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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukrainian World Congress meets in Kyiv, elects Czolij as president for 2008-2013

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Montreal lawyer and longtime Ukrainian diaspora leader Eugene Czolij emerged as the new president of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), which held its ninth congress in Kyiv on August 20-22.

More than two-thirds of the 209 delegates in attendance voted on August 22 in favor of Mr. Czolij to succeed New York City lawyer Askold Lozynskyj, who served for 10 years and concluded his second term.

Mr. Czolij pledged to launch the third phase in the Ukrainian diaspora's development of partnerships among the world's Ukrainian communities, and between Ukraine and the diaspora.

"This is not only about assistance, but strategically planning the activity of the global Ukrainian diaspora," Mr. Czolij told the congress, calling for a strategic plan to address the most pressing issues confronting Ukrainians throughout the world.

The first two phases involved establishing contact with Ukrainian communities throughout the world and coordinating activities, assistance and establishing defense networks, Mr. Czolij said.

Mr. Czolij, 49, is a native of Montreal. He is a partner in Lavery, de Billy LLP, is a former chair of the Ukrainian Youth League (SUM) World Council and a former president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. Mr. Czolij is married and has three children.

Ukrainians from 31 countries – including distant diaspora communities in Kazakhstan and Paraguay – traveled to participate in the second consecutive congress to take place in Kyiv.

Previous congresses convened in New York City and Toronto, but shifting the meeting, which is held every five years, to Kyiv enabled more representatives from communities in the former Soviet republics to participate.

Among the UWC's accomplishments in the last five years was \$20 million in humanitarian aid – \$18 million of which was distributed in Ukraine – that was delivered by the UWC and its member-organizations.

Leaders of Fourth Wave organizations continued to play increasingly active roles within the UWC and their local communities.

Among them was businesswoman Anna Kisil of Toronto, who led her organization Chetverta Khvyliya (Fourth Wave) in raising funds for poor Ukrainian families with many kids. Ms. Kisil owns the Golden Lion restaurant in Etobicoke, among the most popular Ukrainian restaurants in the Toronto area.

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Ukraine celebrates Independence Day

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – For the first time in seven years, the Ukrainian government commemorated its independence from the Soviet Union with a military parade, which included scores of tanks and missile launchers, as well 30 aircraft.

While military brass bands are standard for the annual Independence Day parade, Ukraine's military leaders decided to put its heavy artillery on display for this year's celebration, even weeks before the Russian Federation's invasion of Georgia.

However, the war's outbreak coincided with the parade's military theme, helping set an urgent tone for the festivities, which attendees could access only with government passes and invitations.

"The time dictates some other accents," said Vasyl Vovkun, the minister of culture of Ukraine. "If the events in Georgia hadn't happened ... because it's obvious the parade wasn't planned in three or four days. But obviously there are people who are supposed to perhaps professionally define these accents. If looking from the view of today and the events in the world, I think these events are quite timely, not looking at the discomforts."

Those discomforts included several rehearsals involving military hardware which blocked Kyiv's main boulevard, the Khreschatyk, and many downtown streets throughout the preceding week, including the evenings of August 20 and 21.



Official Website of Ukraine's President

Members of Ukraine's armed forces on parade in Kyiv.

Before the military hardware was introduced to the more than 40,000 Ukrainians lining the Khreschatyk, President Viktor Yushchenko sounded nationalist themes and phrases in his Independence Day remarks, declaring "we, the Ukrainian people, are the master (hospodar) of our dear land."

"No one will ever decide for us what language to speak and what church to pray in,"

Mr. Yushchenko said. "No one will ever tell us what road to follow. No one will ever measure our borders, islands and peninsulas."

Accompanied by the head commander of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Gen. Serhii Kyrychenko, Mr. Yushchenko repeated his government's opposition to Russia's act of

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Ukraine concludes Olympic Games with 27 medals

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukraine smashed experts' predictions by taking home 27 medals from this year's Summer Olympic Games held in Beijing, China. The team, which was forecasted to win only 15 medals, finished in 10th place with 27 medals. (Ukraine finished in 11th place based on gold medals.)

Featherweight boxer Vasyl Lomachenko

(57 kg) won the gold medal after defeating France's Khedafi Djelkhir. Lomachenko led the first round 9-1 and the referee stopped the bout due to safety concerns.

"I was preparing my tactical plan for the fight, thinking that there would be all four rounds," said Lomachenko, "but in the course of the first round I felt that I could box more intensively. I was feeling

quite well physically and mentally."

Lomachenko, the silver medalist at last year's World Championships, won the Olympic gold medal after eliminating a series of tough opponents, including Russia's Albert Selimov, the reigning world and European champion and China's Li Yang, the bronze medalist at the 2007 World Championships.

Inna Osypenko-Radomska, 25, from Ukraine claimed the women's kayak single (K1) 500-meter gold medal in one minute, 50.673 seconds on Saturday, August 23. She defeated seven-time Olympian Josefa Idem of Italy.

"I gave myself a goal and I'm happy to have achieved that. The first thing I will do is call my husband, who is my biggest fan," said Osypenko-Radomska after the medal ceremony. "The race was so close, I didn't know I was winning because I was so close to Italy [Josefa Idem]. I didn't know I had won."

Silver medalists included Iryna Lishchynska, in women's 1,500-meter race, and Andriy Stadnik, in men's freestyle wrestling (66 kg).

Super-heavyweight boxer Vyacheslav Glazkov (over 91 kg), who advanced to

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Jang Enyu/Xinhua

Inna Osypenko-Radomska finishes strong to capture a gold medal for Ukraine in the 500-meter kayak event.

ANALYSIS

Russian forces setting up occupation zones in Georgia

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor
August 25

Russian forces remaining in Georgia have switched from the role of invasion troops to that of occupation troops, seizing chunks of territory in Georgia's interior, as well as key logistical nodes and arteries.

The quick and smooth switch from the invasion to the occupation mode, as well as its ready-to-use diplomatic cover, bespeaks advance planning at the military and political level in Moscow. The land grabs extend southward from South Ossetia and Abkhazia, deep inside Georgia, as military buffer zones.

The occupation zone adjacent to Abkhazia was never discussed as part of the French-brokered "armistice," which pertains to the South Ossetia conflict. This fact demonstrates that Russia is acting in a purely unilateral fashion in Georgia, completely disregarding the French mediation, although using President Nicolas Sarkozy's involvement as a fig leaf on Moscow's unilateral actions.

The new occupation zones and demarcation lines were shown on detailed maps by Col.-General Anatoly Nogovitsyn, deputy chief of staff of Russia's Armed Forces, briefing the Russian and international media in Moscow on August 22 and 23. The Russians refer to the new occupation zones as "vnutrigruzinskie," meaning "in

Georgia's interior." Mr. Sarkozy may now realize that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev deceived him by promising, most recently on August 19, that Russian troops would withdraw from all vnutrigruzinskie territories (Interfax, August 19).

The Russians are rapidly building up a system of military posts for the long term in Georgia's interior. These posts number 37 in all, including 18 in the buffer zone near Ossetia and 19 in the buffer zone near Abkhazia. Labeled as "blokposty," they involve more than checkpoints. Russian troops are already constructing fortifications at some of these points. According to Col.-Gen. Nogovitsyn, "because blokposty on the main roads and in populated localities are going to be permanent, they are being endowed with the necessary living quarters and technical facilities." This plan reflects Russian intentions to occupy these territories on a long-term basis.

Further according to Col.-Gen. Nogovitsyn, Russia reserves "the right to increase the peacekeeping contingent if necessary," as well the extent of buffer zones: "We do not intend to consult with the Georgian leadership about the size of buffer zones." Moreover, some of the troops that were concentrated in South Ossetia and Abkhazia from August 8 onward may stay there "as long as necessary" and "depending on additional security measures" that Russia may take (Interfax,

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NATO ministers deal gingerly with Russia's war on Georgia

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor
August 20

For an organization that has come to rely heavily on words and symbolism, NATO issued a disconcertingly evasive communiqué at its emergency meeting on Georgia (North Atlantic Council Statement, August 19). The North Atlantic Council (NAC) held a "special session" at the level of foreign ministers in Brussels on August 19 – 11 days into Russia's military invasion of Georgia.

One attending official seriously remarked that collecting 26 ministers in August took time and could be seen as a success in itself. But it seems just as likely that the alliance delayed the meeting in hopes that Russian troops would have begun withdrawing from Georgia by August 19, sparing the alliance the trouble to deal with that problem. However, that problem stared NATO's ministerial session in the face.

Reflecting the lowest common denominator among allies, the communiqué vaguely echoed the French-brokered armistice plan (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, August 13, 18, 19) in calling for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgia's interior. The placement of this demand near the end of the communiqué seemed to de-emphasize its significance. The first mention of Russia appeared only in the second paragraph, and it was a positive mention: NATO "welcomes the [armistice] agreement reached

and signed by Georgia and Russia." There is no reference to the Russian military duress under which this flawed armistice was "reached."

The communiqué urged prompt, good-faith implementation of the armistice, politely ignoring its loopholes. Rising, however, above that document, NATO endorsed Georgia's territorial integrity, which the Franco-Russian text of the armistice cast aside.

The alliance announced, "We have resolved that we cannot continue business as usual [with Russia]. We call on Moscow to demonstrate both in word and in deed its continued commitment to the principles upon which we have agreed to base our relationship." The document stopped short of recalling those principles (this would have delved into the alliance's decade-old wishful thinking), and it did not say how it would depart from business as usual with Russia.

According to officials speaking in the run-up to the meeting and on its sidelines, NATO is suspending joint activities with Russia, including military exercises and some political-level meetings, until Russia's troops withdraw from Georgia, whereupon such joint activities would resume. Those post-2002 joint activities and, now, their suspension belong mostly in the realm of political symbolism. NATO had all along displayed far greater interest than Russia did in joint exercises and political meetings. Their suspension would not affect Russian behavior in the present crisis or in those that seem likely to ensue after this one.

Presumably, the alliance is pondering how to handle the participation of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in NATO's

Vlad Socor, senior fellow of the Jamestown Foundation, is currently reporting for Eurasia Daily Monitor from Tbilisi, Georgia.

NEWSBRIEFS

Cheney to visit Ukraine

WASHINGTON – U.S. Vice-President Cheney will visit Ukraine as part of his trip abroad beginning on September 2. According to an official statement released by the Office of the Vice-President, President George W. Bush "asked the Mr. Cheney to travel to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and Italy for discussions with these key partners on issues of mutual interest." The vice-president will meet with President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia, President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine, and President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, as well as senior officials of their respective governments. Mr. Cheney will be in Ukraine on September 4-5. On the agenda, according to President Yushchenko's press service, will be "the state and the prospects of Ukrainian-U.S. relations, ... the settlement of the situation in Georgia, issues of international security and the strengthening of trans-Atlantic ties." In addition to meetings with foreign leaders, Mr. Cheney will attend and address the Ambrosetti forum, titled "Intelligence on the World, Europe and Italy," in Lake Como, Italy. (White House, Interfax Ukraine)

Yanukovich on South Ossetia, Abkhazia

KYIV – The leader of the Party of the Regions of Ukraine (PRU), Viktor Yanukovich, said on August 26 that he supports the idea of Ukraine's recognition of South Ossetia's and Abkhazia's independence from Georgia. A PRU press release quoted him as saying: "I think that Ukraine should accept the will of South Ossetian and Abkhazian people, and recognize their independence. ... Russia's recognition of the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia is a logical continuation of the process triggered by the Western states that recognized the independence of Kosovo." Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on Russia to not recognize the independence of breakaway South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The Council of Federation and

the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of Russia on August 25 approved an appeal to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on the recognition of the independence of breakaway South Ossetia and Abkhazia. (Ukrainian News online)

World congress elects leaders

KYIV – The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), meeting in Kyiv on August 20-22, elected its new leadership team for the next five years. Eugene Czolij of Canada was elected president, and Stefan Romaniw of Australia was elected general secretary. Over 200 delegates from 31 countries accepted reports for the last five years of activity under the leadership of outgoing President Askold Lozynskyj, who served two terms. The new leadership team includes: First Vice-President Jaroslava Chortiana (Hungary), Second Vice-President and Chair of the International Women's Federation Maria Shkambara (Canada), Finance Director Tamara Denysenko (U.S.) and Treasurer Bohdan Pahuta (Canada). Congress committees discussed a wide range of issues related to Ukraine and the diaspora. Russian aggression in Georgia was also discussed and condemned. A major focus was the 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 and a public meeting was held at the Holodomor Memorial on St. Michael's Square. A resounding message of the congress was that the UWC together with Ukraine will pursue international recognition of the Holodomor as an act of genocide for as long as the process takes and will not be bound only by commemorative events. (Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations)

National Deputy Mykhailo Syrota dies

KYIV – National Deputy Mykhailo Syrota, who came to be known as the father of Ukraine's Constitution, died on August 25 as a result of an automobile accident. News of Mr. Syrota's death was released by the Internal Affairs Ministry, which said the car driven by the national deputy collided head-on with another car.

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NEWS ANALYSIS: Could Crimea be next flashpoint for conflict with Russia?

by Askold Krushelnycky

RFE/RL

August 24

SEVASTOPOL, Crimea – Ukrainian fighter jets swooped low over the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, and tanks and armored personnel carriers rumbled along the city's main Khreschatyk Boulevard on August 24 as part of the country's Independence Day celebrations.

But amidst anxiety that Ukraine could be the next country to feel the might of a resurgent Russia, many in the crowds marking their country's 17th year as a sovereign state likely wondered if the jets and tanks might soon be headed into a real conflict.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has been strident in his support of Georgia since the Russian incursion there. He has traveled to the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, to demonstrate that support for his close friend, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili. After Russian Black Sea Fleet vessels sailed from their home port of Sevastopol on Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula to attack the Georgian harbor at Poti and land troops there, Mr. Yushchenko ordered tighter restrictions on Russian ship movements in Ukrainian territorial waters.

That, coupled with a Ukrainian offer to discuss the integration of its early-warning missile systems with the West, further enraged Moscow. Many Ukrainian and foreign politicians, diplomats and analysts believe Crimea could provide the flashpoint for a future conflict. An opinion poll commissioned by the respected Ukrainian newspaper Dzerkalo Tyzhnia this weekend showed that 47 percent of Ukrainians believe a conflict between their country and Russia is possible.

Source of tension

The troubled peninsula is the only area of Ukraine where the ethnic-Russian population outnumbers Ukrainians and has long been a source of tension between the two. For centuries it was the homeland of a Muslim people called the Crimean Tatars, until the peninsula was conquered by the forces of Russian Empress Catherine the Great in the late 18th century.

It was handed to Soviet Ukraine by then-Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in 1954 when the disintegration of the USSR seemed impossible. But when that happened in 1991, Crimea became part of an independent Ukraine.

However, most ethnic Russians in Crimea and many prominent Russian politicians have never reconciled themselves to the notion of an independent Ukraine, let alone a Ukrainian Crimea. Russian nationalists in Crimea and Moscow have frequently called for Moscow to annex the peninsula.

Russia's Black Sea Fleet headquarters in Sevastopol is leased from Ukraine until 2017. But Western-leaning Ukraine, which wants to join NATO and the European Union, says it will not renew the lease, while Moscow has made it clear it is determined to stay.

Local Crimean Russian politician Gennady Basov says, "The Black Sea Fleet will be in Sevastopol after 2017, and Sevastopol will not allow any provocation from the Ukrainian government. This will serve the interests of Ukraine and Russia."

The presence of the Russian fleet reinforces the ethnic-Russian population's feeling that Crimea is part of Russia. Thousands of Russian sailors and soldiers stroll around the city, and the white, blue and red shoulder flashes on their uniforms mirror the colors of the huge Russian flags that fly above naval headquarters and other buildings. Crimean flags, which differ only slightly from the standard Russian

one, flutter on the streets not only of Sevastopol but most other Crimean towns.

Loyal to Moscow

Around 1 million ethnic Russians live in Crimea, with some 600,000 Ukrainians and around 300,000 Crimean Tatars. That overwhelming majority is reflected in the election of local authorities, which in Sevastopol, as in much of the rest of the peninsula, are openly more loyal to Moscow than to Kyiv. In Sevastopol it is difficult to find a Ukrainian newspaper or book, and most people get their news – and world view – from Russian TV and radio.

This weekend saw the return of some of the ships that took part in the invasion of Georgia. The ships were welcomed back with gun salutes and fireworks. Several hundred Russians greeted the ships, and smaller groups with Ukrainian flags called out that the ships were aggressors. On August 22, Russians welcoming the cruiser Mirage traded insults with the Ukrainian group, as police separated the two sides.

Many of the Russians belonged to a political party called the Russian Bloc, whose leader in Crimea, Vladimir Tyunin, said: "We categorically say that Crimea should – and I have no doubt will be – a part of Russia. On this Russian territory the Ukrainian government is committing ethnocide by trying to force people to speak in Ukrainian, introducing Ukrainian schools, showing only films and TV programs dubbed in Ukrainian, and forcing Russians to assimilate their culture."

While Mr. Tyunin said that the Russian annexation of Crimea will be peaceful and asked, "Who is going to fight?" some of his supporters were more outspoken. One young woman proclaimed: "This is Russia. We want nothing to do with Ukraine. The Ukrainians oppress our people. They are totalitarians and fascists who take orders from America. There could be fighting, but I'm not worried if that's the way it has to be."

Her remarks were greeted with approval by other supporters, who vented a ferocious litany of charges and threats against Ukraine. A repeated complaint is that the Russian language is endangered and Ukrainian is being forced upon children, despite the fact that Ukrainians are angry that only some four of Crimea's 600 schools teach in Ukrainian.

"Act of aggression"

One of those in the Ukrainian demonstration, numbering less than 100, was Oleh Fomushkin, a former colonel in the Soviet Army and now a Ukrainian community activist.

"Moscow and its intelligence services have been active here for 17 years, while the Ukrainian authorities slept or were too timid to act," he says. "For me, the continued presence of the Russian fleet is an act of aggression. They have demonstrated that aggression in Georgia, and they will not hesitate to use violence here to get possession of Crimea."

Crimea has special significance in Russian hearts as the place where the tsarist empire fought against Britain in the Crimean War of 1854 and where the Red Army fought one of its bloodiest battles against Hitler's invading armies. Russians speak proudly about the heroic Russian defense of Sevastopol against British and French forces, which were eventually victorious. Hundreds daily visit a panoramic exposition of the epic siege in a magnificent building near the port.

During the Soviet era, Crimea grew as a naval base. The peninsula, with its magnificent scenery of mountains, sweeping bays, pretty beaches and Mediterranean climate, also became a favored place of retirement for top Communist politicians,

"Ukraine has seemed very vulnerable. They need to get membership in an organization that will give them some strong international security guarantees. The United Nations and the Council of Europe just don't cut it. Ukraine needs to get into the European Union and NATO, but the prospect of that still looks distant."

– Western diplomat in Kyiv who wished to remain anonymous.

officials and high ranking-military. That has created a weird and vitriolic blend of Russian nationalism and Soviet nostalgia among much of the population. A statue of Catherine the Great was recently erected on one of the main thoroughfares still called Lenin Street. Here the war against "fascism" has never ended, with NATO and a U.S.-led West regarded as the enemy.

Crimea has been a popular vacation destination for more than a century. Since 1991, the holiday business has revived strongly with an explosion of hotels, restaurants and other leisure-linked industries. Much of this is owned by Russian businesspeople and provides another purely mercenary motive for "annexation" disguised in passionate nationalist rhetoric.

"Effectively occupied"

New Ukrainian regulations demand that Russia asks for permission up to 10 days before its vessels enter or leave Sevastopol. A Western military source said: "Ukraine should not make threats that it cannot keep. Its navy is tiny and could not stop the Russians. There are thousands of Russian troops already stationed in Sevastopol and effectively

Crimea is already occupied."

The source said that some Russian vessels were hit by Georgian shore batteries during the conflict and at least eight Russian sailors were killed. He said some of the ships needed repairs before they could return to Sevastopol. Russian naval sources said the ships that had not returned were still performing duties off Georgia's Black Sea coast.

A Western intelligence source says, "the Russians are just looking for an excuse to stir up the locals in Crimea – and restrictions on their Sevastopol operations may just be the reason."

Reports that thousands of Russian passports have already been distributed on the peninsula have been greeted with alarm that a "South Ossetian scenario" is in the offing in Crimea. Russia in recent years amended its Constitution to give itself the right to militarily intervene on behalf of ethnic Russians wherever they might be in the former Soviet empire. Although the people of Georgia's South Ossetia province are not ethnic Russians, Moscow handed out Russian passports to them and justified the invasion of Georgia by saying

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IN THE PRESS

Russia's aggression in Georgia

"Russia's Aggression Is a Challenge to World Order," by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.), **The Wall Street Journal, August 26:**

"In the wake of Russia's invasion of Georgia, the United States and its trans-Atlantic allies have rightly focused on two urgent and immediate tasks: getting Russian soldiers out, and humanitarian aid in.

"But having just returned from Georgia, Ukraine and Poland, where we met with leaders of these countries, we believe it is imperative for the West to look beyond the day-to-day management of this crisis. ...

"Russia's aggression is not just a threat to a tiny democracy on the edge of Europe. It is a challenge to the political order and values at the heart of the continent. ...

"What is happening in Georgia today, therefore, is not simply a territorial dispute. It is a struggle about whether a new dividing line is drawn across Europe: between nations that are free to determine their own destinies, and nations that are consigned to the Kremlin's autocratic orbit.

"That is the reason countries like Poland, Ukraine and the Baltic states are watching what happens in the Caucasus so closely. We heard that last week in Warsaw, Kiev [sic] and Tbilisi. There is no doubt in the minds of leaders in

Ukraine and Poland – if Moscow succeeds in Georgia, they may be next.

"There is disturbing evidence Russia is already laying the groundwork to apply the same arguments used to justify its intervention in Georgia to other parts of its near abroad – most ominously in Crimea. This strategically important peninsula is part of Ukraine, but with a large ethnic Russian population and the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet at Sevastopol.

"The first priority of America and Europe must be to prevent the Kremlin from achieving its strategic objectives in Georgia. ...

"Our response to the invasion of Georgia must include regional actions to reassure Russia's rattled neighbors and strengthen trans-Atlantic solidarity. This means reinvigorating NATO as a military alliance, not just a political one.

"Contingency planning for the defense of all member-states against conventional and unconventional attack, including cyber warfare, needs to be revived. The credibility of Article 5 of the NATO Charter – that an attack against one really can and will be treated as an attack against all – needs to be bolstered.

"The U.S. must also reaffirm its commitment to allies that have been the targets of Russian bullying because of their willingness to work with Washington. ..."

Kyiv earns a space on the first global edition of Monopoly

KYIV – Kyiv has been elected to occupy a space on the first international edition of the Monopoly game board. The votes of Monopoly fans have landed the “City of Chestnuts” on a magenta space; Kyiv will share this color grouping with Istanbul and Toronto on the “Monopoly Here & Now: The World Edition” game board.

The results of the voting, in which over 5.6 million votes were cast worldwide, were announced on August 20.

Monopoly enthusiasts from around the world cast their votes during a six-week online voting period. Seventy cities, running the alphabetical gamut from Amsterdam to Zurich, battled to win one of 22 property spaces on the global Monopoly game board. Montreal received the most votes and secured the coveted dark blue space.

From week to week, the city rankings shifted as participants voted daily for their favorite locations. With local and international support, Kyiv earned a place as one of 22 properties on the game board.

“With such a diverse range of cities listed on the ballot, we could never have anticipated how the final game board would have turned out,” said Helen Martin, global brand leader for Monopoly. “We are thrilled that Kyiv will be represented in this first-ever global edition of the game and congratulate all who voted for this great city.”

The 20 cities with the most write-in votes faced off in a bonus vote and the two with the most votes, Taipei (Taiwan) and Gdynia (Poland), earned spaces on the game board.

The 22 cities that earned spots on the “Monopoly Here & Now: The World Edition” are as follows, listed in order

of property groupings with the highest rent property listed first:

- dark blue: Montreal, Riga;
- green: Cape Town, Belgrade, Paris;
- yellow: Jerusalem, Hong Kong, Beijing;
- red: London, New York, Sydney;
- orange: Vancouver, Shanghai, Rome;
- magenta: Toronto, Kyiv, Istanbul;
- light blue: Athens, Barcelona, Tokyo; and
- brown: Taipei, Gdynia.

“During the online vote there was an outpouring of support for hometowns, favorite travel destinations and ancestral cities,” said Ms. Martin. “When the game goes on sale this month, we hope that these voters will enjoy playing a game that they had a hand in creating and have fun collecting real estate from around the globe.”

The World edition will also feature updated game movers, houses and hotels, Community Chest and Chance cards, and utility spaces, which reflect international icons and scenarios. Bank cards will replace cash as players debit and credit their way around the board using an “electronic banking unit” and deal button which speeds up play by limiting the amount of time available to make that all important deal – anything from 5 to 45 seconds.

The world edition of Monopoly is available as of August 26.

Since 1935, more than 250 million copies of the Monopoly board game have been sold in 103 countries and 37 languages. The Ukrainian edition of Monopoly features Independence Square as the most valuable property space.



An e-mailed leaflet that encouraged votes for Kyiv's inclusion on the new world edition of Monopoly.

Fun Facts about Monopoly Here & Now: World Edition

- Montreal and Riga share more than the dark blue property group – they share a passion for ice hockey, which is the No. 1 sport in both cities for residents to play and watch. In fact, a student at McGill University in Montreal was the first to write down rules for ice hockey in 1875. Today, Montreal is home to the Montreal Canadiens hockey team, and Riga is home to the Dinamo Riga ice hockey club. Vaira Vike Freiberga, the sixth president of Latvia and its first female president, received her Ph.D. at McGill University in Montreal. Her term ended in 2007.
- Ten of the cities on the game board have hosted Olympic Games, including top city Montreal (1976). The light blue group is the “sportiest” place on the game board as all three cities in the property group have hosted the modern summer games: Athens (2004), Barcelona (1992) and Tokyo (1964).
- Two countries have more than one city on the game board: Canada and China. The Canadian cities on the board are Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. China is represented on the board by Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.
- There is only one “language” color group on the game board – the red property group. English is the primary language in all three cities: London, New York and Sydney.
- Just call them twins! The magenta property group is the home of twin (or sister) cities. Toronto is the sister city of Kyiv and Istanbul, the city's neighbors on the new game board.
- The most populous city on the game board is Shanghai with 18.4 million people living in city limits. Gdynia is the smallest

- city with a population of just 252,443.
- Summers are scorching in many of the cities on the game board, but Hong Kong has the highest summer temperature with an average high of 92 degrees in July. Montreal is the coldest place to be in winter as the city has the lowest average temperature with an average low of 4 degrees in January.
- In the traditional Monopoly game, Illinois Avenue is the most landed on property space. London holds that prized location on the new world game board.
- The sky is the limit as tall buildings dot the skyline in many of the cities featured on the game board. Taipei boasts the tallest completed skyscraper, Taipei 101, at 449 meters, and Toronto is the home of the world's tallest tower at 553 meters. Hong Kong is the home to the most skyscrapers – 7,681 of them.
- During the voting period, Canadians were the most enthusiastic country with the majority of residents voting for all three nominated Canadian cities.
- If you were to visit all three cities of one of the color property groups in an around the world adventure, the visit to the cities in the orange group (Shanghai, Vancouver, Rome) would rack up more than 25,100 air miles (40,390 kilometers). By contrast, the trip between cities of the green property group (Cape Town, Belgrade, Paris) would earn travelers the fewest points, as the trip is only 7,850 miles (12,633 kilometers).
- Three property spaces will receive a boost in visitors during game play as players are directed to visit Montreal, London and Istanbul through the Community Chest and Chance cards.

Crimean Communists disrupt TV broadcast on NATO

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Crimean Communists disrupted an August 26 live television broadcast in which a NATO representative had planned to discuss the military alliance with local military and civic leaders.

Led by local parliamentary deputies, the Communists burst into the Symferopol state television studio and forced its directors to cancel a live evening broadcast before it started, according to UNIAN, Ukraine's leading news wire.

Others blocked the television studio's doors, shoving aside journalists and experts attempting to enter and even twisting their hands, UNIAN reported.

Among the experts scheduled during the 90-minute broadcast was Michel Duray, director of the NATO Information and Documentation

Center in Kyiv, UNIAN reported.

Kateryna Hromova, host of the state-sponsored “Green Corridor” program on Euro-integration, called the attack “a display of incivility and an attempt to shut the mouths of journalists and political opponents,” adding that she hoped local law enforcement authorities would respond appropriately.

Local police said they would pass the evidence to the prosecutor's office on August 27, indicating charges of “interfering with the lawful, professional activity of journalists.”

However, the prosecutor's office has neglected to file any criminal charges against violent Communist activities in the past.

Communists attacked participants of a “Ukraine-NATO: Yes!” event in June without subsequent prosecution, UNIAN reported. In March, they disrupted the presentation of a book about the late Vasyl Kuk, a Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) general.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Obama on Czechoslovakia, 1968

Below are excerpts of the August 20 statement by Sen. Barack Obama on the 40th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Forty years ago today, Soviet tanks invaded Czechoslovakia to crush a brief experiment in liberty that came to be known as the Prague Spring. ...

The United States did not do much to help Czechoslovakia when the Soviet tanks rolled in back in 1968, but we have done much since then to help build a Europe where no nation need fear what the Czechs and Slovaks endured 40 years ago. ...

Now, as we have watched Russian tanks and troops invade and occupy Georgia, we have been reminded of all the painful history that Americans and Europeans have been working so hard to overcome. Many are now wondering if the old patterns of aggression and subjugation that defined Europe for so much of the 20th century have returned here in the 21st. Let me be clear: those dark days must not return. Georgia and all the nations of Europe must have the right to live freely and securely within their borders – a right that was so tragically denied

the Czechs and Slovaks in 1968.

...Russia is not threatened by independent democratic countries on its borders, and the Russian people want a secure, free and prosperous future just like we do.

At the same time, we must be clear in standing up for our values. While brave people inside Russia struggle for human rights and the rule of law, Russia is moving away from democracy. It still appears to define its greatness in opposition to others.

It still seems to think that its stability and strength depend on keeping its neighbors unstable and weak, and that it is better to be feared than to be respected. Such thinking has no place in our young century.

America has an enduring interest in a peaceful, democratic, undivided Europe. We are not going back to a Europe of spheres of influence, in which small countries must bend to the will of a powerful neighbor. There must be no more captive nations. Every nation in Europe should be able to choose its leaders, its alliances, and its destiny. That goes for nations like the Czech Republic, which is in the center of Europe, and nations like Ukraine and Georgia which happen to be in its eastern half. ...

Ukrainian World...

(Continued from page 1)

Myroslava Rozdolska of Stamford, Conn., launched a similar organization, Nova Ukrayinska Khvyliya USA (New Fourth Wave), because "this new wave has its own needs and tasks," she told the congress.

She cited her organization's participation in the "Building a Church of Love" campaign, which raised funds to support the construction of the Resurrection of Christ Patriarchal Cathedral in Kyiv. Nova Ukrayinska Khvyliya raised \$100,000 last year for the cathedral's construction.

As director of the cathedral information-financial division of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ms. Rozdolska reported the Church collected \$600,000 for the construction effort in the U.S. during the first half this year; her organization also played a role.

Along with Ms. Kisil and Chetverta Khvyliya, Ms. Rozdolska's organization will host a U.S.-Canada academic conference, "Ukrainian Diaspora: The Source of Consolidating a Positive Image of Ukraine in the World," on September 20-21 in Stamford.

"We need to understand the face of the diaspora is changing," she said. "In this new informational-cultural medium, the face is changing because many new people have arrived, and the new arrivals also form the diaspora."

The website for Nova Ukrayinska Khvyliya is: <http://www.newwave4.org>.

Another American Fourth Wave organization that emerged recently is Pomarancheva Khvyliya (Orange Wave) in Chicago led by Taras Vasylyk, who called his group patriotic, political and radical.

Since the Orange Revolution, Pomarancheva Khvyliya has conducted political campaigns and protests against those who defame Ukraine and Ukrainians, such as Party of the Regions of Ukraine politician Dmytro Tabachnyk, as well as certain Israeli journalists. Mr. Vasylyk's group also organized an annual celebration of Heroes Day on June 3 to commemorate the sacrifice of Ukrainian patriots.

The organization's website is: <http://www.orangewave.us>.

Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC) President Ihor Gawdiak announced that his organization gave \$20,000 to Kyiv-based publisher Krytyka to produce the first volume of a Holodomor chronology.

The group also sent letters to influential U.S. congressmen and U.S. presidential candidates to support Ukraine's bid to gain a Membership Action Plan from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Recently, the UACC joined the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, the Ukrainian Federation of America and the U.S.-Ukraine

Business Council in establishing a fund to help western Ukraine's flood victims. The Ukraine Disaster Assistance Fund will aid other victims of other natural disasters as well.

Among the top priorities of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) has been establishing a Holodomor monument in Washington, said Michael Sawkiw Jr., its president.

The UCCA also prepared a high school curriculum on the Holodomor and led a campaign to strip the Pulitzer Prize from Walter Duranty, The New York Times reporter who published false reports denying the Holodomor.

Perhaps the UCCA's biggest accomplishment in the last five years was its large delegations of election observers dispatched to ensure fairness in the volatile Ukrainian elections. More than 2,400 volunteers monitored the historic 2004 presidential election.

The UCCA is trying to launch branches in cities where new Ukrainian communities have emerged this decade, including Atlanta, Sacramento and Seattle.

Mr. Sawkiw's second term as UCCA president will conclude this year, and the election of a new president is scheduled for the 10th Congress of Ukrainians in America on October 17-19 in Cleveland.

However it's unclear whether the UCCA will select another president because no candidates have emerged, Mr. Lozynskyj said. The organization's board of directors might attempt to change the UCCA by-laws to allow Mr. Sawkiw to serve a third term, Mr. Lozynskyj said.

Mr. Sawkiw didn't confirm or deny to The Weekly whether he wants to serve a third term.

Demonstrating the respect the Ukrainian World Congress has gained from the Ukrainian government, both President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko attended the August 20 opening ceremony and addressed the delegates.

In his trademark style, Mr. Yushchenko delivered a lengthy and meandering speech that touched upon the Georgian war, Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration prospects, the accomplishments of his presidency and progress achieved in Ukrainian culture and consciousness, including commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor and 300th anniversary of the Battle of Baturyn.

The Ukrainian government will sign its first pact strengthening relations with the European Union at the September 9 EU-Ukraine Summit in Evian, France, Mr. Yushchenko said. The pact will offer Ukraine new prospects, and the summit is expected to boost the current negotiations between Ukraine and the EU on a new, enhanced free-trade agreement.

(Continued on page 18)



Eugene Czolij, newly elected president of the Ukrainian World Congress.



THE UNA FORUM



In memoriam LEV BODNAR July 11, 1921 – August 24, 2008

The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association regrets to announce to the members of the General Assembly, to members of Branch 131 and to the UNA membership at large that Lev Bodnar, elected in 1955 as secretary of UNA Branch 131, passed away on Sunday, August 24.

The Executive Committee and the entire UNA membership wish to express their deepest sympathy to his wife, Bohdanna; son, Bohdan, with his wife Lilia; son, Myron, with his wife, Adriana; and daughter, Ulana; as well as his five grandchildren and the entire Bodnar family.

Funeral services were held on Friday, August 29, at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church. Mr. Bodnar was laid to rest at St. Nicholas Cemetery, Chicago.

Mr. Bodnar attended many UNA conventions as a delegate and was extremely active on various committees and in diverse projects of the UNA. His loyalty, dedication, support and 54 years of service to the Ukrainian National Association will not be forgotten.

Vichna Yomu Pamiat!

"What's past is prologue." — William Shakespeare (carved on the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.)

1933 2008

Take a look at the past:

- Read The Weekly's special section about the Great Famine, or Holodomor, of 1932-1933.
- Peruse our special issues section, including The Weekly's inaugural issue of October 6, 1933.
- Enjoy our "Year in Review" issues published annually since 1976.
- Enter your search terms and find information previously accessible only in hard copy.

Log on to
www.ukrweekly.com

Our unique website also contains the full texts of all issues published between 1996 and 2007. We are working on making every single issue of our newspaper published since 1933 available online.

Also available — for a limited time only — are the full texts of all issues published in the current year. Soon to come: paid subscriptions to the online version of each week's edition of The Ukrainian Weekly. Take advantage of this opportunity to experience what an online subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly offers.

THE UNA: 114 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO OUR COMMUNITY

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine's Olympic achievements

According to all accounts, Team Ukraine's performance at the Summer Olympics in Beijing, China, greatly exceeded all expectations. Taking home a total of 27 medals – seven gold, five silver and 15 bronze – Ukraine's Olympians easily won more than the predicted 15 medals and placed 10th in the overall medals count.

They even surpassed the total of 23 medals – nine gold, five silver, nine bronze – earned at the 2004 Summer Games in Athens, Greece. And, for the record, at other Summer Olympics Ukraine also earned 23 medals: Sydney, Australia (2000), three gold, 10 silver, 10 bronze; and Atlanta, Ga. (1996), nine gold, two silver, 12 bronze. (In 1992, at its first Olympics since independence, Ukraine competed as part of the "Unified Team." It was at the 2004 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, that Ukraine first fielded an independent team.)

Ukraine's achievements at these XXIX Summer Olympics were extraordinary, given that numerous observers had cautioned that its sports program had not been keeping pace due to the country's difficult circumstances. And yet, there they were: Ukraine's Olympians competed true to the Games' motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius" (Faster, Higher, Stronger), accomplishing the unexpected despite all odds.

We think back, as we write these words, to Ukraine's triumphant Summer Olympic debut. "Ukrainians' entry into the family of nations may finally have been completed at precisely 11:30 p.m. on July 19, 1996, when the first Summer Olympics squad of independent Ukraine entered Olympic Stadium in Atlanta during the opening ceremonies of the Centennial Games," wrote our correspondent on the scene, Roman Woronowycz. "Overhead, the Ukrainian flag gently flapped in the humid Atlanta night, perched atop the stadium along with the colors of 196 other nations competing in the XXVI Summer Olympiad." What a proud moment!

Our editorial noted that Team Ukraine's achievement at its first Summer Games were "a fitting gift for the people of this young nation on the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's declaration of independence."

Now, 12 years later in Beijing, Ukraine's stars were archer Viktor Ruban, heptathlete Nataliia Dobrynska, boxer Vasyl Lomachenko, kayaker Inna Osypenko-Radomska, shooters Artur Avvazian and Oleksander Petriv, and the saber fencing team of Olena Khomrova, Halyna Pundyk, Olha Kharlan and Olha Zhovniir – gold medalists all. As noted by President Viktor Yushchenko in his Independence Day speech, "Our first gold in Beijing was won... by the youngest girl on our young fencing team. Olha Kharlan is 17. In her palm were the freedom, strength and passion of our 17-year old Ukraine."

Ukraine's performance in China was marred, unfortunately, by Lyudmila Blonska, seen as the country's best medal hope in track and field, who appeared to have won the silver in the heptathlon. After testing positive for a steroid, however, she was disqualified and kicked out of the Games by the International Olympic Committee. Also disqualified for doping was weightlifter Ihor Razoronov.

Nonetheless, the other members of Team Ukraine deserve our congratulations and our respect – let's give these Olympic athletes a huge round of applause and greet them with "Slava Ukraini!"

Sept.
5
2006

Turning the pages back...

Two years ago, on September 5, 2006, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich stated at the reconvening of the Parliament after its summer recess that the elimination of corruption was his top priority.

"We will create a transparent investment climate in the state," Mr. Yanukovich said. "We will build a realistic and

transparent tax policy, create a realistic civil code and create an independent judicial authority."

While some questioned his promises, Mr. Yanukovich assured skeptics that his plan would work because of the broad coalition called the National Unity Coalition, including the Party of the Regions of Ukraine, the Socialist Party of Ukraine and the Communist Party of Ukraine, that was formed during the summer recess, which he said would eliminate the infighting that has plagued previous governments.

"We simply need to work a lot, driven by national interests," he said. "When Bismarck united German lands, he acted exclusively in the interest of Germany and not, say, Austria."

The opposition, led by Yulia Tymoshenko, should work with the government in playing the role of diligent inspector and constructive critic, Mr. Yanukovich said.

Ms. Tymoshenko rejected any offers of cooperation and re-asserted her position as firmly in the opposition to the broad coalition government.

Our Ukraine bloc leaders said they would join the National Unity Coalition, but a formal document was yet to be drafted. The new government was based on the legally non-binding Universal of National Unity signed on August 3, 2006.

Uniting with the Communists drew the ire of Our Ukraine bloc member groups, including the Christian-Democratic Union Party and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, who indicated they would not join such a coalition.

Defectors from Our Ukraine (OU) and the Socialist Party of Ukraine (SPU), who were in conflict with the Communists, would likely join the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) in the opposition. Andriy Shkil of the YTB estimated that between 30 and 35 of OU's 80 deputies would join the opposition. Yosyp Vinskyi of the SPU echoed that members of his party would also abstain from the coalition.

Source: "Top priority is eliminating corruption, says new PM," by Zenon Zawada, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 10, 2006.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gorby not worthy of Liberty Medal

Dear Editor:

On September 18 the National Constitution Center and the Liberty Medal Award Committee will bestow this prestigious recognition on Mikhail S. Gorbachev "for his role in ending the Cold War, opening his society to freedom, and for allowing democratic peaceful revolutions throughout Eastern Europe."

In receiving the award, Mr. Gorbachev will join a list of world leaders among whom are Presidents George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Lech Walesa and Viktor Yushchenko.

By his recent statements on the Russia-Georgia conflict made in an interview on "Larry King Live," Mr. Gorbachev has disqualified himself from being the 2008 recipient of the Liberty Medal Award.

Mr. Gorbachev was the "reluctant democrat" who happened to be at the helm of the world's largest prison of nations, known as the Soviet Union, when it imploded.

The events that rapidly unfolded in 1991 were beyond the power of Mr. Gorbachev to control. The slit in the Iron Curtain brought forth a long-awaited burst of fresh air, filled with hope and yearning for freedom. It was not possible to repair the curtain. There was no turning back.

Vladimir Putin's vision of the 21st century geopolitics does not include principles of democracy. This was made abundantly clear when the Russian regular army invaded the sovereign territory of a democratic country under the pretext of protecting Russian citizens. In reality the rationale for this aggression is part of a long-conceived plan to control the flow of oil.

In supporting Mr. Putin's goal of re-establishing control in the region, Mr. Gorbachev is negating the very reasons for which the Liberty Medal Committee has nominated him for the award.

Clearly, rewarding Mr. Gorbachev at this time does not "serve as a lasting legacy to the constitution."

Vera M. Andryczyk
West Norrton, Pa.

Headline on YES was misleading

Dear Editor:

The headline to an article in your July 27 issue, "Yalta European Strategy leaders play crucial role in Ukraine's Euro-Integration," is misleading, as Viktor Pinchuk, who finances the Yalta European Strategy (YES), is supportive of only Ukraine's membership only in the European Union.

As he has written and stated on many occasions, including in an op-ed in *The International Herald Tribune* two years ago, Mr. Pinchuk does not support NATO membership for Ukraine.

Similarly, the editor of the YES newsletter is Alexander Rahr, who is widely known for his opposition to NATO enlargement and strong pro-Russian positions. His position on the Georgian conflict is typically pro-Russian and anti-American.

All former Communist states went through NATO to join the EU. Why should Ukraine be any different? After all, Ukraine is not only not Russia (as Leonid Kuchma wrote), but it is not Ireland, Austria, Finland or Sweden –

four countries that are members of the EU but not of NATO.

Taras Kuzio
Toronto

The letter-writer is editor of Ukraine Analyst and adjunct professor at the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa.

A thank-you from the UNWLA

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the UNWLA national board and its membership, I would like to sincerely thank and commend the editor of *The Ukrainian Weekly* for the very supportive editorial published in *The Weekly's* June 29 issue.

It truly captured the essence of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, highlighting its membership's 83 years of dedication to our organization's causes, which has always included extending an emotional and financial helping hand to our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

This past Memorial Day weekend, the UNWLA held its 28th convention in the Detroit area; it was a successful and exciting event. Held every three years, this forum offers us the opportunity to reflect on our past, plan for the future and gather the inspiration from each other to continue our cultural and charitable work.

As the newly elected president of the UNWLA, I and the new executive board are focusing on future goals and membership growth. Today, our most important goal must be to evoke and inspire women of the Ukrainian community to embrace that which binds us together – our common ties to our rich heritage and background.

We invite and welcome with open arms all women of the Ukrainian American community to come join us as we continue to build on our history while moving into the future.

Marianna Zajac
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Bush, Georgia, NATO and Ukraine

Dear Editor:

President George W. Bush's support and advocacy of NATO membership for Ukraine and Georgia over the last year was understandable, if it was seen as consistent with the national interest of the U.S.A. It seems that failure to extend a Membership Action Plan (MAP) to these two countries at the NATO summit in Bucharest last April would not in itself compel Washington to change its view.

If that is so, then it would be plausible for the U.S. to come with military assistance to either of these two countries, with or without NATO backing, if it is invaded by another foreign power. What makes this argument shaky is that President Bush apparently forgot to make this point to Russia's president at their meeting in Sochi a day after Bucharest.

Such an omission lends substance to the possibility that Mr. Bush's advocacy of NATO membership for Ukraine and Georgia was mainly a show of his typical bravado – all hat and no cattle, as they

(Continued on page 22)

View from the

Trembita Lounge

by Taras Szmagala Jr.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



A choice of principle

"When are you going to admit it, Taras?" my friend Yuri asked as he pulled up a barstool next to mine, "You're voting for Obama." Typical Yurko – as a fellow lawyer and partisan Democrat, he never passed up an opportunity to bait me. And it worked every time. "Like heck I'm voting for Obama! What on Earth would make you think I am voting for Obama?" I asked, half defensively, and half inquisitively.

"Well," Yuri responded, "let's look at your positions on the issues, shall we?" He was wearing his know-it-all smirk as he began his litany: "You're pro-immigration, right? And anti-death penalty? Oh, and you think the Bush administration bungled the war in Iraq. Am I right?"

"Yes," I admitted.

"Didn't you also say that Obama's speech on race – the one he gave after the Jeremiah Wright episode – was one of the best you've ever heard?"

"Indeed."

"And just last week, you told me you thought Obama was one of the most intelligent and substantive candidates who has run in your lifetime... or didn't I hear you correctly?" Yurko was looking for checkmate.

"Yes, that's also true," I responded, "but I'm still voting for McCain."

My friend looked away in disgust. "Now I know you're a reactionary partisan," he said, with a nasty air about him, "since you're just being illogical. You dislike the current Republican president, and respect the Democratic candidate, yet you say you're going to vote for McCain. It simply doesn't make sense."

"It has nothing to do with partisanship, and everything to do with principle," I responded. "I don't dislike Barack – I agree with John McCain on more issues, like free trade and judicial restraint. I just agree with what John McCain stands for."

"Huh?" Yuri mockingly responded, "what, exactly, does John 'flipflop' McCain stand for? He's changed his mind so many times, it's hard to keep track!"

"You're right that McCain has changed his position on some issues during his decades-long service in the Senate," I stammered, "just as Obama has changed his mind a few times in his two years in the Senate." That little zinger was short-lived:

"Taras," Yurko sighed, "you're still being illogical. You're basing your vote on partisanship, not principle."

A troubling accusation, that. I don't like being illogical, and I had to admit that Yuri's points were all well-taken. While I agree with Sen. McCain on many issues, I still found myself wondering whether my intent to vote for him in November was more a product of my Republican upbringing than a sincere belief that he was the best candidate to lead the United States for the next four years. My doubts ended, however, when Russia invaded Georgia.

The invasion was a tragic event on many levels. While some will view this as merely a skirmish in a far-off land, Americans and Canadians of Ukrainian descent take a more holistic approach. We watch a valued U.S. ally once again losing its citizens and sovereignty to Russian troops, and the nightmare of 1968 is replayed in our minds. "How

could we have betrayed our Czech friends?" we have long asked – and now we wonder whether we're betraying the Georgians in like manner. For we know there can be no doubt: in the long run, this invasion has less to do with South Ossetia than it does with Crimea. We fear – with historical justification – that Georgia will be our Sudetenland.

Russia's aggression did have one unintended consequence, however: it let us evaluate our two potential presidents under the pressure of a real world crisis. Rather than watching news footage of Sens. Obama and McCain giving scripted stump speeches to their supporters, we were able to see the candidates react to an actual problem. In other words, Russia's actions allowed us to view what kind of president each of these two men would really be. The contrast could not have been more stark.

Sen. Obama reacted by calling for "dialogue" and "diplomacy." Vacationing in Hawaii, the Democrat equivocated, expressed his hope that both sides would exercise "restraint," and refused unilaterally to condemn Russia for its aggression against her neighbor.

Sen. McCain's reaction, in contrast, was blunt and to the point: "Today, we are all Georgians," he remarked. He condemned Russia in surprisingly harsh terms, without equivocation, and then went on to express his view that the United States should immediately support added security measures for Ukraine. Unlike his opponent, Sen. McCain let us all know where he stood, without scripts, props or spin doctors.

More importantly, Sen. McCain showed that he understood one key fact that President John F. Kennedy knew well – Russians react to power, and power alone. Alas, Sen. Obama is no John F. Kennedy.

Remarkably for most politicians in an election year, Sen. McCain took a position that is neither popular nor politically wise. Let's face it: few in the United States want to see another conflict. And one need not be a political scientist to know that, in today's climate, a Republican can ill afford to be viewed as a warmonger. Yet despite this, Sen. McCain said what he believed, not what his advisors told him to say. He did something that President George H.W. Bush was unable to do in Kyiv in 1991 – to do the right thing and stand up to Russia, despite the political cost.

None of this is to say that Sen. Obama is not a good candidate. All those things Yuri said are true – he's an incredibly gifted individual, blessed with talent, insight and courage. He's given some of the best speeches I've ever heard, and I certainly agree with him on a number of issues. Yet, in this moment of trial, his inactions spoke much louder than his eloquent speeches.

Sen. Obama showed himself to be a mere politician, spewing platitudes and aspirations rather than hard facts. And, as much as I love platitudes and aspirations (heaven knows I've written my share in these columns), I want my next president, above all, to be a realist. I want him to see the world as it is, as well as it should be. I want him to be John McCain.

Taras Szmagala Jr. may be reached at Szmagala@yahoo.com.

Trust the Russians

While the civilized world was wringing its hands, Russian tanks swept into Georgia and remained there. For a while. To make a point.

Were you surprised? I wasn't. I kind of predicted as much in my May 18 column titled "Georgia on my Mind." Russia is oh so predictable!

We can trust the Russians to be Russians. They've been bullies from the day Muscovy emerged from the swamps of the Eurasian North. Imperialism, one could argue, is part of the Russian DNA. It was under Ivan III, wrote Harold Lamb in his book "The March of Muscovy," that Moscow began slowly and cautiously to expand. "It was a series of moves so slight as to remain almost unrecorded in history." Kind of like the Kremlin chipping away at Crimea today by distributing Russian passports to local inhabitants. The same tactic was used in South Ossetia. Next comes "limited sovereignty" for Crimea, increased "protection" for the "Russian" population followed by a "return" to Mother Russia. Predictable.

"It has been difficult for the Western mind to comprehend the Russian philosophy of making conquests against her neighbors a way of life," wrote William G. Bray. "Russian aggression during the last five centuries has devoured 46 distinct races, speaking 61 different languages, and her appetite remains unquenched." Congressman Bray wrote that in 1963 and today, under Mr. Putin, Russia's expansionist cravings have returned. The Kremlin will always find an excuse to covet the territory adjoining it because Russia has yet to find its final frontier. There will always be a new "near abroad."

Why is there no outrage about Georgia among Russian citizens? Simple. As much as they may complain, Russians are accustomed to authoritarian rule. Historically, Russian society has been predicated on autocracy, orthodoxy and "narodnichestvo" (Russian mystic chauvinism). This was true during tsarist times, during Soviet times, and it's true today. Prime Minister Putin understands the Russian psyche.

While American schools and mass media have given up on American patriotism as a form of crass "triumphalism," in Russia, there is no shame attached to praising the motherland. The caesaropapist concept of Moscow as the "Third Rome" still lingers in the Russian subconscious. Today, Russian educators and the mass media trumpet Russian power and greatness. While American educators focus on the past evils of American life – slavery, racism, native-American repression, Japanese-American internment camps, etc., – Russian educators totally ignore or justify the far greater atrocities of Russian history (the latest Russian textbooks actually praise Stalin) and dismiss people who mention them. Ukraine's Holodomor? Get over it!

So where do the latest Russian outrages in Georgia leave Ukraine? Alone for now. Russia's invasion of Georgia should be a wake-up call for Ukraine's leaders, but it might not be. President Viktor Yushchenko is still dreaming of NATO membership but, given the response of post-Christian, pre-Islamic, old Europe to Russian aggression in Georgia, this may be a pipe dream. NATO ministers were so "distressed" with Russia's brutalities that they issued a statement: "We deplore the loss of life... Russian military action is inconsistent with its

peacekeeping role." Really? Wow!

The muted NATO statement made no mention of blocking Russia's membership in the World Trade Organization, no dissolution of the G-8, no suspension of participation in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, and no mention of support for the Georgian people. Mr. Putin knows that NATO is becoming like the United Nations. All talk, no walk.

Will Ukrainian leaders unite? Maybe. Yulia Tymoshenko hates Mr. Yushchenko who loathes Ms. Tymoshenko. Not exactly a winning team, but the president is showing some muscle towards Russia. And the Ukrainian Parliament? What about it?

Does Ukraine have allies? Sure. The leaders of new Europe – Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania – as well as President George W. Bush who has pushed for NATO membership for Ukraine. There's also John McCain, who was unequivocal in his condemnation of Russia aggression. But Mr. Bush is on the way out and Mr. McCain may lose to the far more nuanced Barack Obama, who called for "restraint by both sides" when he learned of the Russian invasion.

Have you ever wondered why Ukrainians always seem to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory? Is there something in Ukraine's water? Think about the betrayals at Pereyaslav and Poltava. Remember the peace conference at Versailles when delegates from eastern and western Ukraine couldn't present a united front. Recall how the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) split into factions that fought each other during and after World War II. Not a very proud record. Even Ukraine's national anthem is tentative. "Ukraine has not died yet." Yet?

Are we born losers? This was an often-asked question by my students when I taught Ukrainian history. Why can't Ukrainians unite against a common foe? Why do personal ambitions and greed trump loyalty to national ideals?

Our performance in America isn't very inspiring either. The OUN fights have subsided because the leadership is aging, but have we grown stronger as a community? I think not. In 1980, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) was a powerful, geographically diffused umbrella organization that represented most nationally conscious Ukrainian Americans. Now we have two umbrella organizations, both centered on the East Coast, both representing fewer Ukrainian Americans. And yet, our community lives on, thanks largely to individuals who work outside our organizational box.

Ukraine also lives on. New, younger and dynamic leaders are emerging to steer Ukraine in the right direction. The Ukrainian military is strong and getting stronger. The Independence Day celebrations in Ukraine were a demonstration of military might my friends over there tell me. If Russia invades, its nose will be bloodied. As in the United States, individual Ukrainians are working outside the political box. Their eyes are on the future.

Ukraine will overcome. Ukraine has not yet died, because it can never die. So let's sing a hardy "Mnohaya Lita" for 17 years of independence, raise our glasses and wish Ukraine Godspeed.

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Scholars comment on Ukraine 17 years after independence

Since Ukraine declared independence 17 years ago, on August 24, 1991, the country has seen many changes that often have been difficult to foresee. Matthew Dubas of *The Ukrainian Weekly* asked scholars to comment on the occasion in light of recent global events and escalating tensions between Russia and the West, and to illuminate potential areas of concern for Ukraine.

Question: In light of the political and other crises that Ukraine has faced this year, the recent invasion of Georgia by Russia, the missile shield agreement between the United States and Poland, and concerns about the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, please explain the significance of Ukraine's 17th year of independence, its transformation toward a more democratic state since 1991 and the challenges that it will likely face in the coming years. How should Ukraine address these potential challenges?

Marta Dyczok: While the world is looking on with horror and concern at events in Georgia and their consequences, Ukraine faces its 17th year of independence. Striking against this backdrop are Ukraine's 17 years of peace. The country that has successfully avoided conflict despite the numerous challenges it has faced. Ukraine's immediate neighbors, Georgia and Moldova both experienced wars right after the USSR collapsed, whereas Ukraine managed to resolve the tensions in Crimea peacefully. This speaks well of Ukraine's past leaders, [Leonid] Kravchuk and [Leonid] Kuchma, even though it is not fashionable to praise them these days.

In this most recent crisis, Ukraine's President [Viktor] Yushchenko showed

considerable acumen, walking a fine line supporting his friend and ally, [Georgian President Mikheil] Saakashvili, while keeping Ukraine from becoming embroiled in a potentially disastrous situation.

Many pundits are quite negative about the internal political situation in Ukraine, criticizing the constant in-fighting between President Yushchenko and Prime Minister [Yulia] Tymoshenko and continued divisions between the so-called Orange political forces and their opponents. Another way of looking at the issues is that despite divisions among the political elite and society as a whole, these disputes are being fought out within legal and political parameters, and have not erupted into violence. It is not unusual for countries to be divided over fundamental issues, but events in Ukraine show a desire to address and resolve these differences through democratic means, however imperfect. Considering that 20 years ago Ukraine was still part of a totalitarian regime, these efforts can be praised rather than criticized.

The single most worrying problem that Ukraine is not really coming to terms with is the pervasive corruption that continues to invade all aspects of life. It is visible from simple things like everyday violation of traffic rules, to buying places in higher education institutions, right to the highest levels of the state negotiating energy supplies from its northern neighbour.

Yet this latest crisis shows that Ukrainian society thinks more critically and is less susceptible to media manipulation than often assumed. Russian media product is widely available and consumed by many in Ukraine. Yet a recent poll shows that 44 percent of Ukrainians condemned Russian actions in Georgia while only 20 percent supported them. Among

those polled, youth were the most critical towards Russia, while the greatest support comes from pensioners. Perhaps this is an indicator of future trends?

Marta Dyczok, PhD, is an associate professor in the departments of history and political science at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario.

Robert Kravchuk: This question is of extreme importance at this moment. Viewed in the context of European security, in the dispute over the Georgian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, Ukraine's territorial and political integrity are very much at stake. Russian rhetoric has long emphasized Moscow's concerns over the ethnic Russian populations in the "near abroad." But Russia's flagrant violation of Georgia's frontier is the first serious indication that Moscow will not respect the international borders established with the 1991 Soviet break-up.

To the Putin-Medvedev duo, the Russian incursion into Georgia serves multiple economic and political objectives. It severs a non-Russian-controlled energy pipeline from the Caspian Sea, frightens the NATO allies that admitting Georgia (and Ukraine) would put the alliance on a collision course with Moscow, and puts the former Soviet countries on notice that they are within its sphere of influence. Ukraine has been justifiably alarmed by statements by Russian Prime Minister [Vladimir] Putin that he would "dismember" the country, rather than see Ukraine join the NATO alliance. After the invasion of Georgia, these must be regarded as fighting words.

The West should be wary, too. Conflict with Russia over Ukraine is not outside the realm of realistic possibilities. It would be far easier for Russia to find a pretext to enter Ukraine, than it was to enter Georgia. The Kremlin could easily incite provocations in eastern Ukraine, or Crimea, as an excuse for intervention to "protect" the rights of Ukraine's ethnic Russians. That would almost certainly trigger a Polish advance eastwards in support of the Ukrainian army, which is a contingency that both countries have considered at length, and are prepared for. Moscow, no doubt, reasons that a rump Ukraine would be a far less threatening NATO ally than a full-bodied country. It is speculative, of course, but it is at least plausible that a Ukraine minus Kharkiv, Luhansk and Donetsk may be a more reliable European ally, precisely because it would be a more homogeneously Ukrainian country. But let us hope that it does not come to that.

As to their immediate objectives, it would appear that Putin-Medvedev are desperate to avoid moving the NATO boundary east to coincide with the Russian-Ukrainian border. Ukrainian membership in NATO would put Kyiv beyond Moscow's reach, perhaps permanently. Moscow would find the new relationship with Kyiv most difficult to stomach, at least for a while. This actually would be very good therapy for Russian democracy, however. One can think of little that would bolster the efforts of Russia's democratic forces more than Moscow having to give up on its dreams of empire. That is precisely why Ukraine should work in concert with the Bush administration to accelerate NATO accession.

It is a vital objective of American foreign policy to deprive Russia of possessing Ukraine. It is high time that the NATO allies act to secure Ukraine's permanent independence. That road is difficult, and would entail risk. But the alternative is almost unthinkable.

Robert Kravchuk is the chair of the political science department at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, where he is also a professor.

David Marples: Russia's recognition of the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia raises serious questions about future relations with Ukraine. That threat cannot be dismissed as far-fetched. Russia's foreign policy in what it calls its "near abroad" has changed dramatically over the past three weeks. Borders are no longer sacrosanct, and Russia has not hesitated to use its monopoly of gas supplies to Ukraine as a political weapon in the past.

The critical area is Crimea and in particular the port of Sevastopol. Last week in that city there was a substantial protest of members of the Russian Bloc. Led by Vladimir Tyunin, they were demanding that Crimea should become part of the Russian Federation.

Rumors abound that Russia is issuing passports to the majority group of ethnic Russians just as it did to South Ossetians and Abkhazians in Georgia. Prominent Russian statespersons, including Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, frequently visit Sevastopol and demand that it be returned to Russia.

Added to the mix are the Crimean Tatars, comprising about one-sixth of the population. The relationship between the Tatars and the government in Kyiv is amicable; but relations with Russians who own most of the former Tatar lands and property are volatile.

Today the key issue is the territorial integrity of Ukraine. The Russian government is willing to support and sow disaffection in Crimea and the Donbas, as well as in the Prydnistrovia region of Moldova.

However, Ukraine tends to be its own worst enemy. Though its government has requested NATO membership, most residents oppose it. The Regions Party insists that no membership can take place without a referendum, the result of which hitherto has been a foregone conclusion.

Despite two recent elections, the Ukrainian Parliament is so badly divided that it could not even pass the 2008 budget before the summer recess. President Yushchenko has undermined every reform initiative of Prime Minister Tymoshenko. In turn, the ruling Orange coalition's majority is down to two seats.

Perhaps most revealing of Ukraine's predicament at this critical juncture is the low standing in the polls of the president and his party. A poll conducted between August 8 and 24 revealed that had a parliamentary election been held at that time, 23.4 percent of respondents would have backed the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and 20.3 percent the Regions Party. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine and People's Self-Defense Coalition trailed alongside the Communists at 4.6 percent.

In terms of the popularity of the potential presidential candidates for an early 2010 election, Tymoshenko leads with 24 percent, followed by [Viktor] Yanukovich with 20 percent. Yushchenko's standing of 7 percent renders him the least popular leader in Europe at a time when Ukraine's economy is as strong as it has ever been!

Ukraine's politicians need to focus priorities. A coalition government to ensure internal unity seems a logical first step. Yushchenko cannot lead Ukraine without public support as the country enters its 18th and most critical year of independence.

David Marples is a professor in the department of history and classics at the University of Alberta, Edmonton.



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UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY 2008

Ukraine has traveled far from where it was in 1991

by Leonid Polyakov

For the second time in my life I am celebrating Ukraine's Independence Day on the territory of the United States, together with the Ukrainian American community and with our American friends and allies. It is an honor for me to join you on this, the 17th anniversary of Ukraine as an independent, sovereign state, and I congratulate you on this occasion.

My first such opportunity occurred in 1994, on the country's third anniversary, when I was one of the first Ukrainian students at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. That memory, and the realities of today, call to mind what our feelings and dreams were about our country's future at the dawn of independence, what was achieved in the ensuing years, what lessons were learned, and what we feel and dream today about the future of Ukraine.

In the first days of independence, we used to emphasize the great industrial and agricultural potential and achievements of Ukraine, which traditionally was known in the world as "the breadbasket of Europe," and which also inherited from the former Soviet Union the world's third largest arsenal of nuclear weapons, a mighty space and missile industry, a huge military-industrial complex, and tremendous scientific and educational potential.

At the same time, however, important political, cultural and governance factors, like the strengthening of democratic values and political accountability, transformation of former Soviet security institutions, building of a market economy, promotion social justice, appreciation of rich historical traditions, and benefits stemming from Ukrainians' ethnic and religious tolerance seemed ready to fall into our lap, to come to us almost by default.

It was certainly not clear at first what enormous efforts it would take to build firmly all these foundations of a strong and effective democratic state.

In the absence of strong national elites and institutions, the reality of the following first years was a rather tough experience: high inflation, economic crisis, many political crises, border disputes, etc. But Ukrainians took up the challenge and did not bend under the difficult circumstances. The following decade, from 1994 to 2004, was when the first illusions were dashed but these were also years of strengthening the resolve and wisdom of the peaceful Ukrainian nation, which were on such vivid display during the Orange Revolution.

With time, Ukrainians came to a better understanding that the country's independence ought to be developed, strengthened and secured through very consistent and continuous efforts both by the people and by the still young institutions of the state.

What has changed in our assessments since the early 1990s? What has been achieved, and what needs to be improved? Today, the progress of independent Ukraine is already measured by criteria common to older, long-established democracies.

In recent years Ukraine has received

Leonid Polyakov is a research fellow at the Ukrainian Research Institute and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. He served as Ukraine's vice-minister of defense in 2005-2008.

recognition as a free democratic country. Contemporary Ukraine is a multi-party democratic state, where the president and the Parliament are democratically elected, where the rights of the opposition are respected, a state which can be proud of the freedom of speech and expression that it affords its citizens.

Today's Ukraine is recognized as a market economy. This year the country became a member of the World Trade Organization. Despite all the political confusion, for a number of years Ukraine's economy has displayed stable and progressive growth. Visitors to Ukrainian cities like the capital, Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa and many others witness a boom in the construction industry, commerce and trade, such that has never before been seen in Ukraine.

Ukraine has proved itself to be an important and respected contributor to world security through its participation in many United Nations peacekeeping operations. As a responsible partner of NATO, Ukraine has participated in all operations of the Euro-Atlantic alliance: in Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan and in the Mediterranean, and supports European Union and OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] efforts for peaceful resolution of the conflict in Transdnistria.

In a region marked by historical antagonisms, Ukraine has become noted for its tolerance and as a home for many cultures, ethnicities and religions. At the same time, Ukrainians have learned to pay more respect to their own history and traditions. In recent years, many historical events, both glorious and tragic, and figures who shaped the country's destiny have been rescued from obscurity and brought to public attention. Ukrainian Christian Churches, long separated by suspicion or hostility, have moved closer towards a spirit of ecumenism and closer ecclesial unity. It is remarkable that the celebration of Independence Day in Kyiv traditionally starts with a united worship service joined by the country's leadership in the magnificent St. Sophia Cathedral. This provides a mighty spiritual inspiration to Ukrainians.

However, while these achievements of independent Ukraine are a legitimate source of pride, we must admit that from today's perspective, the progress of our country has been slower than we expected. Today, there is still too much disunity between the different segments of political elites, and too little mutual understanding and integration of the people in the interests of the country and the state.

The leaders of the peaceful Orange Revolution were quick to fracture and to engage in debilitating and disheartening rivalries. The so-called political reform that came into effect on January 1, 2006, introduced confusion in the delimitation of responsibilities between the president, the Cabinet of Ministers and the Parliament, and has provoked unending battles between all branches of power and major institutions. The insufficient maturity of Ukraine's top level management still prevents security and defense structures from becoming effective institutions capable of developing and implementing policies that secure national security interests. The inability of Ukraine's political elite to reach consensus on the key security interests of the state – to display maturity and consoli-

(Continued on page 22)



Official Website of Ukraine's President

Some of Ukraine's military hardware on parade on Independence Day.

Ukraine celebrates...

(Continued from page 1)

"forcible interference and aggression," condemning its attempt to undermine "today's world order and its democratic values."

Ukraine isn't indifferent to the war in Georgia, Mr. Yushchenko said. "I express the deepest condolences from everyone, without exception, to the victimized people of the undivided Georgian lands," the president said. "Your pain is in our hearts."

In addressing national security interests, Mr. Yushchenko said his government will do everything to prevent any military escalation in Ukraine's regions and bring together the global community to peacefully, lawfully and justly resolve frozen conflicts.

He repeated the need for Ukraine to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as the "single, complete way to defend the lives and wealth of Ukrainians."

Ukraine is continuing the geopolitical process uniting Europe, while democracy and European membership are natural for the Ukrainian people, he said. "Our complete return to a single European home is a matter of the nearest, already achieved prospect," Mr. Yushchenko said.

Mr. Yushchenko also addressed the Presidential Secretariat's war with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and the Cabinet of Ministers, requesting a "moratorium on political conflicts in issues which directly affect people's well-being."

He called for immediate joint work between the Presidential Secretariat and the Parliament on a package of measures addressing social and humanitarian policies, including raising incomes, boosting employment, regulating tariffs and making housing affordable.

The package of the proposed legislation is part of the government program called "The Nation's Health," the president said.

It remains unclear whether relations between the president and the prime minister have thawed after the summer.

Although Prime Minister Tymoshenko accompanied President Yushchenko at the opening of the Ukrainian World Congress

four days earlier, she marked Independence Day separately, placing flowers at the capital's monuments to Vyacheslav Chornovil and Taras Shevchenko in modest ceremonies alongside leaders of her political bloc. They sang the national anthem together a cappella.

Opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich of the Party of the Regions commemorated Ukrainian independence with prayers at the ancient Kyivan Caves Monastery.

Defense Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, a close presidential ally, led the military parade down the Khreschatyk, which included soldiers and cadets of Ukraine's National Academy of Defense, the Kyiv Red Flag Regiment of the President of Ukraine, soldiers of the Petro Sahaidachnyi Infantry Institute in Lviv, cadets of the Ivan Kozhedub Air Forces University in Kharkiv and the Pavlo Nakhimov Army-Navy Institute in Sevastopol, among others.

Among the aircraft displayed were Su-24MP reconnaissance planes, MiG-29 and Su-27 bombers, Su-25 attack planes, An-26 and Il-76 transporters and Mi-8 and Mi-24 helicopters.

Ruslana starred in the evening concert on Independence Square during an on-and-off drizzle; the day's events were capped off by a fireworks display.

To limit littering of glass bottles and anti-social behavior, Kyiv authorities barred supermarkets and kiosks along the Khreschatyk from selling alcoholic beverages throughout the day.

Kharkiv and Odesa commemorated Independence Day with their own military parades.

"From today, military parades will be held on August 24 every year in Odesa," said Mykola Serdiuk, chair of the Odesa Oblast Administration. "They support the development of feelings of patriotism and establish faith in a hopeful defense of Ukraine's sovereignty."

Western Ukrainian cities had modest ceremonies as a result of the summer's devastating floods.

Photos by Mykola Lazarenko and Mykhailo Markiv.



Official Website of Ukraine's President

President Viktor Yushchenko and Defense Minister Yurii Yekhanurov with representatives of Ukraine's armed forces.

GENERATION UKE

Edited and compiled by Matthew Dubas and Yarema Belej

Designer Ghilaine Bouadana mixes Ukrainian traditions with modern trends

by Yarema Belej

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The clothes we wear say a lot about us, but the clothing that someone makes always says it louder. In the sea of suits and off-the-rack dresses that cover the floors at “zabavas” (dances), there sometimes is somebody who stands out so uniquely that you wonder who they are. If the zabava is in the Northeast that person usually is Ghilaine Bouadana.

Following the advice of a high school art teacher, Ms. Bouadana, a New Jersey native, applied to the Rhode Island School of Design and successfully completed her studies in apparel design. Since then she has had her work featured in nearly 15 films and television shows, as well as exhibited in several runway shows and commercials.

Ms. Bouadana’s interest in fashion and design has many roots and springs as she “grew up in a very crafty house,” she said. “Tato was always building something, and Mama was always making something herself. We spent much of our free time in Hunter, N.Y., where in the summers all the kids would go to the various art classes offered at the Grazhda [Music and Art Center of Greene County] – pysanky, keramika, gerdany ... I think being around all that left me with a desire to make something.”

Clothing, in her mind, was a natural pursuit because it was something to create that she and others could wear. Also, because it is a common element in the Ukrainian culture, it was a medium easily within reach.

“My being exposed to different types of art through the Grazhda classes gave me a vocabulary to use in my art,” noted Ms. Bouadana. “I’ve used beading and embroidery in my designs, also I’ve burnished leather with hot wax to get different colors out like pysanky.”

Ms. Bouadana has used some of these as a costumer in such well-known films as “War of the Worlds” (2005), “Little Children” (2006) and this year’s blockbuster “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull” (2008).

Having shown on the runways of new talent showcases in several different cities and having been part of a group that did a series of fashion events – they were fashion/art parties which became quite popular – Ms. Bouadana won the “Dare to Design Your Future” contest with a collection inspired by opera houses.

Her styling work ranges from pharmaceutical commercials, working with photographers on their various projects and commissions for commercials, for example hats made out of specific fabrics for a textile company. “When I do film work I am working as a costumer,” explained Ms. Bouadana. “I like it because I get to be on set and in the thick of it, where it’s hard to get bored. You have to be quick on your feet because there is always a crisis and it should have been fixed five minutes ago. My favorite is



Ghilaine Bouadana

stunt work.”

The ability to think on her feet by quickly adapting to situations with various methods and using all kinds of materials was nurtured at Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization camps. “Tabir [camp] was a great practice ground for the film business,” said the Chornomorska Khvyliya Plast sorority member. “Learning to make do and so much more with what you have in five minutes or less has been very useful.”

Her success has not gone unnoticed, as she has received press attention in the popular and highly regarded fashion magazines Black Book, Oyster and W. Furthermore, her movie and television credits are listed on the film industry standard imdb.com (Internet Movie Database).

She admires fashion designers that stay true to their ideals and vision. She names Rick Owens, Olivier Theyskens and Liz Collins as inspiring successful designers who have not compromised their artistic vision. Yet it was a less famous pursuit that sparked an inspiration in clothing. “My years dancing for Pani Roma Pryma Bohachevsky sparked my interest in ethnic dress,” Ms. Bouadana recalled. “My inspirations for fashion projects often come from traveling; the different cultures, fabrics, exotic native costumes and

the traditions that are involved with the clothes inspire me. I am always coming back home with suitcases full of findings. I once carried a piece of chainmail in my backpack for over a month and then wore it to Kalyna zabava.”

Often Ms. Bouadana wears her creations to the many zabavas in the Ukrainian diaspora. From debutante balls to malankas and often at the various Soyuzivka dances she can be seen wearing something that is not like any other dress on the dance floor.

“Zabavas gave me an opportunity to wear some of my more interesting creations,” said Ms. Bouadana. “There is nothing like a night of dancing to show you what works and what doesn’t. Learning about proper fit and construction is crucial to good design, and half of that is actually seeing what a garment does when it’s on an active body.”

Asked to give Ukrainians living here some fashion advice, begrudgingly Ms. Bouadana explained that zabavas are where the Ukrainian diaspora should pay a little more attention. “People not getting dressed up for zabavas is a personal pet peeve of mine. Without getting dressed up, going to a zabava is no different from any other weekend.”

However, Ms. Bouadana added that she doesn’t “think it is necessarily that Ukrainians lack style, as much as it is that Americans on the whole are not that stylish. Europeans are much more conscious of how they look and how they present themselves to others. You would never see a French woman wearing Uggs or sneakers on the street; sneakers are strictly for the gym. Even the French police – the female gendarmes – wear high heels.”

She encourages the general public to pay attention to what they wear, “variety and individuality are what keep fashion fresh, do not be afraid to try something different. Sometimes you succeed, sometimes you fail – I am all for experimenting.”

Ms. Bouadana often experiments with fashion herself, she lists a bikini made completely of fishing lures as her most interesting design. It was also the first piece that she sold.

Speaking to those who are interested in entering the fashion industry, she advised, “you have to really, really want it because it is a lot harder than it looks. If it is film that they are interested in then it’s a hundred times harder than it looks. Both require dedicating a certain amount of your life to them, neither is a 9 to 5 workday.”

Ms. Bouadana’s love for fashion was nurtured through the creative outlets associated with her heritage, but the fact that she has made a career in fashion was something of a surprise. “My career unfolded in unexpected ways, so we’ll see what’s next,” she said. As a true designer, she keeps her next creation close to the vest. “I am not jinxing it. It is a secret, but first I am on the hunt for a really comfortable pair of work shoes.”

Ukrainian band Lesya from Cleveland releases debut album

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Lesya, a Ukrainian band from Cleveland, has announced the completion of its first album, released on August 8.

Formed in 2006, Lesya classifies its music as “Ukrainian Alternative.” Members of the band include the Bilskiy brothers Ivan, 22, on guitars and vocals, and Bohdan, 19, on backup guitar, and Ryan, 20, on drums and bass.

While in high school in 2006, Bohdan played the drums and Ivan began to polish his guitar work. Both brothers really had no musical background, but learned on their own through trial and error and experimentation. Ryan, a high school friend, joined the group and the trio was formed. A year later they asked their mutual friend Vitaliy to play bass, but due to new responsibilities, he could not continue with the group, but left his mark by playing most of the bass tracks on the new release.

The Bilskiy brothers are both originally from Lviv and were there until 2000, when they immigrated to Cleveland. In 1998 their eldest brother had married into a family with relatives in the area and two years after he immigrated to the United States, the brothers and family followed right along.

“As cliché as it may sound, I would have to describe our sound as ‘different,’” said Bohdan. Definitely different from the mainstream artists in

Ukraine like Okean Elzy, Druha Rika and Skay, he continued. Lesya takes much of its influence from American bands such as My Chemical Romance, Taking Back Sunday, Chiodos, Linkin Park, Reliant K and Underoath.

Commenting on living in Cleveland and the Ukrainian community there, Bohdan explained that having 50,000 Ukrainians in the area is great because you’ll always see a Ukrainian face that you have not seen before, especially in Parma, a suburb of Cleveland.

At Jungle Studio in Elyria, Ohio, where the CD was recorded, Bohdan explained the process of recording and getting used to the standardized format of recording. The creative process in writing the song, he added, was completely different. First, a guitar riff or chord progression, then drums and then more body to the melody of the song, and then lyrics and more melodic lines. Looking back on the process, Bohdan said that it was a very cool experience that he has learned from; he looks forward to more experimenting in the studio.

Lesya will be performing at the Bloor West Ukrainian Festival in Toronto this year. For more information, readers can visit the website at www.myspace.com/ohlesya. To obtain a copy of Lesya’s CD, readers can e-mail the band at ohlesya@hotmail.com.



Paul Poberezny's passion for flying touches countless enthusiasts

by A.J. Woynarowsky

OSHKOSH, Wis. – A quiz for readers: Who is Paul Poberezny?

This gentleman is an 87-year-old Ukrainian American whose love for flying has touched many thousands – perhaps even millions – of lives over the many years that he has been involved with the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and the AirVenture at Oshkosh, Wis.

It is because of his passion for flying that this summer between July 28 and August 3, as during many previous summers, the area around Oshkosh and particularly at Wittman Airport resounded with the deafening roar of all kinds airplanes from low slow-flying motorized parachutes, weight-shift trikes and fixed-wing ultralights, to aerobatic planes, war birds and some of the most advanced civilian and military airplanes in existence in the United States.

The area's air traffic control tower that week recorded peak traffic volume of airplanes which exceeded that of Chicago's O'Hare and New York's JFK International Airport combined.

This extravaganza takes place on over 1,400 acres in northeastern Wisconsin – about 370 miles north of Chicago. The first 900 acres of the site were purchased by Mr. Poberezny.

Here his dream came to fruition of having a place where people enthusiastic about flying could meet, pitch a tent next to their aircraft and share their many stories about flying with fellow aviators or anyone interested in listening.

Welcome to the world of home-built aircraft, as well as factory-ready aircraft, a world where home-builders employ dedication and craftsmanship to construct their very own flying machines.

Why, you may ask, is Mr. Poberezny being presented in this Ukrainian newspaper in the first place? The answer is simple: because he is proud of his heritage.

Mr. Poberezny's father, Peter C. Poberezny, left central Ukraine for Canada in 1913 looking for work. We all know from history what those years prior to World War I were like in Eastern Europe. Therefore, there is no need to reiterate.

Peter Poberezny first found work in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Eventually, however, he had to move to North Dakota to look for more work. While in the U.S. he joined the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry division. He was subsequently transferred to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. There he met Jettie, his future wife.

In Fort Leavenworth Mr. Poberezny's first son, Paul, was born on September 14, 1921. From there the family moved to Milwaukee, Wis., where Paul's brother, Norman, and sister, Martha, were born. Here, Peter Poberezny joined the Local Workers Union 1113, of which he subsequently became president.

In 1942 Paul Poberezny joined the Army's air force and was sent to fly combat in Europe. Later he fought air combat in the Korean conflict and, finally, in the Vietnam War.

In between his combat flying career, in 1944 Paul Poberezny married his high school sweetheart, Audrey. While living in Milwaukee, his son, Thomas, was born on October 5, 1946; his daughter, Bonnie, was born on July 13, 1954.

In 1953 in his basement Paul Poberezny formed the Experimental Aircraft Association, and shortly thereafter the first gathering of like-minded enthusiasts occurred at Curtis Wright Airport in Milwaukee. That fly-in convention drew 120 members from across the country and nearly two dozen airplanes.

But it wasn't until 1955, when Mr. Poberezny published an article in *Mechanix Illustrated* magazine on how to build an airplane for about \$700, that it became possible for the common flying enthusiast to building his own affordable plane. It was then that the EAA took off.

In 1958 visitors to the fly-in exhibition at Curtis Wright Airport were treated to the special surprise of witnessing two different home-built airplanes presented by students from St. Rita's High School of Chicago. The two planes were among many others in that year's exposition at the convention.

In 1960, because of the continued increase in the number of planes and spectators, the fly-in was moved to Rockford, Ill., where it drew 7,000 spectators and 80 airplanes. By the 1963 fly-in convention, Rockford became the busiest airport anywhere. And in 1969 the airplane tower at Rockford recorded peak traffic more than twice that of Chicago's O'Hare or New York's JFK during the annual fly-in.

Following this huge increase in volume, the EAA fly-in was forced for the third time in 20 years to move due to lack of space. So, in 1970 Paul Poberezny moved the fly-in gathering to the shores of Lake Winnebago, Wis., where Oshkosh is located. Here Mr. Poberezny purchased 900 acres of land and on these acres the EAA Aviation Center started to unfold.

The AirVenture Museum was established here and built in 1983, becoming a year-round center for sport aviation enthusiasts. On its heels came further expansion, such as the Pioneer Airport, the Eagle Hanger, the Leadership Center and the Air Academy Lodge for young teenagers, where young aviation enthusiasts could board and study flying during the summer. There is also an outdoor theater that is open each evening, reminiscent of drive-in theaters of the past, complete with open-air seating and popcorn.

The museum has become the showcase for flying as a heritage of humanity, reaching out to all parts of our fast-shrinking globe and even to our stellar neighbors. It is a tribute to all who have dared to dream the dream of flying.

By 1981 the fly-in had become an international event, as visitors from as far away as Japan, Australia, Germany and France descended en masse on the convention. Over time, Wittman's Regional Airport in Oshkosh has become the world's busiest airport during the week of the AirVenture Fly-in Convention.

But all this, as one can see, didn't happen overnight. The EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh has grown year by year over its

(Continued on page 14)



Paul H. Poberezny with his wife, Audrey.



Paul Poberezny's \$700 build-it-yourself plane in the AirVenture Museum.



A view of the AirVenture grounds in Oshkosh, Wis.

The Organization for Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine with Ellenville's Ukrainian American Youth Association Oselia invite you to the

9th Lemko Vatra Festival in the USA – 4th of July weekend 2009

Oselia CYM – Ellenville, N.Y.

North Dakota Ukrainians celebrate homestead heritage

by Myron B. Kuropas

DICKINSON, N.D. – Ukrainians in North Dakota on July 18-20 celebrated the “Legacy of the Homestead Era” with a Ukrainian Festival sponsored by the Ukrainian Cultural Institute in Dickinson, N.D., and Dickinson State University.

Signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862, the Homestead Act offered 160 acres – “zemia za durno” (land for free) – in the Great Plains with the following stipulations: build a house within six months, break 10 acres of sod and plant a crop. If the homesteader survived on his farm for five years, he received title to the land after paying a \$4 registration fee.

The news of free land caught the attention of farmer-peasants throughout Europe. Between 1878 and 1890, the population of North Dakota Territory increased from some 16,000 to 191,000. Since Ukrainians were among the last immigrants to homestead in North Dakota, they had to settle for land on the edge of the badlands. It is believed that some 30,000 Ukrainians arrived during this period.

The first day of the Dickinson festival was devoted to a Dickinson State University panel discussion of the Holodomor. Panelists included Agnes Palanuk, local historian and director of the Ukrainian Cultural Institute, Olexander Aleksandrovych of the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, Prof. Ronald Vossler of the University of South Dakota and this writer.

A visit to the Memorial Cross, first erected in 1902 on the Maksym and Anna Logusz homestead, some 13 miles north of Belfield, was next on the festival agenda. Maksym emigrated from Ukraine



The finale of the performance by the Stepovi Ukrainian Dancers.

in 1900 and married Anna Klym in 1902. The present owners of the farm are the late William O. Klym, his wife, Rose, and their children, Michael, Peggy, Mary, Robert and Ryan.

A delicious Ukrainian luncheon was served at St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church north of Belfield. St. Demetrius Church commemorated its 100th anniversary in 2006. (It's an amazing story, worthy of a future column.)

That evening the official bread and salt welcome was offered by William and Caryl Haverluk at Beck auditorium on the university campus. An original, four-act production, “Voices of the Homesteaders,” presented by the children and grandchildren of the original settlers (with a Ukrainian choir providing background music), concluded the evening on a high note.

The next day began with a divine liturgy and “panakhyda” (memorial service) for the victims of the Holodomor at the recently renovated Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Belfield. The Rev. Michael Skrumeda of Winnipeg, Manitoba, officiated. The church, built in Ukraina, N.D., in 1917, was moved to Belfield in 1950.

A dance concert by the Stepovi Ukrainian Dancers, directed by Emil Anheluk, was performed on the university campus in the afternoon. The performance was preceded by a two-week workshop organized by the North Dakota Ukrainian Dance Association (UDUDA) with 54 dancers divided into four age groups. Youths from North Dakota, Arizona, Georgia, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota and Tennessee participated.

During the workshops dancers wore T-shirts with the Ukrainian flag and the words, “Made in America with Ukrainian Parts” emblazoned on the front.

The concert was an amazing performance with all 54 children in Ukrainian dress. Highlights included a mother-daughter dance, and a “wreathing” ceremony for girls who “graduated” to the next age level. A young man who “graduated” received a sword and was “sashed.”

Was the dancing comparable to Ukrainian dance groups in Edmonton and Chicago? It didn't matter. All ages participated, the dancers were having great fun, Ukrainian traditions were maintained, and parents and grandparents sitting in a packed hall, were ecstatic. It was perfect!

Saturday evening found everyone

(Continued on page 22)

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The cover of the program for the festival.



Lesia Kuropas

Some of North Dakota's youngest Ukrainian dancers.



Guests at the President's Luncheon: Victor Udin, liaison with Ukrainian National Agricultural University in Kyiv; Dr. David Meier, chair, department of social sciences, DSU; Ronald Vossler, University of North Dakota; Olexandr Aleksandrovych, Embassy of Ukraine; Dr. Richard Brauhn, dean, College of Arts and Sciences, DSU; Lesia Kuropas; Myron B. Kuropas; Larry White, North Dakota Trade Commission; Iryna Balan, researcher; and Dr. Richard J. McCallum, president, DSU.



The "wreathing" ceremony.



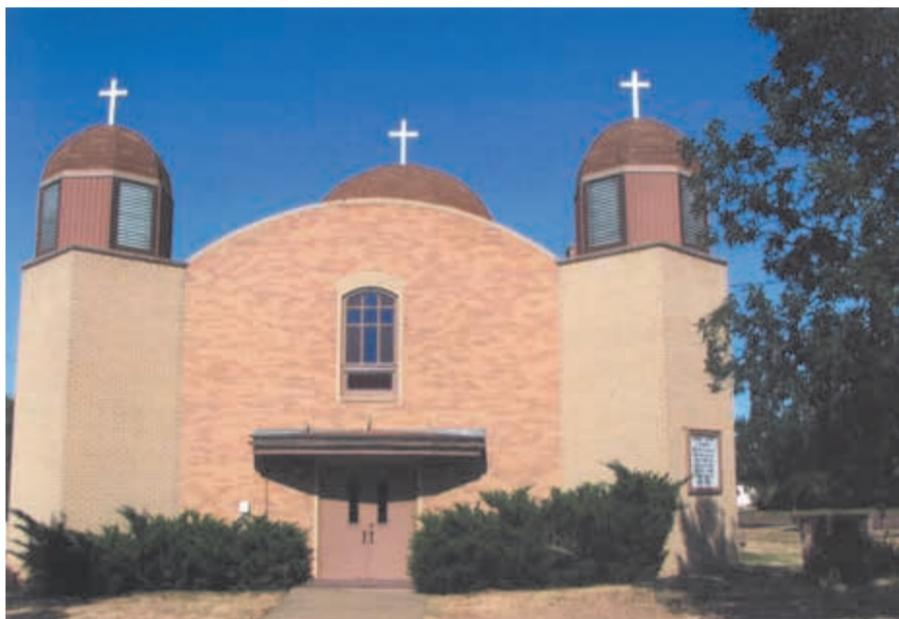
The 1980 Memorandum of Agreement between Dickinson State University and the Ukrainian Cultural Institute, signed by Ukrainian American Albert Watrel, DSU president, and Agnes Palanuk, president of the Ukrainian Cultural Institute.



During a visit to the Logosz Homestead (from left): the Rev. Michael Skrumeda, Myron B. Kuropas, Bill Haverluk, Lesia Kuropas and George Duravetz.



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2008 fall semester of Ukrainian studies at Columbia U.

NEW YORK – As summer draws to a close, the Upper West Side in New York City once again becomes the site of discovery and discussion of things Ukrainian. During the fall 2008 semester, the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University will be offering courses and events on Ukrainian language, literature, history, political science and film. The program will also be presenting a series of events that reflect the latest developments in today's Ukraine.

Five Ukrainian courses will be offered at Columbia this fall.

Two levels of Ukrainian language instruction will be taught by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, lecturer of Ukrainian language and culture in the department of Slavic languages: Intermediate Ukrainian (Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:35-11:50 a.m.) and Advanced Ukrainian (Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:10-10:25 a.m.).

Elementary Ukrainian will be taught by Alla Korzh, a doctoral student at Columbia's Teacher College (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:10-10:25 a.m.).

A course titled "Ukraine and the United Nations through the Eyes of a Ukrainian Ambassador: Diplomacy and Politics" will be taught by Ambassador Valery Kuchinsky, former permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, on Tuesdays at 11 a.m.-12:50 p.m. This course, delivered by a career diplomat, provides a comprehensive and contemporary examination of the United Nations and its role in three core areas of international relations: international peace and security; building peace through sustainable development; and human rights and humanitarian affairs.

Dr. Shevchuk will also be teaching a course that will be a first at Columbia.

Titled "Soviet and Post-Soviet, Colonial and Post-Colonial Film," the course will discuss how filmmaking has been used as a vehicle of power and control in the Soviet Union and on post-Soviet space since 1991.

The course will also focus on the often overlooked work of Ukrainian, Georgian, Belarusian, Armenian, Latvian, Estonian and other national film schools. It will look at how these films participated in the Communist project of fostering a "new historic community of the Soviet people" and also how they resisted it by generating – in hidden and, since 1991, overt and increasingly assertive ways – their own counter-narratives. This course will take place on Tuesdays at 6:10-10 p.m.

Several exciting Ukrainian-themed events, which are free and open to the public, will be offered at Columbia throughout the semester. The Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series, co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Studies Program and the Kennan Institute, will present Larysa Denysenko, a young novelist and TV personality from Kyiv. The series will continue with additional events in the winter and spring of 2009.

On Friday, October 24, the Ukrainian Studies Program will host a presentation by Prof. Timothy D. Snyder, professor of history at Yale University, of his new book "The Red Prince" (Basic Books, 2008). The book tells the fascinating story of Archduke Wilhelm von Habsburg (1895-1949), whose colorful life, filled with intrigue and scandal, led him to assume the alias Vasyl Vyshyvanyi, become a fervent supporter of Ukrainian independence and eventually die in a Soviet prison.

A major Ukrainian-themed event in North America this year will be the con-

ference "Visualizing the Holodomor: The Great Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 on Film." The conference will be held on Tuesday, December 2, and will feature several panels providing a historical introduction to the Holodomor and discussing documentation of eye-witness testimonies on film.

Also, as it has done in the past, the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University will be screening films regularly throughout the semester.

The Ukrainian Studies Program will welcome Fulbright scholar Vita Susak visiting Columbia University for the 2008-2009 academic year. The curator of the Department of European Art (19th-20th centuries) at the Lviv Art Gallery, Dr. Susak is a specialist in the work of Alexander Archipenko. In New York she will be studying archival documents held in the Archives of American Art, The Ukrainian Museum of New York and in other institutions, in preparation of a monograph on the world-famous Ukrainian sculptor.

Courses at Columbia are open to students from other universities in the New York metropolitan area seeking credit, as well as to outside individuals interested in non-credit continuing studies. Additionally, through the Lifelong Learners program, individuals over age 65 who are interested in auditing courses, may enroll at a discount rate.

September 12 is the final day to register for a class. For more information about courses or the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University readers may contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk at ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu or 212-854-4697.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

The accident took place in the Kyiv Oblast. A leading member of the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc and head of the Labor Party of Ukraine, Mr. Syrota was one of the key authors of the Constitution of Ukraine adopted in 1996 following lengthy and dramatic debates in the Verkhovna Rada. More recently he was vice-chairman of the Rada's Legal Policies Committee. A wake was held at the Cabinet of Ministers building on August 26. A memorial service was offered at the Kyivan Caves Monastery and burial was at the Baykiv Cemetery on August 27.

First soccer match in 1894

KYIV – Lviv historian Bohdan Liupa has made a serious contribution to preparations for the Euro-2012 European Football (Soccer) Championship. Searching through city archives, he found the names of participants in a soccer match that took place in Lviv in the late 19th century – the first soccer match played on the territory of present-day Ukraine. The details of this game will be included in a booklet that will be published before Euro-2012, whose final matches are to be held in Lviv. Mr. Liupa said that July 14, 1894, should be considered the birthday of Ukrainian soccer. That is when soccer teams from Lviv and Krakow met at a stadium in Strytskyi Park. A 16-year-old student of a teachers' seminary, Volodymyr Khomytskyi, scored the first goal in the history of Ukrainian soccer. (Ukrinform)

New car sales up markedly

KYIV – Sales of new cars in Ukraine grew by 22.9 percent in July as compared with July 2007 and by 14 percent as

compared to June, to nearly 60,000 cars, the AUTO-Consulting information-analytical group reported on August 13. AvtoVaz continues to lead the Ukrainian market, but it controls only 15.8 percent. The Daewoo share of the market decreased to 10.5 percent; it was 12 percent a month ago. Mitsubishi remained in third place. Next in line were Chevrolet and Hyundai. A total of 542,000 new cars were sold in Ukraine in 2007 – an increase of 46.2 percent from 2006. In the current year it is expected that at least 700,000 cars will be sold. (Ukrinform)

USUBC seeks reopening of OPIC

WASHINGTON – One of the top issues for the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC) over the past several years has been the closure for Ukraine of the major economic and business development support programs of the U.S. government's Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) (<http://www.opic.gov/>). The USUBC argues that the government of Ukraine should settle the small OPIC claim immediately and get OPIC programs open for Ukraine. The USUBC has been speaking out about this critical issue at meetings, in

Washington and Kyiv, with every top Ukrainian and U.S. government official who has some responsibility regarding this major problem for a long time. The USUBC was told directly in several meetings this year by top officials in the Ukrainian government and in the U.S. government that resolving the OPIC issue was a top priority. Strong indications were given to USUBC that the OPIC issue would be solved by late March or certainly by May at the latest. But, even now, in late August, endless meetings are still being held from time-to-time between the two government about how to resolve the claim OPIC has with the government of Ukraine – a claim that has been around since 1999. The USUBC is urging the two governments to find a way to settle the issue now and get OPIC working once again for the benefit of American businesses and for Ukraine. Many business development and expansion programs for Ukraine are on hold because OPIC is closed, jobs are being lost, tax revenue is not being generated, and investment and economic growth suffer as a result, the USUBC noted. (U.S.-Ukraine Business Council)

Paul Poberezny's...

(Continued from page 11)

55-year history, now under the watchful eye of Tom Poberezny, current president of the Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture Oshkosh chairman, to become the world's greatest aviation celebration.

This year was no different in attracting celebrities. They come from the Hollywood scene, NASA and corporate America. Among celebrities who flew in to Oshkosh were: actor and stunt pilot David Ellison,

producer and screenwriter Paco Chierici, actors Harrison Ford and John Travolta, retired research pilot Fitz Fulton of NASA, and scion Edsel B. Ford II.

And, there were some 60,000 spectators, guests, representatives and salespeople, and over 15,000 aeroplanes.

And so the fly-in continues from summer to summer, growing and gaining more and more momentum. And this is all thanks to one Ukrainian American who had the foresight and wisdom to dream big.

A salute to Paul Poberezny!

Could Crimea...

(Continued from page 3)

it had come to the aid of Russian citizens. Ukrainian law forbids dual nationality and all of Crimea's population are Ukrainian citizens.

"The overwhelming majority of people in Sevastopol would like to have Russian citizenship to be nearer to Russia and to be protected by the Russians," says Mikhail Furashov, a local politician.

"Careful propaganda"

Some Ukrainian legislators have said that when Parliament begins work next month they will demand an investigation into the reports of Russian passports being issued.

"Moscow has laid the foundations for occupation of Crimea with years of careful propaganda," says Vasyl Ovcharuk, a Ukrainian Crimean political activist. "It's like Hitler's excuse of helping the ethnic Germans in the Sudetenland as justification for the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1938. I have no doubt that now that the Georgian conflict is over, Russia aims to take over Crimea.

"The level of hatred against anything Ukrainian here is astonishing. The names and addresses of people like myself have been listed on Russian Internet sites with an invitation to kill us," Mr. Ovcharuk continues. "Many people have been attacked in the street for merely speaking Ukrainian. You can talk French, German or Chinese here without problems, but if you speak Ukrainian, people often come up and start insulting you. I'm made to feel like an unwelcome foreigner in my own country."

As if on cue, a middle-aged Russian woman came up to Mr. Ovcharuk and shouted, "Yes, get out Sevastopol and Crimea and good riddance to you."

The Ukrainian navy, with its one serviceable battleship, is also headquartered in Sevastopol. Sailors in Ukrainian uniforms are often insulted or attacked. Last month a crowd of people led by Russian political activists, including Mr. Tyunin, attacked Ukrainian sailors at a ceremony to unveil a plaque marking the date in 1918 when the Ukrainian flag was hoisted aboard ships of the old imperial navy. Police stood by without trying to restrain the attackers.

"Dangerous situation"

One Ukrainian naval officer said: "The Ukrainian government has reacted passively for 17 years to what the Russians have been doing here. They are in control of Sevastopol, and it is a very dangerous situation. I love and I serve my country, but we are routinely humiliated here. Of course, the Russians want Crimea and we are outnumbered. But that doesn't mean we are not going to fight, does it?"

A Western diplomat in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, says the Ukrainian government has expressed concern to Western delegations that Russia will threaten or use force against Ukraine.

"I've felt sorry for the Ukrainian government in the last two weeks," the diplomat says. "Ukraine has seemed very vulnerable. They need to get membership in an organization that will give them some strong international security guarantees. The United Nations and the Council of

Europe just don't cut it. Ukraine needs to get into the European Union and NATO, but the prospect of that still looks distant."

However, the diplomat says that the outcome of an emergency NATO session on August 19 called to formulate a response to the Georgian crisis was good news for Ukraine. NATO warned Russia that it could not draw a "new line" in Europe to prevent Georgia and other countries from joining the Western military alliance. NATO suspended regular top-level ties with Russia, saying business as usual could not continue while Russian troops remained in Georgia.

Speaking to a crowd of thousands in central Kyiv on August 24 as part of Independence Day festivities, President Yushchenko said: "We must speed up our work to achieve membership in the European system of security and raise the defense capabilities of the country. Only these steps will guarantee our security and the integrity of our borders."

An emboldened Russia?

A NATO summit in April fudged the question of Ukrainian and Georgian membership, however, with Germany and France reluctant to give a clear signal that the two countries would be accepted. Some say that decision emboldened Russia to strike against Georgia.

In 2004 Ukraine humiliated the architect of a reinvigorated Russia, current Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, with the Orange Revolution, which overturned the results of presidential elections rigged in favor of a pro-Moscow candidate. Since then, President Yushchenko and Ukraine have charted a pro-Western course and pressed for membership in the EU and NATO.

The presence on the peninsula of Crimean Tatars makes the situation even more volatile. Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin deported all the Tatar people in 1944 to Central Asia, but they have been returning since Ukrainian independence, aided by the Kyiv government. However, local authorities in Crimea, dominated by ethnic Russians, are hostile to the returnees, many of whom are forced to live in shantytowns or slum conditions without electricity or running water. There have been bloody brawls between Russians and Tatars with some deaths but no widespread violence.

Tatar community leaders have reported that foreign Islamic groups, including Saudi Wahhabis and Al-Qaeda, have tried to radicalize disaffected Tatar youth. So far, moderate Islamic leaders have managed to prevent a slide toward extremism.

"The danger is that some frustrated Tatars might take up weapons from extremists Muslims or be duped into doing that by Russian intelligence," says Mykola Vladzimirsky, a Ukrainian Crimean journalist. "If they carried out an attack against ethnic Russians, Moscow would have its excuse to annex Crimea by contending that Ukraine is unable to defend Russian citizens."

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NATO ministers...

(Continued from page 2)

Operation Active Endeavor. NATO had touted Russia's participation in that annual exercise in the Mediterranean as one of those symbolic successes with Russia. That same Russian Fleet, however, blockaded Georgia's ports and landed thousands of troops for military action in Abkhazia against Georgia. These actions also violate the neutral status of Ukraine, on whose territory that Russian Fleet is based. NATO might not welcome it back to joint exercises, following that fleet's attack on a NATO aspirant country.

The ministerial meeting in Brussels decided to create a permanent NATO-Georgia commission, for which the North Atlantic Council shall rapidly develop the modalities (NAC Statement, August 19). This commission would focus on post-conflict reconstruction in Georgia, from damage assessments to restoration of public services and relief to internally displaced Georgians. A first team of civil engineers is already being sent to help plan the rebuilding of schools, hospitals and airports. But while Georgia is in dire want of such assistance in the aftermath of Russia's destructive invasion, NATO for its part hardly needs yet another undertaking of social work among the many that dilute the alliance's core mission and dissipate its resources. In any case, there is no funding authorization for this commission's civil projects as yet.

The NATO-Georgia Commission does not seem likely to follow the model of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, which is designed in part to bring the country closer to the ultimate goal of NATO membership. The NATO-Georgia Commission seems weighted down by a socio-economic agenda. The decision to create this commission is the product of

compromise between supporters and naysayers of Georgia's application to NATO for a Membership Action Plan (MAP). The August 19 ministerial meeting merely confirmed earlier decisions to review Georgia's application at the December 2008 ministerial meeting, in the run-up to the April 2009 NATO summit.

The allied communiqué does not mention military assistance programs for Georgia. The United States, however, announced its intention to help Georgia restore its capacity for self-defense, which lies in ruins after the Russian invasion. Russian forces have systematically targeted Georgia's military infrastructure, particularly the U.S.- and allied-built bases and airfields, and carted away the stockpiles of arms and equipment.

Russia has reacted with scorn, rather than relief, to the alliance's weak communiqué: "empty words," "a mountain gave birth to a mouse" (Interfax, August 19), declared Russia's envoy to NATO, Dmitry Rogozin, whose almost daily insults NATO tolerates in NATO's own home.

In Moscow, however, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov called a press conference to denounce U.S. support for "Saakashvili's criminal regime." This is now Moscow's official terminology with regard to Georgia, and Mr. Lavrov warned the United States and NATO that they must make a choice between working with Georgia or with Russia (Interfax, August 19). Ahead of the NAC's September visit to Georgia and the alliance's December ministerial meeting, Russia is trying to intimidate at least some NATO governments into delaying approval for a Georgian MAP.

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



It is with deep sadness that I inform friends and relatives about the sudden and unexpected death of my beloved husband of forty years,

HENRY TUTTLE SHELDON

(4.7.1921 – 7.27.2008)

who suffered a massive stroke while on a brief but joyful vacation visiting friends in New Jersey.

Vichnaya Pamyat!

Christyna Bodnar Sheldon

Funeral services were held in Hunter, NY

July 30, 2008 – Parastas and Panachyda - Aston Basagic Funeral Home

July 31, 2008 – Funeral Mass - St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church

Burial - St. Frances De Sales Cemetery, Elka Park

Memorial luncheon (Tryzna) - Copper Tree Restaurant

40th Day After Death services will be held as follows:

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Hunter, NY

10:00 a.m. Mass at the church

11:30 a.m. Blessing of the cross at St. Frances De Sales Cemetery, Elka Park

12:00 noon Remembrance luncheon at the Sheldon home, Main St., Hunter, NY

St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, North Port, FL

8:30 a.m. Mass – offered by the Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida and by the Ukrainian American Veterans, Post 40

10:00 a.m. Remembrance brunch – Old World Restaurant

St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, New Haven, CT

8:30 a.m. Mass – offered by Ulana and Walter Zinyeh

Gifts in memory of Henry T. Sheldon may be made to:

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Composer-producer-professor Virko Baley speaks at HUSI

by Peter T. Woloschuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – On Wednesday, July 30, and Friday, August 1, the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute (HUSI) sponsored lectures by the critically acclaimed composer and Grammy award-winning producer Virko Baley, distinguished professor of music and composer-in-residence at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

His talks were on contemporary Ukrainian composers, particularly Valentin Silvestrov, as well as the composition of the speakers' new opera "Red Earth (Hunger)."

During the first lecture, Prof. Baley gave an overview of the history of Ukrainian contemporary composers and composition and then concentrated on the works and impact of Mr. Silvestrov, a composer from Kyiv who is recognized as one of the most important contemporary composers. He then showed an Estonian film on Mr. Silvestrov, his life and his work which attempted to give an insight into his creative personality and process.

During his second lecture Prof. Baley talked about his new opera's overall theme and message, the development of the libretto and the musical influences that have shaped the work, and he played selections from some of them. The opera is in three scenes and that they all will be performed without a break.

All of the action of the first two scenes will take place in a surreal village setting, while the third scene will be set in a wasteland with only a chipped crucifix bending over the scorched earth. The piece deals with the problem of good and evil, the persecution and starvation of innocent people, and redemption; it ends on a note of hope with the implied survival of a child.

In discussing this work Prof. Baley said, "The opera was conceived over 30 years ago, but only now is being completed. I became fascinated by a play of Bohdan Boychuk, 'Holod [Hunger],' which he wrote in the 1960s. I liked its slightly Beckett-like atmosphere, which was invested with remnants of expressionism and dream-like qualities. I also liked its verbal precision."

"I asked Bohdan to make me a libretto in two versions, Ukrainian and English," Prof. Baley continued, "with the understanding that it would be set first in English, with the Ukrainian adapted to it afterwards. He agreed."

"In the late 1990s there was a plan to produce the opera in Las Vegas, Nevada, by the combined forces of the University of Nevada's departments of music and theater," Prof. Baley continued. "The distinguished film director Yuri Illienko agreed to produce and direct it. We also contacted one of Ukraine's great costume designers,



Virko Baley lectures at Harvard.

Liudmyla Semykina, to participate in the project, and she agreed. Unfortunately, due to a number of conflicts that arose, the whole project was cancelled."

"However, in 2004 I decided to revive work on the opera by first taking four scenes and creating a symphonic version of them, which became my Symphony No. 2, 'Red Earth,'" he explained. "It was the first completed stage in the opera's slow progress towards full realization. In 2006 I received a fellowship from HURI [Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute] which enabled me to concentrate on the full elaboration of the work."

The world debut of excerpts from the opera will be on Monday, November 17, at 8 p.m. in Cambridge's Swedenborgian Church, which is contiguous to the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and will be a featured part of the Institute's international symposium on "The Great Famine in Ukraine: The Holodomor and its Consequences, 1933 to the Present."

Prof. Baley is a composer, conductor, pianist and writer. He was born in Radekhiv, Ukraine, in 1938, but has spent most of his creative life in the United States. He began his piano and composition studies at the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music and the Arts. The wide span of his compositions includes

works for choral ensembles, symphony orchestra, chamber ensembles and solo artists, he has composed film scores, symphonies and concertos.

Prof. Baley is the recipient of the 1996 Shevchenko Prize for Music, awarded by the Ukrainian government. He also was the recipient of the Petro Jacyk Distinguished Research Fellowship at

HURI or the 2006-2007 academic year.

In 2007 Prof. Baley was awarded a Grammy as recording producer for TNC Recordings for Best Instrumental Performance with Orchestra. He is an author of many articles on Ukrainian music, including many entries for the "Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians."

Shirley Fleming, reviewing a concert of his music in the New York Post, called his music "vibrant, dramatic, communicative, much of it framed by extra-musical allusions that place it in a solid context." According to Village Voice critic Kyle Gann, the New York premiere of Violin Concerto No. 1, "Quasi Una Fantasia," was full of "sonic images memorable enough to take home."

His Symphony No. 1 "Sacred Monuments" released on TNC Recordings, was commented in ClassicsToday by David Hurwitz as "Powerfully imagined, clearly articulated, and quite moving...It's a very serious ambitious statement by a gifted artist, and I wouldn't be a bit surprised if it turns out to have more staying power than many other contemporary works by today's trendier composers."

In addition, Prof. Baley co-produced and wrote the music for Yuri Illienko's film "Swan Lake: The Zone," which won two top prizes at Cannes in 1990, and the music for Mr. Illienko's most recent film, "Prayer for Hetman Mazepa."

As conductor he has led the Kyiv Camerata in recordings of over 15 CDs of orchestral music by such composers as Mozart, Beethoven, Silvestrov Ivan Karabyts, Bernard Rands and Yevhen Stankovych. Most recently Prof. Baley received the prestigious music award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.



In the audience during the lecture are: writer Askold Melnyczuk (left), and Profs. George G. Grabowicz (second from right) and Serhii Plokhii (right), both of Harvard.

Labor Day Week at Soyuzivka

Monday August 25, 2008
Steak Night
Dinner Entertainment
from Stepan & Friends

Tuesday August 26, 2008
Ukrainian Movie Day

Wednesday August 27, 2008
Hutsul Night with Entertainment
featuring Cherez

Thursday August 28, 2008
Relax before the weekend and enjoy
Movie night by the Tiki Bar

Friday August 29, 2008
Odessa Night with Entertainment featuring
Stepan, Maryna & Marian
Friday Night Lights Beach Volleyball Tournament
Tiki Party featuring Svitlanok

Saturday August 30, 2008
BBQ 12-6pm
Guitar Hero Tournament at the Tiki Bar
Afternoon Concert featuring Syzoryli Dancers
Zabava featuring Tempo & Fata Morgana

Sunday August 31, 2008
Zabava featuring Luna

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Ukraine concludes...

(Continued from page 1)

the semifinals, was awarded the bronze medal, despite pulling out due to an injury sustained to his elbow.

Rhythmic gymnast Anna Bessonova won the bronze medal in the individual all-around competition. The only Athens 2004 medalist who competed at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, she performed two powerful routines, which earned her a score of 72.825 points.

Victoria Tereshuk was awarded the bronze medal in the modern pentathlon event. The pentathlon includes running, shooting, fencing, swimming and show jumping.

Other bronze medal winners included: Nataliya Tobias, women's 1,500-meter race; Denys Yurchenko, men's pole vault; Iurii Cheban, 500-meter men's canoe single event; Taras Danko, men's freestyle wrestling (84 kg); and Irini Merleni, women's freestyle wrestling (48 kg).

Lyudmila Blonska, 30, who was awarded the silver medal in the women's heptathlon, was stripped of her medal after she failed a doping test. This was her second offense, which has the potential to permanently ban her from competing in the Olympic Games. In 2003 she was given a two-year ban for testing positive for steroids. The International Olympic Committee will decide whether to issue a lifetime ban to Blonska and may take action against her coach, Sergii Blonskyi (her husband).

Ukraine finished the Games with seven gold medals, five silver medals and 15 bronze medals.

Ukraine's 2008 Olympic Medalists

Discipline	Event	Medal	Name
Archery	Men's Individual	Gold	Viktor Ruban
Athletics	Men's Pole Vault	Bronze	Denys Yurchenko
	Women's 1,500 meters	Silver	Iryna Lishchynska
		Bronze	Nataliya Tobias
	Women's Discus Throw	Bronze	Olena Antonova
Boxing	Women's Heptathlon	Gold	Nataliia Dobrynska
	Men's Feather (57 kg)	Gold	Vasyl Lomachenko
	Men's Super-Heavy (+91 kg)	Bronze	Vyacheslav Glazkov
Canoe/Kayak – Flatwater	Men's Canoe Single 500-meter	Bronze	Iurii Cheban
	Women's Kayak Single 500-meter	Gold	Inna Osypenko-Radomska
Cycling – Track	Women's Individual Pursuit	Bronze	Lesya Kalitovska
Diving	Men's Sync. 3-meter Springboard	Bronze	Illya Kvasha
			Oleksiy Prygorov
Fencing	Women's Team Saber	Gold	Olena Khomrova
			Halyna Pundyk
			Olha Kharlan
	Olha Zhovnir		
Gymnastics – Artistic	Men's Rings	Bronze	Oleksandr Vorobiov
Gymnastics – Rhythmic	Individual All-Around	Bronze	Anna Bessonova
Judo	Men's (81 kg)	Bronze	Roman Hontiuk
Modern Pentathlon	Women	Bronze	Victoria Tereshuk
Shooting	Men's 50-meter Rifle 3 Positions	Silver	Jury Sukhorukov
	Men's 50-meter Rifle Prone	Gold	Artur Ayvazian
	Men's 25-meter Rapid-Fire Pistol	Gold	Oleksandr Petriv
Weightlifting	Women's (69 kg)	Bronze	Natalya Davydova
	Women's (+75 kg)	Silver	Olha Korobka
Wrestling	Men's Greco-Roman (66 kg)	Bronze	Armen Vardanyan
	Men's Freestyle (60 kg)	Silver	Vasyl Fedoryshyn
	Men's Freestyle (66 kg)	Silver	Andriy Stadnik
	Men's Freestyle (84 kg)	Bronze	Taras Danko
	Women's Freestyle (48 kg)	Bronze	Irini Merleni

Ukrainian World...

(Continued from page 5)

EU Council President Nicolas Sarkozy, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and High Representative for the Common and Foreign Security Policy Javier Solana will lead discussions with the Ukrainian delegation led by Mr. Yushchenko.

Meanwhile, Ukrainians must demonstrate their solidarity with the Georgian people and consider that any Russian attempt to dismantle national sovereignty is a threat of war, he said. "The world changed after August 8," the president told the congress. "A significant portion of the world is at a crossroads. Positions are changing and evaluations are changing. I am convinced the Ukrainian nation and the power structures of the Ukrainian state can do a lot more in this situation than what they did until now."

"I am convinced the Ukrainian nation finally understands in what lays the strength of the Euro-Atlantic political union. It's in one principle: I am responsible for everyone, everyone is responsible for me. And that's more important than any nuclear arsenal," Mr. Yushchenko noted.

Ms. Tymoshenko assured the delegates that Western democratic values and structures are firmly in place in Ukraine and are irreversible. With the constitutional crisis in 2007, Ukraine's pro-Western forces were on the verge of losing what they gained in 2004, but they returned back on course and "must make the most of this chance that God gave us," she said, adding that she would "do everything to ensure the course is irreversible."

Regarding her current conflict with the Presidential Secretariat, Ms. Tymoshenko said, "despite the entire complexity of the situation in our democratic camp, we are required to preserve the unity of the demo-

cratic coalition, strengthen it, multiply its strength and allow it to return to normal, stable work."

Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also addressed the congress, including Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko and Ukrainians Abroad Administration Chair Vasyl Boyechko.

Among the top goals to emerge from this year's congress is to improve the ease and accessibility of voting in national elections for Ukrainian citizens residing abroad.

Numerous delegates complained that Ukrainian Embassies and Consulates are ill-prepared to handle the many voters, which leads to hundreds being denied their right to vote because of inadequate preparation, space or employees to man the local polling stations.

Among the scores of resolutions to emerge from the congress, delegates also requested that voting procedures be simplified so that only a Ukrainian foreign pass-



Zenon Zawada

Vasyl Boyechko, chair of the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Ukrainians Abroad Administration.

port is needed to vote. Hundreds of Ukrainians in the diaspora in the past were denied the right to vote because they didn't pre-register with an Embassy or Consulate.

The congress sent a clear message on the Georgian war that erupted just two weeks earlier, condemning the Russian aggression in its southern neighbor. The UWC declared its support for the Georgian people in defending their sovereignty, passed a resolution asking EU and NATO to ensure Russia will not violate Ukraine's sovereignty as it did in Georgia, and requested NATO to extend membership to Georgia and Ukraine.

The congress also declared its support for the president's goal of creating a single Ukrainian Church to ensure Ukrainian spiritual national unity and consolidation.

Other resolutions addressed granting government recognition to the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), launching a government commission to support the Ukrainian language and increasing efforts to combat human trafficking, among dozens of other issues critical to Ukraine.

<p>Ukrainian Music Institute of America, Inc.</p> <p>"MUSIC & ME"</p>  <p>Marta Sawycky, Director</p> <p>Classes begin:</p> <p>Tuesday, September 9, 2008</p> <p>Dance Studio 22 1136 Route 22 West Mountainside, N.J. 07092</p> <p>Information and enrollment: (908) 232-4497 • (908) 276-3134</p>	<p><i>Dance Studio 22</i></p> <p><i>Ballroom & Latin</i></p>  <p>Private and group lessons for youth and adults Debutantes & Weddings</p> <p>Dance Studio 22 1136 Route 22 West Mountainside, N.J. 07092</p> <p>Marta Sawycky (908) 232-4497 • (908) 276-3134</p>
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 Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-33
 a film by bobby leigh

Please join the growing number of individuals, companies, and organizations who are helping to ensure that Ukraine's tragic story of its Holodomor is told through: **"HOLODOMOR; Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-33"**. This first ever feature length documentary film is in production in the United States and aims to bring awareness of Ukraine's genocide to the worldwide general public. It will premiere in Kyiv in November 2008, then go on to New York, Chicago, Hollywood, and other major cities in the US and abroad.

To date, this film project is endorsed by:

- Embassy of Ukraine to the United States of America
- Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA)
- Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS)
- Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago
- Consulate General of Ukraine in San Francisco
- The National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933
- The Los Angeles Holodomor Committee
- Ukrainian National Women's League of America - LA Branch
- 75th Anniversary-Ukrainian Genocide Holodomor Commemoration Committee-Chicago
- The Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain

"HOLODOMOR; Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-33" is gaining momentum as shown by the growing list of financial contributors:

- Ukrainian National Association Inc. & Ukrainian National Foundatoin, Inc.
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*Donations received as of 08/08/2008

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Russian forces...

(Continued from page 2)

RIA Novosti, August 22, 23).

Indeed, Russia can do all this without technically violating the Sarkozy-Medvedev "armistice." Mr. Medvedev again deceived Mr. Sarkozy with the promise that Russia would only keep some 500 extra troops in a buffer zone near South Ossetia. Based on such promises, France helped Moscow foist the buffer-zone scheme on Georgia.

On August 22 in the evening, Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov reported to President Medvedev in front of the cameras that Russian forces had completed their "pull-back" ("otvod") and thus, the Russian side has fulfilled the agreements (Interfax, August 23). On this point as well, the Russians misled the French presidency by playing on the Russian words for pullout and pull-back ("vyvod" and "otvod") (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, August 22).

The buffer zone adjacent to South Ossetia is demarcated by a jagged line, expanding Russian military control by up to 20 kilometers inside Georgia, reaching close to the country's geographical center. Russian troops and their North Caucasus and Cossack auxiliaries have driven out the Georgian population from South Ossetia (which was one-third Georgian-populated until August 10) and also from the newly created buffer zone (which was compactly Georgian-populated prior to this conflict). This new zone enlarges a Russian-controlled salient deep within the Georgian heartland, within easy striking distance of Tbilisi.

In the west, the buffer zone expands Russian military control by some 40 kilometers to the south and southeast of Abkhazia. The demarcation line is so drawn as to include the Senaki airfield, the Kulevi

oil export terminal (Azerbaijani state-owned) and both entrances to Poti (Georgia's main sea harbor) within the Russian-occupied zone. This zone encompasses possibly one-half of the population of Samegrelo province (Mingrelia).

Russian forces in this area claim to act on the collective behalf of the CIS, extending the "peacekeeping" operation allegedly under the aegis of the CIS from Abkhazia into the newly created buffer zone. The other nine CIS member-countries dare not disavow this gratuitous Russian claim, which purports to associate them with an invasion and occupation of another country's territory. Russian troops fly both the Russian and the CIS flag at their posts. They have set up two such posts near Poti harbor: one controlling its northern entrance and the other located south of Poti, on Free Economic Zone land recently leased by the Georgian government to the investment authority from the United Arab Emirates, without having asked anyone's permission.

The Russians have paralyzed Poti harbor by bombing its installations from the air, sinking with explosives at least three Georgian coast guard and police cutters in the anchorage area, cutting the port's highway link to the country's interior and blowing up a critical railroad bridge. They took these actions both before and during the French-brokered "armistice." On August 23 Poti residents took part in organized mass demonstrations demanding, "Russian occupiers go home."

In Tbilisi, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili has repeatedly told local and international media, "There will be no 'buffer zones.' We will never live with 'buffer zones.' We'll never allow anything like this" (August 21-23).

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

U.N. conference to mark 60th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." – Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

by Nadia Shmigel

NEW YORK – The General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. The Universal Declaration is based on the Charter of the United Nations, which reaffirms the dignity and worth of the human person. The United Nations is totally committed to upholding, promoting and protecting human rights of every individual in the world.

The 60th anniversary of the Declaration will be commemorated at the 61st Annual DPI/NGO Conference, "Reaffirming Human Rights: The Universal Declaration at 60," on September 3-5 in Paris at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters. The conference is organized by the Department of Public Information, in partnership with the non-governmental organization (NGO) community, UNESCO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the government of France.

The conference will begin on Wednesday, September 3, with an opening ceremony in the morning session. During the afternoon session, Roundtable I, "Upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," will deal with the application of the human rights treaty sys-

tem worldwide. On Thursday, September 4, Roundtable II, "Overcoming Discrimination to Realize Human Rights and Dignity for All," will take place during the morning session, and Roundtable III, "Human Rights and Human Security," will be held in the afternoon.

On Friday morning, September 5, Roundtable IV will address "Human Rights Education and Learning as a Way of Life," and, in the afternoon, Roundtable V will focus on "Addressing Gross Human Rights Violations: Prevention and Accountability."

All roundtables will be followed by break-out sessions during which active participation and dialogue will be greatly encouraged.

The conference will end with a closing ceremony on September 5. A detailed program, including side events, such as the Human Rights Village, is available on the Internet at the conference's website: www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference/.

The goal of the conference is the advancement of human rights at the international, regional, national and local levels. The conference will provide opportunities to share experiences and best practices in efforts to promote and protect human rights. In addition to the roundtables and break-out sessions, 42 mid-day workshops will be held on a variety of themes related to human rights.

There will be an opportunity to participate in the Raconteur Corner, a special place where conference participants will be able to tell stories of empowerment, human rights activism and survival. The

(Continued on page 23)

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To pre-register, e-mail Vira Popel at virapopel@aol.com

Afternoon social (hors d'oeuvres and drinks) will begin at 2:30 p.m., followed by an evening cocktail hour, dinner with open bar and dancing. Tickets to the afternoon and evening get-togethers are \$70 per person.

The KLK annual meeting will take place Sunday morning. All members are encouraged to participate.

To reserve rooms call Soyuzivka, 845-626-5641 and mention KLK.

For more info about the weekend, call Vira Popel, 732-297-0786 (before 9 p.m.) or e-mail virapopel@aol.com.



Ukraine has traveled...

(Continued from page 9)

date – is a very troubling factor in view of the tragic developments in Georgia and their possible spillover to Ukraine.

Insufficiently effective governance lies at the root of many specific Ukrainian problems in the economy, energy supply, diplomacy, justice and the security area. Indeed, it seems that the more independent a particular sector of Ukraine's life becomes from bureaucratic interference and state corruption, the more successful it becomes, as may be seen in the private banking sector, the independent media, small business, private medicine and sports.

All this has contributed to a situation in which Ukraine, along with remarkable achievements, has faced a continuous series of crises – many of which could have been avoided. As well, lack of national unity and lack of effective governance have led to many lost opportunities, and a waste of time and resources.

However, in view of the sometimes slow and frustrating, but still overall positive developments in Ukraine, it is important to remember that our progress, to a significant extent, is a result of the support and encouragement by friendly democratic nations – in the first instance, the United States.

The principle of the American approach to cooperation with Ukraine has always been to help in building a stable, prosperous democracy that can become a viable economic and security partner to the West. Mutually advantageous security cooperation between the U.S. and Ukraine, as well as the U.S. contribution to the development of Ukraine's civil society and free media and U.S. encouragement of market economy transformations allowed independent Ukraine to become a key European country.

A significant role in garnering U.S. support for Ukraine was played by many Ukrainian American institutions, media, and individuals, who never hesitated to sacrifice their time and resources to help Ukraine. They deserve the highest respect and recognition for their sincere efforts. In this regard, I am happy to acknowledge people, whom I have known personally, like Nicholas Krawciw, Stepan Olynyk, Joseph and Mary Lesawyer, Tymko and Sheila Butrej, Lubomyr Hajda, the Rev. Yaroslav and Luba Nalysnyk, and many others.

And so, today, as 14 years ago, it is my pleasure to greet all Ukrainians, Americans, Canadians and everyone who reads this newspaper on the occasion of Ukraine's Independence Day and to wish God's blessing on our friendly countries.

North Dakota...

(Continued from page 12)

enjoying a traditional Ukrainian meal at the modern Elks Hall. A "zabava" (dance) followed with Ernie Klym's Ukrainian orchestra providing the music and entertainment.

Sunday morning was devoted to religious services in Belfield and the surrounding area.

A heroic story

Ukrainian American history in North Dakota is a heroic story of economic perseverance in an often uninviting and barren environment, as well as a strong determination to preserve a unique religious-cultural tradition.

The first immigrants from Ukraine to settle in North Dakota were "Stundists" from eastern and central Ukraine. They were members of a religious sect introduced into Ukraine by German settlers in 1817. As Stundist conversions in Ukraine increased, Russian civil and Orthodox authorities responded in the "Russian way" with persecution. Hearing of America, the Stundists fled.

The word "Stundist" comes from the German word Stunde or hour, reflecting their hour of daily Bible study and reading. The tenets of the Stundists were a mixture of Lutheran, Calvinist and Baptist beliefs. Among the first Stundists to arrive in North Dakota were Havrylo Kuzenny, Yukhym Sych, Ivan Yukhymiv and Ivan Sypchenko whose pictures can be found in my book, "The Ukrainian Americans: Roots and Aspirations, 1884-1954."

Ukrainian Protestants settled in Butte, Kief, Balfour, Minot, Max and Kildeer. They built no churches initially, preferring to hold prayer services in private homes. This changed with time as

Adventists, Mennonites, Pentecostals and Baptists came to proselytize. By 1983 there were 16 Ukrainian Protestant houses of worship, primarily Baptist and Adventist in the area.

Ukrainians from western Ukraine also began to arrive at the turn of the century. They settled in western North Dakota, near the badlands, where they established the town of Ukraina. It was here that the first Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Demetrius, was organized in 1906. Bishop Soter Ortrynsky visited in 1910 and presented parishioners with a set of matrimonial crowns used in wedding ceremonies. The church and rectory burned down in 1928 and a new St. Demetrius was constructed on U.S. Highway 85, in the center of the shifting Ukrainian population.

A second Ukrainian Catholic church, St. Josaphat, was built in Gorham in 1911. The building was destroyed in 1917. A second church was constructed in 1921. As the population in Gorham declined, the religious appointments were sold and eventually ended up in the Ukrainian Cultural Institute in Belfield, where they were restored and placed as the central display of the 1988 exhibit commemorating the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine.

A Ukrainian Orthodox church, Ss. Peter and Paul, was built in Ukraina in 1917. It was moved to Belfield in 1950.

Plans are under way for 2009, when the Ukrainian Festival will be held July 17-19.

Sources: "Pilgrims of the Prairie" (1983) by Andrew Dubovy, translated and edited by Marie Halun Bloch; "North Dakota Ukrainians," originally published in "North Dakota History," Vol. 53, No. 3 (1986).

Bush, Georgia...

(Continued from page 6)

say in Texas. One could see from the news coverage of the Bucharest summit that other heads of state were paying scant attention to the lame-duck U.S. president.

With the Russian invasion of Georgia in full swing, the Bush administration visibly handed the ball to the European

community to "negotiate" with Russia a solution to the crisis, while limiting itself to making vague hints of "consequences" if Russia carried on the invasion.

One could make inferences as to U.S. reaction in case of a clash between Ukraine and Russia, say, in Crimea. Save your indignation until then.

Boris Danik

North Caldwell, N.J.

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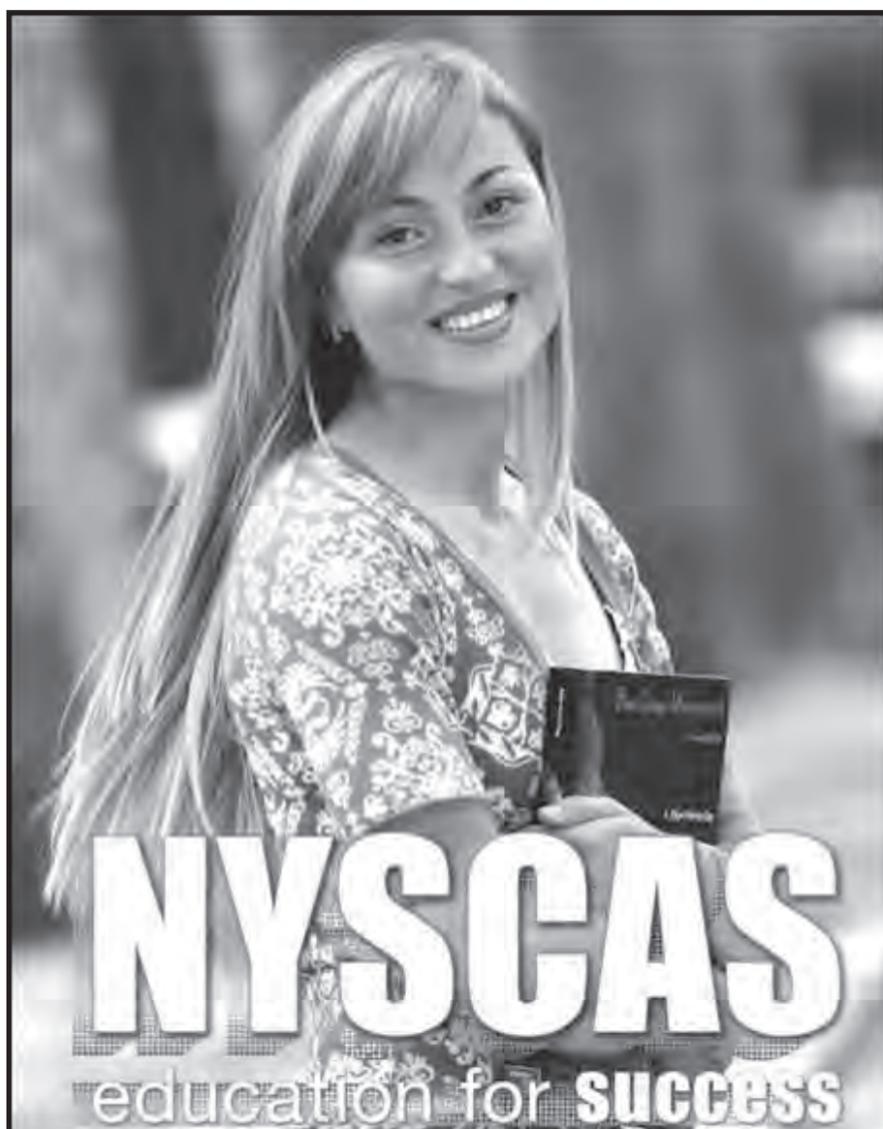


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OUT AND ABOUT

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| September 5-7
Chicago | Ukrainian Village Fest, featuring the Hromovytsia Dance Ensemble, Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church, 312-829-5209 | September 14
Stamford, CT | Ukrainian Day Festival, St. Basil Seminary, 860-568-5445 |
| September 6
Ottawa | Golf tournament, Ottawa Ukrainian Golf Association, The Meadows Golf and Country Club, 613-731-4453 or 613-834-9935 | September 14
Horsham, PA | Fall festival, Ukrainian American Sports Center - Tryzub, 215-343-5412 |
| September 6
New York | Lecture by Valeriy Kuchinsky, "Ukraine's Foreign Policy," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 | September 15
Washington | Panel discussion, "Achieving National Security for Ukraine through Energy Independence and Diversification," Johns Hopkins University, 202-207-2484 |
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- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| September 6-7
Baltimore | Ukrainian Festival, Baltimore Ukrainian Festival Committee, Patterson Park, 410-687-3465 | <h3>U.N. conference...</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">(Continued from page 21)</p> <p>story-telling project is being sponsored by the Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Leisure (IDEAL).</p> <p>Conference Chair Shamina de Gonzaga, representative of Fundacion Cultural Baur, together with members of the Planning Committee, has made every effort to disseminate the information about the 61st Annual DPI/NGO conference throughout the world. It is anticipated that approximately 2,000 people from 90 countries will participate in the conference. They will be representatives of the business community, civil society, NGOs and governments. The Planning Committee especially encouraged participation of poor and marginalized people whose voices are seldom heard.</p> <p>The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations took active part in the planning process and will participate in the conference.</p> <p>Therese Folks Plair, representative of the Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Leisure (IDEAL), in charge of the</p> | |
| September 7
Kenmore, NY | Ukrainian Festival, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, 716-873-5011 | <p>Raconteur Corner, will record stories about human rights during the conference in Paris and in New York City at The Ukrainian Museum when Dr. Jean-Pierre Cap, Oliver Edwin Williams Professor Emeritus of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Lafayette College, will present the story of the Holodomor as seen through the eyes of Wasył Barka, the famous Ukrainian author. In his childhood, Mr. Barka lived through the artificially created starvation of the Ukrainian population and went on to immortalize this tragedy in his novel "The Yellow Prince."</p> <p>Iryna Kurowyckyj and Judyth Gordon, NGO representatives of the International Council of Women, will share their recollections of human rights that touched their and their family's life experience, as part of the Raconteur Corner. The presentations will be featured on the conference website and will be recorded on DVD for the collection of the United Nations Library.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>The Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be found translated into many languages at www.unhcr.ch/undhr/.</p> | |
| September 7
Passaic, NJ | 25th annual parish picnic, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 973-473-7197 | | |
| September 12 - November 9
Chicago | Art exhibit, "New Print Politik: Post-Soviet Politics and Contemporary Art," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522 | | |
| September 12-13
Chicago | Holodomor conference, "Breaking the Silence on the Ukrainian Genocide," the 75th Anniversary Ukrainian Genocide-Holodomor Commemoration Committee of Chicago, 847-299-3433 or www.ukrainiangenocide.com | | |
| September 12-14
Toronto | Toronto Ukrainian Festival, Bloor West Village, 416-410-9965 | | |
| September 13-14
Silver Spring, MD | Ukrainian Festival, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 301-384-9192 | | |



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Soyuzivka's Datebook

August 25 - September 1 – Labor Day week: Guest performers, dances, concerts, contests, tennis championships, swim meet, volleyball tournament, fine food and more!

September 6 – Private function

September 8 - 10 – Gymnasium reunion - Berchtesgaden, Regensburg, Landshut, Karlsfeldt, cocktail banquet Tuesday evening

September 12 - 14 – UNA General Assembly

September 15 - 17 – Bayreuth Gymnasium reunion, cocktail banquet Tuesday evening

September 19 - 21 – KKK - weekend and Pershi Stezhi Plast Sorority 60th anniversary

September 23 - 25 – Mittenwald Gymnasium reunion, cocktail banquet Wednesday

September 26 - 28 – Private function

October 4 - 5 – Private function

October 10 - 13 – Private function

October 18 - 19 – Private function

October 24 - 26 – Halloween weekend festivities

November 1 - 2 – Private function

November 7 - 9 – Orlykiada

November 27 – Thanksgiving dinner - rooms available in Main House building only



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
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UNA ANNUITY SALES SURPASS THE \$7,000,000 MARK

The Ukrainian National Association annuity sales to date has surpassed the \$7,000,000 mark. The 5 year annuity has been the most popular at a rate of 5% for 5 years. The short term annuity rates are 1 year at 4.25%, 2 year at 4.30% and the 3 years at 4.50%.

If you are interested in purchasing a UNA annuity, please contact the Home Office to speak to our annuity specialist at 800-253-9862.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, September 5

NEW YORK: Ukrainian students of the USA/USA Program invite all to an art, wine and cheese evening, dubbed "Capturing the World around Us," at 7 p.m. at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., New York City. The program will include photography by Ukrainian students, three short films by contemporary Ukrainian filmmakers, a raffle of gold artwork by Oddfishie Designs, a reception and much more. Admission: \$55. For information contact Yevheniya Krutko at 212-785-4170 or visit www.ukrainianscholarships.org.

Friday-Sunday, September 5-7

CHICAGO: Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church's Ukrainian Village Fest 2008 will be held on the parish grounds, located at 739 N. Oakley Blvd., corner of Oakley and Superior streets. Festival hours: Friday, 5-10 p.m.; Saturday, 1-11 p.m.; Sunday, 1-10 p.m. An outdoor "zabava" (dance) will be held all three days under a large tent; on Saturday evening there will be an indoor zabava as well. Friday's admission is free; Saturday and Sunday, \$5 per person for all age 13 and over; children's activities, \$5 per day. Come see the non-stop performances, dance ensembles (featuring Hromovytsia), various bands, children's activities, bingo with prizes and a chance to win the grand lottery of \$2,000. Shop the many street vendors, taste delicious ethnic cuisine and drink Ukrainian beer. To volunteer or for more information call 312-829-5209.

Saturday, September 6

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Ambassador Valeriy Kuchynsky, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations in the years 2000-2006. His topic will be "Ukraine's Foreign Policy." The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Saturday-Sunday, September 6-7

BALTIMORE: Baltimore's 32nd Ukrainian Festival will spotlight the dance groups Syzokryli, Lyman and Kazka, and violinist Inessa Tymochko-Dekajlo. Also on the program: the Ukrainian Cultural Center's Holodomor Dedication and pysanka demonstrations. The festival, which is open noon-8 p.m., also promises over 40 crafts, novelty and food vendors, a children's area and games, the sixth annual varenyky-eating contest, the original Ukrainian Beer Garden with live music, a money wheel and raw bar. The festival takes place at Patterson Park, corner of Linwood and Eastern avenues. For information call Stephen, 410-967-0501.

Thursday, September 11

NEW YORK: The fifth season of the

Ukrainian Film Club at Columbia University will be opened with a program titled "New Films from Ukraine" that will feature recent works, yet unseen in North America. Included on the program: "Dummy," an intricately woven detective story with a surprise ending, by the internationally renowned director from Odesa Kira Muratova; as well as films by two representatives of the younger generation of Ukrainian filmmakers, both from Kyiv: "Fireflies," a short feature about emotional attachment between a little boy and a girl, by Nadia Koshman, and "Fiesta," which celebrates Ukrainian folk music and its growing attraction for modern urban youth, by Hanna Yarovenko. The program, which is free and open to the public, begins at 7:30 p.m. in 703 Hamilton Hall, Columbia University. The films will be screened in their original Ukrainian- and Russian-language versions with subtitles in English. Details are available at www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc.

Monday, September 15

WASHINGTON: The Washington Group, the Ukrainian-American Environmental Association, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council will sponsor a panel discussion, "Achieving National Security for Ukraine through Energy Independence and Diversification," among five experts at 6:30-10 p.m., at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Rome Building, Rome Auditorium, 1619 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Topics include fossil fuels, renewables, nuclear energy and prospects for increasing energy efficiency. The event is free and open to the public; a reception will follow. For more information contact Andriy Blokhin, 202-207-2484 or andriy.blokhin@gmail.com. To register for the live webcast: <http://thewashingtongroup.org/Events/2008/energy091508.php>.

Saturday, September 27

HORSHAM, Pa.: Tryzubivka, the Ukrainian American Sport Center located at Lower State and County Line roads, will host Fall Fest 2008 at 3-11 p.m. The festival grove "Biergarten" will come to life with continuous live music, featuring The Mango Men Band, winners of Kenny Chesney's "Next Big Star" competition, Dog Bite Money and other bands and ensembles. Enjoy imported and domestic specialty beers (with free sampling and tasting), expertly selected for pairing with an international menu: "The Best of the Wursts," grills, BBQs, and tasty Ukrainian and other ethnic foods. Fall Fest will be held rain or shine; the event will be held under a roof in the event of rain. Admission is \$15 per person; young adults age 18-20, \$5; under age 18, free (with parent or guardian). For further information call 215-343-5412 or visit the website www.tryzub.org. Proceeds benefit youth sports and cultural programming.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES:

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

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long.

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

Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510; e-mail, preview@ukrweekly.com.