

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA



WINNIPEG UKRAINIAN LABOUR TEMPLE

On Monday, April 20, 2009, in Ottawa, the Honourable Jim Prentice Minister of the Environment signed a document proclaiming the Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple a National Historic Site of Canada. Fortuitously, the call from Ottawa was received on Thursday in time for the announcement to be made to the people gathered at the 90th Gala Anniversary Banquet, held in the Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple on Saturday, April 25.

The banquet, organized jointly by the Winnipeg Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (AUUC) and the Canadian Society for Ukrainian Labour Research (CSULR), celebrated three historic events: the establishment of the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association, the construction and opening of the Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple, and the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.

Among the honoured guests present were Judy Wasylycia-Leis, MP for Winnipeg North, and Doug Martindale, MLA, who presented a commemorative plaque to the Winnipeg AUUC Branch. Both spoke of the important contribution made by the founding members and their descendants.

A couple of former Winnipeg residents, William Bilecki, of Vancouver, member of the National Committee of the AUUC, and Robert Seychuk, of Ottawa, National Vice-President of the AUUC, made a point of coming to the banquet. They were warmly received by long-time friends.

The celebratory evening was opened by Lily Stearns, President of the Winnipeg AUUC Branch, who raised a toast to the founders of the ULTA, ULFTA, AUC and AUUC.

National President of the AUUC, Gerry Shmyr, of Regina, brought greetings from the "National Committee and the National Executive Committee [sic]". His presentation was followed by greetings, read by Kathleen Schubert,

from Jerry Szach of Vancouver, and from the AUUC Branches of Ottawa, Sudbury, Toronto, Welland, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

The banquet's main presentation was made by Myron Shatulsky, member of the AUUC National Committee. Myron was introduced by Dr. Nolan Reilly, Professor and Chair of the Department of History at the University of Winnipeg. Myron and Dr. Reilly had jointly submitted, in May of 2006, the application to have the Ukrainian Labour Temple designated a National Historic Site. At the end of Myron's address, Professor Reilly came to the podium as the announcement of this historic proclamation was made by Myron. A complete surprise, it was received by an exuberant and jubilant standing ovation.

A short but entertaining concert program followed the official portion of the banquet. Introduced by Tusia Kozub, the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, conducted by Annis Kozub, opened the program. The *Festival Choir*, appearing for the first time under its new conductor, Vasylyna Streltsova, performed four selections. The orchestra concluded the program with two more selections.

Two of the highlights of the evening saw the Winnipeg AUUC Branch acknowledge the many years of dedicated work contributed by long-time member, 90-year-old Olga Pawlychyn.

Constantine ("Kosty") Kostaniuk, at 93 years of age, read an excerpt from his father's, Myron Kostaniuk's, memoirs which mentioned how Kosty's parents had become members of the ULTA.

In honour of their parents' memories, Kosty and his sister, Olga Rigby, donated \$5,000 to the Ukrainian Labour Temple Foundation.

In honour of the 90th Anniversary, donations to the Foundation were also received from: Brent & Lily Stearns — \$180, Sudbury AUUC Branch — \$100, Welland AUUC Branch — \$90, Lucy Nykolyshyn — \$90, Mary Semanowich — \$90, Olga & Myron Shatulsky — \$90, Lydia & Rudi Hedrich — \$90, Wilfred & Kathleen Schubert — \$90, Sean, Vadim and Anatole Nykolyshyn — \$90, Sophie Nemis — \$90, and Robert Seychuk — \$90 (pledge).

Donations are still being accepted to the Ukrainian Labour Temple Foundation in honour of the 90th Anniversary, and on the historic occasion of the Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple being designated a National Historic Site of Canada.

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Current Eclectic — Long and Short

Recession Proof?

In the USA (and Canada) these days, all the entrails-readers look for any sign of renewed consumer spending, especially on major items like large appliances, cars, homes, and so on. Each time they find an upturn in consumer spending in some area, the stock markets make an upward jag, and optimistic statements about the end of the recession fill the information media. Then the whole thing collapses again, and the hunt resumes for positive omens.

There are expenditures, however, which have remained stable, and some which have even grown, since the economy took a downturn, without generating that kind of attention.

A recent report, for example, says that sales of chocolate and running shoes are up, and more wine (especially the

cheaper vintages) is being bought for home consumption, though there is less drinking at bars and restaurants.

Kraft is selling a lot of macaroni and cheese, and Hershey (America's second largest candy maker) is doing well. Canned stews and chili, and Spam (the stuff we love to hate) are selling well.

While the report puts a positive spin on the whole thing, suggesting that people are turning to such items for solace ("comfort foods"), it may be that people are buying what they can afford.

Even the increased sale of running shoes may indicate that people can not afford gym memberships or, being unemployed or underemployed, have more time to fill by running.

The report did note that the poor economy, though it may have spurred the sale of "comfort food", has not helped digestion: the sale of antacids like Milk of Magnesia and Pepto-Bismal has also risen.

Trends in Job Losses

Canada's unemployment rate stayed at 8% in April, "shocking" economists who had predicted another 50,000 job losses, instead of the net 36,000 jobs that were created.

The net job creation caused some spin-doctors to start talking about "good news" and signs of a turnaround. How-

ever, most serious commentators viewed the job growth as an unsustainable aberration, and expect that the economy will return to the 50,000/month job losses of recent times.

The reason for their lack of enthusiasm?

It turns out that the net gain of 36,000 jobs included 37,000 people who became "self-employed", a term which spans a broad range of possibilities.

A few, no doubt, are peo-

ple who really did decide to leave their jobs to set up shop for themselves. Many more are people who, having failed to find regular jobs as employees, decided to scrounge for odd jobs or for specific types of work contracts, like a couple of women who decided to go into business "staging" houses. Others would include the "independent entrepreneurs" selling goods door-to-door out of corrugated paper boxes.

Other facts about the employment picture include the gain of 9,300 jobs (of all kinds) in the public sector and a loss of 10,400 in the private sector. While 3,600 part time jobs were lost, only about 2000 full time jobs were gained, other than the 37,000 self-made entrepreneurs who were part of the "do-it-yourself recovery", as Erin Weir, economist with the United Steelworkers, called it.

Canada's economy has lost a net 321,000 jobs since October, 2008. Some expect the unemployment rate, which excludes all those "self-employed", all the underemployed, and many others who are no longer counted as part of the work force, to reach 9% before the end of the year, and perhaps 10% in 2010.

Again the Attack Ads

Remember the attack ads against Jean Chretien which backfired against the Tories? They're back, this time directed by the Conservative Party against Michael Ignatieff, and they may well backfire again.

The ads depict Ignatieff as an elitist who is just visiting Canada for personal gain. Whatever grains of truth the ads may have, many who view them will be reminded that they are merely aping the worst aspects of American politics, and that the Conservative Party attacks on the person instead of policies diverts attention from Harper's policies — and from the imperial Harper himself.

As the World Bank Sees Ukraine's Economy

Ukraine, has a population of about 46.3 million and a work force of about 22.3 million. As reported by Kyiv Post, the State Statistics Committee announced that, on May 1, the unemployment rate was 2.9%, with the State Employment Service registering 809,000 unemployed people. You are allowed to try to figure out the math.

The material printed below was taken from the web site web.worldbank.org, updated in April, 2009.

Ukraine is a lower middle-income country, with a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per capita of US\$3,210, and significant economic potential as a result of its well educated labour force, large domestic market, access to a variety of resources (including some of Europe's best agricultural land), significant coal and some oil and gas reserves, and a strategic location connecting Europe, Russia and Asian markets.

Ukraine joined the World Bank in September, 1992. The World Bank has assisted Ukraine in the design and implementation of economic reforms to improve living standards, by providing advice, analysis and lending.

Economy

Developments Since Independence

Ukraine experienced a solid recovery after the 1998-99 financial crisis, with annual growth averaging above 7% between 2000 and 2007. The financial crisis of 1998 led to a realignment of the real exchange rate, which together with fiscal and financial

stabilization efforts, initial structural reforms, a favourable external environment (particularly after 2003), and significant idle industrial capacity, helped to jump start the economy.

The macro-policy framework, until November, 2008, involved a *de facto* peg of the UAH (hryvnia) to the USD (American dollar), with the burden of adjustment to external shocks falling on fiscal policy.

Large terms-of-trade improvements and significant private sector capital inflows swelled fiscal revenues and spending, and fuelled a demand boom, which led to growing pressures on the current account and on price stability after 2005.

By late 2007, the economy was showing increased signs of overheating, with pressures intensifying in the first half of 2008. The current account balance deteriorated from a surplus of 10.6% of GDP in 2004 to a deficit of 3.7% in 2007, despite substantial terms-of-trade improvements.

Up to 2007, the widening of the current account deficit was financed by large foreign

borrowings and FDI (foreign direct investment).

In 2008, price pressures mounted, driven by higher food and energy prices, but also by an inconsistent macroeconomic policy mix with loose fiscal and monetary policies. Real wage growth continued to outstrip productivity improvements, and inflation rates rose to about 30% during the first half of 2008.

The Government tried to contain fiscal and monetary pressures by restraining non-discretionary spending, over-executing revenues (helped by the *de facto* inflation tax), tightening provisioning on external borrowings, and allowing the appreciation of the UAH by 10% relative to the US dollar in May, 2008.

By the fall of 2008, the global financial crisis exposed Ukraine's inherent macroeconomic vulnerabilities and led to an economic crisis. While sovereign and corporate spreads had already been increasing for Ukraine since the first half of 2008, the international financial crisis brought to the fore pre-existing refinancing risks (of large private sector debts accumulated in recent years) and risks associated with the banking sector.

Moreover, the prospects of slowing global demand led to a sharp fall in the price of steel, Ukraine's main export.

The economy contracted by 8% during the last quarter of 2008, with industrial production dropping over 25%. The exchange rate has depre-

ciated sharply (close to 40% to USD since September) to adjust to the terms of trade shock and the drying-up of foreign financing, closing the current account deficit.

Ukraine's progress in structural reform has been modest but continuous since 2000. Ukraine ranks slightly above the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries average in terms of progress in structural reform, as measured by the EBRD Transition Indicators. The indicators reveal particular weaknesses in the process of enterprise restructuring, governance, competition policy, non-bank financial sector performance, and infrastructure reform. They also suggest that Ukraine is not closing the gap with new EU (European Union) member states very fast, which may compromise the country's European integration aspirations and medium term growth prospects.

A key impetus for reforms has come from Ukraine's WTO (World Trade Organization) accession process.

On May 16, 2008, Ukraine became the 152nd member of the WTO, after a 14-year process of negotiations and legislative changes to comply with WTO demands supported by successive governments across the party political spectrum. With WTO accession, Ukraine has fulfilled the conditions established by the EU to begin negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement.

Additional pressures for structural adjustment will

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UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

HERALDEditor-in-Chief
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595 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2K4
Phone: (800) 856-8242; Fax: (204) 589-3404
E-mail: auuckobzar@mts.netUkrainian Canadian Herald editorial offices are located
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Again on Declining Voters' Participation

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

Does The Honourable Peter Lougheed, once Premier of Alberta, who appeared on "Cross Country Checkup" on CBC Radio on May 17, really care that there is a constant decline in popular participation in elections in Canada, that almost half of eligible BC voters stayed away from the polls recently? He said he cares, and I believe him.

I also believe that all the others privileged under our current system, including (when it comes to the crunch) the New Democratic Party, really care, as do their supporters like the *Toronto Star*, just as they claim to do.

They really are concerned, I believe, because the declining participation rates put the legitimacy of the privileged into question. At some point that may make their privileges unsustainable.

Only about 52.5% of eligible voters bothered to go to the polls in British Columbia. The Liberal Party, supported by less than half of votes cast and fewer than 25% of eligible voters, walked off with a huge majority — 49 of 85 seats. The 8% of votes cast that went to the Green Party got no seat. Mr. Lougheed and company deem that result a legitimate and democratic government. How low does voter participation have to go before the judgment of the privileged no longer matters?

The one thing that Mr. Lougheed was unwilling to consider is that the first-past-the-post electoral system is the key factor in declining voting rates. He pointed to the latest failure of a proposal for reform to be accepted in British Columbia, as an indication that the voters prefer what they have.

Peter Lougheed and company can choose to ignore all the contradictions in their position, but they can not ignore the downward trend. Because they really are concerned, they will make changes to increase voter participation.

Increasingly they are citing Australia's system of penalties for not voting, also used in other countries, countries with some form of proportional representation. The danger is that in Canada the system will be changed to adopt the penalties, and perhaps other compulsion, without changes to generate public acceptance.

But then, as Prime Minister Harper repeatedly demonstrates, the underlying concern is not democracy for the people but control of the people.

COMMENTARY

Toward a Distinct AUUC Vision

Casual observation of Canadian society reveals that there exists a vast array of organizations formally designated as "interest groups", sometimes referred to as "pressure groups". As an organization, the AUUC falls in the category of interest group. As an interest group, the AUUC defines itself in terms of identifiable objects and activities which include carrying out "cultural, social, educational and recreational activities." Historically, and to date, the Association is considered to be the "progressive wing of the Ukrainian ethnic group". By "progressive" is meant that the Association as an interest group places itself left of centre on the social and political continuum.

Unlike the Chambers of Commerce, the Manufacturers Association, and the various other business interest groups, the AUUC shares the values of groups such as environmental groups, peace groups, different trade union groups and farm unions, and groups like the Friends of Medicare in Alberta.

While interest groups do not formally participate in parliamentary elections, interest groups tend to support candidates of their choice in municipal and school board elections. The AUUC is no differ-

ent from other interest groups and has played an important role historically in municipal and school board elections.

In short, while the AUUC was engaged in cultural work, it was also involved in social activism. As an interest group, the AUUC has an extensive track record, not only in the sphere of cultural activity, but also in social activism, playing an important role on such issues as health care, poverty, unemployment, environment, peace and so on.

The editorial in the May, 2009, issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, in a timely fashion, has drawn attention to the current cleavage rankling in the Association, and has opened up the door for debating the future of the AUUC. As pointed out in the editorial, there are those in the Association who espouse the view that future success and viability of the organization rests with "Performing Arts, and particularly, dance." Their argumentation is that social activism detracts from promoting positive cultural work and is a detriment to the Association,

This view goes so far as to argue that countless young people drifted away from the Association because of the social activism associated with the AUUC. However, this view can be challenged on grounds that the conclusion was arrived at prematurely and too hastily, paying little attention to the research required on the issue. The subject of the limited presence of young people in the organization is far more complex and requires greater investigation.

The fact that the Association has been unable to attract and retain a significant number of younger people can not

be attributed solely to social activism. It can be demonstrated that there exists a strong correlation between the noticeable absence of younger people and the general decline of membership in the Association.

Logic and evidence tend to indicate that the lack of younger people in particular, and the declining membership in general, is the inevitable consequence of the impact of a number of variables, namely, the reality of assimilation, mixed marriages, postwar economic prosperity, the role of the media and television, and the lack of a clear vision, as well as the devastating effect of the Cold War.

With reference to the Cold War, it should be pointed out that the uncritical support of the policies of the former Soviet Union did irreparable harm to the Association, and provided corporate interests and the media with the opportunity to vilify the Association, branding it with the stigma of being un-Canadian.

Those who are attempting to make the case for the separation of cultural activity and social activism in the Association are treading on thin ice, because of their inability to reflect the real world. Logic, common sense and life experience show that the two dimensions — cultural work and social activism — are far from being mutually exclusive; i.e., it is a false assumption to assert that cultural activity can only be done effectively at the exclusion of social activism.

The assertion that the Association can engage in cultural work but not in the various forms of social activism is a classical case of a false dichotomy. In the real world of human activity, cultural work to a lesser or greater extent reinforces and assists in the various forms of social activism; and conversely, social activism, far from detracting from cultural work, encourages it and supports it. Any attempt to segregate the two dimensions can only contribute to the further demise of the Association.

The editorial in the May issue of the "UCH" properly identified the challenge facing the Association by clearly stating that "Perhaps it is time to re-examine the original organizational model, in which a strong cultural program was tied to concerns about socio-economic interests of organizational members." In the road ahead, it can be posited that the necessary condition for the AUUC is to formulate and implement a proper mix and balance of cultural and social activist activity.

It is equally crucial and timely for the Association to evolve and articulate a down-to-earth and clear vision for the AUUC. In the quest for a

(Continued on page 12.)

From Our Readers

We enjoy the paper very much, and look forward to it each month. Keep up the good work.

With our best wishes,
— Anne and Joseph
Bobrovitz
Brantford ON

SEE US ON THE WEB!

Edmonton AUUC, Trembita Ensemble
www.ukrainiancentre-edm.ca

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

Taras Shevchenko Museum:
www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum
Vancouver AUUC
<http://www.auucvancouver.ca/>

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We invite readers to submit their views in letters to the editor. Letters must be signed. Letters may be edited, but their sense will not be changed.

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

Wall Street Journal

The May 6 issue of *The Wall Street Journal* contained the following opinion piece.

“Former Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski calls for ‘Europe and America to embrace Ukraine.’ But Western nations can only meet Ukraine halfway. If the West’s approach to Ukraine has been, in Mr. Kwasniewski’s words, ‘hesitant and confused,’ this reflects the approach of Ukraine’s leadership since the so-called Orange Revolution, as do the single-digit approval ratings of Ukraine’s President Viktor Yushchenko. In their upcoming presidential elections Ukraine’s people will surely vote for change. Whether they will finally get the change they need remains to be seen.”

Party of Regions Ahead

According to a recent poll, the Party of Regions (anti-Orange) is clearly ahead of all other political parties in Ukraine. The poll, conducted by the Kyiv International Sociology Institute, indicates that 23.3% of respondents would vote for that party in the next parliamentary elections. The leader of the Party of Regions is Viktor Yanukovich.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (pro-Orange) is second in the poll with 12.5% of the vote, followed by the Arseniy Yatsenyuk Bloc with 10.2%, the Communist Party of Ukraine with 3.5%, the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc with 2.7%, and the People’s Union-Our Ukraine Bloc (pro-Orange) with 1.9%.

The People’s Union-Our Ukraine Bloc is the party of President Viktor Yushchenko.

Chornobyl Children

The day was just beginning on April 26, 1986, when Reactor 4 exploded at Ukraine’s Chornobyl nuclear power plant, sending up a cloud of radioactive dust which spread over much of Europe. Four years later, children and teenagers from the disaster area began arriving for treatment in Cuba.

The first 139 were the beginning of a vast aid project that has now benefited more than 24,000 people, an aid project that Cuba continued to maintain in spite of the American attempt to strangle Cuba by means of an illegal decades-long economic embargo. The program is centred in Tarara, some 20 kilometres east of Havana, and includes

a small hospital, a school with Ukrainian teachers, and several dozen comfortable housing units.

“From here they move through our entire health system, depending on their needs,” said director Julio Medina. But Medina and paediatrician Aristides Cintra agree that they can’t always be scientifically sure that the problems they are treating were caused by the nuclear disaster, because they are present in the same way that they would be for people who were never exposed to radiation.

“The important thing is to provide all the medical attention that these children and young people need,” he said.

The project operates through an agreement between the two countries’ health ministries. Medina also mentioned the participation of the International Fund for Chornobyl, a Ukrainian-based non-governmental organization that estimates Cuba’s expenditures to be \$350 million for medications alone.

Ukraine covers transportation, while room-and-board and medical services provided in Cuba are covered by Cuba.

The patients themselves are aware of the costs. “In my country, the treatment that my son receives would cost \$105,362,” said Natalia Kisilova, mother of 15-year-old Michael.

Doctors involved with the program that work in Ukraine assessed his case and sent him here two years ago. Said Kisilova, this medical program “is the most humanitarian in the world.”

(In the days of socialist Ukraine, Michael would have received free treatment at home. - GB)

New Hair-Do

Yulia Tymoshenko, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, also known as the “Orange Princess”, created a furore recently: she appeared at a governmental meeting with a new hairstyle.

She had removed her trademark braid for which she had been recognized all over the world. Ukrainian ministers were startled to see a neat bun at the back of her head instead of the “wheel”.

The new hairstyle made the whole nation wonder why Yulia decided to abandon the symbol of her national affiliation.

Some wondered if she had the famous braid insured. Several Ukrainian insurance companies had previously offered to insure the braid against possible infringements from third parties (political opponents), fires and hair loss.

Others concluded that the

recent cut in her salary (as prime minister she now reportedly receives only 11,000 hryvnas [about \$1,500] per month) made her hairdressing expenses unaffordable (this latter explanation is unlikely since she is still a billionaire from her questionable dealings in the Ukrainian gas market in the 1990s).

The most trustworthy theory says that Yulia Tymoshenko is sick and tired of jokes about her braided hairstyle. Some tabloids had been referring to Tymoshenko as “the cake with ears”.

Choosing Your Friends

Ukraine has just sold two Soviet SU-27 fighter aircraft to the United States. They were delivered to the Americans in a Ukrainian AN-124 transport plane.

The U.S. will use them to train their pilots in challenging “enemy” aircraft. They will also be used to test the effectiveness of new American radar and electronic warfare instruments.

The SU-27 fighter planes have been produced in Russia since 1982, and are still widely used by the Russian Air Force. The 33-ton SU-27 is similar to the American F-15 fighter plane, but costs over a third less.

Developed by the Russians to compete with American 4th generation fighter aircraft, the plane is one of the best fighters Russia has ever produced.

Soccer Powerhouses

Ukrainian football clubs Dynamo Kyiv and Shakhtar Donetsk have been included in a list of the world’s top ten clubs according to the latest ranking of the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS).

According to the ranking, Dynamo jumped from 10th to 7th position, while Shakhtar progressed from 13th to 10th position.

The table also includes another four Ukrainian clubs. Metalist Kharkiv dropped from 42nd to 48th position, while Vorskla Poltava and Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk share 313th position. Tavria Simferopol jumped from 382nd to 347th position.

England’s Manchester United still tops the list, while Spain’s Barcelona ranks second.

Rich Get Richer

According to *Focus Magazine*, Ukraine now has a staggering 10 billionaires and 90

multi-millionaires.

Unsurprisingly, those topping the list are the oligarchs who made their fortunes during the privatization of state industries after the demise of Soviet Ukraine.

In first place is the Donetsk overlord and industrialist Rinat Akhmetov, who, according to “Focus”, is worth the tidy sum of 12 billion dollars.

Of the 100 listed by the magazine, only a handful have less than 100 million dollars, a very handsome sum considering that Ukraine is one of Europe’s poorest countries, with workers’ salaries well below European averages.

In case one is left with the impression that the rich are found only amongst the leaders of industry, it might be of some interest to know that 300 of the 450 members of parliament are also millionaires (but not rich enough to make the Top 100 List).

Church Destroyed

A unique wooden church built in 1781 in the western Ukrainian village of Uholna burned to the ground on April 19, Orthodox Easter. The fire began after the parishioners left St. Panteleimon Church, where Easter Mass had just been held.

A preliminary investigation has suggested that the fire was caused by the old electrical system in the church.

Local officials said that, in the last five years, 29 wooden churches have been damaged by fire in the region.

There are currently 489 wooden churches in western Ukraine that were built in the 18th century or earlier.

GINI Coefficient

According to Wikipedia, “The GINI Coefficient is a measure of statistical dispersion, commonly used as a measure of inequality of income distribution. It is defined as a ratio with values between “0” and “1”. A value of “0” corresponds to perfect equality (everyone having exactly the same income) and “1” corresponds to perfect inequality (where one person has all the income, while everyone else has zero income).”

In an undated report (titled “Income Inequality and Poverty in Ukraine and Transition to the Market Economy”), Ukrainian economist Yevgeny Orel of the Faculty of Economic Science, National University, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, reported the following GINI Coefficient figures for Ukraine:

1987-1990 (socialism) 0.24
1996-1999 (capitalism) 0.33

2000 (capitalism) 0.363
2004 (capitalism) 0.359

As you can see by the figures, income distribution was much more even and equal under socialism in Ukraine than it has been under capitalism. (But you knew that already, didn’t you? Still, its gratifying to see it in hard statistics published by a pro-capitalist economist).

Sex Bomb

She boasts the most demanding scenery in the competition and flaunts an aggressive sexuality on stage. Her name is Svetlana Loboda and she is Ukraine’s entry at Eurovision 2009.

(Although the Eurovision Song Contest is Europe’s favourite TV show, watched by up to 500 million viewers, it is completely ignored by the United States).

The ambitious and talented Svetlana is fighting for a place in the final with her entry “Be My Valentine”.

Organizers have warned that Loboda’s stage show could be dangerous. The singer and her dancers will be performing acrobatic tricks on a sophisticated set involving heavy props and fireworks. Her stage scenery is the most demanding and ambitious of the contest. The problem is the stage crew has only 30 seconds between songs to put the entire structure together. It has the appearance of huge iron wheels but is draped with heavy lighting equipment and has fireworks attached.

Loboda wrote both the music and the lyrics to her Eurovision entry.

The multi-talented and ambitious Ukrainian is involved not only in music, but also in fashion and photography. Loboda has already exhibited her photographs taken in India and launched her own clothing brand.

Yushchenko Loves NATO

According to the latest public opinion poll, only 13% of the people of Ukraine support joining NATO.

In the past 6 - 7 years, there have been about 10 polls published on this question. All have reported that Ukrainians are solidly against membership in the American military alliance, usually by a 2 (or 3) to 1 ratio. Yet President Viktor Yushchenko, his fellow Orange Revolutionaries, and nationalist hard-liners have continued to push a head-long rush into NATO’s arms.

Consider the following recent events.

— Near the end of April, the Ukrainian Defence Min-
(Continued on page 14.)

**Ukrainian
Page
Submitted
Separately**

**Ukrainian
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Submitted
Separately**

Winnipeg AUUC Celebrates 90 Years



A view of the main hall at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg on April 25, as the orchestra and choir help celebrate the 90th anniversaries of the construction of the Ukrainian Labour Temple, the establishment of the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association (forerunner of the AUUC), and the Winnipeg General Strike.

Greetings Received

United Jewish People's Order

On behalf of the United Jewish People's Order, I am proud and pleased to greet the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians on its 90th Anniversary.

This is a remarkable achievement. Ninety years existence for most organizations is a rare phenomenon in our country. For a left-wing organization that has, for decades, lived through tumultuous times, this is indeed a time to celebrate and to acknowledge the wonderful accomplishments of this impressive organization.

As a sister organization and for many of these 90 years, UJPO has been closely allied with the AUUC having lived through similar international, national and local experiences. The Winnipeg General Strike, now marking its 90 anniversary, is the best example of Ukrainian and Jewish involvement in this local historic struggle. Both Organiza-

tions have endured and continue to exist.

We salute you. We are proud of your record and wish you many, many more active, productive years in the hope that together we will help to effect a more just, and humane Canada.

Roz Uisiskin,
UJPO President-Winnipeg
Dora Rosenbaum,
Vice President

Calgary

Greetings to all attending this evening's celebration!

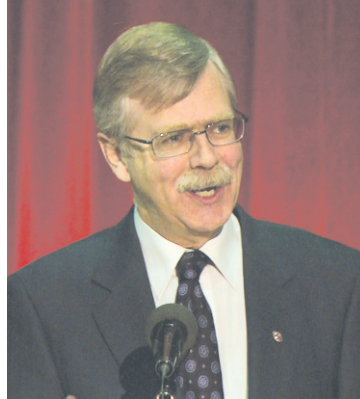
The members of Calgary Hopak Ensemble and the Calgary Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians extend congratulations to the Winnipeg Branch celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the founding of our organization as well as the opening of the Ukrainian Labour Temple, as their home.

The "Hall" at Pritchard and McGregor as it is known by many Calgarians and many across Canada who have



Kathy Schubert presented a service recognition award to Olga Pawlychyn.

— Story photos: Victor Dobchuk



Doug Martindale, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, presented a plaque to the Winnipeg AUUC Branch.

taken part in conventions, meetings and cultural events, at the Labour Temple over the many years of its existence. It is very fitting that the Ukrainian Labour Temple is included in the 90th Anniversary celebrations that have been part of our Organization's activities over the past months.

Sincerely,
Jim Skulsky,
Calgary Branch President

Edmonton

Greetings on the 90th Anniversary of the Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple and the 90th Anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike. The Winnipeg General Strike was a watershed event in Canadian history. It was a strike that spread across the West, with sympathy strikes in Regina, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. It was a clarion call for workers' rights and a new kind of labour union; industrial unionism. The solidarity of Canadian workers for the eight hour day, for fair wages, for work for returning war veterans, for all the basic rights we take for granted today, were won thanks to the struggles that began in Winnipeg ninety years ago this year.

As the association of Ukrainian workers and farmers, the AUUC then known as the

Ukrainian Labour Temple Association, opened its hall in Winnipeg during the strike and made it the strikers' headquarters. Across the west newly emigrated Ukrainians, Germans, Icelanders, Finns, Chinese and Jewish workers and farmers, joined in the call to create a new Canadian union movement; The One Big Union.

When the strike ended repressive actions were taken against the immigrant workers who struck, many facing deportation as 'enemy aliens'. But this repression did not silence our pioneers' fight for workers' rights. They would lead the workers' movement in Canada throughout the depression with hunger marches and the On To Ottawa Trek, demanding justice and fairness for all Canadian workers. They would volunteer to fight and die in the battlefields of Spain to stop fascism.

On behalf of the members of the Edmonton Branch of the AUUC I send you our greetings of solidarity on this auspicious occasion. The struggles of working people in Canada have been strengthened by the work of the Ukrainian pioneers in our Association across Canada.

Fraternally,
Eugene Plawiuk,
President,
AUUC Edmonton Branch

Ottawa

Dear Friends,

On the occasion of this very auspicious and memorable event, the Ottawa Branch of the AUUC extends greetings and congratulations to AUUC Winnipeg

It is not often that an organization can boast of 90 plus years of existence, or of 90 years in its own building, now with an official historical designation.

This Hall was conceived, planned, paid for, and completed by the founding members of our organization, which in 1919 was known as the ULTA – the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association. The vision and leadership shown by them in those early years of Ukrainian immigration to Canada was indeed outstanding.

A number of us from the Ottawa Branch, and indeed many others from across Canada, are from Winnipeg, and have a long history and very warm memories of growing up with 'The Hall' as the centre of their activities.

It is a great compliment to today's Winnipeg Branch, that despite fewer members, the legacy of the founders is being maintained.

For those of us from AUUC Ottawa, who are not there to celebrate with you at this Gala Anniversary Banquet, we pass on warmest greetings and congratulations to you, on a

wonderful and ongoing example of commitment and dedication to the traditions of the progressive Ukrainian Canadian community.

MNOHAYA LITA!

Bob Seychuk,
President,
AUUC Ottawa Branch,
and Vice-President
National AUUC

Regina

Dear Friends,

Please accept our sincerest congratulations on your 90th Anniversary.

The Winnipeg AUUC (ULFTA) and its Labour Temple have played an immense role in the development of our national organization and your contribution to the Canadian progressive movement can never be underestimated.

The soil of the past is rich in inspiration and treasures.

We must remember the past, for it is a part of what we are today. To know the road by which our past generations travelled, is to know the road along which we arrived, and continue to move forward, and from which we shall advance.

It is in this spirit, we salute you with the very best wishes!

Sasha Lapchuk,
Chairperson,
Regina AUUC Branch
Leah Nowosiadly,
Chairperson,
AUUC Poltava Ensemble

Sudbury

Fraternal greetings:

The Sudbury Branch salutes the Winnipeg Branch and its membership who have over the past 90 years courageously shown visionary leadership of national significance, by:

1. Establishing the initial Branch of the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association,
2. Building an impressive structure, the Ukrainian Labour Temple, a legacy of the Canadian progressive Ukrainian Community, symbolizing, as national place maker, the resilience of the Association,
3. And exemplifying the role of the progressive Ukrainian community in the universal struggle for the rights of labour by demonstrating leadership in their participating in the Winnipeg General Strike.

We salute you on your celebration of the 90th anniversary of these seminal events.

The Sudbury Branch, in recognition of this 90th anniversary, is pleased to make a modest contribution to the Ukrainian Labour Temple Foundation of \$100.00.

Sudbury Branch, AUUC,
Oryst Sawchuk,
President

Toronto

The AUUC Toronto
(Continued on page 11.)

Hahilka Choir Joins FRC in Marking *Dyen Pobedy*

—Story photos: Mike Celik



Over 100 people attended the celebration of Victory Day at the Federation of Russian Canadians hall in Toronto on May 3.

On May 3, the Toronto Branch of the Federation of Russian Canadians held its annual *Dyen Pobedy* celebration. Translated, “*Dyen Pobedy*” means “Victory Day”, and according to Wikipedia, it is a celebration of the capitulation of Nazi Germany to the Soviet Union in the Second World War.

Although the surrender documents were signed late on the evening of May 8, the time in Moscow was actually May 9. Therefore Victory Day is still celebrated on May 9 in the countries (including Ukraine) which were formerly part of the Soviet Union.

That the day is still remembered with honour in the hearts of many people was proven by the large attendance at the FRC event — over 100 people jammed the hall.

The audience was treated not only to an afternoon of enjoyable entertainment, but also to a sumptuous catered meal afterward.

The program began with greetings in Russian and English given by Shura Tomazewski and Helen Klukach respectively.

Next the AUUC Hahilka Choir took the stage, under



Peter Krochak, Hahilka Choir accompanist, played two solo numbers on the piano, and worked with Vasia Julea to accompany the combined choirs.

the direction of Natalie (Natalka) Mochoruk, with the solo voices of Lorna Clark, Maria Gargal, Claudia Rabzak, Terry Rivest, and Wilfred Szczesny, to sing a medley of Ukrainian folk melodies and a *kolomeyka*, all devoted to the return home of the Red Army soldiers.

This theme of soldiers returning from the war was continued in two songs performed



In addition to providing accompaniments on the accordion, Vasia Julea played well received solo numbers.

by soloist Rosemary Pollock.

Natalie Mochoruk again took the stage, this time to read two poems, one in English, written by a Canadian woman, and the other in Russian called “Roads” (the “roads” that a soldier takes to and from war).

The Podushka Dancers made the first of two appearances. (Continued on page 11.)



Kostya Parousis entertained with a couple of songs, accompanied by Vasia Julea on the accordion.



Rosemary Pollock, in her unique *narodniy holos* (folk voice) added two well known songs to the afternoon.



Nadia Gaichuk-Barroso choreographed, staged, and danced in “Gypsy Medley”.



Natalka Mochoruk, Conductor of the Hahilka and Beryozka choirs, was Master of Ceremonies of the concert, and also read a pair of poems.



The Hahilka Choir, conducted by Natalka Mochoruk and accompanied on the piano by Peter Krochak, opened the concert with a medley of Ukrainian folk songs, followed by a “*kolomeyka*”.



The Podushka Dancers appeared with two dances, to the delight of the audience.



The Beryozka Choir presented “Gypsy Medley”, seen by writer George Borusiewich as “a booty-shaking, tambourine-rattling, hip-swivelling explosion of in-your-face entertainment that shook the rafters!”



The Hahilka and Beryozka choirs combined for the final three songs of the concert. Many in the audience heard “*Byelorossochka*” in their mind’s ear for the rest of the day.

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Thanks To Those Behind the Scenes

On Saturday April 25, 2009, the Winnipeg Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians celebrated a triple celebration. The Winnipeg Branch sponsored a Banquet in honour of the 90th Anniversary of the AUUC, the 90th Anniversary of the opening of the Ukrainian Labour Temple and the 90th Anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike. I would like to take a moment to write about a side of the AUUC that is seldom recognized.

Like many of the other Branches across Canada, the Winnipeg Branch has limited membership, and even a more limited number of dedicated people who make events such as this possible. In our case, a small dedicated core of members is the leading force behind the survival of the Branch.

Anyone who has volunteered at Branch functions knows that the end product is always the result of hours and hours of meetings, cultural re-

hearsals, staging, product ordering, purchasing, hauling, carrying, cooking, baking, cleaning, sorting, arranging, researching, thinking, arguing, agreeing, setting up, taking down, plus many, many other tasks that, by gosh or by golly, get done.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the numerous volunteers who make our Association possible.

I salute those people who have never learned how to say “no”, or “I can’t”, or “I don’t have time”.

I thank those people in our organization that say, “sure I’ll help”, or “what needs to be done?”

But I particularly salute those who do not even have to be asked, those who take key rolls and pitch right in. They are the silent strength and pride of our organization.

Our national organization has helped shape our country and its future, and will continue to do so as long as we have people who continue to be the silent strength of our organization through their volunteerism.

So, the next time you hear that your Branch is organizing an event — preparing for a concert, tea, bazaar or what ever — just help. Help in whatever capacity you can. If you do not help, at least say “thank you” to those who have contributed their time, their energy and their money.

My fellow Winnipeggers

who are the silent, and sometimes not so silent, strength behind the Winnipeg Branch of the AUUC, I thank you.

You know who you are. You should also know that even though we do not always remember to say “thank you”, or do not always acknowledge your contributions properly, we do thank you.

Once the dust settles, the last chair is put away, the garbage is taken out, and the lights are turned off, know that without your individual help, and without your individual support, our Branch and our organization would not exist today.

My not so silent thank you.

Kathy Schubert
Council Member
AUUC Winnipeg Branch

Winnipeg AUUC Celebrates 90 Years

(Continued from page 8.) Branch, at its Annual General Meeting yesterday (April 19), voted to send fraternal best wishes to the AUUC Winnipeg Branch on its Triple-90th Celebration.

The contribution of the original Winnipeg builders of our organization are well-documented and a source of pride to AUUC members across Canada.

Congratulations!
George Borusiewicz,
President,
AUUC Toronto Branch

Vancouver

Congratulations to all members of the Winnipeg Branch of the AUUC on this very special occasion.

It is a triumph for any group to exist and operate successfully for 90 years.

It is even more remarkable for a group whose pioneers had to struggle with being in a strange land with few connections and resources, to complete an ambitious project such as building your beautiful centre at Pritchard & McGregor.

We, the members of the Vancouver Branch, celebrated the 80th anniversary of the building of our centre in 2008. We appreciate the work of our pioneers in building our “halls” all across Canada, making it possible for us to meet and carry on our culture with our children.

We celebrate with you and send our best wishes for continued success with your cultural work and your contri-

butions to the work of making our world a cleaner, safer and more peaceful place to live.

With our best thoughts and wishes,
AUUC Vancouver Branch,
Audrey Moysiuk, Secretary

Welland

The AUUC Welland Branch salutes the AUUC Winnipeg Branch, and extends best wishes as you commemorate the 90th anniversary of the erection of the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Pritchard and McGregor, the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (at that time, as the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association), and the 90th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike.

The Ukrainian Labour Temple was built to meet the needs of a community — specifically the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party and the complex of related activities, activity groups, and institutions and the mass of individuals supporting them — for a place to belong; a place which would provide a base and a home for the entire range of their interests and activities as human beings. These interests and activities have included, at one time or another, the performing arts and other arts, the entire range of culture from language and literature, to culinary arts, to traditional community festivities and rituals, to many other aspects of human civilization.

The Ukrainian Labour Tem-

ple Association was established merely to own the building. However, the rapid spread across Canada of support for this initiative, and the swelling tide of requests to affiliate to the ULTA, which led to the formation of the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association and later the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, demonstrated that the needs of the community in Winnipeg were not unique to that city, but reflected a reality which extended from shore to Canadian shore.

The relationship between the ULTA community and the other forces engaged in the Winnipeg General Strike was very much a defining characteristic of that community and its supporters not only in Winnipeg but across the country. It is that characteristic which continued to define the AUUC through the decades as it continued to participate in the struggle of the progressive movement for a better life for all working people, not only in Canada, but around the world.

The AUUC Welland Branch believes that the struggle of working people for a better life continues, and that the AUUC still has a role to play in that struggle, reflecting the interests of our members. This is particularly true at this time, when working people are suffering as a result of a global economic downturn.

We believe that AUUC Winnipeg Branch shares our concern about the fate of working people and our determination to continue the AUUC tradition by doing what we can to help. That is why our greeting carries a particularly deep sense of fraternity and shared purpose.

With you, we look forward to a long and fruitful AUUC future.

With best wishes to all,
AUUC Welland Branch,
Clara Babiy,
Branch President

P.S. To mark your event, a cheque for \$90.00 to the Ukrainian Labour Temple Foundation is being sent under separate cover.

Dyen Pobedy

(Continued from page 9.) ances at this point. Initially established as a recreational group for seniors, Podushka has gone on to entertain audiences, primarily from the FRC stage.

Kostya Parousis, a favourite with FRC audiences, then pleased the attendees with two songs sung to the accordion accompaniment of Vasia Julea.

Vasia Julea, who regularly accompanies the Beryozka Choir, followed with a solo performance of two Moldovan folk songs.

Peter Krochak, master keyboard artist and Hahilka accompanist, displayed his talents by performing two piano medleys, one based on “Moscow Nights” and the other based on the Russian song “Ivushka”.

The Beryozka Choir then

took the stage to perform “Gypsy Medley”, an exuberant song-and-dance extravaganza that was the highlight of the afternoon. Gorgeously outfitted in gypsy costumes, the choir gave a booty-shaking, tambourine-rattling, hip-swivelling explosion of in-your-face entertainment that shook the rafters!

Choreographed by Nadia Gaichuk-Barroso and conducted by Natalie Mochoruk, “Gypsy Medley” featured the voices of Lorna Clark, Nita Miskevich, and Vicki Vuksinic as soloists.

The afternoon’s concert ended with the combined Beryozka and Hahilka choirs singing three songs, one Russian, one Ukrainian and one Belarussian.

From the conversations overheard later, it was obvious that the celebration was a complete success!

— George Borusiewicz

Orchestra at Chartwell

On Monday, May 11, the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra (AUUC), conducted by Rudy Wasylenky, ended its season with a concert at the Chartwell Seniors Residence in Welland.

The accent was on recognition, starting with the opening number, the old Russian romance “Dark Eyes”.

The movies give us many widely-known tunes. This program, included three: “Lara’s Theme” from the film *Dr. Zhivago*; the “Greek Medley” of three tunes from the film *Never on Sunday*; and an instrumental version of “Don’t Cry for Me, Argentina” from the movie *Evita*.

When Ken (Bud) Speck, Wayne Hosick and Rudy Wasylenky launched into “Sing Along Medley #1”, the audience actually sang along, and participated through the rest of the program.

Ken (Bud) Speck and Rudy Wasylenky also sang “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling”, “My Melody of Love”, and “Just Because”, with Wayne Hosick adding Spike Jones sound effects in the latter.

The “Italian Medley” of “Come Back to Sorrento” and “O Sole Mio” were on the 12-item bill.

The program included “Prairie Dances” and “Centennial Tribute” from the 2005 AUUC festival in Regina.

The evening ended, about an hour after it started, with “Beer Barrel Polka” sung by Rudy Wasylenky and Wilfred Szczesny (who also served as MC).

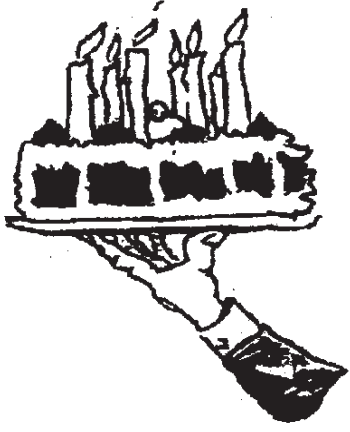
The audience quite enjoyed the performance. The orchestra’s pleasure was augmented by once again seeing former player Steve Tirone and other familiar faces.

— Volodymyr Lucky

Additional Greetings

In addition to the items printed on these pages, greetings were also received from AUUC National President Gerry Shmyr on behalf of the NC and NEC, Judy Wasylcia-Leis, MP for Winnipeg North, and Doug Martindale, MLA, who all delivered them in person, and Jerry Szach.

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

- Nester Bagan
- Sandy Gordey
- Paul Greene
- Nick Kereliuk
- Ed Makowecki
- Sophie Sywolos
- Mike Uhryn
- Virginia Witwicki
- Mary Woyewidka

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 June celebrants:

- Joe Dzatko
- Natalie Mochoruk
- Anne Omylanowski

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends June birthday greetings to:

- Mary Fedosenko
- Carol Snider

We wish you the best of health and happiness in the coming year!

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

- Alice Beazley
- Lida Braun
- Ron Hlywka
- Mary Skrypnik
- Leonard Whatmough

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

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, June 16.**

* * *

Toronto — The **Toronto AUUC Branch** is hosting a **celebration of Mother's/Father's Day** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, **1604 Bloor Street West**, at **1:30 p.m.** on **Sunday, June 7.** **Hahilka Choir** of the AUUC will appear, with special guests the **Beryozka Choir** of the **Federation of Russian Canadians** and the **Podushka Dancers.** Light refreshments will be served. **Admission: \$10.00.**

* * *

Toronto — The **Toronto AUUC Branch** and the **Shevchenko Museum** are co-sponsoring the **Canada/Shevchenko Day** celebration at **noon** on **Wednesday, July 1** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, **1604 Bloor Street West.** **Admission: \$12.00/person (Children: \$5.00)**

* * *

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.

JoKe TiMe

A tired-looking dog wandered into the yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home.

He followed me into the house, and fell asleep on the couch. Later, he went to the door, and I let him out. The next day he was back, resumed his position on the couch, and slept. This continued for several days. Curious, I pinned a note to his collar: "Every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap."

The next day, he arrived with a different note on his collar: "He lives in a home with four children — he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

* * *

A drunk walked into a bar and said to the bartender, "Bartender, buy everyone in the house a drink, pour yourself one, and give me the bill."

So, the bartender did just that, and handed the man a bill for \$57.00. The drunk said, "I haven't got it."

The bartender slapped the guy around a few times, then threw him out into the street.

The very next day, the same drunk walked into the bar and once again said, "Bartender, buy everyone in the house a drink, pour yourself one, and give me the bill."

The bartender looked at the

guy and figured to himself that he couldn't possibly be stupid enough to pull the same trick twice, so he poured a round of drinks for the house, had a drink himself and handed the drunk a bill for \$67.00.

The drunk said, "I haven't got it."

He picked the guy up, beat him, then threw him out into the street.

The next day the same drunk walked back into the same bar and said, "Bartender, buy every one in the house a drink, give me the bill."

The bartender says, "What, no drink for me this time?"

The drunk replied, "No

Sustaining Fund Donations

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Maurice and Pauline Warick and Family, Edmonton AB	
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<i>In memory of Alice Bilecki</i>	70.00
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Peter Slemko, Lethbridge AB	50.00
Steve Smoly, Regina SK	25.00
Paul Greene, Edmonton AB	20.00
Bill & Helen Shworak, Calgary AB	20.00
Jerry Szach, North Vancouver BC	20.00

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.

way! You get too violent when you drink."

* * *

A little guy got on a plane and sat next to the window. A few minutes later, a big, mean-looking guy plopped down in the seat next to him. The huge man glared at his neighbour, and immediately fell asleep.

After the plane took off, the little guy started to feel air sick, but he was afraid to wake the big guy up to ask if he could go to the bathroom. He realized that he couldn't

get by him, and so the little guy sat there, trying to decide what to do.

Suddenly, the plane hit an air pocket and an uncontrollable wave of nausea passed over the little fellow. He couldn't hold it in any longer, and puked all over the big guy's chest.

Later the big guy awoke and saw the vomit all over him.

"So," the little guy said brightly, "are you feeling better now?"

Toward a Distinct AUUC Vision

(Continued from page 4.)

clear and durable vision, it may be necessary to reflect on humanity and place the issue in a global context. It can be argued that the vision of the AUUC can not be developed in isolation from the rest of the world, and ought to be viewed from the perspective as being inseparable from the vision held by progressive organizations in other parts of the globe. In short, the AUUC vision is an integral part of the vision espoused by the rest of progressive humanity. Close observation tells us that progressive interest groups and organizations sharing positive and humanitarian values (and this includes our Association) aspire to working towards the realization of a common vision, at times referred to as an "egalitarian global village". Such a global village is predicated on a fundamental set of core values, namely, peace, democracy, economic and social justice, environmental

sustainability, and cultural efflorescence.

Several options can be placed before the Association for closer scrutiny. The Association can continue to resist pro-activity, continue to fumble and coast, ignoring reality, waiting until several aging branches collapse.

At that point (which may be not far off) a special convention will likely be called by remaining members to decide on one of two choices: the Association could either consolidate its assets and transfer the balance to a cognate organization; or the Association could establish a foundation to offer scholarships, carry on educational and research work.

However, an option that has considerable merit, which the Association still has time to consider and has nothing to lose and perhaps has much to gain, is centred on the present like-minded individuals in the Branches making a concerted effort to investigate the fea-

sibility of revitalizing the Association. Interested Association members and friends may be tempted to engage in serious brainstorming in an effort to discover practical ways of rebuilding the organization. There is no silver bullet or magic formula that could pull the Association out of the current slump. Meeting the challenge will require a serious commitment from existing membership and friends of the Association in an effort to develop a viable cultural program, evolve a clear vision, and above all, develop an effective and detailed strategy for reaching out and rebuilding the Association. The Association, while a relatively small interest group numerically, has the resources and the means of focusing its mission and succeeding in reaching out to outside communities, promoting cultural work, engaging in social activism, expanding the membership in the Association, and at all times being steadfast in its commitment to the globally shared vision of an "egalitarian global village".

—Mike Uhryn



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GWG: Piece by Piece

On May 7, the AUUC Edmonton Branch co-sponsored the concert "GWG: Piece by Piece" at the Ukrainian Centre as part of the Edmonton May Week Festival.

The web site http://www.mariadunn.com/recordings/other_proj.htm says:

GWG: Piece by Piece

The video ballad "GWG: Piece by Piece" is a 60-minute musical multimedia (sic) piece depicting the experiences of immigrant women who worked in Edmonton's GWG clothing factory over its 93 year history.

The plant, founded in

1911 and closed in 2004, was a microcosm of the immigration patterns in the city. Traditionally, it was a female-dominated workplace; in the post WWII period, many immigrant women worked at GWG because it did not require a strong knowledge of English.

The stories of urban immigrant women are not often told in Alberta. Some stories of pioneer women are available, but very little has been produced by or about women who worked in factories such as the GWG garment manufacturing plant. We feel that telling these stories provides important lessons for Albertans, par-

ticularly the current generation of newcomers to the province, members of the labour movement, and young people.

With songs written by Juno-nominated songwriter Maria Dunn, audiovisual materials filmed and edited by Don Bouzek of Edmonton's Ground Zero Productions and research interviews and archival materials provided by historian Catherine C. Cole, the performance features video footage of women who worked at GWG interwoven with songs inspired by their stories.

Research and development of this video ballad was supported by 2007 Edmonton Cultural Capital Funding.

AUUC members and other Ukrainian immigrants were among those who worked at the plant.

The presentation in Edmonton was the last stop on a tour which included Mayworks festivals in Ottawa, Toronto and Winnipeg.

The music was performed by Maria Dunn (vocal, guitar, accordion), Shannon Johnson (vocal, violin) and Sharmila Mathur (vocal, sitar, percussion).

Maria Dunn is appearing in Edmonton at the Blue Chair



Maria Dunn

on June 11, with Shannon Johnson, Dawn Anderson, and Andy Illig, and at the Arts without Borders Festival in Lloydminster, Alberta, on June 14.

Her web site includes (in part) the following biographical information:

A storyteller through song, Maria Dunn combines North American folk and country music with the influences of her Celtic heritage. Born in Scotland and raised in Ontario and Alberta, she writes songs inspired by historical and contemporary characters, capturing their struggles and triumphs in her lyrics.

In 2002, Maria received a Juno nomination in the Roots/Traditional Solo category for her second recording, For a Song.

Maria's newest CD,

2008's The Peddler (her first distributed through Outside Music), consists of songs that have a distinct Celtic influence. The songs range from "The Elder Sister", Maria's ominous take on the timeless Two Sisters tale of jealousy, to "You Can't Take That Away", a modern offering for those who have lost a loved one. The title track, "The Peddler", is a haunting melody commenting on the marketing of modern wars.

To do justice to the songs on The Peddler and give them the appropriate Celtic music arrangements, Maria once again involved Shannon Johnson as producer and Shannon's excellent band The McDades (2007 Juno winners for their CD Bloom) as musicians and collaborators on the song arrangements.



Academic and award winning sitar player Shamila Mathur.



Shannon Johnson with the rest of The McDades, 2007 Juno Award winners

Edmonton: Birthdays and Easter

Fay Hruschak entered the Edmonton AUUC hall and exclaimed, "Ah! Look at the Easter bunny!" The reception area was decorated well to set the atmosphere for our April seniors' birthday social.

Eva Doskoch said that in her home the Christmas and Easter tables receive special attention. Virginia Witwicki helped Eva decorate for our celebration.

Anne Husar was our honoured guest at the head table for her 88th birthday! Joining her was Tekla Yaramchuk, her swaha.

This Easter month we had the annual Easter egg fight organized by William Uhryn. Anne Husar was recognized with one of the strongest eggs,

but then, in all the excitement, on the other side of the hall, was Olga Dorish with her victorious egg — until Bill Uhryn came along with his tough red egg, a rock the shape and size of an egg!

Sophie Sywolos was recognized as the oldest member present, and she received a *paska* (bread). Sophie was born on June 13, 1919.

Olga Dorish was the second oldest and received a braided *paska*, too. She was born on February 6, 1924.

A fancily braided *paska* was auctioned to the highest bidder, and good sport, Anne Husar!

Fay Hruschak took home the bouquet of pussy willows, and gave a donation to the seniors in return.

We even had a guest — Mary Tropak's daughter Kathy Tracy.

Eva Doskoch brought the group up-to-date about the trip to Saskatchewan mineral pools with Anderson Tours in the fall.

Shirley Uhryn shared with the group the plans for the proposed June field trip to Leduc to visit our Mrs. Bagan. En route we will stop at the Devonian Gardens.

Both trips look promising. Our resident band of Paul



Bill Uhryn brings out a supply of eggs for the annual celebration.

Greene with Bill and Mike Uhryn entertained with music and song during our traditional Ukrainian Easter meal.

— Shirley Uhryn

— Story photos: Victor Horon



Happy Easter!



Birthday celebrants Anne Husar (left) and Sophie Sywolos.



Olga Dorish (right) and Irene Kingsmith with some of the special items of the day.

JoKe TiMe

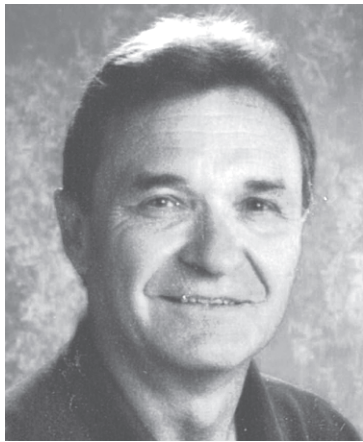
The Pick-Up

A well dressed, debonair man in his mid-nineties entered an upscale cocktail lounge and found a seat next to a good looking, younger woman in her mid-eighties, at the most.

Trying to remember his best pick-up line, he said, "So tell me, do I come here often?"

Brian Warick

On March 1, 2009, Brian Warick, a long time AUUC supporter and member, and activist on the stage of the Ukrainian Centre in Edmonton, was tragically killed in a horrific vehicular accident near Kamloops, British Columbia, when returning from a skiing trip with his wife Leslie, and a couple of friends who were instantly killed. As a result of the accident, Leslie has become a paraplegic and has currently gone through her eighth operation.



This accident has thoroughly devastated and saddened the AUUC Edmonton Branch membership, as well as the teaching faculty in the City of Edmonton — especially those at Ross Shepherd Composite High School.

Brian Warick, born on June 25, 1953, is the son of long-time AUUC members, supporters, activists and leaders in the Edmonton Branch, as well as activists on our stage, Maurice and Pauline Warick. They played in the orchestra at the Grand Opening of the Ukrainian Centre in July, 1952, and were the second couple to hold their wedding reception in the newly built venue, in June of that year.

Brian, a great sports enthusiast, especially the game of rugby in which he participated, spent 31 years of his young life teaching chemistry in three different high schools — Victoria Composite High School, Queen Elizabeth Composite High School, and finally, during the last 10 years, at Ross Shepherd Composite High School, from which he planned to retire next year.

He inspired many of his students with the love of chemistry — some continued

studying in this area after graduating from school. He was considered a top-notch teacher by the students. They recall that he gave all students his fullest attention. His colleagues at Ross Shepherd considered him a Master Teacher. They voiced this opinion at the memorial service given by the staff and students of the school.

Upon learning of the tragedy, the teachers at Ross Shepherd had a great deal of trouble teaching. Many tears were shed by all. They lowered the flag to half mast in his honour.

Everyone who recalled Brian told of his love of teaching, his love of the students, and his love of people generally. He worked from the aspect of LOVE and gave of

himself totally to his vocation. He understood that, for a society to flourish, there was a need for an excellent education. Thus, the future of the society would be bright.

Brian was a family man who loved his wife Leslie, sons Braden and Bret, and daughter Allison, with whom he spent precious and joyous time. He was an excellent loving son who was in constant contact with Pauline and Maurice, phoning them every day.

His warm heart and his humorous manner will be missed by all.

Not only did he leave his wife and children, he has left his parents Maurice and Pauline, his sister Cathy and Aunt Gloria, and many friends and relatives.

Due to the fact that his wife is recovering very slowly, the family has put off a memorial service to the autumn, when Leslie may be healthy enough to be there.

The Warick family has been deeply touched not only by our own Edmonton Branch members but also by the outpouring of support from other Branches as well as friends — with messages, cards, flowers and love.

I quote what they have conveyed to everybody: "This has helped to keep our family strong."

— Paul Greene

Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from page 5.)
istry expressed its readiness to participate in military exercises under the NATO Partnership for Peace program in

the country of Georgia, to take place from May 6 to June 1.

— On May 12, President Yushchenko signed an ordinance on the yearly national program of preparations for the accession to NATO.

— On May 13, President Yushchenko ordered the Cabinet of Ministers to draw up a national program for Ukraine's NATO membership. Yushchenko's decree requires the government to coordinate the program with NATO authorities.

— On May 14, Polish Defence Minister hosted a 2-day meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group. The meeting was co-chaired by the Ukrainian Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy Jiry Sedivy.

What happened to democracy?

Best Wishes

We extend best wishes for a full and speedy recovery to Mike Stefiuk following his quadruple by-pass heart surgery.

Mike Stefiuk served for many years as a member of the National Board of the Workers Benevolent Association, and has been a leading AUUC member both in Montreal and in Toronto. He is currently head of the Seniors Club.



JOIN US!

Join us for a new season of AUUC activities! Each Branch has a unique schedule of events and activities. To discover what we have to offer, contact the AUUC in your area:

AUUC NATIONAL OFFICE

National Executive Committee AUUC
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Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4
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E-mail: auuckobzar@mts.net

VANCOUVER BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
805 East Pender Street
Vancouver BC V6A 1V9
Phone: (604) 254-3436 Fax: (604) 254-3436
E-mail: auucvancouver@telus.net

CALGARY BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
3316-28 Avenue SW
Calgary AB T3E 0R8
Phone: (403) 246-1231 E-mail: calauuc@telus.net

EDMONTON BRANCH

Ukrainian Centre
11018-97 Street
Edmonton AB T5H 2M9
Phone: (780) 424-2037 Fax: (780) 424-2013
E-mail: auucedm@telus.net

INNISFREE BRANCH

c/o Mike Feschuk
Box 216
Innisfree AB T0B 2G0
Phone: (780) 592-2127

VEGREVILLE BRANCH

c/o Lil Humeniuk
Box 481
Vegreville AB T9C 1R6
Phone: (780) 632-3021

REGINA BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
1809 Toronto Street
Regina SK S4P 1M7
Phone: (306) 522-1188

WINNIPEG BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
591 Pritchard Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4
Phone: (204) 582-9269 Fax: 589-3404

OTTAWA BRANCH

c/o Robert Seychuk
24 Attwood Crescent
Ottawa ON K2E 5A9
Phone: (613) 228-0990

SUDBURY BRANCH

Jubilee Centre
195 Applegrove Street
Sudbury ON P3C 1N4
Phone: (705) 674-5534

TORONTO BRANCH

AUUC Cultural Centre
1604 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M6P 1A7
Phone: (416) 588-1639 Fax: 588-9180
wilfredszczesny@gmail.com

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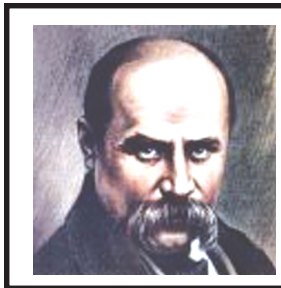
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Taras Shevchenko Museum

Shevchenko and the Jews

The article printed below appeared in *Forum* No. 116 (Spring 2009), and is reprinted with the kind permission of the author and Editor of *Forum*. Andrew Gregorovich is also Vice-President and Librarian of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation.

The *Washington Post* on November 12, 2000, published an article in which it was proposed that the Shevchenko statue in Washington, D.C., be removed as an unnecessary monument. It alleged that the great Ukrainian poet was a Soviet idol, an anti-Semite and anti-Polish. However, it is well known in fact that Shevchenko was actually a champion of freedom for all the peoples in the Russian Empire, then known as the "Prison of Nations".

"In the nonmilitary category, a prime candidate for removal is Taras Shevchenko, a 19 century Ukrainian poet, whose bronze and granite memorial stands in a triangular park at 22nd and 23rd streets NW. In the early 1960s, opponents of the memorial said Shevchenko was not only an idol of Soviet Communists but an anti-Semite and anti-Polish to boot." (*Washington Post*, Sunday, November 12, 2000, page B08)

In 1960 the House of Representatives in the 86th Congress of the United States published "Document No. 445" on Taras Shevchenko. It was titled "Europe's Freedom Fighter" and was subtitled "A Documentary Biography of Ukraine's Poet Laureate and National Hero".

Shevchenko's poems were such powerful attacks on Russian autocracy that Tsar Nicholas I of Russia himself, personally, wrote on his order exiling the poet to military service in Siberia in 1847 that Shevchenko was "forbidden to write or paint". Taras Shevchenko was an artist by profession.

Shevchenko finally received his freedom from exile on March 1, 1858, after the death of Tsar Nicholas. He was free as a result of the intercession of Russian friends with the new Tsar, Alexander.

The Russian discrimination against the Jews troubled Taras Shevchenko so much that he risked his recently won freedom from exile by coming openly to the defence of the Jews. He had come to St. Petersburg to live where he was under strict police surveillance. In spite of the danger of being exiled again, he had the courage to sign an 1858 protest against the Russian Imperial government's discrimination against the Jews in Ukraine and Western Russia known as the *Illustratsia* Affair.

Shevchenko's name, together with those of other Ukrainians like historian Nicholas Kostomarov, and writers Marko Vovchok and Panteleimon Kulish, appeared in the protest in the "Literary and Political Journal" *Russkii Viestnik* (Moskva) no. 18/21 in 1858 on pages 125-137 and 245-247. Shevchenko's name appears on the list on page 245. On pages 245 to 247 is published a letter from a group of Ukrainians, including Taras Shevchenko, Kostomarov, Kulish, and Marko Vovchok, who also sent their own separate letter of protest in defence of the Jews.

The German book *Die Juden in Russland*, translated from Russian by August Scholz (Berlin: Concordia Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, 1900), published the "Protest of Russian Writers from 1858" on pages 241-44. In this protest Shevchenko's name is also clearly listed among others who signed such as Ivan Turgenev and Nikolai Chernyshevsky.

In my "Jewish-Ukrainian Bibliography" (Toronto: *Forum*, 1999) I have listed two of the works of Professor Smal-Stocki, whose essay "Shevchenko and the Jews" (Chicago: Shevchenko Scientific Society, 1959, 11 p.) documents part of Shevchenko's defence of the Jews with a facsimile from the German book.

— Andrew Gregorovich, Senior Researcher, Ukrainian Canadian Research Foundation, Toronto, Canada.

Forum thanks Dr. Oleh Romanyshyn, Editor of *Homin Ukrainy*, for his assistance on this article.

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Ukraine's Economy

(Continued from page 3.) come from the continued rise in energy import prices and increased costs of external borrowing.

Challenges Ahead

The economic and financial crisis creates immediate challenges for macroeconomic, structural and social policies. The economy is expected to experience a deep recession in 2009, and a comprehensive package of measures is required to stabilize market expectations, mitigate the social impact of the crisis, and lay the foundations for a return to sustainable economic growth.

Key areas for reform include:

- * the implementation of sound macroeconomic management, including consolidating the transition to a flexible exchange rate regime and supportive monetary and fiscal policies;

- * expenditure reallocations towards growth supporting investments in public infrastructure and improved targeting of social transfers to the poor;

- * measures to restore confidence in the financial sector and lay the foundation for sector consolidation and improved supervision and regulation going forward; and

- * structural reforms to facilitate the necessary adjustment and reallocation of economic activity by lowering entry barriers and improving

the investment climate.

Over the medium-term, Ukraine needs to adopt a growth strategy that reflects the likely scarcity of risk capital and emphasizes productivity improvements (including energy efficiency) as the main source of growth. Public sector modernization and improved governance will be key ingredients of such a strategy, to allow the tax burden to decline, and the state to deliver improved quality public services under tighter fiscal constraints.

In its *Economic Update*, April 7, 2009, the World Bank indicates:

- *The global economic environment has deteriorated further, dragging Ukraine into a sharper downturn.*

- *The economy is undergoing a painful though needed rebalancing.*

- *A comprehensive, inter-linked, and consistent "anti-crisis" program of measures and reforms is urgently needed to face the economic downturn and lay the foundations for the economic recovery. Efforts in this direction would do much to stabilize market expectations.*

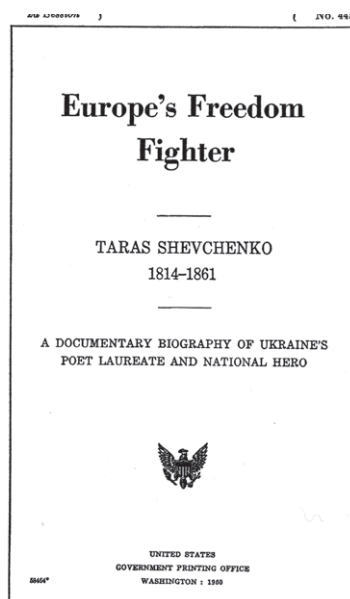
Recent Economic Developments

The global economic environment has significantly deteriorated since our last update. Massive deleveraging in financial markets has triggered a sharp global economic contraction. The region of Europe and Central Asia

has been most adversely affected, given its dependence on foreign capital to finance spending and its exposure to commodity markets.

The Ukrainian economy has deteriorated sharply since the beginning of the crisis. Real GDP growth decelerated to an annual rate of 2.1% in 2008, implying an 8% decline in the fourth quarter. Industrial production contracted sharply, over 25% in the last two months of 2008 and by 32% in January-February, 2009, dragged down by the declining export demand. Construction works declined by 57% in the first two months of 2009. The slump in the real sector poses a serious risk to fiscal revenues. The underlying size of the fiscal gap thus remains a key concern for macroeconomic stability going forward.

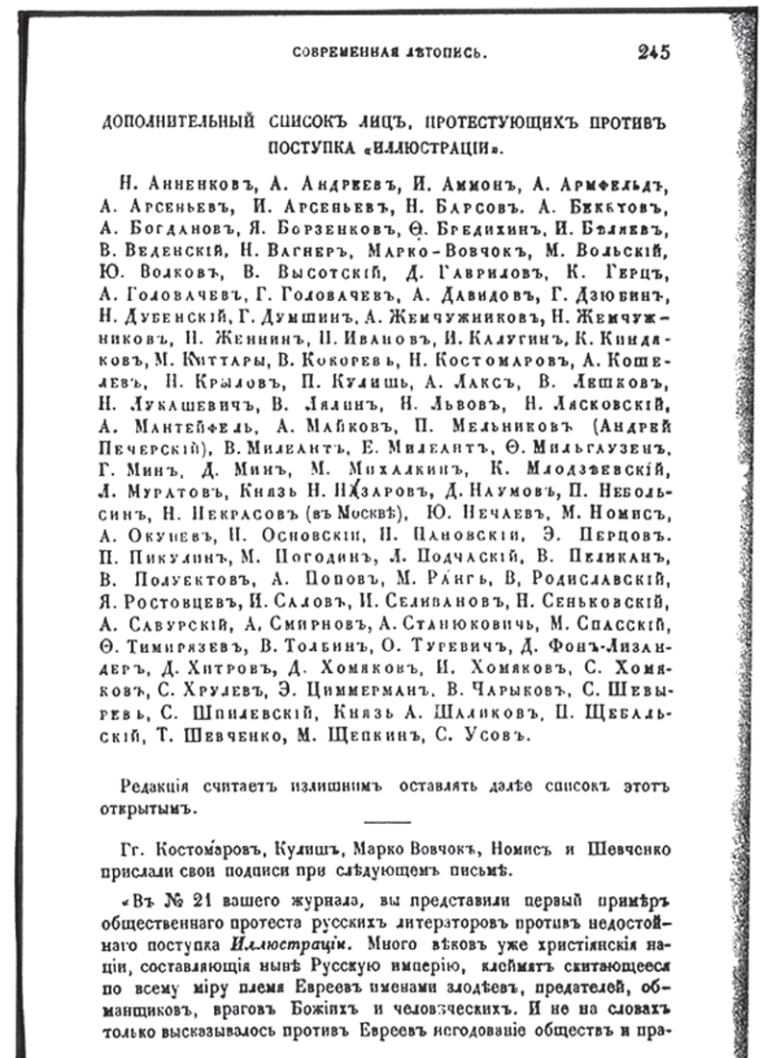
The expected economic rebalancing is underway. The exchange rate has depreciated sharply (close to 40% to USD) to adjust to the terms of trade shock and the drying-up of foreign financing, closing the current account deficit (which turned positive in January). ... Exchange rate devaluation and a decline in confidence in the banking sector has led to a leakage of deposits which continued through the first quarter of 2009, with UAH and foreign exchange deposits falling by 30 and 13% respectively since end-September. ... Real wages dropped by 13%, compared to a year earlier, in January-February as the private sector started to adjust to new conditions in product and labour markets.



The cover of the 1960 US House of Representatives Document No. 445.



The title page of *Russkii Viestnik*, Moscow, 1858.



Page 245 of the *Russkii Viestnik* has Shevchenko's name (third from the end) in the list at the top of the page, of those Russian writers protesting in the *Illustratsia* Affair, and again in the list of five Ukrainians who added their own letter.