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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXXX

No. 10

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2012

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## UCCA expresses concern about Ukraine's elections to U.S. government officials

*Ukrainian National Information Service*

WASHINGTON – Members of the executive board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) met on February 15 with U.S. government officials in Washington to express their concerns regarding a free, fair and transparent electoral process during the upcoming October parliamentary elections.

UCCA President Tamara Olexy, and Michael Sawkiw, Jr., director of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the UCCA's public affairs bureau in Washington, attended meetings with members of Congress, officials at the U.S. Department of State, and Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Olexander Motsyk.

Although the open and frank discussions touched upon several subjects, they focused on the Ukrainian community's growing trepidation about the disconnect between the Ukrainian government's words and actions to uphold international norms and ensure a transparent election process, both during the pre-election campaign as well as on voting day.

Both Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), co-chair of the Congressional

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Rep. Maurice Hinchey (right) with Ukrainian Congress Committee of America President Tamara Olexy and Ukrainian National Information Service Director Michael Sawkiw Jr.

## Lutsenko sentenced to four years, banned from holding political office

by Zenon Zawada

*Special to The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – Former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko, who led Ukraine's 200,000-plus national police force for most of the Orange era, was sentenced to four years' imprisonment on February 27 for usurping state property and exceeding his authority. He was also banned from holding public office for three years.

The verdict was harshly condemned by Western governments and leaders as being politically motivated. Mr. Lutsenko, 47, has joined former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, 51, the leading opposition figure, as the most prominent political prisoners among several dozen others in Ukraine. Ms. Tymoshenko was sentenced in October 2011 to seven years' imprisonment; a three-year ban on holding public office was imposed.

"We are disappointed with the verdict against Mr. Lutsenko, which signals the continuation of trials in Ukraine that do not respect international standards as regards to a fair, transparent and independent legal process," said a statement issued jointly by Catherine Ashton, the European Union's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, and Stefan Fule, the EU commissioner for enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy.

### Wave of persecution

Mr. Lutsenko's conviction marks the latest development in the wave of persecution against the political opponents of the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich. Meanwhile, those who have close ties to the Party of Regions of Ukraine have been allowed to avoid arrest for their alleged crimes.

Examples include last year's Livela oil import scandal – estimated to have cost the Ukrainian government \$375 million in taxes – that allegedly involved Party of Regions National Deputy Volodymyr Zubyk (a Lviv native), who was never arrested after an investigation pursued by an ad hoc parliamentary committee led by National Deputy Roman Zvarych (a Yonkers, N.Y., native).

Another official believed to be involved in Livela, National Security and Defense Council Chair Andrii Kliuyev, hasn't been investigated for allegedly embezzling



Former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko was sentenced to four years' imprisonment on February 27 for exceeding his authority and usurping state property.

\$42 million in EU energy conservation grants to outfit his own solar power plants in southern Ukraine, as alleged by EU Ambassador to Ukraine Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira.

No one has been arrested for the alleged theft of \$75 million that was earmarked for constructing a sewage collector near Odesa.

"Almost 600 million hrv (\$75 million) were sunk into this project without a head or brains," Mr. Yanukovich scolded his Regions Council on February 21.

Then there are the crimes allegedly committed by Mr. Yanukovich himself, including the alleged theft of the 336-acre Mezhyhiria estate from state ownership.

Dozens of such scandals have flourished under the Yanukovich administration, which during just two years in

(Continued on page 10)

## Putin billboards appear in Zaporizhia

ZAPORIZHIA, Ukraine – Billboards bearing a picture of Russian Prime Minister and presidential candidate Vladimir Putin have appeared on the streets of the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhia, the UNIAN news agency reported on February 29.

Twenty posters with the inscription "Stable Russia — Stable Ukraine" appeared in the run-up to presidential elections in Russia slated for March 4. The billboards were ordered and paid for by the Slavianskaya Gvardiya (Slavic Guard) youth movement in Ukraine.

RIA Novosti reported that Volodymyr Rohov, the movement's head, explained: "We are not urging a vote for Putin, although Russia became a strong country once again with his arrival [as president]. We are expressing our opposition to instability in Russia and Ukraine."

He said the recent events in Russia were an attempt to stage another "color revolution" that "will result in nothing but instability in Russia, and consequently in Ukraine, which is tied to Russia in many ways besides the economy, more so than with other countries."



One of the billboards that appear in Zaporizhia, Ukraine, just days before the Russian presidential election. The message, in Russian (with the Ukrainian translation in smaller type below), reads: "Stable Russia – Stable Ukraine."

## ANALYSIS

# Alleged plot to kill Putin foiled

RFE/RL Russian Service

Security forces in Russia and Ukraine say they have thwarted a plot to assassinate Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

According to a report on Russian state-run television on February 27, the alleged plot was due to be carried out shortly after Russia's presidential election on March 4.

Channel 1's report showed separate footage of two alleged plotters saying they were ordered by North Caucasus insurgent commander Doku Umarov to kill Putin.

The Interfax news agency quoted an unnamed law enforcement official as saying the plot was uncovered after Ukrainian intelligence agents detained two Russian citizens in the Ukrainian port city of Odesa early this month in connection with an accidental bomb blast in the city in January.

One of the videos broadcast on Channel 1, provided by the Security Service of Ukraine, shows a suspect called Ilya Pyanzin.

Mr. Pyanzin, who is reported to be a 28-year-old Kazakh citizen, said he had traveled to Ukraine from the United Arab Emirates with an accomplice, a Russian national who was later killed in the accidental bomb blast.

Both men said they had been told to make contact with a third suspect, Adam Osmayev, and began planning an attack on Mr. Putin.

"They told us first to go to Odesa and learn how to make bombs, and then go to Moscow to carry out attacks on economic targets, and in the future assassinate Putin," Mr. Pyanzin said.

Mr. Osmayev, an alleged terrorist trainer who had been on international wanted lists since 2007, was detained by Ukrainian special forces.

## Chechen connection

Though neither Mr. Pyanzin nor Mr. Osmayev says so in videos, Channel 1's report claims the men confessed to having received their orders from Mr. Umarov.

Mr. Umarov tops Russia's most-wanted list for his role in a number of terrorist attacks, including the January 2011 suicide bombing at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport and the twin suicide attacks in the Moscow subway in March 2010.

Mr. Umarov in early February released

a video ordering his fighters to halt attacks on Russian civilians, but saying that Russian government and military officials remained legitimate targets.

In an interview with Channel 1, Mr. Osmayev, an ethnic Chechen, said he had been instructed to train the other two men to carry out the assassination plot in Moscow.

Channel 1 quoted him as saying the attackers were preparing to use anti-tank mines in the attack. An unnamed Federal Security Service (FSB) officer is quoted as saying Mr. Osmayev's laptop included video footage of a Putin motorcade shot from different angles.

Mr. Osmayev also said the slain accomplice, Ruslan Madayev, had also been preparing to launch a suicide attack if the antitank mines failed.

Mr. Osmayev said he "would definitely not" carry out a suicide attack, but Mr. Madayev "was prepared to go on a suicide mission."

## Putin targeted

Mr. Putin is widely expected to return to the Russian presidency for an unprecedented third, nonconsecutive term. The early years of his first term as president were accompanied by a rise in terrorist attacks attributed to Islamist fighters in the North Caucasus.

Mr. Putin's candidacy has sparked a wave of massive opposition protests, with many demonstrators calling for an end to his 12-year domination of Russian politics.

Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Mr. Putin's press secretary, Dmitry Peskov, as confirming the information about the assassination plot but offering no additional comment.

A journalist with the Odesa edition of the newspaper Porto-Franco, Aleksandr Galyas, told RFE/RL's Russian Service that Ukrainian security officials had offered numerous theories for the men's activities in Ukraine ever since the January bomb blast.

"First they said that the explosion took place while they were planning to assassinate a Ukrainian oligarch," he said.

"In addition, the same computer where they say they found photos and videos of Putin's motorcade, they also found photos of crowded places in Odesa - the musical

(Continued on page 18)

# Disbelief in Moscow over alleged plot

WASHINGTON - The Washington Post reported on February 28 that, "Despite numerous details about the alleged plot [against Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin] and confessions shown on national television, disbelief reverberated throughout Moscow, even reaching the long-acquiescent halls of the national parliament, the State Duma."

The newspaper reported: "Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, a nationalist leader who has consistently voted with the government, called the plot a hoax. 'A trick that stinks' was the way Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist leader and presidential candidate, described it. Even believers were uncomfortable about the timing."

"The event dates back to February 4 and news about it has emerged today, on the last week before voting," said Sergei Mironov, a Duma deputy, presidential candidate and head of A Just Russia. "I have the feeling that all this is not a mere coincidence."

The full text of The Washington Post story may be read at [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/putin-assassination-plot-reported/2012/02/27/gIQAaDTZdR\\_story.html?wpisrc=nl\\_cuzheads](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/putin-assassination-plot-reported/2012/02/27/gIQAaDTZdR_story.html?wpisrc=nl_cuzheads).

## Correction

The caption published in our print edition at the top of page 10 with the story "Chornobyl Songs Project" presented at The Ukrainian Museum (February 26) should have read: Yevhen Yefremov, Maria Sonevytsky, Willa Roberts and Eva Salina Primak present songs from the Chornobyl region.

# NEWSBRIEFS

## Lawyer: Yulia will not seek pardon

KYIV - Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who is currently serving her seven-year sentence at the Kachanivska penal colony, considers a petition to the president for a pardon an "insult and sheer cynicism," her lawyer Serhiy Vlasenko told the press on February 27. "Ms. Tymoshenko took as insult and sheer cynicism Viktor Yanukovich's statement that she should appeal to him for mercy. Ms. Tymoshenko has repeatedly stated that the trial against her has nothing to do with the laws of a democratic society," Mr. Vlasenko said, voicing his client's reaction to the president's statement in an interview with Ukraine's three national channels. Mr. Vlasenko also said that Ms. Tymoshenko has not yet been briefed on the results of the recently conducted medical examinations and the final conclusions of the German and Canadian doctors who examined her. President Yanukovich in a February 24 interview aired by the First National, Inter and ICTV channels stated that, if under the new Code of Criminal Procedure the conviction of Ms. Tymoshenko on the gas case remains in force, he could consider a pardon. (Ukrinform)

## SBU on Putin assassination attempt

KYIV - The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has confirmed that together with the Russian security services an assassination attempt on Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin was averted. SBU spokesperson Maryna Ostapenko said on February 27 that she could confirm the information and added that several terrorists were detained in Odesa in early February. Russia's Channel 1 reported that the Alfa Ukrainian special antiterrorist unit in early February had detained two militants in Odesa suspected of preparing a terrorist attack on Mr. Putin. (Ukrinform)

## European ombudsman on Yulia, Lutsenko

KYIV - Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg has said there is no reason not to allow imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and arrested former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko to take part in the parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

"The most important thing for me is that the person has been treated improperly, democratic standards were violated, and I would take the same attitude to whoever should find themselves in Ms. Tymoshenko's shoes," Mr. Hammarberg said in an interview with Kommersant-Ukrainy published on February 23. He said that, if the trial had proved that Ms. Tymoshenko committed a crime, which makes impossible her participation in the elections, then the situation would be different. "But I have not seen any such evidence so far. And taking into account the facts that have been presented, I see no reason to exclude Ms. Tymoshenko from the election campaign," the human rights commissioner said. Mr. Hammarberg said the same applied to Mr. Lutsenko. The commissioner said that in order to punish a person, including prohibiting him or her from participating in the elections, the Ukrainian government must first prove the alleged offense, "but this has not happened." So at this stage, unless new facts and new evidence are presented, he [Mr. Lutsenko] should be allowed to take part in the elections, Mr. Hammarberg said. (Interfax-Ukraine)

## Poroshenko tapped as minister

KYIV - Party of Regions Party leader Oleksander Yefremov has confirmed that Petro Poroshenko has been appointed to the post of Ukraine's economic development and trade minister and Yurii Kolobov has been named finance minister. Mr. Yefremov announced this at a briefing in Kyiv on February 23, adding that this was official information. Mr. Poroshenko was head of the council of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) in 2007. He then served as foreign affairs minister from October 2009 to March 2011. Mr. Kolobov was appointed deputy governor of the NBU in April 2011, and was promoted to first deputy in November 2010. Prior to this he worked at Ukreximbank, was chairman of the board of BTA Bank, and treasury director at Oschadbank. On February 14, President Viktor Yanukovich dismissed Andriy Kliuyev as first vice prime minister and minister of economic development and

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$65; for UNA members - \$55.

Periodicals postage paid at Caldwell, NJ 07006 and additional mailing offices. (ISSN - 0273-9348)

The Weekly:  
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510

UNA:  
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:

The Ukrainian Weekly  
2200 Route 10  
P.O. Box 280  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz  
Editor: Matthew Dubas

e-mail: [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com)

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com)

The Ukrainian Weekly, March 4, 2012, No. 10, Vol. LXXX

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# NEWS ANALYSIS: Ukraine's gas problems and how to resolve them

by David Marples

Ukraine continues to discuss prices for gas and the volume that should be purchased from Russia, which, through its state-run company Gazprom makes demands on its neighbor, while threatening to divert more supplies to its Nord Stream line, with the prospect of the South Stream starting up in the near future.

The impasse poses a serious energy dilemma for the Ukrainian government, which imported up to 70 percent of its gas and 65 percent of its oil requirements in 2011. Ukraine is by far the biggest consumer of gas in the Central European region, but it has been unable to resolve a problem that started with independence and reached an acute level in 2006 and 2009 (see, for example, Jonathan Stern, "Natural Gas Security Problems in Europe: the Russian-Ukrainian Crisis of 2006," *Asia Pacific Review*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (2006): 32-59).

There are a number of issues at stake. First, there is the economic and political relationship between Ukraine and Russia. The latter country is adamant that Ukraine should join its Eurasian Economic Community and that, in order for the price of gas to be lowered, it must make some concessions, such as the sale to Russia of Naftohaz, Ukraine's national oil and gas company.

For its part, the Yanukovich administration has a dual complaint: Ukraine agreed to pay \$388 per thousand cubic meters of gas (tcm) under the agreement made by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in 2009, but this level is extraordinarily high for a neighboring state; and it also wishes to reduce obligatory gas imports from Russia to 27 billion cubic meters (bcm) from the 52 bcm stipulated in the contract (RIA Novosti, February 1).

Second, Russia has put pressure on Ukraine in other areas too. In early February it instigated a so-called "cheese war," by prohibiting imports of cheese produced in Ukraine. According to one account, there was more at stake than dairy products – Russia began a similar dispute with Belarus in the summer of 2009 after that country declined to privatize its dairy industry – and the dispute was linked to Russian territorial claims on Crimea. It cites a statement by Stanislav Govorukhin, a Duma deputy and the head of Vladimir Putin's electoral headquarters, who reportedly commented that Crimea and Sevastopol should be returned to Russia by means of the economic integration of Ukraine with its neighbor, as well as into its religious and cultural-historical space (Glavred, February 13, at: <http://glavred.info/archive/2012/02/14/161348-2.html>).

Mr. Govorukhin's needlessly provocative statement may have been a means to divert attention from the anti-Putin protests taking place prior to the March 4 presidential elections in Russia. But they nonetheless put further pressure on Ukraine.

The same applies to the construction of Nord Stream, which was officially launched in early November last year, and should account for the transport of about one-sixth of Russian gas exports in 2012 through a pipeline from Vyborg, near St. Petersburg, under the Baltic Sea, to Greifswald in eastern Germany. The anticipated capacity of the pipeline, which may be attained by 2015, is 55 bcm, and would allow Russia to transport about one-third of its gas to the countries of the European Union for the next 50 years (Nord-stream.com, November 8, 2011). South Stream, a pipeline that is planned between Russia's Black Sea coast from the Pochinki compressor station south of Novorossiysk to the Romanian coast just north of Varna is anticipated to start construction in 2012 and to be transporting gas

by 2015 (<http://south-stream.info/index.php?id=10&L=1>).

Ukraine's energy situation was discussed recently at a roundtable of the Kyiv-based Gorshenin Institute under the title "Is Gazprom monopolizing the European gas market?" Anatoly Kinakh, former prime minister and economy minister and the head of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, began somewhat predictably by attacking the 2009 agreement by Tymoshenko, and maintained that the contract needs to be renegotiated with Russia without confrontation because the latter country is Ukraine's "strategic partner." He perceived the need to balance the interests of suppliers (Russia and Central Asia), the transit region (Ukraine) and the consumers (countries of the European Union). Ukraine, in his view, also needs to improve its energy

***Ukraine's energy battles with Russia are not new. They were evident as soon as Ukraine began its independent existence in late 1991. That they remain even more acute 20 years later is a sad reflection of the failure of all the administrations to date to devise a viable energy policy, let alone a solution to dependence on Russia.***

policy by developing energy-saving technology and increasing the consumption of domestic energy resources (Levyi Bereg, February 7, and ff., at: [http://economics.lb.ua/trades/2012/02/07/135340\\_gazprom\\_monopoliziruet.html](http://economics.lb.ua/trades/2012/02/07/135340_gazprom_monopoliziruet.html)).

Ivan Plachkov, former minister of fuel and energy, and a board trustee member of Kyivenergo, is much in agreement with Mr. Kinakh, and he asks how Ukraine might lower its dependence on Gazprom. First, he believes, Ukraine can reduce its consumption, which is four to five times more gas per unit of GDP than the average in Europe. The situation would stabilize if Ukraine could cut consumption by 50 percent. He suggests also reforming Naftohaz, and allowing more gas traders access to the Ukrainian market. There should also be more exploration of shale gas in the Black Sea region, as well as reliance on existing energy resources of coal, oil and nuclear power. His comments, however, raise the issue of whether Ukraine would be permitted to reduce the amount of gas it purchases from Gazprom.

Another speaker, Volodymyr Saprykin, who is director of energy programs at the Razumkov Center, notes that the Kharkiv Accords, while not a favorable agreement, at least allowed for a reduction of \$100 in the price of gas and elimination of penalties for not purchasing the minimum volume. He also advocates increasing the strategic reserves of oil and gas.

One speaker at the roundtable was more sanguine about the prospect of developing domestic resources of gas. Yuri Korolchuk of the Institute of Energy Research maintains it is impractical to produce shale gas, construct a liquefied natural gas terminal or carry out explorations of the Black Sea littoral

because Ukraine lacks money for such projects. Preferable in his opinion is to raise energy efficiency.

Valery Borovyk of the New Energy of Ukraine alliance thinks that the issue is not only the fact that Gazprom can influence European officials, but also that it has clout among Ukrainian officials, especially those in the energy sector and government, who have no interest in lowering domestic gas consumption. However, people should not be alarmed by the construction of the Nord Stream and the South Stream (carrying Russian gas under the Black Sea to Romania and thence to other European countries). He believes that Nord Stream can divert a maximum of 15 percent of gas supplies from Ukraine, whereas the South Stream project is likely to collapse because gas consumption worldwide will fall in the wake of the economic crisis.

Are there any other alternatives for Ukraine? One analyst, Tatyana Silina, notes that the year 2011 was important for keeping the country on course for integration into European structures. Ukraine also joined the European Energy Committee and made progress on the issue of liberalizing the EU visa regime. But despite such progress and what she describes as "titanic efforts of several ministries," the goal of integration is more distant than it was at the start of 2011.

Western leaders are very concerned about the increasing authoritarianism in Ukraine, the imprisonment and ill treatment of Ms. Tymoshenko, and President Viktor Yanukovich's defiant refusal to take seriously the criticisms of his European counterparts. As a result, Ukraine has frittered its first year in the Energy Community, and the dialogue on visa issues has stalled and will not be resolved by the time the Euro-2012 begins in June.

Perhaps most significantly, Ukraine is strategically dependent on Russia, a country that has long forgotten Kyiv's past concessions made against its national interests, as demonstrated by the "cheese war." Yet there are few alternative openings: the United States is losing interest in Ukraine and few practical steps have been taken toward deepening relations with China. In Ms. Silina's view, Ukraine does not have a foreign policy doctrine (Tatyana Silina, Zerkalo Nedeli, February 10, at: [http://zn.ua/POLITICS/my\\_sami\\_zakryli\\_vorota\\_my\\_sami-97143.html](http://zn.ua/POLITICS/my_sami_zakryli_vorota_my_sami-97143.html)).

Ms. Silina's article raises another key question: that of Ukraine's failure, vis-à-vis Russia, to gain more publicity for its part in past gas

wars. Part of the problem is the close relationship between Gazprom and local companies and influential statespersons in the European Union, particularly in Germany and France. The Europeans prioritize gas supplies over regional squabbles, and in such situations tend to side with the supplier rather than the country providing the conduit. They are also in favor of the development of alternative paths such as Nord Stream and South Stream that will cut into Ukraine's role as the dominant pipeline provider.

Thus, Ukraine needs not only to build up its domestic resources, but also to cut back significantly on the amount of energy it uses. Added to that, the Yanukovich leadership needs to boost its public image, and could make a significant start by releasing political opponents such as Ms. Tymoshenko and former Minister of Internal Affairs Yuri Lutsenko. To add to its embarrassment, the European Court of Human Rights is likely to announce its decision on the Tymoshenko case on the eve of or during the forthcoming parliamentary election campaign (Glavcom.ua, Feb 13, at <http://glavcom.ua/vblog/2471.html>).

There is little indication, however, that such steps will be taken or even that they are being considered. Morally, and in terms of human rights, there is little to distinguish between the current leaderships of Ukraine and Russia and, accordingly, neither Brussels nor Washington are likely to endanger their relationship with Moscow by offering strong support for Ukraine's position in its energy battles with Russia.

The problems are not new. They were evident as soon as Ukraine began its independent existence in late 1991, as illustrated by the problems faced by its first president, Leonid Kravchuk. That they remain even more acute 20 years later is a sad reflection of the failure of all the administrations to date to devise a viable energy policy, let alone a solution to dependence on Russia. It signifies that Ukraine enters every discussion as the weaker partner in what is essentially a power struggle on several levels and with few clear rules.

*David R. Marples is Distinguished University Professor and director of the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine.*

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

## Quotable notes

"...I'm deeply concerned about the case of the former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. And these concerns relate to the outcome and conduct of her trial as well as the outcome of the appeal that concluded in December. Concerns have also been widely expressed about reports of the conditions of her detention, and I continue to encourage the Ukrainian authorities to address and to resolve these concerns.

"And I'm conscious of the fact that Ukraine will succeed Ireland as the chair-in-office of the OSCE. I believe that Ukraine's role in the OSCE is important, and I hope that in preparing for this role, the authorities in Kyiv will appreciate the need to address the significant concerns that have been widely expressed.

"There is, as you know, a proposal for an association agreement between Ukraine and the European Union that's currently awaiting initialing. I have long favored bringing the EU and Ukraine closer together. I think that's a sentiment shared by the great majority of the Ukrainian people.

"But this, however, is not an uncritical engagement, and the Ukraine-EU summit which took place in December was the occasion for some strong messages from the EU side, including some strong messages on the issue of Ms. Tymoshenko's case. It is an issue, certainly, that we're going to give very much to the fore of our talks and our discussions."

*– Eamon Gilmore, Ireland's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and trade, and chairman-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), responding to a question by Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) at the February 8 hearing of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.*

## OBITUARY

# Andrij Dobriansky, bass-baritone of Metropolitan Opera, 81

by Camilla Huk

NEW YORK – Even Verdi's "Requiem," the most eloquent, majestic, spiritual, haunting and simply overwhelming by any measure, did not rival the pomp and circumstance of the funeral and celebration of the life of Andrij Dobriansky on Saturday, February 4. Maestro Dobriansky, who died on February 1 at the age of 81, was remembered in a manner truly befitting that of the longest working Ukrainian-born star of the Metropolitan Opera.

Mr. Dobriansky, who was born in on September 2, 1930, in Lviv, performed with symphonies and orchestras, in addition to his over 900 performances in 60 roles over his 27-year career at the Metropolitan Opera. He was a most prolific promoter of Ukrainian classical music.

Although he arrived in the United States after having been awarded a scholarship to Amherst College to study chemistry, Mr. Dobriansky chose to study music instead, which led to a career with the world-class Metropolitan Opera.

He was brilliant in arranging programs, translating, transliterating and orchestrating and was fluent in six languages. Mr. Dobriansky was an impresario to many workshops and festivals, including first and the biggest Ukrainian Festival in the United States at the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel, N.J., which drew crowds of thou-

sands yearly.

He put together the concert for the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine, at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, NY, with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Atlanta Chorale. He was highly intellectual, literally a walking encyclopedia of knowledge in every subject.

It was most appropriate that this celebration of his life was held at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City, where Maestro Dobriansky had directed its choir for many years.

Against the backdrop of the golden mosaic of the sanctuary, leaders and faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Church gathered to honor a man who had devoted his life not only to opera, but to promoting the finest classical music of Ukrainian composers, while serving as musical director for many productions, such as the Ukrainian Composers series. He was also a soloist with the Dumka Choir and often performed at many charitable benefits.

The hierarchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, clothed in golden vestments, included Bishop Basil Losten and Bishop Paul Chomnycky, eparch of Stamford; as well as the Very Rev. Bernard Panczuk, OSBM, pastor of St. George Church; the Very Rev. Philip Sandrick, OSBM, Provincial of the Order of St. Basil. The Revs. Leo Goldade, Bohdan Danylo and Shyshka participated in the beautiful service.



Andrij Dobriansky in a publicity photo from the 1960s.

Led by Bishop Chomnycky, the clergy greeted the casket and the funeral procession led by Mr. Dobriansky's widow, Stefania, who had accompanied her husband to all his performances and devoted herself to caring for him and their six children throughout her entire adult life. She was accompanied by her daughter Roksolana.

The parastas was sung by Mr. Dobriansky's sons, Danylo, Yaroslav and Yurij, all trained by their father, as was the present director of the church choir, Andrij Jr., who led the choir at his father's funeral. Joining them in the choir loft were daughter Dzvinka and her husband, Andrij Burchak, with their children Modest and Lybid.

The majesty of the parastas was followed by the litany, highlighted by the eulogy in which Mr. Dobriansky was honored for his role as a Ukrainian patriot, a great talent and a loving husband and father by longtime family friend the Rev. Goldade in Ukrainian. Bishop Losten eulogized Mr. Dobriansky in English.

Present were singers from the Metropolitan Opera, and some joined the choir, including bass Stefan Szkafarowsky.

St. George Church was filled to capacity with parishioners, friends and admirers of Andrij Dobriansky. Attendees compared the grandeur of the services to those recently held for the visit of Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.



Andrij Dobriansky, with accompanist Thomas Hrynkiw, during a concert performance at the Garden State Arts Center's Ukrainian Festival in the mid-1970s.

## Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation assists Ukraine's disadvantaged children

by Illya M. Labunka

### PART I

LVIV – From Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk to Dobrotvir and Dobromyl, from Kharkiv to Khmelnytskyi, from Transcarpathia to Ternopil, and from Zaporizhia to Zolochiv, donations earmarked by the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation in support of disadvantaged children in Ukraine have reached over \$1.6 million.

In 2005, an anonymous U.S. citizen of non-Ukrainian descent began donating on an annual basis in support of orphans, and abandoned and disabled Ukrainian children. In the true spirit of ecumenical relations, the donations, delivered via the UCEF's Ginger Fund, have already provided support to 58 Ukrainian and Roman Catholic, as well as Orthodox, organizations, financing 94 of their projects throughout Ukraine.

At present, over 60,000 disadvantaged children are housed in approximately 500 government-subsidized institutions in Ukraine.

In order to have a direct, positive impact on society, the Ginger Fund outlined a number of goals for itself, among them: offering care, affection and love to disadvantaged children; enabling eager individuals to acquire proper training to work with children (social pedagogy); setting



The Rev. Roman Prokopets (left) administers holy communion to the children of the Vynnyky sanatorium-internat enjoying summer camp in the Carpathian Mountains in 2011. The Rev. Prokopets, who is director of the Lviv Center for Orphans, also volunteers his time at the internat in Vynnyky.

(Continued on page 14)



# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## AT SOYUZIVKA: The playground's done, now we move on to the next project

by Tanya Singura Soltys

Summer 2011 may have come and gone, but it seems like only yesterday when the truck carrying the brand new play set pulled onto the Soyuzivka property. I am still in awe of the generous outpouring of support that helped to create the new children's playground at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center.

If you were at Soyuzivka for the 2011 Ukrainian Cultural Festival, or anytime after that during the summer season, you would have noticed that the playground area had been transformed. The old play structure, worn and well-used for many

*Tanya Singura Soltys is webmaster for the Soyuzivka website, a staunch supporter of Soyuzivka and co-organizer of the playground fund-raiser.*

years, has been replaced with a vibrant white, blue and yellow play structure that is sure to be enjoyed by many more generations of young Soyuzivka guests.

The project started out as a simple conversation among friends who love Soyuzivka and wanted to see a safer area where children could play. That conversation turned into a mission to show how the collective efforts of Soyuzivka supporters could truly make a visible difference. The proof is in the playground!

I would personally like to thank Carly Hawrylko, Andrea Della Cava, Mark and Natalka Mazuretz, Annetta Hewko, Wasyl Sosiak, the Lucenko-Chase Family, Oksana and Myron Saldyt, Michael and Tania Jadlicky, Mark Pawliczko, Roma and Michael O'Hara, Dr. Areta Podhorodecki, Christine Jarosh, Sophia Singura-Ricciardelli, Ihor and Irene Jadlicky,

Christina Trojan-Masnyk, Zenon and Lydia Singura, Roman and Iryna Kramarchuk, Vincent and Maria Magnowski, Daria Hanushevsky, Bohdan and Bohdana Puzyk, as well as Heritage Camp parents for their contributions to the playground.

Special thank-yous go to Barbara and Joyce Chupa, Hal and Adriana Malone, Roxolana and B.W. Siryj, and the UNA Seniors (2009-2011 conferences) for their extremely generous donations.

Luke Beiler of Amish Direct Playsets ([www.amishdirectplaysets.com](http://www.amishdirectplaysets.com)) also deserves thanks as he went above and beyond to make sure the play structure would suit our needs, and provided a generous discount that allowed us to stay within our budget without compromising on the final product.

Last but not least, I would like to thank

the Soyuzivka management for removing the old play structure, purchasing mulch and installing new fencing where needed. Sonia Semanyszyn, Nestor Paslawsky and Stefko Drabek were instrumental in getting the playground area set and ready in time for festival weekend. An extra special thank you goes to Bohdana Puzyk, without whom this project would not have had the wonderful outcome that it did.

But, we are not done yet! We have set our sights on the pool area for this year's fund-raising project! If you are interested in helping us replace the lounge chairs and umbrellas, stay tuned to the Soyuzivka Facebook page for more information or contact me directly via e-mail at [tsoltys23@gmail.com](mailto:tsoltys23@gmail.com).

We need your support to keep Soyuzivka moving forward!

### Young UNA'ers



Aleen Rose Pakula, daughter of Symon and Oleksandra Pakula of Dearborn, Mich., is a new member of UNA Branch 82. She was enrolled by her grandparents Benjamin J. and Lida M. Pakula.



Giovanni Marco Costa, son of Stephan and Ivanka Costa of Southampton, Pa., is a new member of UNA Branch 162. He was enrolled by his maternal great-grandmother Oksana Tkachuk.

### Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

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

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.



For more information call Oksana Trytjak, Tel: 973 292-9800 x 3071

**SENIORS' WEEK IS FUN - AFFORDABLE - AND INTERESTING. BRING YOUR FRIENDS. WE WELCOME NEW GUESTS!**



## UNA SENIORS AND FRIENDS MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY!

Summer is approaching. It's time to make reservations for Seniors' Week at Soyuzivka!

Registration beginning Sunday, 4:00 p.m. at SOYUZIVKA Heritage Center!

All inclusive 5 nights - meals beginning with breakfast Monday, banquet Thursday, lunch Friday, taxes/gratuities included - entertainment and special guest speakers throughout the week.

UNA Members	- SINGLE OCCUPANCY	\$ 485	- DOUBLE	\$ 415 pp.
Non UNA Members	- SINGLE OCCUPANCY	\$ 535	- DOUBLE	\$ 430 pp.
UNA Members	- 1 night	\$ 130	- DOUBLE	\$ 107 pp.
Non UNA Members	- 1 night	\$ 135	- DOUBLE	\$ 115 pp.
BANQUET ONLY, Thursday, June 14, 2012		\$45 pp.		

**Sunday, June 10 - Friday, June 15, 2012**

Make your reservations! Call SOYUZIVKA, Tel: 845 626-5641

Remember to bring your embroidered blouse/shirt (vyshyvanky) for the banquet, and, if possible, bring items for the auction!



## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### The Lutsenko verdict

Once again, there is news from Ukraine about an opposition leader being tried and sentenced in what is a yet another very obvious example of the Yanukovich administration's modus operandi and its contempt for democratic standards, not to mention world opinion. The conviction on February 27 of former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko is especially a sign of the regime's utter contempt for Western leaders, coming as it does after the much-criticized trial and sentencing of former Primer Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, in whose Cabinet Mr. Lutsenko served.

Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Lutsenko were also allies during the Orange Revolution that, readers will no doubt recall, succeeded in overturning the fraudulent result of the 2004 presidential election that would have brought Viktor Yanukovich to power. That is why their cases are seen as Mr. Yanukovich's revenge.

Mr. Lutsenko "is the victim of a political vendetta," said Marieluise Beck, a rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). She added, "the 'crimes' for which he was convicted could not possibly justify a term of imprisonment – even if the prosecution had been able to prove all the allegations against him." According to a news story posted by Interfax-Ukraine, Ms. Beck also commented that Ukraine's former top police official had "angered some persons who are now back in power."

There was swift and unequivocal reaction from other quarters as well.

PACE President Jean-Claude Mignon in a February 28 statement called on Ukraine's authorities to free Mr. Lutsenko. He said the former internal affairs minister "was not given a fair trial, and the charges of which he was found guilty are absolutely no justification for a prison sentence." He underscored: "The fact that former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko is still in detention and that Yurii Lutsenko has been convicted both strengthen the feeling that the charges against both these opponents of the government are of a political nature. It is unacceptable for former members of the government of a Council of Europe member-state to be prosecuted for political reasons. This practice is contrary to the rule of law and takes Ukraine further away from the principles of our organization, as well as the European integration to which this country aspires." Mr. Mignon minced no words when he called on the Yanukovich administration to release both opposition leaders posthaste.

The European Union and the United States both expressed their disappointment. "The politically motivated prosecution of opposition leaders, including Mr. Lutsenko and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, raises serious concerns about the government of Ukraine's commitment to democracy and rule of law," said State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland.

Twenty-six human rights organizations active in Ukraine, the United States, Russia, the Czech Republic, Moldova, Norway, Armenia and other countries that belong to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) released a statement urging the high courts in Ukraine to overturn the verdict against Mr. Lutsenko – "this latest demonstration of selective justice by the Ukrainian authorities." Their statement, posted on the website of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, noted: "The verdict against Yurii Lutsenko is the latest step in the destruction of the rule of law in Ukraine. This verdict is a massive step backwards for Ukraine in its democratic development and clearly shows the stubborn wish by those in power to negate the achievements of the Ukrainian people over the last 20 years. Of especial concern is the fact that this destruction of European values is seen in a country which is to hold the presidency of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2013."

Ms. Tymoshenko herself weighed in on the Lutsenko verdict. She praised her former minister for his courage on trial and said she and other political prisoners were struggling for "liberation" from Mr. Yanukovich's rule. "Today we are behind bars," she was quoted as saying by Interfax-Ukraine. "But if this is the price we must pay for the liberation of the country, we agree to pay it. Yura [Lutsenko] will agree with me, I know."

March  
9  
1992

### Turning the pages back...

Twenty years ago, on March 9, 1992, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced in Lausanne, Switzerland, that 12 former Soviet republics would compete as one team for the last time during the Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.

Despite requests from Ukraine and Georgia that they be allowed to compete independently, the IOC persuaded 12 former republics to participate under the aegis of the Unified Team.

The IOC granted provisional recognition to each of the republics' national Olympic committees on the condition that they take part in the Summer Olympics as a joint team.

"I think all wanted to go independently, but they agreed with us that for the last time they have to take part as a unified team," IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said. "This agreement means the athletes will not be punished. The most important thing was to stick to the principle that the best athletes from all 12 republics should participate in Barcelona."

Mr. Samaranch added that as of January 1, 1993, the republics would be free to compete as independent countries. "At the next Olympics [the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway]. They will have their separate teams," he added.

Valery Borzov, head of Ukraine's National Olympic Committee, said that he was happy the process was over, but was not 100 percent satisfied. It was a good compromise, he said.

Mr. Borzov's proposal would have had Ukraine compete in individual events, but as the Unified Team in team events. He said that Ukraine could accept having the Unified Team as a whole march behind the Olympic flag during the opening ceremonies, but the athletes of each republic should march together as a unit with their own country's flag.

(Continued on page 14)

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Ukraine's education system must look toward the future

by Marta Farion

Ukraine's Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports led by Dmytro Tabachnyk marked the year-end holidays by proposing yet another draft law on higher education to codify control of the nation's universities.

Days later, two additional draft laws intended to integrate Ukraine into European educational systems were registered in Ukraine's Parliament – one by Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Lesya Orobets, members of the Front for Change party, and another by Yurii Miroshnichenko, representative of President Viktor Yanukovich in Parliament. The proposed drafts facilitated more public and academic discussions on education reform.

Attempts by the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports to pass a Soviet-style law failed last year due to resounding opposition embodied in student protests, and domestic and international demands for European standards and transparency. The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, along with leading Ukrainian intellectuals and political and civic leaders, spoke unapologetically for autonomy and academic freedom.

There is general agreement that the country's archaic system does not provide for academic freedom, university autonomy, curriculum choices, Ph.D. programs, transparency in admissions and degree awards, independence in research, management and administration, and achievement of higher educational standards. The issue of certification of degrees must finally be brought into focus as well.

The absurdity of the Education Ministry's refusal to certify foreign academic degrees and credits – even from the best universities in the world, such as Oxford, Harvard, Stanford, the Sorbonne and others – makes a mockery of Ukraine's entire educational system. And yet, the ministry continues to promote the current antiquated Soviet relic of certification known as "nostrifikatsiya."

Another serious issue of contention is the still-in-place Soviet system that artificially divides education and research. Such a system prevents Ukrainian universities from competing internationally and blocks any chance to elevate their rankings. This situation persists because the Ukrainian government impedes participation in activities and publications according to international requirements.

#### EU criticizes Tabachnyk's policies

Minister Tabachnyk's recent attempt to receive approval for his proposed draft law from the European Union's Commission on Education backfired. Inna Sovsun, director of the Center for Society Research and faculty member of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, summarized the EU's report in a thoughtful article published on February 3 ([education.unian.net/ukr/detail/192128](http://education.unian.net/ukr/detail/192128)).

The EU criticized the ministry's focus on overwhelming central regulations, lack of innovation and guarantees of institutional autonomy and academic freedom, and dismissed the government's continuous empty rhetoric about "guaranteeing the quality of education" as political maneuvering.

Marta Farion is president of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America.

#### Clash of ideology and special interests

It appears that a clash of ideologies exists within the government between the president on one hand and the minister of education on the other. In 2010, President Yanukovich announced a proclamation outlining his position on general reforms, including the area of education (Decree No. 926/2010 of September 20, 2010). The President instructed the minister of education to "provide real autonomy to the leading institutions of higher learning as a means to improve the quality of higher education..."

The president repeated his position throughout the year in the specific sentence, "The goal of reforms of the system of education is to raise the level of competitiveness of Ukrainian education, and the integration of Ukraine's education system into a European educational space."

In 2010 Ukraine signed the Bologna Declaration, a pledge by 29 countries in Europe to reform the structures of their higher education systems in a convergent way, and promised to comply with requirements for integration of higher education into European educational standards. To this date, Ukraine has failed to comply with its lawful obligations. Mr. Tabachnyk directly usurps this agreement.

If President Yanukovich's word is true, then Minister Tabachnyk's proposals directly challenge the stated goals of the president and circumvent Ukraine's national interest. Unfortunately, Mr. Tabachnyk has become a lightning rod and continues to foment controversy and confrontation. When the minister's agenda abrogates the president's program with impunity, it calls into question the president's role and authority. Creative manipulation of power, such as this, is counterproductive to Ukraine's intellectual and economic prosperity.

It is well past the time for the government to stop empty rhetoric on reform. Continued lip service to academic reform, while implementing a contrary agenda, will bring ridicule, scorn and, ultimately, failure.

#### Time to act is now

Genuine steps must be taken now to secure Ukraine's competitive position in education and move the country to join the world community. It is imperative for Ukraine's national interests to raise academic standards and provide opportunities for innovation that lead to economic prosperity. The price of failure to implement true reforms is high. Education's importance to the growth of a vibrant, broad and robust economy in Ukraine underscores the difference between fundamental reform and a step backward.

Ultimately, the forces of change will not be stopped. Change is essential, and it is inevitable. The people of Ukraine chose freedom and self-determination. The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy has been leading the country's reform in education since its re-establishment 20 years ago. A new generation of Ukrainians educated in such an environment testifies to this irreversible change.

Minister Tabachnyk's policies are doomed to fail. A culture of arrogance, control, retribution and archaic systems is unsustainable. The choice is between preparing for the future, or being doomed to past failures. Ukraine's government has an obligation to protect freedom, independence and the security of current and future generations. The time to take a stand and shape Ukraine's future is now.

## IN THE PRESS: VOA editorial on U.S.-Ukraine relations

"U.S.-Ukraine Relations: Concern remains about Ukraine's commitment to democracy and the rule of law," editorial, *Voice of America*, February 20:

"The United States is looking for ways to strengthen its relationship with Ukraine on energy, security and the economy, but remains concerned about Ukraine's commitment to democracy and the rule of law. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently met with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in Munich, where she thanked him for following through on his commitment to transfer highly enriched uranium out of Ukraine and encouraged continued reform of the energy sector. She noted U.S. concerns about selective prosecutions of opposition party leaders, including former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

"In follow-up meetings in Ukraine, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip Gordon continued discussions on cooperation on non-proliferation, energy and economic reform, including ways to increase American investment in Ukraine. There continue to be obstacles to investment, he said, in the form of regulations, in the areas of taxes and customs and with regard to corruption. American exports to Ukraine are at a record high. But they are still only around \$2 billion, which is much less

than it should be, said Assistant Secretary Gordon.

"If it continues to be difficult to conduct business in Ukraine, the country runs the risk that American businesses won't invest in Ukraine, which in turn will slow the country's development. 'So we hope,' said Assistant Secretary Gordon, 'that some of these issues will be tackled on taxes, customs, regulations and corruption, because we want to see more Americans investing in Ukraine.'

"Democratic reforms continue to be an issue in Ukraine. Assistant Secretary Gordon reiterated U.S. concerns about selective prosecutions. He also stressed the importance of free, fair and transparent parliamentary elections next October. He urged that all legitimate opposition groups be allowed to freely participate and international observers be invited to monitor the vote.

"As Assistant Secretary Gordon said, 'We want to see [Ukraine] continue down the course towards Euro-Atlantic integration, stability, prosperity and democracy.'"

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The Voice of America website explains: "As called for in its charter, the Voice of America presents differing points of view on a wide variety of issues. This includes the broadcast of editorials expressing the policies of the United States government, as well as essays on American ideals and institutions."*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Remembering Petro Grigorenko

Dear Editor:

On February 21 we commemorated the 25th anniversary of passing of Petro Grigorenko, a founding member of both the Moscow and Ukrainian Helsinki monitoring groups, an extraordinary man who sacrificed his life for Crimean Tatars and spearheaded Crimean Tatar National Movement with his courageous stand against Soviet tyranny.

As we commemorate this sad day, we once again declare that Crimean Tatars will always remember his unconditional sacrifices, his courage and his humanity. Crimean Tatars will never forget what he has done for us! Yes, for Crimean Tatars Petro Grigorenko will always remain as more than a friend! He will live in the hearts of Crimean Tatars forever!

May Allah's Blessings be upon him!

**Mubeyyin Batu Altan**  
New York

*The letter-writer is affiliated with the Crimean Tatar Research and Information Center.*

## Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!



As in the past,  
The Ukrainian Weekly  
will publish a special section  
devoted to the Ukrainian  
community's debutantes.

The 2012 debutante ball section  
will be published on March 25.

The deadline for submission of stories and photos  
is March 12.



## The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

### The release of Cardinal Slipyj: Mordovian concentration camp version

Recently I came across issue No. 3, 1992 of *Zona: Hromadskyi ta Literaturnyi Chasopys Vseukrainskoho Tovarystva Politychnykh Viazniv i Represovanykh* (The Zone: a Community and Literary Newspaper of the All-Ukrainian Association of Political Prisoners and Repressed Individuals), published in Kyiv since 1992. In the section "Camp Folklore" was an article on the release of Cardinal Josyf Slipyj.

"Folklore" is the appropriate term here, because this story is apocryphal, passed on from one prisoner to another. For example, surely there were more than 11 or 12 cardinals in 1963. And the roles of President John F. Kennedy and Norman Cousins are not mentioned. How could the prisoners have been aware of them? (Some historical sources on the release are listed at the end of this column.)

Mykhailo Masiutko of Nova Kakhovka wrote the following in *Zona* (the translation is mine).

\* \* \*

In 1966, when the chekisty [Soviet state security] brought me to the gulag camp in Mordovia, Cardinal Slipyi was no longer there. But the prisoners still remembered him often with a good word, talking about how he was released and driven away from the concentration camp. Vasyl Pidhorodetsky, a long-time political prisoner, spoke about this in great detail.

When [Nikita] Khrushchev was in Italy and was invited to the Vatican, the pope of Rome took him into the hall where the cardinals meet. There were 12 chairs in the hall, but only 11 cardinals seated. "See, Mykyta Serhiyovych, there are 12 chairs, but only 11 Cardinals here," said the Pope. "What about the 12th one?" asked Khrushchev. "The 12th one is in prison, in your gulag concentration camps," was the reply. "What is his name?" "Cardinal Josyf Slipyj." "Your Excellency, allow us to get a report, and we will deliver him to you," replied Khrushchev.

Cardinal Josyf Slipyj was serving the second decade of his 25-year sentence in concentration camp No. 7, here in Mordovia. He could not have even dreamt that there was a conversation about him at the Vatican. Or, maybe he did dream... he never said.

It happened that on a Sunday, before lunch, a black Volga drove up to the gate of the camp. Two men, dressed in black suits and ties and white shirts, exited. They entered the guard house, threw a document on the table at which the camp officials were killing time and said only, "[Give] us Slipyj."

When the officials saw Khrushchev's signature on the document, they immediately began running and bustling around. Some opened the gate, others went to

search for the cardinal. At this time, the commander of the camp was drinking with his assistants, and was quickly informed of this occurrence. He put aside his glass "for later," pulled his belt tighter and headed for the camp.

The cardinal was already standing by the car. The commandant ran up to him, stood at attention, saluted and shouted out, "Your Highness [sic], I apologize for our so-called actions." The cardinal remained silent. "Get back to your own work," interrupted Khrushchev's emissaries. "I obey," replied the commandant, turned and tripped. The alcohol had made itself known.

As the car left the zone [the concentration camp], the prisoners pressed in to the barbed wire fence, watching the cardinal's departure. So did the guards on the ground and in the towers, all silently. Usually they would have shot anyone who even approached the fence within meters.

The car stopped after crossing the line. The cardinal emerged and blessed the prisoners. Then he turned to the east, south, west and north, and blessed all the martyrs of the Mordovian camps.

The Volga left. Immediately, the guards ran to the prisoners, chasing them away from the fence. "Don't think that all of you will be released like Slipyj," the guards shouted, suddenly increasingly vicious. "The Pope of Rome took the Cardinal, but there is no one to take you away," the guards of the Soviet regime rubbed their glee [into the prisoners' wounds].

\* \* \*

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Orysia Tracz may be contacted at [orysia.tracz@gmail.com](mailto:orysia.tracz@gmail.com).

## Opinions in The Ukrainian Weekly

Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

# GENERATION UKE

Edited and compiled by Matthew Dubas

## U. of Manitoba's CUCS awards scholarships to 16 students

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – Sixteen students were awarded scholarships and/or bursaries on September 18, 2011, at St. Andrew's College Convocation and Awards Ceremony, hosted by the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies (CUCS) at the University of Manitoba.

Twenty-five awards, valued at nearly \$13,000, were bestowed on the students' high achievement in Ukrainian studies for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The St. Andrew's College Foundation Scholarship and Bursary Fund and the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies Endowment Fund at the University of Manitoba funded the awards. Many of these scholarships are named after prominent Ukrainian Canadian families and were presented by their family members, along with the professors.

The courses taught in 2010-2011 included "Intermediate Ukrainian" (Prof. Iryna Konstantiuk), "History of Eastern Christianity" (Dr. Roman Yereniuk), "Introduction to Ukraine" (Prof. Olexandr Shevchenko), "Making of Modern Ukraine" (Dr. Davis Daycock) and "Ukrainian Rites and Rituals" (Dr. Robert Klymasz). In each class the top three students with the highest marks received awards.

The Anne Smigel Memorial Scholarship for high standing in Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Studies was awarded to Cory Chetyrbok of Dauphin, Manitoba. The Andrew and Nellie Pawlik Scholarship for high academic standing in Ukrainian Canadian Studies and the fulfilment of a project that enhances and preserves Ukrainian culture had two winners – Justin Bzovy and Cory Chetyrbok.

The CUCS also awarded the Steve and Anna Zurawecki Research Fellowship to Dr. Klymasz, one of the outstanding Ukrainian Canadian folklorists, for his outstanding



Dr. Denis Hlynka (right) presents the Steve and Anna Zurawecki Research Fellowship to Dr. Robert Klymasz (left).

research in Ukrainian Canadiana.

The winners of the various awards included Adriel Agpaiza, Jenna Modha, Curtis Mulyneaux, Romaniya Zayats, Khrystyna Lazar, James Gacel, Rodine Isfeld, Rebecca Klass, Kaelyn Martin, Cory Chetyrbok (four awards), Darka Burczynski (two awards), Preet Toor, Garren Werbicki, the Rev. Michael Faryna and Justin Bzovy.

The Center of Ukrainian Canadian Studies exists to cre-



Paul Lasko presents Cory Chetyrbok with the Elia and Maria Symchych Scholarship.

ate, preserve and communicate knowledge relating to Ukrainian Canadiana through teaching, research and community outreach. The center is a leading multicultural institution of the University of Manitoba that specializes in matters pertaining to Ukrainians in Canada. For further information readers may telephone 204-474-8906 or view the CUCS website at: [www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/ukrainian\\_canadian\\_studies](http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/ukrainian_canadian_studies).

## Syzokryli dance ensemble travels to Puerto Rico

by Sophia Panych

OLD SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – Two weeks ago, on a cold February morning, 16 members of Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble boarded a flight to sunny Puerto Rico for the company's first international show since its 1992 tour of Ukraine.

With the overhead compartments bursting with garment bags full of embroidered blouses and sharavary, and 32 pairs of black and red boots stashed under the emergency floatation devices, the dancers were prepared for a whirlwind weekend. In two-and-a-half days they performed four full shows as part of the Feria Del Libre De Los Artes (or The Outdoor Arts Exhibition) in Old San Juan, not only bringing Ukrainian culture to the residents and visitors of the island, but also finding time to get a taste of the local culture for themselves. For more information about the festival, visit <http://www.eventosanjuan.com/ingles/index.html>.

So what exactly was a Ukrainian dance group doing in Puerto Rico?

It's all thanks to a small, but enthusiastic group by the name of "Ukrainians in Puerto Rico," who wanted to showcase Ukrainian culture as part of the government-run festival in Old San Juan, organized and planned by the city's Department of Art, Culture, and Tourism.

The Ukrainians in Puerto Rico, whose mission statement is to educate and celebrate Ukrainian culture, art and language and bring it to the people of the island, saw the festival as another opportunity to achieve its goals. But with no dance group (just a former folk dancer from Ternopil among their ranks) they looked to the mainland for talent. They initially received interest from Brooklyn-based film director Roxy Toporowych, who wished to show her film "Folk!" Ms. Toporowych put Sophia Sushailo of the Ukrainians in Puerto Rico in touch with Orlando Pagan, Syzokryli's artistic director. Before they knew it, both Ms. Toporowych and Syzokryli were jetting down to San Juan.

"We are immensely grateful that Syzokryli came to perform and represent Ukraine in the festival," said Ms. Sushailo. "We are also very grateful for the warm and heartfelt welcome and support that Ukrainian culture received from the people in Puerto Rico. Tears of joy filled our eyes at the beginning of Pryvit as a living proof that Ukraine will always be alive in our hearts."

From the minute they walked off the plane, the reception to the group was nothing less than ecstatic. Members of the Department of Tourism greeted the dancers with a Ukrainian flag at the airport, and showed off their impressive knowledge of Ukraine and its history. The shows were no different; locals and tourists alike stopped what they were doing to come and watch. Many enthusiastic fans returned again and again with the crowd nearly doubling for each show. And the audience's joy was contagious. With back-to-back shows – along with high heat and humidity not even experienced during summers at Soyuzivka – the dancers, though exhausted, couldn't help but smile after each show, and they took time to pose for pictures and greeted members of the audience and their families. To their surprise, many of dancers were even stopped and recognized on the streets to be congratulated for their performances.

Ms. Sushailo, however, understood the joyous reception and embrace of Ukrainian folk traditions. "Puerto Rican people are very warm and welcoming and they love music, dance and rhythm. I'm glad we have been able to share and learn from each other this weekend," she said.

And it wasn't just the Puerto Rican audiences that learned something. In their down-time, Syzokryli members immersed themselves in the local culture – experiencing the cuisine, visiting the historical sites and the surrounding beaches, and even trying their hand at salsa dancing, learning and brushing up on their technique from some of the resident dancers.

While dancers and locals alike experienced and enjoyed the crossing of the two cultures, no one felt it more poignantly than Syzokryli's artistic director, who after 21 years of Ukrainian dancing, finally got the chance to bring his adopted culture face-to-face with his own.

It's no secret that Mr. Pagan isn't Ukrainian. Born in the Bronx of Puerto Rican heritage, the leader of Syzokryli



The Syzokryli members who performed to Puerto Rico.

Bob Brussack

(Continued on page 9)

# GENERATION UKE

## Syzokryli...

(Continued from page 8)

learned about the group through a friend at his high school – the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. Syzokryli's founder, Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, took Mr. Pagan under her wing and immersed him in Ukrainian culture, starting him on a path that not only furthered him in his career as a professional dancer, but would also even-

tually lead to taking over the group in 2006.

For Mr. Pagan, being able to present Syzokryli in the homeland of his parents was especially satisfying.

"This trip was special for both the company and myself," he said. "For Syzokryli, we were able to showcase Ukrainian folk dance to an environment that had never been exposed to it before. The response and adulation we received was amazing – a testament to the legacy and grandeur of Roma Pryma's vision. For myself, I was able to stand proud as a Puerto Rican-American



The young men of Syzokryli show off their athleticism and grace.



Bob Brussack

The young women of Syzokryli perform "Pryvit."

bringing a Ukrainian dance group to Puerto Rico, the land of my ancestors. The islanders had nothing but respect for us and the art that we presented to them, and although I was born in America they took me in as a son of the island, which I will never forget."

So with a one island-tour under their belts and enough Facebook pictures (which can be viewed on Syzokryli's page) to fill several photo albums, the group looks forward to its spring season. And while most

of their upcoming shows will keep them close to home, Mr. Pagan and his dancers look forward to future travels – beach or no beach.

"It was 20 years ago when Syzokryli went to Ukraine to perform," noted Mr. Pagan. "This trip reminded me of how much of the world we as a group have yet to see, and to share our art. I hope to continue bringing Syzokryli to places where we can present the beauty and passion that is Ukrainian folk dance."

## TUSM reorganizes after 20-year hiatus

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian Students' Association (Organization) of Mykola Mikhnovsky (known by the Ukrainian acronym TUSM) announced its reorganization in the United States after a 20-year hiatus on February 11 at a commemorative event in New York that marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Yaroslav Stetsko.

The event was attended by Stefan Romaniw, president of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists – Banderite wing (OUN-B), Askold Lozynskyj, president of the International Conference in Support of Ukraine, and Stepan Kaczurak, president of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, as well as representatives from the Ukrainian American Youth Association, veterans of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), and members of the Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine.

Stetsko, a former leader of the OUN-B and a former president of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations, was a nationalist dedicated to the freedom of an independent Ukrainian state. TUSM recognizes Stetsko as a national hero of Ukraine and a role model for Ukrainian students globally.

TUSM's executive committee includes Mykola Hlushko, president; Dmytro Lenczuk, secretary; and Justyn Pyz, treasurer.

The goal of TUSM is to organize Ukrainian youth in higher education institutions around the world and to inform about Ukrainian causes through global media. Through educational forums and frequent social gatherings, TUSM's members not only examine the current political situation in

Ukraine, but recognize and empower student youth movements in Ukraine with morale and educational support.

Founded in Leipzig, Germany, in 1949 with a nationalist ideological profile, the organization was affiliated with the OUN, and organized political conferences. At its peak it had 300 to 350 members in several branches including the U.S. and Canada. It's head office was in Munich until 1955, when it moved to North America.

Working with existing Ukrainian political and non-political organizations in the U.S., Ukraine and internationally, TUSM plugs students into the efforts that shape Ukraine.

Mr. Hlushko, in his remarks to the audience, quoted Mikhnovsky, who said, "without strength there is no right, and to obtain rights you must have strength." The Ukrainian community, he explained, was the strength, and the right was the realization of an independent, democratic Ukrainian nation-state. Mr. Hlushko called on the community to unite in order to obtain and reclaim this right from the hands of a Ukrainophobic regime and appealed for all Ukrainians to work together with each other through TUSM and other active Ukrainians organizations so that Ukraine never loses this right.

TUSM is to announce a proposed plan of action for this year, as well as plans to coordinate events with other Ukrainian organizations in the U.S. and throughout the world.

For more information on TUSM, readers may contact the organization via telephone, 908-472-3314, or e-mail, tycm.press@gmail.com.



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The "Generation Uke" page accepts photo submissions for the photo of the month space, which features Ukrainians being Ukrainian.

Send photos to: design@ukrweekly.com or  
The Ukrainian Weekly, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

## Lutsenko sentenced...

(Continued from page 1)

power has become notorious for its rampant corruption.

"This government can be judged very harshly for embezzling funds and plundering of budgets on all levels, beginning at the very highest," said Oleksander Paliy, a Ukrainian political expert and author of numerous books on Ukrainian history.

### Civic activists targeted

Instead of prosecuting alleged crimes involving hundreds of millions of dollars, the Yanukovich administration is more concerned about civic activists staging clownish protests. A half year ago, Denys Oleinikov was persecuted by police for printing T-shirts that read, "Thank you, residents of Donbas ..."

## U.S. 'disappointed' by Lutsenko verdict

WASHINGTON - The United States said on February 27 that it is "disappointed" by a Ukrainian court's conviction of Yuri Lutsenko, the former internal affairs minister in imprisoned ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Cabinet.

"The politically motivated prosecution of opposition leaders, including Mr. Lutsenko and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, raises serious concerns about the government of Ukraine's commitment to democracy and rule of law," said Victoria Nuland, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of State.

"We urge the government of Ukraine to free Mr. Lutsenko... and other senior former government officials currently in detention, and we believe they should have unrestricted ability to participate fully in political life," she added.

He and his family fled to Latvia in late September after being tipped off about his likely arrest.

Police on February 24 arrested five political activists for planning to commemorate two years of Mr. Yanukovich's presidency on Kyiv's Independence Square (the maidan) by distributing condoms with the president's face depicted on a prophylactic on the condom box covers.

Before they could even stage the event, police reportedly confiscated a portion of the condom boxes from organizers at a nearby McDonald's and then forced the restaurant manager to sign an affidavit stating that nothing was taken, media reports said.

More condom boxes were confiscated from other protest organizers on the maidan. The arrests violated their rights to private property, free speech and public assembly. Each received a 15-day prison sentence.

Among those arrested was Serhii Melnychenko, leader of the Kyiv-based Coalition of Orange Revolution Participants.

But the arrests aren't limited to civic activists.

On January 26, prosecutors filed criminal charges against mega-millionaire Arsen Avakov, the leading opposition politician in Kharkiv who is widely believed to have won the mayoral race two years ago but lost as a result of alleged vote falsification.

Prosecutors charged the 48-year-old Mr. Avakov with exceeding his authority in illegal land distributions while serving as the Kharkiv Oblast Administration chair under former President Viktor Yushchenko. Since leaving office in 2010, Mr. Avakov became a leading supporter of Ms. Tymoshenko.

Five days after charges were filed, prosecutors declared an international search for Mr. Avakov, whose wealth was estimated by Focus magazine in 2011 at \$283 million. His whereabouts remain unknown.

### Lutsenko sentence

In the Lutsenko case, the convictions include the claim that he exceeded his authority as internal affairs minister when giving his driver, Leonid Prystupliuk, allegedly illegal bonuses, ranging between \$300 and \$3,000, as well as allegedly illegal police rankings.

The former police chief also allegedly illegally inflated his driver's pension rate by including hours worked prior to serving the Internal Affairs Ministry, resulting in an inflated pension of \$742 per month.

Mr. Prystupliuk was convicted of usurping state property and forging a Rivne University diploma, for which he received a suspended prison sentence of three years and confiscation of property. The judge also required him to compensate the State Pension Fund in the amount of \$30,000.

Mr. Lutsenko will remain in jail for another two years and 10 months, given that he has already served part of the sentence. He has been in prison since December 2010. He is banned from holding public office for three years, which means he cannot run in either the parliamentary elections scheduled for October of this year, or the presidential election of 2015.

The Pechersk District Court ordered Mr. Lutsenko to pay the equivalent of \$116,000 to compensate the state for misused funds, including some spent illegally, allegedly on a party held on the annual police professional holiday. The judge also ordered all of Mr. Lutsenko's personal property confiscated.

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski called the sentence "disproportionate," reported RFE/RL.

"As far as I know, [Lutsenko] is being accused of a relatively trivial offense. And so it seems that this is a disproportionate and harsh system," Mr. Sikorski said. "In other words, it is another argument for those who suspect the Ukrainian judicial legal system is not entirely free of political motivations."

To make matters worse, the law requires that Mr. Lutsenko be transferred to the Menskyi state penitentiary for former law enforcement officers who committed crimes on the job, including those arrested under Mr. Lutsenko's tenure as Ukraine's police chief.

"The former police officer can't be in a common penitentiary where convicted criminals are serving their terms," said Yevhen Zakharov, a leading human rights lawyer in Ukraine. "Lutsenko can't be in the Menskyi (Penal) Colony also since there's a lot of people who ended up there as a result of his efforts to eliminate police brutality."

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# Ukrainian folklore in Kazakhstan

by Natalie Kononenko

## CONCLUSION

### Ukrainian villages

The specific villages that I went to are called Ukrainian villages. They were founded by Ukrainians more than 100 years ago as a result of the Stolypin Reforms. Pyotr Stolypin, Russia's agricultural minister and later prime minister, opened up lands such as those located around Pavlodar and encouraged the settlement of peasants by granting private ownership of land. This measure, he hoped, would make capitalists out of farmers and lead them to support tsarist rule. It was the Stolypin Reforms that first brought peasants from Ukraine to Kazakhstan.

The stories about the early settlers were tales of courage. I heard about groups of men coming to an essentially barren land and building sod houses, then bringing their families to join them. The names of the founders were known in most villages and current residents took pride in being descended from them.

There were also interesting legends about Stolypin himself. A number of people claimed that he had actually visited their villages once they were officially founded, usually around 1908-1909, and that he had approved of what he saw. Krasilovka, a village whose name derives from "krasa," a word that means beauty, boasted that the name of the village was bestowed by Stolypin himself.

Later migrations of Ukrainians came in the 1930s in response to the Holodomor. Kazakhstan itself experienced a famine at that time, but land was more plentiful and requisitioning efforts were not as severe. Russians also came to Kazakhstan, though there does not seem to be a specific period of Russian immigration. A big influx of population came during the second world war. As Kazakhstan was used for dangerous nuclear tests, so it was also used for people who were deemed dangerous by the Soviet regime, namely ethnic Germans, specifically those who had been living along the Volga. Ukrainian villages were among the recipients of exiled Germans.

The last big influx of new settlers came with the Virgin Lands program in the late 1950s and early '60s. In response to Nikita Khrushchev's plan to turn the Kazakh steppe into a major grain-producing area, people came from Ukraine, Russia and elsewhere in the Soviet Union.

The first assumption that I encounter from people in the diaspora who hear about my trip is that the Ukrainians in Kazakhstan were victims, exiled there by Soviet authorities. The people in the villages around Pavlodar were anything but that. They saw themselves as brave pioneers, conquerors of a wild frontier. They were people who took

*Natalie Kononenko is professor and Kule Chair of Ukrainian Ethnography at the University of Alberta. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard University in Slavic and Turkic folklore under the direction of Omeljan Pritsak and Albert B. Lord, and taught for 30 years at the University of Virginia before coming to Canada. She is the author of "Ukrainian Minstrels: And the Blind Shall Sing" and "Slavic Folklore: A Handbook" and has edited books on Ukrainian duma and "The Magic Egg and Other Tales from Ukraine." Her trip to Kazakhstan was sponsored by the Kule Endowment.*



Being taught about local plants in Orlovka.



The Ukrainian club in Rozhdestvenka.

charge of their lives.

One woman I interviewed in Sherbakty had been the head of a Ukrainian workers' brigade sent to build the grain elevator. She met her future husband and stayed, and she was proud of her life and her contribution to the village.

The downside to the frontier mentality of the local population is the willingness to tolerate pollution. Otherwise their positive outlook is most heartening.

The villages have experienced new challenges in recent times. When the Soviet Union collapsed, many ethnic Germans left for Germany. Right now, large portions of some villages are deserted with collapsed houses or completely empty lots because of German outmigration. Farms, grain elevators and factories sit idle.

As I worked in the various villages to the east and north of Pavlodar, there would be stark contrasts from village to village. The Soviet Union had produced a relatively efficient system of working the land. Family plots were small, and the villagers worked in large collectives, seeding huge tracks of land with wheat, barley, buckwheat and even corn. Collectives owned literally thousands of heads of cattle.

Land was privatized when Kazakhstan became an independent nation. If people took their individual allotments, and especially if there was a loss of population due to the departure of Germans, then the villages struggled. If, however, the collective stayed together, then the villages prospered.

This was the case in Orlovka, where the village head under the Soviet system, a descendant of the original turn-of-the-century Ukrainian settlers named Poliakov, kept the village together as a corporation in which each resident held a share. In Orlovka the streets are clean and in good repair. The fields are green and not fallow. The village owns 8,000 head of cattle, some beef and some dairy, and has worked out an interesting system of letting the herd stay in the steppe and trucking the milkmaids and milking equipment out to the cows. Needless to say, no one left a place like Orlovka and there are no empty houses.

In villages that did not follow Orlovka's example, some people did relatively well. There was a shift from large ani-

mals such as cows to small ones such as fowl. Still, there were people who kept literally hundreds of geese and chickens, which they sold for meat. They also had at least a few head of cattle and sold sour cream and butter, the dairy products that keep well. Most villagers, however, did not prosper under privatization unless at least one member had a job outside the family farm, such as in the village administration or the village school.

I learned a great deal in Kazakhstan and not just about keeping chickens, and separating milk, and making little dams to concentrate water on tomato plant roots. I learned about folklore and culture and, comparing what I saw to what I had seen in Canada and Ukraine, I was able to gain the insights into cultural adaptation that I had sought.

I think that one of the most important things that I learned is that each geographical region develops its own culture and folklore. The culture and lore cannot be fully explained by the region in which a particular group finds itself though the nature of the region is important and that is why I have given the description above. But climate, geography and contact cultures cannot fully explain what is going on and neither is there a uniform process that occurs whenever a culture moves outside its home. Rather, culture seems to be an entity that takes on a life of its own and develops much like a living organism.

The Ukrainians in Kazakhstan have developed a unique culture. This culture varies from village to village, but there is enough consistency to make it clear that there is a north Kazakhstan Ukrainian culture. The people speak a language that they call "khokhliatsky," a term derived from "khokhol," the derogatory Russian slang word for "Ukrainian." This is a mixture of Ukrainian and Russian, but it is not the "surzhyk" Ukrainian-Russian mix found in Ukraine itself.

Rituals like weddings also have a mix of Ukrainian and Russian elements, but, like the language, the mix is different from what I had seen elsewhere. The consistency of the mix from village to village made it clear that this was a regional tradition, with variants, of course, but still enough common features to make it identifiable as a local type.

As in Canada, practical considerations play an important role in shaping local ritual. In Canada, where one rural priest serves 10 to 15 churches, the Christmas Eve service can be on Christmas Eve, or on Christmas Day, or several days before or after Christmas, depending on when the priest can visit a particular location. The "Khram," or "Praznyk," the special celebration which takes place on the feast day of the saint after whom a church is named, is often moved to the summer if the particular saint's day falls in winter, when country roads make traveling difficult.

"Provody," the remembrance day for ancestors that should take place a week after Easter, can take place then or well into the summer, many weeks after Easter and sometimes as late as after Pentecost. This tends to be the day when people who have moved away from a village return to visit family gravesites and reconnect with their place of origin. Because this is such a big event, it is often combined with khram or praznyk, and baptisms and weddings are often scheduled for the same day. About the only things that cannot be scheduled to coincide with Provody are funerals.

(Continued on page 15)



Natalie Kononenko

Lylia Yakovlivna Ivolha in the village of Sosnovka. If you don't have a bandura, a guitar will do. The green paint was a way to repair the cracks in the guitar and improve the sound.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

trade and appointed him as secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, in place of Raisa Bohatyriova. On February 22, Mr. Yanukovich appointed Valeriy Khoroshkovsky as Ukraine's first vice prime minister after dismissing him as finance minister, a position he had held since January 18. Prior to that, Mr. Khoroshkovsky headed the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) from March 11, 2010. (Interfax-Ukraine)

### Yefremov denies siphoning of gas

KYIV - Statements of the Russian Federation regarding alleged unauthorized siphoning of transit gas by Ukraine during the severe winter are not true, the chairman of the parliamentary faction of the Party of Regions, Oleksander Yefremov, said at a briefing on February 23. "Throughout the period of low temperatures, I carefully moni-

tored the subject and kept in touch with the Energy Ministry. During the difficult period, Ukraine took gas from its own underground storage facilities. Therefore, the statement [by Gazprom Chairman Alexei Miller during a meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev] with respect to illegal gas tapping by Ukraine, which was broadcast on all central Russian television channels, requires additional processing and a formal response from experts," the press service of the Party of Regions quoted Mr. Yefremov as saying. "If the situation does not change, then there will be a formal denial of this fact," the politician said. On February 22, the head of Gazprom, Mr. Miller, at a working meeting with President Medvedev said that Ukraine illegally took up to 40 million cubic meters of transited Russian gas in the month of February. (Ukrinform)

### Filaret discusses religious freedom

KYIV - On February 24 Patriarch Filaret met with U.S. Ambassador John Tefft and his

wife, Mariella, in the office of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate. The meeting was attended also by the secretary of the Holy Synod of the UOC-KP, Archbishop Yevstratii. The participants discussed freedom of worship in Ukraine. The ambassador also greeted Patriarch Filaret on the 50th anniversary of ministry, which was recently marked by the Church. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

### Ukrainian refugees in U.S.

KYIV - The number of refugees resettled in the United States topped 3 million on February 15. Ukrainians are among the top five nationalities resettled over this period, according to a statement released by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration on February 21. "A few statistical highlights since 1975: over 1.4 million refugees from Southeast Asian countries; over 605,000 from countries of the former Soviet Union; over 262,000 Africans; over 289,000 from the countries of Near East and South Asia; the five largest nationalities resettled are Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Iraqi, Cuban, and Somali," reads the statement. At the same time, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in 2001 the number of refugees from Ukraine amounted to 7,172 people (about 10 percent of the total number of refugees), and in 2010 the figure was 449 people (0.6 percent). (Ukrinform)

### Gaitana selected for Eurovision

KYIV - Gaitana, a 32-year-old singer born in Ukraine to a Congolese father and a Ukrainian mother, was selected on February 18 to represent Ukraine at the Eurovision finals in Baku, Azerbaijan, in May. In her official Eurovision statement, she expressed hope that her song "Be My Guest" would help promote Ukraine as a "hospitable and friendly" country. The Eurovision Song Contest is an annual European competition in which each country submits a song to be performed on live television, and a winner is chosen based upon the votes of the public as well as music professionals. Ruslana won the 2004 contest, and Ukrainian performers were runners-up in 2007 and 2008. (RFE/RL)

### Ukraine cases at Human Rights Court

KYIV - Ukraine is in fourth place, after Russia, Turkey and Romania, in terms of the number of cases that are being considered by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), according to the annual report of the Ukrainian government commissioner for the ECHR, which was posted on February 3 on the website of Ukraine's Ministry of Justice. The report also notes that cases against Ukraine being considered at the European Court of Human Rights constitute 7.5 percent of the total number of cases. Among the factors that often lead to complaints against Ukraine are the non-fulfillment or long-term fulfillment of decisions of national courts, as well as the long-term realization of a pre-trial investigation in criminal cases and long-term review of cases by the courts. In addition, violations of human rights in Ukraine established by the ECHR are triggered by bad behavior in relation to a person who is in the state's custody, shortcomings of legislation and administrative practices that lead to the detention of a person without a proper legal basis, and shortcomings of judicial practice, which lead to violations of human rights to a fair trial. Another reason mentioned in the report is the inefficiency of criminal investigations conducted by law enforcement agencies into the deaths and disappearances of individuals, as well as misconduct on the part of government officials. Among the most common reasons for applications by Ukrainians to the European Court of Human Rights are improper living conditions of persons in pre-trial detention or in penal institutions, and the failure to provide the

necessary medical care to detainees and prisoners. (Ukrinform)

### Koran in Ukrainian is released

KYIV - An advance copy of the first complete translation of the Koran in Ukrainian has been released at the King Fahd Complex for Printing of the Holy Koran in Medina, Saudi Arabia, according to a February 17 statement from the translator, Prof. Mykhailo Yakubovych, candidate of historical sciences from the National University of Ostroh Academy. "The book contains 993 pages, and is presented with parallel Arabic and Ukrainian texts," he said. Prof. Yakubovych said the decision to publish the Ukrainian translation of the Koran was made by a special commission of experts from the center in Medina, who testified that the Ukrainian version of the Koran meets the requirements of doctrinal interpretation of the Muslim holy book. Today, according to various estimates, Islam is practiced in Ukraine by more than 2 million people, and there are about 300 Muslim communities in the country. (Ukrinform)

### Lawsuit against Yulia in U.S. court

KYIV - The U.S. consulting firm U.S. Universal Trading and Investment Co. (UTICo) has officially notified former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko of a lawsuit at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York to recover \$18.3 million from United Energy Systems of Ukraine (UESU) in favor of UTICo, Ukrayinska Pravda reported on February 13. On February 7 a clerk of the District Court of the Southern District of New York issued a certificate indicating that a copy of the summons and a copy of the lawsuit were provided to Ms. Tymoshenko, in line with the Hague Convention of 1965, Ukrayinska Pravda reported, quoting the documents made available to the publication. "Thus, Yulia Tymoshenko has been notified about the lawsuit against her," Ukrayinska Pravda reported. UTICo asked the U.S. court to oblige Ms. Tymoshenko to repay the corporation's debt in favor of the U.S. company. In 2005, according to the Kyiv Post, a court in Massachusetts decided that UESU should pay \$18.3 million to the company. Attaching documents from the U.S. case against former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, UTICo also accused Ms. Tymoshenko of concealing UESU's profit and assets from creditors, paying kickbacks and bribes for Mr. Lazarenko of a sum exceeding \$100 million and using her official position to ensure UESU's speedy bankruptcy. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) claims that Ms. Tymoshenko, while heading UESU in 1995, entered into criminal collusion with former First Vice Prime Minister Lazarenko to organize an opaque scheme of mutual payments for Russian gas and transfer of part of the money that was obtained to their accounts in foreign banks. According to the SBU, the transfer of funds to the accounts of foreign companies that were owned by Ms. Tymoshenko at that time can be confirmed by materials in the U.S. the case against Mr. Lazarenko. (Interfax-Ukraine)

### Filaret's 50th anniversary is celebrated

KYIV - On February 4, at the National Opera House of Ukraine, a celebratory program was held on occasion of the 50th anniversary of the episcopal consecration and the 45th anniversary of ministry at the Kyivan cathedral of Patriarch Filaret of Kyiv and All Rus'-Ukraine. The event was attended by the clergy and laity of Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate, representatives of the intelligentsia, and political and public figures. The honored guests included Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church. The program began with the "Prayer for Ukraine" performed by the Veriovka National Choir. Patriarch Filaret was greet-

(Continued on page 13)

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

ed on the stage of the opera house by the members of the Synod of the UOC-KP. An address was delivered by Metropolitan Dymytrii Rudiuk of Lviv and Sokal on behalf of the Synod. Two of Ukraine's former presidents, Leonid Kravchuk and Viktor Yushchenko, gave speeches greeting the patriarch. The head of the Parliamentary Committee on Culture and Spirituality, Volodymyr Yavorivsky, greeted the hierarch on behalf of the committee. Georgian Vice-Premier Georgii Baramidze greeted the patriarch on behalf of President Mikhail Saakashvili of Georgia. Patriarch Filaret spoke, outlining the path of his ministry as a bishop. The celebratory events continued in the Cathedral of St. Volodymyr. On February 5 Patriarch Filaret, in concelebration with 40 bishops, served a liturgy and a prayer service of thanksgiving. In the synodal hall of the Kyivan Patriarchate, Archbishop Simeon of Kotor greeted Patriarch Filaret on behalf of the head of the Montenegrin Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Mykhail. Archbishop Simeon presented to Patriarch Filaret the Order of the Holy Cross. That evening, a celebratory reception was held with bishops, clergymen, statesmen, public figures, Ukrainian national deputies, scholars, artists and diplomats in attendance. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

### 1.6 M fans to attend Euro-2012

KYIV – About 1.6 million fans will visit Poland and Ukraine in June during the Euro-2012 soccer championship, UEFA General Secretary Gianni Infantino said in an interview on January 26 with the UEFA Euro 2012 Official Preview Guide. "The UEFA European Football Championship is the third biggest sporting event in the world and will be broadcast in more than 200 territories across the globe, with around 150 million people watching each match live. The success of ticket sales – with more than 12 million requests for approximately 550,000 available tickets – is further proof of the fans' wish to be part of Euro 2012 and to enjoy a unique football celebration," he said. Mr. Infantino added that the long-lasting legacy for Poland and Ukraine will be huge. "Both countries are undergoing significant changes in terms of infrastructure, and the effect of the construction now taking place will have an enduring impact on the daily life of Polish and Ukrainian citizens. Modernization on this scale usually takes around 20 years to be implemented, but in

Poland and Ukraine new airports, roads, hotels, train stations, buses etc. have been developed in just a few short years. Furthermore, it will put these two countries on the world map, not only as tourist destinations, but also enabling them to show what they are capable of. This is a source of great pride for both nations. In terms of football, modern arenas will be there for the long haul, and I am not only talking about the eight stadiums that will host matches, but also the numerous others which will serve as base camps for the participating teams. More importantly, the number of children playing football [soccer] will increase. This should help raise the level of the game in the years to come and also bring various social benefits, notably in health and social integration," the UEFA general secretary underscored. (Ukrinform)

### Carpathian Churches proposed for UNESCO list

KYIV – Hanna Herman, presidential adviser and head of the Department on Humanitarian and Sociopolitical Issues, reported at a February 23 press conference that Ukraine had proposed that UNESCO include Carpathian churches on its World Heritage List. She said that the wooden architectural monuments were being damaged in Ukraine and Poland. She said the proposal is aimed at preserving what is possible to preserve. The presidential adviser noted that the churches are being damaged by the local communities themselves, who restore them in a non-professional way. The Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Committee of Ukraine for UNESCO, in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture of Poland, have prepared a special trans-border nomination of "Wooden Churches of the Carpathian Region of Ukraine and Poland" in order to include the most valuable monuments of wooden sacral architecture on the list of UNESCO world heritage sites. Churches in the Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv oblasts of Ukraine and in two voivodeships of Poland have been included on the list of the monuments. Simultaneously, Ukraine prepared another application to UNESCO to include on the World Heritage List "the ancient town of Chersonese of Tavria." Both nominations were submitted in January to the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. A representative of the Ministry of Culture, Andrii Vinhranovskyi, said at a press conference that Ukraine hopes the nominations will be considered at the 36th session of UNESCO next summer and that positive decisions will be made. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)



With great sorrow we announce that on February 26, 2012, surrounded by his loving family,

## George D. Fedoruk

passed away after years of battling an illness.

Mr. Fedoruk was born on October 8, 1942 in Ukraine. He was an educator (Master's Degree in Education), an artist (painter and sculptor), as well as an avid outdoorsman.

He is survived by his wife Olga, his three children: George, Christina and Andrea, as well as four grandchildren: Steven, Anthony, Ava and Amelia.

A viewing was held at Fletcher-Nasevich Funeral Home, 717 Brown St., Philadelphia, PA 19123, on March 3rd, at 9:00 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, at 10:30 a.m. Interment was held at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Fox Chase, PA.

Internal memory!



У великі тузі ділимося болючою вісткою, що 12 лютого 2012 р. відійшов у Божу святу вічність наш найдорожчий МУЖ, БАТЬКО, ДІДИ, СТРИЙКО І ВУЙКО

СВ. П.

## Д-р ЛЕОНІД МОСТОВИЧ

нар. 4 жовтня 1919 р. в Березні, на Поліссі.

Своє життя віддав ідеї та боротьбі за визволення поневоленої вітчизни. Польські та німецькі тюрми й табори - Береза Картузька, Авшвиц, Мавтагавзен, Мальк, Ебензе - були свідками його терпіння, недуг, голоду та інших страхів. Переживши чудом усі випробування долі, після війни став лікарем та професором радіології. Був шанованим своїми і чужими. Україна була постійно в центрі його життя, а медицина зосібна. Тому допомагав організувати нові шляхи її росту і розвою. Передавав дітям і внукам заповідь любити рідну землю й обороняти її ім'я і гідність.

Похоронні відправи відбулися 14 та 15 лютого в Понте Ведро, Флорида.

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син - МАРКО МОСТОВИЧ з дружиною РОНДОЮ і дітьми  
внуки - ДАНИЛО, ДЕНИС та ДМИТРО ДЕЙЧАКІВСЬКІ  
- ОЛЕКСАНДЕР, СОФІЯ та СТЕФАН МОСТОВИЧ  
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Вічна Йому Пам'ять!

## Ukrainian Catholic...

(Continued from page 4)

an example for government institutions; and encouraging various Church institutions to become more involved in their local and regional communities.

Three projects that successfully continue to meet the Ginger Fund's goals in one way or another, and are partially sponsored by the fund, are located in the Lviv region.

In the Lviv suburb of Vynnyky, a sanatorium-school-internat serves as an excellent example of a win-win situation where a results-producing project enjoys not only good relations with local and regional government officials, but also volunteer assistance from Church and community activists.

The internat (boarding school) which supervises 220 children age 6 to 18, functions as a specialized institution in educating and taking care of children who are susceptible to contracting tuberculosis or whose parents suffer from this disease and other serious ailments. In 1995 tuberculosis was declared an epidemic on the territory of Ukraine and the disease has not yet been eradicated.

According to the internat's director, Liliya Svystovych, the parents of such children are very often asocial individuals, for example, alcoholics and drug addicts, or people from low-income families who are ineffectual in adequately confronting the problem of tuberculosis.

Although the children at the internat are well-behaved and do not cause major disciplinary problems, the staff and teachers have on occasion encountered serious problems with the children's parents. At times, this has resulted in the forced escort of inebriated parents from the premises, because the administration's policy does not call for the release of a child into the custody of a parent who is intoxicated.

"Moreover, there have even been cases where we had to drive to the pupil's home and literally rescue the child from deplorable living conditions. We already have our fair share of experience in appropriately dealing with such problems; filing formal complaints with the local police and procurator's office is common practice for us," admitted an undaunted Ms. Svystovych, who initially faced seemingly insurmountable hurdles when she assumed the position of director.

When Ms. Svystovych arrived as the new director of the sanatorium-school-internat

in Vynnyky, the curriculum was based on a nine-year program. In essence, the pupils were graduating at a level equivalent only to a junior high school education. Securing employment for them was a major challenge. Fortunately for Ms. Svystovych and her staff, at that time Ukraine was enjoying a progressive, Western-oriented Ministry of Education that permitted the internat to extend the curriculum to an 11-year program. As a result, in 2009 the school held its first 11th grade graduation.

Following the significant curriculum changes, the teachers and staff immediately noticed a difference with respect to job opportunities – employment prospects for the school's graduates began to improve significantly. In addition, the introduction of the nationwide standardized testing program was also a major step forward in reforming Ukraine's overall educational system, as it had a direct positive impact on the internat's pupils as well.

Thus, eight of the school students took and passed the standardized exams and, as a result, one of these boys is now a student at Lviv Polytechnic University, while two other students are now enrolled at the Academy of the Internal Affairs Ministry.

"In other words, what was once considered impossible has now become a reality. I am no longer worried what will happen to our graduates once they complete our program. I feel assured and positive about the future," stated Ms. Svystovych.

In addition to introducing a new curriculum, under the intrepid leadership of its director the school initiated reforms within its internal educational system, in essence significantly altering the approach to its pedagogical program.

According to Ms. Svystovych, during the Soviet era, the emphasis was first and foremost on education and acquiring knowledge, followed by physical education and proper etiquette, while the concept of spirituality was de-emphasized if not outright ignored. This equation has since been reversed, by putting the primary focus on spirituality, thanks to the visionary policies initiated by Ms. Svystovych and her staff.

"If a child possesses a sense of spiritual goodness, such a child will be well-mannered and well-behaved, and these qualities will encourage such a child to learn, because the child will recognize the need to acquire knowledge in order to be a responsible individual," underscored Ms. Svystovych. Although she admits that this may not sound like a groundbreaking for-

mula, Ms. Svystovych says she has witnessed positive results due to the pedagogical changes introduced at the educational institution under her supervision.

"For example, we do not hesitate to take the children to various public events because the children know their place and are always well-behaved. They are regularly invited to attend various theatrical performances," Ms. Svystovych noted.

As a genuine haven for children from broken families, the Vynnyky school offers the best possible attention, affection and spiritual nourishment available outside the home, which is why many consider the internat not only an educational institution, but also an overall "wellness center," in the words of its director, providing a comfortable environment for disadvantaged kids.

Even during weekends, the children decide to remain at the internat because they enjoy their stay so much, while in the wintertime the pupils have the option to rejoin their families, although many are invited to attend a so-called "Christmas School," because they come from households that can't afford to celebrate such holidays appropriately.

However, for summer vacation, the state allocates funds for a select number of children to spend time at summer camp. The institutional staff designates those children who are most at risk of being neglected and underfed while at home during summer break. According to Ms. Svystovych' every second pupil falls under such a risk.

During the school year, the pupils also have the opportunity to acquire certain practical skills which help them with the process of social adaptation into society. By pooling their respective resources, the Ginger Fund and the Netherlands-based Henri Nouwen Fund have together enabled the internat to open up a wood crafts workshop, a hair salon for its female pupils, and a workshop facility where boys and girls learn how to cook and properly set the table.

Ms. Svystovych considers such activity important because in many cases the families where these children come from don't even have such typical household products as gas ovens, the possession of which others might take for granted.

Spiritual care is a vital component of the internat's overall successful program. To meet the spiritual needs of its pupils and staff, the internat's administration decided to construct a chapel on its premises. From start to finish, the entire construction project lasted only two months and the formal consecration of the St. Nicholas Chapel took place on May 29, 2007.

To bless the chapel, the internat's administration invited clergy of the Orthodox, Greek-Catholic and Roman

Catholic Churches. "Everyone at our school is free to practice whichever faith they wish and no questions regarding this issue have ever been raised. We tell everyone that for us God is one and the same," stated Ms. Svystovych.

The genesis of the St. Nicholas Chapel can be traced to a chance encounter between Ms. Svystovych and her pupils that took place a year before the chapel's consecration.

On May 29, 2006, the Internat installed a statuette of the Mother of God in the courtyard located in front of the internat. During the Soviet era, that same spot was occupied by a little statue of Lenin. By the time Ms. Svystovych had arrived to administer the school, the Lenin statue was gone, but in its place was an empty pedestal which, thanks to the school's new leadership, soon began to serve as the foundation for the statue of the Mother of God, as a symbol of protection over the Internat's pupils.

"I recall a very moving scene when during the winter of 2006-2007, looking out through the window of my office I witnessed how amidst the snow drifts, a group of our fourth graders cleared a path to the statuette of the Blessed Virgin, took off their hats, knelt down and began praying." At that moment, Ms. Svystovych said she realized the school was in need of a chapel where the children could pray in comfort whenever they wanted to.

Today, the school's chapel is open 24 hours per day and the children can pray there anytime they are free from their classroom responsibilities. According to the internat's director, the children themselves feel an internal desire to pray – no one forces them to do so. They already know the entire divine liturgy by heart. "The parents of these children were not known for taking their children to church, so it's quite interesting to observe when, for example, at the beginning of the school year, the children actually bring their parents to our chapel for services. For us, this is probably one of our greatest achievements," admitted Ms. Svystovych.

NEXT WEEK: The key role of seminarians and seminary graduates as volunteers at schools-internats in the Lviv region.

\* \* \*

For further information about UCU (in English and Ukrainian) please refer to the university's website at [www.ucu.edu.ua](http://www.ucu.edu.ua)

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### DISTRICT COMMITTEE of UNA BRANCHES OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

announces that its ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

Friday, March 16, 2012 at 3:00 P.M.

At the UNA Home Office

2200 Rt.10, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**25, 27, 37, 42, 70, 76, 133, 134, 142, 171, 172, 234, 287**

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY Members of UNA Executive Committee

DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
Stephan Welhasch, District Chairman  
Neonila Sochan, Secretary  
Walter Honcharyk, Treasurer

## Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Vitaly Smirnov, an IOC vice-president and former chief of the Soviet Olympic Committee, said the IOC was ready to be flexible on the matter of flags and anthems.

"The danger is that if one country is allowed to send a separate team it will immediately cause a chain reaction."

Mr. Samaranch proposed that the national flags of athletes and their national anthems would be played in the awarding of individual events. "It is a very good agreement for them. If an athlete from Ukraine is a winner, they will have the anthem and the flag," he noted.

Source: "IOC says republics must compete as Unified Team," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 15, 1992.



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## Ukrainian folklore...

(Continued from page 11)

The dominance of practical considerations is understandable in Canada where there is an absence of magical world view and rituals are more a matter of social convention than an attempt to influence the future.

In Kazakhstan a magical world view persists and may be even stronger than in Ukraine, perhaps because of the harsh living conditions. But rituals are governed by practical considerations nonetheless. While Malanka, the New Year's Eve celebration, has flourished in urban Canada, perhaps because it offers one more party to add to the holiday season, in Kazakhstan the big social event is Maslenytsia, the Shrove celebration before Great Lent.

The choice of Maslenytsia is not motivated by the importance of Lent to the local population. In fact, Lent is largely ignored, probably because there are no legumes or other vegetables to substitute for the meat and milk protein that constitutes such an important part of the diet. Rather, Maslenytsia has come to the fore and become an event celebrated, not just in the home but in the village center, with officials, schoolchildren, in fact most of the village in attendance, because it comes close to coinciding with Navriz, the holiday of the New Year celebrated by the Kazakh population. With the emphasis on Kazakh culture that has come with independence and the new, Kazakh-led regime, celebrating a Ukrainian holiday that can be combined with one that is part of the dominant culture is a good way to promote one's own.

Kazakhstan does not have the practice of assigning one priest to serve a circuit of churches and, as a result, many villages have no church and no clergy. The practical solution to this situation is for villagers to perform various rites themselves, including important religious ones such as baptism. Weddings can be performed with no clergy present. They are then officially registered to meet bureaucratic demands. Registration can occur before the wedding, as in Ukraine, or it can occur after the wedding, sometimes long after the wedding. It does not seem to matter as long as the ritual itself, the folk aspect of the wedding, is performed.

Perhaps the most striking practical performance of a ritual act comes at Jordan, or Kreshchenie, usually called Epiphany in the West. Water is blessed in church on this day and people take it home to use for illness. They use it to bless the house and the cattle, and keep it for any situation where a little divine help is necessary.

With no village church, there is no place to get water blessed on Epiphany. The solution to this problem is very simple: People

go out to the well on the eve of Epiphany and draw water which they sincerely believe has magical properties. Any number of people, both villagers and urban dwellers, swore that the water was special and had magical and healing powers. As evidence they pointed out that Epiphany water, unlike regular water, would not spoil: there was never any trace of sediment or algae.

Some people said that simply drawing water on the eve of January 19 was not enough and that special actions needed to be taken. These included drawing water at a certain time, usually midnight, though 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. were also mentioned. Some people said that the water needed to be left outside for several hours so that the light of the moon and the stars could shine on it and confer the power of the heavens. A very few said that water either needed to be drawn at the time that a church service would normally take place or that it needed to be set out at that time.

The belief in the magical properties of Epiphany water was remarkably widespread. I found it among religious people and those who were not religious but had the magical world view we often associate with the folk, especially those living in villages. I also found it in the city. A very sophisticated person, one of the organizers of my trip and an avowed atheist, also swore by the power of Epiphany water and gave me a number of other instances where he had observed the intervention of the supernatural into his life. We cannot make neat categories and state that a magical world view is characteristic of uneducated people only.

A similar combination of the practical and the magical can be found in the area of folk medicine. Folk medicine includes, in addition to holy water, various herbs and tinctures made from them. Physical manipulation, bone-setting included, falls in this category. There is also widespread use of charms and magic actions such as rinsing the face of a colicky baby with dirty dishwater and wiping it with the inside of one's apron or skirt.

Some of these charms or actions need to be performed by a specialist, but many do not. In fact, in the absence of specialists, people write down charms and instructions for performing actions and say the charms and perform the magical actions themselves. Cures are used to relieve human suffering and are also widely applied to farm animals, especially cattle, which is quite understandable considering the importance of cattle to the local economy.

In Kazakhstan, people were not reluctant to talk about resorting to various magical practices; they showed me their books of charms and let me photograph them. To them, this was just something that was done and not really anything special. This



Natalie Kononenko examines embroideries in Sherbakty with Tetiana Dmytriivna Tatoryntseva.

is quite different from the situation that I found in Ukraine where magic practices, charms and magical actions among them, abounded, but were hidden from view. People were reluctant to admit to knowledge of magic in Ukraine, but not in Kazakhstan. This is possibly the result of more extensive persecution of behavior that would be deemed superstitious and thus un-Soviet in Ukraine, a country closer to the Soviet heartland than the remote areas around Pavlodar.

The contrast between Ukraine and Kazakhstan is also quite curious and needs further investigation since people in Kazakhstan attributed the source of their magical knowledge to Ukraine and, indeed, the notebooks they showed me with charms and instructions for performing magical curative acts were in Ukrainian, not "khokhliatsky."

People took magic seriously in Kazakhstan and they fully believed in the efficacy of ritual acts. At the same time, they viewed rituals as fun occasions, a chance to have a good time.

The ritual elements that are most consistent among Ukraine, Canada and Kazakhstan are not the solemn ones, the ones that seal the bond of matrimony, for example. Instead what people remember and what persists from country to country are carnivalesque elements such as cross-dressing at weddings. In all three places the solemn part of the wedding is followed by a mock wedding with a humorous mock bride and groom. Who gets dressed up as the fake and funny couple varies, but some sort of costuming, complete with feasting, often on stolen food, is a regular feature. People felt that weddings were important and solemn occasions, but they did not feel that they had to be solemn throughout the

ritual process. Lack of consistency did not bother anyone and even some destructive behavior such as stealing chickens and scratching up the walls of the groom's house was tolerated.

Comic and destructive elements are found not only in weddings but also in calendar rituals such as Christmas and Maslenytsia/Shrove. People even talked about the necessity of joking at funerals to entertain the deceased and stated that this was especially important while washing the body. A serious approach to ritual does not preclude levity.

Throughout my professional career I have sought to understand why folklore persists. Travelling through a number of villages fairly quickly as I did on this trip, it became obvious that folklore is necessary for well-being. Perhaps the benefits of folklore stood out with special clarity against the harsh natural and political environment of Kazakhstan, but they were impossible to ignore. Those villages in which people actively engage in various forms of folklore are much more cheerful and friendly.

In some villages no one does embroidery and the only embroidered objects were heirlooms made by mothers or grandmothers. When I asked about embroidery, people said that it was a thing of the past and that the old items, many of which were indeed treasured, did not really fit in the home any more. As a result, they gave them to local museums.

In Rozhdestvenka, inspired by an elderly and locally born resident named Klavdia Tereshyna and a woman who had moved to the village from Ukraine named Evheniia Bikotserkivets, everyone embroiders. They do some embroidery of the traditional type on ritual cloths called "rushnyky" and some on a more recent modification, namely the pillow cushion. But they also do embroidered pictures with scenes reflecting life in Ukraine, or Ukrainian life as they imagine it to be, but most pictures have modern and area-specific motifs such as local flowers and even a mosque.

The women in Rozhdestvenka are also remarkably cheerful. Their village is not super-prosperous like Orlovka, and neither is it run-down like Krasilovka. But the women are noticeably happier than women who do not engage in crafts. I should note that, in northern Alberta, women with a similar disposition are also embroiderers or weavers, or people who enjoy some other craft such as crochet and the embroiders also make pictures often featuring Canadian scenes.

Embroidery is only one of the folklore forms that leads to spiritual and physical well-being. In several villages there are



Lydia Danylivna Filicheva (maiden name Boyko) and her husband Petro Fedorovych, village of Orlovka. Their house was filled with Ukrainian embroideries done by Lydia.



Borys Ivanovych Radchanko and his wife, Kateryna Mykolayivna, with their Kazakh neighbors. The little girl plays at the Radchenkos' house and calls them "baba" and "dido."

(Continued on page 18)

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# Chernyk sports club skis the slopes of Boyne Highlands



Joseph Tobianski

The Chernyk Ukrainian Ski Club at Boyne Highlands in Michigan.

by Lesia Lawrin

HARBOR SPRINGS, Mich. – Sunshine and temperatures in the 30s welcomed the Ukrainian Ski Club to northern Michigan for a weekend of spring-like skiing. More than 150 skiers from the Detroit area gathered at Boyne Highlands Resort in Harbor Springs on February 3-5, for the annual Ukrainian Sports Club Chernyk ski trip.

The warmer weather was unseasonable

for February at the ski resort, but there was plenty of snow and no complaints of cold. Members enjoyed skiing and snowboarding on the slopes.

Children met at the ski school for lessons, and parents watched with pride as their children rode the magic carpet. Friends enjoyed each other's company. Most of the skiers took time to relax in the outdoor pool. Many gathered near the fireplace at the Slopeside Lounge and in the

Highlands Main Dining Room to socialize. Others enjoyed tubing down the hill and zipping down the Zipline Adventure from the mountaintop. Some even zipped hanging upside down.

On Saturday, members met at the Heather Warm-Up Hut for lunch, organized by Roma and Bernard Tobianski. Skiers and snowboarders exchanged stories and, before going back to the slopes, posed for a group picture.

The Chernyk Ski Club has been meeting

up north annually since 1966, when the first trip was organized by George Blichar. Since then, the ski trip organizers have included Petro Kushnir, Jaroslaw Slywka, Lesia Lawrin and Marko Lawrin. This yearly get-together offers families and friends a chance to ski together and enjoy some winter fun. Special thanks were expressed to Marko Lawrin for organizing this year's event and bringing another generation of skiers to the slopes of northern Michigan.

## UCCA meets...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukrainian Caucus, expressed their hopes that Ukraine would adhere to all democratic principles during the election process. Both representatives said they are fully aware of the current situation in Ukraine and of the importance of the upcoming elections for Ukraine's democratic development, stating that the United States would be carefully monitoring the election process.

As Rep. Hinchey served as an international election observer with the UCCA's 1994 Observer Mission, the UCCA invited the congressman to join its 2012 Observer delegation, to which Rep. Hinchey readily agreed.

At the U.S. Department of State, UCCA leaders met with Tom Melia, deputy assistant secretary for democracy, human rights and labor (DRL), and Baxter Hunt, director, Office of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus Affairs, as well as officers from the Ukraine desk and the Coordinator's Office of Assistance to Europe.

The UCCA representatives reiterated their concern about the continuous backsliding of democracy in Ukraine, the importance of the upcoming parliamentary elections and the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the United States, in

particular the NGO component. The UCCA delegation stressed the need to drive home the message to the Ukrainian electorate about the importance of a free and fair electoral process.

State Department officials then informed the UCCA of Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon's recent trip to Ukraine and of his meetings with Ukrainian opposition leaders, civil society organizations, the media and Ukrainian government officials. (See The Ukrainian Weekly, February 19.)

While at the Ukrainian Embassy, UCCA President Olexy stated that the UCCA, along with the Ukrainian World Congress and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, will once again be hosting a delegation of international election observers to monitor the upcoming parliamentary elections. She called for a smooth registration process for the monitoring team.

Reassurances were given by the Ukrainian ambassador that the government is committed to the transparent administration of all aspects involving international election observers. Ambassador Motsyk, who had just returned from Kyiv, also informed the UCCA that discussions were held in Kyiv about the ongoing plans for the Holodomor memorial in Washington.



UNIS

Rep. Marcy Kaptur is flanked by UCCA President Tamara Olexy and UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw Jr.

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Sokil, Kolomyia, Zarnyantsia  
Провідник пл сен Марійка Гельб'їр

**LETOM SKOBA** Aug 8 – 25 \$3000  
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## “Shevchenko on the Bowery” to be featured on March 10

NEW YORK – Poetry by Taras Shevchenko will be featured in New York City’s prestigious Bowery Poetry Club on Saturday, March 10, in 90-minute event titled “Shevchenko on the Bowery.”

“As the 200th year anniversary of Shevchenko’s birth approaches, we wanted to expose New Yorkers to Shevchenko the great Romantic poet,” said Vasyl Makhno, a Ukrainian-language poet and one of the event’s co-organizers. “The audience will hear poems about love, fate, hope, despair, freedom, and a host of other topics that have traditionally concerned poets around the world.”

Most of the poetry will be read in English translation (by Peter Fedynsky, George Grabowicz, Alexander Motyl, Vera Rich and Roman Turovsky), with only some in the Ukrainian original. Readings will be performed by Mr. Fedynsky, Prof. Grabowicz, Bob Holman, Svitlana Makhno, Mr. Makhno, Prof. Motyl and Mr. Turovsky. Bandurist Julian Kytasty will offer two musical interludes.

“We purposely chose a variety of translations of Shevchenko’s poetry,” noted Prof. Motyl, Mr. Makhno’s collaborator on the project. “We wanted the audience to hear different voices with different nuances and different approaches.”

“Shevchenko’s poetry looks simple,” explained Mr. Makhno, “but the reality is that it is profoundly complex, and translating it while remaining true to the original’s sound, structure, and meaning is almost impossible.”

“Shevchenko on the Bowery” will start at 8 p.m. on the dot and conclude at 9:30 p.m. The Bowery Poetry Club is located at 308 Bowery, New York, NY 10012, just north of Houston Street; telephone, 212-614-0505.

“The Bowery has traditionally been home to outsiders and outcasts,” said Prof. Motyl, “and, although we know that Shevchenko was a genius, we often forget that he was also the quintessential Ukrainian outsider and outcast. What better place to hear his poetry?”

## Ukrainian folklore...

(Continued from page 15)



In the village of Krasilovka, Halyna Ivanivna Lybid holds her wedding icon with the wedding wreath inside.

groups that get together to sing. Some of these groups are formally organized by a local official such as the Dom Kultury (House of Culture) worker. The formal groups get together to sing for personal enjoyment. They also perform at various holidays and other community events where they not only sing, but showcase crafts and foods, and engage in competitions akin to bake-offs. Some groups get together informally.

In Khmelnytskoye, a group of widows gathers to sing and chat. We joined them for a birthday celebration that featured food, drink and plenty of singing. Both formal and informal groups tend to be multi-ethnic. In the case of services provided by a village official, multiculturalism is a government mandate. But informal groups are also inclusive. The one in Khmelnytskoye is predominantly Ukrainian, but also has two Russian members and a Kazakh. The songs they sing are also predominantly Ukrainian, though all members know and perform Russian and Kazakh songs as well.

Maintaining ethnic purity, so frequently a concern in Ukrainian diaspora groups both in Canada and the United States is just not a concern here. In fact, it was not a concern in rural Alberta and people made or sang what appealed to them, regardless of its ethnic origin. Ethnic purity, like maintaining solemnity during rituals or differentiating the magical from the scientific is not important.

That being said, Ukrainian culture did dominate in many ways. Alevtina Cvetkova, an ethnic Russian herself, said that it was because Ukrainians prize their culture more than other ethnic groups. Other reasons might be that Ukrainians outnumber other nationalities in the villages that I visited or that they, as village founders, have established their culture more firmly.

In any case, there are more Ukrainian clubs in various villages, more singing groups that dress in Ukrainian costume (or what they think is Ukrainian costume) when they perform. Perhaps the most striking attestation of this fact were old photographs of weddings that I asked to see and photograph whenever I could.

In Kovalevka we were interviewing an elderly Ukrainian woman whose daughter had married one of the local Germans and moved to Germany when the Soviet Union collapsed. The younger couple had come back from Germany to visit. I asked about weddings, and the man who now lived in Germany spoke German, and had the very German name of Jacob Blok showed the wedding photographs of his older sisters. They were wearing white dresses, but on their heads were very Ukrainian-looking

wreaths, complete with ribbons. The weddings had taken place in Kovalevka and the family, while maintaining its German identity, saw no problem with adopting Ukrainian wedding wreaths.

There are ethnic tensions in Kazakhstan. While this country was under Soviet domination, everyone resented the Russians because it was they who got the best jobs, the best schooling, the nicest living quarters. Now that Kazakhstan is independent and ruled by an ethnic Kazakh, albeit one who was Communist Party head prior to independence, everyone who is not a Kazakh resents the Kazakhs. Virtually every village akim and all district akims were Kazakhs. The police are Kazakh. The officials at the border when I flew in were all Kazakhs.

But resentment against any nationality exists in the abstract only. Just as Kazakhs helped Ukrainians when they first came to settle in this land, so now individual Kazakhs and Ukrainians and Russians and Germans are on the best of terms. In Uspenka a Ukrainian family whom I interviewed had Kazakh neighbors and the little Kazakh child living next door not only played at the home of the Ukrainian couple, but called them “baba” and “dido.” I stayed with Kazakh families as well as with Ukrainian ones.

There are legends about the past which blame the Kazakhs for plugging up springs with felt and thus depriving the area of water. But the legends voice precisely the general and abstract hostility that people feel. Concrete individuals are honored and cherished, regardless of nationality.

And this report would not be complete without the mention of at least a few of the many moving individual stories that I heard. I talked to a couple, both of whom had tragically lost their spouses and descended into depression, but then found each other; and experienced recovery and happiness. I talked to several couples who had been together all their long lives and shared their enthusiasm for Ukrainian song and other folk arts. There was a man who had become an alcoholic and whose wife and children left him. He had recovered with the help of his mother and music, and now kept his mother’s house, which was immaculate, and played the accordion while his mother played guitar.

I am truly lucky that people would allow me into their lives and talk to me and share their arts. When we went to Uspenka, the otherwise careful planning of my various trips failed and we were not expected when we arrived. At first the village akim, one of the few officials who was an ethnic Ukrainian, was quite hostile. But when I started interviewing some of the local residents, the akim and the other villagers whom he had summoned decided that what we were doing was actually quite interesting – they were able to learn about themselves as well as help me learn. As a result, the akim offered to have us move into his home and drove us all over everywhere, actually not giving me as much of an opportunity to stretch my legs as I would have liked.

Again, I am most fortunate that I have an occupation that is useful to others. It allows me to travel and to learn. And incidents like the one in Uspenka reassure me that I am not just getting something from the people I talk to, but giving something back. This essay is just the first of what I hope will be a number of pieces about Kazakhstan. I hope that the people I talked to, as well as the readers of these words, benefit from my observations and my work.

## University of Alberta offers travel-study course in Lviv

EDMONTON, Alberta – The Ukrainian Culture, Language and Literature Program at the University of Alberta has announced the 11th annual travel-study course in Lviv: “Ukrainian through Its Living Culture I & II” (UKR 300/400), which will be conducted by Prof. Alla Nedashkivska.

This is an intensive course designed to enhance practical language skills through a direct experience of current life in Ukraine. The course employs contemporary popular culture and media, taking maximum advantage of the urban Lviv environment to expand vocabulary and comprehension. All

instruction is in Ukrainian. The course dates are: May 18-June 15.

This course is open to all residents of Canada as well as all international students. Individuals who attend institutions other than the University of Alberta should apply for admission to Open Studies before contacting the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies for registration.

Open Studies may be contacted by phone, 780-492-4601. For more information, readers may visit the course site: [http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/%7Eukraina/study\\_in\\_ukraine/ukrainian\\_through\\_its\\_liv/](http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/%7Eukraina/study_in_ukraine/ukrainian_through_its_liv/).

## Alleged plot...

(Continued from page 2)

comedy theater, the sports palace, the Athena shopping center. So they seemed to be suggesting that these comrades were preparing an explosion in the city, at some big gathering point. And all these theories seemed to change at the speed of sound,

causing a lot of confusion,” he said.

With Interfax, ITAR-TASS, AFP, and AP reporting.

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# OUT & ABOUT

- Through March 25  
Chicago Art exhibit, "Bulgarian Artists Abroad," Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 or [www.bulgariansartistsabroad.net](http://www.bulgariansartistsabroad.net)
- March 7-8  
Ottawa Conference, "Ukraine at the Crossroads," Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Canada Ukraine Foundation, University of Ottawa, 204-942-4627 or <http://cuf.eventbrite.com/>
- March 8  
New York Presentation by Oksana Kis, "Reclaiming the Political Meaning of International Women's Day: Feminist Activism in Ukraine Nowadays," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or [ma2634@columbia.edu](mailto:ma2634@columbia.edu)
- March 8  
Hamilton, ON Presentation by Brian Dedora, "Kurelek in the Workshop: Craftsman, Framed and Artist," Art Gallery of Hamilton, [www.artgalleryofhamilton.com](http://www.artgalleryofhamilton.com) or 905-527-6610
- March 8  
Ottawa Conference, "Quo Vadis Ukraine?" Canada Ukraine Foundation, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, 613-562-5800, ext. 3692
- March 9  
Toronto Presentation by Oleh Rybachuk, "Ukraine ... What Next?" Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Toronto branch, Ukrainian National Federation hall, [ucctoronto@bellnet.ca](mailto:ucctoronto@bellnet.ca)
- March 9  
Whippany, NJ Varenky dinner, Ukrainian American Youth Association - Whippany branch, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-713-6956 or 973-479-8715 or [pierogi.dinner.at.uaccnj@gmail.com](mailto:pierogi.dinner.at.uaccnj@gmail.com)
- March 10  
San Francisco Taras Shevchenko concert, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council of Northern California, St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 650-281-6927 or [www.stmichaeluocsf.org/shevchenko\\_concert.aspx](http://www.stmichaeluocsf.org/shevchenko_concert.aspx)
- March 10  
New York Taras Shevchenko concert, featuring the Canadian Bandurist Capella, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America - New York branch, St. George Ukrainian Catholic School, 212-228-6840 or [www.banduristy.com](http://www.banduristy.com)
- March 10  
New York Literary evening, "Shevchenko on the Bowery," Bowery Poetry Club, 212-614-0505
- March 10  
New York Taras Shevchenko conference, Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences with Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and hosted by the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- March 10-11  
Newark, NJ Pre-Cana conference, St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church, 973-371-1356
- March 11  
Jenkintown, PA Taras Shevchenko concert, featuring the Canadian Bandurist Capella, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166 or [www.banduristy.com](http://www.banduristy.com)
- March 15  
Winnipeg Presentation by Sophia Kachor, "Pysanka - Talisman, Decorative Art, Identity Marker," Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218 or [ucec@mymts.net](mailto:ucec@mymts.net)
- March 17  
Syracuse, NY St. Patrick's Day "Ukrainian Style," Syracuse Ukrainian National Home, 315-478-9272 or [syracuseunh@hotmail.com](mailto:syracuseunh@hotmail.com)
- March 17, 24  
Chicago Pysanka Workshop, with instruction by Vera Samyucia, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020 or [info@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org](mailto:info@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org)
- March 17, 31  
Winnipeg Pysanka Workshop, Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218
- March 18, 25  
Olyphant, PA "Pagash" Sale - Ukrainian/Slovak Lenten Meal, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, 570-489-2476 or [www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com](http://www.stcyrils.maslar-online.com)

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

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# PREVIEW OF EVENTS

## Thursday, March 8

**NEW YORK:** Please join the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University for a lecture by Dr. Oksana Kis titled "Reclaiming the Political Meaning of International Women's Day: Feminist Activism in Ukraine Nowadays." Dr. Oksana Kis is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Ethnology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU) in Lviv. She is currently working on her research project "Invisible Agency: Representations of Gendered Historical Experiences and Identities in the Ukrainian Women's Personal Narratives" as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Columbia University in New York. The lecture is free and open to the public and will take place at noon in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. For more information contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk at 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu.

## Friday, March 9

**WHIPPANY, N.J.:** The Ukrainian American Youth Association, Whippany branch, will host a varenyky dinner at 4:30-8 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 60 N. Jefferson Road. For only \$10 guests get a complete dinner, which includes borsch, varenyky, bread, dessert and soda or

coffee. Varenyky will be available also to take home. There will be entertainment, a pysanka-decorating demonstration and door prizes. Bring your family and meet with friends. For more information call 973-713-6956 or 973-479-8715, e-mail Pierogi.Dinner.at.UACCNJ@gmail.com, or visit the website www.uaccnj.org.

## Saturday, March 10

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), jointly with the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U. S. (UVAN) and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) invite all to the 32nd annual scholarly conference dedicated to Taras Shevchenko. There will be opening remarks by Dr. Anna Procyk (UVAN), followed by three lectures: Mykhailo Nazarenko (Shevchenko Kyiv National University) titled "Shevchenko's Contemporary Reception: The Question of Literary Context," Oles Fedoruk (Shevchenko Institute of Literature, Kyiv), "The First Edition of 'Haydamaky' by Taras Shevchenko: The Book's History," and George Grabowicz (NTSh and Harvard University), "Shevchenko's 'Haydamaky': The Formation of a National Poet." Closing remarks will be given by Dr. Orest Popovych, president of NTSh. The con-

ference will take place at the NTSh building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 4 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130. Please note the earlier than usual starting time.

## Saturday, March 17

**PALATINE, ILL.:** The Ukrainian American Military Association, Conservative Veterans of America, ACT for America and the Veteran Defenders of America invite the members of the community, veterans and patriots to a national security briefing "Sharia Law for Non-Muslims," based on a book written by Bill Warner of the Center for the Study of Political Islam, www.politicalislam.com. The presentation includes the doctrine of abrogation, Sharia finance and the dualistic nature of Sharia. The meeting takes place at the Palatine Library located at 700 N. Court, Palatine, IL 60067 at 2-4 p.m. There is no charge for this event. For additional information contact Col. Roman G. Golash (ret.), at romangolash@sbcglobal.net or call 847-910-3532.

## Sunday, March 18

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.:** The Washington Group Cultural Fund Sunday Music Series will present an afternoon of music devoted to the clas-

sical work of composer, musician and songwriter Boris Skalsky. Mr. Skalsky will be joined by a number of Washington- and New York-based musicians, including the MIVOS Quartet, guitarist Anthony Pirog, cellist Rubin Khodeli, and pianist – and mother of the composer – Zdanna Krawciw-Skalsky. The concert will take place at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria, Va., at 3 p.m. Suggested donation: \$20; students, free. For further information call 301-229-2615 or e-mail twgucultural-fund@gmail.com.

**WHIPPANY, N.J.:** The Arts, Culture and Educational Committee of Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) invite all to attend the Ukrainian American Beekeepers Society "Spring Swarm Meeting" at 1 p.m. at the UACCNJ, 60 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981. Topics for discussion include spring management; there will be a honey tasting segment, as well as a "hands on" section during which participants will be able to build a hive. A special presentation of the award-winning film "Queen of the Sun" is scheduled for the afternoon. A \$10 donation will purchase a raffle ticket for a completely assembled garden hive. For more information contact petrusiakotlar@gmail.com.



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