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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## Kuchma, citing Parliament's paralysis, issues 39 decrees on the economy

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — In a Constitution Day address to the nation on June 28, President Leonid Kuchma derided the country's Parliament for its paralysis and political populism, and announced that recently he had issued more than three dozen presidential decrees to revitalize the economy.

"A country cannot be a prisoner of parliamentary passivity in the legislative process caused by the lack of desire to create a legal basis for the economy," said President Kuchma.

The June 28 date marked the third anniversary of the adoption of the country's Constitution, as well as the end of the special term that Ukraine's basic law had given the president to issue special executive decrees on economic reforms

in areas that the Verkhovna Rada had yet to address. In that time the president had issued 120 economic decrees, only 18 of which have been rejected by the Parliament. The 39 he issued in the last 10 days of his mandate were the most by far in such a short period of time.

Pavlo Haidutskyi, President Kuchma's chief economic aide, said that, for the most part, the executive orders are replicas of bills that already have been sent to the Verkhovna Rada for examination and approval, some of which have languished there for a year.

"It was simply no longer possible to wait for the Verkhovna Rada to act," said Mr. Haidutskyi at a June 30 press conference. "The possibility existed that the Verkhovna Rada could reject [the bills], by which time the presidential mandate

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## Over 900 attend Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

by Roma Hadzewycz

ARLINGTON, Va. — More than 900 people — among them members of various Ukrainian professionals' societies and community organizations — participated in the diverse programs that constituted the inaugural Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations held in and around Washington from Wednesday, June 23, through Sunday, June 27.

From its beginning, a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine on Wednesday evening, to its conclusion, a Sunday afternoon session that focused on "Finding Direction for Our Organizations," the mammoth event was an uplifting experience for a Ukrainian American community that has been changed dramatically — in the process becoming somewhat unsettled — since

the re-establishment of an independent Ukrainian state.

From start to finish, participants of the Joint Conferences heard and saw what the Ukrainian American community and the Ukrainian nation have to offer, from professional knowledge in disparate fields to energetic volunteerism and beautiful music.

The conferences straddled the two worlds that comprise two realities of Ukrainian American life: Ukraine and the United States. It was appropriate, therefore, that greetings to this extraordinary gathering were sent by both President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine (see text on page 4) and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore.

If all goes according to plan, the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations will be more than a one-shot-deal. They will be the beginning of a new venture and will succeed in establishing a new framework for cooperation among the community's diverse yet complementary elements.

Participants agreed that such a gathering must be held again — indeed, that it must be held regularly. And, community leaders and members meeting at an open session at the conclusion of the five-day event, spoke nearly unanimously in favor of setting up a mechanism for regular consultation among Ukrainian American organizations with the aim of increasing the community's effectiveness both internally and in terms of its external relations.

### A venue for synergy

In the words of one participant, the Joint Conferences were simply "a terrific idea." Eugene Z. Stakhiv, Ph.D., of Fairfax Station, Va., added: "There is great value in having such interaction — in getting all of the Ukrainian professional community talking and meeting at the same time."

Theodor Kostiuik, Ph.D., of Seabrook, Md., described the event as "extremely successful, highly attended and an opportunity to really learn what the Ukrainian community does as a whole."

"If you hold it, they will come," to turn a phrase, sums up the fervent belief of the conferences' coordinator, Dr. Roman Goy, a Baltimore physician who several years ago conceived the idea of this synergistic get-together, a "Ukrainian events week" in the nation's capital.

"They" came. From all corners of the U.S., representatives of younger generations of Ukrainian Americans — the 30-somethings to the 50-somethings — arrived in metropolitan Washington for this milestone undertaking.

(Continued on page 5)

## Cultural center in Toronto vandalized; hate crimes investigation under way

by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj  
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — Since the night of June 20, the white facade of the Ukrainian Cultural Center on Christie Street has been marred by a harsh spray-painted message: "Nazi SS here: corrupting children, sh..... on them." A swastika was sprayed at the beginning of the text.

According to William Mihowich, the center's vice-president, the graffiti

appeared on the building sometime between 4 p.m. on June 20 and 4 a.m. the following morning.

On June 21, center administrators called the Metropolitan Toronto Police, and two officers from the 14th Division arrived to conduct an investigation of the incident under statutes governing property damage and hate crime.

Mr. Mihowich said an official with the Toronto municipal government's by-law enforcement division for hate slogan

removal had agreed to send a detail to clean off the offensive screeed.

As of June 30, the graffiti had not yet been cleared.

Mr. Mihowich, also general manager of the Homin Ukrainy community weekly, whose editorial offices recently moved to the building, said the incident has gone largely unmentioned in the mainstream media, but a reporter from the largest circu-

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The hate slogan sprayed on the facade of the Ukrainian Cultural Center on Christie Street in Toronto.



## Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

# Sestanovich addresses community at State Department reception

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – One of the principal joint events of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations here last week was a reception for its participants held on Friday, June 25, at the State Department.

The evening, held in the ornate, ceremonial Benjamin Franklin Room on the top floor of the State Department building, not only gave conference participants a chance to rub shoulders with U.S. government officials; it also gave U.S. and Ukrainian officials an opportunity to publicly, but diplomatically, touch on some irritant items on their bilateral agenda that need attention: reports about political shenanigans in this year's presidential elections, continued corruption, visa problems, and the extradition of former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko.

Welcoming the more than 400 conference participants and guests on behalf of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, her ambassador-at-large and special advisor on the new independent states (NIS), Stephen A. Sestanovich, focused on three of these areas.

First, he underlined the need to strengthen respect for political freedom in Ukraine, about which there have been some negative reports recently.

"Ukraine has been a leader in the political area, in advancing political freedoms," he said, "but election years like this one can put pressures on those freedoms, and we want to pay close attention to freedom of the press, to the conduct of a free and fair election, to the widest possible participation by Ukrainian citizens in making their national choices."

Making Ukraine an attractive place to invest, "so that our economic relations become another strong bond between our societies," was another aspect of bilateral relations cited by the ambassador. Among the obstacles to this end, Mr. Sestanovich cited corruption and "not fully reformed government regulatory structures."

He also noted that U.S. visa procedures in Kyiv need improvement, eliciting an audible murmur from the audience. "These are areas in which, working together, we can create a stronger partnership that reflects those deep common interests," he said.

Speaking about the U.S. government's involvement with the Ukrainian American



Ambassador Stephen A. Sestanovich addresses an audience of over 400 people in the ornate Benjamin Franklin Room.

community, Ambassador Sestanovich said it has benefited from its participation in such meetings as the Joint Conferences.

"For us, this reservoir of this community of Americans represents an immense source of information about Ukraine, of understanding what's happening in Ukraine and of access to Ukraine to help cement Ukrainian-American relations," he said.

Describing the importance of the U.S.-Ukraine relationship, Mr. Sestanovich recalled a recent *Time* magazine cover picture of Secretary Albright at a U.S. airbase in Germany. The headline on the picture of her in a flak jacket and holding a mobile phone said "Albright at War" and carried a description in smaller type that she was conferring by phone with Ukraine's foreign affairs minister. He said that Secretary Albright had sent a copy of the magazine to Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk with a signed note saying: "Now the whole world knows about our close relationship."

That close relationship is, of course, not based on magazine cover statements, but on common interests, common achievements

and cooperative efforts, as well as on the "robust aid program" supported in Congress, said Ambassador Sestanovich.

He then invited Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Anton Buteiko, whom he called "a superb partner" in working out bilateral problems, to the microphone.

Although not scheduled to speak that evening, the Ukrainian ambassador used the occasion to focus on "the remarkable development" of U.S.-Ukraine relations since its independence. Ukraine once was "terra incognita" to American diplomacy, said Ambassador Buteiko, who participated in the negotiations with the United States regarding removal of Ukraine's strategic nuclear arsenal. Now the two countries enjoy a strategic partnership, "which should be developed even further," he added.

Ukraine is grateful for U.S. aid, but, as Ambassador Buteiko said he has stressed from the outset, "we have to be in a position not to ask for any assistance."

On the other hand, as he had pointed out during a reception on the previous day in Congress, "Ukraine also contributed a lot to the security of the United States by removing more than 2,000 nuclear warheads that were targeted at the people and cities of the United States."

Ukraine is building a democratic country, he said, and it has already tested its democracy in a peaceful and democratic transfer of power in previous elections. The coming elections will pass that test as well, he said. "And those elections will be fair and just. I am sure of that," he emphasized.

"Certainly we have problems. Certainly we have corruption," he added. "Certainly we will solve those problems also with the assistance of the United States. And I'm sure that the legislation of the United States will permit to extradite those who would come to the United States after committing corruption in Ukraine," he said.

Ukraine has sought, thus far unsuccessfully, the return of its former prime minister, Mr. Lazarenko, who remains in U.S. custody following his detention at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport in February. Ukraine has accused Mr. Lazarenko, now being held in San Francisco, of misappropriating millions of dollars of government funds.

The U.S.-Ukraine strategic partnership will be tested successfully in the future, Ambassador Buteiko said, because of the "very good team" dealing with Ukraine at the State Department, headed by Secretary Albright, Deputy Secretary Strobe Talbott and Ambassador Sestanovich. "And together I am sure we will overcome the visa and other problems," he said.

Introducing Ambassador Sestanovich, Ihor Dlaboha, general manager of the Ukrainian Broadcasting Network, which sponsored the reception, spoke about the important work accomplished in the United States by Ukrainian Americans in the years preceding Ukraine's independence.

With Ukraine now independent, he added, the community has to consider how best to develop its own future and its relationships with Washington, Kyiv, the Ukrainian people and the new Ukrainian immigrants coming to the United States.

The evening's program was opened with a greeting by Dr. Roman Goy, coordinator of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations.



Stephen A. Sestanovich, the secretary of state's special advisor on the new independent states.

## Lazarenko hearing is delayed; associate is arrested in California

SAN FRANCISCO – At a June 21 hearing in San Francisco, further proceedings in the case of Pavlo Lazarenko were delayed as Switzerland's request for his extradition has superseded Mr. Lazarenko's petition for political asylum in the U.S. The former prime minister is being held in the Federal Detention Center in Dublin, Calif. The next hearing has been scheduled for July 8.

Meanwhile, news media in the San Francisco area, including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, have reported that Mr. Lazarenko used a foreign corporation to work out the purchase of an 18-acre Bay Area estate with five swimming pools that is worth nearly \$7 million.

In related news, the San Francisco

Examiner reported that an associate of Mr. Lazarenko, Petro Kirichenko, 47, was arrested on Friday, June 18, at his northern California home in Tiburon. Citing officials at the FBI, the newspaper noted that Switzerland is seeking Mr. Kirichenko's extradition to face charges of aiding Mr. Lazarenko in laundering public funds. He is accused of helping the former prime minister open Swiss bank accounts.

Mr. Kirichenko also faces U.S. charges for lying to immigration officials when entering this country in 1995. His attorney, George Niespolo, told the Examiner his client is being "persecuted" at the request of officials in Ukraine.

U.S. Magistrate Bernard Zimmerman on June 18 ordered Mr. Kirichenko held in custody pending hearings.



## Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

### Four members of Congress honored during Capitol Hill reception

by Michael Sawkiw Jr.

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – A reception held on Capitol Hill on Thursday evening, June 24, to honor four members of Congress for their dedication and long-standing support of Ukrainian American issues was an integral part of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations.

The honorees were Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), ranking minority member of the Armed Services Committee; Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), member of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee; Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), chairman of the International Relations Committee; and Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.), chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission).

Sponsored by the 1st Security Federal Savings Bank of Chicago/Philadelphia, the reception gave participants of the Joint Conferences an opportunity to acquaint themselves with issues pertaining to U.S.-Ukraine relations. This writer, director of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), which hosted the event, acted as master of ceremonies.

Introduced as “a true friend of Ukraine” and the first to speak was Rep. David Bonior (D-Mich.), the minority whip in the House of Representatives, who spoke of his Ukrainian heritage and “pride to be together with you tonight.” The congressman referred to the formation of the U.S.-Ukraine strategic partnership and how much has been accomplished in Ukraine, adding, however, that more needs to be done. His address was enthusiastically received by the over 400 participants at the congressional reception.

Julian Kulas, president of 1st Security Federal Savings Bank, delivered greetings

### Kuchma greets joint conferences

*Below is the English translation of the text of a greeting from President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine, sent on June 23 from Kyiv to the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations. The Ukrainian-language message was read at the Joint Conferences banquet on Saturday evening, June 26.*

With all my heart, I greet you on the occasion of this noteworthy event, which marks a significant step toward unifying the Ukrainians of the United States of America.

No matter what our everyday concerns, plans and hopes, we all have one common goal: to create a strong European state – Ukraine.

I especially would like to thank you for your active promotion of the development of the Ukrainian-American strategic partnership, which is an important guarantee of our successes on this path.

Please accept my most sincere wishes of success for these conferences, peace and harmony, creative energy and new achievements for the benefit of a democratic and blossoming Ukraine.

Glory to Ukraine!

Leonid Kuchma



Roma Hadzewycz

Reps. Benjamin Gilman and Maurice Hinchey (respectively, second and third from left) with Ukrainian American activists (from left) Askold Lozynskyj, Julian Kulas and Michael Sawkiw Jr.

from the sponsoring organization, accentuating the “importance of recognizing members of Congress for their support of the Ukrainian community’s concerns.”

Another Chicagoan, Rep. Danny Davis (D-Ill.), a member of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, congratulated the community on its many successes and invited all Ukrainians to visit his city, which is a sister city to Kyiv. He noted that he represents “the most ethnically diverse district in the U.S.” and spoke of his good relationship with the Ukrainian community.

The first recipient of the Congressional Friend of Ukraine Award was introduced by Mr. Kulas. Known throughout the Ukrainian American community for his commitment to Ukrainian independence and preserving its sovereignty, Rep. Gilman was introduced as a “long-time friend of Ukraine ... who was always steadfast in his resolve.” Rep. Gilman was welcomed with sustained applause from the audience.

In his remarks Rep. Gilman underlined that, “by its very existence as an independent state, Ukraine denies the opportunity for the rise of an entity – such as the former Soviet Union – that might once again threaten the peace and security of countries stretching across Eurasia.”

He stated that “the challenge of today is

to safeguard Ukraine’s independence,” pointing to the fact that “there are those who call for a return to the old days” [of the USSR].

Other members of Congress present included Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), who also is of Ukrainian heritage. Rep. Hinchey spoke of the need to sustain U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine to enable Ukraine to reform its economy, as well the need to grant Ukraine permanent most-favored-nation (MFN) status.

Accepting the Congressional Friend of Ukraine Award on behalf of Sen. Levin was his brother, Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus. In introducing the congressman, UNIS’s director noted that both Sen. Levin and Rep. Levin have been staunch supporters of Ukraine’s independence.

Rep. Levin thanked the Joint Conferences for the honor bestowed upon his brother and proceeded to list the accomplishments of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in its support of continued U.S. aid to Ukraine and sponsorship of the Ukrainian Famine resolution passed last year.

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), also a co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, thanked the Ukrainian American

community for the information it has always provided to members of Congress regarding Ukraine. “Such information,” she stated, “provides us with a better focus on Ukraine.”

Frederick Baron, legislative assistant for foreign policy in Sen. Lautenberg’s office, accepted the Joint Conferences Congressional Friend of Ukraine Award on the senator’s behalf.

Two other congressional offices were also represented at the reception: Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus; and Rep. Michael McNulty (D-N.Y.), member of that caucus.

Several other guests in the audience were acknowledged, including three Roman Catholic hierarchs from Ukraine: Bishops Stanislav Shyrokoradiuk, Stanislav Padevsky and Leonid Dobrovsky; a group of members of the Verkhovna Rada, led by National Deputy Valerii Alioshin; Anton Buteiko, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States; as well as Askold S. Lozynskyj, president of both the Ukrainian World Congress and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; Ihor Gawdiak, president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council; and Dr. Roman Goy, Joint Conferences coordinator.



Roma Hadzewycz

Speakers at the reception (from left): Reps. Sander Levin, David Bonior, Danny Davis and Marcy Kaptur.



## Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

### 900 attend...

(Continued from page 1)

The make-up of the participants prompted Dr. Alexander Gudziak, a physician and credit union activist from Syracuse, N.Y., to exclaim: "We always ask: Where are our children? We see them here. They care about and love our community."

More than two years in the conception and the planning stages, the Joint Conferences may have seemed too tall an order to fill. And yet, it was delivered, thanks to the vision and single-mindedness of Dr. Goy and a dedicated group of fellow activists. Dr. Goy took on the task of organizing a mega-conference when he became president-elect of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America two years ago (he has now assumed the post of president).

Countless man-hours later, the question put to Dr. Goy was: Was it worth it?

"Oh, absolutely," he responded without hesitation. "The positive response was so strong. You know, no matter how hard you've worked, if you feel like you've accomplished your goal, then it's worth it. Our goal was to show ourselves and those outside the Ukrainian community that we can and do work together. And we did that."

#### Sessions marked by diversity

The agenda and the mission of the Joint Conferences attracted such major organizations as the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, whose program was split into two full-day sessions, "Advances in Medicine" and "The First International Conference on Health Care in Ukraine"; and the Ukrainian Engineers Society of America, which opted to focus on "U.S.-Ukraine Science and Technology Cooperation: Status and Opportunities." The Ukrainian American Bar Association and the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association also held major sessions.

A key part of the program – which formed the principal part of the Joint Conferences on Saturday, June 26 – was The Washington Group's conference "At the Threshold." That conference attempted, in the words of TWG President Orest Deychakiwsky, to provide "five slices of the Ukrainian reality": U.S.-Ukraine cooperation in both the military and the business spheres, Ukraine's role in international space programs, trafficking of women from Ukraine and the political situation in Ukraine as the presidential elections draw near.

Also meeting at the Joint Conferences site, the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, were the Ukrainian Library Association of America, which reviewed its work and looked to the future during a business meeting, and the fledgling Association of Ukrainian American Architects, which organized what it dubbed a "U.S.-Ukraine Design Forum."

The Ukrainian American Veterans held an executive board meeting and prepared a display promoting the work of their nationwide organization, and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America held meetings of both its leadership and its membership, as well as public sessions covering women's health, labor laws as they pertain to women from Ukraine and genetic engineering.

Vendors, ranging from artists to publishers and various community groups, set up displays in the hotel's exhibition hall, while several community organizations, such as the Philadelphia-based United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, offered informational ses-

sions. In addition, exhibitors showcased their work during the Saturday evening gala.

#### Also on the agenda: receptions, awards

Besides separate conferences of Ukrainian organizations, there were several joint events: a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine attended by approximately 275 people in two shifts; a congressional reception on Capitol Hill attended by at least 400 people (see story on page 3), and a reception at the U.S. State Department that was filled to capacity by 425 guests (see story on page 3).

The Embassy of Ukraine welcomed Ukrainian Americans to Washington at a reception sponsored on Wednesday evening, June 23, by the New York-based Ukrainian Institute of America.

Ambassador Anton Buteiko, Ukraine's envoy to the United States, greeted the participants by underlining that the Joint Conferences are "a symbolic signal that encourages unity of all political forces in Ukraine in striving toward their common goal: building a free, independent and democratic European state."

Brief remarks were delivered also by Walter Nazarewicz, president of the UIA, and Dr. Goy, speaking on behalf of the Joint Conferences.

The reception also featured an exhibit of works by 21 artists organized by the Alla Rogers Gallery of Washington with works on loan from the gallery as well as the Chopivsky, Woskobijnyk and Ferencevych collections.

During the joint luncheon on Friday, June 25, recognition awards were given to supporters of Ukrainian issues who are active in the realms of politics, law and journalism.

Emceed by Larissa Fontana, coordinator of the Ukrainian American Community Network, the program honored four prominent individuals:

- former U.S. Congressman Charles F. Dougherty, a founder and chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Baltic States and Ukraine, and a staunch advocate of Ukrainian causes who served a congressional district in Philadelphia;
- attorneys Gary Smithwick and William H. Crispin, both of Washington, who devoted their time, efforts and resources to work in defense of the good



Seen at the reception at the Embassy of Ukraine are: (from left) Ambassador Stephen A. Sestanovich, Ambassador Anton Buteiko and Dr. Roman Goy.

name of Ukraine and Ukrainians in the Ukrainian American community's litigation against the CBS network over the 1994 "60 Minutes" broadcast of "The Ugly Face of Freedom"; and

- nationally syndicated columnist Joseph Sobran, former senior editor of National Review, and current editor of Sobran's magazine, who has consistently supported Ukrainian concerns, perhaps most notably recognition of the Great Famine of 1932-1933.

In addition to the recognition awards presented by the Joint Conferences, the honorees received certificates from the Embassy of Ukraine.

#### Gala banquet draws 800

The Joint Conferences' Saturday evening gala comprised cocktails, a banquet and a ball, with music provided by Tempo and Fata Morgana. Nearly 800 persons attended the banquet, at which the keynote address was delivered by Leon Fuerth, national security adviser to Vice-President Al Gore.

Mr. Fuerth was introduced by Andrew Fedynsky, president of the Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Cleveland, as "probably the most knowledgeable person – certainly the most knowledgeable

American – about the details and nuances of how policy [toward Ukraine] is formulated and implemented."

Mr. Fedynsky underlined that Mr. Fuerth "is directly responsible to the vice-president for the work of the Binational Commission – the Kuchma-Gore Commission – and has dealt with all the key players from both the American and Ukrainian sides of the table," adding that, "there is no one more fitting person, therefore, other than the vice-president himself, to speak about the Kuchma-Gore Commission and the future of U.S.-Ukrainian relations."

Mr. Fuerth focused his remarks on that developing relationship, noting "I have learned how much has been lost during decades of oppression [under the Soviet system], ... my colleagues and I have respected the struggle that has been going on."

He went on to note that "President Kuchma has been a partner" of the U.S. despite various pressures, and stressed that "Ukraine already has been a full partner of the United States in areas where it counts very much," for example, in its decision to de-nuclearize, which he

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At the podium during the Joint Conferences' banquet is Leon Fuerth, national security adviser to Vice-President Al Gore; on the right is conferences coordinator Dr. Roman Goy.



## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Joint Conferences: a new model

The recent Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations held outside of Washington was terrific, excellent. Coordinated with volunteer effort — the first effort to bring together, simultaneously, several professional associations and community organizations — it was a resounding success. Congratulations to the organizers and to all the panel participants!

The five-day event reflected a very high level of professional achievement among individuals in the Ukrainian American community, a continuing commitment to their heritage, as well as concern for the ongoing challenge of making the new Ukraine a much better country. More than a half dozen professional associations and several community organizations presented panel after panel of interesting information, new ideas, reports of achievements, recognition of failures. These conferences made it clear that Ukrainian Americans feel comfortable combining their commitment to Ukraine with their commitment to their profession. It was important for us to see what we intuitively knew: that it is no small feat to straddle two worlds, and this group of presenters and participants proved not only that it can be done, but done well.

Besides the conference panels, the schedule included a variety of other events — receptions, banquets, tours, cultural presentations and exhibits. The wide variety of events was reflected in the diversity of the people attending. The conference audience and panelists ranged from students to retirees — the vast majority were in the age range of 25-55; from surgeons, engineers, executives, attorneys and designers to public policy experts — top professionals in many fields from the United States, Canada and Ukraine. Of the more than 600 attending the conferences, and close to 800 at the gala banquet, most had traveled to Ukraine and many have or do work there. In short, an impressive group of individuals.

The gathering was also a satisfying community event, especially to those who remember another event 35 years ago to the day — June 27, 1964 — the unveiling of the Taras Shevchenko Monument in a small park in Washington. The unveiling of the statue also was a tremendous occurrence: it was one of the very first large-scale events that brought together the post-war and pre-war immigrants from the many corners of this country and was symbolic of the determination of Ukrainian Americans. The Joint Conferences allowed us to take a moment to quickly reflect on those 35 years — and the speed with which they have passed — and take a moment to take pride in our achievements.

The keynote speaker at the gala banquet on Saturday evening, Vice-President Al Gore's national security adviser, Leon Fuerth, seemed unprepared for the achievements and degree of commitment reflected in the audience seated before him and readily admitted, "I was going to conclude my speech with a challenge to your community to get involved in helping Ukraine, but I now see that you've risen to the challenge. Whatever you're doing now — do as much of that and more — that very well may make the difference. ... I salute you for doing what I've just learned that you are doing here ..."

Throughout the five-day event, people relaxed, enjoyed themselves, and talked and talked and talked. There was a palpable sense of friendliness and intimacy and comfort among the participants. We can only hope that this event provided a new model of cooperation for the future for our associations and organizations — the synergy that the conference organizers had envisioned.

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### Turning the pages back...

Ivan Tyktor vies with Yevhen Chykalenko for the title of the most successful and influential Ukrainian publisher ever. Born on July 6, 1896, in Krasne, Zolochiv county (about 40 miles east of Lviv, where the main railway line running eastward from the

Galician capital forks north and south), he attended gymnasiums in Rohatyn and Lviv, then studied law and commerce at the underground Ukrainian University in Lviv.

When the first world war broke out in 1914, Tyktor enlisted in the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen, and as the wider conflict devolved into a more localized armed struggle for Ukrainian independence in 1918, he continued his military service in the Ukrainian Galician Army (UHA) until 1920.

He resumed his studies the following year, graduating from the Lviv Trade Academy in 1922, and securing a law degree from the underground university in 1925. In the meantime, he launched his spectacular career in publishing. In 1923, he founded the *Ukrainska Presa* publishing house, which until the outbreak of the second world war in 1939, was the largest, most important and most successful Ukrainian operation in western Ukraine.

He employed over 100 writers, editors, administrators and printers, a staff that included some of the most prominent writers, journalists and artists in Halychyna. Tyktor's flagship was the Lviv-based daily newspaper *Novyi Chas*, which became the most widely read Ukrainian paper in the region.

He also issued the weekly *Narodnia Sprava* for the rural population, whose circulation reached 40,000 in 1938, partly because of an inventive policy of providing financial support to subscribers who suffered fire damage or losses in livestock. Other leading concerns of the Tyktor house were the children's monthly *Dzvinochok*, the semi-monthly *Nash Prapor* and the semi-weekly *Nash Lemko*.

In 1933, when the monthly satirical magazine *Zyz* closed up shop, Tyktor stepped in to further the career of its increasingly famous editor and illustrator, Edward Kozak. The result was *Komar*, a vehicle for Kozak's caricatures and writings that served as the eventual template for the émigré monthly *Lys Mykyta*. The press run of these four publications of Tyktor's house peaked at 106,500 in 1938.

Tyktor published over 400 titles in this period, including a range of almanacs, pamphlets, booklets and short books. The latter were often sent to his periodicals' regular sub-

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

### 12-step "miracles" help Ukraine combat problem of alcoholism

by Nancy Stek

I have heard countless people share the miracles of 12-step programs. I have spoken of them myself. But never before have I truly experienced those miracles as profoundly as I did in Ukraine, where Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is barely 10 years old. Alanon a self-help organization to support family members of alcoholics, has been struggling along for eight years. Naranon, a self-help organization that assists families of drug addicts, is just being born.

A change in beliefs about alcoholism and the emergence and success of AA's self-help model are beginning to be woven into the damaged fabric of Ukrainian families and society. Solutions to the problem of alcoholism — successful treatment and recovery — are being experienced and shared.

I went to Ukraine last June through September as one of four dozen volunteers — all American alcohol and drug treatment professionals — who have gone to Ukraine in the past 18 months to help teach Ukrainian alcoholism professionals how to help alcoholics get sober using a self-help model. For the treatment community in Ukraine, self-help is a radical adjustment to the accepted treatment methodology of institutionalization, archaic thinking and approaches upon which they depended in the past.

While browsing the Internet one day last year I read about a group called First Light Partners (FLP) whose mission is to bring recovery and updated treatment methods to Ukraine. The information about the group just jumped out at me and struck me as something I'd like to do. I don't know why I connected, maybe because I'm interested in Eastern European culture. I sat on it for a couple of months, interviewed with FLP's director, and in June found myself in Ukraine working with physicians, psychologists, nurses and social workers.

It was an astounding experience. I watched these professionals move from a highly suspicious, yet curious, challenging and defensive posture to one of openness, acceptance, self-examination and self-discovery. They came to see their patients as themselves in that very same light. I was in the midst of their personal, intellectual and philosophical struggles daily for three months. I watched these professionals change and grow, and pass their knowledge and experiences to the patients as they brought their patients through a treatment cycle. Patients and professionals alike learned to apply the concepts of self-help and the steps of AA to their own life.

I witnessed countless miracles. One of them was meeting a woman, Ukraine's Lois Wilson (wife of AA founder Bill Wilson). The woman started Alanon in Ukraine and was the sole member at meetings in her town for at least three months. Immediately I loved her. I loved her hope, faith and belief in the possibility of something being done differently. That Alanon exists in Ukraine today truly is her doing.

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The ability to capture the essence of a nation, describe the nuances of its people, and tell the story of alcoholism and treatment within the Ukrainian cultural framework is a skill that I am not certain I have. However, Ukraine's story deserves to be told, no matter how briefly.

Ukraine is a country in crisis — political, economic and social. Since gaining its freedom from the former Soviet Union, it is experiencing serious growth pains and faces countless challenges. Ukraine is a beautiful country full of pastoral scenes. There are many quaint cities and towns with ancient roots and a rich history. Mountains and the sea line its borders.

The people there have survived the devastation of wars, politically engineered famines, cultural cleansings, the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl and daily conditions so severe that many of us would be unable to tolerate them. Yet Ukrainians have persevered, survived the decimation, and gained their independence as a nation whose people exude a deep and abiding pride in their country and culture.

There is another side of Ukraine: the side that is rapidly losing two of its most valuable resources — people and hope — to the disease of alcoholism. It is estimated that one out of five [adults] in Ukraine — 5 million all told — has a problem with alcohol. Alcoholism in Ukraine resembles alcoholism in America in that it plays a major role in family violence, crime and suicide. There also has been a decline in the life expectancy of Ukrainian men, down to age 57 from 63, and alcohol has been identified as a major contributing factor.

Alcoholism hits Ukrainian children hard as well. About 30 percent of its newly orphaned children are "social orphans," meaning their parents are alive but have abandoned them because of alcoholism. Ukraine's rate of fetal alcohol syndrome is the highest in the world.

There is no lack of medical professionals or treatment facilities in Ukraine; however, alcoholism in Ukraine has been treated solely as a biological problem — with detoxification until the immediate physical need for alcohol is eliminated. The country lacks accurate information about the concept of alcoholism as a disease and a treatment method that also address the psychological, emotional and spiritual impact of the disease.

The medical community has been reluctant to incorporate the principles of self-help to break the alcohol addiction and thus has not been successful in treating alcoholism. And alcoholics themselves have hesitated to assume any responsibility for their own recovery, believing instead that "it's the doctor's job to cure me." Therefore, alcoholics and treatment professionals alike felt hopeless.

Being alcoholic in Ukraine has been a death sentence — until recently. As alcoholism treatment methods in Ukraine have been changed by knowledge brought by Americans, so have I because of my experiences in Ukraine. I have a greater appreciation for how deeply 12-step programs can bring about change in the midst of economic and political despair. The structure of the 12 steps is an intense light of hope that reinforces the Ukrainian people's internal determination and strength to survive. Now their struggle is to survive more than physically. It's to survive spiritually as well.



## 900 attend...

(Continued from page 5)

described as a major contribution to the world.

Today, "the objective of U.S. policy must be to make sure Ukraine is firmly anchored in a network of relations, not just with us, but with our friends in Europe," Mr. Fuerth stated.

Speaking about the Binational Commission, he said this is "an extremely strong piece of machinery for government-to-government relations. It is oriented toward results – and it works." He pointed to such areas of cooperation as public health, law enforcement, anti-corruption efforts, privatization, macro-economic reform and military cooperation.

In conclusion, Mr. Fuerth read a message from Mr. Gore, in which the vice-president greeted the Joint Conferences and thanked organizers for presenting him their Friend of Ukraine Award. Mr. Fuerth offered the Ukrainian American community his personal pledge that he would arrange a meeting with Vice-President Gore.

Conference coordinator Dr. Goy responded by stating that he is looking forward to an opportunity when Joint Conferences representatives can personally present the award to the vice-president.

In his remarks at the opening of the banquet, Dr. Goy pointed to the unique nature of the Joint Conferences, noting that "this is the first time that Ukrainian American organizations came together to do something in a concerted fashion."

"Our motto," he stated, "is synergy, whereby the action of the whole is greater than that of its parts." This conference, he continued, "is significant, not in its perfection, but in the teamwork that it is building for the Ukrainian community. Through this kind of work we will create

a better society, not only for our community, but for our country."

On a historical note, Dr. Goy reminded his audience that 35 years ago almost to the day, Washington had witnessed a truly momentous event: the unveiling of the Taras Shevchenko Monument on June 27, 1964.

Addresses were delivered as well by Ambassador Buteiko, who read a message from President Leonid Kuchma (the full text appears on page 4), and Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress.

### A conclusion and a concert

The program for the Joint Conferences' final day, Sunday, June 27, encompassed panel presentations on "The Growing Role of Ukrainian American Financial Institutions" and "Political Empowerment of the Ukrainian American Community," as well as an open session dedicated to "Finding Direction for Our Organizations" that featured representatives from a dozen Ukrainian American organizations.

A highlight of the Joint Conferences, judging by the audience's standing ovation and resounding applause throughout the performance, was the Sunday brunch headlined by Pikkardiiska Tertsiia, the noted a cappella group from Lviv, whose repertoire ranges from Ukrainian folk to doo-wop.

"Wow!" was the reaction of Dr. Goy at the conclusion of the sextet's concert. "How could anyone not feel proud to be Ukrainian?" he added.

And that, perhaps, could also sum up the feeling of most attendees as they headed for home at the conclusion of the first Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations.

*NEXT WEEK: Details on separate sessions held during the Joint Conferences and reactions of participants.*

## Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 8)

scribers free, and included the series *Ukrainska Biblioteka* (Ukrainian Library), *Ridne Slovo* (Native Word), *Ranok* (Morning), *Amatorskyi Teatr* (Amateur Theater), *Muzyczna Biblioteka* (Musical Library) and *Biblioteka Tserkovno-Relihiinykh Knyh* (Library of Church and Religious Books).

Major ventures Tyktor embarked on were issued under the *Istorychna Biblioteka* (Historical Library) series, including a history of Ukraine (1931), a history of Ukrainian armed forces (1935) and a history of Ukrainian culture (1937).

During the war, he ran the Krakow-based *Nove Zhyttia* religious publishing house and served as *Ukrainske Vydavnytstvo's* trade department director until 1941. That year, he moved to Rivne where, together with Stepan Skrypyk (who later became Patriarch Mstyslav of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church) he founded the Volyn publishing house. In the spring of 1943 he was arrested and tortured by the Gestapo and held in the local prison until November, narrowly avoiding the executions that claimed the lives of 870 fellow inmates.

Tyktor managed to escape, fleeing to Austria in 1944, where he headed the Ukrainian Students' Aid Commission, then emigrated to Canada in 1948, settling in Winnipeg. There he initially served as general manager of the *Novyi Shliakh* publishing house (the concern had not yet moved to Toronto), but soon returned to his private efforts. In 1951 he founded the Club of Friends of the Ukrainian Book publishing house, which revised and reissued several of *Ukrainska Presa's* most important titles, as well as about 40 books of prose and poetry.

In his declining years, Tyktor moved to Ottawa to live with his daughter. He died on August 27, 1982.

Sources: "Tyktor, Ivan," *Ukrainska Presa*, *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Vol. 5* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993); "30-ty Littia Vydavnychoii Dialnosti Ivana Tyktora, 1923-1953," (Winnipeg: Club of Friends of the Ukrainian Book, 1953).

## Notice to publishers and authors

It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals, only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

News items sent without a copy of the new release will not be published.

Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: The Editor, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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## Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.

HELP US HELP THE CHILDREN • AIDONS LES ENFANTS • ПРИЯТЕЛІ ДІТЕЙ

## HELP US SEND AN ORPHAN TO CAMP

The *Help Us Help the Children* project of the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund delivers humanitarian aid to over 185 orphanages in Ukraine improving the quality of life of over 35,000 orphans. In addition to providing the children with the basic necessities of life, such as medication, infant formula, clothing, footwear and educational supplies, *Help Us Help the Children* also strives to develop their self-confidence, independence, self-sufficiency, team work and self-esteem. Over the past four years, over 1,000 orphans have attended summer camps in Ukraine's Carpathian Mountains, where both Canadian and Ukrainian professionals focus on the development of orphans through extra-curricular activities. This year we have once again accepted 300 orphans to participate in Summer Camp '99 - "Kozaks of the 21st Century." We will continue to instill among the children an understanding of Ukraine's history and culture and to develop a sense of belonging and pride in their country.

Please assist *Help Us Help the Children* and sponsor an orphan to Camp '99 in Ukraine's Carpathian Mountains. It costs \$150.00 for one child to attend camp. This includes their transportation to camp, accommodation, three meals a day, new shoes, socks, a hat, T-shirts, pants, towels, hygiene items such as toothpaste and shampoo, as well as other items for each child. With a minimum donation of \$50.00 You will receive: a certificate of your sponsorship, a picture of the

## YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SEND AN ORPHAN TO CAMP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate (please circle):

\$50    \$100.00    \$150.00    \$200.00    \$500.00    \$1,000.00    other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *Help Us Help the Children*, - CCCF

Please mail to:

2118-A BLOOR ST. W., SUITE 200  
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA M6P 1A5

Charity Reg.#0877332-03 Bus.Reg#13690 9538 RR 0001

or charge my credit card (please circle):    MASTER CARD    VISA    AMEX

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