

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

"At the Threshold"

The guest editorial below is excerpted from opening remarks delivered by Orest S. Deychakiwsky, president of The Washington Group, at the TWG conference "At the Threshold," held on June 26 during the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations.

A one-day conference cannot possibly explore all aspects of the Ukrainian reality in depth, including U.S.-Ukrainian relations, or even, for that matter, the Ukrainian American community's role. What this conference attempts to do, however, is to provide you with five "slices" of the Ukrainian reality: to examine five specific subjects within the overall political, strategic, humanitarian, economic and technical environment in Ukraine, with a focus on the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship. These are: "U.S.-Ukrainian Military to Military Cooperation," "Ukraine's Role in International Space Programs," "Ukraine on the Eve of Presidential Elections," "U.S.-Ukraine Business Cooperation" and "Trafficking of Women from Ukraine."

As the title of our conference suggests, Ukraine most certainly stands "At the Threshold." What does that mean? Ukraine, like the entire world stands the threshold of a new millennium – a millennium that will be filled with incredible possibilities, especially with the continuing rapid advancement of knowledge in such areas as science, health, communications. The potential is astounding. And the fact of the matter is that it is the advanced democracies of the West, with their open political and economic systems, that are leading the world in these advancements. Will Ukraine be positioned to become an integral part of the West, or will it be fated to remain on the periphery of Europe? This remains to be seen.

Unfortunately, Ukraine's political leadership does not appear to have made the fundamental decision to make thoroughgoing reforms conducive to joining the West. Its enlightened foreign policy leadership has certainly moved Ukrainian foreign policy in the direction of the West. Ukraine's foreign policy, in my view, is a success. Ukraine enjoys good relations with its neighbors, works cooperatively with Euro-Atlantic institutions, and plays a constructive role in fostering security and cooperation in Europe – and the importance of this cannot be underestimated. Ukraine's foreign policy has been commendable and far-reaching, especially given the internal and external political constraints under which it operates.

But a Western-oriented foreign policy is simply not enough when Ukraine's internal situation remains ambivalent. Yes, there have been positive changes: Ukraine has created basic pluralism and ethnic tolerance. It serves as a stark contrast to Bosnia or Kosovo. However, many expectations of the West, of the diaspora and, most importantly, of Ukrainians themselves have gone unfulfilled. The socio-economic, psychological legacy of Soviet imperialism and Communism weighs heavier than many of us thought. Changes will take time, but will not come until Ukraine decisively moves on a reformist path and cleans up government.

Despite the rhetoric of its leadership and the progress that has occurred in some respects, Ukraine has yet to make the fundamental decision to go in the direction of the open, democratic, prosperous and progressive West. Alas, much of what transpires on the ground in Ukraine – the corruption, inadequate rule of law, stifling bureaucracy, over-regulation – belies the rhetoric and serves to neutralize the positive changes that have taken place with Ukraine's independence and since Ukraine's independence.

Ukraine can't wait much longer to make some fundamental choices. October's presidential election provides the Ukrainian people with at least a partial opportunity to make these choices. Strong reformist candidates with a realistic chance to win have not emerged. The choice is between tepid, skeptical reformers who have done little to arrest Ukraine's plummeting economy or launch real reforms, and those who would attempt to turn back the clock – back to a murky semi-Soviet Slavic union with a semi-closed, irrational economic system and an authoritarian political system that will bring nothing but continued misery for the long-suffering Ukrainian people.

In short, Ukraine stands at the threshold between further political and economic reforms that would bring it closer to its Western neighbors, and backsliding into political stagnation and economic decline. I do not believe that it can continue to muddle along, as it has been doing for the last few years, without incurring rising costs, including in such critical areas as health and education, which have a profound impact on Ukraine's future.

So, what is to be done? How can we help?

Ukraine's straddling the fence has not made it easy for the West, for the United States, and, indeed, for the Ukrainian American community. It has been downright frustrating at times. Perhaps the easiest course of action would be to throw up our hands in despair and write off Ukraine, and some already appear to be moving in that direction. But it would not be the right course of action.

Thankfully, the United States has not abandoned Ukraine, recognizing its strategic importance, and neither has the community, despite the disillusionment of many of us with certain aspects of the Ukrainian reality. I would contend that, as a community and as individuals, we need to do what we can to encourage Ukraine to make the right choices as it stands at the threshold. And we need to continue to encourage the West, and, first and foremost, the United States, to not only remain engaged, but to strengthen that engagement. We need to continue to support Ukraine as well through well-thought-out assistance programs, especially those designed to strengthen Ukrainian civil society.

And, I might add, supporting Ukraine also includes constructively criticizing the government of Ukraine where necessary, say, for instance, when the government violates press freedoms. The two – support and constructive criticism – are not mutually exclusive.

During this conference, you will meet people or find out about what is being done to encourage Ukraine to make the right choices. You will hear some concerns about Ukraine's reality and its direction. But you will also definitely hear about some of the things Ukraine is doing right – things that are indications of Ukraine's ability to, indeed, cross the threshold in the direction of positive change.

Many people, including Ukrainian Americans, indeed, many of you gathered here

(Continued on page 9)

Joint Conferences

Participants offer their assessments

Following are comments of participants of the first Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations held just outside Washington on June 23-27. The interviews were conducted during and after the conferences by Roma Hadzewycz.

Andrew Iwach, M.D., San Francisco: "It was absolutely phenomenal; it absolutely has to happen again. It parallels what we've been trying to do out in San Francisco for the last five years. We – that's Justyn Makarewycz, Adria Wochok and I, who are the organizing committee for our upcoming professionals' conference [held biennially] in San Francisco – are going to have to work to meet the standard set by this conference. Our Ukrainian Professional and Business Group of Northern California, which actually has membership on the entire West Coast, was created as an umbrella organization that is open to everyone. But it has a posture that is more in line with what is expected in American business, of American professionals.

What strikes me is that the basic elements of what they put together here in Washington were right on the mark. The location was right – if you're going to bring together a group of different Ukrainian organizations, do it where you can have some impact. Washington is the right place. The time is right – different organizations are maturing and the leadership is more receptive to interacting among each other. The people are right – the diaspora now comprises professionals in various fields and with diverse special interests.

We now have a powerful unified voice when we go to Washington. The number of elected officials present, the response of the White House and the State Department would not have occurred had any of our organizations acted individually. If the diaspora wants to maintain a vibrant future now that Ukraine is free, this is how we can help both Ukraine and the diaspora.

Alexander Gudziak, dentist and credit union activist, Syracuse, N.Y.: It is

very good that the younger generation is taking over the leadership of the diaspora. This is the first time that 25-plus organizations converged in the nation's capital – mostly the generations born here, professionals in good positions in industry, business and the professions.

We always asked: Where are our children? We see them here. They care about and love our community. At the UMANA and credit union conferences, which I attended, the presence of youth was immediately obvious. These are the children of my peers.

George Bohatiuk, M.D., Wilmington, Del.: It was an excellent idea to hold this conference to bring Ukrainians in the United States into the new millennium. It underscores the necessity for Ukrainians to network continuously in addressing and resolving a multitude of issues that face us on a daily basis. That's key. Unless we do that, we will never be an effective force in world politics.

Julian Kulas, lawyer, banker, Chicago: This conference was a very positive thing, an opportunity to meet with other professionals, but more importantly, an opportunity to present ourselves in our capital, to show our broad shoulders and that we are a viable community. There is nothing better than getting a large group of people together to recognize Congress for assistance they have provided. Our bank, 1st Security Federal Savings, sponsored the Congressional Reception and I consider this money well-spent. I think conferences like this should be held perhaps every three years.

Wasył Kolodchin, radio journalist, community and credit union activist, Detroit: It is very good that such a conference was held, and it should be counted as a success. It was necessary because some kind of change was needed. Many of our older community members are dying; a pessimism was overcoming our community. But this conference – especially for those who were there and those who will read about it – gave them a bit of courage and confidence that not every-

(Continued on page 20)

July
16
1997

Turning the pages back...

Two years ago, on July 16, the current prime minister of Ukraine, Valerii Pustovoitenko, was confirmed in his position by the Verkhovna Rada.

Our Kyiv Press Bureau reported in 1997 that Mr. Pustovoitenko, then the acting minister of the Cabinet of Ministers, was narrowly confirmed as independent Ukraine's sixth prime minister by a contentious Verkhovna Rada in a vote of 226 for, 91 against, 26 abstentions and 11 national deputies not voting.

The 50-year-old former chairman of the Dnipropetrovsk City Council and its Executive Committee drew support largely from centrist and left-centrist factions in Ukraine's Parliament. The Communist and Rukh factions refused to endorse Mr. Pustovoitenko's candidacy.

The 226 national deputies who confirmed the new head of government two days before adjourning for the summer constituted the constitutional majority plus one of the Verkhovna Rada votes required for such approval.

President Leonid Kuchma, who attended the confirmation hearing and vote with the entire Cabinet of Ministers, hailed Mr. Pustovoitenko's election as a "positive move," noting that the vote split the Verkhovna Rada into "those who support the government and those who do not."

In his 20-minute address to the morning session of Parliament, Mr. Pustovoitenko said that, if confirmed as prime minister, he would focus on forming a "professional" government, repaying back wages and restructuring Ukraine's oil and gas industry. He said the priorities of his government would be to reform the tax system, develop the agro-industrial complex, continue privatization and develop small- and mid-sized industries.

Now, two years later, on July 6, the Pustovoitenko government survived the third attempt in a year by the Parliament to oust the government. Opponents, led by the Communist majority in the Verkhovna Rada, noted the poor state of Ukraine's economy and the government's dismal record on the payment of wage and pension arrears.

Source: "Parliament confirms Pustovoitenko as PM," by Khristina Lew, Kyiv Press Bureau, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, July 20, 1997 (Vol. LXV, No. 29).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Joint Conferences: thanks to volunteers

Dear Editor:

The Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations, which was held June 23-27 in and around Washington has come to a close. The success of this event can be measured both by the overwhelmingly large and unexpected participation and by the unanimous calls for its repetition.

As a result of tireless work by many people within each participating organization, each conference presented fascinating and unique sessions that far exceeded the expectations of the registrants. Many well-earned kudos go to the presidents of each of the organizations, and to their hard-working volunteers.

It is especially important to recognize the outstanding efforts of those people who worked for the benefit of the entire Joint Conferences, beyond the requirements of their own particular organizations. Their massive work, mostly behind the scenes, deserves full recognition and our sincerest gratitude.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to thank every single person who has made a valuable contribution to the Joint Conferences by name. But of those who

shouldered much more than their share of the planning, organization and implementation needed to realize the Joint Conferences, Ulana Baczynsky of the architects, and Nusia and Steve Kerda of the credit union association clearly stand out. In addition, Dr. Maria Hrycelak, Dr. and Mrs. Bohdan Iwanetz, Drs. George and Sophie Hrycelak, Dr. Zirka Kalynych and Phil Michel of the Ukrainian Medical Association, and Zwen Goy of the Ukrainian Institute of America also carried the yeoman's share of the logistics work of the conference.

I also want to thank Roman Stelmach, Maria Lischak, Wawa Baczynskyj and Luba Shara for expending much extra effort on our behalf, and especially to thank Talia Taran-Lisowsky, UMANA's administrative secretary, for her invaluable dedication to this project.

Finally, to all the people who attended the Joint Conferences, and to all those who expressed their appreciation for the vision, work and time that went into the making of this event, we all sincerely appreciate your attendance and your warm support of this historic event.

Roman A. Goy, M.D.
Baltimore

The writer was coordinator of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations.

Harvard must clarify issue of "Chronicles"

Dear Editor:

While it is true that the publisher of "The Russian Chronicles: A Thousand Years that Changed the World" listed two individuals, Prof. Lunt and Prof. Omeljan Pritsak of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, in the "Special Acknowledgment" and did not specifically include the institute, the fact that they were identified as professors at "Harvard Ukrainian Institute, Cambridge, United States of America" invariably conveys in the minds of the uninitiated and less knowledgeable readers an aura of authority generally associated with learned institutions – in this case, the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. Thus, there is the appearance of legitimacy of Russian claims to Ukrainian history, at least indirectly, by virtue of the association of said professors with the institute.

Although I believe Robert De Lossa's claims ("Skewed history" and Harvard," June 13) that HURI and the aforementioned professors had no control over the book's content or final product, the damage has been done. The professors owe the Ukrainian American community an explanation of their role, if any, in this book –

especially since the professors were the only ones honored by the special acknowledgment. As individuals, they may do as they please. However, as scholars, they ought to be aware of the time-honored and widely known and respected requirement by universities and other academic institutions that faculty clearly identify their views as personal opinions and guard against implied, even inadvertent, association of their views with the position of their institutions, especially on controversial issues.

I support Mr. De Lossa's recommendation that Ukrainian Americans buy HURI's publications for themselves and for local libraries. Yet, this will not resolve the issue at hand, because, most likely, very few – if any – of the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of the readers of "The Russian Chronicles" will read, much less purchase, these publications. Therefore, it is incumbent upon HURI to clarify this matter with the publisher of "The Russian Chronicles" and to demand immediate retraction of its name from the special acknowledgment, lest its name lends inadvertent and unintended support to false claims to Ukraine's history.

Z. Lew Melnyk, Ph.D.
Cincinnati

The writer is professor emeritus of finance at the University of Cincinnati.

"At the Threshold"

(Continued from page 8)

today, are contributing to positive changes in Ukraine – whether through your professional activity, participation in Ukrainian American organizations that actively support Ukraine, contributing assistance to projects dealing with Ukraine, supporting your Washington-based Ukrainian American offices, or other ways. I hope that those of you who are involved will remain involved, and those of you who aren't, will become so. We – and the "we" here could mean the United States, the Ukrainian American community or we as individuals – need to be involved with Ukraine for the long term.

After all, we, and the generations that came before us, were in for the long-term before independence, even when that independence seemed like a distant and, at times, quixotic dream. We went through the period of high hopes, and occasionally unrealistic expectations, but now we see the reality and, for good reason: we don't always like everything we see. We know that freedom (and I'll define freedom here as a true democracy and market economy) and independence are not the same. To keep Ukraine independent, it needs to be genuinely free, and that will take patience, time, persistence and, above all, commitment, first and foremost by the political leadership and people of Ukraine themselves. But we, too, have to be in there for the long haul – and ultimately, this is what this conference, and the entire Joint Conferences exercise taking place this week, is all about.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Venona and more

During the Soviet-inspired anti-Ukrainian defamation campaign of the 1930s and 1940s, it was The Ukrainian Weekly that consistently defended the Ukrainian community. It was not an easy task, especially after Great Britain allied itself with the Soviets against Hitler. Reacting to growing condemnation by America's left of Ukrainian pounding of Stalin and the Bolsheviks, The Weekly responded on July 18, 1941.

"We fail to see the point," the UNA newspaper declared. "The fact that Stalin is fighting Hitler does not change our opinion of him in the least. We still think he is Freedom and Democracy's Public Enemy No. 1 – with Hitler, of course, a close second. We gave Pal Joey precedence here because his Reds have been far longer in power than the Nazis, their brutalities have been more cruel and on a far greater scale, their persecution of the Church much worse ... So long as Moscow continues to thus brutally enslave and despoil our kinsmen in their native land, Ukraine, so long as it blocks their centuries-old movement to establish a free and independent and democratic Ukraine, so long will we and all other true friends of freedom and democracy keep up our fight against it."

Louis Adamic, a Slovak American liberal, took umbrage with the above editorial and cited it in its entirety in his book "Two Way Passage." Repeating Bolshevik allegations regarding the "Nazi" character of organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine (ODVU), Ukrainian Hetman Organization (UHO) and the Ukrainian National Association (UNA), Mr. Adamic labeled the passage a "tragedy," a statement that he believed was issued "not from a balanced heart and mind, but from the compulsion rife among people, wherever they may be, who feel insecure." Offering no further documentation, he wrote that "there are about 5,000 'Ukrainians in America' who are active in the Ukrainian cause in a pro-Nazi way." These few may have influenced other Ukrainian Americans to become "anti-Russian and to that extent, pro-Hitler."

The Ukrainian Weekly responded on October 20, 1940. "We have long had a warm spot in our heart for Mr. Louis Adamic," the UNA organ editorialized, especially for "his manifest sincerity and honesty, ... his keen insight into immigrant problems, his painstaking research and labors, and his power of expression." Observing sadly that in his treatment of Ukrainians, Mr. Adamic was "singularly lacking in all of these qualities," The Weekly rebutted his allegations point by point.

It now appears that giving Mr. Adamic the benefit of the doubt was laudable but misplaced. In their book "Venona: Decoding Soviet Espionage in America," John Early Haynes and Harvey Klehr list Louis Adamic who, although not identified in the Venona cables, was, nevertheless, a U.S. resident involved in covert relationships with Soviet intelligence agencies.

Another evil chapter in the defamation history of Ukrainian Americans was the hearings of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) on September 27, 1939. Appearing before HUAC was Emil Revyuk, an assistant editor of Svoboda. Led by one J.B. Matthews, the questioning revolved around the activities of ODVU, UHO and the UNA in the U.S. It is important to emphasize here that Mr. Matthews' interrogation of Mr. Revyuk was not only tendentious but grossly unethical. The witness, who had no attorney to

advise him, was led throughout his testimony while HUAC members sat by idly. Mr. Matthews attempted to substitute the term "totalitarian" for "authoritarian" when the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists was discussed. He also insisted that the OUN headquarters were located in Berlin (not true) and that Luka Myshuha, the Svoboda editor, was denied a visa to England because he was a "political agitator" (also a fabrication). Mr. Matthews attempted to insert German words for Ukrainian words into the testimony: "fuehrer" for "vozhd," "der Tag" for "the day," and "heil" for "slava" in his references to mistranslations of Ukrainian articles and documents. An account of this can be found in my book "The Ukrainian Americans: Roots and Aspirations."

Who was this HUAC investigator, J.B. Matthews? In his book "The Cause That Failed: Communism in American Political Life," Prof. Guenter Lewy identifies Mr. Matthews as "a Methodist clergyman known for his leftist views, secretary of the pacifist Fellowship of Reconciliation, and known as an ardent fellow traveler." "Strongly attracted to the (Communist) Party," Dr. Lewy writes, Mr. Matthews and ACLU director Roger Baldwin "participated in so many Communist fronts that they came to be known as the 'united front twins.'"

Another HUAC investigator was John C. Metcalfe, who traveled around the country speaking to various groups about the Nazi menace in America and the role played by ODVU, UHO and the UNA. Learning that he would be addressing the Minneapolis Junior Chamber of Commerce on January 10, 1940, ODVU President Alexander Granovsky asked for a meeting. Mr. Metcalfe agreed. Dr. Granovsky arrived with a reporter to publicly challenge the HUAC regarding ODVU. Given the kind of slander that was being bandied about regarding ODVU and the UNA, Dr. Granovsky's confrontation was an act of great courage. Although he was a tenured professor at the University of Minnesota, challenging the HUAC at that time was not a career-enhancing move.

Was Mr. Metcalfe a Communist or a fellow traveler? I have not been able to find any definitive information either way, but I suspect that if nothing else he was, as Lenin would describe him, "a useful fool."

In addition to "Venona" and "The Cause That Failed" we are being treated to other studies of the insidious influence of Soviet spies who infiltrated the United States during the 1930s and 1940s. Worthy of mention are "The Heyday of American Communism" by Harvey Klehr, "The Soviet World of American Communism" by Harvey Klehr, John Earl Haynes and Kyrill M. Anderson, and "The Secret World of American Communism," by Harvey Klehr, John Early Haynes and Fridrikh Igorevich Firsov. All provide valuable information suggesting that Sen. Joseph McCarthy was not all that wrong regarding Soviet infiltration of our government.

Unfortunately, none of the above books regarding Soviet espionage and disinformation tactics in the U.S. mentions the role of those ethnic Americans, especially Ukrainian Americans, who confronted, challenged and rebutted the slander being perpetrated and were called "Nazis" for their troubles. That story needs to be told before we can even begin to say the story of what really happened, and why, is complete.

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Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

UMANA discusses advances in medicine, health care in Ukraine

by Adrian Baranetsky

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ARLINGTON, Va. – More than 100 health care specialists from the U.S., Canada and Ukraine met under the auspices of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) during the first Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations in metropolitan Washington on June 23-27.

The UMANA, established in 1950, is the largest Ukrainian medical organization outside of Ukraine, uniting health care professionals in 18 chapters throughout North America in its mission of serving the Ukrainian community.

The UMANA provided much of the leadership to make the Joint Conferences such a defining event, fostering closer fellowship among the disparate organizations that make up the Ukrainian American community.

For its part of the conference, the UMANA presented a scientific program that was split into two full-day sessions: a scientific conference and the First International Conference on Health Care in Ukraine. On the third day, the UMANA held its biennial organizational meeting and elections.

The UMANA's 35th Biennial Scientific Convention held on Thursday, June 24, was titled "Advances In Medicine." The program was accredited by the national Accreditation Council for Medical Education for Category 1 CME credit toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award.

UMANA President Maria Hrycelak, M.D., opened this session. Zirka Kalynych, M.D., chair of the UMANA Scientific Program Committee, moderated all of the scientific presentations. The program reflected the depth and scientific intellectual diversity of the Ukrainian medical community; it featured UMANA members, many of whom have academic appointments in U.S. medical teaching institutions.

Speakers and their talks included Orest Boyko, M.D., Ph.D., - "Advances in Medical Imaging"; Victor Hrehorovich,



Roma Hadzewycz

A question from the audience during a panel discussion on public health challenges in Ukraine, held as part of the First International Conference on Health Care in Ukraine.

M.D., "Health Care Trends: HMOs and The Government"; Vassyl Lonchyna, M.D., "Minimally Invasive Coronary Bypass Surgery"; Mark D. Bej, M.D., "Frontiers in Seizure Diagnosis and Treatment"; Marta Lopatynsky, M.D., "Laser Vision Correction and Glaucoma Surgery" and Andrew Iwach, M.D., "Future Role of Computers and the Internet in Medicine."

Dr. Iwach also spoke on "Ukrainians and Glaucoma: Should you Worry?" A potentially blinding disease of the eyes, glaucoma can be readily treated if diagnosed early enough. Dr. Iwach noted that, with the increased recent immigration from Ukraine, American physicians have seen a higher incidence of certain types of glaucoma endemic to Ukrainians that have not previously been described in the medical literature. It is paramount for the North American clinician to be aware of

this condition in Ukrainians and to treat it in a timely fashion.

During the midday, the biennial UMANA awards luncheon was held with Roman Goy, M.D., M.B.A., UMANA president-elect and Joint Conferences coordinator, conferring individual UMANA Achievement Awards on Dr. Maria Hrycelak, outgoing UMANA president, and Larissa Iwanetz, UMANA executive administrator. Dr. Goy, Dr. Hrycelak and Mrs. Iwanetz, along with others, selflessly dedicated countless hours of planning over the past two years to make the Joint Conferences a reality.

The keynote speaker at the luncheon was the president of the Lviv Medical Association (LMA), Yuriy Hawryluk, M.D., Ph.D., who summarized the achievements and programs of the LMA since it was reincarnated in 1989. Dr. Hawryluk invited physicians to attend the eighth congress of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations (WFUMA) that will be held in Lviv on August 16-20, 2000. (For information: WFUMA, PO Box 3605, Grosse Pointe, MI 48236; website, <http://www.lma.org.ua>.)

Health care in Ukraine

On Saturday, the UMANA held its First International Conference on Health Care in Ukraine, featuring American, Canadian and Ukrainian experts currently involved in health care reform or medical assistance in Ukraine.

The first speaker was Myroslaw Kohut, Ph.D., a Canadian international health care consultant who advises the Ukrainian government in its health care reform efforts. His talk on the "State of the Health Care System" succinctly outlined the health care situation in Ukraine. Dr. Kohut reported on Ukraine's shrinking demographic base, with mortality exceeding the birth rate. Since independence, the population of Ukraine has dropped from 52 million inhabitants to 49.5 million, and by 2002 Ukraine's population will drop to only 48 million. Currently the average life expectancy in Ukraine stands at 62.3 years for men and 73.2 for women, approximately nine years behind Western nations, according to official figures.

Meanwhile, government health care expenditures fell by 1997 to 43 percent of

its 1992 level. There has been a lack of adequate resources and of leadership commitment with a turnover of six ministers of health since 1991, along with a loss of central control over the quality of medical care provided to the populace.

At present, health care reforms appear to be declarative, "on paper," with only minor structural changes in the Ukrainian health care delivery system, Dr. Kohut said.

Danylo Hryhorczuk, M.D., M.P.H., director of the Great Lakes Center for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health of the University of Illinois, moderated the first panel discussion, "Principal Ukrainian Public Health Challenges."

Jaroslav I. Dutkewych, Ph.D., Ukraine country director, U.S. Peace Corps, recounted the current difficulties in raising health awareness in Ukraine via public health education programs.

Daniel A. Hoffman, Ph.D., associate dean for public health at the George Washington University School of Public Health, reviewed the last 10 years of World Health Organization (WHO) data of health status indicators in Ukraine, focusing on major causes of morbidity and mortality. Dr. Hoffman emphasized that all health care indices are plummeting and considerably lowering the average life expectancy of Ukraine's citizens and further deterioration of its public health.

Ivan M. Solonenko, M.D., Ph.D., director of the School of Health Administration in Kyiv, provided an insider's account of the major health care problems in Ukraine. He emphasized that 80 percent of the Ukrainian government's health care budget is currently taken up by hospitals and institutes (as compared to 40-50 percent average in developed countries). Also, only 20-25 percent of all physicians in Ukraine work in primary health care (50-70 percent average in developed countries) while most (80 percent) are involved in administration or teaching and research. The average length of stay for all hospital beds is 16 days (eight-12 days average in developed countries). Due in great part to Western influence, Ukrainian government budget allocations are being diverted from hospitals and institutes towards direct patient care which more closely approximates international models.

The next panel discussion, "Health

Gore greets Joint Conferences

Following is the text of Vice-President Al Gore's message to the participants in the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations. The message was read at the banquet on June 26 and released to the press on July 1.

It is a deep and distinct honor to receive the Friend of Ukraine Award from the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations. Since I am unable to accept this award in person, I wanted to express my thanks to you and convey my thoughts about the importance of U.S.-Ukraine relations in this message.

America has long been redefined by our mix of cultures and nationalities. This week's gathering of Ukrainian American organizations in Washington – the first of its kind – demonstrates the strength and vitality of Ukrainian Americans in our society.

It also calls attention to the importance of the U.S.-Ukraine relationship. For more than six years, President Clinton and I have worked hard to support Ukraine's independence, to facilitate its integration into the Western community of nations, and to promote economic and democratic

reforms there. An important tool in building this relationship has been the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission, which I have been privileged to co-chair with President Kuchma. Through the commission, we have forged lasting government-to-government ties and have launched joint programs designed to make a difference in the daily lives of the peoples of both our countries. Later this summer, when President Kuchma and I chair the next meeting of the commission, we will have a chance to review our accomplishments and to set new goals.

Your gathering this evening demonstrates not just your strength and unity, but also your potential to help Ukraine in its market-democratic transition. I invite you – the leaders of the Ukrainian American community – to join with us to assist Ukraine in this transition. This investment of time and effort will pay handsome dividends in the society we can help to build.

I look forward to continuing my work with Ukraine in partnership with you. Thank you once again for your very thoughtful award.

Sincerely,
Al Gore

(Continued on page 17)

Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

UABA focuses on CBS litigation, immigration law and other issues

by Olena W. Stercho

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA), one of the sponsors of the recent Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations, held its annual meeting on June 25, as a conference event. The daylong session considered organizational matters, topics of pure professional interest, and law-related Ukrainian-American subjects.

A topic of the afternoon session, "CBS '60 Minutes' Litigation and Beyond," drew a standing-room only crowd. After a viewing of the television program segment, the four attorneys who represented the complainants against CBS offered their perspective on the lengthy litigation: Arthur Belendiuk of Smithwick & Belendiuk, outgoing UABA President Bohdanna Pochoday, outside legal advisor and FCC litigator William H. Crispin, and Askold S. Lozynskyj, president of both the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian World Congress.

Observing that the Ukrainian American community is structurally unprepared to proactively counter similar attacks, Mr. Belendiuk recommended three steps: the formation of a political action committee (PAC), creation of a stronger political voice through greater representation in Washington and better public relations.

Mr. Crispin, a recipient of an award from the Joint Conferences for his service in the case, commented from the non-Ukrainian perspective. He underscored that, in negotiating with CBS, three divides between the parties were observable: commercial (CBS's profit motive); freedom of speech

(CBS's perception that the First Amendment serves as an absolute shield); and cultural (CBS's almost complete ignorance of Ukrainian history and of diaspora community life).

Mr. Crispin emphasized that the third divide was the most difficult to bridge and strongly urged Ukrainian Americans to try by telling their story often.

In addition, Ms. Pochoday outlined the legal aspects of the case, while Mr. Lozynskyj discussed the settlement. [For more detail on the viewpoints of these commentators, please see the May 23 issue of *The Ukrainian Weekly*.]

The UABA's morning session began with organizational matters, including introductory remarks by Ms. Pochoday, and financial reports by Bohdan Ozaruk, treasurer, and Andre Michniak, co-chair of the UABA Scholarship Fund, Inc. Peter Piddoubny offered the recommendations of the By-Laws Committee for revising the organization's by-laws. The morning concluded with two sessions: Ms. Pochoday offered pointers for building a successful law practice, while Mr. Piddoubny addressed the topic "Civil Forfeitures and Government Seizures."

Also in the afternoon, a panel was held on the "Progress of Judicial and Legal Reform in Ukraine." Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Anton Buteiko, highlighted his view of a functional Ukrainian judicial system, focusing particularly on the Constitutional Court, U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Bohdan A. Futey outlined the continuing need for judicial reform culminating in the establishment of an independent judi-



Roma Hadzewycz

Andre Michniak speaks on U.S. immigration laws and their effect on the Lazarenko case and the Galicia Division. On the right is the outgoing president of the Ukrainian American Bar Association, Bohdanna Pochoday.

ciary. Also, Stephen B. Nix, outside legal counsel to the Ukraine Parliamentary Committee on Law Policy and Legal Reform, discussed legislative reform, while Mr. Lozynskyj spoke about the commercial law project.

Presentations concluded with Mr. Michniak's talk about the differences between how current U.S. immigration laws have treated Pavlo Lazarenko and members of the Galicia Division.

The meeting concluded with the election of the following slate of new officers: president – Mr. Piddoubny; vice-president – Mr.

Michniak; treasurer – Hilary A. Kinal; secretary – Mark O. Liss. Elected to the board of governors were: Vera O. Kachnykewych, Tanya K. Karpiak, Markian B. Silecky, Andrew E. Stecki, Andrew A. Pidgirsky, Jurij D. Fedorak, Borys J. Lewycky and Voldymyr Bazarko.

The UABA is a national bar association of attorneys admitted to the bar of any state and U.S. law students. It welcomes members of Ukrainian descent and those with interest in Ukrainian matters. For further information, please call 1-800- UABA-LAW.

The Washington Group considers Ukraine "At the Threshold"

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Washington Group's annual Leadership Conference, which this year was part of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations, looked at Ukraine as it stands on the threshold of the new millennium, facing numerous political, economic, military and social challenges.

As the country's largest Ukrainian American professionals' association, with a membership exceeding 400, The Washington Group (TWG) has been sponsoring annual conferences in Washington

dealing with U.S.-Ukrainian and Ukrainian diaspora issues over the past 15 years.

The year's conference on June 26, which attracted a record turnout of more than 300 participants, focused on five areas: Ukraine's military cooperation with the United States, its role in international space programs, the upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine, U.S.-Ukraine business cooperation and the problem of trafficking of women from Ukraine.

Military cooperation

In the first conference session, dealing with U.S.-Ukrainian cooperation, Col.

Askold D. Mosijczuk of the U.S. Army Medical Corps traced the history of U.S.-Ukrainian military medical cooperation and presented an overview of the close to a dozen specific areas of U.S. cooperation in helping Ukraine cope with many of its military medical problems.

Yurij Holowinsky, a major in the U.S. Air Force Reserve who has worked with the Ukrainian military on nuclear disarmament, focused on Ukraine's participation in the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. Among the problems Ukraine is encountering now, he said, is how to safely store the highly toxic liquid fuel from the SS-19s missiles it dismantled.

Ukraine's defense attaché in Washington, Col. Olexander Galaka, stressed that more attention needs to be paid to the education and training of commissioned and non-commissioned officers in Ukraine and to changing the mindset of some officers from the old Soviet way of looking at the United States, which is now Ukraine's strategic partner.

Ihor O.E. Kotlarchuk, a retired U.S. Army Reserve colonel who now works at the Department of Justice, reported on some of the legal projects he has worked on with the Ukrainian military, including the publication of a new Code of Military Conduct.

Ukraine in space

Three of the five TWG Leadership Conference panel discussions were organized jointly with other Ukrainian American organizations. Of these, "Ukraine's Role in International Space Programs," was co-organized with the Ukrainian Engineers Society of America.

Chaired by Theodor Kostiuk, a chief scientist for exploration programs at the

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, the panel included Angela Phillips Diaz, director of the NASA Human Space Flight External Relations Office; Yaroslav Yatskiv, director of the National Space Agency of Ukraine; Michael Yarymovych, president of the International Academy of Aeronautics; and Roald Sagdeev, director of the Maryland University East-West Space Science Center.

Ms. Diaz gave an overview of U.S.-Ukraine cooperation in the area of human space flight, while Dr. Yatskiv reported on some of his agency's many space-related projects. Ukraine has a good team and good plans, he said, but the main obstacle remains a lack of funds.

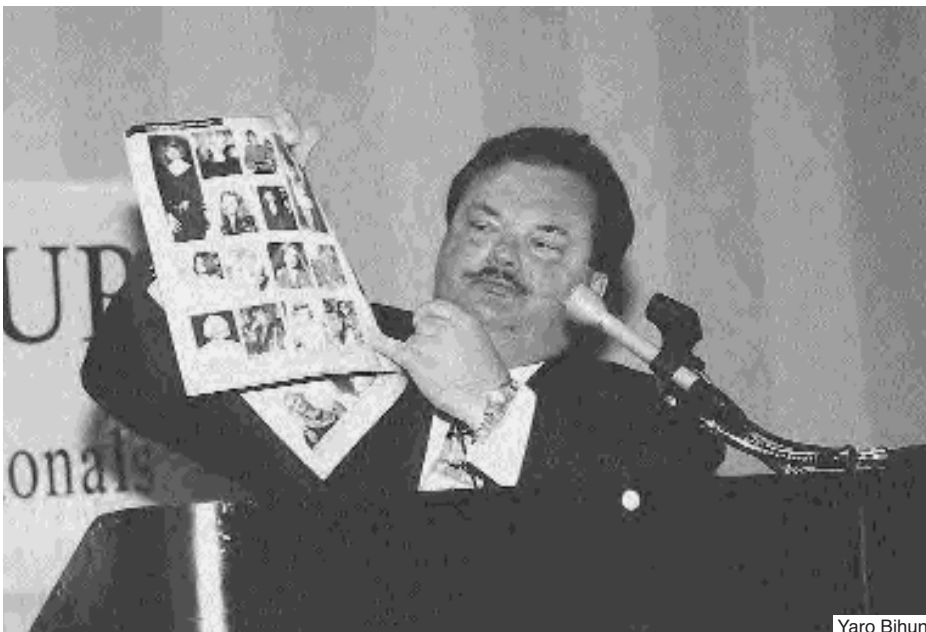
Dr. Yarymovych focused on the commercialization of space in the area of telecommunications. The successful launch of the Ukrainian Zenit rocket from the international SeaLaunch project platform in the Pacific Ocean bodes well for Ukraine's future in this field, where the secret to success is "reliability," he said.

Dr. Sagdeev suggested that what the Ukrainian scientific community needs is a boost in morale, which, he said, could be achieved with a program of popularizing and honoring the many truly great Ukrainian scientists of the past.

Presidential elections in Ukraine

The panel discussing the situation in Ukraine on the eve of the presidential elections there, featured two prominent commentators on Ukraine: the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, William Greene Miller, who is now writing a book about Ukraine as a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson

(Continued on page 19)



Yaro Bihun

During the panel presentation on trafficking of women, Walter Zalisko of the Jersey City Police Department shows an example of one of the many ways unsuspecting women from Ukraine are being victimized in various criminal sex-exploitation schemes.

Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

Credit union league holds annual meeting, discusses services

by Steve and Nusia Kerda
Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Ukrainian National Credit Union Association (UNCUA), a league comprising 22 member-credit unions in the United States, held its annual meeting in Arlington, Va., on June 24-26.

The Ukrainian Washington Federal Credit Union (FCU) was the host credit union for this assembly. In total 112 credit union officials, managers, employees and spouses attended portions of the conference and annual meeting.

The UNCUA meeting took place in conjunction with meetings and conferences held at the same time and location by 12 other Ukrainian organizations comprising doctors, lawyers, engineers, librarians, architects, veterans, and other business and professional organizations.

As a result, hundreds of people registered and participated in some portions of the conference, either at joint sessions or specific sessions covering topics such as the growing role of financial institutions and the renewal of the credit union movement in Ukraine.

The idea for joint conferences was first broached by credit union activists two years ago at the UNCUA annual meeting in Parma, Ohio. Tamara Denysenko, CEO of the Rochester Ukrainian FCU, proposed that the next annual meeting of the UNCUA be held in conjunction with the annual Leadership Conference held by The Washington Group (TWG). In the meantime, representatives of the

Ukrainian Medical Association of North America and the Ukrainian American Bar Association had discussed holding a joint conference.

Later the UMANA, UABA and UNCUA met to initiate plans for a joint meeting of these three organizations along with TWG.

As time went on and more plans were made, other organizations joined into what was dubbed the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations.

On Friday, June 24, participants of the UNCUA conference were able to meet and talk with Norman E. D'Amours, chairman of the National Credit Union Administration and the NCUA board. The NCUA is the federal regulatory and supervisory body for all federal credit unions and those state-chartered credit unions that have federal insurance protection.

Mr. D'Amours spoke for over an hour to the assembled on the direction in which NCUA is moving as far as regulations, Y2K compliance, future growth and support for small credit unions, service-sharing among credit unions, executive- or leadership-sharing between larger and smaller credit unions, and credit-union-to-credit-union mentorship.

The assembled then heard about the status of the Loan Protection/Life Share Trust shared by member-credit unions for credit unions members. The trust is a free service to all their members provided by credit unions. It protects member loans up to \$10,000 in the event of a member's sudden death or impairment. The trust also provides for a benefit of up to \$2,000



Roman Stelmach

Tamara Denysenko (center), newly elected chair of the UNCUA board, with her colleague from the Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, Lesia Telega (right), and Halyna Keller of the Ukrainian Selfreliance FCU of Philadelphia.

or \$3,000 to the member upon his/her death – the final figure depending on the age when the member joined the credit union and the amount of share savings that the individual had in his/her account at various points during his/her lifetime.

The afternoon sessions covered the credit union movement in the diaspora, and the presenter was presented by Bohdan Leshchyshe of Toronto, president of the World Council of Ukrainian

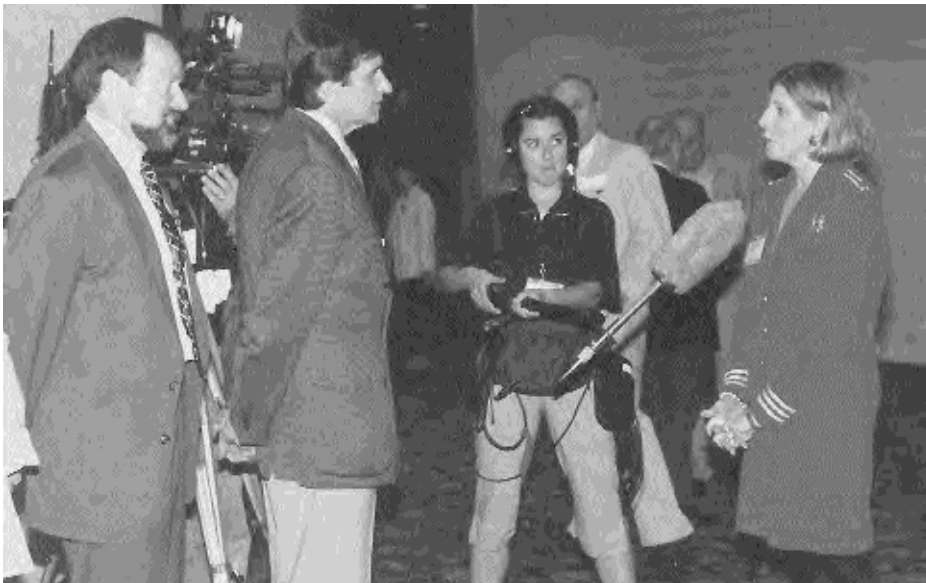
Cooperatives. Additionally, presentations were made by Lucy Ito, Petro Kozynets and Ivan Ivasiuk on the status of credit union revival in Ukraine and the status of the National Association of Credit Unions in Ukraine (the league in Ukraine).

The Friday sessions were chaired by Stephen Kerda, president of the Ukrainian Washington FCU.

Saturday's sessions were devoted to the

(Continued on page 16)

Engineers confer on cooperation in technology, space programs



Angela Phillips Diaz of NASA is interviewed by George Sajewych of the TV program "Window on America." On the left is Dr. Theodor Kostiuk, one of the chief organizers of the engineers' program during the joint conferences.



Roma Hadzewycz

Seen during the panel on "Ukraine's Role in International Space Programs" are Dr. Roald Sagdeev, Dr. Yaroslav Yatskiv and Dr. Michael Yarymovich.

by Metodij Boretsky

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ARLINGTON, Va. – During the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations held here, the Ukrainian Engineers Society of America held a conference titled "U.S.-Ukraine Science and Technology Cooperation: Status and Opportunities."

The program of the conference on June 25 included opening remarks by Dr. Lev Dobrjanskyj, president of the Ukrainian Engineers Society of America, and a keynote address by Anton D. Buteiko, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States.

During the morning session, devoted to "Space Science and Technology," discussion included such topics as current status, developments and future opportunities in space science research, space technology and commercial space programs. Presentations were made by representatives from NASA, the aerospace industry, and Ukraine's diplomatic and space community. Dr. Vitalij Garber, chairman of Garber International Associates, spoke about changes in information technology from aerospace to defense and the revolution in international relations.

Prof. Roald Sagdeev, director of the East-West Space Science Center and professor of physics at the University of Maryland, spoke about SilkSAT, a space communications mission opportunity; while Academician Yaroslav Yatskiv, director of the Main Astronomical Observatory of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, spoke about space science research programs, collaboration and opportunities in Ukraine.

Dr. Michael Yarymovich, president of

the International Academy of Astronautics, was the moderator of the morning session.

During the afternoon session presentations on the topic "Research Technology and Infrastructure" included discussion of U.S.-Ukraine cooperation in basic and applied research and development of infrastructure related to energy, environment and communications. Dr. Marta Cehelsky of the National Science Foundation in Washington spoke about research cooperation. Dr. George Gamota, president of Science and Technology Management Associates and associate director of the International Technology Research Institute of Loyola College in Baltimore, spoke about research and development and incubator programs in Ukraine.

Dr. Walter Stottman, sector leader for water and sanitation at the Europe and Central Asia Region of the World Bank spoke about World Bank programs in Ukraine. Dr. Victor Los, deputy director of the institute for magnetism at the National Academy of Sciences Ukraine and professor at the Taras Shevchenko Kyiv State University, spoke about environmental and resource management programs between Ukraine and the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan.

Dr. Yaroslav Voitko, Ukraine's trade representative to the United States moderated the panel.

A joint panel with The Washington Group was held the next day on the topic "Ukraine's Role in International Space Programs: The International Space Station, Research, and Human Space Flight Programs" (see article on page 11).

Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

Librarians cover developments in North America and Ukraine

by **Jurij Dobczansky**

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

ARLINGTON, Va. – The third annual gathering of the renewed Ukrainian Library Association of America on June 25 was successful in attracting a core group of dedicated members. Although it coincided with the American Library Association's convention in New Orleans, and closely followed by both the Slavic Librarians' Forum and the Ukrainian conference in Urbana, the conference drew participants from St. Paul, Detroit, Boston, Stamford and Greenwich, Conn., Chicago, Ottawa, New York, metropolitan Washington and even a guest from Lviv. Four distinguished speakers provided insights into Ukrainian librarianship in North America and in Ukraine.

Aletta Waterhouse, Ukrainian program coordinator, Congressional Research Service Parliamentary Development Program, outlined key elements of the program of library and information assistance to the Verkhovna Rada. Two of the major problems she cited were the lack of cooperation among the libraries and research centers serving the Rada as they vie for scarce resources, and the pervasive reluctance of Rada administrators. Setbacks notwithstanding, there were a lot of positive accomplishments. Citing the value of personal contacts, Ms. Waterhouse closed by encouraging American librarians to continue working with library institutions in Ukraine.

Describing his presentation of a techni-

cal paper on digital scanning at the recent Crimea '99 conference in Ukraine as a humbling experience, Lynn E. Brooks described his Ukrainian colleagues as committed and dedicated. Although they are well-informed about the latest technologies, Ukrainian librarians do not have the financial means to implement them. Mr. Brooks provided vignettes of his recent trip to Ukraine. He received a citation of appreciation from the Verkhovna Rada for his technology assistance during the four years of assistance by the Frost Task Force. Ironically, the citation was presented outside the Rada due to Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko's ban preventing U.S. citizens from entering the Parliament buildings – a reaction to the U.S.-led intervention in the Kosovo crisis.

Areta Halibey, a volunteer librarian at Chicago's Ukrainian National Museum, underscored the vital need to provide public access to the printed and manuscript collections of Ukrainian museums. While visual displays of Ukrainian artifacts in museums are very attractive, she believes they alone are not an effective means of creating informed public opinion and greater understanding. Much memoir literature remains unpublished. Valuable published works remain uncatalogued. Records of community organizations and national level resources, such as the files on the Ukrainian pavilion at the 1933 World's Fair, remain obscured. This will change only as a result of better allocation of our community resources, she underlined.

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Onuferko, assis-

tant director for administration, the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute, St. Paul University in Ottawa, provided a valuable service by initiating a well-documented survey of nine Ukrainian theological libraries in the U.S. and Canada. He also noted the important personal archives and special collections that are held in larger academic institutions but were not included in the ongoing survey. The Rev. Onuferko said librarians must recognize and be recognized for their key supportive role in a variety of Ukrainian endeavors such as Ukrainian studies, religious and historical research, political and cultural activities.

Many practical issues were raised in discussions. With the exception of Vera Skop, who was elected vice-president, members of the current board agreed to serve an additional term: Jurij Dobczansky, president; Ms. Halibey, membership secretary; Theodore Caryk, treasurer; and Adriana Pilecky-Dekajlo, member of the board. Svitlana Andrushkiw, Lubow Wolynetz and Halyna Myroniuk will continue to serve on the auditing committee.

The ULAA's main function at this stage of development is effective communication and networking. Revisions of the association's constitution and by-laws are under way and membership has been opened to institutions as well as individuals. The ULAA invites all professional and volunteer librarians as well as authors, reviewers, book dealers, curators, computer specialists, archivists and others to



Roma Hadzewycz

Jurij Dobczansky addresses the ULAA.

become members. Write to: ULAA, 11509 Orebaugh Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902; or email: jdob@loc.gov.

The Rev. John Terlecky and Mrs. Wolynetz of the Ukrainian Cultural Research Center, Diocese of Stamford, have initiated plans for the next ULAA conference to be held next June in Stamford, Conn.

Full texts of the presentations and photographs from the ULAA's conference will be available on the ULAA webpage (<http://www.brama.com/ulaa>).

UNWLA session offers panels on organization's work, current topics

by **Tamara Stadnychenko**

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Ukrainian National Women's League of America program at the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations was held on June 25, and was moderated by UNWLA Recording Secretary Barbara Bachynsky.

During the session "All the things you wanted to know about the UNWLA," Honorary President Anna Krawczuk presented an overview of the organization's history, stressing that one of its greatest strengths lay in the diversity of its membership. Newly elected UNWLA President Iryna Kurowyckyj outlined her vision of UNWLA goals and programs as the organization approaches the 75th anniversary of its founding.

Vice-President Oxana Farion highlighted the benefits of UNWLA membership and emphasized the importance of recruiting members-at-large among young, mobile women with busy schedules who are interested in maintaining contact with the Ukrainian community.

Hanya Krill of Brama-Gateway concluded the session with an entertaining overview of the history of the Internet, focusing on its potential as an organizational tool for recruitment of members, communication among members and enhancement of the UNWLA's image.

During the session on women's health, Dr. Susan C. Stewart, associate medical director of J.P. Morgan Inc., explained how American women are experiencing the benefits of a progressively better health care system that is becoming more attuned to gender-specific health issues. Dr. Stewart also addressed issues related to menopause and concluded her presentation by emphasizing lifestyle choices

that promote good health.

In stark contrast to Dr. Stewart's presentation on women's health care in this country was the dismal and sometimes overwhelmingly depressing report presented by Dr. Zoreslava Shkiryak-Nyzhnyk of Kyiv on the status of women's health in Ukraine. Citing bleak statistics on infant mortality, teenage morbidity, abortion, miscarriage and birth defects, and on the alarming increase in sexually transmitted diseases, Dr. Nyzhnyk stressed the need for economic stability and for radical changes in government policy on health care.

Alexandra Isaievych-Mason, a beneficiary of the UNWLA's extensive scholarship program, discussed the problems of

Ukrainian women seeking work in the U.S. On behalf of the UNWLA, she is currently preparing a background paper on this issue for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Economist Harriet Harper of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Labor Department spoke on the complexity of legal and bureaucratic structures that play a role in preventing women from Ukraine from obtaining legitimate work in the United States. She also addressed the problem of trafficking of women, stating that the current administration is taking active steps to combat the problem through international cooperation in law enforcement and educational programs targeting potential victims.

The final session of the UNWLA's

program dealt with bio-engineering. Advocating biotechnology as a positive advancement that will benefit humanity in food production and in combating diseases was Dr. L. Val Giddens, vice-president for food and agriculture with the Biotechnology Industry Organization.

A rebuttal was presented by biologist Tamara E. Raven, vice-president of the National Council of Women, who contended that research in the area was neither precise nor predictable and who referred to bio-engineering as a form of biological pollution that threatens the environment and could lead to unforeseen consequences.

The session ended with a lively discussion on the moral and ethical implications of bio-technological research.



Roma Hadzewycz

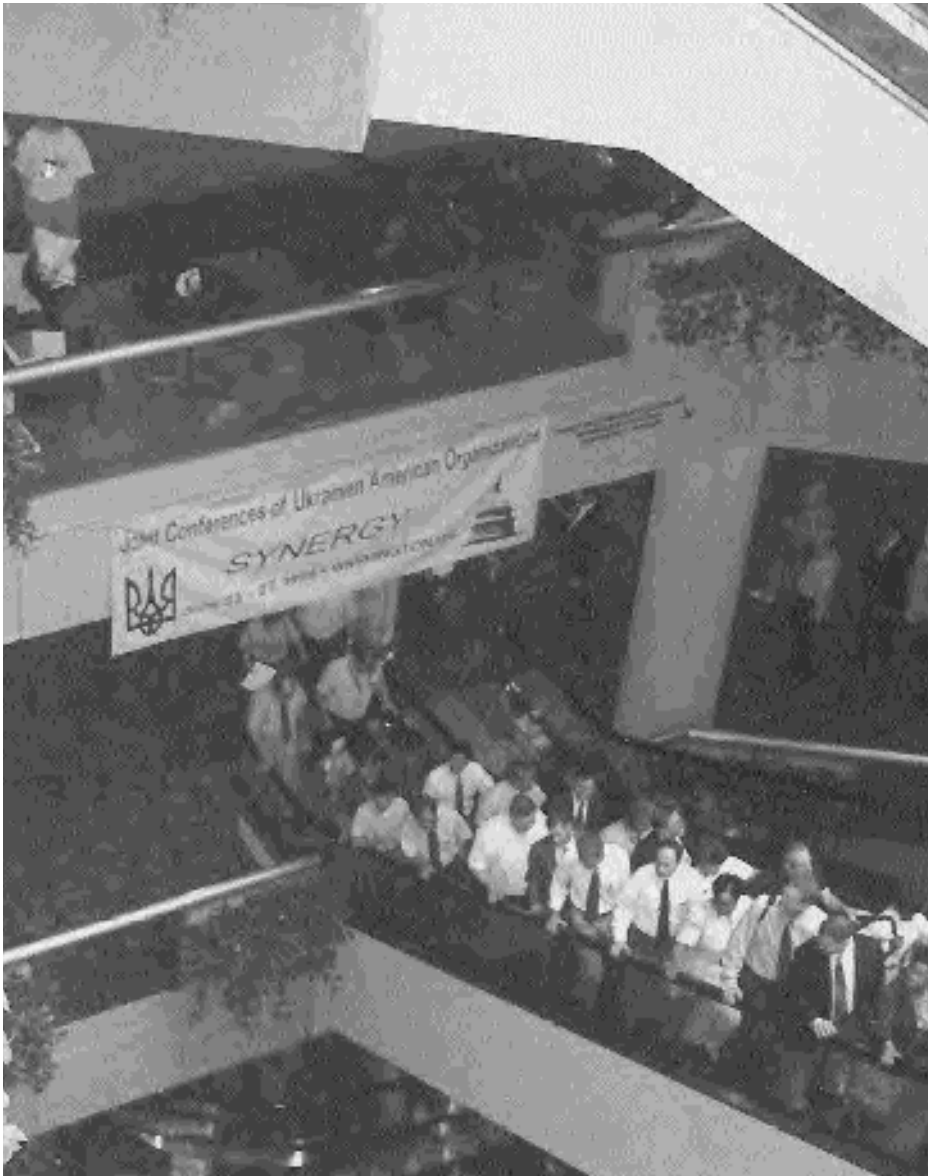
Barbara Bachynsky (left), moderator, and Hanya Krill, speaking about uses of the Internet, during the UNWLA's session.



Irene Jarosewich

Iryna Kurowyckyj, UNWLA president.

Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations



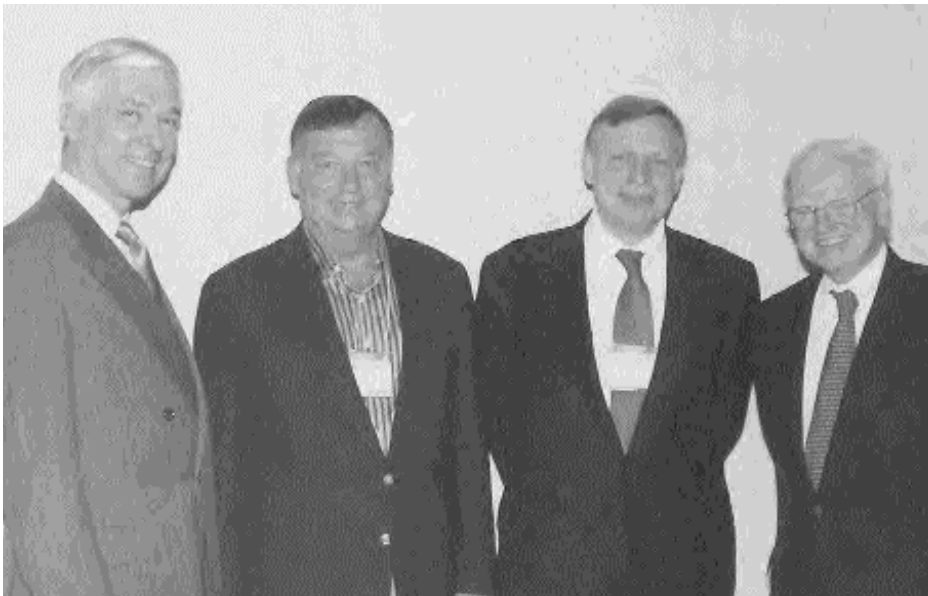
A huge banner reading "Synergy" announces the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations at the Hyatt Regency.



Natalia Zarudna (center), of the Embassy of Ukraine reports on the Ukrainian government's actions regarding the trafficking of women issue. Listening are Anita Botti, who chairs the White House Interagency Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls; and Walter Zalisko of the Jersey City Police Department.



Dr. Anatol Lysyj of Minneapolis questions one of the panels of the TWG conference. Waiting for their turn at the microphone are: (from left) Dr. Lubomyr Romankiw, Peter Hrycak and Julian Kulas.



Key players in the Ukrainian American community's case against CBS seen above before the awards luncheon: (from left) attorney Gary Smithwick, petitioner Alexander Serafyn, and attorneys Arthur Belendiuk and William H. Crispin.



Three generations of the Gudziak and Kohutiak families at the conference gala: Dr. Alexander and Yaroslawa Gudziak, Dr. Vsevolod and Lida Kohutiak, George Kohutiak, and Dr. Marko and Roma (nee Kohutiak) Gudziak with their children, Kateryna, Gregory and Zachary.



Photographed while visiting the vendors' area are: (from left) Atanas Kobryn, Orest Deychakiwsky, Olena Boyko, Lt. Com. Serhii Nechyporenko (assistant naval attaché at the Embassy of Ukraine) and Orisia Bilan.

Photos on these pages by Yaro Bihun, Roma Hadzewycz, Irene Jarosewich.

Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

Final day devoted to financial, political and organizational themes

by Roma Hadzewycz

ARLINGTON, Va. – The culmination of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations – and a partial answer to the question “Where do we go from here?” – came on the mega-conference’s last day, Sunday, June 27, in a series of three panels discussing financial, political and organizational aspects of Ukrainian American community life.

The community’s financial institutions

“The Growing Role of Ukrainian American Financial Institutions” featured representatives of fraternal societies, banks and credit unions on a panel chaired by Bohdan Kekish, president and CEO of Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union.

Ulana Diachuk, president of the Ukrainian National Association, provided an overview of Ukrainian fraternal organizations, including the UNA, Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America, Ukrainian Fraternal Association and Ukrainian National Aid Association of America. All are tax-exempt and are organized for the mutual benefit of members, have a lodge (branch) system and representative government. Together these four fraternal have assets of more than \$106 million (UNA, \$75 million; Providence, \$13.2 million, UFA, \$12.25 million; UNAAA, \$6 million).

The fraternal subsidize publications, offer scholarships to members and provide other benefits to members and the commu-



Charles Dougherty encourages political activism during a panel presentation that also included Michael Sawkiw Jr. of UNIS, Thomas Albert of the Democratic National Committee and Robert George of the Republican National Committee.

nity at large; two of them subsidize resorts. Mrs. Diachuk explained that fraternal now find themselves in competition with the one-stop shopping financial services offered by banks and others. She also underlined that fraternal are realizing that they must merge in order to cut down on expenses.

Julian Kulas, president of 1st Security Federal Savings Bank, which boasts \$342 million in assets, explained that the focus of his bank – which he said is “the only Ukrainian bank in American and possibly in the Western world” – has always been to provide the most efficient services and com-

petitive bank products.

“We do pay taxes, but we help the community through our Heritage Foundation,” Mr. Kulas explained. Before its transformation in October of 1997 into a shareholders’

(Continued on page 18)



Nadia Diuk of the National Endowment for Democracy with TWG President Orest Deychakiwsky before the start of the panel on Ukraine’s elections.



Hennadii Nadolenko (left), second secretary (press and cultural issues) at the Embassy of Ukraine, with journalist Yaro Bihun.



Pikkardiiska Tertsia performs during the Sunday brunch.



Roman Stelmach, Ihor Laszok and Dr. Walter Baranetsky at the State Department reception.

Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

Ukrainian American Veterans board meets to plan strategy

by Stephen M. Wichar Sr.
Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ARLINGTON, Va. — When the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations announced their program in all the Ukrainian news media, the Ukrainian American Veterans seized the opportunity to enhance their political position in order to secure federal legislation pertaining to the UAV's attainment of a national charter.

By securing such a document, the UAV would succeed in having many veterans' benefits extended to all veterans of Ukrainian ancestry who fought in the U.S. armed forces.

Convening a national executive board meeting of the UAV during the "Synergy" convocation had its advantages. Veterans who participated in the congressional reception on June 24, were able to meet and talk with political figures who were the principal speakers at the event, thus lobbying for a national charter.

Other matters of significance during the executive session held on June 26, was the establishment of new posts, such as those recently founded in Yonkers, N.Y., and Northport, Fla. Steps were also taken by UAV officials to reactivate Post 29 in Washington, but these were temporarily shelved because the existing leadership was engaged in the Kosovo conflict.

Stephen Wichar, the UAV's public relations and publicity officer, arranged a tour of the White House and Capitol via Rep. David Bonior (D-Mich.) for the Michigan delegation. A private meeting was also held in Mr. Bonior's Minority Whip office, where the Michigan congressman promised to give the national charter his immediate and personal attention.



Roma Hadzewycz

Ukrainian American Veterans at their informational display during the Joint Conferences' gala on Saturday evening: (from left) Myroslaw Malaniak, Atanas Kobryn, Bohdan Samokyszyn, Mathew Koziak, Steven Szewczuk (UAV national commander), Harold Bochonko and Michael Demchuk.

During lunch at the Congressional Dining Hall, Mr. Wichar met with Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), who stated that he would support the UAV's drive for a national charter.

The UAV also arranged to have an informational display booth during the Joint Conferences' Saturday evening gala, the cocktail hour, banquet and ball. The

attractive stand featured interesting hand-outs, a display of post and national flags, and a veteran on duty at all times to answer queries from visitors.

Steven Szewczuk, national commander of UAV, stated that he was pleased with the goals achieved by national executive board members during the Joint Conferences. "I believe this project was

long overdue," Mr. Szewczuk stated, "and certainly more interaction is needed between the professionals and non-professionals alike."

"Perhaps the leaders can assure Ukrainians everywhere that this alliance will bring about some new goals and act on common-ground issues that are important to all," he added.

Architects take first steps toward establishing an organization

by Ulana Baczynskyj
Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ARLINGTON, Va. — The plan to form a new professional society began to coalesce on June 26 when 23 architects and related professionals gathered here within the framework of the Joint Conferences.

They came from Austria, Canada, Ukraine and throughout the United States to brainstorm with their colleagues. They attended a series of interesting seminars that covered topics rang-

ing from universal design issues to the unique challenges facing a diaspora architect working within the Ukrainian community.

Anatole Senkevitch presented the historical perspectives on church architecture, while Oleh Kruhly concentrated on the effect of cultural predisposition on contextualism. Walter Daschko aptly wove together the discussion of the two topics. Jurij Sawicky took the unexpected twist of discussing kitsch in design.

Several project presentations gave the audience the opportunity to compare the construction process in Ukraine with their own experiences here. Highlighting this segment were Ireneus Harasymiak's case history report on King Richard's castle in Kyiv and Roman Shwed's timely update of the state of construction in Ukraine. Oleh Cherniahivsky and Walter Boykowych discussed their experiences of working and studying in Ukraine. A special treat was a video of the Mysko dacha featured in Architectural Digest (December 1998) provided by Roman Shwed, the project architect.

Ivan Bereznicki, Laryssa Kurylas and Zenon Mazurkewych, among others, took advantage of the special opportunity offered by the conference to share some of their work in an architectural exhibit. An open session prepared by Mr. Bereznicki gave a practical insight on the experience of working with an architect on a project. A design clinic was offered to all conference attendees.

Although no formal organization

exists to date, the group found the Joint Conferences program inspiring enough to enthusiastically support the formation of a Society for Ukrainian Architecture. Membership would be open to anyone interested in architecture in Ukraine, as well as in design work in the diaspora. Current plans are to not limit the group to design professionals.

Objectives of this organization will be to: deepen the Western world's appreciation for architecture in Ukraine; showcase diaspora work; educate architects in Ukraine to Western means and methods

of construction; develop an intern exchange program; publish a directory of design professionals; and create opportunities for the design community to gather regionally.

The date of June 2-4, 2000, is slated for the next national meeting of design professionals, which is planned for Chicago. An autumn 2000 design tour of Ukraine is a project under consideration by the group. Local activities are also foreseen for the fall of 1999. For more information e-mail ubarchitec@aol.com, and/or read the Weekly for updates.

Credit union...

(Continued from page 12)

formal annual meeting and reorganizational meeting of the executive board. Reports covered the status of UNCUA and its subsidiary, the Cooperative Agency, the insurance side of the UNCUA based in Chicago. Presentations were made also by the president of the association, Dmytro Hryhorczuk, and the outgoing chairman of the board, Vsevolod Salenko.

Ms. Denysenko was elected chairman of the board of UNCUA by the assembled delegates. The board of directors comprises one representative from each member-credit union. The following delegates were elected to the presidium of the board: Ihor Laszok, vice-president; Bohdan Watral, vice-president for external affairs; Ihor Rudko, secretary; Rozalia Holowka, treasurer; Bohdan Kekish, Lew Futala, Valentine Olijnyk and Lubomyr

Lepeckyj, members. Mr. Hryhorczuk was re-appointed president of the association.

The UNCUA is presently preparing for its semi-annual meeting and managers' conference. The semi-annual meeting is to be held in conjunction with the anniversary celebrations of the Ukrainian Selfreliance Hartford (Conn.) FCU during the September 30 - October 3 time frame. The managers' conference is scheduled for the fall in Detroit, to be jointly facilitated by the Ukrainian Future Credit Union and Ukrainian Selfreliance Michigan Federal Credit Union.

The next annual meeting of the UNCUA will be hosted by the Ukrainian Selfreliance FCU in Philadelphia during the weekend beginning June 30, 2000. The annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad 2000 scheduled to be held at the Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center in Horsham, Pa., during the same weekend.

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Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

UMANA discusses...

(Continued from page 10)

Care Assistance to Ukraine," focused on Western humanitarian assistance and was moderated by Dr. Dutkewych who concentrated on the activities of the Peace Corps in Ukraine from 1993 to 1999, emphasizing its grassroots approach to fieldwork and introducing Western methods of health education to empower the public in preventing disease.

Bernice Bennett, senior program officer, American International Health Alliance, outlined the AIHA Health Partnership Program and announced the formation of five additional new partnerships between U.S. health care institutions and their counterparts in Ukraine, including Donetsk-Pittsburgh, Kharkiv-LaCrosse, Wis., Kyiv-Philadelphia, Lviv-Cleveland and Odesa-Boulder, Colo. These new programs are geared to foster more efficient and effective health care delivery in Ukraine.

Orest Kozicky, M.D., co-founder of the SUM Emergency Medical Relief Fund, then spoke on the "mom and pop" approach used by the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), which has targeted small but highly successful individual start-up projects, providing Western medical techniques and equipment at select hospitals in Ukraine.

Afterwards, Alexander Kuzma, J.D., project coordinator for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, emphasized the need for the diaspora to develop a much more aggressive health care strategy with a much bigger financial commitment than the community has yet made, and with more creative coalition-building with American hospitals, corporate donors and non-Ukrainian organizations.

Wladimir Wertelecky, M.D., of the Ukrainian American Birth Defects Project finished the session by commenting on that program, which is modeled on the U.S. March of Dimes program, and its introduction of a birth defect surveillance system in Ukraine.

A separate presentation was made by a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) representative, Paul M. Holmes, who spoke on "U.S.-Based Efforts in Ukraine." Unexpectedly for his audience, Mr. Holmes emphasized the unique role and dedication that Ukrainian Americans bring to humanitarian efforts to Ukraine.

Dr. Kohut moderated the final panel discussion on "Directions for Future Medical Assistance to Ukraine."

In this panel, Dr. Hryhorczuk spoke on the potential of building the capacity of Ukrainian health institutes through research and training partnerships. One such example is the National Institutes of Health's Fogarty International Center-funded program at the University of Illinois School of Public Health in environmental and occupational health, which is based in Ukraine.

Zenon Matkiwsky, D.O., co-founder and president of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, emphasized that community-based efforts are the future for real change in Ukraine's health care. Dr. Matkiwsky spoke on the necessity of providing technical and material medical aid directly to progressive primary care physicians, thereby completely bypassing the apparatchiks who have gotten Ukrainian health care into its current dismal state.

The above panelists plus Dr. Dutkewych, Daniel A. Hoffman, Ph.D., and Ivan M. Solonenko, M.D., Ph.D., then summarized their positions. There appeared to be a general consensus that public health projects, including the control and prevention of epidemiological conditions, including infectious diseases such as HIV, diphtheria, TB, and drug use, are arguably the most cost

efficient way to assist Ukraine. More critical selection of effective equipment and technical aid needs is essential, rather than dumping of costly medical equipment or near-expiration medications that end up in the back rooms of hospital directors' offices.

Better information access and gathering for good public health data on which to base health care policy changes are needed. The provision of current medical information via various media, including textbooks, journals, video, telemedicine and the Internet to Ukrainian health care providers is essential. The maintenance of data banks on the countless ongoing programs would go a long way toward coordinating and maximizing limited humanitarian aid efforts.

In conclusion, the panelists agreed that the Ukrainian health care system must radically change its outlook and proactively evolve rather than rely on the band-aid approach of receiving Western experts and equipment that cannot be successfully integrated or employed in Ukraine. Most of the human and technical resources needed to

provide medical care to Ukraine are already in place, but Ukraine has to undergo a complete metamorphosis by resetting priorities and rebuilding its current health care system based on international models of reform. Ukraine must realize that the wheel need not be reinvented in setting new local standards on the provision of health care, but it does need to open itself to reform.

Assembly of UMANA Delegates

The 28th Assembly of UMANA delegates, consisting of an organizational meeting and elections, was held to propel UMANA into the next millennium. Myroslaw Kolenskyj, D.D.S., presided over this section.

First, however, Dr. Hrycelak presented the 1999 UMANA Lifetime Achievement Award to Mykola Deychakiwsky of Brecksville, Ohio, retired surgeon and civic activist, for his many years of contribution to the community.

A new UMANA executive committee was elected for 1999-2001 consisting of:

President Roman Goy, M.D., M.B.A., Baltimore; President-Elect Ihor Voyevodka, M.D., Reno, Nev.; Vice-President Bohdan Iwanetz, M.D., Lansing, Ill.; Secretary Andrew Browar, D.D.S., Hinsdale, Ill.; Treasurer Andrew Iwach, M.D., San Francisco; Chapter President Representative, Ihor Zachary, M.D., Middleburg Heights, Ohio; and UMANA Foundation President George Hrycelak, M.D., Elmwood Park, Ill.

Following the general assembly, the new executive board met to outline a schedule of meetings and program goals for the next two years.

In the immediate future, the UMANA is planning to commemorate its 50th anniversary next year with formal celebrations planned in Chicago and New York City, and with an UMANA family outing in the Caribbean during the winter. For further information contact: UMANA, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60622; telephone, 1-888-RX-UMANA; fax, 1-888-558-6262; website, http://www.umana.org; e-mail, umana@gateway.net.

Advertisement for The Ukrainian Weekly featuring a collage background. The text includes the title 'THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY', the subtitle 'A PERSPECTIVE OF UKRAINIAN AMERICAN', and a subscription form. The form asks for Name, Address, City, State, and ZIP Code, and offers two subscription options: \$40 for UNA members and \$50 for non-members per year. The form also includes a 'Yes, I'd like to subscribe to The Ukrainian Weekly.' header and a 'Mail to: Subscription Department, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054' footer.



Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

Final day devoted...

(Continued from page 15)

institution, the bank gave capital of \$2.5 million to the foundation; shareholders later voted another \$2.5 million in stocks to the foundation.

Mr. Kulas noted that new legislation provides that fraternal organizations can create thrift institutions. "Perhaps the only way to save our fraternal is for them to unite and create a bank from which they could support their fraternal activity," he suggested.

Bohdan Watral, vice-chair for external affairs of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association, stated that the UNCUA today encompasses 22 credit unions, 75,000 family members, over \$1 billion in assets and a combined reserve of \$200 million. He also pointed to the rebirth of the credit union movement in Ukraine, where approximately 300 such institutions now exist.

He concluded by exhorting the audience: "Visit your Ukrainian credit union, Ukrainian fraternal, Ukrainian bank – we all are committed to preserving our heritage and helping our community to prosper."

Tamara Denysenko, general manager and CEO of the Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union and the newly elected chair of the UNCUA board of directors, noted that credit unions have a common bond: "They fill a special niche in our community." They offer share accounts with higher dividends, savings and investment opportunities, retirement accounts, bank cards, credit cards and low-cost loans; some are exploring home and Internet banking.

Sponsored by Self Reliance associations, Churches, fraternal organizations and others, credit unions have helped the community build churches, seniors centers and community centers, and they have helped home buyers. "They are now the main conduit for the fourth wave's (new immigrants from Ukraine) integration into the Ukrainian community," Ms. Denysenko added.

Political empowerment

Representatives of the two major American political parties and a former

congressman from Philadelphia were the speakers on a panel discussing "Political Empowerment of the Ukrainian American Community" that was chaired by Michael Sawkiw Jr., director of the Ukrainian National Information Service in Washington.

Thomas Albert, director of Ethnic Outreach for the Democratic National Committee, informed his audience that there are two ways in which ethnic Americans can become involved in the Democratic Party: Leadership Councils that encompass various ethnic groups and Ethnic Coordinating Councils that are set up in states and key ethnic cities during election years.

Robert George, director of coalitions for the Republican National Committee, explained that his position deals with business, policy and ethnic groups. He noted that the Republican Party has a Heritage Council, as well as task forces that it uses to gauge concerns of ethnic groups and "to find out how we can address those concerns." He added that party representatives attend conferences such as this, and try to reach ethnic communities in various other ways, including via the ethnic media.

Charles Dougherty, who represented the Philadelphia area in the House of Representatives in 1979-1983, and was founder and chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Baltic States and Ukraine, focused his remarks on "the why, where and how of your participation in the American political process, which is vital to the freedom of Ukraine."

He then posed a series of questions to his audience: "Why is there a requirement for certification on aid to Ukraine, but not to Russia? Why is most-favored-nation trade status given permanently to China, but not to Ukraine? Why do Ukrainians have to travel to Warsaw for immigration visas? Why is the Russian spelling of Ukrainian names used? Why is NATO expansion promoted for Lithuania, but not for Ukraine?"

The answer: "We do not yet have the political presence in the U.S. Congress to offset the Russian mindset of the Russophiles in the U.S. State Department."



Roma Hadzewycz

Seen during the panel on the role of financial institutions are: (from left) Ulana Diachuk, Bohdan Kekish and Dmytro Hryhorczuk.

That is why, the former representative from Pennsylvania said, "Individually and collectively, we must gather together and become active in the political system."

Mr. Dougherty concluded by stating that Ukrainian organizations should run voter registration drives every year and invite congressmen every year to come to some event and, "if they don't come, support their opponent in the next election."

He continued: "Individuals, if they care about Ukraine, are obligated to get personally involved in campaigns" and should invite the candidates to speak, help raise money, go door-to-door, go to town meetings. If candidates are not aware of Ukrainian issues, he advised, "take this as an opportunity to educate them." In addition, "everyone should have a personal relationship with his/her congressman" – should write to congressmen and travel to Washington to meet with them.

"Think about this: Will our grandchildren's grandchildren live in a world where Ukraine is free, independent, democratic, secure and prosperous, or in a world where 'the' Ukraine is a junior partner in a greater mother Russia? What we do will determine that," he stated.

Direction for our organizations

The finale to the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations was an open panel discussion headlined "Finding Direction for Our Organizations."

Dr. Roman Goy, coordinator of the Joint Conferences, served as moderator for this session, inviting representatives of any community organizations to join the panel at the front of the hall. He began by stating that the goal of this particular session was "to provide a framework for some sort of follow-through" to the Joint Conferences. He then set the stage for further discussion by noting that not all is fine within the Ukrainian American community and that too often community members are faulted for the decline of Ukrainian American organizations. In contrast, he recalled, "When IBM was in crisis, they didn't blame the public, the consumers. They blamed themselves and fired the board."

Dr. Goy cited some of the problems that plague the community as a whole, such as lack of cooperation among organizations, due in part to the fact that the umbrella organizations do not unite everyone and thus anyone outside the umbrella is left out of the loop. In addition, the umbrella organizations are perceived to be politicized, which further hinders cooperation, he said.

He concluded with a suggestion: "to create a council of leaders, a network of equals to meet once a year, or as often as needed, in a forum that would not be politically con-

trolled" in order to benefit like the Joint Conferences from synergy.

Participants in the discussion who represented diverse community organizations were: Zenia Chernyk, Ukrainian Federation of America; Orest Deychakiwsky, The Washington Group; Ulana Diachuk, Ukrainian National Association; Larissa Fontana, Ukrainian American Community Network; Ihor Gawdiak, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council; Nusia Kerda, Ukrainian National Credit Union Association; Iryna Kurowyckyj, Ukrainian National Women's League of America; Askold Lozynskyj, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; Walter Nazarewicz, Ukrainian Institute of America; Bohdanna Pochoday, Ukrainian American Bar Association; and Lubomyr Romankiw, Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization.

All had an opportunity to react to Dr. Goy's opening statement and to present their own ideas. The overwhelming majority of the leaders agreed that the proposal for a council of leaders of Ukrainian organizations should be put into effect. Mr. Deychakiwsky underlined that a conference of presidents should "serve as a consultative mechanism to achieve consensus on activity and should not be seen as a threat to anybody."

Mr. Gawdiak pointed out that the Ukrainian American community is "diverse, but has elements of unity." He agreed that "we need a council of presidents to meet informally, once in a while, to confer and set direction for our community." Mrs. Kurowyckyj noted that "we need a coalition of our organizations to work together, and I believe this conference has given us the opportunity to do this."

Mrs. Diachuk observed that, "we must speak with each other more, look each other in the eye and work jointly to solve our problems." Her comments were echoed by Dr. Romankiw, who added, "we have to seize the moment to aid Ukraine because, at this point, Ukraine can go either in the direction of Russia or the West."

The only leader to express reservations about the idea of a "council of presidents" was UCCA President Lozynskyj who, while outlining an agenda for community activity, stated that there "should be a line of communication, not a structure – we do not need yet another community organization."

At the conclusion of the discussion, Dr. Goy offered the good offices of the UMANA to coordinate the first meeting of community leaders. "But we need the community to call us and let us know who you are," he said to the organizations' representatives and, by extension, to the entire community. Interested organizations may call 1-888-RX-UMANA (toll-free).

Journalists meet informally

by Michael Bociurkiw

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ARLINGTON, Va. – Quietly, on the sidelines of the Ukrainian mega-conference in metropolitan Washington, several journalists of Ukrainian descent gathered to discuss the formation of a professional Ukrainian journalists' association.

Though nothing formal was enacted, a consensus emerged to press ahead with plans for an inaugural meeting later this year, probably in the Northeast region of the United States.

Journalists of Ukrainian descent – or those who cover Ukraine or have an interest in Ukrainian issues – have had no effective means by which to communicate, network, seek peer support, or just meet on a regular basis.

The purpose of the fall gathering will be to discuss some of the goals and objectives of the proposed group. While geared to bona fide journalists – both full-time and freelance – some of the group's future activities might also appeal to academics, government officials, information officers and public relations professionals. Editors and writers from "new media" organizations might also find the activities of interest.

Some directions this group will con-

sider taking include: professional development, for example, seminars and lectures on journalism-related issues and developments in Ukraine and Eastern Europe; information exchange via an interactive website and newsletter; networking, using knowledge, contacts and experience in such areas as story ideas; peer support and assistance; job search and career counseling; and social events.

During informal discussions in Washington, several journalists emphasized a desire to launch projects involving journalists and news organizations in Ukraine. There was a desire to create opportunities to assist colleagues in Ukraine, where journalists are often threatened or censored, as well as to help elevate the standards of journalism in Ukraine.

To date, a core group of well over a dozen professional journalists from print and broadcast media have expressed interest in the formation of this new group.

Interested individuals should contact: Michael Bociurkiw, PMB 162, 16625 Redmond Way, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052; telephone, (425) 985-7894 or 739-0167; voice mail/fax, (416) 352-5068; e-mail, bociu@compuserve.com

Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

The Washington...

(Continued from page 11)

International Center for Scholars, and Sherman W. Garnett, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who two years ago authored "A Keystone in the Arch: Ukraine in the New Political Geography of Central and Eastern Europe."

Presenting the U.S. government viewpoint was John E. Tedstrom, director of Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council. The panel's moderator was Nadia M. Diuk, regional director for Central and Eastern Europe and the new independent states at the National Endowment for Democracy.

Ambassador Miller, who had just returned from a visit to Ukraine, said that, as the front-runner, incumbent President Leonid Kuchma has all of the necessary elements to win the election. "But the discontent must not be underestimated," he added, noting that the numerous economic problems, a lack of reform and corruption scandals could dissipate his popularity. Ambassador Miller surprised some in the audience by saying that the democrats will not vote for Mr. Kuchma, and, in a runoff, some of them would opt for the socialist candidate, Oleksander Moroz, whose integrity is widely respected.

Dr. Garnett said Ukraine is still being run by oligarchic elites, and major decisions are made behind closed doors. He said Ukraine "belongs" to neither East nor West. It is a key country, wedged between important neighbors, and it will always be an issue for Europe whether or not it is considered to be within its borders.

The NSC's Mr. Tedstrom commended Ukraine on its "European choice." But he pointed out that this policy has yet to be resolved at the grassroots level.

He said the Ukrainian government now faces two important short-term challenges if it is to retain Western support: it must maintain its macro-economic stability and ensure that the presidential election is conducted in a free and fair manner.

Asked about the seemingly insurmountable problems Ukrainians have in trying to obtain a visa to visit the United States, Mr. Tedstrom said that changes are being made. "We've heard your message and have taken steps to fix the problem," he said, without getting into specifics.

U.S.-Ukraine business cooperation

The U.S.-Ukraine business cooperation panel was organized jointly with the Ukrainian American Bar Association, and UABA President Bohdana Pochoday was the moderator.

The chief of the Trade and Economic Mission at the Ukrainian Embassy, Yaroslav Voitko, said that Ukraine's foreign investment needs are "immense," requiring an estimated \$40 billion over the next few years.

Of the thousand U.S. companies doing business in Ukraine, less than 1 percent have problems, and these, Dr. Voitko said, have received "too much attention" in the United States.

Volodymyr Chornodolsky of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council focused his remarks on recent positive developments in Ukraine, including the privatization of 50 percent of Ukraine's grain silos, some tax reforms, the acceptance of Western accounting standards and auditing methods, and new investments by some large U.S. firms.

Dr. Bohdan Budzan, the director general of the International Management Institute in Kyiv, underscored the importance of business education in building a stronger economy in Ukraine. More attention should



Yaro Bihun

John E. Tedstrom of the National Security Council gets a chance to answer a few questions about the visa policy at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv during a TWG conference panel on the political situation in Ukraine.

be paid to manpower development and training in trying to accelerate economic growth and reform, he said.

Markian Silecky, whose law firm assists Western businesses in Ukraine, said that, for the near future, Ukraine, unfortunately, will remain a "paper-pushing, seal-and-stamp society." What takes a regulatory office in the United States 24 hours to accomplish, he said, takes five to six weeks in Ukraine. To succeed, he said, a businessman must always expect the unexpected and have a high degree of dedication and perseverance.

The fourth panelist, Kyiv attorney Danylo Kourdelchouk, described his firm's efforts to obtain reparations for Ukrainians who did forced labor for German firms during World War II.

Trafficking in women

The most riveting session of the conference "Trafficking of Women from Ukraine," came at the very end. It was organized jointly with the Washington/Baltimore Chapter of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA).

The issue was addressed by Irene Kurowycyk, newly elected president of the UNWLA; Hanya Krill of LaStrada-Ukraine and Brama Gateway; Anita Botti, who heads the President's Interagency Task Force dealing with that issue; Natalia Zarudna of the Embassy of Ukraine; and Walter Zalisko of the Jersey City Police Department. Xenia Jowyk of the UNWLA Washington/Baltimore chapter was the moderator.

The first panelist, Mrs. Kurowycyk presented some of the facts and figures regarding this "modern form of slavery" and sexual exploitation in Western Europe, the Middle East and North America. The root cause is economic, she said, citing the fact that more than 70 percent of the unemployed in Ukraine are women.

Ms. Krill recalled receiving an advertisement request at the Brama website seeking pretty Ukrainian women to do "secretarial work" in Bahrain. And one could hear a pin drop in the hall when Ms. Krill closed her presentation by reading an article by a young woman from Donetsk, named Nadia, describing in detail how she was lured by a job offer in Germany and forced into a life of prostitution.

Ms. Botti pointed out that the trafficking problem is worldwide; and it is divided equally between forced labor and sexual

exploitation. At its source it is an economic problem, she said. "Unless the economy is dealt with, you will not solve the issue," she stressed.

Ms. Zarudna enumerated some of the steps taken by the Ukrainian government in trying to stem the tide of trafficking, including the passage of a law against it and cooperation with other governments and organizations internationally. She said that Ukrainian Americans could help by lobbying for, among other things, the passage of anti-trafficking laws in the United States, providing legitimate employment opportu-

nities for these women, and the establishment of hotlines and shelters, where these victims could find assistance and refuge.

Mr. Zalisko, a Jersey City detective, recounted his undercover experiences in investigating the trafficking and sexual exploitation problem in New Jersey, where he visited numerous "go-go" bars featuring many women from Ukraine, Russia and other East European countries illegally brought to the United States and forced into prostitution. He, too, stressed that there is a need for shelters for these women, who now have nowhere to turn for help.

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Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations

Participants offer...

(Continued from page 8)

thing has been lost, that we exist and will continue to exist.

Another big success is that nearly 70 percent of the participants were young people, and this is a very big plus because these young people are professionals. They met with each other, and they saw there were many of them and that this is a great power. This is very positive for our entire society in the United States and in the diaspora as a whole.

And I would say that the following is the most important: that the conference took place, that it attracted many people and that there were so many young people. Even though they attended their various conferences, among them will be several leaders who will take the reins of the community, who will fund activities. It will be community work of a different type than we are used to.

What the conference lacked, for me, was a solid panel at which we could discuss the present state of the Ukrainian community in the U.S. and the diaspora, and look into the future. The last session of the conference was very ad hoc, not well-organized; also, it should have been held in the middle of the conference so that young people could have been there [many had left by Sunday afternoon].

But, all in all, this was a job well done – congratulations to the organizers. The second conference will be even better.

Eugene Stakhiv, Ph.D., engineer, Fairfax Station, Va.: The conference was a terrific idea. There is great value in

having such interaction – in getting all of the Ukrainian professional community talking and meeting at the same time. The Washington Group, especially, tried to bring together all the salient points at its conference.

During our own [engineers'] session we had high-level people and were able to see the full range of activity, the iceberg below the surface, as regards cooperation between the U.S. and Ukraine in science and technology. We were able to get a broad overview of the many initiatives under way. For example, Dr. George Gamota spoke about business incubator programs that take good science and technology and convert them into good business. I learned a lot.

Theodor Kostiuk, Ph.D., astrophysicist, Seabrook, Md.: The Ukrainian Engineers Society meeting was unique. It was not a technical meeting, but focused on science and technology that addresses cooperation between the United States and Ukraine. It also looked at technology as a whole and noted how rapid changes in recent years have altered the ways things are done in society, diplomacy, business. At the engineers' session there was an examination of the possibilities for cooperation between Ukraine and the U.S., as well as the international community.

The conference was extremely successful, highly attended and an opportunity to really learn what the Ukrainian community does as a whole. I learned a lot about activity that is not publicized.

Angela Phillips Diaz, director, Human Space Flight and Research Division,

NASA, Washington: Through the Gore-Kuchma Commission summits we identified the opportunities for [bilateral] cooperation, building on the expertise of Ukraine. At this conference of Ukrainian professionals I wanted to underline how much we value the partnership between NASA and the National Space Agency of Ukraine, to emphasize that Ukrainians bring significant expertise to the space community and that it is a privilege to work with them. We look to future cooperation.

Yaroslav Yatskiv, director, Main Astronomical Observatory, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine: It is extraordinarily symbolic to hold a conference on this level. Here we had a NASA official, Ukrainian professionals from the U.S. and representatives of Ukraine all come together. Ten years ago we could not even have imagined this. It was a dream. Here we could inform our colleagues that we have great scientific and industrial potential, that we can be considered a serious partner.

I believe this conference was very needed by Ukrainian professionals since they should understand their role has changed. They serve as a bridge between Ukraine's potential and industry and business of the U.S. for the benefit of Ukraine. And this has been practically accomplished at this conference.

Martha Bohachevsky-Chomiak, historian, Washington: Like the "Ukrainian Woman in Two Worlds" conference [organized in 1982 by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America], this conference also was a shocker in that no one expected that so many people would show up – and so many young

people showed up here.

That merely shows that we have to change the style of our organizational work and put greater emphasis on our specialized organizations that function – not on the basis of an ideology or a program – but on the basis of specific activities and interest groups. And these people will find the time and will be able to work together because of communality on particular projects.

This conference also shows you have to let people do their own thing. It isn't necessary to establish directives and policy from on high. We have a developed civil society; people know how to function in groups – you have to let them function in groups. And, the consensus that emerged at the last session [of the conference] on the need for the presidents of the various organizations to meet was really worth the efforts of the conference.


It shows that this generation is a new generation of people whose organizational styles evolved into something different; if we try to put them into organizations that evolved with styles irrelevant to them, we will not have vibrant organizations in our community.

Adrian Baranetsky, M.D., Short Hills, N.J.: The Joint Conferences were a communal epiphany – the self-realization that together we can do it: we can integrate with the mainstream while maintaining our Ukrainian identity and institutions into the future. The conference's theme, "Synergy," reflected the collaboration of our professional and civic cadres, uniting their expertise for the good of the whole community.

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