

HERALD ВІСНИК

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On February 21, the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance and the Regina AUUC School of Ukrainian Performing Arts staged the Annual AUUC Concert Recital at the Regina Performing Arts Centre. The program included the "Hopak", with soloist Zack Evans of the Poltava Dancers, directed by Olexsandr Byelyayev. A story, with additional photos by Mark Greschner, can be found on page 9.

A Lively 13th Foundation AGM

The 13th Annual General Meeting of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation, held at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on Saturday, March 7, was a lively affair, reflecting an institution with a substantial program of activity and good prospects for the future.

Noted with regret by the participants from Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Ottawa, Sudbury, and Toronto were the lack of representation from Winnipeg and Weland and the absence of the Recording Secretary of the

Resident Executive Committee.

The first highlight of the meeting was a series of reports from the Resident Executive Committee, the Toronto-area based group which meets monthly and is charged with ongoing responsibility for the operation of the Shevchenko Museum and other projects of the Foundation.

Leading off was Lyudmyla Pogoryelov, Museum Director, who reported that, "In the past year we had much to celebrate."

Ms. Pogoryelov indicated a growing interest in the Museum, with an increasing number of visitors to the institution, and particularly to its "constantly growing and improving" web site, and more frequent invitations to attend various conferences around

the world. In November, 2008, Ms. Pogoryelov attended an Ontario Museums Association conference in Ottawa, which was, she reported, "very interesting, informative, inspiring, full of great ideas and useful in building contacts".

The report gave information about collaboration with Cambridge University, and the resulting international publicity.

The exhibition of avant-garde art by Jerry Prociw was very successful, the report said. So was the "Ukrainian Decorative Eggs, *Pysanky*" display at Queen's Park, in the Ontario parliament building from March to September, 2008.

Innovations included projects, like the *Community Memories* project, undertaken with a grant from the Canadian Heritage Information Network, new fundraising initiatives, and use of new technology to further various Museum purposes.

In 2008, the Museum extended its holdings, and improved its ability to conserve and protect its exhibits.

The report presented information about the robust program of publicity and advertising designed to draw widening audiences.

The Director's report concluded with thanks to those who have helped the work of the Museum (particularly Bill Harasym and volunteer Victoria Kravchyn), and an appeal for continuing support.

The report delivered by William Harasym, President of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park (Continued on Page 13.)



The report by Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelov reflected a rich and varied program of activity.

Romeo Phillion: Delayed Justice

We are often told that the innocent have nothing to fear from police investigations or from passage of laws which reduce our protections against police error or arbitrariness when we are under investigation. In the last few years, unfortunately, we have had too many examples of injustice in the investigation or trial of criminal cases.

Examples that come to mind include all the people who were convicted because a pathologist seemed to assume that every baby death was due to infanticide. It seems that the last of those cases was finally cleared up quite recently.

Then there were the cases of David Millgard and Donald Marshall, both of whom spent decades in prison for murders they did not commit. The Innocence Project at Osgoode Law School, and the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted have uncovered, and successfully pursued, additional cases.

There is no doubt at all that many innocent people are still in prison, and one of the strongest arguments against capital punishment is that innocent people have been executed in miscarriages of justice which can not be reversed.

Now we have another case, that of Romeo Phillion, whose conviction for a 42-year-old murder was overturned recently by the Ontario Court of Appeal.

At the time of the trial, the defence was not informed of a police report, recently uncovered, confirming that Mr. Phillion was 288 km. away, and could not have committed the crime.

Holding a recanted confession which supposedly had details only the murderer would know (but also a glaring discrepancy), the police and the Crown both concluded

that Romeo Phillion was guilty, and suppressed (as they were then allowed to do) the police report confirming his alibi.

Romeo Phillion, at the time of his arrest and trial would not have had much sympathy from most people. He was a small time hood with a gay lover and a girl friend who was a prostitute — the kind of man that would have many people saying, "Who cares? Put him away."

However, as it turns out, he was not a murderer — like most of us. He was wrongly charged and falsely convicted, just as we could be. Today's higher requirements for disclosure of evidence, a target for the law-and-order crowd, might have kept him out of jail. If we allow those protections to be removed in the belief that the innocent have nothing to fear, then we may well be the ones going to jail.

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PetroCan

As we go to press, it has been announced that Suncor has purchased PetroCan for the equivalent of \$18 billion in a stock-based deal, subject to regulatory and shareholder approval.

Retail PetroCan stations will continue to exist.

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separate
page.**

Current Eclectic — Long and Short

Once Again About Medicine

Medicine is a fascinating subject, and the most fascinating part of it is probably epidemiology, because the more research it conducts the less we seem to know.

A very recent example concerns prostate cancer, and the

PSA blood test widely used to detect it.

In about 1987, a blood test came into general use in North America, where most men over 50 have it done, to detect the protein known as PSA — prostate-specific an-

tigen. Elevated levels of PSA could indicate prostate cancer, but so could other factors, so a positive result leads to a biopsy, and (if cancer is confirmed) treatment involving surgery and/or chemotherapy and/or radiation.

Most prostate cancers grow too slowly to threaten the lives of those who have them, while others may grow so fast that even early detection may come too late.

Hence, the question which arose was, "How useful is the PSA test?"

Recently, two huge studies seeking to answer this question were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

One of the studies was done in Europe (where use of the test is not as widespread), and involved 182,000 men.

The other study was done in the USA, with 77,000 men.

Both studies concluded that the PSA tests do not save many lives. That raised a new question — whether PSA screening should be done, given the low level of benefits and the negative side effects

of treatment for prostate cancer — among them incontinence, impotence, infection, chronic diarrhoea and painful defecation.

The American study found no reduction in prostate cancer deaths after all its 77,000 men had been studied for at least seven years and two thirds had been followed for ten years. This study, in which half the men had frequent tests while the other half had regular medical care by their doctors, found that after 7 years, the death rate was **13% lower for the unscreened group**.

The European study found that after nine years there was a reduction of seven prostate cancer deaths for each 100,000 men screened. This study suggested that, for every 50 or so cases of prostate cancer found through screening and treated, one death from this cause would be prevented. On the other hand, of those 50 men, about half would have received difficult treatment, and perhaps suffered debilitating side effects, unnecessarily, because their cancers would not have produced clinical symptoms during their lifetimes.

It is unlikely that the results of the studies will reduce the use of PSA tests in Canada.

One reason is that it is being promoted by men who are certain that the screening saved their lives, which in some cases that may actually be true.

Another reason is that governments want to be seen as doing something about the most common form of cancer among Canadian men, having killed 4,300 last year, with 24,700 new diagnosed cases. That is why, in January, the Ontario government extended coverage for PSA tests, though most Canadian guidelines caution against over-prescribing the test.

The most important reason why use of the test will probably not decrease is a series of questions like, "Would you like to face a lawsuit because you did not prescribe a test which might have saved a life?" "How would you feel if a man in your family died of prostate cancer and you had not insisted on a PSA test?" and, "How will you feel in your death bed if a PSA test might have saved your life?"

One useful thing may flow from these studies: more attention is being turned to finding a test to distinguish between the "harmless", slow-growing cancers and those which are life-threatening.

—Wilfred Szczesny

Playing Politics with the Economy

Canada still has a government which can not resist playing politics with the economy, just as it did before the Canadian democratic system was suspended at the end of 2008. The main difference now, in contrast to then, is that the strong opposition coalition which replaced a compliant official opposition, with a leader who looked inept while not opposing the government, has been replaced, in turn, by a compliant official opposition with a smooth leader who looks competent while actually supporting the government.

The current budget experience is an excellent example among many that could be selected. In exchange for a promise by the government to report periodically, which Liberal Leader Mr. Ignatieff touted as a great victory, the Liberal opposition cooperated with the passage of the budget bill. Then, the bill went to the Senate, where there was an intention to scrutinize the bill more closely, and a proposal to divide the bill between items involving economic stimulus and items more closely related to broader public policy.

Concerning one such item, changes to the Investment Canada Act, Sinclair Stevens, a Cabinet Minister in the Clark and Mulroney Progressive Conservative governments, in an article in *The Toronto Star* on March 16, accused the government of "one more step in downgrading Parliament's role in our democracy".

Finance Minister Flaherty opposed splitting the bill — saying that the stimulus package is not severable, and meaning that the government wanted the changes in policy. About that position, Mr. Stevens opinion is that it "was neither constitutional nor parliamentary reality." Michael Ignatieff supported Flaherty's demand that the bill be passed *in toto* and quickly, ostensibly to avoid delaying changes to the employment insurance.

In concluding his article about the Investment Canada Act, Sinclair Stevens wrote, "Canada's sovereignty has been lessened by a bullheaded government and our future prosperity will suffer." The fact is that the Liberal Party, led by Michael Ignatieff, was complicit in that act.

Ignatieff's critics suggest that he is quite at home positioning the Liberal Party on the right, with the Conservatives; his supporters suggest that he is merely giving Prime Minister Harper enough rope to hang himself, especially if the economy continues to slide. One other possibility is that Mr. Ignatieff is still buying time to consolidate his leadership of the Liberal Party, and strengthen its preparedness for the next election. Another possibility still is that Ignatieff is allowing the Conservatives to pass much of this legislation so that he will not have to do it himself and, Harper's statements notwithstanding, he has no intention of reversing it.

Whatever his real game, Mr. Ignatieff may find that he has outsmarted himself. If the Liberals do not, at some point, distinguish themselves from the Conservatives, the electorate will have no incentive to remove the Conservatives — especially if the election call comes during an upturn in the economy.

Even if Ignatieff continues on his present course, the Conservatives are not sure winners, because of Stephen Harper's seeming inability to control his partisanship. The basic question is whether it matters who wins? If Ignatieff is leading a Liberal Party which is indistinguishable from the Conservative Party in essence, as well as in appearance, then the answer may well be, "No!" Only future developments will show what's what, in detail, in Canadian political reality.

Jason Kenney, Minister of Immigration

Jason Kenney, Canada's Minister of Immigration reportedly considers himself an "unapologetic supporter of Israel. Therefore, he believes that people in Canada should exercise freedom of expression responsibly, and particularly they should be "wary of the rise of a new form of anti-Semitism cloaked in debates about Israel's actions in the Middle East".

"There is no room for non-

violent extremism in Canada that is beyond the pale," (that's what *The Toronto Star* reports he said). "When I say beyond the pale, I don't mean illegal."

Using his ministerial position to punish non-violent and not illegal extremism, Mr. Kenney has cut funding to the Canadian Arab Federation, supposedly because CAF president Khaled Mouammar thinks that Hamas and Hez-

zbollah should be treated as legitimate organizations, while the Canadian government lists them as organizations associated with terrorism.

The CAF has two LINC contracts with the government to provide language instruction for newcomers to Canada. The contracts will not be renewed. The CAF says that most of the clients in these programs are Chinese.

Khaled Mouammar and his supporters suspect that the reason Mr. Kenney made the decision to cut the funding is that Mr. Mouammar called Mr. Kenney a professional whore who supports Israel abroad to win Jewish votes at home.

Also under Jason Kenney's supervision, the Canadian Border Services Agency has barred British Member of Parliament George Galloway from entering Canada for a speaking engagement, on the grounds that he is a threat to national security. Israel supporter Jason Kenney will not intervene.

Mr. Galloway, who entered Canada last year, has no criminal record, and has not been barred (as yet) from any other country, including the United States, has openly supported Hamas.

Canada is among the few countries continuing to punish people for advocating engaging with Hamas and Hezbollah as political realities.

An Echo, Decades Later

It has been reported that Jason Kenney, Canada's Minister of Immigration, said that immigrants who do not speak English or French well enough should be denied citizenship. Reading that, I am reminded of remarks I heard decades ago by another Minister of Immigration.

Son of an Italian immigrant, that Minister of Immigration talked about the opportunities in Canada, where the son of an immigrant who spoke little English could become a Minister of the Crown. He spoke of how proud his father would have been. And he spoke about new immigration criteria which would have excluded that Minister's father — his own father!

How much happier, that Minister of Immigration said, my father could have been if he had known English.

Now Minister of Immigration Kenney shows his concern for immigrants by caring about the economic and social disadvantage their missing language skills create.

How'd they get into this country anyhow, he wants to know.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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Bullies in Uniform

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

Everywhere you turn there seems to be a bully in uniform, along with his buddies, just looking for an excuse to pound on somebody.

For example, a British Columbia motorist, age 54, was ordered by a US border guard to turn off his vehicle's motor. When the motorist asked the guard to say "please", he was pepper sprayed, mobbed, placed in handcuffs, and questioned for three hours, which seems like a bit of over-reaction. The report was in *The Toronto Star* on March 6.

An outraged judge had no alternative but to release three military reservists judged "not guilty" of aggravated assault by a Toronto jury, but he gave them a proper tongue lashing. The three men, in their early 20s, bragged about being in the military before ganging up on Hesam Zeinal-Zedeh and leaving him lying on the sidewalk with a cracked skull.

The most glaring case, at the moment, is the slaying of Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver airport by four RCMP officers. The heavily armed and armoured policemen were so concerned about the threat to their safety that they felt the need to defend themselves by Tasing Mr. Dziekanski four or five times (depending on which version you believe) — all because the traveller, who did not speak English, did not respond to their shouted commands quickly enough. Mr. Dziekanski, on the other hand, surrounded by four armed and armoured officers shouting commands in a language he did not understand had no cause for concern — or so they told us. If someone had not made a video, their concocted lies would have gone unchallenged.

Tasers are involved in many cases of police brutality these days, partly because police officers know that the stun guns produce serious pain, and partly because many of them believe that Tasers can inflict that pain safely. Therefore they have Tasered, among others, noncompliant teenage girls, seniors in their beds, people already in handcuffs and people under control but still struggling. The point is nothing else than to inflict pain.

The Canadian Police Association and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police are reportedly in favour of every officer carrying one, while others want them issued to border guards. They sound a bit like cigarette company representatives, when they claim that there is no link established between Taser use and any death, in spite of some 25 Canadian and over 300 US victims.

COMMENTARY**Some Thoughts about Security**

Recently the mother of a ten-year-old boy in Mississippi was surprised when police officers approached her. The officers reproached her for letting her son walk by himself a distance of about three quarters of a mile to a soccer practice. She was warned that letting the child go that far from home was dangerous, that the child could be taken out of her care, and that she could be charged. When she later called the chief-of-police and asked about the level of danger, she was told that the risk was, in fact, very low, and that letting her son walk to the practice field by himself was not unreasonable.

A few years ago, I had a similar experience when my grandson, then five or six years old, ran off down the sidewalk while I transferred groceries from one cart to another. The boy stopped at the end of the sidewalk, and turned to call back to me. He was never out of eyesight or earshot, but I found myself approached by an off-duty Mississauga police officer, waving his identification, who scolded me for abandoning the child. Neither Lucas nor I had felt abandoned, and I so informed the officer. When the policeman said something about "Children's Aid Society", Lucas let out a wail which sent the officer into a hasty retreat muttering something about grandparents.

When I once asked Lucas's mother about the very restricted movement (it seemed to me) she allowed him, her response was, "How would you feel if something happened to him?"

The answer is, of course, that I would feel terrible. However, it seems to me (the probability of abduction or

other such event being as low as it actually is) a risk worth taking, because it gives the child the possibility to grow into a confident, aware and resourceful individual.

These are just a few examples of a phenomenon which is sufficiently widespread that psychologists and other specialists have started to study it. The question they are asking is what effect such limitations on mobility because of security concerns will have on the long-term physical and psychological health of growing individuals.

But the question of keeping children on a short leash for their safety is, it seems to me, part of much broader issues. Current attitudes concerning security have formed a climate in which we as a society are increasingly willing, even eager, to give up liberty in exchange for security.

It is interesting, I think, that his mother's first response to questions about keeping Lucas close was not about his safety, but about my (and by extension, her) feelings in the event that something happened to him.

Of course I know that his mother is concerned about Lucas's safety for his sake. The desire that their children not be harmed has been common to parents through all the generations. In each generation, including the present group of parents, they have taken what they considered to be appropriate precautions, recognizing that children can not be protected from all risks. That is not new.

What is new is the enhanced prominence of the question, "How would I as a parent (or you, as another care-giver) feel if something happened?" If that was a

question when my children were children, or when I was a child, then it was mostly in the background. Today, among those many would consider the "best" parents, this question seems to be foremost. It lowers tolerance for risk, while an exaggerated view of the real level of risk raises concern to the level, almost, of obsession. The attitude is, "Better to be safe than sorry."

Modern media contributes to exaggerating the fear in at least two ways: first, it brings us news of a great many incidents from around the world, and second, it repeats the information endlessly (it seems) in all media. There is no respite from the problems, which seem to be constant.

I am repeatedly amazed, when talking with people from the Welland area, for example, that many of them talk as though Toronto is like a war zone, with a high and constant level of violence. Actually, the city is safer than many smaller communities with a lower media profile.

Much of this exaggeration is now institutionalized. It frequently happens, for example, that all schools over several square miles will be "locked down" for several hours while police investigate a report that someone was seen walking around with a gun or other weapon. Occasions when police actually find anything dangerous are extremely rare, but each report is treated as a serious threat.

The situation feeds on itself. The "lock-down" following a report of a threat creates a fear that there is danger abroad. The fear of lurking danger leads to another report of a threat, and here we go again.

In the past, were there reports of threats? Yes. Did police investigate them? Yes. Were all the schools in the neighbourhood locked down? No. With the new response has anything been gained? No.

So why is that kind of thing, reminiscent of the Cold War drills with children diving under their desks in preparation for nuclear attack, happening now?

Perhaps it is because fear makes us easier to manipulate.

Most immediately, frightened people will more readily vote for the tough-on-crime, tough-on-terrorism parties and candidates, even if the real threat of crime and/or terrorism is minimal. That is why the Harper Conservatives and the Ignatieff Liberals sound so similar on some issues.

More significantly, frightened people will tolerate the erosion of their rights and freedoms. Frightened people can be taught to believe that suspected criminals and terrorists have too many rights and freedoms, and to ignore

(Continued on Page 14.)

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www.ukrainiancentre-edm.ca

Regina AUUC, Poltava Ensemble
<http://www.poltava.ca/>

Taras Shevchenko Museum:
www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum

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Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

1.5 Million People Emigrated

Over 1.5 million Ukrainians have left the country to work abroad since 2000. This conclusion was reached by the head of the Open Ukraine foundation, M.P. Arseniy Yatseniuk, who stated that his organization had conducted the necessary research in cooperation with other experts in the sector.

“Economic factors are primary in people’s decisions to leave Ukraine,” he said, adding that there are also social and spiritual factors.

He also said that Ukraine does not expect labour migrants to return in the near future. “I think that the main reason is the professional level of Ukrainians (leaving the country). Upon their return, these Ukrainians would face unemployment,” he noted.

“There are over three million unemployed people in Ukraine,” and this figure would increase, he added.

(This represents a serious brain drain. — GB)

Adios, Yushchenko?

Mykola Martynenko, parliamentary leader of the Our Ukraine — People’s Self-Defence Bloc (President Yushchenko’s party), said that the party will no longer be the party of President Yushchenko.

Speaking on Ukrainian television’s “Fifth Channel” on March 11, he stated, “I see the future (of the) party without Viktor Andriyovych Yushchenko. It is necessary to give party members an opportunity to find their own positions as to the future leader, the directions, the methods and the ideas (of the party). I think the party has enough serious, talented, and able people who can find a way out of the present situation.”

Two days later, Ihor Zhdanov, of the Ukrainian think-tank Open Policy, stated that he does not rule out that President Yushchenko’s party may make him step down as party leader.

Political expert Zhdanov said he believes the party “has been slowly dying” since Yushchenko’s election as its leader. “Probably none of Viktor Yushchenko’s comrades see him as a person who could be re-elected for a second term.”

Demographic Losers

The lowest life expectancies among industrially devel-

oped countries are seen in Ukraine, Moldova, and Russia, according to data taken from the *World Population Prospects in 2008* report prepared by the United Nations Population Division.

Russia, Moldova, and Ukraine are in a list of 45 countries that the report says will face serious demographic losses.

According to the report, the average life expectancy in the world has grown during the last few decades, but in the countries of Eastern Europe it has fallen from 69.6 years in the 1965–1970 period (socialism), to 69.2 years in 2005–2010 (capitalism).

“In spite of some improvement of the indicators after the late 1990s, currently Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine have the lowest indicators of life expectancy among all developed countries — lower than 70 years,” the report reads.

Russian Language No Problem

An overwhelming majority of Ukrainians (about 82%) believe that the language issue does not need any urgent decisions or is not pressing at all. These are the results of an all-Ukrainian poll carried out by the Ukrainian Democratic Circle on the orders of the Institute of Politics.

Thus, answering the question “Politicians have been carrying out many disputes concerning the language issue, in particular, the status of the Russian language. How urgent is solution of this problem for you personally?”, only some 15% of those polled said that the language issue should be immediately solved.

The poll was carried out on January 30–February 5, 2009. On the whole, 1600 respondents aged over 18 years old were polled. The margin of error does not exceed 2.5%.

Poverty and Leeches

Every third Ukrainian lacks means for food. That is the finding of an all-Ukrainian telephone poll carried out by the Gorshenin Institute during February 24–28.

According to the results of the poll, some 35% of respondents described their situation as “hardly making ends meet, sometimes there are not enough means for food”.

Some 36.5% of Ukrainians have enough means for food but face difficulties with buying clothes and shoes.

Only 1.1% of those polled said they have no financial difficulties at all.

The poverty-stricken condition of millions of ordinary Ukrainians contrasts with that of the newly-rich in now-capitalist Ukraine.

A recent editorial in the *Kyiv Post* quotes famous American comedian Robin Williams as having said that the word “politics” is made up of “poli”, the Latin word for many, and “tics”, meaning blood-sucking creatures.

The editorial goes on to say, “While tales of lavish expenses claimed by the Deputies (members of parliament) stopped causing a stir awhile ago, the disclosure of how they keep milking the system at a time of economic crisis seems particularly painful.”

According to the editorial, members of parliament pocket between Hr14,000 and Hr17,000 (approximately \$2000–\$2,400) monthly. (According to recent statistics, the average wage in Ukraine is about Hr1,900 (\$250 monthly).

In addition to the basic salary which members of parliament receive, they are entitled to various benefits and allowances which double their income. As if that weren’t enough, they are entitled to free accommodation (so-called “grace and favour” homes) which they are entitled to keep when their terms in office expire!

Igor Popov, head of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (a non-governmental civic organization), does not believe that the current economic crisis which is sweeping Ukraine will compel the Rada members to change their lifestyle significantly. “They had more serious pretexts before — like elections — when they promised voter to slash their privileges.”

Yushchenko’s Fascists

At the end of February, Polish President Lech Kaczynski arrived in Lviv to meet with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko. The purpose of their meeting was to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the tragedy of the neighbouring Polish village of Huta Peniatska.

Naturally, the commemoration ceremonies were covered by both the Ukrainian and the Polish press. The interesting part was the very different Ukrainian and Polish interpretations of the facts concerning the tragedy.

The *Kyiv Post*, an American-funded right-wing newspaper published in Kyiv, reported that “the delegations are scheduled to take part in events dedicated to the 65th anniversary of the tragedy of the village of Huta Peniatska,

where a counterinsurgency operation was held in February, 1944, against locals (the majority of which were the Poles).” Sounds almost innocent.

The version printed by *Polskieradio* was substantially different. It reported that “President Lech Kaczynski and his Ukrainian counterpart are taking part in today’s observances commemorating the 65th anniversary of the murder of Polish residents of the Huta Pieniacka village, located in the southeastern part of the country.

“Poland and Ukraine hold different views on the responsibility for the massacres of Poles in Volhynia that took place between 1943 and 1945, with Poland laying the blame on the SS-Galicia division, commanded by German and Ukrainian officials, and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (whom some have accused of murdering up to 80,000 Ukrainians — GB).

“Ukraine insists that it was the German Nazis that were responsible for the atrocities.

“It is necessary to insist on honouring the memory of Poles killed during the ethnic cleansing in Volhynia.”

From Breadbasket to Basket Case

The economic crisis in Ukraine is escalating, and while the government is pointing fingers at each other, social unrest is growing as people lose their jobs or remain unpaid for months.

Citizens have spent days without heat or water because city administrations can not pay their bills. Ukraine’s Finance Ministry is not able to make international long-distance phone calls because it has not paid its telephone bill.

Truckers parked 200 tractor-trailers outside Kyiv for several weeks, threatening to block roads if the government failed to address their financial problems.

Over 5000 Ukrainians picketed outside Kyiv’s city hall to protest the city budget and to demand that wages be increased. The demonstration brought traffic on Khreshchatyk Street, Kyiv’s main street, to a complete halt.

Tense crowds, fearful of bank failures, line up day after day at bank branches to try to withdraw their savings (some banks have told their customers that they will have to wait six months to get back their money). A dozen banks are in some form of receivership.

In February, 300 workers occupied the administration building of the Kherson Engineering Plant. The workers

demand payment of back wages and nationalization of the plant by the government without compensation to its owner.

According to a poll carried out by the National Institute for Strategic Studies, 32.3% of Ukrainians said that they were ready to take part in protests against government policy, an additional 44.7% said that they would support such protests, while only 23% said that they would not protest.

In four different public opinion polls, Orange co-leader President Viktor Yushchenko scored between 1.9% and 3.0% in personal popularity.

Referring to the poll which gave Yushchenko a 2.7% approval rating, the American magazine *Newsweek* stated that such a low approval rating “likely makes him the world’s most unpopular leader”.

Even Yushchenko’s hated rival, Orange co-leader Yulia Tymoshenko, no longer calls herself an Orange politician, describing herself as “white-hearted”.

Communist demonstrators rallied in Kyiv recently to call for President Yushchenko to pack his bags and leave for America. They passed around a collection box to get enough money to buy him a plane ticket.

Ukraine-Romania Border Set

A 40-year dispute between Ukraine and Romania over an energy-rich area of the Black Sea was resolved on February 3 as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) drew a border giving Romania the larger share.

The verdict — which cannot be appealed — means that Romania can exploit 80% of the 100 billion cubic metres of gas and 15 million tonnes of crude oil in the disputed zone, leaving the rest to Ukraine.

The 15 ICJ judges were unanimous in their ruling, which was reached after the two countries had failed in 24 rounds of negotiations to settle the dispute that started shortly after the end of World War 2.

The ICJ (the United Nations’ highest judicial body), stated that they had largely discounted the arguments, claims, and maps that both countries had provided to the Court.

Although various Ukrainian officials greeted the verdict as a wise compromise, the Rada (Ukrainian parliament) saw it differently, and fired Ukrainian Foreign Minister Volodymyr Orhyzko for bungling the case before the ICJ.

**Ukrainian
Page
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Separately**

**Ukrainian
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Toronto Cabaret



Photo: John Manning

Adam Timoon in performance at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on March 8.

Master showman and entertainer Adam Timoon wove his usual magic before an enthusiastic audience of AUUC members and friends in Toronto on March 8.

An almost sold-out crowd accorded him repeated rounds of applause as he again

showed why, for decades, he has been a popular drawing-card on the Ontario professional entertainment circuit.

The afternoon began with the introduction to the audience of two honoured visitors — AUUC National President Gerry Shmyr and AUUC Na-

Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



During a break, Adam Timoon spends a few minutes with AUUC Cultural Centre manager Mark Stewart.

In coming issues

In coming issues of the "UCH", look for a report on the tribute to Natalka Mochoruk and Marie Prociw, the concert in Welland of the Welland AUUC Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra with the Shevchenko Choir, the Winnipeg 90th anniversary celebration and other items.



Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky

Adam Timoon's son Danny performed with his father and as a soloist on the cajon.

tional Treasurer Steve Smoly. In his comments, Gerry presented a review of AUUC activities across Canada in 2008.

We were also honoured to have Jim and Hazel Skulsky of Calgary, Dianna and Larry Kleparchuk of Vancouver, and Oryst Sawchuk and Vicky Gilhula of Sudbury, Ontario, in attendance at our Cabaret.

Adam Timoon is well-known to local AUUC members, having grown up in our hall and having been taught

Photo: Mary Van Horne



AUUC Toronto Branch Treasurer and main social convener Nancy Stewart took a turn at the entrance.



Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky

More than merely a performer, entertainer Adam Timoon always interacts with his audience, which has undoubtedly been a factor in his popular longevity.

music by long-time AUUC member Mary Kuzyk (his favourite music teacher, he said).

He remembered and reminisced about the stage performances of Karl Kay, Jerry Prociw and Marie Prociw,

Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Volunteer Anne Bobyk served behind the bar.

Photo: Mary Van Horne

three talented acrobats and gymnasts, who entertained AUUC audiences for years. Even in those days, his teenage years, he had hoped to become an entertainer. And he certainly has succeeded!

His success lies in his ability to combine excellent guitar-playing skills with a genius for banter and repartee with his audience. Examples — he attended a school in Toronto in a tough neighbourhood where he "took a 5-year course in scissor-sharpening"; *Dr. Zhivago* is his "favourite Italian movie"; "If you want to join in while I'm singing, DON'T, it puts me off"; to an audience member who made a funny comment, he said sternly, "I'm the one who's being paid to tell jokes."

Well-received by the audience were his medleys from *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Dr. Zhivago*, and *Zorba The Greek*.

But the all-time favourite with AUUC audiences is his version of "Little Red Riding Hood", told with a heavy Russian accent and with Canadian hockey star Phil Esposito cast as the big, bad wolf.

Adam brought his son Danny with him. Danny, a young man, is a talented musician on the cajon, a drum which, *Wikipedia* says, is the most widely-used Afro-Peruvian musical instrument in the 20th century. Solos by Danny, and duets with his father, were well-received by the audience.

The warm ambience in our hall was beautifully reinforced by the cabaret decor, imaginatively created by Connie Prince, Bernardine Dobrowolsky and Nancy Stewart, members of The Crew.

Each table was graced with cut flowers, lit candles, finger foods, and a red tablecloth. Connie Prince, who is Toronto AUUC Branch Vice-President, was gracious as the emcee.

See you again soon, Adam!
— George Borusiewicz



Cut flowers, candles and finger foods added to the ambience as revellers enjoyed the entertainment.

Photo: Mary Van Horne



John Manning and Anne Krane are both enthusiastic Timoon fans.

Regina AUUC Marks 80 Years

On Saturday, February 21, 2009, the 65 children of the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts, the 50 members of the Poltava Ensemble dancers, orchestra and stage crew, along with the Ensemble's four vocal soloists, marked the 80th year of cultural performances at the Regina AUUC Ukrainian Cultural Centre with a concert presented to a capacity audience at the Regina Performing Arts Centre.

The pioneers and founders of the Regina Branch began construction of the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association in the summer of 1928. The building was ready for the presentation of cultural and educational programs in the spring of 1929.

The presentation of the anniversary concert/recital was warmly received by the capacity audience. Starting with the youngest children of the School of Ukrainian Performing Arts and then moving through each of the grade levels, the audience had a demonstration of the children's progress as they moved up in age if they remained in the school.

The children's numbers were interspersed with the Ensemble's presentation of songs, orchestral selections and dances by the senior dancers.

As the concert/recital drew to a close, all members of the School and Ensemble were brought on to the stage for photographs of the entire performing collective of the Regina Branch.

To end this memorable concert, the Poltava Ensemble presented "Hopak" as the very receptive audience joined in with applause right through to the encore and the final farewell.

— Gerry Shmyr



The Intermediate Dancers, under the direction of Laura Fellingner and Mark Gordon, performed "Hutzulchyna", a popular Western Ukrainian dance.



The Pre-Poltava Dancers, under the direction of Lisa Shmyr and Zack Evans, presented the dance "Ternopilsky krutak".



Who could not love the Novice Dancers, directed by Tania Lozinsky and Ian Temple, on their first appearance on the stage with "Hopachok"?

— Story photos: Mark Greschner



The Junior Dancers, under the direction of Laura Fellingner and Mark Gordon, performed the ever-popular "Kozachok" from Central Ukraine.



The Poltava Ensemble premiered its Ukrainian Quartet — Guennadi Ostrikov, Natalia Osypenko, Elena Geisler and Victor Romko — singing "Halya Goes For Water". Natalia Osypenko is also the director of the Poltava Ensemble Orchestra, which performed in 15 of the 17 concert numbers.



Juri Petrouchtchak was a soloist in the Poltava Ensemble Dancers presentation of the "Sailor's Dance", dedicated to the men and women of the Black Sea Fleet.



The Beginner Dance Group, directed by Ian Temple and Tania Lozinsky, performed the Hutzul dance "Vesely Hutzulyata".



Lisa Shmyr appeared in "Bukovinian Motif" with the Poltava Ensemble Dancers.

Poltava Ensemble Reunion



On April 9–11, 2010, Regina's Poltava Ensemble will hold a reunion to celebrate its history and its future. 300–400 people from across North America will be in attendance (For more information, see page 11.)

At left is the Regina Children's String orchestra of 1925, conducted by M. Krechmarowsky. The original orchestra was formed in 1922, following the appearance of the Winnipeg Girls' Mandolin Orchestra.

**Sent as a
separate
page.**



This is the current AUUC Centre in Regina, built in 1929 by members of the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association at its location at 1809 Toronto Street. This “new” hall is preparing for its third major renovation.

Poltava Ensemble Reunion Celebrating Our Past - Building Our Future

In the spring of 2010, Regina's Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance will hold a reunion to celebrate its history and its future. It is estimated that approximately 300–400 people from across North America will be in attendance — a testament to the vast numbers of lives that have been touched by this unique performing group. Anyone who has ever been a part of the Poltava Ensemble (or any previous cultural group at the AUUC's Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Regina) is invited to participate in this event.

“We want to see all the dancers, singers, musicians, directors, conductors, and all the people behind the scenes who have contributed to Poltava's success, at this reunion,” says Donna Bannman, ex-dancer and one of the Reunion Coordinators. Other coordinators (to date) include

Lyle Knobbe, Poltava Orchestra member, Norm Sawchyn, ex-dancer and past Dance Director, and Betty-Ann Donison.

The Reunion, to be held at The Turvey Centre in Regina, is slated for the weekend of April 9, 10 and 11, 2010. The cost of a Weekend Pass will be \$120.00, which covers the cost of all activities and meals for the three-day event. Participants who buy the Weekend Pass will be able to purchase an accompanying Guest Pass for \$50.00 that will allow entrance to only the banquet and dance for one guest who is not coming to the full three-day event.

Tickets will go on sale at the Poltava Pavilion during this year's Mosaic Festival, June 4–6, 2009. Seating is limited and ticket sales are expected to be brisk, therefore participants are encouraged to book their seat early by purchasing

a ticket or non-refundable pre-registration deposit.

Reunion Coordinator Lyle Knobbe adds, “Pre-registration is only \$20.00, which will guarantee your place at the reunion. The \$100.00 balance will be due by March 1, 2010. This is a fabulous value when you look at the weekend's events: the gala evening, the souvenirs and the chance to reunite with so many old friends. Full details are on the Poltava web site under *Reunion*.”

Attendees at the Reunion will take part in activities designed to relive the “good-old-days”, as well as visiting with dear friends — some not seen in decades.

Past dancers and orchestra members will be encouraged to learn and perform an “Old-Timers Dance Suite”. The suite will be choreographed by former Poltava Dance Director Darcy Dietrich, who promises the dance will be easy enough for the old guys to learn quickly but challenging enough to make it fun.

Other events will include a perogy eating contest, and a Video Mashup — screenings of video highlights of memorable performances — as well as the screening of *Poltava: A Heritage of Dance* — a documentary film about the Ensemble produced in 1974. The video screenings will be followed by a Fashion Show — a display of the amazing variety and intricacy of the costuming created for, and worn by, the dancers over the decades. After the Fashion Show, members will be treated to a delightful performance by the children of the Poltava School of Performing Arts.

The highlight for many participants will, no doubt, be the incredible array of archival material on display. Members of the AUUC in Regina have amassed literally thousands of photographs, newspaper clippings, programs and articles dating back to the early part

of the last century. These materials are currently being organized and catalogued by Donna Bannman, and will form the basis for the publication of a book. A copy of this book, which Donna Bannman describes as “a photo history of the Poltava Ensemble and the AUUC” will be given to each Reunion participant.

In addition to the book, these archival materials will be used to create dozens of photo panels for display at the Reunion.

The production of a DVD documentary film is also planned. Norm Sawchyn will produce the video, using these same photo-archive materials, as well as hundreds of hours of videotape and film of the group's performances dating back to the early 1970s.

Saturday night promises to be the big night! A Gala evening will open with special greetings and performance by the “old-timers” as well as the current Poltava Ensemble. A buffet dinner will be followed by guest speakers and the sharing of anecdotes and stories.

After that, the tables will be pushed aside to create the space for an old-fashioned dance floor. FICOR a local dance band of some renown, has been booked for the occasion and will provide the favourite polkas, two-steps and waltzes that will entertain the participants for hours. This will eventually give way to the traditional “*Kolomeyka*”, so dancers young and old will have a chance to “strut their stuff”.

Sunday will be a quieter

day. A Pilgrim's Breakfast will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre. Here will be a chance for “goodbyes”, exchanging of addresses and collecting of souvenirs — and a chance to revisit the old Hall, the place where most of the old-timers grew up — where they learned a thing or two about dancing and music, and formed bonds with good friends that have lasted a lifetime.

The slogan for the Poltava Ensemble Reunion is “Celebrating Our Past — Building Our Future”. Coordinators say, “It is hoped the event will rekindle the spirit of our Ukrainian ancestors — those that settled this land so long ago and helped to build the society we enjoy living in today. We will celebrate the achievements of generations of hardworking people who have kept our Ukrainian culture alive through their selfless dedication to teaching the young. And we will celebrate our hope for the future by our promise to continue the work that needs to be done.”

And indeed much work yet needs to be done. Organizers will soon be canvassing Poltava alumni for help on various subcommittees that are now being formed. Anyone interested in helping with Reunion plans (or in just being there) should contact the organizers by sending an e-mail to reunion@poltava.ca, or by mailing to Poltava Ensemble Reunion, c/o Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 1809 Toronto Street, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 1M7.

— Norm Sawchyn

You Have to Say “Vy”

— Story photos: Victor Horon



Olga Dorish, a touch older, instructed Bill Uhryn in respectful address, while Fanny Hruschak looked on.

Olga Dorish and Fanny Hruschak were the birthday celebrants for the Edmonton seniors' monthly gathering on February 16, which had a Valentine's Day theme. Jean Rogers was unable to attend because her family was with her for the day.

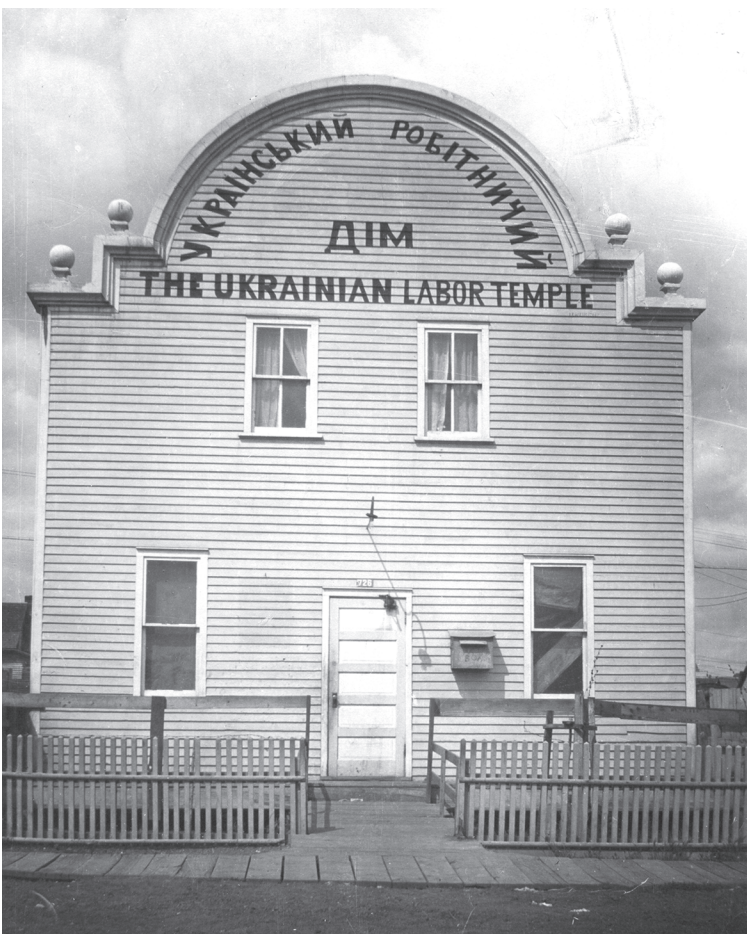
Now that Olga Dorish is just a wee bit older, she quipped to Bill Uhryn, who was by her side at the head table, that he had to address her as “Vy” now that she was just a bit older! (*Vy* is the more formal, respectful word meaning

“you”.)

Harry Strynadka celebrated his 99th birthday on February 28, 2009. However, he is measuring his time, the year he is in, from day one; therefore he became a centurion (or centenarian, if you prefer) on that day.

Pauline Warick, in her address to the celebrants, warmly and sincerely conveyed the wish that their days ahead be filled with “wonderful surprises, and may your dreams come true.”

(Continued on Page 12.)



In 1918 the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association in Regina used this rented hall, its first, located at 726 Victoria Avenue.

Joke Time

An elderly widow and widower had been dating for about five years. The man finally decided to ask her to marry. She immediately said "yes".

The next morning when he awoke, he couldn't remember what her answer was! "Was she happy? I think so, wait, no, she looked at me funny..."

After about an hour of trying to remember to no avail, he got on the telephone and gave her a call. Embarrassed, he admitted that he didn't remember her answer to the

marriage proposal.

"Oh", she said, "I'm so glad you called. I remembered saying 'yes' to someone, but I couldn't remember who it was."

A couple went out to dinner to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. On the way home, she noticed a tear in his eye and asked if he was getting sentimental because they were celebrating 50 wonderful years together.

He replied, "No, I was thinking about the time before we got married. Your father threatened me with a shotgun and said he'd have me thrown in jail for 50 years if I didn't

marry you. Tomorrow I would have been a free man!"

A woman walked up to a little old man rocking in a chair on his porch.

"I couldn't help noticing how happy you look," she said. "What's your secret for a long happy life?"

"I smoke three packs of cigarettes a day," he said. "I also drink a case of whiskey a week, eat fatty foods, and never exercise."

"That's amazing," the woman said. "How old are you?"

"Twenty-six," he said.

When you are young, you want to be the master of your fate and the captain of your soul. When you are older, you will settle for being the master of your weight and the captain of your bowling team.

You Have to Say "Vy"

(Continued from page 11.)

Before they blew out their candles, each celebrant at the head table was to make a wish. Olga Dorish made her wish public. Her wish? "May every one of you attend next year! This includes Harry. We both taught school together. Harry taught junior high and I taught kindergarten! Here's to everybody!"

Our gathering this month started with exercises. These will be continued for the balance of this season. The exercises were followed by accordion music while the cooks (Olga Horon, Eva Doskoch and Anne Kawchuk) put the meal of sauerkraut and sausage on the buffet table. Fresh rye bread complemented the seven-course hot meal.

Upon her arrival at the hall, Anne Parfeniuk complimented the attractive setting of the table, "I don't get chocolates nor candies any more in my life!"

Each place setting featured flowers, red napkins, a red heart shaped candy along with a glass of red wine. This was in keeping with the theme of Valentines! Even the homemade desserts, red and white concoctions, maintained the theme!

Our guest speaker was Don Hansen, a member of the Edmonton Bar. He compared preparing for our life now to that of a road. "Remember what you've learned from life is that life is a comfortable highway. If you loose control, you're in the soup!"

This was his advice to the seniors:

I. Be careful. Know your own affairs; know what you own; have a careful book

keeping and accounting system. Deal with a bank close to home, in which you have secured your titles, shares, a list of your property and a list of your debts, current accounts, insurance agent's name, lawyer's name, etc.

2. Recognize that the greatest time of our lives may lie ahead. We have to take steps to stay on the road.

3. Have an enduring power of attorney. If something happens and hard living occurs — such as an accident — and your mental capacity slips, you may not be able to look after yourself. The enduring power of attorney will start to take effect when you can no longer make the decision(s) for yourself. Through the power of attorney, the decisions are then taken on your behalf. When this step is in place, it saves money.

4. With a will, there are some considerations to stay on the road. Before you make a will, know who you are in terms of your legal relationships, etc., to stay on that good highway. One can make a holographic will because of our frontier heritage. However, handwriting your own will could have drawbacks, because it can be written in the last moments before death, at which time the best decisions (due to circumstances) may not be made. Hooray! A lawsuit! At your expense! One could buy a will kit to save a few dollars, but remember the phrase, "Penny wise, and pound foolish!"

5. Remember what you've got and know who you are, and think about the politics of the situation. They are YOUR goals so take advantage of them, "Take control of your affairs and avoid the hazards" on the road of life.

— Shirley Uhryn

Who, What, When, Where

Edmonton — The **Edmonton AUUC Seniors' Club** will hold its **monthly celebration** at the Ukrainian Centre, **11018-97 Street**, starting at **1:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, April 21.**

Toronto — A **Celebration honouring Nataalka Mochoruk and Marie Prociw**, sponsored by the **AUUC Toronto Branch**, will be held at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West, on **Sunday, April 5.** Ukrainian food (note the change in menu!) **catered by Baby Point Lounge** will be served at **12:30 p.m.** Seating is limited — for tickets (**\$35.00 each**) call **Vera at 416-253-9821.**

Vancouver — The **AUUC Vancouver Branch** will host a **Perogy Lunch & Bazaar** from **noon to 3:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, April 19**, at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, **805 E. Pender Street.** For more information, **Tel: (604) 254-3436** Drop in for lunch and browse our bazaar!

Winnipeg — On **Saturday, April 25**, at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, **591 Pritchard Avenue**, the **AUUC Winnipeg Branch** will hold a **90th Anniversary Banquet** celebrating the founding of the organization, the opening of the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, and the **Winnipeg General Strike.** **Reception at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m.,** and a program consisting of an address by **Myron Shatulsky** and performances by the **Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra** and the **Festival Choir.**

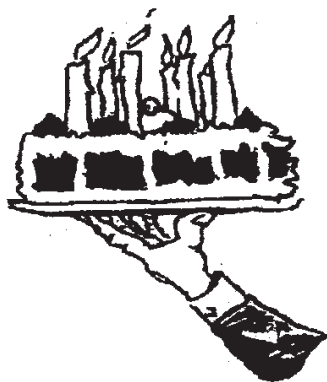
Readers of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* are invited to submit items of interest to the progressive Ukrainian Canadian community for free listing in this column. The deadline for material is the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication.

Sustaining Fund Donations

AUUC Sudbury Branch, Sudbury ON	\$100.00
Olga Pawlyshyn, Winnipeg MB	100.00
Michael Stefiuk, Mississauga ON	
<i>In memory of Zeny Nykolyshyn</i>	50.00
<i>In memory of Alice Bilecki</i>	25.00
<i>In memory of Fred Stasiuk</i>	25.00
Mary Harrison, Winnipeg MB	75.00
Bill Hrynchysyn, Calgary, AB	75.00
Shevchenko Senior Citizens Club, Welland ON ...	70.00
Pauline & Maurice Warick, Edmonton AB	70.00
Walter & Kay Skrabek, Calgary AB	25.00
Rose Huzar, Oyen, AB	20.00
Walter & Lillian Gulka, Thunder Bay ON	10.00

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE "UCH", WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.

Happy Birthday, Friends!



The **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens' Club** wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of April:

Edward Boratynec
Anne Husar
Cheryl Romach
Leo Tropak

May you have good health, happiness and a daily sense of accomplishment as you go through life.

The **Toronto AUUC Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to April celebrant:

Marie Harasym

May good health and happiness be yours in the coming year!

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends best April birthday greetings to:

Joan Kowalewich
Nick Mackiewich
Audrey Skalbania

Hope you have a great day!!

The **Welland Shevchenko Seniors** extend a happy birthday wish to April celebrants:

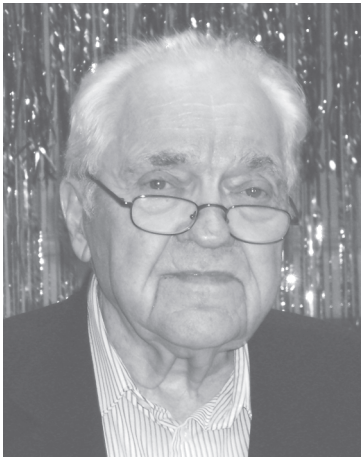
George Sitak
Greta Taylor

May the coming year bring you all the best in health and happiness!



The seven-course hot buffet, with sauerkraut and sausage, was a hit with those attending.

A Lively AGM



Foundation President Bill Harasym reported on progress toward developing land held in Oakville.

(Continued from Page 1.) Foundation, reviewed the process to date of the project to develop the land held by the Foundation in Oakville, Ontario. Though the current economic crisis has slowed plans for the area, the report was optimistic that, in the long run, the Foundation, in partnership with the AUUC and with the assistance of several consultants, will be able to develop the land to best advantage.

The report of Vice-President and Librarian Andrew Gregorovich noted that he had never been called on as Vice-President, because of Bill Harasym's perfect attendance record.

Mr. Gregorovich devoted a goodly portion of his report to the web site, "the only Shevchenko web site in the world". He also spoke of his other activities on behalf of the Museum, including his role in adding several items to the Museum's holdings.

In her report, Treasurer Nancy Stewart reflected a sound financial situation, well organized to meet the cash-flow requirements of the Foundation, thanks to the assistance of Terry Bodnar.

The Audit Committee, represented by Bernardine Dobrowolsky, confirmed that "All records of income and expenses were in order."

Another highlight of the meeting was the presentation by Terry Bodnar, President and Chief Executive Officer of FI Capital Ltd., and finan-

(Continued on Page 16.)



Treasurer Nancy Stewart reported a sound financial position.

My Thoughts, My Thoughts

In the original, Taras Shevchenko's poem "My Thoughts, My Thoughts" expresses complex feelings and ideas in straightforward language that reads aloud very well. The same can not be said of most English translations of the poem, which are difficult to read aloud (and even more difficult to understand when being read aloud), possibly because they struggle for an elevated poetic language while adhering to rhythmic and rhyming schemes.

When the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation asked me to read this poem

as part of an after-dinner program they were kind enough to provide me with some of those translations. The only one suitable for oral reading was the John Weir translation, which was, unfortunately, only part of the original poem.

A new translation, one which would read aloud smoothly while adhering closely to the ideas in the original, seemed in order, and is printed below.

It remains open to refinement — your comments are invited.

— Wilfred Szczesny

— Photo: Peter Krochak

My thoughts, my thoughts,
Truly you torment me!
Why do you stand on paper
Arrayed in solemn rows?
Why has the wind not dispersed you
Like dust across the steppe?
Why has sorrow not lulled you
To sleep like its own child?

Because misfortune brought you to the world to be ridiculed,
Tears flowed. Why did they not drown you,
Carry you out to the sea, or wash you out to the fields?
Then people would not ask what is troubling me,
They would not ask why I curse my fate,
Why I languish on this earth. They would not say,
With a laugh, "Nothing can be done!"

My flowers, children!
Why did I love you, why did I tend to you?
Will a single heart in all the world cry
As I cried over you? Perhaps that's it...
Perhaps a maid's heart will be found,
With hazel eyes, to weep over these thoughts —
I ask for nothing more...
A single tear from hazel eyes,
And I'd be lord of lords!
My thoughts, my thoughts,
How you torment me!

For hazel eyes,
For coal-black brows,
My heart burst open, my heart laughed,
And poured out words,
Poured them out as best it could:
About the dark night,
About the verdant cherry grove,
About a maid's caresses,
About the steppes and about the graves
Which are in Ukraine.
My heart failed, and did not want
To sing in foreign lands...
I had no desire, in the snow and in the forests,
To call a council of the Cossack society
With its maces and rebellions.

Let the Cossack spirit be
Greeted in Ukraine.
There it is spacious, there it is joyous
From border to border.
The Dnipro river, broad and deep,
And the boundless steppes,
The homes and the grave-mounds
Roar like the liberty which has passed.
There Cossack liberty was born,
And showed its quality;
There it sowed the fields
With the gentry and the Tatars,
Sowed the field with corpses
Til none was left,
Then it lay down to rest... And while it slept
A graveyard grew,
And above it flies
A black eagle with a guard.
The kobzari sing about it
To the good people,
Those blind minstrels sing all about it,
About everything that happened,
Because they are able... while I... while I
Can only weep.
I have but tears for Ukraine —
I have no word...
As for sorrow — it does not matter —



Natalka Mochoruk and Wilfred Szczesny read poetry by Taras Shevchenko in Ukrainian and English respectively at the closing dinner of the 13th Annual General meeting of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on Saturday, March 7.

Who does not know sorrow!
Especially he who looks at people
With his soul.
For him, Hell is in this world,
And in the next...

I will not bring my fate down on myself
With grief,
If it is not already set.
Let misery live three days,
I will hide it.
I will hide the raging serpent
Close to my heart,
So that my enemies can not see
How my sorrow laughs...
May my thought, like a raven,
Soar and crow aloud,
While my heart, like a nightingale
Croons and cries
Softly — people will not see,
So they will not laugh...
Do not wipe away my tears
Let them flow freely,
They are watering foreign fields
Each night and every day,
Until — until they cover
My eyes with foreign soil.
That's how it is... What can be done?
Complaining will not help.
God, punish anyone
Who envies an orphan!

My thoughts, my thoughts,
My flowers, children!
I raised you, I tended you —
Now what am I to do with you?
Go into Ukraine, my children,
Go to our Ukraine,
Go as orphans by the hedges,
While I perish here.
There you'll find a sincere heart
And a kind word.
There you'll find the honest truth
And, perhaps, even glory.

My dear mother, my Ukraine!
Please receive my foolish children
As you would your own.

Fred Stasiuk

— Photo: Mike Stefiuk



Fred Stasiuk passed away suddenly on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, in Toronto at the age of 84.

He was the devoted partner of the late Gloria Hawrylkew.

He is survived by Ann Stasiuk, mother of their loving children Daniel (Mary), Gloria Gilmour (George), and Rocky (Vikki).

He was the cherished grandfather of Chad, Kyle, and Kurt, and the dear brother of Johnny (Mary).

He was predeceased by brothers Mike (survived by wife Olga), Bill (Nellie), and Nick (survived by wife Dorothy).

He was the special stepfather of Tracey McPherson (Andy), John Boivin, and the late Chris Boivin, and step-grandfather of Charlotte.

With university degrees in science and in law, Fred was a man of many talents and substantial accomplishments.

Over a period of time, he

worked for several chemical companies, and enjoyed a career as a lawyer, but also set up a glue manufacturing business in his basement, collaborated with his son in establishing an industrial pallet-manufacturing business, operated a book store with his wife's help, and had a stint in the restaurant business.

He will be fondly remembered by his extended family. He will be also be well remembered by his many friends in the Association of United

Ukrainian Canadians.

A accomplished amateur violinist, Fred was an enthusiastic player with AUUC and Workers Benevolent Association orchestras in Toronto and in Vancouver until arthritis deprived him of that pleasure.

Over the years, Fred held various key positions in the AUUC. Among his most recent responsibilities was his service on the Constitution Committee that prepared the constitutional amendments adopted at the 43rd AUUC National Convention, a labour involving several years of effort.

His dedication to the cause of social justice never wavered. Over many decades, to the time of his death, he was a proud, unwavering and generous supporter of the Communist Party of Canada.

His friends and his colleagues will remember him most for his kindness, good nature, generosity, and compassion.

Fred was one of the good guys.

— G. Borusiewicz

Security

(Continued from Page 4.) the truth that these are our rights and freedoms, our protection against the arbitrariness which has put so many innocent people into Canada's prisons. If we start by reduc-

ing the rights and freedoms of suspected criminals and terrorists, we will end by finding that we have, in fact reduced our own rights and freedoms.

As part of that same process, frightened people will more readily accept that "the innocent have nothing to fear", much as this may fly in the

face of recent history. This allows legislation to pass which legally curtails rights and freedoms, allowing long-term or unlimited incarceration without charge, withholding from the accused or an attorney for the accused of supposed evidence, and so on.

The corollary is that anyone who is incarcerated is, by that very fact, to be considered guilty — if not on the basis of proof, than on the basis of "what if he really is a terrorist?"

That takes us back to the question, "How would you feel if he were released and carried out a terrorist act?" The obvious answer is, "Terrible." The obvious solution is to keep him in a cage, just in case — better to be safe than sorry.

I do not want to suggest that Lucas's mother translates her caution about her children into a law-and-order agenda. In fact, knowing her as well as I do, I am quite certain that she does not.

The point is that we are living in a climate of generalized fear which some governments and certain institutions work to maintain for their own purposes. This fear permeates various aspects of our lives, and feeds on itself.

This fear encourages and makes possible such incidents as the slaying of Robert Dziekanski by RCMP officers who thought, or so they claim, that hands-in-the-air, recognized throughout Europe and North America as a sign of surrender, was an act of aggression, making failure to speak English a capital crime in Vancouver.

— Wilfred Szczesny

John Dowbak

John Dowbak, a long time member and leader of the AUUC and WBA in Thunder Bay passed away on March 10, 2009.

John was currently chairing our local organization that holds its meetings in members homes, since the sale of the

Ukrainian Labour Temple.

We extend our condolences to his wife, Olive, and sons, Damon and Ron, and their families.

A full obituary and photo will be published in the next issue of the "UCH".

— Diane Garrett

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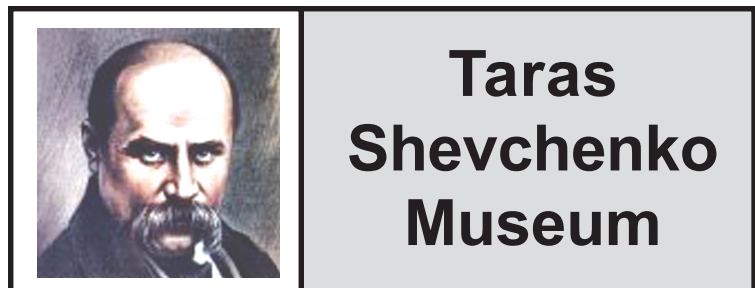
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separate
page.**



A Lively 13th AGM

(Continued from page 13.) cial counsellor to the Foundation. Mr. Bodnar began with an explanation of the changes he has made in the Foundation's investment portfolio, which involved diversification, laddering to manage cash flow, and attention to "return of your money, as well as return on your money". He ended by answering questions ranging from requests for more information about Foundation investments to issues around personal investments to questions about the global investment. Of course, no such presentation by Terry Bodnar would be complete without the teeter-totter, represented by a pen, illustrating the relationships between interest rates, bond prices and stock prices, or without a few well-chosen bits of advice from Mrs. Bodnar, or without risk management through redundancy — carrying two calculators, two pens, and so on.

The AGM heard greetings from AUUC National President Gerry Shmyr, speaking on behalf of the National Committee of the AUUC. Mr. Shmyr devoted much of his comments to a review of AUUC 90th anniversary celebrations (the articles in the "UCH" by Myron Shatulsky; events by Branches across Canada, some specifically organized for the 90th anniversary and some annual events dedicated to that commemoration), the work of the Resident Executive Committee of the Shevchenko Museum (particularly Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelov), and the work of the Land Development Committee.

Among other business transacted by the AGM was the election of a Board of Directors of the Foundation, subject to endorsement by the National Committee of the AUUC.

Selected were: Larry Kle-



Andrew Gregorovich, Vice-President and Librarian, spoke about the web site.

parchuk (Vancouver), Blyth Nuttall (Edmonton), Jim Skulsky (Calgary), Bob Ivanochko (Saskatchewan), Oryst Sawchuk (Sudbury), and Robert Seychuk (Ottawa). Carmen Ostermann was nominated for Winnipeg, and Clara Babiy for Welland, but in their absence their willingness to accept nomination could not be determined.

Elected to the Resident Executive Committee were: President — Bill Harasym; Vice-President and Librarian — Andrew Gregorovich; Treasurer — Nancy Stewart; Vice-Recording Secretary — Bill Morris; and Member — George Borusiewich. Terry Oraschuk was nominated as Recording Secretary, but his willingness to serve could not be determined in his absence.



Peter Krochak played a masterful keyboard solo.

Elected as the Audit Committee were Joe Dzatko, Bernardine Dobrowolsky and Dianna Kleparchuk.

The next Annual General Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memoria Park Foundation was set for March 6, 2010.

The meeting, which had been called to order at about 9:40 a.m., was declared adjourned at about 4:00 p.m., after which a number of participants took advantage of the opportunity to visit the Museum.

In the evening, most AGM participants, joined by a number of additional diners gathered for a Ukrainian-style buffet feast catered by Baby Point Lounge.

The sumptuous meal was followed by equally delightful entertainment: readings in Ukrainian and English of poetry by Shevchenko, and a keyboard solo by Peter Krochak.

Natalka Mochoruk led off the readings in Ukrainian with <<Думи мої, думи мої>> in Ukrainian, followed by Wilfred Szczesny, who read his own translation into English of the Bard's "My Thoughts, My Thoughts". In that work, Taras Shevchenko, grieving and, it seems, expecting to die in exile, expresses the hope that his thoughts, in lovingly nurtured language, will find acceptance in his beloved Ukraine.

This first poem was followed by a masterful rendition by Peter Krochak on the keyboard of "Ballade No. 1 in G minor" by Chopin. Natalka Mochoruk expressed her pleasure at Mr. Krochak's work by saying, "He made me proud that he is our accompanist." That was high praise indeed, but no higher than what any music lover in the audience must have accepted.

Natalka Mochoruk then read <<Якби ви знали, паничі...>> Her reading, a sensitive and dramatic expression of the poet's anger at the conditions of Ukrainian country life, was followed by John Weir's English translation "Young masters, if you only knew...", read by Wilfred Szczesny. In that poem, Taras Shevchenko challenges the idealized view of the village cottage as an earthly paradise. "Twas there, In that wee house, that Eden fair," the poet writes, "That I saw Hell..."

Most of those in attendance were AUUC members, so it was almost inevitable that the evening ended in song.

— Carl Honour

Is it time to renew?



During a break, Steve Smoly (left) of Regina and Len Sedun of Toronto exchanged a few opinions.



Hazel Skulsky (left) of Calgary and Lorna Clarke of Toronto brought each other up to date on cultural activity in their respective communities.



Enjoying lunch, Oryst Sawchuk (left) of Sudbury is drawn by an off-camera distraction, while Larry Kleparchuk of Vancouver, and Lyudmyla Pogoryelov of Toronto share a few thoughts.



Hazel Skulsky (left) of Calgary, and Bernardine Dobrowolsky and Len Sedun of Toronto give their full attention to a report.

— Story photos: Wilfred Szczesny



Bill Uhryn (left) of Edmonton, Bob Ivanochko of Regina and Dianna Kleparchuk of Vancouver are hard at work.

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