independence and continues to support efforts to build a peaceful, democratic and prosperous society in Ukraine."

The consul general of Ukraine in Toronto, Oleksander Danylyenko, came

out to speak to the crowd. He was presented with a petition demanding the release of Ms. Tymoshenko and an end to political repressions in Ukraine. Consul General Danylyenko promised he would present the petition to Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The message to President Yanukovich from both the Ukrainian Canadian community and Canada is clear: the continued backsliding into authoritarianism of the last year is unacceptable, political repressions against the leaders of Ukraine's democratic opposition must stop, and the Canadian people stand united with the people of Ukraine in their demand for a free, open society and a democratic government.

Toronto area activists have announced that another protest will take place Friday, August 12, if Ms. Tymoshenko is not released.

* * *

Protests against the arrest of the former prime minister took place also in New York, at the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, and in Chicago, at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, both on Wednesday, August 10.



Demonstrators in New York rally in support of Yulia Tymoshenko.

FOR THE RECORD: Letter to PM

Following is the text of the letter sent to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on August 9. The text was read at the August 8 rally in support of Yulia Tymoshenko.

Dear Prime Minister:

The imprisonment by Ukrainian authorities of the former Prime Minister of Ukraine, Yulia Tymoshenko, has led to international criticism of the apparent use of the law to carry out political persecutions in Ukraine.

We are proud, therefore, of the forthright statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird condemning the Ukrainian action.

We would ask the Canadian government to take one further step and make it clear to the Ukrainian authorities that

conclusion of the free-trade agreement with Ukraine now under negotiation will depend on the Ukrainian government respecting in letter and spirit the rule of law, human rights and democratic freedoms.

With warm regards,

Derek Fraser, ambassador of Canada to Ukraine (1998-2001)

Nestor Gayowsky, consul-general and chargé d'affaires of Canada to Ukraine (1990-1992)

Stewart Goodings, assistant deputy minister, Ottawa and British Columbia (retired)

Kenneth T. Hepburn, senior assistant deputy minister, Communications (retired)

Francois Mathys, ambassador of Canada to Ukraine (1992-1995)

"Genocide Revealed" wins film fest's "Eye-Opener Award" in Colorado



The director of the Film Festival of Colorado, Bob Webb (center), with Nadja Mironenko (left) and Katherina Matiaszek-Bender (right) of Colorado.

MONTREAL – The feature documentary "Genocide Revealed" by filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy won two more awards at the Film Festival of Colorado in Arvida, outside of Denver.

The film festival's director Bob Webb presented "Genocide Revealed" with the festival's "Eye-Opener Award" and the "Best Audience Award" for best historical documentary. The latter award is based on voting by the film festival audience. The award winners were announced in The Archive Room of the Arvida Library during a brunch on Sunday, June 26.

This film festival "highlights filmmakers and quality filmmaking both within Colorado and outside of the Colorado area" and is held every last weekend in June. The festival provides three days of film showings including documentaries from around the world.

Representing the film's director Yuriy Luhovy, who was unable to attend the

Film Festival of Colorado awards ceremony, were Nadja Mironenko and Katherina Matiaszek-Bender of the Colorado Ukrainian Language and Culture Group in the Denver/Boulder area.

"We were thrilled when it was announced 'Genocide Revealed' won two of the Film Festival awards. Many viewers were totally unaware of the Holodomor, and they found the documentary very powerful and informative. People came up to us and commented the film was captivating, worth seeing, great film, revealing and enlightening. We learned a lot, met some wonderful folks and will treasure the memories," said Ms. Matiaszek-Bender.

A second showing of "Genocide Revealed" is planned in Denver for Saturday, September 24, at 2 p.m., (venue to be confirmed).

The feature documentary has now won 10 international awards.

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Court orders...

(Continued from page 1)

tomorrow I'll be behind bars. Knowing what lies ahead of me, I know that I'll return to you even stronger," she stated.

Thirty minutes after the judge's order the next day, she was hauled away in an armored car shielded by various police units that cleared the way through throngs of her supporters gathered along Kyiv's main thoroughfare, the Khreschatyk.

The crowds unsuccessfully tried blocking the car while shouting, "Hanba, hanba [shame]," and "Yulia, we're with you!"

Parliamentary members of her eponymous bloc have taken turns keeping a 'round-the-clock vigil ever since to prevent police from taking down the makeshift tent city along the Khreschatyk and removing the camped out protesters. Estimates of the crowd's number vary daily: from 100 up to 1,000.

Since Ms. Tymoshenko's trial resumed on August 8, nine other opposition parties and their supporters have joined the protesters.

Ms. Tymoshenko is charged with exceeding her authority when she was prime minister and allegedly causing \$190 million of damages to the state by signing a gas agreement with Russia in 2009. The agreement ended a damaging standoff with Russia which saw gas supplies disrupted to European Union states. At the time, Ms. Tymoshenko was praised widely – most recently on August 9 by EU Ambassador to Ukraine Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira – for resolving the dispute and removing from

the gas trade the murky intermediary company RosUkrEnergo, while transitioning Ukraine to European market prices for gas with a 20 percent discount.

Ms. Tymoshenko denies the charges against her as political motivated.

International reaction to her incarceration came swiftly, raising the question of Ukraine's European integration notably a free-trade deal both sides have been hammering out over the course of the year.

"Brussels and the European Union countries will have a negative reaction to the arrest of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko," said a European expert from the Carnegie Foundation in Brussels Olga Shumylo-Tapiola.

She added, "Brussels and all other member-states are most likely to express a negative reaction, as they have many times called on the Ukrainian side to put an end to selective justice, and ensure honest and open justice."

"The United States wishes to reiterate its concerns over Friday's arrest of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, concerns which have been voiced internationally as well," read an August 8 statement of the U.S. State Department. "Her arrest raises questions about the application of the rule of law in Ukraine and continues to contribute to the appearance of politically motivated prosecutions by the government."

U.S. democracy watchdog Freedom House said: "The decision will make it harder and harder for Ukraine and the EU to go about business as usual. It is making a mockery of the judicial system in Ukraine... Ukraine had approached the line

with the farce that is the trial. It has definitely crossed the line now."

Other opposition figures have come to Ms. Tymoshenko's defense. "Democracy is over," said former Verkhovna Rada Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk. "There is not one regime that has won a war against its own people."

Meanwhile, on August 10, Ms. Tymoshenko's defense lawyers filed motions to remove the three-person team of prosecutors from the courtroom for procedural interference and bias.

By lunchtime, the judge denied the request. The afternoon focused on testimony from two former high-level government officials about whether Ms. Tymoshenko had forged documents when brokering the gas deal with Russia.

Former First Vice Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov and former Justice Minister Mykola Onyshchuk gave testimony that was perceived by experts to be unhelpful to the prosecution.

On August 8, the first court date after Ms. Tymoshenko's imprisonment, her lawyers filed three motions to have her released on bail. The judge denied all three. Some 60 members of Parliament and 250 prominent community leaders, including members of the clergy, bearers of the Hero of Ukraine title, writers and poets had submitted petitions asking to stand bail for her.

On August 9, world heavyweight champion and Kyiv City Councilman Vitali Klitschko called on President Yanukovich to release Ms. Tymoshenko from custody and said he was ready to stand bail for her. He had abruptly cut off training in Austria for an upcoming bout against Polish boxer

Tomasz Adamek when he heard Ms. Tymoshenko was taken into custody and returned to Kyiv.

"The lack of dialogue between the government and the opposition is a direct path to dictatorship," Mr. Klitschko said at a press conference in Kyiv on August 9.

Meanwhile, President Yanukovich has repeatedly denied any involvement in the Tymoshenko case.

"The president has said many times that his administration has nothing to do with [the court process against Tymoshenko], and cannot intervene in the activity of the judiciary according to the Constitution," said presidential spokesperson Darya Chepak after Ms. Tymoshenko's imprisonment.

The pro-presidential Party of Regions, whose main support is in the predominantly Russian-speaking east and south, issued a statement on August 9 explaining its position on Ms. Tymoshenko's arrest. "Tymoshenko... forged documents of national importance... Only a court can objectively examine the facts and give a legal assessment of acts by the ex-prime minister, which led to serious consequences for the country," the Party of Regions statement read.

Regarding the legality of the gas deal, on August 5 Russia's Foreign Ministry said the deal was legal internationally and adhered to the laws of both countries, and that both countries' presidents had approved it.

The Russian Foreign Ministry also called on Ukraine to ensure an impartial trial for the former prime minister.

An appeals court on August 12 was to hear arguments for the release of Ms. Tymoshenko from jail.

Prominent political players denounce Tymoshenko arrest

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Strong reaction from abroad to a Ukrainian court's decision on August 5 to put former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko under arrest came from prominent political leaders, as well as international organizations.

U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) on August 5 stated: "I am deeply concerned about the detention today of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in Ukraine. This action is clearly a violation of the basic rights that should be protected for every citizen in a democracy. The implications of this detention go far beyond the fate of one person. Ultimately, what is at stake is the future

of freedom and democracy in Ukraine. Unfortunately, today's action by the Ukrainian government calls into question its commitment to the fundamentals of democracy, and as such, will make Ukraine's path toward a future in the Euro-Atlantic community harder to achieve. I urge the leadership in Kyiv to release Prime Minister Tymoshenko immediately and guarantee the rights of all Ukrainians, regardless of their political beliefs."

On August 9, U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar (R-Ind.) said: "The arrest of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko further contributes to the

perception that this case has been pursued to settle old political scores. I am concerned that the proceedings are distracting the nation of Ukraine from the difficult work ahead in its efforts to join the European Union. It is time for all Ukrainians to leave past political disagreements behind them and work together to build their future in Europe."

Meanwhile, Freedom House, the independent watchdog organization that monitors freedom worldwide, on August 5 denounced the arrest and continued harassment of Ms. Tymoshenko, and called for her immediate release.

"We have always been of the opinion that the legal campaign against Tymoshenko represents a misuse of legal proceedings to put pressure on opposition politicians," said David J. Kramer, president of Freedom House. "This latest development has moved this situation from the absurd to the outrageous and reinforces the perception that the current administration is selectively prosecuting Tymoshenko as a means to silence her. For the United States and the European Union to view Ukraine as a viable partner, Ukraine must do more to show its commitment to rule of law and put an end to such spurious proceedings."

The chairperson-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Lithuanian

Foreign Minister Audronius Ažubalis, on August 8 expressed concern over the Kyiv court's decision to detain the former Ukrainian prime minister.

In a telephone conversation with Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko of Ukraine, Mr. Ažubalis stressed that the international community is following this trial closely. He underscored the need for transparent and fair judicial processes, and noted that Ukraine, as an OSCE participating state, has made a commitment to ensure that everyone receives a fair trial.

The president of the European People's Party (EPP), Wilfried Martens, on August 5 stated: "I am not surprised that today the court ordered Yulia Tymoshenko to be placed under arrest. For months now, it has been blatantly obvious that the Yanukovich regime is running a politically motivated court case. The motive is clear: the removal of the main obstacle for returning to Soviet-style authoritarianism. Today Ukraine has moved one step closer." He added, "I call on Viktor Yanukovich to put an immediate end to this sham – Europe's patience has reached its limit."

Ms. Tymoshenko is the leader of Batkivshchyna, an observer member party of the EPP, which is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the center right.

Ukrainian American Writers: Call For Submissions

Ukrainian American Writers: A New Generation of Literary Voices, will present their annual reading on November 5th, 2011 at The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago.

Three writers will be selected to read their work through a juried reading process. If you are a Ukrainian American writer and would like to submit your work for consideration, please send 3-5 poems or a 2-3 page excerpt from a short story, novel, or play that you would like to read via e-mail to uawriters@gmail.com. Please include your name in the subject line, along with the genre of work you are sending.

Past readers will be considered, provided that new work is forwarded for our review.

The submission period is June 1st through September 15, 2011, and selected writers will be contacted via e-mail by October 1st, 2011.

For more information please contact organizers Sonya Arko or Anna Golash at uawriters@gmail.com.

Statement regarding...

(Continued from page 6)

Mykola Riabchuk (journalist, publicist, poet, prose writer, columnist)

Volodymyr Serhiychuk (historian, professor, writer and politician)

Mykhailo Slaboshpytskyi (prose writer, critic, publicist, civil activist)

Grygoriy Khalymonenko (orientalist, translator, critic, professor)

Valerii Shevchuk (writer, critic, publicist)

Vasyl Shkliar (writer, political activist, laureate of Shevchenko National Prize 2011)

Yuriy Shcherbak (writer physician, scriptwriter, publicist, politician, former ambassador to the U.S., diplomat, environmental activist)

Oleh Chornohuz (writer, journalist, editor, Honored Art Worker)

Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh presents scholarships

By Roksana Korchynsky

PITTSBURGH – The Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS) of Pittsburgh presented its 2011 Scholarship Awards to undergraduate students from western Pennsylvania in ceremonies at Posvar Hall on the University of Pittsburgh campus on Sunday, July 31.

Students, family members, UTS members and guests were welcomed by the UTS executive board president, Dr. Roksana Korchynsky, who provided an overview of the UTS – now celebrating its 41st anniversary – and its activities.

In her opening remarks, she thanked the many donors who have continuously offered their financial support to the scholarship program, especially in today's challenging economic environment. Dr. Korchynsky also noted the special memorial scholarships that were being awarded, that have been funded in honor of some of Pittsburgh's most notable Ukrainians, adding that Chester Manasterski, Olga Manasterski, Michael Korchynsky and Dr. Michael Kutsenkow were all former recipients of the society's Ukrainian of the Year Award. These individuals were recognized for their contributions to the Ukrainian community and for their significant professional achievements.

Dr. Korchynsky underscored that each of these honored individuals reflected important values that make them timeless role models for today's scholarship recipients: commitment to excellence, service to one's community, pursuit of education and knowledge, and support and mentoring of young people.

Dr. Korchynsky introduced the featured speaker for the



Cynthia Abbott

Ukrainian Technological Society award recipients (from left): Daryna Kutuza, Michael Kochis, Yuriy Zayats, Andriy Lasiychuk, Viktoriya Lutsiv, Anna Olexsovich, Janel Sudiak, Christine Wachnowsky and Nicholas Wachnowsky.



UTS board members and the guest speaker at the dinner: (from left): Nickolas C. Kotow, Dr. Hanna Dziamko, Dr. Adriana Helbig, Dr. Roksana Korchynsky and George Honchar.

Awards ceremony, Dr. Adriana Helbig, assistant professor of music at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Helbig received her Ph.D. from Columbia University and joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh in 2008. She is founder and director of the Carpathian Music Ensemble and her areas of interest include Eastern European Gypsy music, global hip-hop, and music and politics.

Dr. Helbig's presentation, titled "Playing for Peace: Reggae-Rap and Hip-Folk Among African Migrants in Ukraine," described how the multi-racial hip-hop scenes in Kharkiv have fostered the development of socially conscious hip-hop among African students. Dr. Helbig discussed how young African men – drawing on musical elements from their respective home countries, the U.S. and local hip-hop traditions – use Ukrainian-, Russian- and English-language lyrics to express concerns about socioeconomic status, personal struggle and racial inclusion, and how African musicians use reggae-rap and hip-hop as a social means through which to fight the escalating violence against dark-skinned foreigners and migrants.

Nickolas C. Kotow, UTS Secretary and treasurer, along with George Honchar, UTS board vice-president, then awarded the 10 scholarships totaling \$6,000. This marked the 39th year of the UTS Scholarship Program, with 380 separate awards totaling \$170,500 given to 254 different students.

(Continued on page 19)

Sheptytsky Institute hosts annual Study Days in Ottawa

OTTAWA – This summer, the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies (MASI) hosted its Study Days for the fourth consecutive year. Once again, it proved to be an Eastern Christian feast for the mind and heart.

With well over 100 participants, MASI reached out to Eastern and Western Christians in offering an academic and spiritual conference to enlighten and deepen their faith. The theme this year, "True/False? Right/Wrong? The Challenge of Relativism Today," initiated a lively exchange of views and debate among those who participated. The four-days of plenaries, workshops and prayer provided the intellectual and spiritual richness typically experienced in Study Days.

Plenary speakers and topics were as follows:

- Dr. Valerie Karras (assistant professor of church history at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University located in Dallas) – "Relativism and Culture: Connections and Difference."
- Dr. Peter Bouteneff (associate professor of systematic theology at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, N.Y.) – "Relativism, Tolerance and Heresy: Negotiating the Waters"; and
- Father John Jillions (associate professor at the Sheptytsky Institute in the Faculty of Theology at St. Paul University) – "Jesus – Myth, Metaphor or Messiah?"

Workshop leaders included the Revs. Andriy Chirovsky, Andrew Onuferko and Michael Winn, Presvitera Melita Mudri-Zubacz, Subdeacon Brian Anastasi Butcher, Dr. Catherine Clifford, the Rev. Lucien Coutu and the Rev. Maxym Lysack. Workshop topics varied from discussing what happened at Vatican II and why this is important for Eastern Churches to responses to New Age "spiritualities," other Churches and other faiths, early Christian teaching on the struggle

with tempting thoughts and cantor training.

One of the Study Day participants commented: "I greatly appreciated the connection between people from different churches, the liturgy which was so amazing, the relaxed atmosphere, the deeply spiritual atmosphere that was present in and outside of the chapel."

MASI is preparing for Study Days 2012 and anticipates another successful event. For updates readers may log to: www.sheptytskyinstitute.ca.



Participants of the 2011 Study Days at the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute.



Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Valentenکو vying for Broadway Blueline

Five years ago, 6-foot-2, 220-pound Pavel Valentenکو was not among the 2006 NHL Entry Draft's high-profile prospects, ranking No. 123 on the official Central Scouting's European skaters list. The Montreal Canadiens went ahead and drafted the now 23-year-old defenseman 139th overall in the fifth round. He raised his stock dramatically over the next two seasons, beginning with his final year on his hometown Nizhnekamsk club team in the Russian League. An impressive 51-game campaign with Montreal's AHL affiliate in Hamilton, Ontario, followed in 2007-2008.

In his first North American professional season with Hamilton, Valentenکو emerged as a viable NHL prospect. His role became that of a shut-down defenseman who regularly made it a long night for the opposing team's forwards. Coming off his solid debut campaign, he came very close to making the Canadiens roster out of training camp in 2008, when he was one of the final cuts. He returned to Hamilton for four games before making the difficult decision to accept an offer from the KHL's Moscow Dynamo.

Pavel Valentenکو, son of a Ukrainian father from Donetsk, Ukraine, was not homesick, but quite comfortable with North American hockey life and very serious about pursuing an NHL career. His reason for going back home was a personal and financial one. Missing out on a roster spot with Montreal, he had an opportunity for a substantial KHL contract, which would enable him to provide for his family.

"He was concerned about how his family would survive. It wasn't a situation where he just took off," said Gordie Clark, Rangers' Director of Player Personnel, in an interview with Rangers.NHL.com. "He went to the Canadiens first, unlike some other guys who just go home. He told them he didn't want to leave, but he had to for the best interest of his family. So he did it and set his pro career back for that."

When he left, Valentenکو had every intention of returning to his NHL dream once his family's finances stabilized. Montreal chose not to wait for him, so they traded him to the Rangers as part of a June 30, 2009, deal involving Scott Gomez. The trade brought two strong defense prospects into the organization: Valentenکو and University of Wisconsin standout Ryan McDonagh.

More obstacles were thrown Valentenکو's way when he suffered a shoulder injury preparing for the 2009-2010 season with Moscow Dynamo. He returned from surgery and rehab to play on January 5, 2010, in a 4-3 victory. The nagging shoulder injury caught up to him again after six more games and his season came to an abrupt ending on February 7, 2010. It was interesting to note when Valentenکو was in the Dynamo lineup, the team was a perfect 7-0. While out injured, his team lost 23 out of 49 games.

His value to Dynamo was no surprise to anyone who has seen him play the game. His style of play has been compared to the play of another Ukrainian, Ken Daneyko. Pavel worked hard to recover from shoulder surgery while improving his physical conditioning along the way. He has been commended for his desire and attitude. He has earned praise for his physicality, good puck skills and being strong on his

skates. He plays a North American style defense: stay-at-home with a solid fundamental knowledge of the game. He's a good character guy, a good teammate who plays hard and is hard to play against.

The Rangers jumped on the opportunity to add the young prospect to its fold when the Canadiens were willing to include him in the Gomez trade. Vladimir Lutchenکو, New York's Russian-based amateur scout, was very familiar with Valentenکو from his draft year, including six games with the Russian Select Team in the 2005 ADT Canada-Russia Juniors Challenge. Lutchenکو knew the young prospect intended on coming back to North America as soon as possible.

Two years of earning KHL monies was enough to take care of his family obligations and allow him to resume his pursuit of an NHL career. Dynamo's financial difficulties and eventual merger with another KHL squad made it easier for Valentenکو to leave Russia. After three years of pro experience and an especially trying two years, Valentenکو was ready to fulfill his NHL dream with New York heading into the 2010-2011 season.

Hartford bound

We fast forward to late March of this year after a 3-1 Connecticut Whale victory over the Springfield Falcons. A Pavel Valentenکو laser shot from the left point overpowered Falcons goalie Gustaf Wesslan, hitting his stick and entering the net for his third goal of the year at 9:07 of the third period.

"I've had a hard shot all my life, but it has always gone the wrong way," a grinning Valentenکو said after meeting up with The Weekly's sports correspondent while shopping at Westfarms Mall in Farmington, Conn. "Now I've been practicing my shot almost every day and it goes in the net. I've worked on shooting quicker and hitting the net."

The self-proclaimed stay-at-home defender also specializes in blocking shots since he began learning the game as a young boy in Nizhnekamsk, Russia.

"My entire hockey career I've tried to block shots because it's easier for the goalie and better for us," said the guy nicknamed "Tank" at Rangers training camp. "Even when I was a kid I was staying in the net and blocking shots. My father said, 'Be a goalie if you want.' I didn't want to be a goalie. I just wanted to protect the net."

After being limited to 19 games the past two seasons, he was delighted to appear in 79 of 80 regular season games with the Rangers' AHL affiliate. The injury bug still bit him in 2010-2011 — he sustained nerve damage in his throat when clipped by a stick during a training camp scrimmage last September. He had trouble talking for nearly three months.

"The last two years was a hard time for me," Valentenکو said. "I had two big injuries and now I'm so happy that I'm playing."

Valentenکو and fellow rearguard Ryan McDonagh were barely edged out in training camp by former Hartford Wolf Pack defenseman Michael Sauer, who turned out to be a very pleasant surprise for the parent club in 2010-11. McDonagh earned an injury recall to New York and ended up staying and playing as Sauer's defense partner.

"I thought I did pretty well in training camp after I hardly played in two seasons," Valentenکو said. "I was working hard in the summer before camp and I think I did pretty well. I was doing my best, but when I got sent down, I just told myself to work harder and wait for my chance to make the big club."

He has improved his defensive coverage and finished checks better while trying to get a quicker release on his shot and push soft passes to his teammates. He is strong on the penalty kill, blocking shots and learning to focus on checking one defender at a time. Offensively he's working on a quick one-timer instead of a big windup which takes too long to get off. In short, it is all about the basics.

In 79 games with the AHL's Whale this past season, Valentenکو tallied five goals and 12 assists with 38 penalty minutes and a solid +21 rating. He is on the doorstep of being an NHL player, appropriately enough with the Rangers. One of his favorite keepsakes is a Rangers 1994 Stanley Cup champions cap his Ukrainian father bought while attending his 10-year-old son's "friendship games" in 1997. Pavel's team played in Nassau Coliseum in Long Island, where he watched an Islanders game and visited Madison Square Garden.

"My dad went to Madison Square Garden and bought the hat," Valentenکو said. "I loved the Rangers and my father likes them because they had Russian players on the championship team like Alex Kovalev, Sergei Nemchinov, Sergei Zubov and Alexander Karpotsev. He followed them and read about them."

Now Valentenکو hopes his father and thousands of other Rangers fans get to watch him play in the world's most famous arena. Hopefully, starting in the 2011-2012 hockey season, his father and others will be following his Rangers career and reading about his hockey exploits in years to come.

Oleksuk a frozen four winner

Every scouting report, each headline and all of the interview time always included the names Connolly (Jack and Mike) and Fontaine (Justin), University of Minnesota-Duluth's top forward line. The talk was about their puck movement, scoring and all the great stuff they do on the ice.

No one ever talked about Schmidt, Oleksuk or Brown, until the school arrived at the Frozen Four (NCAA hockey's finals tournament). Well, J.T. Brown scored a goal and assisted on two others. Oleksuk added a marker in the national championship game. Kyle Schmidt scored the biggest goal in school history, assisted, of course, by the Ukrainian Oleksuk. And they did it all season long.

Schmidt, streaking in from the blue-line, redirected Oleksuk's centering feed past Michigan goalie Shawn Hunwick at 3:22 of overtime to clinch UMD's first national championship.

The trio provided consistent scoring chances and energy throughout post-season play. Oleksuk came up big in clutch situations all season long. He scored 13 regular season goals, seven of which were game winners, second-most in the nation. In the final against Michigan, when the Connollys and Fontaine struggled and appeared tired, the second line produced when it counted the most. No one will forget them anymore, especially in Duluth, Minnesota.

Travis Oleksuk is the latest in a growing line of father-son combinations who have worn the Bulldog jersey. His father, Bill, debuted with 30 goals in 29 games in 1978-1979, a school record for freshmen at the time. By the time he graduated he had totaled 190 points in 156 games, ranking No. 1 in career scoring and No. 4 in goals. The elder Oleksuk played one professional season in Sweden where he led a Division II league in scoring.

Warrior Humenny: in like Flint

An early season trade (January 2011) sending Jeremy Humenny from Port Huron to Michigan saw the young Ukrainian go from the outhouse to the penthouse. Humenny moved to his third team of 2010-2011 after beginning the year in St. Louis of the NAHL. During his time in Flint, Mich., he saw his share of victories on the scoreboard with a first-class Warriors organization.

"The stability as a Warrior is very high-end and we are treated very well and are very organized," Humenny said in an interview with Mr. Matt Mackinder, who covers the Warriors for Pointstreaksites.com. "There's not more you can ask for than getting dressed in a locker room every day like ours. I look forward to coming to the rink every day and seeing our staff in the locker room. I couldn't ask for more. Coach Moe [Mantha] knows his stuff. It's an everyday routine coming to the rink and he has it planned out and put together very well."

Being traded once, let alone twice in one season, is a difficult situation to cope with, and the youngster affirmed it was tough to leave friends behind. The fact he came over to Michigan with another player (Ryan Green) made it a bit less stressful.

"When I found out about the trade, I was excited," Humenny said in his talk with Mr. Mackinder. "I was eager to play for a team like the Warriors. It was hard leaving the guys in Port Huron because I had a lot of good relationships with the boys, but sometimes you have to do what's best for your future and I think I made the right decision. Getting traded with Green was something I couldn't have asked for, and, yes, it made it a lot easier coming into the locker room day to day knowing I was coming here with a former player."

Humenny saw his responsibilities change as he assumed a new team role in Flint.

"My role with the Fighting Falcons was to put points on the board and they labeled me a scorer and wanted me to use my size to make things happen," said Humenny, a native of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and son of Michael and Lesley Humenny of Hartford, Conn. "I was playing on the top two lines, but coming to the Warriors, my role obviously changed from being a top two line player to being an intimidating, in your face-type player. I'm out there to get in people's heads and give my team energy and fight if needed. You pop in a goal so often, but coming to the Warriors, they already had their scorers and I'm not out there to score. I'm what coach Moe says is a 'meat and potatoes' kind of player."

His new Michigan Warriors teammates were undoubtedly very pleased to have Humenny on their side as they made their stretch run well into the NAHL playoffs.

Ihor Stelmach can be reached at iman@sfgsports.com

Chicago UAYA golf tournament benefits camp in Baraboo, Wis.

by Taras Jaworsky

CHICAGO – Fifty years ago, a group of men from Chicago traveled north to the fertile dairy lands of Wisconsin looking for property for the future “oselia” or campground of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA). These men, representing the UAYA of Chicago — Mykola Pavlushkov branch, found a place that reminded them of their beloved Carpathian Mountains. They decided on a property three hours north of Chicago in the community of Baraboo, Wis. For the past 50 years the oselia at Baraboo has been home to UAYA camps, soccer tournaments, winter ski camps, festivals and weddings.

In January of this year UAYA-Chicago began celebrating its golden anniversary, donating all proceeds from fund-raising events for capital improvement projects on the oselia. One of these fund-raising events was a golf outing, held on June 12 at Trappers Turn Golf Club in Wisconsin Dells, located 20 minutes from the oselia.

The organizers of the event were Marian Abramiuk, chairman of the golf outing committee, and Danko Dykyj. In addition, both are members of the Chicago golfing group known locally as the Ukrainian Small Ball League. These men and the organization’s volunteers created an enjoyable “Best Ball” tournament that welcomed 60 men and women



Young golfers at the UAYA tournament.



Chairman Marian Abramiuk meeting golfers and giving out the welcome gifts. The box had a picture of “Oselia” Baraboo, inside were a golf hat and divot repair tool with CYM logo ball markers.

golfers, and included gifts, raffle prizes, dinner and good company. The golfers comprised members from the UAYA, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and non-affiliated Ukrainians. The event started Saturday morning with a hearty breakfast in the kitchen followed by 10 a.m. tee times.

The objective of “Best Ball” is to play the best-played ball out of your foursome from tee box to the green. Teams looked to either score a par or birdie, meaning even score or less. Following the final round at Trappers Turn, the golfers attended a steak

dinner at the oselia. The evening’s activities continued with a raffle consisting of sporting tickets to Blackhawks, Bulls, and Bears games, dinner gift certificates, golf umbrellas, golf clubs and bags.

Best team low score, with -4 par, included Mr. Abramiuk, Paul Kulisz, Danylo Miakush and Bohdan Vasilik. Closest to the pin on four par 3’s were Jaroslaw Wereszczak, Elliot Grey (2x), and Chad Koenekamp.

The UAYA thanked all the golfers, volunteers and the generous donors that made this event such a success.

Ukrainian Technological...

(Continued from page 17)

The Michael Korchynsky Memorial Scholarship, underwritten by multiple local, national and international donors, was awarded to Yuriy Zayats, of Carnegie, Pa.

The Dr. Michael Kutsenkow Memorial Scholarship, underwritten by Rose Kutsenkow, was awarded to Michael Kochis of Coraopolis, Pa.

The Chester and Olga Manasterski Memorial Scholarship, underwritten by Myron and Gregory Manasterski, was awarded to Viktoriya Lutsiv of Carnegie, Pa.

Receiving Akim and Tatiana Kutsenkow Memorial Scholarships, underwritten by the late Dr. Michael Kutsenkow and his wife, Rose, were Andriy Lasiychuk and Olha Lysak, both of Carnegie, Pa.

The Ukrainian Selfreliance of Western Pennsylvania Federal Credit Union Scholarship was awarded to Janel Sudiak of Pittsburgh.

Ukrainian Technological Society Scholarships were awarded to Daryna Kutuza of Cheswick, Pa.; Anna K. Olexovich of Baden, Pa.; and Christine and Nicholas Wachnowsky, both of Oakdale, Pa.

Refreshments and a social hour followed the program in the Posvar Hall Galleria.

* * *

To learn more about the UTS, its Scholarship Program, and other activities readers may visit the website at www.utsphg.org or “friend” the organization on Facebook at “Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS) of Pittsburgh.”

Donations toward the 2012 Scholarship Program are being accepted. Donations are tax-deductible, as provided by law, as the UTS has Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3) designation. Donations or inquiries may be sent to the UTS at P.O. Box 4277, Pittsburgh, PA 15203, e-mail, Board@utsphg.org.

Houstonians support Ukraine baseball

by Eugene Kuchta

HOUSTON – Basil Tarasko, district administrator for Little League in Ukraine, visited Houston on July 21-27 for administrative meetings and had the opportunity to meet with the local Houston community at the residence of Eugene and Irene Kuchta to provide an update since his last visit in 2007.

The growth of Little League baseball in Ukraine has been steady. Currently there are 17 Little Leagues throughout the country each composed of four to eight teams with divisions of play ranging from tee-ball (age 5-6) to seniors (ages 15-16).

Although baseball is relatively new to Ukraine it has had international success, Mr. Tarasko noted. Ukraine’s Juniors Little League Team (age 13-14) has twice won the European Championship, in 2007 and 2010, and traveled to the U.S. for the Juniors Little League World Series. Ukraine’s team of 12-year-olds is currently competing at the European Championships in Kutno, Poland.

In addition to the Little Leagues that are based in the cities and towns of Ukraine, Mr. Tarasko has established Little League baseball at the orphanages of Ukraine. In September the orphanages will hold their Little League Championship in Kremenets, Ternopil Oblast.

Mr. Tarasko expressed his appreciation for the support he has received from various Ukrainian organizations, individuals and communities, such as Houston, as well as non-Ukrainian individuals.

As baseball grows, especially at the orphanages, there is a need for baseball equipment, and Mr. Tarasko asked for

Houston’s continued support. During Mr. Tarasko’s 2007 visit, Houston’s Ukrainian community generously supported his work with both equipment and financial contributions. Donations of new or out-grown baseball bats, gloves, catchers’ equipment and cleats are greatly appreciated. Team uniform donations are a special treat for the orphanages and would consist of a set of 12 baseball shirts, socks, pants (grey) and hats, he noted.

Mr. Kuchta and Bill Dijak have been asked to coordinate the collection of equipment donations from Houston’s Ukrainian community and their shipment to the orphanages. An agreement was recently concluded with MEEST

International of Elizabeth, N.J., to ship boxes of baseball equipment from the U.S. directly to the orphanages.

Also at the meeting was Oleksij Nezhyborets from Kirovograd; a success story of Ukraine’s Little League. Mr. Nezhyborets began playing baseball in 2003 and is now a member of Ukraine’s National Team. He is currently in Houston for the summer months, visiting various Houston-area colleges to see if he can have the opportunity to play U.S. college baseball. He is being hosted this summer by Chad Liddle, baseball coach at Klein Oak High School in Houston, and a volunteer who has traveled to Ukraine numerous times to assist Mr. Tarasko with his work.



Basil Tarasko, Little League district administrator for Ukraine (seated center), is flanked by Chad Liddle (left) and Oleksij Nezhyborets; also in the photo are representatives of Houston’s Ukrainian community Bill Dijak (standing, left) and Eugene Kuchta.

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OUT & ABOUT

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| August 17
Somerset, NJ | Ukrainian Independence Day celebration, featuring the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and bandurist Mike Andrec, Franklin Township Public Library, 732-873-8700 | August 24
Saskatoon, SK | Dave Mysak "Kovbasa Klassic" golf tournament, Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Saskatchewan, Willows Golf and Country Club, 306-653-1300 or penny.szautner@newcommunity.cu.sk.ca |
| August 18
Fort Saskatchewan, AB | Golf tournament, Ukrainian Foundation for College Education, Fort-In-View Golf Course, 780-497-4374 or 780-497-5494 | August 26
Wildwood, NJ | Beach volleyball tournament, Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada, beach near Pan American Hotel, www.socceragency.net/lys |
| August 18-21
Rochester, NY | Ukrainian Festival, St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, 585-266-2255 or www.rochesterukrainianfestival.com | August 26-September 1
Ottawa | Film screening, "The Whistleblower" by Larysa Kondracki, ByTowne Theater, www.whistleblower-movie.com |
| August 20
Etobicoke, ON | 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence celebration, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Centennial Park, 416-323-4772 | August 26-28
Chicago | Uketoberfest, St. Joseph the Betrothed Ukrainian Catholic Church, stjosephuucc@gmail.com |
| August 20
Miami | Celebration, 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Ukrainian American Club, 305-635-6374 or www.ukrainiandancersmiami.org/uac | August 27
Selkirk, MB | Golf tournament, Selkirk Golf and Country Club, 204-482-2050 |
| August 20
Regina, MB | Ukrainian Fall Fest, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Regina Branch, Victoria Park, www.uccruff.ca | August 28
San Francisco | Ukrainian Day concert, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council of Northern California, Golden Gate Park, www.stmichaeluocsf.org or 415-330-0905 |
| August 20-21
Lehigh, PA | Festival celebrating the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Ukrainian Homestead, 610-377-4621 or www.ukrhomestead.com | August 28
Edmonton, AB | Celebration, 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex, 780-478-4881 |
| August 21
Los Angeles | Gala celebration of Ukraine's 20th anniversary of independence, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 818-620-3929 | August 28
Bridgeport, CT | Ukrainian picnic, Holy Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Paproski's Christmas Tree Farm, 203-269-5909 or 203-426-5487 |
| August 22
Brampton, ON | Golf tournament, celebrating Ukraine's 20th anniversary of independence, Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, Lionhead Golf and Country Club, www.golfionhead.com or 905-825-2877 | August 28
Bridgeville, PA | Celebration, 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Pittsburgh Ukrainian community, Alpine Club, 412-343-0309 |
| August 24
Toronto | Flag-raising ceremony, 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, League of Ukrainian Canadians, Queen's Park, 416-516-8223 or www.lucorg.com | August 28
Berwick, PA | Summer picnic, North Anthracite Council - League of Ukrainian Catholics, Ezzyj's Farm, 570-822-5354 |
| August 24
Ottawa | Flag-raising ceremony, 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Embassy of Ukraine, Parliament Hill, 613-230-2961 ext. 235 or press@ukremb.ca | | |

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



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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Trees, frogs and bugs – what fun!

by Lida Hvozda Buniak

EAST CHATHAM, N.Y. – “Pochatkovyi Tabir,” or camp for beginners, run by the Plast kurin Spartanky, held two sessions of the one-week camp intended for 6- to 7-year-olds at Vovcha Tropa. The camp’s program introduces first-year “novaky” and “novachky” to their first overnight Plast camp experience.

The days were filled with learning about the forest, wilderness-inspired crafts, singing songs, swimming, a field trip to a horse farm, games and evening campfires.

All of the campers demonstrate their knowledge of flowers, trees, insects and animals by earning a merit badge called “Lisovyk”/“Lisova” Mavka. Parents of these campers



Nicholas Buniak

Participants of the first session of “Pochatkovyi Tabir,” which took place July 17-23.



Two novaky in their “gear,” ready to observe and catch bugs at Beaver Pond.

are equally impressed that by the end of tabir, their children could point out such things as: a maple is a “klen,” a hummingbird or “kuli-bryk” is the only bird that can fly forwards, backwards or sit in sheer space; and that a dandelion salad can be eaten in a “kulbaba.”

Nevertheless, the most impressive transformation in these youngest Plast members can be seen in their attitude toward nature. Initially, the children have a tendency to scream at the sight of a frog or a large insect, but thanks to informative and fun “hutirky” (lessons) offered by the “sestrychky” and “bratchyky,” a.k.a. camp counsel-

ors, they eventually enthusiastically seek out and catch these tiniest creatures of the forest. Of course, these bugs and amphibians are set free every evening to allow for their return to their “families” – even a camp favorite, a frog named “Bob.”

By the end of camp, amidst warm

hugs and good-byes, it was clear these little campers had learned about self-reliance, conservation, Ukrainian culture, and best-of-all friendship! Next year, they are more than ready for a new adventure as novaky and novachky at the regular three-week Plast camps.

Teen is state finalist in pageant



Nadiya Tereschuk

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. – Nadiya Tereschuk, who moved from Ternopil to Lawrenceville, N.J., five years ago, has been chosen as a state finalist in the National American Miss New Jersey Pageant to be held August 21-22 in East Brunswick.

The National American Miss pageants are held for girls age 4-18, and have five different age divisions. Nadiya will be participating in the 16-18 age division.

Miss Tereschuk’s activities include reading, dancing, singing, traveling, modeling. She also enjoys volunteering at nursing homes and the community library, and tutoring younger children. She is active in St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Trenton, N.J.



The founder of the Plast camp for beginners, Petrusia Kotlar-Paslowsky, helps novachky examine a flower through a magnifying glass.

UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Five-year-old sings with rock star Rick Springfield

NORTH BRUNSWICK, N.J. – On July 10, little Sophia Renata Zalipsky of Huntingdon Valley, Pa., had a rare opportunity to meet rock star, Grammy Award winner, actor and author Rick Springfield at a book signing being held at Barnes & Noble in North Brunswick, N.J.

At the book signing event, Sophia, 5, showed Mr. Springfield a few pictures of herself performing at several Ukrainian functions held at the Ukrainian Heritage School located in Jenkintown, Pa. (she is part of a new drama group that formed at the Heritage School in September 2010), as well as pictures from shows held a few years back at ABCD Day Care in Philadelphia (where the children put on many performances throughout the year for their parents).

Mr. Springfield commented, “Oh my gosh, you sing?” as he proceeded to pick her up and place her on his lap for a photo and video opportunity. He lifted her hands up into the air and expressed his thrill at her ambition to sing.

He asked whether Sophia would be attending the concert later that night and stated, “I will see you at the show tonight.” Never did her mother, Christina Zalipsky, or little Sophia imagine what would occur later that evening.

The show was held at the New Jersey State Theater in New Brunswick. At the show, Mr. Springfield spotted Sophia in the crowd as the prelude to his song “Don’t Talk to Strangers” began. He pointed to Sophia and invited her, along with four other children, onto the stage.

Recalling Sophia’s ambition to sing and the photos he had seen earlier that day, the singer asked Sophia: “When was the last time you sang in front of this many people?” Sophia looked out into the crowd of the packed theater and shrugged her shoulders with wide eyes and in disbelief. Mr. Springfield lined-up the children, placing Sophia at his side as she was the youngest child on stage that night.

As part of his show, Mr. Springfield has children sing a few verses of his famous song “Don’t Talk to Strangers.” Each child got a turn to sing and, last but not least, Sophia had her moment to sing her heart out. She swayed confidently as she sang: “Don’t talk to strangers, baby, don’t you talk...!” The audience melted at her performance.

As Sophia exited the stage, Mr.



Sophia Zalipsky, 5, on stage with rock star Rick Springfield.

Springfield kissed her hand – a moment she will never forget. Indeed, Mr. Springfield gave the ambitious little girl a moment in his spotlight to fulfill her dream of singing on stage like a “rock star.”

Tickets to the concert were a birthday gift for Sophia from her mother. Sophia turned 6 on July 13. She said her moment on stage with Rick Springfield was “the best birthday gift ever.”



Little Sophia with Rick Springfield during a book signing.

Mishanyna

August always has a lot of sunshine, and that means taking trips to the beach. This month’s Mishanyna focuses on stuff you might find on your trip to the beach.

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Let us hear from you!

The next edition of UKELODEON will be published on September 11.

Please send in your submissions by September 2 to staff@ukrweekly.com.



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soyuzivka@aol.com

August 7-20

Dance Camp session 2

August 13-21 Club Suzy-Q week**August 20**

3 pm - Dance Camp Recital


9:30 pm - Zabava - Fata Morgana

August 26-28

Kozak Family art exhibit

Soyuzivka Library

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1933 - 2011



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 28

ROCHESTER, N.Y.: The United Ukrainian American Organizations of Rochester, N.Y., the Rochester branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Rochester Ukrainian Group Inc. are co-sponsoring a 20th anniversary celebration of Ukraine's independence at 3 p.m. beside the Ukrainian monument at Centennial Park, Irondequoit Town Hall, 1280 Titus Ave. The program will open with the American and the Ukrainian national anthems, and a common prayer. Also on the program: the proclamation of Ukrainian Day, remarks by the Rev. Roman Sydorovych and Dr. Christine Hoshowsky, poetry recitation, local vocalists and a performance by Oleh Chmyr, world-renowned baritone. Admission is free. Donations are welcome.

Friday-Sunday, September 2-4

SAN DIEGO: The House of Ukraine 2011 Festival kicks off on Friday night with a meet, greet and cookout at Mission Beach. A concert on Saturday evening features the Kalyna Ukrainian Dancers from Sacramento, the Chervona Kalyna Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from Los Angeles, Iryna Orlova and Anatoliy Mamalyga of the Los Angeles Balalaika Orchestra, and local bandurists Andriy Kytasty and Luke Miller. On Sunday, House of Ukraine in Balboa Park will open. Traditional Ukrainian dance and music will be performed on the outdoor stage, and Ukrainian food will be served. Festivities culminate at the dinner dance at the Catamaran Resort with music by Dunai of Toronto. For more information call 760-68-XATKA (92852), e-mail houseofukraine@gmail.com or log on to www.houseofukraine.com.

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.

Friday-Sunday, September 30-October 2

PHILADELPHIA: The Ukrainian American Veterans Inc. will hold their 64th annual national convention at the Hampton Inn, 1500 Easton Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090; telephone, 215-659-3535; website, www.hamptoninnwillowgrove.com. The convention is hosted by UAV Post 1 of Greater Philadelphia and UAV Post 42 of Lehigh Valley, Pa. Registration of delegates will be on Friday and Saturday at 8-10 a.m. The convention will convene at 10 a.m. on Friday. Saturday night's banquet will be held at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046; cocktails are at 5 p.m. followed by the banquet at 6 p.m. Reservations (\$75 per individual, \$140 per couple) may be sent to: UAV 64th Convention Banquet Committee, 7421 Loretto Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111, Attention: John Midzak; RSVP no later than August 31. For information about the banquet, call Mr. Midzak, 215-745-9838. To place an ad in UAV 64th Convention Journal contact Jerry Kindrachuk, jkindrachuk@gmail.com or 610-730-3265; or Mathew Koziak, koziaquav@aol.com or 610-867-4052.

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**.

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



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