

# HERALD ВІСНИК

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Heart of the City Festival



— Photo: Dan Fung

“Bereznyanka”, a dance from Transcarpathia performed by the Dovbush Dancers, delighted the audience with its twisting movements and swirling skirts at the November 7 concert ending Vancouver’s 7<sup>th</sup> annual Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival. See Pages 8, 9 and 11 for the story and additional photographs.

## Tough-on-Crime Agenda Is Paying Off

Prime Minister Harper’s tough-on-crime campaign is showing signs of the results which can be expected.

One such sign is the annual report released on November 5 by Howard Sapers, Canada’s Correctional Investigator.

The report notes that prisons are overflowing with “disturbingly large numbers” of mentally ill and aboriginal inmates.

Growing numbers of gang members, drug abusers and chronically ill people are harder for guards to handle. Tension and stress are rising. Violence is growing from the prisoners. Violence is also growing from the guards, who resort more to weapons, electronic barriers (restricting movement, and remote surveillance (invading privacy).

In an earlier report, dealing with the death of Ashley Smith Mr. Sapers warned that the prison conditions were growing more dangerous for both inmates and guards.

The situation is righting itself, as can be seen from a couple of other recent stories.

One of these is the story of a man charged with swindling over 70 investors out of about \$27 million in a Ponzi scheme. The charges laid against the man in June, 2009, were dropped on September 22, 2010, supposedly because the courts were tied up with cases involving violent crime and did not have the resources to pursue a complex fraud case.

In another story, dating

back to 2005, charges were stayed against a Toronto police officer accused of improperly conducting background checks on a resident of a condo complex where they both lived.

After all this time, it was noticed that the police complaint had not been signed, as required, by the plaintiff. In addition, the offending officer had been reprimanded twice by his superiors.

Still, there are plenty of resources for abusing the likes of Ashley Smith, Alex Hundert and Stacy Bonds.

The tough-on-crime lesson seems clear: cops and white-collar types walk mostly; women, aboriginal people, and dissidents mostly are battered and/or sent to a prison Hell.

## Police Running Wild

Anybody who believes that the police are merely the biggest, baddest motorcycle gang around can readily find supporting evidence.

For example, there is the case of Stacy Bonds, which took two years to make its way to a judgement. On October 27, 2010, Justice Richard Lajoie stayed the charges against the Ottawa woman. He said that allowing the proceeding to go on would be a “travesty”, given the “sheer number of appalling behaviours” by the Ottawa police on September 26, 2008.

Her offence, apparently, was to ask, after having been stopped and then allowed to

proceed, why she had been stopped. The police then arrested her on a totally unjustified charge of public intoxication. Videotape of events at the police station established that the police were lying when they claimed that she was anything but cooperative, even while she was being assaulted and otherwise abused.

At least one of the officers involved has been convicted of kicking and Tasering a female prisoner a few days before the attack on Ms. Bonds. For that infraction, after pleading guilty under the Police Act, instead of being fired he was demoted from sergeant to constable for three months.

The Ottawa police have launched an internal investigation into the events which the judge considered so appalling. The investigation could take months to determine whether “the judge’s ruling is indicative of what happened”.

If the police deem the judge’s findings to be correct, will the officers who were involved get more than a slap on the wrist, or will they be granted future opportunities to abuse members of the public?

Like the members of other motorcycle gangs, police will tolerate no disrespect, which includes being questioned about their activities.

Stacy Bond’s ordeal, is far from unique; in the days before ubiquitous cameras, she would have been convicted.

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR —**  
**3 НОВИМ РОКОМ!**

**The National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians extends best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2011 to all members and friends of the AUUC and readers and supporters of The Ukrainian Canadian Herald!**

**Sent as a  
separate  
page.**

## Troubles at Monsanto

The *New York Times* reported in early October that *Forbes* magazine's "company of the year" for 2009, has run into problems in 2010. At the end of September, Monsanto stock was selling at \$47.77, down about 47% from the beginning of the year. By mid-November, 2010, the stock was selling in the \$60.00 to \$65.00 range, well below its mid-2008 price of \$145.00 or so, and even below its 52-week high of \$87.06.

The sources of the problems are various.

Weeds, it seems, are gaining resistance to Roundup, Monsanto's proprietary herbicide, threatening the viability of the Roundup Ready crop franchise. At the same time, China is successfully marketing a range of cheap generic herbicides.

Monsanto's latest product, Smartstax corn, was not producing higher yields than earlier, cheaper varieties. Like Smartstax, Monsanto's latest

soybean seeds, Roundup Ready 2, did not sell as well as expected.

Part of the problem was that Monsanto changed its pricing strategy with these two products, seeking to share with its customers less of the economic benefits derived from their use. In addition to reducing its prices, Monsanto is expected to compensate farmers who were disappointed by Smartstax results.

Using a marketing strategy which more closely addresses farmers' specific needs, Monsanto's strong competitor Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont brand, has been gaining market share.

To top it all off, the US Justice Department has been investigating the company for possible antitrust violations. Such suits have also been filed in other countries in the time that Monsanto has been an international agricultural biotechnology giant.

There have been other legal problems as well. Mon-

santo has faced a range of suits by competitors. In addition, there are suits by people suing the company for ill effects produced by the company's chemicals (including dioxin, Agent Orange, and Roundup).

Suits seeking redress for losses suffered by pollution of fields with unwanted genetically modified Monsanto seed have also been a concern.

Of course, Monsanto is comfortable with lawsuits — it has launched many against farmers whose fields have been contaminated with Monsanto seed, or who have run afoul of Monsanto's rapacious monopolistic practices while pursuing normal farming techniques, such as saving seed from a crop for the next year's planting.

At one point, Monsanto itself reported that it had instituted "only" 144 such lawsuits in the previous dozen years, of which fewer than a dozen went to trial.

# Current Eclectic — Long and Short

## Toronto G20: Story Continues

Police showed restraint when declining to pursue and arrest vandals in action, but not when attacking law-abiding citizens. Not wearing name tags was only one aspect of their non-professional behaviour. RCMP Commissioner William Elliott's opinions can not change that.

Among recent developments is the news that between 90 and 100 police officers would be disciplined for failing to wear name tags on their uniforms during G20 duty. Police Chief Bill Blair testified before the public safety committee of the House of Commons on November 3 that the penalty might be something like loss of a day's pay.

A question that has been asked is how the officers without name tags would be identified. The more important question is why cops on duty would deliberately hide their identity. We do know that when the Black Bloc hide their faces, the assumption is that they are planning to break the law.

Chief Blair also testified that the roughly 100 people arrested at a University of Toronto gymnasium, where they had been housed during the F20 weekend, had charges against them dropped. It seems that a Crown attorney chose not to proceed because the police had made the arrests without the proper warrants.

At least one of those 100 arrested, University of Montreal student Kevin Gagnon, testified about the brutality of the arrest and detention, the three-day detention, and the stringent release conditions.

To people concerned about protecting our rights in a democratic society, that might suggest that, once again, the police had acted high-handedly to violate people's rights, a frequent police procedure on that weekend. To Police Chief Blair, however, a warrant is merely a technicality.

Toronto businesses in the areas affected by the vandalism during the G20 are not at all happy. Five months later, none has received any compensation for lost business, according to the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservice Association.

Those businesses which closed in anticipation of danger are not eligible for compensation. Many of those who stayed open and suffered losses, whether through vandalism or because street traffic was down, have given up

on seeking compensation. The procedure for filing a claim is just too hard and/or expensive.

In the last issue of the "UCH", we reported that Alex Hundert had been arrested on September 17, for appearing at a university panel discussion. The persecution (by now that's the right word) said that was a violation of his bail condition against "participating in or attending any public event that expresses views on a political issue".

Mr. Hundert was released in mid-October under new bail conditions, muzzling him even more tightly by banning speaking to the media, associating with certain individuals or posting on the internet.

Mr. Hundert planned to file for a review of those bail conditions, which the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Association of Journalists, and other groups thought excessive in a democracy.

Then, on October 23, he was arrested for the third time. Now the persecution claimed that Mr. Hundert had intimidated two Crown Attorneys by jotting down the licence plate number of one of their cars.

At his court appearance on November 1, Mr. Hundert was rescheduled for an appearance later in November.

On November 11, author Naomi Klein (*The Shock Doctrine*) and Juno winner Hawksley Workman were among those participating in a fundraiser for approximately 100 G20 defendants still facing charges. Some are still in jail, unable to raise bail.

A Probe by Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP is one of a half dozen or so official investigations into aspects of G20 policing.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association, with the National Union of Public and General Employees held public hearings on November 10-12. They heard some horrific accounts of brutal police behaviour, including beatings by police without name tags. Findings are to be released in January, 2011.

Toronto Police Services spent \$124.8 million for the G20 weekend. Some 10,000 cops were deployed, including 4,800 officers called in from across the country.

The Harper government spent almost \$858 million, for the G8 and the G20. That includes an extra \$94 million to the Ontario ministry that operates provincial jails. (All numbers are questionable.)

## Selling Poison

People who believe in the beneficence of the free market repeatedly tell us that government action to regulate companies in defence of people's health and welfare is unnecessary, even harmful. Business owners and executives, they assure us, are good people who would not knowingly sell harmful products. The few bad apples will be forced out by the good sense of consumers, who will not patronize them.

Would that it were so. Unfortunately, there is a mountain of evidence to the contrary.

Exhibit number one showing the need for consumer protection legislation might be cigarette companies.

Most people in Canada are old enough to remember the shameless advertising of cigarettes through all available media and through sponsorship of a gamut of events from theatre to sports to almost any other kind of social gathering.

We can still remember the great debates about whether cigarettes posed a health hazard. We can still recall that the cigarette companies were able to cite a seemingly endless list of studies showing no connection between smoking and cancer, lung diseases, and a slew of other dangers to health. We have not forgotten that doctors and scientists stood in courts of law and in other fora to testify that no link had been established between smoking and any illness.

Huge amounts of money were spent on lawyers and

public relations firms and advertising agencies to convince the government, the courts, and the general public that the cigarette companies were legitimate operations that should be allowed to go on about their business.

Some of us may remember that some tobacco companies were not above smuggling cigarettes into Canada at one point, to avoid paying the taxes which were due. (Two cases were settled in April, 2010, after a ten-year process, bringing the fines and settlements levied against at least five tobacco companies to a total of about \$1.7 billion, or an average \$340 million each.)

Much of this is now memories, with cigarette companies keeping a much lower profile.

Memories, that is, in the USA, Europe and Canada, where smoking has dropped dramatically.

In the world as a whole, it is reported, cigarette sales are growing by 2% annually, and the tobacco companies are aggressively promoting their product. They are just as aggressively fighting efforts to restrict the promotion and use of cigarettes.

Tobacco companies have filed lawsuits against the governments of Uruguay, Brazil, Norway, and the Food and Drug Administration in the USA.

In Australia, during a federal election, tobacco companies financed and directed a campaign, using small store owners as a front, opposing government promises to re-

strict cigarette packaging to plain brown or white.

In Canada, the government has announced that it was abandoning a project to make packaging in Canada larger and more graphic. The *Canadian Medical Association Journal* raised the possibility that this reflects effective pressure from the tobacco industry.

Tobacco company executives, for the most part, no longer claim that smoking is harmless. Nevertheless they continue to promote their product vigorously, and to oppose effective controls on its use.

Why do the tobacco companies so energetically sell their poison? Because it is tremendously profitable. British American Tobacco, the second largest private cigarette maker in the world, showed \$4.4 billion profit on \$23 billion in sales. That represents a huge return on investment. The market has not shut them down. On the contrary, left to their own devices the tobacco companies proliferate like noxious weeds, killing increasing proportions of the world's population.

The main argument now offered by the tobacco industry is that they sell a legal product and adhere to the laws of each country, so they should be allowed to make a profit by meeting the market demand for their wares.

Government regulation and restriction, with intense anti-smoking education, not the free market, are the only (barely) effective checks on the activity of poison-dispensing cigarette manufacturers.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**The World in Crisis**

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

Whatever Harper and his government may say Canada can not prosper while the rest of the world languishes. An example of why that is so is provided in the report "Canadian trade deficit nears record" in *The Globe and Mail* on November 11. Canada's prosperity is heavily dependent on international trade, on the health of our trading partners. So, how is the world doing?

Our biggest trading partner, the USA, is in sad shape and possibly on the verge of another dip. While some economists in that country are calling for more aggressive pump priming, the last election brought into government, and gave control of the House of Representatives to, a group which favours great tax gifts to the very wealthiest, higher taxes on the middle-earners, and cuts to social programs. The expected result is another dip in consumer demand (because people have no money), with more bankruptcies and greater unemployment.

That is definitely not good for Canada.

There is an additional problem: the threat of inflation in the country as money is printed to cover budgetary deficits.

Internationally, that is reflected as a weakening of the American dollar. While a lower American dollar will tend to encourage export of American products, it is putting other countries at a disadvantage (like Canada's trade deficit). These other countries then tend to take retaliatory action, including (like China) keeping their own currencies artificially low, taking measures to protect their own producers' markets (with tariffs, quotas, etc.), and shoring up their producers' profits by attacking the social programs which benefit working people, and living standards.

The reason that another G20 meeting was held less than a half year after the meeting in Toronto is that the international economic competition threatens everyone with ruin, even though a few companies may do very well.

On the one hand, governments and bankers around the world see the need to cooperate to avoid a possible global depression; on the other, they see the need to compete, lest their competitors gain an advantage.

Other routes to creating demand are sought, which is why there is increasing interest in the United States in starting another war. While such measures would bring great benefit to some economic sectors and/or companies, they would also come with great costs.

The dangers ahead are not only economic.

**COMMENTARY****Getting Richer**

Companies like Monsanto, Microsoft, and others, huge corporations able successfully to challenge governments, often (perhaps usually) have modest beginnings. Building on a good idea, they find the fruitful niche market which allows them to grow and accumulate a surplus, which in turn allows them to grow even more and faster.

The person who started the business, with family and/or friends, can no longer meet the demand for the product, and the initial production facilities grow too small. People have to be hired, and a new location established. This produces new demands on the entrepreneur (managing employees, meeting payrolls, and

so on). It also creates new possibilities, such as added production capacity which allows development of new products or expanded production of the original product. In either case, the pressure is on to get more of a market, whether in new areas or through a greater share of the original market.

The struggle for the market becomes as important as the production function. The law is "grow or die", and growth can come in many forms. The tools for growth available practically to a firm increase with growing strength.

Buying out competitors takes them out of the contest, and also gives access to their employees and customers.

Driving competitors out of the market by selling cheap (even below production cost, if necessary) may provide higher profits through higher prices in the long run. Variations on this theme may include coupons or other financial inducements to draw customers away from competitors.

Give away your competitor's main product by including some form of it in your own package — devastating! Ask Microsoft.

At some point, an exclusivity contract becomes possible (a computer manufacturer, say, loading Microsoft Word with each machine). Such arrangements not only guarantee a certain level of sales, but also decrease the probability that a consumer will then purchase a competitor's offering.

Exclusivity is also possible at point of sale: if you want to sell our very popular product, you may not sell our competitor's product.

Under some circumstances, companies may divide up the

market, as Pepsi and Coca Cola did, for example, to avoid profit-draining market wars.

Sometimes these competitive techniques may involve infringing someone's patents or copyright, or breaking laws, but if you are a big enough company, any resulting problem will be of minor concern.

After becoming a monopoly or (more often) an oligopoly (one of a very few companies competing in a market), a company has to protect its position. New start-up companies must be prevented from gaining a secure market hold; existing competitors must be kept at bay; and consumers must be prevented from unauthorized use of your product or from switching to another supplier.

Just the threat of a lawsuit may be enough to achieve these aims. If not, a lawsuit may serve as a useful lesson to others who might want to get out of line.

From the opposite view, a suit brought against you by someone else may stretch over years, and serve (again) as an object lesson to others contemplating such a course of action.

In addition, a company which is large enough need not fear charges by government agencies. Agencies in small countries are often dwarfed by the corporations they face. When it comes to (rare) charges brought by large governments, the most usual result is either a corporate victory or a compromise leaving the offending corporation with at least part of the prize.

Even if convicted, however, an offending company seldom faces crippling penalties.

Of course, the companies at the very top of the corporate hierarchy have additional advantages.

They can control the laws and regulatory agencies of a country, even a big country like the United States, to give themselves advantages. For example, they may cause the adoption of laws setting production standards which small companies may find too expensive or otherwise prohibitive. Regulatory agencies are regularly dominated by former and future employees of the companies supposedly being regulated. Through government, companies may award themselves various grants to enhance their technical or other advantages and increase profitability. They may just make straight-out tax grabs.

The power of these corporations (and their owners and managers, of course) is shown in the American debate over giving the richest of the rich a huge tax gift while cutting social programs for middle-income and poor Americans. The benefit would go to the top 1% of earners, who get over 23.5% of pre-tax earnings.

— Carl Honour

**From Our Readers**

I have just read the article entitled "Resolution on Water" on page 11 of the November, 2010, issue of the "UCH".

In the past few days, articles have appeared in our *Winnipeg Free Press* about the horrible drinking water conditions on the Native reserves in Manitoba.

I too believe that Canada's most important resource is our water. We pride ourselves on being a province of 100,000 lakes and we can't even provide our people with clean drinking water.

I hope that our government will not give away this natural resource, and provide first and foremost for our Canadian people.

Oh, Canada.

Walter Mirosch  
Winnipeg, Man.

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## Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

### Church Relic Recovered

A Ukrainian church relic that was stolen recently while it was on a tour of Canada almost caused an international crisis. Fortunately, police were able to recover it three hours later.

The relic, which holds great meaning to Eastern Orthodox Christians, is a 1,000-year-old skull fragment, believed to be part of the skull of Vladimir the Great, a revered saint in Ukraine.

Eastern Orthodox Christians venerate St. Vladimir because, in 988, he converted to the faith, and then baptized all the pagan Slavic tribes to Christ, including portions of what is today Ukraine and Russia.

The fragment, only 2.5 centimetres large, is kept in an ornate, blue and gold box with classic religious art emblazoned around it. It is usually stored in an Orthodox church in Ukraine, and is only displayed once a year.

The box containing the remains was stolen when a thief broke into the home of Igumen Alexander Pihach, an Edmonton priest who is accompanying the treasure on its tour. The thief stole a wallet, cash, car keys and Pihach's car, in which the box was left.

The police were able to recover the car by remotely activating its satellite security system. They found the car abandoned and undamaged some two kilometres away, with the box still inside.

The relic is on a cross-country tour through Canada, and will be in New York before returning to Ukraine.

### Kyiv's Liberators

Ukraine will always remember those who liberated Kyiv from the Nazis, said Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

Speaking on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the 1943 Battle of Kyiv, President Yanukovich said on November 6 that the victory had been won owing to the great fortitude of the city's liberators.

"While honouring today the glorious winners of that heroic and at the same time tragic ordeal, we bow our heads to their valour," the President said.

Prime Minister Nikolai Azarov recalled that the occupation of Kyiv had lasted 776 days. Only 183,000 of the prewar population of one million remained in Kyiv after the occupation ended.

Sixty-seven years ago, there were only heaps of bricks in Khreshchatik. The Battle of Kyiv lasted less than

a month and a half, but it took years to rebuild the city," the prime minister said.

"I want to say words of sincere gratitude to all veterans again. For our part, we will do everything we can for you to feel our care and gratitude for your combat and labour heroism," he said.

### Lonely Submarine

Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine's only submarine, which has been undergoing repairs for almost 10 years, is expected to enter service in 2011, according to the Defence Ministry.

Rear Admiral Yury Ilyin, Ukrainian Navy Deputy Commander was quoted as saying that Zaporizhzhia will start mooring trials in December, and sea trials in May, 2011, after which it will join Ukraine's naval forces.

The submarine was launched in Leningrad in 1970. Until 1990 it had been with the Soviet Navy. Ukraine received the submarine during the division of the Black Sea Fleet after the USSR dissolved.

### Chekhov's Dacha

The house where Russia's universally acclaimed playwright Anton Chekhov penned some of his greatest work will be restored by the end of this year, after two decades of neglect, said the British charity behind its repair.

Chekhov moved to the multi-floored White Dacha on Ukraine's Black Sea coast in Yalta in 1898 to treat tuberculosis, from which he suffered for most of his adult life before it killed him in 1904.

Surrounded by cypress and fruit trees, Chekhov wrote *The Cherry Orchard* and *Three Sisters* in the house, and the nearby coast set the scene for his much-loved *Lady with the Dog*.

Maxim Gorky liked to sit on a bench at the bottom of the garden. Sergei Rachmaninoff played the piano on the ground floor. Leo Tolstoy and Feodor Chaliapin were visitors.

Turned into a museum in 1921, the White Dacha survived most of the 20th century intact due to the diligence of the Soviet (communist) government.

With the break-up of the USSR, state funding for the museum ceased. The new Russian capitalist government didn't want to support the museum because it was not on Russian territory. Ukraine's new capitalist government didn't want to fund the museum because Anton Chekhov was a Russian.

The house/museum began

to deteriorate seriously, and by 2007, the physical fabric of the house was such that the museum was forced into partial closure.

In November, 2008, the Anton Chekhov Foundation, a British charity, was established with the specific objective of securing the preservation of the White Dacha for future generations.

In January, 2010, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Chekhov's birth, the Anton Chekhov Foundation organized a week of high profile fund-raising events at the Hampstead Theatre in London. With this event, and the publicity it generated, sufficient funds are now in hand to restore the house to its original condition by the end of 2010.

### Harassing Union Activists

Amnesty International has urged the Ukrainian authorities to stop the harassment of a trade union activist who remains in hiding after a court ordered him to undergo a forced psychiatric examination last month.

A court in Vinnytsya, southwest Ukraine, granted the order for an examination after prosecutors argued that Andrei Bondarenko has an "excessive awareness of his own and others' rights" and an "uncontrollable readiness to defend these rights in unrealistic ways".

Andrei Bondarenko has no record of mental illness and has already undergone three psychiatric examinations to prove his sanity. The most recent examination took place in October.

The court ruling against Bondarenko comes in the wake of a number of cases in the last few months in which activists have been assaulted and harassed.

### Topless Protest

On October 27, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin arrived in Ukraine to hold talks with his Ukrainian counterpart, Nikolai Azarov. The talks focused on bilateral trade.

Putin's visit did not go unnoticed by Femen, a women's activist organization that seems to be populated mainly by young female university students. Their favourite method of drawing attention to the causes they support is to demonstrate topless on Kyiv streets.

Naked from the waist up and holding placards in both hands high over their heads, six Femen activists protested Putin's presence in Ukraine.

Naturally, they received ample photographic coverage from the Ukrainian and international press.

"We are protesting against the interference of the Russian leaders in the internal affairs of our country," Anna Hutsol, the movement's leader told reporters.

Alexandra Shevchenko, another of the protesters, added, "The entire Ukraine will not allow that. And we simply reflect the opinion of the whole of Ukraine."

Unfortunately for Femen, they do not "reflect the opinion of the whole of Ukraine". In January, 2010, a poll taken by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology found Ukrainians expressing an overwhelmingly positive view of Russia — more than nine in ten (93%) said they had a good attitude towards Russia.

Furthermore, two polls in 2009 (I searched, but could not find polls in 2010 - gb) reported that 57% and 58% of Ukrainians had confidence in Vladimir Putin personally. (Only 35% reported confidence in American President Barack Obama).

### Shevchenko Stamp

A unique stamp from the first series of stamps issued by the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1923 has been discovered by Yevhen Hryshchenko, a researcher, writer and collector from Bilhorod-Dnistrovsky in Odessa Region (southern Ukraine).

The stamp depicting Ukrainian writer Taras Shevchenko is one of four in the first series of postage stamps of the USSR.

"I received this rare stamp by the right of succession from my great-grandfather. I started to take a great interest in philately in 1986 — at the age of nine years. Gradually I was expanding my collection.

It took me a few years to study this stamp. However, only recently, as a result of long-term work, I've managed to collect all of the necessary evidence about the fact that this rarity is the world's only copy," Hryshchenko said.

In 1923, the USSR government ordered, in Germany, a series of four stamps for postal and charitable purposes. Part of the funds received from the sale of the stamps was to be spent to tackle the consequences of the famine in Ukraine.

Offset printing was used to produce the stamps.

One million stamps were sent from Berlin to Kharkiv, and from June 25 to August 11, 1923, they were sold in

nine cities across the country for use on domestic and international mail.

The collector is planning to organize an exhibition in the near future to display the original stamp.

### President To Visit Cuba

Preparation of the official visit of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich to Cuba in the spring of 2011 was discussed by Ukraine's Vice-Prime Minister Viktor Tikhonov and Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla during their recent meeting in Havana, Cuba.

Tikhonov said that after the election this year of Viktor Yanukovich as President of Ukraine, Ukraine's government is out to intensify cooperation between the two countries in all spheres. Tikhonov thanked Cuba and its leadership for the rehabilitation and treatment of Ukrainian children at the Tarara health and wellness centre, noting that the aid program has been going on for over 20 years.

Vice-Prime Minister Tikhonov also met with Cuba's Minister of Foreign Trade, Rodrigo Malmierca Diaz. After the meeting, Cuba's press service stated, "The need was expressed for further deepening of cooperation between the banking institutions of the two countries to promote export-import operations between Ukrainian and Cuban entities in order to strengthen trade relations between Ukraine and The Republic of Cuba."

(It would seem that President Yanukovich is determined to ignore America's illegal, UN-condemned, 50-year embargo of Cuba. - gb)

### Back To Chernobyl

Ukrainian officials are studying the possibility of growing crops in the 30-km zone of radioactive pollution near the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, the site of the world's worst nuclear disaster.

Vast areas, mainly in the three then-Soviet republics of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia were contaminated by the fallout in 1986 from the major nuclear melt down. Some 200,000 people were relocated after the accident.

The agriculture revival plan, initiated by the European Union, proposes cultivating rapeseed, also known as canola, in the contaminated area. Similar plans had earlier been voiced by Belarus.

Ukraine is currently among Europe's largest rapeseed producers.

**Ukrainian  
Page  
Submitted  
Separately**

**Ukrainian  
Page  
Submitted  
Separately**

## Vancouver's Heart of the City Festival

The Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Vancouver was packed on Sunday afternoon, November 7, for a sold-out Heart of the City Community Concert, Ukrainian Supper and Urban Barn Dance. Phenomenal local artists graced the stage for what were some of the most heartfelt performances we've seen.

Dianna Kleparchuk, President of the AUUC Vancouver Branch, was our witty MC for the evening, sharing the stage with Terry Hunter, the Direc-

tor of the Heart of the City Festival and long-time supporter of the AUUC.

The Sojourners are a gospel trio, accompanied on guitar by Paul Pigat. Marcus Moseley, Will Sanders and Ron Small are world-class vocalists, performing in theatre, live venues, on recordings, and with gospel ensembles. For this appearance, Khari McClelland stepped in to replace Ron Small, who is recovering from surgery.

Originally from the US, they

have been calling Vancouver home for many years and bring with them a rich heritage of church choirs and the authentic gospel sound.

In their introduction by Terry Hunter, the performance was dedicated to their mutual friend, Denis Simpson, the Canadian star of television and stage, who passed away recently. All were visibly moved by the sad loss of a beloved friend.

Songs with themes of freedom, community, and struggles both spiritual and political were familiar and well-received in a community hall that has seen so many struggles in its long history, and continues to be immersed in a neighbourhood with many challenges: homelessness, addiction, poverty and intolerance. But as we know in our hearts, and learn through song and the strong voices of activists, hope and love and redemption are real.

The group engaged the entire audience, and had them on their feet dancing and clapping to the infectious rhythms and superb harmonies.

Cuadro Flamenco (meaning Flamenco troupe) is a Vancouver quartet made up of a guitarist, a singer and two dancers and *palmas* (hand clapping), who have collaborated to bring us an authentic picture of Flamenco – the folk dance of southern Spain: passionate, complex and improvisational. The intricate foot rhythms of the dancers are punctuated by the claps of the singer and dancers themselves. The flamenco guitar's almost percussive quality creates an aura of anticipation while the hand-clapping and shouts of encouragement drive the dance forward.

In speaking with Selina, one of the dancers, after their performance, I learned how important it is to have a singer, and *palmas* that is really behind you as you dance, not only to drive you along but to respond to your movements as well.

The singer, Maria Avila, was exceptional. Her plaintive style and soaring vocals were in counterpoint to her gentle "olé" spoken in appreciation of the dancers. Such a stunning performance.

The Dovbush dancers performed "*Bereznyanka*", which is a traditional dance of the Transcarpathian region, located in the Carpathian Mountains. This type of dance is known for large and sweeping movements, and has the women performing head movements in time to their delicate footwork. It is traditionally a wedding dance, performed by friends of the bride and groom, in which men carry decorated sticks and the women white handkerchiefs.

The dancers also performed a *Kozachok* and a  
(Continued on Page 9.)

WITH THE  
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FOR A HEALTHY, HAPPY  
2011!

Bill and Marie Harasym, Toronto

PEACE AND  
HAPPINESS  
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To All Its Tenants  
and  
AUUC Members for a  
**A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR**



To our friends across Canada  
and in Ukraine,  
May the New Year bring  
Good Health, Happiness,  
Peace and Prosperity.  
Larry and Dianna Kleparchuk  
Vancouver, BC

May the message of PEACE  
touch all our Friends  
this HOLIDAY SEASON.

Lucy, Vadim, Lisa, Anatole, Jaime, Sean  
Nykolyshyn, Rudiger and Lydia Hedrich &  
their families

Best Wishes  
of the Season!

The publishers and staff of the  
*Ukrainian Canadian Herald*  
extend best season's greetings  
to our readers and supporters,  
and to their families and friends.

May you enjoy  
the festive season in  
happiness, safety and good health,  
and may the new year bring  
all that you truly desire!

Best wishes for the holiday season  
and the coming year. May all  
your aspirations be fulfilled, all  
your hopes be met, and all your  
dreams come true.

Wilfred and Jennifer Szczesny  
Mississauga, Ontario

May 2011 bring you  
good health, happiness,  
and prosperity!

AUUC Toronto Branch

**IVAN FRANKO MUSEUM**

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Winnipeg, Manitoba

The Board of Directors  
extends wishes for the  
Best of Health

to all AUUC members  
in the New Year

**A HAPPY 2011 TO ALL**





— Story Photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky

# Oktoberfest at Toronto AUUC



Some forty people attended the Oktoberfest celebration sponsored by AUUC Toronto Branch at the AUUC Cultural Centre on October 23. Among the treats they enjoyed was Fred Panasiuk's presentation of a story about "Who Stole the Kishka?" and its composers.

On Saturday, October 23, the AUUC Toronto Branch held its annual Oktoberfest party. The 40 guests were treated to authentic Bavarian ambience through the décor, the music and the delicious food.

With the sound of oom-pah-pah in the background, everyone mingled and munched on snacks while awaiting the main German-style luncheon to come.

The guests were invited to take part in the 50/50 draw, offering a jackpot prize of \$50.00. All entries were quickly purchased, due to the skilful salesmanship of George and Vera Borusiewicz's 10-year-old grandson, Misha, and Marie Prociw's 7-year-old grandson, Darius.

The crowd was most en-

thused to approach the buffet table when the aroma of sausages, potato pancakes, sauerkraut and green German salad wafted into the room. Thanks to Jerry Dobrowolsky and Nancy Stewart, who spent the entire day before preparing the potato pancakes, and to Natalka Mochoruk, who devoted similar time to the preparation of the sauerkraut.

The meal concluded with Black Forest cake and coffee and a rousing sing-along of several Oktoberfest tunes.

The group was further entertained by Fred Panasiuk's personal story about "Who Stole the Kishka?" and its composers.

Thanks to Otti Nicolai for managing the door, to Anne Bobyk for tending the bar, and to everyone who makes this

annual event get better every year.

— B. Dobrowolsky



Hall decoration was done by Bernardine Dobrowolsky.



Among those present were (left to right): Fred Panasiuk, Bill Hrynychak, Trofim Horod, and Mark Stewart.



Facing the camera (left to right): Marie Prociw, Bill Malnychuk, Vera Borusiewicz, and Ann Malnychuk. Bill Harasym and Yevgen Pogoryelov have their best backs forward.



Listening attentively as Mike Stefiuk makes a point are (left to right): George Borusiewicz, Nina Rasiuk, Lorna Clark, and Nita Miskevich.

## Heart of the City



The Sojourners' gospel and blues music had everyone clapping and swaying.

(Continued from Page 8.) *Hopak*, choreographed by Sergei Makarov, a guest instructor. The large group

seemed to be bursting from the stage, although their movements and technique are so precise that they weren't



The "Hopak", as danced by the Dovbush Dancers is always a crowd pleaser.

fazed by the space constraints.

A new dancer has joined Dovbush, all the way from Prince George, and she looked perfectly in step with the troupe which has been together for some time.

These performers are becoming more proficient with every concert. Their hard work and commitment are evident, as are their joy and love of performing. The men seem to be more robust while at the same time defying gravity, and the women all have such accurate turns and impeccable musicality.

It's delightful to see their repertoire expanding, along with their talent.

The Vancouver Folk Orchestra, under the direction of Steven Ho, performed a Hungarian piece, "Overture" to the E. Kalman's opera *Countess Maritza*, which was studied at the AUUC National Orchestral Seminar earlier this fall. "Melancholy Waltz" and "Serenade Espagnol" were also presented.

It's heartening to see this orchestra, one of the oldest in Canada, continue to explore new territory.

The Barvinok Choir had a particularly lovely set which



A sell-out crowd enjoyed the varied concert program at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre on November 7.

included a Shevchenko medley and concluded with *A Kalyna Ne Verba*. The choir continues to attract new members who are led and nurtured by Beverly Dobrinsky, such a great vocalist herself, with the

ability to highlight and develop the talents of her choral ensemble.

The dinner following the concert was delicious and wonderfully prepared by (Continued on Page 11.)

— Story photos: Dan Fung



The Vancouver Folk Orchestra, conducted by Steve Ho, entertained the audience with three numbers.

**Sent as a  
separate  
page.**

# Toronto Branch Remembrance Day



**Nancy Stewart, Treasurer of AUUC Toronto Branch, was MC for the afternoon.**

There were many teary eyes and bowed heads at the AUUC Toronto Hall on November 7. On that day, our Branch held its annual Remembrance Day service.

Nancy Stewart, as Master of Ceremonies, opened the program with appropriate remarks and a respectful minute of silence.

The Hahilka Singers, led by Natalie Mochoruk, then took the stage to sing two songs —

songs not glorifying war, but about the men from Ukrainian villages who marched off to war. In the first, a woman misses her sweetheart, who has gone off to war, and dreams of joining him. The second, by Ihor Shamo spoke of a burial mound, and the tears shed by the Motherland, long after the thunder of war has faded into memory, over the lost dreams of the dead soldiers.

The female voices were accompanied on keyboard by Peter Krochak, and supported by the voices of Wilfred Szczesny and Peter Krochak.

Next on stage was a keyboard solo by Peter Krochak. Mr. Krochak chose to perform three preludes by the Russian Romantic composer Rachmaninoff. Each of them was in a different mood, and Mr. Krochak wove a narrative fore the audience, tying the three pieces into a war-time story reflecting the characteristics of the music.

We are, indeed, very fortu-

nate to have a musician as talented as our Peter Krochak participating with our singers. Peter's performance, as well as that of the Hahilka Singers earlier, was very well received by the audience.

Next at the microphone was Wilfred Szczesny, who read a short story on a Remembrance Day theme, followed by Natalka Mochoruk, who recounted two stories she hear from her late husband Merse about his war-related experiences.

Bill Malnychuk did a well-presented recitation of "In Flanders' Fields." The highlight, however, was the traditional reading by Connie Prince of the names of the AUUC Toronto Branch members who served in the Second World War.

This segment of the program began with the singing of "Last Night I Had The Strangest Dream". During the reading, the Hahilka Singers continued with a quiet back-

ground humming of the anti-war melody

It is not an exaggeration to report that, as Connie, voice choked with emotion, slowly read each name, heads began to bow and tears filled the eyes of many in the audience. She ended her recitation with the words "As Long As We Voice Their Names, They

Never Will Be Forgotten." Amen!

Thanks must be expressed to Natalie for the exquisite embroidery she produced and donated to the Branch for the raffle, and to Bernardine Dobrowolsky for the hours of work she spent decorating the Hall for this event.

—George Borusiewicz

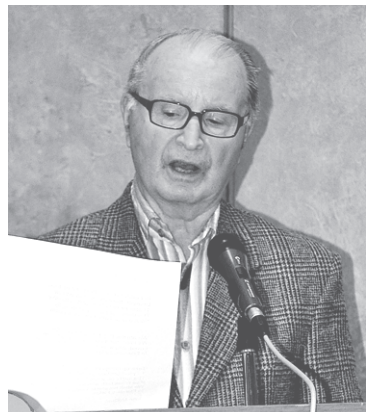


**About two dozen people gathered at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on November 7 for a Remembrance Day commemoration. Among them, at right in the photo, was Bill Harasym, a WWII veteran.**

—Story Photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



**Natalka Mochoruk conducted and sang with the Hahilka Singers, and recounted stories told to her by her late husband Merse, who served in World War II.**



**Bill Malnychuk read the poem "In Flanders' fields".**



**In addition to accompanying the Hahilka Singers (and singing, too), Peter Krochak played three preludes by Rachmaninoff.**



**Appearing as the Hahilka Singers, accompanied by Peter Krochak (left in the photo): Wilfred Szczesny, Maria Gargal, Claudia Rabzak, and conductor Natalka Mochoruk.**

## Heart of the City

(Continued from Page 9.) Sylvia Surette and her faithful volunteers in the kitchen. Many performers stayed to enjoy the meal of perogies, kapusta and meatballs, while the dancers from Dovbush gracefully cleared tables and

looked after the guests. Upstairs, the Urban Barn Dance with caller Marian Rose, backed up by fiddle and piano, was a fun way to end the evening. Many neighbours came with their children to enjoy the square dancing and

strong sense of community. This was the closing afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival, a 12-day celebration of the culture, heritage and distinct character of the heart of Vancouver.

— Laurel Parasiuk Lawry

### JoKe TiMe

A linguistics professor was lecturing to his English class one day. "In English," he said, "A double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, there is no language wherein a double positive can form a negative."

A voice from the class piped up, "Yeah, right."

### APOLOGY

Our sincere apologies to Kathy Schubert for misspelling her name in a caption on Page 3 of the November, 2010, issue of the "UCH".



**MCs Terry Hunter and Dianna Kleparchuk spoke about the importance of the Hispanic, Black and Ukrainian communities in the cultural development of the Downtown Eastside.**



**Cuadro Flamenco presented an intricate performance of gypsy flamenco dance and songs.**



**The Barvinok Choir, led by Beverly Dobrinsky, sang a medley of Shevchenko songs.**

## Winnipeg Hallowe'en Social



A reported 150 people attended the Hallowe'en Party at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg on October 30. Some of them are shown above.

— Story Photos: Brenda Rodrigues



Aside from dancing to rock music, the kids danced the chicken dance, the hokey pokey, the bunny hop, and the Chautise.

October 30, 2010, the night was clear and the moon was bright. The slight chill in the air brought out the spooks, witches, ghosts and goblins. The Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg was the site of the Annual AUUC Dance School Hallowe'en Social.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., the doors opened to a flood of children and adults of all ages, many dressed in Hallowe'en costumes. Dancers, their friends, and families, as well as neighbourhood families brought the total number of attendees to 150.

The event was emceed by the resident scarecrow (Kim Boss). Attending the celebration were brides, super heroes, princesses, policemen, animals, witches, and even Super Mario.



The evening featured a wide variety of costumes.

Aside from dancing to rock music, the kids danced the chicken dance, the hokey pokey, the bunny hop, and the Chautise.

Silent auction prizes included toys, lotions and potions, games, and gift certificates.

Besides dancing, the silent auction and the door prize give-away, the party goers enjoyed games, and food. The kids scarfed down hot-dogs and various baked treats that were donated by the dancers' parents. Bags of candies, gum, lollipops, and chocolates were also donated in order to fill the "Candy Coffin".

All those in costume gathered for the traditional "group photo". Then the children lined up to get handfuls of goodies out of the coffin. Once the craving for candies was satisfied, the dancing commenced. The social concluded at 9:00 p.m., with many

tired and full children.

The Hallowe'en Social is one of the ways the dance school raises money for new costumes and alterations to old ones. Consequently parents are recruited each year to help with cooking hot dogs, selling and collecting tickets, and serving drinks.

A huge thank you goes to all volunteers that helped to make this event a huge success.

— Brenda Rodrigues



Kim Boss, the resident scarecrow, was MC.



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## JOIN US!

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

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# HOLIDAY IN THE FOREST

This story by Ukrainian writer Irena Prokopenko, translated by Mary Skrypnik, appeared in the "Junior UC" section of *The Ukrainian Canadian* in December, 1970. We hope the younger members of the family will enjoy it.

The animals and birds dearly loved their forest, and no wonder. The forest was their home. They loved its impenetrable depths, its glades and clearings, and most of all they loved the fluffy fir tree, the forest beauty.

Timid Rabbit found shelter from the ravenous Wolf under its branches; the bustling Crossbeak picked at the seeds hidden in its cones with great agility; even the scowling Wolf, trotting by, became kinder, and sleepy Bear, lying in his burrow, found pleasure in dreaming about it.

But one sunny, frosty morn-

ing, the entire forest awoke to the alarmed outcries of the Magpie, who had flown in from the neighbouring village.

"They want to cut down our fir tree, our beautiful fir tree," she clamoured in every direction. "I heard it with my own ears! A grandfather said to his nephew: 'Tomorrow, I'll go to the woods and bring you the finest fir tree there for Xmas,' and he sharpened his axe. 'Yes! Yes! I heard the whole thing with my own ears!'"

"What is this?" the agitated animals and birds asked each other, "How can we live with-

out our beautiful fir tree?"

"Where will I be able to hide from the Wolf?" thought Rabbit, with a nervous twitch of his stubby tail.

"Where will I be able to get my food?" asked the disconcerted Crossbeak, helplessly clicking his crossed beak.

"We can't allow this outrage to happen," decided the Fox. "Our fir tree mustn't be cut down as a toy for some boy. It's unthinkable!"

"We won't let them do it!" And the Wolf gnashed his teeth so loudly that poor Rabbit's heart immediately sank to his toes.

"B . . . b . . . but how can we s . . . stop it, Honourable Wolf," he found the courage to stammer.

"No, we won't allow it!" they all firmly decided. "We'll defend the tree, all of us, together!"

"We'll call on the Bear, he's very strong!"

"But the Bear sleeps all winter!"

"We'll wake him up! We'll wake him up!" they all shouted, and turned in a mass towards the Bear's burrow.

Did that Bear ever hate to be awakened! And it would have been sad indeed for

those who were brave enough to do it, but having found out the reason for it, the Bear roared out in a terrible voice:

"What? Cut down the fir tree! How dare they! What will I be able to have pleasant dreams about? Come on. Let's go!"

And the whole crowd of animals and birds streamed through the forest to the open clearing where their beloved and beautiful fir stood,



shrouded in a misty white cape, and resting on a soft bed of snow, thoughtfully provided by Grandfather Frost.

There they organized an ambush, hiding behind trees and thickets. Some time passed in waiting before the Magpie, who had flown back to the village to investigate,

returned.

"He's coming!" she squawked. "The Grandfather is coming!"

"Just you wait, Grandpa! You'll get a welcome that will break every bone in your body," thought the Bear, impatiently shuffling his feet.

"And I've sharpened all my teeth, all my teeth," growled the Wolf.

"We'll fix him!" the Fox twitched his glowing tail angrily.

Suddenly from behind an old fir came a figure. But what kind of a Grandfather was this? There was no beard, no whiskers. He had a bright, rosy, boy's face. Behind him came more boys and girls, all on skis, gliding into the clearing one after another.

"There it is, friends!" shouted the first lad, pointing to the fir.

The animals were really startled. What to do now? They had expected an old man, and here was a whole crowd of youngsters.

"Isn't it beautiful!" murmured the children in awe, crowding around the little fir.

"And Grandfather wanted to cut it down!" said the first lad indignantly, as he brushed the snow off the fir's branches. "Come on let's decorate it!"

The forest dwellers gazed with amazed eyes as the children, opening up some sacks, pulled out beautiful, shining crystal ornaments — red, green, gold and silver — and proceeded to deck their beloved fir in this glittering, brilliant dress. The fir shook its branches proudly and grew more beautiful every minute.

And what happened after that? The children formed a circle around the fir, trampling down the snow, laughing, dancing and singing around the tree. The whole forest, awakened by their ringing voices and laughter, came to life. The ancient pines, who had never seen such gaiety and merry-making in all their life, bowed their heads approvingly. The firs shook the snow off their fluffy needles, hoping to draw the attention of the children to themselves. Every bush and thicket, barely seen under the layers of drifting snow, pulled itself up, the better to see the wonderful spectacle taking place in the clearing, before their very eyes.

The animals and birds realized that the children were not enemies, but friends, who also loved their forest beauty — the little fir tree.

## Who, What, When, Where

**Calgary** — The **Calgary Ukrainian Hopak Ensemble** invites you to attend our **Winter Concert** on Sunday, **December 5, at 3:00 p.m.**, at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **3316-28<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW**. Tickets are **\$12.00 in advance or \$15.00 at the door**, and can be purchased by phoning **Darlene at 403-271-2379 or Hazel at 403-295-3954 or 403-246-1231**.

\* \* \*

**Calgary** — The **AUUC Calgary Branch** will host **Malanka** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **3316-28<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW**, from 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, **January 15, 2011**. For tickets (**\$40.00/person**), call **Darlene at 403-271-2379 or Hazel at 403-295-3954 or 403-246-1231**.

\* \* \*

**Regina** — The **Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance** and **AUUC Regina Branch** will host a **Malanka 2011** (Ukrainian New Year's) celebration at the Regina Performing Arts Centre, **1077 Angus Street**, on Saturday, **January 15, 2011**. **Cocktails and appetizers** at 5:00 p.m.; **supper and a Poltava Ensemble performance** at 6:30 p.m.; **dancing to "The Rock and Roll Allstars"** from 9:00 p.m. Tickets (**\$40.00/person**) are available from the Regina Performing Arts Centre Box Office at **779-2277**. **Book now to avoid disappointment!**

\* \* \*

**Toronto** — The **AUUC Toronto Branch** will host a **Movie Afternoon** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, **1604 Bloor Street West**, at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, **December 12**. A movie with a Christmas theme will be viewed.

\* \* \*

**Vancouver** — The **Christmas Recital and Tea** of the **AUUC Vancouver School of Dancing** will be held on Sunday, **December 12, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **805 East Pender Street**. A **reception** will follow the concert, **Christmas carols** will be sung and **Dyid Moroz will visit** the School during the reception. Tickets are **\$10.00** and will be available **at the door**.

\* \* \*

**Vancouver** — The **AUUC Vancouver Branch** will host **Malanka** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **805 East Pender Street**, on Saturday, **January 22**. **Cocktails** at 6:00 p.m.; **program** at 7:00 p.m.; **Dinner** at 7:30 p.m., followed by **dancing to a live band**. Admission: **\$40.00/person**. Call **(604) 879-2089**.

\* \* \*

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

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<b>Walter Pasnak, Edmonton AB</b> .....	
20.00	
<b>Jeannie Romanoski &amp; Mackling David,</b>	
Winnipeg MB.....	
20.00	
<b>Bernard (Bronty) Yaroff, Whitby ON</b> .....	
20.00	
<b>Hrappstead Family, The Pas MB</b> .....	
10.00	
<b>George Mandzuk, Hamilton ON</b> .....	
10.00	
<b>Katie Tuchak, Chilliwack BC</b> .....	
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.

*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year  
to All!*

# A Hedge Fund Republic?

**This is a précis of an article by Nicholas D. Kristof in *The New York Times* on November 18, 2010.**

Earlier this month, I offended a number of readers with a column suggesting that if you want to see rapacious income inequality, you no longer need to visit a banana republic. You can just look around.

My point was that the wealthiest plutocrats now actually control a greater share of the pie in the United States than in countries like Nicaragua, Venezuela and Guyana. Readers protested that this was glib and unfair. I regretfully confess that they have a point.

That's right: I may have wronged the banana republics.

The truth is that Latin America has matured and become more equal in recent decades, even as the distribution in the United States has become steadily more unequal.

The share controlled by the top 1 percent in Argentina has fallen to a bit more than 15 percent. Meanwhile, inequality in the United States has soared to levels comparable to those in Argentina six decades ago — with 1 percent controlling 24 percent of American income in 2007.

At a time of such stunning inequality, should Congress put priority on spending \$700 billion on extending the Bush tax cuts to those with incomes above \$250,000 a year? Or should it extend unemployment benefits for Americans who otherwise will lose them

beginning next month?

Put aside all ethical considerations and simply look at where tax dollars will do more to stimulate the economy. There the conclusion is clear: You get much more bang for the buck putting money in the hands of unemployed people because they will promptly spend it.

Tax cuts for the wealthy are much less effective in creating jobs. For example, Republicans would give the richest 0.1 percent of Americans an average tax cut of \$370,000. Does anybody really think that those taxpayers are going to rush out and buy Porsches and yachts, start new businesses, and hire more grounds-keepers and chauffeurs?

In contrast, a study commissioned by the Labour Department during the Bush ad-

ministration makes clear the job-creation power of unemployment benefits because that money is immediately spent.

What kind of a country do we aspire to be? The kind of plutocracy where the richest 1 percent has more net worth than the bottom 90 percent?

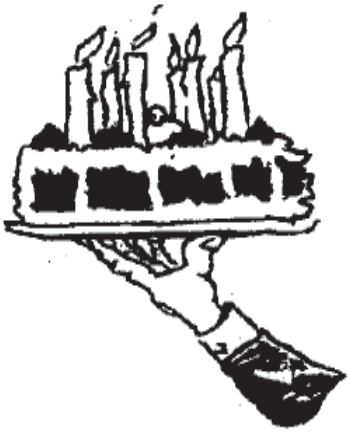
Oops! That's already us. The top 1 percent of Americans owns 34 percent of America's private net worth. The bottom 90 percent owns just 29 percent.

The top 10 percent controls more than 70 percent of Americans' total net worth.

In dysfunctional countries where the rich just don't care about those below the decks, the result is nations without a social fabric or sense of national unity. Huge concentrations of wealth corrode the soul of any nation.

Members of Congress argue that it would be financially reckless to extend unemployment benefits during a terrible recession, yet they insist on granting \$370,000 tax breaks to the richest Americans. I don't know if that makes us a banana republic or a hedge fund republic, but it's not healthy in any republic.

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

- Carol Bagan
- Irene Kingsmith
- Nina Uhryn

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

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Toronto Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to December celebrants:

- Mary Dmytryshyn
- Lydia Kit
- Lorie Miskevich
- Rosemary Pollock
- Mary Yaworski

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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## Ukrainian Canadian Herald Season's Greetings

**Remember your family and friends with a message!** We invite you to express seasonal greetings through an ad in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* in the January, 2011, issue. One line (name and city) on two columns is only \$10.00. A five-line ad as shown is only \$35.00. See the diagram on this page for sizes. Larger ads are \$5.00/col./cm.

**Deadline:** December 10, 2010.

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e-mail: auuckobzar@mts.net

or: SEASON'S GREETINGS MESSAGE  
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**Sent as a separate page.**



## Taras Shevchenko Museum

### Shevchenko Museum in Kaniv Remodelled

— Photo: life.pravda.com.ua



The remodelled interior of the International Taras Shevchenko Memorial Museum at Kaniv, Ukraine.

In his “Testament”, Taras Hrehorovich Shevchenko depicted his desired resting place:

When I am dead, then bury me

In my beloved Ukraine,  
My tomb upon a grave mound high

Amid the spreading plain,  
So that the fields, the boundless steppes,

The Dnipro’s plunging shore

My eyes could see, my ears could hear

The mighty river roar.<sup>1</sup>

(Translated by John Weir)

As a last testament to his life, Shevchenko’s friends honoured his final wish by relocating his remains to *Chernecha* Hill (Monk’s Hill; now Taras Hill) by the Dnipro River near Kaniv, Ukraine on May 22, 1861. A tall mound was erected over his grave, now a memorial part of the Kaniv Museum-Preserve which contains the grave of Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861) and the Taras Shevchenko Memorial Museum dedicated to his memory.

<sup>1</sup> Taras Shevchenko. **Selected Works: Poetry and Prose.** Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1964.

At the request of Ukrainian president Victor Yanukovich, the original plans of the Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute responsible for the restoration of the museum to its original glory following the plans and blue prints of Vasyl Krychevsky was abruptly interrupted when nearly 90% of the renovation had been completed. The whole project was started over again under a newly appointed architect: Laryssa Skoryk.

The doors that opened to the Shevchenko Memorial Museum in Kaniv, Ukraine, on August 23, 2010, on the anniversary of Ukrainian independence, revealed a drastic contradiction to the original architectural vision proposed by Vasyl Krychevsky in 1935. After nearly six decades of inconsistent funding and renovation efforts, the clinically white façade of the exterior greeted the anxious crowd awaiting entrance to the finally revived and renovated museum. Within these blank walls, the interior mimicked the contemporary minimalist architectural style of the exterior.

A stretched screen ceiling with a projected “sky” replaced the once ornate and

colourful painted rosettes that had adorned the coffered ceilings.

Neutral gray walls displaced the folkloric and cultural Ukrainian motifs and painted frescoes that had decorated the former museum walls.

Contrary to the traditional and popular choice of European museums, the rustic wooden parquet floors were substituted by polished rectangular granite tiles for a modern look and durable function.

Stainless steel railings encapsulate the upper floor balcony where wooden balusters had once enveloped the galleries of the upper floor in an enamoured-like embrace.

In the centre of the grand foyer, a large boulder is covered by Shevchenko’s original red funerary cloth and encased in a glass display case portraying the monumental and majestic air of the hero.

The authentic artistic works such as paintings, sketches, writings, and sculptures, now hidden in storage vaults, gave way to colossal canvas print reproductions, projectors, and interactive sensors.

The entire remodelling project to modernize the museum was informed by Laryssa Skoryk’s conceptual notion that Taras Shevchenko was a revolutionary and modern man, and that the design elements reflect his grand and innovative mentality. Clean lines, simple geometric patterns, and an abode of technology now characterize this Westernized space.

Krychevsky’s eclectic fusion of Greco-Roman classicism mingled with intrinsically Ukrainian iconography, which the majority of Ukrainians feel was the genuine and ideal testament to Shevchenko’s literary, poetic and artistic legacy, is now merely a historical shadow.

Out of eleven museums devoted to Taras Shevchenko, there is only one in the western hemisphere. It is located in Toronto. See the ad in this page for more information.

— Alexandra Golovenko

Why not renew your sub now?

Wishing AUUC Members and Friends the Best of the Season, and Peace and Happiness in the New Year!  
AUUC Welland Branch

We greet our AUUC family members, friends and supporters throughout Canada and Ukraine.

Peace, Health and Happiness To all in the New Year!

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Happy New Year!

To the members of the AUUC, and their cultural forces, supporters, and friends across Canada, United States and Ukraine.

We wish all good fortune, health and happiness in the New Year!

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