

# HERALD ВІСНИК

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## Welland Orchestra Entertains

— Photo: George Sitak



On November 24 and December 7, the AUUC Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra entertained residents, staff and visitors of seniors' residences in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. A report on these concerts, with photos, is found on Page 8.

## Canada in Copenhagen

With the United Nations Copenhagen Climate Change Conference 2009 over, it is time to evaluate the results.

Around the world, there was much disappointment, with countries, organizations and individuals feeling that the conference produced far less than was needed. The entire final decision seems to be voluntary, falls short of pollution control levels which are required, fails to provide adequate help to smaller countries, and lets the main polluters off the hook.

Some countries and institutions stressed the positive, which seems to be mainly that an agreement was finally hammered out, weak as it may be. That seems to be the position of the United States of America. President Obama was reported to have said that, "This progress did not come easily, and we know that this progress alone is not enough."

The Government of Canada appears to have been satisfied with the results. Prime Minister Harper, who stayed away from the conference as much as he could, felt that the results had vindicated the position of his government over the previous four years.

Critics of Harper's view point out that Canada's position has been to press for development of the tar sands (considered by most environmentalists as the dirtiest source of energy in the world), to seek emissions reduction targets which are "realistic" for Canada (and far less than what is required), and to tie Canadian decisions to American positions.

The result of the tack taken by Harper is what *Toronto Star* writer Allen Woods called "a public relations flop".

One element of that PR flop was the contrast between the negative approach to effective action by the Prime Minister and the positions taken by provincial representatives from Ontario and Quebec. Added to that was criticism from Toronto Mayor David Miller.

Rather than dealing with the issues, the Prime Minister and his supporters chose to question the patriotism of Canadians who criticize the government while abroad.

Canada's position was so badly regarded that this country was regularly the recipient of awards like Fossil of the Day. Canada was given this

recognition ten times — more than any participating country.

Canada was also the target of pranksters, who carried out such "jokes" as issuing authentic appearing press releases announcing that this country would double its carbon-cutting targets.

Participants at the official conference, and at the "alternative" meetings as well, had much reason (including leaked documents) to believe that, for the Harper government, the economy and Alberta's tar sands trump human survival.

*(In the coming issue of the "UCH", we intend to present a point-by-point commentary comparing the 12 points of the Copenhagen Accord with the needs projected before the conference began. — Ed.)*

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## Elections in Ukraine

Eighteen candidates are registered for the first round of the Ukrainian presidential election scheduled for January 17. Another sixteen applications were rejected by the Central Election Commission for reasons including errors in their documentation, failure to meet qualification requirements, or failure to pay the 2.5 million hryvni deposit. (The deposit is returned only to the two highest-polling candidates.)

Election results are not expected until January 27. Overseas and territorial ballots are expected to be tabulated by or on January 22.

If no candidate gets 50% or more of the vote on the first ballot, a second ballot would probably be held in February,

with the two first-round highest polling candidates on the ballot.

In one December poll, Viktor Yanukovich, leader of the opposition party, a former Prime Minister and runner-up in 2004, was the leader, with current Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in second place. Current President Viktor Yushchenko was running a distant sixth.

As an interesting sidelight, even in the two-candidate second round, it is possible that no contestant will win at least 50% of the votes, because ballots in Ukraine provide a "None of the above" choice.

The campaign was officially to begin on October 19, 90 days before election day, but campaigning was already under way by the summer, with Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Yulia Tymoshenko, Serhiy Tihipko and Volodymyr Lytvyn appearing in ads.

Yanukovich's Party of Regions officially requested an investigation to determine whether public money was used for the Tymoshenko ads.

The Party of Regions has also suggested that representatives of the government (that is, Tymoshenko) are trying to influence the chairmen of election commissions. In case of election fraud, Party of Regions supporters are to go to Independence Square, noted as the centre for the "Orange Revolution" actions of some years ago.

In June, Tymoshenko accused Yushchenko, Yatsenyuk and Yanukovich of sharing campaign headquarters, financed by a business man.

Early in 2009, she had indicated that her conflict with Yushchenko was political, not ideological. (Does that mean a struggle for personal power, without policy differences?)

Russia has been accused of interfering in Ukraine's internal affairs because President Medvedev complained to President Yushchenko about the anti-Russian positions of the current Ukrainian administration. On the other side, the European People's Party, the largest European-level party of the continent, and self-styled as "of the centre-right", called on "Ukraine's democratic forces" to unite around a single candidate. EPP works with three Ukrainian parties.

President Yushchenko tried unsuccessfully to postpone the election to May or later, citing the threat of H1N1. Some suspect this was a ploy to extend his hold on the presidency.

In October, "representatives" of the Western Ukrainian intelligentsia called on Yushchenko, Yatsenyuk, Hrytsenko and "other representatives of national democratic forces" to withdraw in favour of Tymoshenko.

Yushchenko expressed concern that the government (that is, Tymoshenko) might unfairly use radio and regional television to its own advantage.

In December, the Ukrainian National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting complained that certain TV channels "did not give equal conditions to all presidential candidates". The Council will turn its monitoring observations over to the Central Election Commission. Reports did not specify who received the benefits.

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## Current Eclectic — Long and Short

### Parliament and Government

On December 10, 2009, the Parliament of Canada adjourned until January 25, 2010. Some observers have interpreted this as a move by the government to avoid more pressure on the question of torture of detainees in Afghanistan. While the record of the current government makes that suggestion plausible, a review of the historical record reveals that Parliament likes to adjourn sometime early in December to sometime late in January. Only occasionally is it motivated by an effort to avoid Parliament, as it was a

year ago, when Parliament was not adjourned (done by Parliamentary agreement) but prorogued (done by royal decree).

On December 17, Lawrence Martin had an interesting article in *The Globe and Mail*, titled "Democracy Canadian-style: How do you like it so far?", in which he listed some ways in which the Conservative Harper government has circumvented democracy. His list includes: restrict the voices of the public service and the foreign service to make them more submissive

and partisan; remove recalcitrant agency or commission heads and/or take to court agencies like Elections Canada who become too meddlesome; concentrate executive power in your own office; tightly discipline your caucus; issue a secret handbook on disrupting parliamentary committees; answer most questions with an attack on the previous government; cut access to information; use national security as an excuse to black out large sections of documents which have to be released; block publication of depart-

mental studies which do not reflect your views; crush dissent with personal attack ads between elections; try to cut off funding to opposition parties; play on prejudices by accusing the opposition of anti-Semitism or disloyalty; prorogue Parliament soon after it reopens; halt public hearings by boycotting them.

While adjourning Parliament is a frequent year-end act, and while Mr. Martin was referring to Parliament being prorogued a year ago, he did mention a new threat to prorogue. Two days earlier, on December 15, *The Globe and Mail* printed an article concerning rumours that the Conservative government was thinking of proroguing Parliament until March, after the Olympics. The motivation would include stopping the hearings of the Special Committee on the Canadian Mission in Afghanistan, where the government has been taking a beating, leading to declining support in some polls.

Other benefits the government might hope to derive by proroguing would include gaining control of Senate committees (which can only be changed when Parliamentary sessions end), gaining more popular favour by presenting

Olympic medals, and an opportunity to present a new budget which could trigger an election.

The downside would be that government legislation in various stages of passage, including law-and-order ("tough on crime") legislation, the so-called consumer protection legislation, and other items would die. In addition, proroguing Parliament twice in about a year might meet with some public disfavour.

The government has no guarantee that time will be on its side. At the moment, the government is taking severe criticism for its position on the environment, and especially for the negative role it has assumed in Copenhagen.

Furthermore, while government and much of the commercial press is painting a rosy picture of economic recovery, many other voices express doubts that consumers will see improvements any time soon. There are rising concerns about trouble ahead, when interest rates start to rise with people locked into record debt levels.

*The Globe and Mail* is, at the moment, tied into knots trying to square its traditional Progressive Conservative stance with the positions of the Reform Party core of Harper's Conservative Party.

The result is often interesting reading about the worst features of Canadian politics.

### US Customs: Attitude

It is by no means a new reality. Nor is it unique to the United States or to border crossing points.

The problem of arrogant high-handedness of security personnel probably goes back into antiquity. It is found most notably at border crossings, at airports, and in some situations involving police, but it can be found to a greater or lesser extent almost anywhere one finds a person in uniform with a bit of authority.

A recent example was the case of Toronto writer Peter Watts, returning to Toronto with a friend after helping a friend, a University of Toronto professor, move in Nebraska.

As Dr. Watts (he has a doctorate in zoology) prepared to cross into Canada at Sarnia, Ontario, an American customs officer pulled him over. As the rented car he was driving was being searched, Dr. Watts got out of the car and asked what was happening. Instead of complying immediately with the order to get

back into the car, Mr. Watts asked again what was happening. With that, he became "non-compliant".

Noncompliance is bad. In this case, it led to a "physical altercation", and Dr. Watts found himself under arrest in Port Huron.

Police in Port Huron told the local press that Mr. Watts had been angry when he got out of the car. When he refused to re-enter his car, the customs officials tried to handcuff him. He became aggressive, and in the ensuing struggle choked an officer. That is the story local police, no doubt basing themselves on the customs officials' report, perhaps adding an adjective or two, told the press.

Dr. Watts reported that he was assaulted, punched in the face, pepper-sprayed, and jailed overnight. He denied that he choked anybody or initiated physical contact. He also said that he did not raise his voice or use profanity.

If convicted of assaulting a

customs officer, a felony, Dr. Watts faces up to two years in prison and a fine up to \$2000.00.

Dr. Watts apparently did not realize that merely getting out of the car, not to mention failing to comply immediately with the order to get back into the vehicle, would be considered "attitude".

A letter on the subject in the *Toronto Star* on December 14, indicated that, when approaching US customs personnel, "you must always be polite, ..., never have your hands in your pocket, never ever question their authority, and never ever show the slightest bit of attitude." Marv Crawford concludes, "Don't like it, don't travel there."

("Attitude" in this context seems to mean any show of assertiveness above that of a sheep.)

It is really interesting that so many people who do not need to do so are willing, even eager, to enter a country which will assume that they are criminals and treat them accordingly.

There is a problem: in the same period, 150 bus drivers were killed for refusing to pay extortion to gangs.

This last information suggests that vigilante justice does not seem to deterring armed robbery and the murder of bus drivers (and perhaps other crimes).

The item also raises a number of questions, such as: How many of the 28 people who were slain were armed? If the gangsters are ready to kill bus drivers for money, why are they not equally ready to kill vigilantes in self-defence? Is it some sort of coincidence that three men escape on December 16, but the woman is captured? Why would an armed gang of four leave one of its members behind as it made its escape?

beaten, doused with gas and set on fire by a mob in Guatemala City. The woman had been accused by passengers on a public bus of armed robbery (her three male accomplices had escaped).

A brief article accompanying the photo, in which Guatemala City was called "a city gone wild", reported that mobs in that city had killed 28 people in 2009, to December 17. The vigilantes say police are not providing security.

The story did not say how many other people, like the woman in the photo, had been attacked by mobs and injured. Nor was there any count of vigilantes who had been injured.

### Vigilante Justice

The December, 2009, issue of the "UCH" had a "Commentary" article ("Thoughts on Vigilante Action" p 4) raising some questions about action by victims or other citizens against people who are perceived as having committed a crime.

The December 17 issue of the *Toronto Star* had an item which bears on these concerns.

The attention-grabber was a large photo of a woman clad only in a pair of blue jeans against a background of a crowd which seemed to be composed of police and civilians.

The caption reported that the woman had been stripped,

### KAIROS Slammed

While the Harper Conservatives and their supporters questions the patriotism of Canadians who criticize Canadian government policies while abroad (as happened, for example, with the pitiful Canadian position in Copenhagen), the Harper government has no problem going abroad to defame Canadian institutions.

A case in point is KAIROS, a coalition of Christian church groups whose "roots go back as early as 1967, when 12 inter-church coalitions got together to respond ecumenically to social justice issues, including apartheid in South Africa, and wars of liberation in Central America. Since then, it has addressed a wide range of issues including aboriginal rights, corporate responsibility, poverty in Canada, international finance and world debt." (*Anglican Journal*, December 18, 2009)

Since 1973, KAIROS has received funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). On November 30, 2009, KAIROS was notified by telephone that it no longer fit CIDA priorities and would no longer receive funding.

Minister of International Cooperation Bev Oda, who is responsible for CIDA, did not provide more specific information in response to questions in Parliament.

On December 4, the Liberal Party web site criticized the funding cut as "yet again showing the vindictive, partisan nature of the Conservative government".

The article said, "It is believed that KAIROS was censured for joining seven religious denominations in speaking out against Conservative policies on climate change, overseas mining operations, aboriginal rights, immigration and international trade."

Then Immigration Minister Jason Kenney, in a speech in Jerusalem to the Global Forum for Combatting Anti-Semitism, added a new wrinkle. Bragging about "Prime Minister Stephen Harper's leading position combatting the enemies of Israel" (*Toronto Star*, December 18, 2009), Kenney said that KAIROS funding had been cut because the group was anti-Semitic.

KAIROS and its constituent churches reacted strongly to this attack. "You cannot label someone anti-Semitic because they criticize a government," said KAIROS Executive Director Mary Corkery. "That's outrageous!"

Yes, it is.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**Torture and Afghanistan**

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

The first thing to remember about Afghanistan as the story around the torture of detainees unfolds is that the Government of Canada, whatever its political stripe, needed no memos, reports, evidence or other prompts to raise its concerns about the possibility that anyone turned over to Afghanistan's authorities faced torture. Concern about the treatment of prisoners in Afghanistan existed long before the first detainee was ever turned over.

Given those concerns, the Government of Canada had a responsibility under international law to make arrangements to ensure the proper treatment of those it took prisoner.

The Government considered its options, and chose the cheapest and easiest one — turning detainees over to authorities known to use torture. It chose to pretend that those authorities would treat detainees turned over by Canadian forces differently from the way it treated its own prisoners. Now the Government of Canada is trying to make us believe that its pretence was actually an honest belief.

It was able to act as it did then because it chose to think, as did its senior military officers, that everyone captured was Taliban, and that the Taliban are some sort of subhuman being unworthy of our concern. Now, the Government of Canada continues its efforts to dehumanize the detainees, and attacks those concerned about human treatment of those detainees as enemies of Canadian military personnel and as enemies of the women and girls of Afghanistan.

From the beginning, the Government of Canada has done its best to keep Canadians in ignorance of its activity in Afghanistan. Now, it chooses to keep a Parliamentary committee ignorant by withholding documentary evidence. It cites national security as its justification, but makes that same documentation freely available to its minions as they approach committee questioning.

Using a tactic which has now become a pattern, the current Government of Canada viciously attacks and seeks to destroy public servants who dare to stand against the politicizing of the public service.

Using a tactic which may become a pattern, the current Government of Canada may evade its democratic fate by proroguing Parliament for the second time in little more than a year.

At issue is not the morality of the Taliban or of Afghanistan's authorities; at issue is our own morality and our tolerance for war crimes committed in our name.

**COMMENTARY****Iffy Economic Forecasts**

As the year came to an end, optimistic projections for the economy were heavily larded with sombre cautions. What most observers seemed to accept was that working people were unlikely to see much economic relief very fast, and that a recovery could devastate many households.

There have been several reports of an upturn in employment. For example, on December 5, *The Saturday Sun* in Toronto reported that 79,000 jobs had been added in Canada in November, 57,000 of them in private industry. That reduced the official unemployment rate by 0.1%, to 8.5%. The article indicated that *the pace of job losses in manufacturing has been slowing*. So, job losses in manufacturing continue, the growth coming in the service sector.

Almost two weeks later, on December 17, *The Globe and Mail* reported that Governor Mark Carney of the Bank of Canada saw only "signs of stabilization" in the labour market.

With these "signs of stabilization", governments are talking about cutting back on stimulus spending. At the same time, the Bank of Canada has been keeping its interest rate at 0.25%.

Ever more often, concerns are expressed about the threat

of inflation as spending rises.

However, it is noteworthy that, in the midst of all that job creation in November, wages rose at the lowest year-over-year rate since March, 2007.

In other words, any increase in spending (and reports were rather negative in the pre-Christmas retail market) has been largely based on increased consumer debt.

And the sad fact is, as the *Toronto Star* pointed out on December 12, increasing numbers of people have to buy their groceries on credit.

While "The Globe" highlighted "The recovery takes hold: jobs returning, stimulus waning", the *Toronto Star* stressed, on the same day from the same speech, that "Carney warns us to get a grip on debt levels".

"In recent years," noted Mr. Carney, according to the "Star", "debt has risen sharply relative to income." Delinquency rates on loans are up sharply. When interest rates begin to rise, as they will, many more people with increased debt levels will feel the pinch.

Of particular concern are the mortgages people have assumed with current relatively low rates. As rates increase, it is feared, mortgage payments may become unbearable.

This contradiction between keeping interest rates low to encourage consumer spending and the problems this policy will create when rates rise, as they inevitably will, is just one of many possible sources of future problems.

Pushing its optimistic view of the economy, *The Globe and Mail* happily proclaimed on December 10, "We're back: Household wealth makes unlikely rebound". That happy rebound, it turns out, is related to the minority

of people who have an "investment portfolio" (and not all of them, even), is a small part of what was lost in the crash, and leaves working people (whose incomes have stagnated, says "The Globe", understating the case) with nothing to invest to build new wealth.

Not to worry, the author of the article tells us, "But this is also a time to focus on some good news. Given how it started, this past year could have been a lot worse."

Almost a week later, "The Globe" noticed Carney's debt message. To the threat posed by higher interest rates, the writer in "The Globe" added continuing high levels of unemployment, government cutbacks, and potential tax increases. "Prepare for a future of paying more and getting less from government" *The Globe and Mail* advised.

There is another danger, signalled in an article by former TD Bank Chief Economist Doug Peters and economic consultant Arthur Donner in the *Toronto Star* on December 15. That peril is a premature end to economic stimulus spending, leading to a second dip into recession (or a deepening of the current slump, if there has not been a recovery.)

Long term, there are signs that working people are being set up to suffer some more. One of these is the move in Ontario, and in other jurisdictions, toward looking at selling assets to reduce deficits.

Sales of public assets are used periodically by the economically powerful as a way of lining their own pockets while putting added stress on public services. Profitable public assets are sold to private interests below their value, while less profitable enterprises are bought ("nationalized") from private owners above their value.

The resulting loss of income forces governments to cut social programs or to impose new or higher taxes.

*The Globe and Mail* seems to favour selling assets "if the price is right". "The Globe" offers four criteria: and immediate cash benefit, a continued share in the asset's profits, preserving the priority of the public good, and not harming vital public-policy interests. The last two have no meaning, unless it be to further enrich stockholders. The first offers a one-time benefit, and in this context does not even reduce the public debt. The second criterion raises the question: why share the profits with a private partner?

The *Toronto Star* states its position more cautiously, but does leave the door open to privatization.

It is hard to see a stable rise out of the crisis for working people any time soon.

— Carl Honor

**From Our Readers**

Your news and informative articles keep us in touch with history, past and present, and they also leave us with an outlook towards the future, sometimes good and sometimes bad or unpredictable.

— Mary Danilevitch  
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## Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

### Capitalist Election Corruption

European lawmakers issued scathing criticism of Ukraine's electoral system as they began a mission to observe a January presidential vote, saying the election will likely be marred by corruption, media bias and widespread public disappointment.

The election is being closely watched by Europe and the United States.

Five years after the Orange Revolution helped propel a pro-American leader to power over a pro-Russian rival, the front-runners — opposition leader (anti-Orange) Viktor Yanukovich and Orange co-leader Yulia Tymoshenko, appear likely to focus on reinvigorating troubled ties with Moscow.

Matyas Eorsi of Hungary, who is leading the observer mission from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), told a news conference the election is not expected to meet the organization's standards. Eorsi suggested democratic practices could be swept aside by the bitter rivalries among the prominent candidates, who also include incumbent President Viktor Yushchenko.

"We are worried that the political cynicism will be on the rise. We understand that here in Ukraine, the political struggle is widely regarded as a struggle of personalities, ambitions, and financial interests rather than a competition of political ideals," he said.

Eorsi added that corruption and the media's role are serious concerns. "The media, many of the media, are also under strong financial influence, and very often this financial influence is created by the candidates," he said.

(So much for capitalist democracy and honest elections. —GB)

### Illegal Arms Sales?

Ukraine has become embroiled in another arms scandal after a cargo plane carrying tonnes of weapons, allegedly from North Korea, was seized during a refuelling stop at a Bangkok airport.

The IL-76 plane, leased to a Ukrainian company, was loaded with over 35 tonnes of North Korean weaponry. The cargo, including rocket-launchers and missile systems, is said to have been headed to conflict zones in the Middle East.

What is most disturbing about the incident is that the plane was flying from, and ultimately returning to, Ukraine.

Speculation is growing that Kyiv acted as an intermediary in an illegal weapons deal between North Korea and unidentified buyers.

The illegal arms export issue made a massive political noise in Ukraine last year. First it was the seizure of the Ukrainian ship Faina by Somali pirates, with three dozen Soviet-made tanks on board. Reports suggested that the weaponry was headed to Sudan's Darfur region, which had a UN weapons embargo imposed on it.

Then a Ukrainian parliamentary commission revealed alleged sales of Ukrainian arms to Georgia at ridiculously low prices prior to the Georgian invasion of South Ossetia. And, as the commission claimed, the deal was sanctioned personally by Ukraine's president.

In the meantime, just as in all previous weapon sales scandals, Kyiv is denying any involvement in the current fiasco.

(On the legal weapons sales market, Ukraine is a small player compared to the United States, or even Russia. But, rightly or wrongly, Ukraine seems to be implicated too often in illegal weapons sales. —GB)

### American Interference

American Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently indulged in a classic example of double-speak. Referring to the up-coming Ukrainian presidential elections, she stated, "It is for the Ukrainian people to decide who their elected leaders should be. But the promise of the Orange Revolution (my emphasis — GB), which was so moving to so many of us, is that the people of Ukraine have the right to choose their leaders *without interference* (my emphasis — GB), without any kind of electoral abuse."

(One of the front-runners in the current Ukrainian election race is Orange Revolution co-leader Yulia Tymoshenko. Now note Clinton's praise of the Orange Revolution in the above quotation, and her warning to others to not interfere).

### Election Polls

On January 17, the people of Ukraine will cast their ballots to determine who the next president of the country will be.

Political experts agree that no one candidate has enough support to win on the first ballot (that is, to get over 50% of the vote on the first ballot). The two candidates leading after the first ballot will then

go on to face each other in a second, "run-off", election on February 7.

Three recent election polls paint a picture of Ukraine's current intentions (attitudes could change between the date of the polls and January 17).

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems reports that, in the first round, 31% of Ukrainians would vote for Viktor Yanukovich (anti-Orange), 19% would vote for Yulia Tymoshenko (pro-Orange), and 3.5% would vote for the present president, Viktor Yushchenko (pro-Orange).

In a run-off vote, 42% would vote for Yanukovich, 28% would vote for Tymoshenko, while 18% would vote against both.

The Razumkov Centre reports that their survey found that, in a run-off vote, 40.5% would support Yanukovich, while 33.3% would support Tymoshenko.

The All-Ukrainian Sociological Service reports that their polls found that, in a run-off vote, 38.5% of Ukrainians would vote for Viktor Yanukovich, while 30.6% would vote for Yulia Tymoshenko.

Polls continue to show that the current president, Viktor Yushchenko, trails badly.

Much of the intense tension in Ukrainian politics since the Orange Revolution five years ago can be traced to the vicious rivalry between the two Orange co-leaders, Yulia Tymoshenko and Viktor Yushchenko.

Ukrainians continue to have pessimistic assessments of the sociopolitical situation in the country. Seventy-four percent believe Ukraine is on a path toward instability, and more than nine in ten Ukrainians are dissatisfied with the economic (96%) and political situation (92%) in the country.

### Population Decrease

Ukraine's population continues to decrease.

According to the State Statistics Committee, Ukraine's population decreased by an additional 180,000 in the past twelve months.

Under socialism, Ukraine's population grew steadily and peaked at about 53 million just before the imposition of capitalism. Now, after 18 years of capitalism, it has fallen to 45,999,000.

### UEFA Approves

European soccer's governing body, the Union of European Football Associations, has finally given its approval

for four Ukrainian cities to host games at the 2012 European Championship.

For most of this year, approval was being withheld because of a lack of preparedness of Ukraine, and specifically the four host cities.

Delays in building stadiums and infrastructure (roads, airports, hotels, etc.) had raised doubts whether Ukraine's venues would be ready for 2012. Rumours were circulating that the games would be taken away from Ukraine and given to co-host Poland or Germany.

But UEFA's recent announcement stated that guarantees from the Ukrainian government, technical reports on the progress of work and consultations with the host associations led it to go ahead with plans for group games in three cities — Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Lviv — and the final at the capital's 77,000-capacity venue.

Even so, European soccer's governing body said it would "continue to closely monitor the state of infrastructure and operational preparations" in Ukraine.

Last May, UEFA President Michel Platini approved the Polish cities of Warsaw, Gdansk, Poznan, and Wroclaw as venues, but only Kyiv of the four proposed Ukrainian cities.

UEFA extended the deadline for Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Lviv, and withheld a promise that Kyiv's reconstructed Olympic Stadium would host the final. (All Ukrainians can now breathe a sigh of relief).

### Chess World Cup

Boris Gelfand of Israel is the 2009 Chess World Cup champion. Gelfand won the title by beating Ruslan Ponomarev of Ukraine in a play-off on December 14.

The first four games of the play-off were rapid games (25 minutes per player per game) and Gelfand took the lead by winning the second game. But Ponomarev, with his back to the wall, won the last rapid game to tie the match up again.

The play-off then went to "blitz" chess (5 minutes per player per game) and Gelfand once again took the lead by beating Ponomarev in the first game, when he managed to trap Ponomarev's queen in 21 moves. Ponomarev rallied again, winning the second game. But Gelfand won the third, and Ponomarev finally ran out of reserves, losing the fourth.

That clinched the match, 7 points to 5, for Gelfand.

This was the second time

that Ponomarev, 26, was runner-up in the World Cup. He lost in the final in 2005 to Levon Aronian of Armenia. Still, he came into the tournament as the No. 7 seed, so he performed above his pre-tournament rank.

### Explosive Chewing Gum

A chemistry student in Ukraine was found dead with his jaw blown off by what is believed to be exploding chewing gum. The 25-year-old's disfigured remains were discovered at his parent's home in the northern Ukrainian city of Konotop.

The young man, who studied at Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, was working late when the explosion happened. A forensic examination established that the chewing gum was covered with an unidentified chemical substance, thought to be some type of explosive material.

The student apparently had a bizarre habit of chewing gum after dipping it into citric acid (a sour-tasting chemical with a flavour like that of lemon juice — GB). Officers found both citric acid packets and a similar-looking unidentified substance, believed to be some kind of explosive material, on a table near the body. Investigators suspect that the student simply confused the packets and put gum covered with explosive material into his mouth.

Forensic experts were to travel from Kyiv to investigate the substance, as local authorities feared it might explode if transported.

### Playmates

*Playboy* magazine's 50th Anniversary Playmate spent December 11th jamming at a Caribbean night club.

The Ukrainian-born Dasha Astafievas took over the deejaying duties at the re-opening of Club 111, in Simpson's Bay, St. Maarten. The sexy deejay, model, and musician had VIP attendees and guests jamming as she took over the controls under the watchful eye of friends and a bodyguard.

Astafievas posed nude for "Playboy Ukraine" and was subsequently featured as *Playboy's* Playmate Of The Year for 2007. She was *Playboy's* 50th Anniversary Playmate in 2008.

Astafievas, along with a stunning dancer wearing next to nothing, and the party-going women who got into the beat of things in wanton abandon as champagne flowed, combined to making the Club 111 experience incredibly memorable.

**Ukrainian  
Page  
Submitted  
Separately**



**Ukrainian  
Page  
Submitted  
Separately**

# Welland Orchestra Entertains Seniors

On November 24, the Welland AUUC Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra made its first appearance at Versa-Care Centre in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Two weeks later, the orchestra presented the same program in a return engage-

ment at the Bella Senior Care Residence in Chippewa, which is part of Niagara Falls. The orchestra first appeared at the Bella residence in February, 2008.

The members of the orchestra were pleased with both performances, first be-

cause they performed quite well, and second (even more important) because both audiences clearly enjoyed what they were hearing.

At that time of year, of course, the program was heavy with the music of the season. The opening number was an orchestral version of "What Child Is This?" This carol was written in 1865, and later put to the tune of the folk song "Greensleeves", the usual tune used today.

Also on the program, sung by Wayne Hosick, was "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer". Few people know that the story was created first (in 1939) and put into a song much later. It was first sung on radio in 1948, but the recording in 1949 by Gene Autry really launched the song.

"Silver Bells", the song from the early '50s, was performed as an orchestral number, orchestrated (like most of the music on the program) by Rudy Wasylenky.

Mel Tormé collaborated with Bob Wells on a blistering summer day in 1944 to write "The Christmas Song". Tormé waited 10 years to record the piece, giving Nat King Cole an 8-year start. Ken Speck was the soloist with the Welland orchestra.

Wayne Hosick returned to sing "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town". An instant hit when first performed on radio in 1934, it has not lost its popularity, especially as a sing-along.

The program was not restricted to Christmas music. The second number was our "Dark Eyes". The orchestra does an arrangement featuring three variations on the Russian romance, and ending with the folk song "Who Will Buy My Bublychki?"

That was followed by the very familiar "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling", a song which has now been around almost 100 years. Ken Speck was the soloist.

Ken came back later to sing "Guantanamera", which is perhaps Cuba's best known song. Ken also entertained with a humorous rendition of "Good Night, Irene".

Other orchestral pieces on the bill were a medley of three selections from the movie *Never on Sunday*, and "Don't

Cry for Me, Argentina" from the musical *Evita*.

The program ended with two vocal duets featuring conductor Rudy Wasylenky and mandolinist Wilfred Szczesny (who was also the MC).

The first of the two was the calypso number "Jamaica Farewell", made famous by Harry Belafonte.

The second was "Beer Barrel Polka" also known as "Roll Out the Barrel". Though not a Christmas song, this last number on the program has such a festive tone that it was an apt concluding selection.

Playing in a prestigious hall to a large audience, with thunderous applause and (perhaps) a standing ovation provides a certain satisfaction, a kind of feeling that says, "We are good; the audience really liked what we did."

Playing in a small space in a seniors' residence, with an audience which applauds with difficulty and can not stand for an ovation, provides a different satisfaction, a feeling which says, "We feel good; we really like what we did." The nodding heads, the tap-

**(Continued on Page 16.)**



The audience at the Bella Senior Care Residence in Chippewa (Niagara Falls) was attentive and appreciative.

— Story photos: George Setak



The Welland AUUC Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra, on its second appearance at the Bella Senior Care Residence.



Conductor Rudy Wasylenky is the picture of concentration as he leads the performers through one of the thirteen numbers on the program.

## To All AUUC Members and Friends

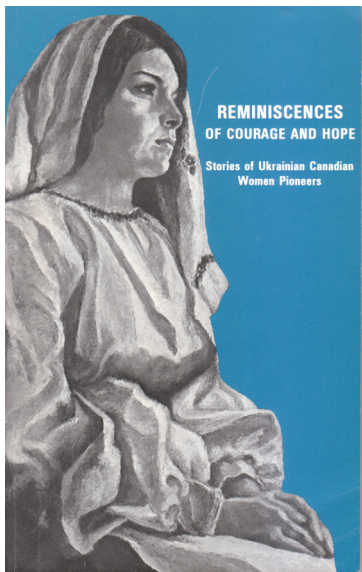


Best Wishes for Health, Happiness and Prosperity in a World of Peace!

Winnipeg AUUC Branch

WITH VERY BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTHY, HAPPY 2010!  
Bill and Marie Harasym, Toronto

## Search for Book



Regina AUUC is in search of a copy or copies of *Reminiscences of Courage and Hope, Stories of Ukrainian Women Pioneers*, main author Peter Krawchuk, Kobzar Publishing Co. Ltd., Toronto, 1991. ISBN 0-9695120-1-5.

If you have a copy or copies of the English version (translation by Michael Ukas), please contact Alex Lapchuk at (306) 522-1188, Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 1809 Toronto Street, Regina SK S4P 1M7.

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

The Edmonton AUUC Seniors wish health and happiness to each and all in the coming year. Our hope is that more peace will prevail in our precious world.

Best Wishes for 2010 To All My Friends and Relations! May the New Year Bring Peace and Health and the Fulfilment of All Your Most Cherished Dreams!  
Eugene Plawiuk, Edmonton

WARMEST HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL UKRAINIAN CANADIAN HERALD READERS, AUUC MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES HAPPY NEW YEAR! PEACE AND GOOD HEALTH TO ALL! AUUC EDMONTON BRANCH





Pat Dzatko presented the bread and salt.



Hahilka Conductor Natalka Mochoruk doubled as MC.

On Sunday, December 13, the Hahilka Choir of the AUUC in Toronto gave a memorable performance at the AUUC Cultural Centre, concluding its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

The occasion was marked by homage and appreciation, by the gifts of music and song, and by the joy of laughter.

George Borusiewich, President of the Toronto AUUC Branch, began the festivities with a tribute to the choir members, their history and accomplishments. He noted that, although their numbers may be smaller today, to compensate, their hearts have become bigger.

George passed the proceedings over to the Mistress of Ceremonies of the day, Natalka Mochoruk, conductor



Lorna Clark, President of Hahilka, spoke briefly about the future of the group.



Peter Krochak accompanied on the keyboard, adding a solo verse in "Pidmanula, pidvela".

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowsky



AUUC Toronto Branch President George Borusiewich bade those present welcome before turning the floor over to Natalka Mochoruk.



The Hahilka Choir, celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, was conducted by Natalka Mochoruk.

and artistic director of the choir.

What followed was a magnificent 45-minute presentation by the talented group, all of whom deserve commendation and congratulations: singers Maria Gargal, Anna

Kulish, Zena Bolychuk, Terry Rivest, Claudia Rabzak, Pat Dzatko, Lorna Clark and Mary Saik, male soloist Wilfred Szczesny, and accompanist Peter Krochak.

Former choir members Connie Prince and Vicki Vuksinic honoured the group by participating in portions of the program.

Following the traditional greeting with bread and salt, presented by Patricia Dzatko, a medley of 14 one-verse songs creatively interwove solos, duets, dance and theatrical humour. (If truth be told, several of the songs were done in their entirety.)

This entertaining mélange was followed by three additional songs, in the third of which choir members took turns singing the verses, with the audience joining in for the (Continued on Page 14.)



Among Terry Rivest's contributions was a solo rendition of "Autumn Gold" (*Osinye zoloto*)



In a special appearance for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Connie Prince performed her popular "Red Rue" (*Chervona ruta*), as well as joining Claudia Rabzak in "My Country" (*Moya zemlya*).

## Grey Cup Social in Toronto

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowsky



The welcome to the Grey Cup Social began at the entrance, with suitable decor.



Most eyes were riveted on the HD wide-screen, not even distracted by the excellent chili which is part of the Toronto AUUC Branch Grey Cup tradition.

Once again the Toronto Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians hosted a Grey Cup Social, calling members and friends together on November 29 at the AUUC Cultural Centre to share friendship over a bowl of chili con carne, play a few games, and enjoy the spectacle on a new high-definition wide-screen television set.

Not all who were there were sports fans, but all who were there had a good time.



Not everyone in attendance was a died-in-the-wool football fan — some chose just to chill with some friends.



Maria Gargal (left) expressed her determination to pursue the lads — on her knees, if need be — as she, Terry Rivest, Claudia Rabzak and Lorna Clark entertained with "Zhartivlevi kolomeyky".



**Sent as a  
separate  
page.**



# Seniors: Be Aware!

— Photo: Victor Horon



Program Coordinator Eva Doskoch introduced guest speaker John Fuga of Wise Owls, Fraud Prevention for Seniors in Edmonton.

Seniors can easily become victims of fraud. Program coordinator Eva Doskoch invited John Fuga to share with the Edmonton AUUC Seniors his knowledge of what seniors and others ought to do to be less susceptible to fraud. Mr. Fuga is the speaker for the group called Wise Owls, Fraud Prevention for Seniors in Edmonton. He appeared at our meeting on November 17. One topic covered was

telemarketing fraud. John Fuga's advice? Don't believe everyone who calls with an exciting promotion. Don't disclose personal information about your bank accounts, credit cards, address, and so on, over the phone. Don't be afraid to hang up. Don't be afraid to ask for documentation to verify product or investment. Don't be pressured into making a decision; the promotion will still be available

tomorrow.

Do take time to call a friend or some other trusted person before making decision. Do call the police to report any suspicious phone calls or mailings. Do ask for literature so you can read about the company before making commitments. Ask for company references from other customers in your area. Be on guard for callers with the car pitch or cash pitch.

Another topic addressed by Mr. Fuga was automated teller/bank card fraud. Your automated teller machine (ATM) card or debit card, combined with the personal identification number (PIN), is the electronic key to your personal bank account(s), so it is your responsibility to guard it. NEVER disclose your PIN to anyone. If your card is lost, stolen or is retained by an ATM, notify your financial institution immediately.

When you select your PIN, always avoid the obvious such as your name, telephone number, and so on. Change your PIN regularly. Never cash cheques for others, be it a stranger or a friend; you are responsible for all transactions that occur through your account. Should fraud occur, have the bank branch make a report directly to your police

service.

Home Renovation Fraud has some points to consider. Avoid contractors who knock on the door to tell you they just happen to be doing some work in the area and can give you a special price! Avoid those who promise a discount if you allow them to use your home "to advertise our work". Avoid those who quote a price without seeing the job. Avoid those who demand a large down payment to "buy materials". Also avoid those who conduct a "free inspection" of your home and then suggest major home repairs. Make sure that the contractor has a city business licence, a provincial pre-paid contractor's licence, a Revenue Canada GST number and Workers' Compensation coverage.

Then there is credit card fraud. Always be in a position to see what the person handling your transaction is doing with your card. Treat your credit card like cash. Never leave your credit cards in a hotel room. Make a detailed list of all your credit cards and their numbers. Report lost or stolen cards immediately. Keep your credit card slips and check them off against your monthly statement. The only time you should give your credit card number over the

phone is when you have called to place an order from a reputable firm.

Lastly, one must be aware of identity theft. Know what your bank balances should be, and make periodic checks. Be cautious about releasing your personal information. Deposit your outgoing mail at the Post Office. Retrieve incoming mail promptly. Carry the least amount of ID and documents that you need. Do not make PIN numbers and passwords easy to guess. Do not use the same PIN number for all of your cards. Do not disclose information over the phone in response to surveys or telemarketing calls. Store important documents in a safe and secure place. Invest in a shredder for both the home and the office and use it! Put a "Fraud Alert" on all your accounts.

Among your resources to prevent a problem, or to report a fraud are:

1. Phone Busters — National Telephone Fraud Complaint/Information Centre; [phonebusters.com](http://phonebusters.com); 1-888-495-8501

2. Your local Better Business Bureau

3. Canadian Marketing Association — Do not call service. To remove your name from their list — [cornerstonewebmedia.com/cma/submit.asp](http://cornerstonewebmedia.com/cma/submit.asp); 1-416-391-2362

4. RECOL (RCMP); [recol.ca](http://recol.ca)

In this information packed meeting, Pauline Warwick also provided general information on the differences between a cold and H1N1 flu.

A cold has a hacking productive cough while the cough of a flu patient is non-productive of mucous. With a cold, one has a stuffy nose, but with the flu a stuffy nose is not commonly present. With a cold one sneezes but not with the flu. With a cold one rarely has a headache, but with a flu a headache is very common — in as many as 80% or more of the cases. A sore throat is common with a cold but not with a flu.

With each of the preceding topics, I have recorded only some of the points, and summarized other material. Both Pauline and Mr. Fuga were most concise and informative.

Although they were absent, Stephanie Chopoidal and Martha Ursulak were recognized as our November birthday celebrants. Best wishes were extended to each.

— Shirley Uhryn

(We hope to report on the Christmas dinner, held on December 15 by the Edmonton AUUC Seniors, in the next issue of the "UCH". — Ed.)

**Have you renewed?**

## Klezmer and Kolomeykas

*Klezmer and Kolomeykas* was the theme of a concert presented jointly by the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians of Winnipeg and the United Jewish People's Order at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on November 15.

Relations have always been close between the AUUC in Winnipeg and progressive Jews, but co-sponsorship of this concert brought the groups even closer together, and extended ties of friendship even to those who remain bitter about the Jewish experience in Ukraine going back to Soviet times, German occupation, or back as far as the Russian Czars and Austrian rule, when Jews sometimes learned to live in fear of periodic pogroms. One patron told us, "This is my first time in a Ukrainian hall since the Holocaust."

The concert was at times rousing and at times touching in a quietly sensitive way. Soon after the curtains parted, the AUUC's Festival Choir established a spirit of celebration with a complex and exciting version of "Hava Negila", a Hebrew-Hasidic song of joy, under the direction of Vasilina Streltsov.

But it was Yiddish culture which was the real order of the day. The Northend Jewish Folk Choir, directed by Koren Kaminski, presented a program reflecting various

aspects of Jewish experience in Slavic countries including ordinary life, emigration, the struggles against Fascism, and the ongoing desire for peace and brotherhood. The audience could see how all this came to be focused in microcosm in Winnipeg's North End, where the Jews settled side-by-side with Ukrainian and other ethnic groups.

It was a rare treat to hear these nostalgic and bitter-sweet songs presented from the Ukrainian Labour Temple stage in joint concert with the descendants of ethnic Ukrainian immigrants. During one of the songs, a group from the Manitoba International Folk Dance Association, seated in the audience and awaiting their turn to perform, rose and joined arms for an impromptu *hora*. Led by David Weller, they wound gracefully around the back of the hall.

One of the offerings of the Northend Choir was "Itzik Vittenburg" (S. Katcherinsky, lyrics; L. Blanter, music). This is the true story of a Jewish partisan leader of the Vilna ghetto. He was captured in 1943, but was subsequently rescued by his comrades. The Nazis demanded his return, or they would destroy the ghetto. Vittenburg went voluntarily to his death, but then the ghetto was destroyed anyway. The audience did not have to know Yiddish to feel the fear and

disgust aroused by the song's references to the Fascist *Kommandant*.

And there was much more. Klezmer music was represented by the Klezmer Kids, a group of talented young people led by Daniel Koulack, as well as by the AUUC's Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, conducted by Annis Kozub, which played the haunting "Arioso" movement from Sid Rabinovich's *Klezmer Suite* for symphony orchestra and Klezmer band.

Norman Rosenbaum (clarinet) and Koren Kaminski (piano) played some Jewish dances by Milton Barnes, an impressive set by a Canadian composer who deserves a wide audience.

AUUC Winnipeg's senior dance group Yunist, since September under the direction of Tom Mokry, brought new members to the stage for the first time. They showed good progress in technique, and pleased the audience with their perennially popular "Hopak" as well as a good performance of the women's dance "Zapletu Vinochok", accompanied by the orchestra.

For the finale, the two choirs united and were joined by the orchestra in J. S. Wallace's hymn to Canada, "O Lovely Land". In the new land, Wallace wrote, chains of oppression will be broken and

all peoples will feast like kings on the bountiful harvest.

This was the fourth in a series of inter-ethnic concerts sponsored by AUUC Winnipeg, the first three having brought the Scots, the Irish, and the Chileans to the stage.

The concept has been to portray people's poetry, dance, and music as integral to progressive social concerns. Subordinate to this has been the desire to create new audiences for the Ukrainian-Canadian performing arts, to establish contacts within the ethno-cultural community, and to strengthen the claim for government funding for the Branch's cultural programs and historic building.

Lily Stearns developed the concept for the series, and has served as a kind of impresario by working closely with performing groups and ethnic organizations which may know little about the AUUC.

Attendance was well above average for concerts in the hall, resulting in a comfortably full main floor.

At intermission the refreshment tables were loaded with dainties and breads home-baked by members of both sponsoring groups.

The AUUC enjoyed lavish praise for the event from the UJPO and the Northend Choir. The UJPO wrote into their executive minutes that the concert was a "huge success".

— Brent Stearns



# Christmas Concert in Vancouver



Getting ready to go on stage, as these young performers did in Vancouver on December 13, can be half the fun.



The Dovbush Dancers opened the concert with a welcoming dance, featuring the traditional bread and salt.



The Zaichyiy Dancers tugged at the heartstrings of the audience as they performed "Malenkiy tanets" (Little Dance).



The Barvinok Dancers performed a "Kozachok".



Joey and Jake Hobbis, both dancers, delighted the audience with an instrumental duet.

On December 13, the Vancouver AUUC School of Dancing held its annual Christmas concert. Christmas at the AUUC hall is a very special time: the children are excited, some looking forward to their first performance of the year, many anticipating the appearance of Grandfather Frost after the carolling! The atmosphere is one of cooperation, a time of sharing, and the community coming together to make *this* Christmas special – creating precious memories for the young members who surely look fondly on their experiences at the Hall.

A potluck feast, organized by the parents and staff, is always full of fun, conversation, and of course, *singing*.

Our generous and enthusiastic families make the success of these events, and the vitality of the Hall, a certainty. They sustain the School of Dancing, not only by enrolling their children, but also by ensuring that the spirit of the community continues to thrive through cultural activities, through festivities, and the hard work and preparation that go into them.

The contributions of all our members, whether they've been involved for weeks or a lifetime, create a dynamic and expansive organization which fits in with its local community, draws people from across the Lower Mainland, and continues to impress its audiences at events all over town.

Our School of Dancing sees new faces every year and while we no longer provide language classes, music lessons and other cultural activities for children that were once so popular, the AUUC in Vancouver continues to be a welcoming organization full of promise and diversity.

We are lucky to have parents and members who donate their time and their expertise, sometimes in unexpected ways! Our Master of Ceremonies, Gordon Hobbis, is one of these involved parents, and he kept us laughing with his jokes and observations.

The Dovbush Dancers opened the program with "Vital'niy tanets" (Welcoming Dance). The skill and vigour of the dancers, enhanced through time spent at the AUUC's summer dance workshop in Alberta, were really on display.

The preschoolers always tug at the heartstrings, and this year was especially sweet, with the four young girls and one little boy, led by their class helper, doing their best to keep time to the music, remember their steps, and not get distracted by the big but very receptive audience!

Our two "resident musicians" Joey and Jake Hobbis — both teenagers who dance with Dovbush and the School of Dancing — performed an (Continued on Page 13.)



It was evident to the audience that the Dovbush women enjoy dancing "Zapletu vinochok" (I shall weave a wreath).



The Zirka Dancers presented their interpretation of "Hopak".

— Story Photos: Dan Fung



Cohen Parasiuk read the humorous Christmas poem "Pa Did It".



Lizzie Hnatiuk read the poem "Christmas Star".



A Dovbush Dancers quintet performed a "Kozachok".



The Zirka and Yalenka girls performed a girls' "Kozachok".



## Sustaining Fund Donations

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Helen Galange, Brantford, ON<br><i>In memory of my husband Bill Galange</i> ..... | \$100.00 |
| Alex Lysak, Edmonton AB .....   | 100.00   |
| William & Ann Malnychuk, Mississauga ON .....                                     | 100.00   |
| Pauline & Maurice Warick, Edmonton AB .....                                       | 70.00    |
| Vivian Pich, Edmonton AB<br><i>In memory of George Pich</i> .....                 | 50.00    |
| William Chomyn, Edmonton AB .....   | 20.00    |
| Mary Danilevitch, Thunder Bay ON .....  | 20.00    |
| Olga McDaid, Thunder Bay ON .....   | 20.00    |
| Walter Pasnak, Edmonton AB .....  | 20.00    |
| Hrapstead Family, The Pas MB .....  | 10.00    |
| Mary Klewchuk, Calgary AB .....   | 10.00    |
| George Mandzuk, Hamilton ON .....   | 10.00    |
| Kay Tuchak, Chilliwack BC .....   | 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.**

## Christmas Concert

(Continued from Page 12.) exhilarating duet on accordion and violin.

The Barvinok group, made up of two 7-year-old boys and four 5- or 6-year-old girls, performed a "Kozachok". With their determined faces and energetic (almost flawless performance), the dancers had the audience delighted, cheering for them when they took on challenging steps just as they had for the older group. The little ones, no doubt, had looked to their more experienced counterparts for inspiration.

This year, the School of Dancing moved away from the traditional groupings by age, and opted to bring all the

girls aged 8-13 together, and all the boys aged 9-13, into their own groups. The decision proved to be a good one: the girls looked lovely in their dance, threesomes of blue skirts, green skirts and red skirts whirling and weaving patterns on the stage. Through the year, they were able to hone their technique and learn from the more experienced dancers to use their heads and arms gracefully, and they all looked more polished because of it.

The boys have been working hard and their energy and precision had the audience clapping their encouragement. The strenuous acrobatics of the Cossack style came to life with the fast-paced, red-sharivari versus blue-sharivari choreography, and the boys did an amazing job.

The Vancouver Folk Or-

## Call to the 44th AUUC National Convention

The National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, meeting in Plenary Session in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on October 3-5, 2009, hereby informs the Branches of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, and its members, that the 44th National Convention of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians will be convened at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, 591 Pritchard Avenue (at McGregor) in Winnipeg, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 9, 2010, and ending at approximately noon on Monday, October 11, 2010.

The 44th National Convention of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians will consider many items of significance to our Association, including (but not only): amendments to the Constitution of the AUUC; the publishing program of the AUUC; broadly, directions of AUUC programming in the future, and specific projects which may

be proposed, including commemoration in 2011 of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Taras Shevchenko.

AUUC policy on major current social issues will be considered.

The election of a national leadership to guide the work of the AUUC in the period between the 44th and the 45th National Conventions will be a constitutionally mandated obligation of the 44th National Convention of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians.

We call on the Branches, in preparation for the Convention, to organize discussions among their members, both of the issues which are expected to be discussed at the Convention and of the issues which they consider important to add to the agenda.

As specified in the constitution, all members and Branches, as well as the National Committee and the National Executive Committee, have the right to refer reports,

chestra, accompanying the dancers throughout the concert, performed traditional Ukrainian pieces early in the show. Before the close of the concert, they welcomed a lively guest who sang and played his accordion with the orchestra, inviting the audience to sing along to a medley of traditional Christmas carols.

Each group gave a tremendous performance. Dovbush in particular has a very talented group of dancers, the girls effortlessly executing

their turns and exuding a regal charm throughout their dances. The boys, with the addition of two returning dancers, are performing the awe-inspiring acrobatics so loved by audiences and with their grace and strength, they are true performers. The Dovbush Dancers closed the concert with a "Kozachok/Hopak".

The families and guests filling out of the Hall on that Sunday had been treated to a joyous start to the Christmas season.

— Laurel Parasiuk-Lawry



The Dovbush Dancers closed the program with a spirited "Kozachok/Hopak".



The Vancouver Folk Orchestra performed orchestral selections as well as accompanying dances.



Dyid Moroz (Father Frost), who entered while Christmas carols were being sung, had a gift for each dancer.



The boys of Zirka and Sopilka competed in a boys' "Kozachok".

resolutions questions or business to the National Convention for consideration by the Convention. Submissions will be received at any time up to and during the Convention, but only those received adequately in advance will be published.

To encourage the exchange of opinions regarding matters of concern to members, which should be reflected on the agenda of, and in the discussion at, the Convention, at its meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on October 3-5, 2009, the AUUC National Committee directed that the National Recording Secretary be responsible for editing the preconvention discussion bulletin (motion 091005NC30xi). The preconvention discussion bulletin shall be published from time to time, as sufficient amounts of material for publication are accumulated. Materials for publication in the preconvention discussion bulletin may be sent to: ftp://aucadmi;auuc123@win01.-murphysolutions.ca or wilfreds@3web.net or Preconvention Bulletin, 1604 Bloor Street West, Toronto ON M6P 1A7.

We call Branches to attend the Convention through their delegates, to be elected as specified in Article 13 of the Constitution of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, which (*inter alia*) specifies that "a Branch shall have the right to elect only one delegate for the first twenty-five (25) members or fewer, and one additional delegate for each additional twenty-five (25) members or major fraction thereof". The number of delegates each Branch may elect will be based on the number of Branch members in good standing as of April 1, 2010, as recorded at the AUUC National Office. It is the responsibility of each Branch, in consultation with the staff of the AUUC National Office, to ensure that the membership records at the AUUC National Office are complete and correct.

The National Executive Committee shall cause to be prepared, and distributed, suitable forms, including, but not restricted to, delegate credentials, as required for the proper registration of delegates and other purposes of the Convention. To ensure optimal planning and organization, Branches must return these forms to the AUUC National Office by June 30, 2010.

As specified in Article 13, paragraph 17, of the Constitution, the cost of the Convention shall be paid by members of the Association as a whole.

The Constitution of the AUUC does not provide for the election of alternate delegates. Therefore, Branches may elect alternates for their (Continued on Page 16.)



## Happy 65th

(Continued from Page 9.)  
chorus.

Of course, Natalka's charming and light-hearted introductions and explanations added much entertainment to the performances.

The choir members also wore a variety of costumes in

order to reflect the different forms of dress that have been worn by them over the years.

After the wonderful production, everyone was treated to a delicious luncheon of soup, sandwiches and a sweet table. Choir members prepared an assortment of sandwiches, which were accompanied by Vicki's beef and barley soup and Lorna's

chicken noodle soup, with a birthday cake presented for dessert.

To the delight of everyone, guests received a complimentary CD of the renowned opera *Kateryna*, which was staged by AUUC performing groups in Toronto in 1960.

A raffle and Bingo concluded the afternoon.

Congratulations to all members, past and present, of the talented Hahilka Choir. Thank you for 65 years of first class entertainment.

— B. Dobrowolsky

## Who, What, When, Where

**Regina — Malanka 2010** (Ukrainian New Year's celebration) will be sponsored by the **Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance, AUUC**, at the Regina Performing Arts Centre, **1077 Angus Street**, on Saturday, **January 16**. Doors open at **5:00 p.m. for cocktails and appetizers; supper and Poltava Ensemble performance at 6:30 p.m.; dancing to the Rock and Roll Allstars from 9:00 p.m.** Admission: \$40.00/person. For tickets, call the Regina Performing Arts Centre **Box Office at 779-2277**.

\* \* \*

**Sudbury — The Jubilee Folk Ensemble** presents **Four Poets Who Changed the World into a Better Place**, a celebration of the life and works of Robbie Burns, Pablo Neruda, Taras Shevchenko and Walt Whitman, at the Jubilee Centre, **195 Applegrove Street**, at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **January 31**. Featuring Ron Tough, John Lindsay, Wilfred Szczesny, Alex Martinez, and Roger Nash. Admission: \$15.00; students and seniors — \$10.00. For more information, phone **(705) 674-5534**.

\* \* \*

**Vancouver — The Association of United Ukrainian Canadians** will host a **Malanka** (Ukrainian New Year's celebration) at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **805 East Pender Street**, on Saturday, **January 23**. Doors open at **6:00 p.m. for cocktails**; Ukrainian program by the Vancouver AUUC performing arts groups at **7:00 p.m.** A buffet supper will be followed by **dancing to live music**. Admission: \$39.00/person; Dance only (admitted after 9:00 p.m.) — \$10.00. For tickets, call **Dianna at (604) 879-2089**.

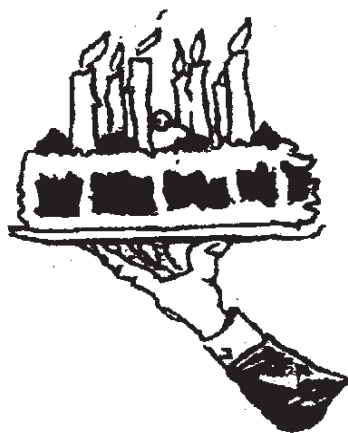
\* \* \*

**Winnipeg — A Malanka** in the form of a traditional North End "social" with recorded dance music, Ukrainian-Canadian refreshments, and prizes will be held at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, **Pritchard and McGregor**, from **8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.** on Saturday, **January 16**. Admission is **\$10.00** by **advance registration**. Call **582-4269**.

\* \* \*

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.

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

William Chomyn  
Eva Doskoch  
Victor Horon  
Rose Kereliuk  
Jed Oleinyk  
Mary Romach  
Bill Uhryn

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 January celebrants:

Anne Krane  
Rose Nedbailik  
Eva Rayko  
Mike Stefiuk

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** wishes the best of health and happiness in the coming year to January celebrant:

Larry Kleparchuk

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

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

Dave Anger  
Norman Boucock  
John Kukoly  
Joe Panetta  
John Sitak  
Sandra Sitak  
Mary Wasylenky

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



## 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  
595 Pritchard Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4  
Phone: 800-856-8242 Fax: (204) 589-3404  
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 www.poltava.ca

### 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

### WELLAND BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple  
342 Ontario Road  
Welland ON L3B 5C5  
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separate  
page.**



## Taras Shevchenko Museum

### Most cosmopolitan of holidays Our International Christmas

Christmas is the most cosmopolitan of all our festivals. In a city like Toronto, many people celebrate it in the special fashion of their homelands. But even observances that have been traditional in Canada for generations, and seem as Canadian as maple syrup, have come from distant countries and distant ages.

Take for example, the date itself. Nothing in the Bible indicates Christ was born December 25. In pagan Rome, that day was given over to the worship of the sun-god. But when Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire, the church appropriated many of the pagan festivals, and the one that had honoured the sun was dedicated to Christ instead.

#### Christmas giving is lasting legacy of Roman Empire.

Gift giving, as a feature of Christmas, also comes from the Romans. Their December festival, the Saturnalia, was characterized by the exchange of gifts between relatives and friends. This too was incorporated in the tradition. Christmas shopping is one of the Roman Empire's lasting legacies.



The idea of presents for children, delivered by a special messenger, developed later. These messengers took many forms in many coun-



tries, the most familiar, of course, being Santa Claus.

He was originally a real person, St. Nicholas of Myra, who lived in what is now Turkey in the 4th century. St. Nicholas was famous for his charities, particularly for coming secretly at night to leave food or money at the homes of the needy. So he seemed an appropriate personage to leave gifts for children. The Dutch endowed Santa with his red costume and white beard and Dutch settlers popularized him in North America.

Santa's special conveyance, however, comes from farther afield. St. Nicholas of Myra was the patron saint of the Lapps, the reindeer-herding people of Arctic Norway and Sweden. They pictured him travelling as they did themselves, in a sleigh pulled by reindeer. The idea struck the imagination of children and was adopted as part of the Santa Claus tradition.

The custom of decorating homes at Christmas with evergreen branches, sprays of holly and sometimes, mistletoe, comes from the ancient Druid priests of Britain and Ireland. They believed evergreens and holly brought good luck, while mistletoe was a symbol of peace and reconciliation.

The largest piece of greenery, the Christmas tree, has a different origin. It goes back to pagan times in Germany, when particularly large and fine oak trees were dedicated to the god Wotan. St Boniface, the missionary who converted North Germany to Christianity, used to chop down these sacred oaks wherever he found them. When he realized how this distressed his German converts, he tried to provide a substitute by dedicating a beautiful fir tree to Christ.

The custom of bringing a small fir indoors at Christmas and decorating it came later, probably in the 16th century. German settlers brought it to North America.

#### Christmas dinner is older the Christianity.

The Christmas dinner is likewise older than Christianity. In Northern Europe, particularly, it was customary to hold a feast to celebrate the "winter solstice", the period when the days begin to grow longer. After Christianity was adopted, it was a simple matter to fix this celebration for Christmas day.

A variety of foods have been used at the Christmas feast in different times and countries, with pork and geese being especially popular. But ironically, the most widely used dish today owes its origin to a people who hated Christmas. The Puritan settlers of Massachusetts in the 17th century regarded Christmas as a relic of the Roman Catholic Church, and actually made it a criminal offence to celebrate the day, "either by forbearing of labour, feasting or in any other way". As late as the 19th century, Christmas was an ordinary working day in Massachusetts.

#### Puritans gave us roast turkey with cranberry sauce.

But while they were fulminating against Christmas, the Puritans were also perfecting roast turkey with cranberry sauce – originally associated chiefly with Thanksgiving. This delectable invention conquered the Christmas dinner tables of North America and later, of other countries.

Christmas is traditionally the season of peace among all people. So it's appropriate that the elements of our Christmas celebrations should have come from so many nations.

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## Call to the Convention

(Continued from Page 13.) delegates, but the cost of participation by alternate delegates will be borne by the Branch and/or the alternate delegate. On adequate notice of requirements, the AUUC National Office will endeavour to arrange lodgings for the alternate delegates, and try to meet their other needs as though they were delegates. Alternate delegates may attend Convention sessions on the same conditions as apply to other observers. Prior to the Convention, alternate delegates may replace elected delegates if notice of the change is sent by the Branch President or the Branch Treasurer to reach the Convention Planning Committee, care of the National Office, no later than the day before the start of the Convention. During the three days of the Convention, alternate delegates may replace delegates only by the agreement of the Convention as expressed in a motion adopted by the Convention.

Observers may attend the convention, at their own costs and by their own arrangements, except for sessions which the Convention may declare to be closed.

As specified in the Constitution of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (Article 13, paragraph 4), we hereby give notice of the 44th AUUC National Convention.

**Gerry Shmyr**  
National President  
**Steve Smoly**  
National Treasurer

## Welland

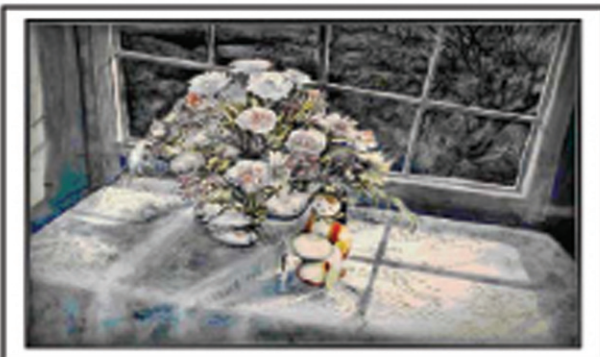
(Continued from Page 8.) ping toes, and the voices singing along are a few signs that what we have done is to bring sincere pleasure to an audience

"Come again," repeated often and honestly, is as good as a standing ovation.

— Performer

## "A POINT OF VIEW"

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May the New Year  
bring  
Peace, Happiness and Joy  
to all our friends.

Olga and Myron Shatulsky

To All Our Friends  
at home, in Canada, and in Ukraine,  
Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season  
and our best wishes,  
for the Best of Health, Peace, and  
Prosperity in the New Year!

UKRAINIAN AMERICAN LEAGUE  
NEW YORK, NY — USA

Natalie Kehoe  
President

Genevieve Hanusiak  
Secretary/Treasurer