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 Yanukovych 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 Yanukovych 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 Yanukovych 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 Yanukovych government’s systematic program of eradicating any form of opposition. Democratic process are being infringed upon and democracy is being systematically undermined,” said President Roman Kireyev.

A protester holds a leaflet bearing a photo of Yulia Tymoshenko outside the Pechersk District Court in Kyiv on August 5. The words under the photo read: “Freedom for Ukraine.”

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

On August 4 donning her signature braided hairstyle, the 50-year-old former presidential candidate prerecorded a public address. “Today I’m still free, but I have a feeling... This is the first time...that they have taken me... I am not free... We are watching,” she said.

A placard focuses on Toronto demonstrators’ demands.
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 political force in the judicial system. 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. The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv has requested access to Mrs. Tymoshenko during her incarceration.

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

by Stephen Blank
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Moscow is turning up the heat on Minsk and Kyiv to subordinate their economic policies to Moscow’s interests and to Russia and will accept Russia’s political tutelage. In both cases, Moscow is using the instruments of its gas and its customsunion agreement with Belarus.

Gazprom and Moscow are also refraining 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 22, July 8). At the same time, Moscow has proposed a merger of Gazprom and Ukraine’s gas company Naftohaz, to 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 EurAsEac and resists calls to join. Instead, President Viktor Yanukovych is holding to a set of formulae on the use of the Black Sea to Ukraine’s advantage, whose members are Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan (Interfax, July 8). Even though Moscow has said that Ukraine is “doomed” to cooperate with Moscow and despite the fact that Kyiv is soliciting Russian help in developing oil and gas fields in the Black Sea to Ukraine’s advantage, the president has staunchly refused to merge Naftohaz with Gazprom (Ukrainian Television UT1, Channel 5 TV, July 8; Ekonomicheskie Izvestiya, June 22).

Indeed, Naftohaz Ukraine has reduced the amount of Russian gas it receives compared to such quantities for June and is reducing imports in general as the prices 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 purchase contract system cannot be changed because Europe’s need for gas, not only resisting a merger with Gazprom, but also suggesting that doing so correctly) that Russia’s program for South Stream is unnecessary and superfluous (Interfax, June 14). Indeed, Ukraine, like Lithuania, might consider Russia’s gas pressure on Europe in engineering 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 Belarus’ nuclear power units of the Belarusian nuclear processing sector into the red. And Belarus has agreed to the plan to privatize and then essentially turn over to Russian businesses, making the sole proprietor of Belarus’ gas transmission and distribution company.

Belarus has also received for the first time in its history a request to send a Belarusian delegate to the annual meeting of the EurAsEc (www.slon.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 favor of Gazprom’s price formula and driven Belarus’ petroleum processing sector into the red. And Belarus has agreed to the plan to privatize and then essentially turn over to Russian businesses, making the sole proprietor of Belarus’ gas transmission and distribution company.

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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 documents Ukraine’s foreign policy change at the same time as its relations with Russia are poor (video of arrest here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0q8kPNHphotovid20110805). The disputed opposition has rallied to Ms. Tymoshenko’s side with Serhiy Yanukovych’s adulation being 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://fronttimezone.org).

President Yaroslav 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 7).

Up to here 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” (Kiyv Post, July 28; Frankfurtfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, July 18; Der Tagesspiegel, July 21) and that the scale of this Western criticism is unprecedented in Ukraine’s 20 years of independence. Much of the disbelief rests on charges related to a gas contract, a 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] Yanukovych shows himself to be a champion of executive shortcuts even on matters of such strategic significance as the long-term lease of the Seastopol [sic] naval base to Russia” (www.ceps.eu/sys/files/2011/07/2011070520Tymoshenko.pdf).

Western governments’ criticism of the “selective use of justice” is mounting. French Ambassador to Ukraine Jacques Faure (www.parlamentsinfo.be) publicly condemned 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 Yanukovych 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 Senior Vice-President Steven Pifer stated that senior European officials have urged the Ukrainian authorities to suspend negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) if the Tymoshenko trial should not obstruct the signing of the DCFTA. Ukrainian Ambassador to Great Britain Volodymyr Khondogiy rejected any comparison of Khodorkovsky and Tymoshenko by claiming there was no executive interference in the courts, itself a 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.yanka.com.pl/102/download/CDL-A/D(2011)0029/8206-e.pdf). The Ukrainian media have also uncovered how the presidential administration has been directly interfering in the Tymoshenko and other political trials by instructing witnesses (see Serhiy Lexshenik in Ukrayinska Pravda, July 27).

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 officials have not “want to risk destabilizing a Ukrainian leader whose domestic policies appear to have less and less in common with the policies of a free society based on the common values of Ukraine regarding the arrest of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, recorded before the European court, which will prove there was no executive interference in the trial” (Continued on page 9).

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 posted on the website based on the original Ukrainian version.)

On August 5 Kyiv’s Pechersky District Court allowed the appeal by the Attorney General’s Office [Procurator 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, the appeals to Ukraine’s leadership urging it to reconsider this ruling are essentially groundless. Ukraine’s executive stands aside the rule of law and has no intention to get involved therein.

At the same time, in view of the natural assets of Ukraine and its partners in this legal case, the MFA of Ukraine deems it appropriate to stress a number of obvious considerations that are well-known and obvious and that is why it is lowering the court proceedings.

Respect for the judiciary is the cornerstone of any democratic system. The justice system is a guarantor of the rule of law, which is the basis of a democratic society. The state is the guarantor of the rule of law, and no power possesses the right to interfere with the legal procedures at will. The political authorities must respect the independence of the courts, which is a major feature of Ukraine’s judicial system, like many other political and societal institutions, is currently undergoing the process of overhauling and decolonization in the removal of which Ukraine highly values the expert support of international organizations and partner countries.

At the same time the demonstrative disposition of the court during the appeal to the former prime minister creates the impression that a high-ranking politician can afford behaving in a court in a way that would be unacceptable to any average citizen. The conscious, systematic disregard for the legal norms similar to those applied in the absolute majority of the European states, as well as Yulia Tymoshenko’s undigusted 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 in an absolutely illegal position, which should be stopped by the court’s respective ruling.

An analysis of the legal systems of the United States, EU member-Wilson 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 proseute 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 ground for holding 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 European values.

Tymoshenko addresses the Ukrainian people

This translation of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko’s address 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 Yanukovych 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 am 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 priva
tized in Ukraine’s favor. I made sure everything the country has served you, not thieves 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 have so many of the poor been snatched so cruelly, the future of our 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 Yanukovych. There is the European court, which will prove my legal right. There is the court of the Ukrainian people, which will prove my political right. 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 presiden
tial elections. I will not betray those who voted for Yanukovych 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, I have to use every opportunity to support those who today are standing against Yanukovych to visit Washington” (Kiyv 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 the Ukrainian officials” (Kiyv Post, July 28).

The European Commission issued a statement on August 5 urging all political motivated trials will not impact upon the DCFTA negotiations, but it did state they will have to “properly assess” 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 elected Ukraine. Mr. Emerson has explained that the DCFTA has been ratified by the European Parliament and all 27 member-states’ Parliaments (www.ceps.eu/sys/files/2011/07/2011070520Tymoshenko.pdf).

Mr. Emerson has explained that “selective use of justice” is mounting. “Trade privileges should be linked to 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 elected Ukraine. Mr. Emerson has explained that the DCFTA has been ratified by the European Parliament and all 27 member-states’ Parliaments (www.ceps.eu/sys/files/2011/07/2011070520Tymoshenko.pdf).

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The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: July

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Sincere thanks to all contributors to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund is the only fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the work of this publication.
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 Semanyszyn, Soyuzivka staff, 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: orphans 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.”
The first week 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 political opponents. We ask society by the regime to rise up against the liquidation of the Ukrainian national identity.

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

Yulia Tymoshenko case concerns all of us. It is a Rubicon that no one can turn back from now. If the government crosses it, many of us will be tried tomorrow. Then, there will be nobody to write appeals and meetings. We will be crushed quietly and one by one.

It is already obvious that the government will not allow us to raise our voices. It 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 and respect 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 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 Bichunya (writer)
Bohdan Horyn (political, civil and human rights activist, editor, deputy, journalist, art critic, political scientist, former dissident)
Serhiy Grabovskiy (publicist, journalist, political scientist, historian)
Larysa Denisenko (writer, lawyer)
Anatoliy 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)
Serhiy Zhdan (poet, novelist, essayist)
Roman Ivanychuk (writer, poet, social activist, member of the People’s Movement of Ukraine, Hero of Ukraine, laureate of Shevchenko National Prize and many other prizes, former national deputy)
Irena Karpka (writer, singer, journalist)
Mykola Kniazhyskyi (journalist, general director of the TVI channel)
Ihor Losier (culturalologist at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, political scientist, publicist, journalist, member of the National Union of Journalists)
Roman Lubkivskyi (poet, diplomat)
Lievko Lukianenko (political, Soviet and Ukrainian politician, Hero of Ukraine, former national deputy)
Yuri Mushketky (writer, Hero of Ukraine)
Mykhailo Ratushnyi (politician, former national deputy, a coordinator of the People’s Committee to Defend Ukraine)
Iren Rozdubodko (journalist, writer, poet)
Dmytro Pavlychko (poet, translator, scriptwriter, culturalologist, political and public figure, dissident, Hero of Ukraine)
Myroslav Popovsky (philosopher, professor, academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)

(Continued on page 16)
Tymoshenko arrest changes everything

Dear Editor:

The arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko, which took place in a single sentence, changes everything. The Yanukovych administration is banking on Ukraine being of sufficient strategic interest to the United States and the European Union, and too big to push around, to have sanctions imposed against them. They are wrong about Ukraine. The European Union admittance resembles that of the elder President George Bush Senior in the early 1990s. It was a mistake. 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 disintegrated.

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 not political prisoners or 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. The Yanukovych administration evens 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

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 sentence, 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 significant work and not go Mykola Matijiv.

Allow me from this venue to appeal to all of the Boyko philologists like Prof. Matijiv to successfully finish his noble work.

I appeal especially to people connected to the Boyko region by any means of assistance. 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

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New York

Yulia Tymoshenko: a rising phoenix?

Dear Editor:

Remember the Orange Revolution of 2004? Who organized the demonstration? Yulia Tymoshenko and Kuchma government and precluded Viktor Yanukovych from becoming prime minister twice and tried to enact reforms, the elections? Who became prime minister after the Orange Revolution, Yuliya Tymoshenko, arrested, and she is calling out to the world for help. She was a mobilizer of crowds, as seen during the 2004 Orange Revolution. The Yanukovych administration evens 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?

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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 Tropa campground on Sunday, August 7. The jamboree 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 carrying 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
Policy forum on U.S. strategic engagement in Central and Eastern Europe held in D.C.

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, Georgia, Gypsy, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, and Ukrainian descent.

Mr. 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 role 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 Szapury 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 deserts where 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 Ms. Tymoshenko’s arrest but even if it 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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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 500 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 Kuritz (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 Maryniik and Dr. Ihor Vovketski. 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. Andrew Melnyk awarded Dr. Tymchak a plaque in recognition of his two years of voluntary 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 Yury 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 Ulena Maruzkevich, 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.
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TRAVELS: An expedition through the “wild Carpathians”

by Yuri Deychakiwsky

Since early childhood, the mystique of the Carpathy, or Carpathian Mountains, was engrained in my consciousness. Songs sung at Plast camps, such as “Pysany Kamin” or “Pry Vatri” (Sirily u Sumerka), or reading the novel about Oleksa Dovbush, the legendary Ukrainian Hutsul “Robin Hood,” paintings by Ukrainian 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 to the Carpathy 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 Hoverla. Since then, I dreamed of returning one day for a more prolonged journey.

The Internet led me to the site http://www.adventurescarpathians.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.

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 Carpathy 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 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, 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 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 St. 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 pro 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.

The final ascent on the summit of Syvulia.

Yuri Deychakiwsky atop Syvulia.

Camping on the “polonya” – a mountain pasture.
NEWSBRIEF... (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 hierarch, 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, a member of the Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, its Patriarch Filaret seeks Yulia’s release custody,” wrote the patriarch. He also asks 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 the contrary, I will be relying on 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 Karmanets-Podilsky, which was partially destroyed by 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 from the Reserve Fund of the Government's budget, the Cabinet of Ministers press office said in a statement released on August 9. At the same time, Prime Minister Azarov, in his letter to Judge Rodion Kireyev, the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church gave Patriarch Ilia a mosaic icon of St. George the Great, the patron saint of Georgia, and 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 Pechayi icon of the Mother of God by Georgia, a gift. The Day of Baptism of Kyivan Rus’, July 28, became an official holiday in 2008, in accordance with a presidential decree issued by Vitaliy Yushchenko. July 28 marked the end of Patriarch Kirill’s three-day visit to Ukraine. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Protests against Russian prime

KYIV – The Kyiv branch of the nationalistic Ukrainian Union Svoboda 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 Orthodox Against Moscow Obscurantism,” “For a Unified Local Orthodox Church Centered in Kyiv.” The protesters in the protest also chanted, “Shame!” As part of the demonstration, the organizers held a photo exhibition titled “Moscow Priests, Moscow Sins,” which aimed to depict “the hypocrisy of Russian Orthodox Church members, who in fact propagate not spiritual 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 later to restore it 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 religion, they do not change the idea of the ‘Russian world’ can be successfully implemented,” said Mr. Yatsenyuk. “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 the Virgin Mary of Slavo-Bulgarian Annunciation in Kyiv, a hierarchical liturgy was celebrated on occasion of the 1,032nd 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 Yosyp Milan 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 a world free from the aggression of President Volodymyr equal to the apostles, sought the true God. …We continue to glorify the prime minister of our people, so that we will be 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 – opposition, nongovernmental organizations and labor unions – 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 seeks 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 oppressive and 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 the report, the survey involved 50 most popular tourist cities in the world. The rankings took into account the cost of accommodation in a four-star hotel in June-July of this year, a cheese pizza, a dry martini and a taxi trip for a distance of eight kilometers. The results show that 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 for travelers in Europe 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)
Toronto Ukrainians...
(Continued from page 1)

Rally organizers also announced the establishment of a new non-governmen-
tal organization, the Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine. This watchdog
organization appeals to “all freedom-
loving Canadi ans to join in calling upon
the Canadian government to keep con-
demning 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 con-
cerned by the apparently politically moti-
vated 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, demo-
cratic and prosperous society in Ukraine.”

The consul general of Ukraine in
Toronto, Oleksander Danylyko, came
to speak to the crowd. He was pre-
vented with a petition demanding the
release of Ms. Tymoshenko and an end
to political repressions in Ukraine. Consul General Danylyko promised he
would present the petition to Ukraine’s
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The message to President Yanukovych
from both the Ukrainian Canadian com-
munity and Canada is clear: the contin-
ued 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 unit-
ed 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.

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 persecu-
tions in Ukraine.

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

We would ask the Canadian govern-
ment 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 free-
doms.

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

Nestor Gayowsky, consul-general and
chef 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)

The feature documentary has now won
10 international awards.

MONTREAL - The feature documen-
tary “Genocide Revealed” by filmmaker
Yurij Luhovy won two more awards at
the Film Festival of Colorado in Arvada,
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 Arvada Library
during a brunch on Sunday, June 26.

This film festival “highlights filmmak-
ers 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 Yurij
Luhovy, who was unable to attend the
Film Festival of Colorado awards cere-
mony, 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 pow-
erful 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 mem-
ories,” 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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SELF RELIANCE (N.J.) FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

NOTICE TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WITH DORMANT ACCOUNTS TO CLAIM THEIR ACCOUNTS BY OCTOBER 15, 2011 OR

the funds will be released to STATE OF NEW JERSEY Division of
Taxation, Unclaimed Property

Mr. Dmytro Todoriv Ms. Melissa Manzo
Ms. Angela Sowyn Ms. Liliana Manzo
Mr. John Hromyk Ms. Leah Manzo
Mr. Andrei Lozinski Mr. Joseph Ohar
Ms. Anne Maria Murray Ms. Darlene Cimilluca
Mr. Vincent Cahlil Ms. Julio Pucenicz
Mr. Hanryk Wojtkowicz

To reactivate your account please contact one of our offices.

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* * *
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 scene was captured. The crowd surrounded an armored car shielded by various police units that cleared the way through thongs of her supporters gathered along Kyiv’s main thoroughfare, the Khreschatyk. The crowds unsuccessfully tried blocking the car while shouting, “Haaa, haaa! Isha-ma!,” 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 to 1,000.

Since Ms. Tymoshenko’s trial resumed on August 8, nine other opposition parties and their supporters have joined the protest. 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-Tapola. 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,” said 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 face that it is trial. It has definitely crossed the line now.”

Other opposition figures have come to Ms. Tymoshenko’s defense. “Democracy is over in Ukraine,” 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 testimonies 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 Mykhailo Slaboshpytskyi said that they had been approached by suspected of being experts by 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 media representatives of Parliament and community leaders, including members of the clergy, bearers of the Hero of Ukraine title, writers and poets had submitted petitions to stand bail for her.

On August 9, world heavyweight champion and Kyiv City Councilman Vitali Klitschko called on President Viktor Yanukovych to put an end to Ms. Tymoshenko’s imprisonment. “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 state-ment 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 the EU to do their part in a 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 decry 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 affiliations.”

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 divisions behind them and work together to build their future in Europe.”

Meanwhile, Freedom House, the independent watchdog organization that monitors political, religious and societal freedom around the world, said: “The arrest of Tymoshenko, and related harassment of her lawyers, marks a significant development in Ukraine.”

“Swede-Dutch deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament Mykhailo Slaboshpytskyi said: “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 unfortunate to the outrageous and reinforces the perception that the current administration is selectively prosecuting Tymoshenko as a means to silence her and block 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 Co-operation 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 European People’s Party (EPP), Wilfried Martens, on August 5 stated: “I am not surprised that today the court ordered Yulia Tymoshenko to be held under arrest. For months now, it has been blatantly obvious that the Yanukovych regime is running a politically motivated court.”

The move 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 Yanukovych to put an immediate end to this sham – Europe’s patience has reached its limit.”

Meanwhile, Tymoshenko is the leader of Batkivschyna, an observer member party of the EPP, which is the largest and most influential in the pro-European political party of the center-right.

Grygoriy Khalymovych (orientalist, translator, critic, professor)
Valerii Shevchuk (historian, professor, writer and politician)
Mykhailo Slaboshpytskyi (prose writer, critic, publicist, civil activist)

Statement regarding... (Continued from page 6)

Mykola Riabchuk (journalist, publicist, poet, writer, columnist).
Vladysmyr Serhiychuk (historian, professor, writer and politician)
Mykhailo Slaboshpytskyi (prose writer, critic, publicist, civil activist)

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 prose excerpt from a work that you would be proud 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 contacted, 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.

No. 33 THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011
Sheptytsky Institute hosts annual Study Days in Ottawa

OTTAWA – This summer, the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies (MA$I) 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 Boulter (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 Jilions (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 Onufriko and Michael Winn, Presbyter Melita Mudri-Zabucz, Subdeacon Brian Anastasiy Butcher, Dr. Catherine Clifford, the Rev. Lucien Costu 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.”

MA$I is preparing for Study Days 2012 and anticipates another successful event. For updates readers may log to: www.sheptytskysstitute.ca.
Five years ago, 6-foot-2, 220-pound Pavel Valentenko was not among the 2006 NHL Entry Draft’s high-profile prospects, ranking No. 123 on the official Central Scouting Bureau’s list. The Montreal Canadiens went ahead and drafted the now 23-year-old defenceman 130th overall in the fifth round. He raised his stock dramatically over the next two seasons, beginning with his final year on his hometown Nikhefnets 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, Valentenko emerged as a viable NHL prospect. His role became that of a shut-down defense- man who regularly made it a long night for the opposing team’s forwards. Coming off his solid debut campaign, he was called to make the Canadiens roster out of training camp in 2008, when he was sent down in his first game. He returned to Hamilton for four games before making the difficult decision to accept an offer from the KHL’s Dynamo.

Pavel Valentenko, son of a Ukrainian father from Donetsk, Ukraine, was not homesick, but was unable to compete with North American hockey life and very serious about pursuing an NHL career. His reason for going back home was a personal decision, but he was looking 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.NY.set. “His father 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 went and did his pro career back for that.”

When he left, Valentenko had every intention to show the 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: Valentenko and University of Wisconsin standout Ryan McDonagh.

More obstacles were thrown Valentenko’s way when he suffered a shoulder injury preparation 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 Valentenko was in the Dynamo lineup, the team was a perfect 7-0. When he was injured, his team lost 23 goals and 12 assists with 38 penalty minutes and a solid +2 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 he was playing with 10-year-old synthetic league “game ships” 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,” Valentenko said. “I loved the Rangers and my father likes them because they had Russian players. Pavel’s top two lines were named after Alex Kovalev, Sergei Nemchinov, Sergei Zubov and Alexander Karpotsev. He followed them and read about them.”

“During the time off, I knew I had to do what’s best for my father and thousands of other Rangers fans get to see him play so he can have something to work on his father and others will be following his Rangers career and reading about his hockey exploits for 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 two forwards. 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 championship game. So which one Schmidt scored the biggest goal in school history, assisted, of course, by the other Oleksuk. They did it in 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. Oleksuk has it planned out and put together very well.

Now Valentenko hopes his father and others will be following his Rangers career and reading about his hockey exploits for 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 two forwards. 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 championship game. So which one Schmidt scored the biggest goal in school history, assisted, of course, by the other Oleksuk. They did it in 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.

Now Valentenko hopes his father and others will be following his Rangers career and reading about his hockey exploits for years to come.
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 Pavshik 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, and other events.

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 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 make 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 Jaroslav Weresczak, Elliot Grey (2x), and Chad Koenenkamp.

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 Kutschenkow Memorial Scholarship, underwritten by Rose Kutschenkow, was awarded to Michael Koch of Ceresopol, 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 Kutschenkow Memorial Scholarships, underwritten by the late Dr. Michael Kutschenkow and his wife, Rose, were Andry Lasiyuchik and Olha Lyasik, 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. Oleksovich of Baden, Pa.; and Christine and Nicholas Wachnowsky, both of Oakdale, Pa. Refreshments and a social hour followed the program in the Posvar Hall Gallery.

To learn more about the UTS, its Scholarship Program, and other activities readers may visit the website at www.utpg.gh.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 15233, e-mail, Board@utpg.gh.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. directly to the orphanages.

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 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.

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.
LIMITED TIME ONLY!

OPEN AN ACCOUNT
FOR YOUR CHILD WITH

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL

AND EARN 3% INTEREST*

How cool is that?!!

Offer valid from August 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011. To qualify for the offer you must open a new savings account in the name of a child under the age of 18 in any branch of the Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union and make a minimum deposit of $500.00 or maximum deposit of $3,000.00. Savings accounts must remain open for a minimum of twelve months with at least $50.00 of deposit. While the rate is fixed, it may change. If rate changes, notice will be given. Early withdrawal penalty of one month will be applied. Annual Percentage Rate (APR) varies by account. Minimum balance required to maintain the rate is $1,000.00. Yearly Statement Period. Withdrawals during the grace period affect the rate during the next grace period.

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UNA, Inc., 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054
OUT & ABOUT

August 17  Ukrainian Independence Day celebration, featuring the Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and bandurist Mike Andrec, Franklin Township Public Library, 732-873-8700

August 18  Golf tournament, Ukrainian Foundation for College Education, Fort-In-View Golf Course, 780-497-4374 or 780-497-5494

August 18-21  Ukrainian Festival, St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, 585-266-2255 or www.rochesterukrainianfestival.com

August 20  20th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence celebration, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Centennial Park, 416-323-4772

August 20  Celebration, 20th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence, Ukrainian American Club, 305-635-6374 or www.ukrainiandancersmiami.org/usac

August 20  Ukrainian Fall Fest, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Regina Branch, Victoria Park, www.ucrcruff.ca

August 20-21  Festival celebrating the 20th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence, Ukrainian Homestead, 610-377-4621 or www.ukrhomestead.com

August 21  Gala celebration of Ukraine’s 20th anniversary of independence, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 818-620-3929

August 22  Golf tournament, celebrating Ukraine’s 20th anniversary of independence, Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, Lionhead Golf and Country Club, www.golflionhead.com or 905-825-2877

August 24  Flag-raising ceremony, 20th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence, League of Ukrainian Canadians, Queen’s Park, 416-516-8223 or www.luc.org

August 24  Flag-raising ceremony, 20th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence, Embassy of Ukraine, Parliament Hill, 613-230-2961 ext. 235 or press@ukremb.ca

August 24  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.ca

August 26  Beach volleyball tournament, Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada, beach near Pan American Hotel, www.socceragency.net/lys

August 26-28  Film screening, “The Whistleblower” by Larysa Kondracki, ByToWe Theater, www.whistleblower-movie.com

August 26-28  Uketoberfest, St. Joseph the Betrothed Ukrainian Catholic Church, stjosephucc@gmail.com

August 27  Golf tournament, Selkirk Golf and Country Club, 204-482-2050

August 27  Ukrainian Day concert, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council of Northern California, Golden Gate Park, www.stmichaelucsf.org or 415-330-0905

August 28  Celebration, 20th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence, Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex, 780-478-4881

August 28  Ukrainian picnic, Holy Protection of the Blessed Virgin Bridgeville, PA

August 28  Celebration, 20th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence, Pittsburgh Ukrainian community, Alpine Club, 412-343-0309

August 28  Summer picnic, North Anthracite Council – League of Ukrainian Catholics, Ezzy’s Farm, 570-822-5354

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.

Cindy Welch Broker/Owner
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Walk to Soyuzivka

Ulster Heights Lake Cottages on their own lots with 65 acres of trails, Lake access with beach, tennis court playground, clubhouse with game room, free internet, laundry. $59,900 & $49,900.

Beautiful Cape with refinished hardwood floors $143,900

Large 5 bedroom with in-law suite on an acre, walking distance to Soyuzivka, income generating billboard. Mountain views, private corner lot, Stunning open multi level floor plan. Priced to sell. $299,000

4.80 acres of pasture with underground electric, mountain views $49,000
EAST CHATHAM, N.Y. – “Pochtakovy 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 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 “kulibryk” 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 counselors, 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.
Auguusto always has a looottt of sunshine, and that means taking trips to the beach. This month’s Mishanyyna focuses on stuff you might find on your trip to the beach.

**Mishanyyna**

**BOOGIEBOARD**

**SEASHELLS**

**SUNGLASSES**

**BUCKET**

**UMBRELLA**

**SANDCASTLE**

**SURFERS**

**SUNSCREEN**

**SUN**

**SAND**

**TOWEL**

**PAIL**

**OCEAN**

**FISH**

**LIFEGUARD**

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.
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 Anatolyi Mamalyga of the Los Angeles Balalaika Orchestra, and local bandurists Andrij 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 760-659-9285; 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 Ukraine 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.hamptoninwil-lowgrove.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, jkindrachu@gmail.com or 610-730-3265; or Mathew Koziak, koziakuav@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.