

HERALD BICHIK

ЧЕРВЕНЬ, 2010р. HOMEР 225 PIK XIX

JUNE 2010 NO. 225 VOL. XIX Price \$2.25

Poltava Ensemble Reunion

—Photo: Mark Greschner



The Poltava Ensemble Reunion included a concert-banquet on April 10, with 200 people in attendance. Coverage of the Reunion, including photos, begins on Page 8.

Class Struggle in USA

Paul Krugman, Nobel Prize winning economics professor (2008) and op-ed writer for *The New York Times*, is a political liberal in the USA (he was critical of President Bush when it wasn't popular — or safe). His articles in the paper often show interesting perspectives and insight.

Such an article is "The Old Enemies", which discusses the opposition to the administration of President Obama in the United States. Prof. Krugman's view is that "...what President Obama and his party

now face isn't just, or even mainly, an opposition grounded in right-wing populism. For grass-roots anger is being channeled and exploited by corporate interests, which will be the big winners if the G.O.P. does well in November."

Concerning the Tea Party and other such phenomena, the article says, "The antics of the socialism-and-death-panels crowd are only part of the story of anti-Obamaism, and arguably the less important part. If you really want to know what's going on, watch the corporations."

The article presents clearly and cogently some of the how and why many corporations (and the people who run them) oppose the Obama administration, though leaving important questions unanswered.

TFSA Disappointment

The government of Canada made a big to-do about tax free savings accounts, and together with financial institutions and the financial writers in the commercial media, launched a major campaign to encourage people to invest in this vehicle, and in particular to choose the TFSA over registered retirement saving plans.

The TFSA was touted as the most significant innovation in personal finance options since whatever.

After a time the intensity of the campaign diminished, but did not entirely die. Today, we continue to get articles about the benefits of this savings option, but there appears to be a more balanced approach by many financial advisers.

In February, 2010, some articles on the topic included information about how exten-

sively TFSA had been adopted by Canadian taxpayers.

I believe that the government had a keen interest in the success of the promotion of TFSAs. If successful, the promotion of TFSAs would assist in controlling inflation by diverting some funds to saving, away from consumption.

It would achieve this diversion without the cost to taxes which RRSPs represent, as RRSPs provide an immediate tax benefit at the taxpayer's marginal rate on the total amount invested, while the TFSA only provides a tax saving (still at the marginal tax rate) on the income earned by the investment, a much smaller amount.

While some writers wrote cheerfully about the results of the campaign, others expressed disappointment.

Bankers were also heard to express some disappointment. For example, Jamie Golombek, a managing director with CIBC Private Wealth Management, characterized the "take-up rate" as "still disappointingly low".

What are the numbers?

In an article in *The Globe and Mail* on February 22, 2010, it was reported that, after one year, there were 4.7 million tax free savings accounts, with assets of \$15.8 billion.

The positive spin was to write that the tax free savings account "has ballooned in popularity" and the amount of money in TFSAs has "swelled by 27% in the last six months of last year". In reality, that means that almost 3/4 of investments occurred in the first six months. Further information in the article was that

(Continued on Page 13.)

Corrections

An error appeared in the Page 1 article "Health Care Problems" in the last issue of the "UCH", in which it was wrongly written that the medical expenses tax credit is deducted from income. In fact, like other non-refundable tax credits, 15% of the eligible amount is deducted from taxes payable. The actual value of the credit depends on the eligible amount spent and the net income of the tax payer. Consequently, the tax saving indicated was, in most circumstances, incorrect. To get the \$24.00 tax benefit indicated in the article, on eligible expenditures of \$1000.00 as indicated in the article, the taxpayer would have a net income of about \$29,500.00. That same taxpayer would pay a \$300.00 Ontario Health Premium. (These calculations are based on Ontario income tax arrangements.)

On that same page, the "Best Wishes for Full Recovery" should have read, "We extend best wishes for a full and complete recovery from his recent knee surgery to AUUC National President Gerry Shmyr."

The Wonderful World of Economists

Todd Hirsch, Calgary-based senior economist at ATB Financial, thinks that the Great Recession is behind us. At least, that's what he tells us in an article in *The Globe and Mail*. Except that "the economic drama in Europe" could prove that to be wrong.

Furthermore, the "Canadian economy seems to be roaring back to life with more gusto than we had imagined". (The European situation, of course could change that.)

The message is, apparently, that things will get better, unless they get worse.

That's fine, because "what we lived through in 2008 and 2009 was actually not all that bad". Especially not for senior economists. Especially not through a macroeconomics lens, which shows a part-time temporary job at minimum wage as a job, just like a position as a senior economist.

Of course a machinist who lost a job at union rates, and then his home, and then his phone for non-payment, and then his car insurance, and then, and then might see it differently.

Actually, our senior analyst was writing advice for his juniors. He gave them this counsel:

a) It may be fun, but don't become obsessed with predicting the future. (He did not mention the folly of predicting 600,000 jobs over 10 years.)

b) Don't use only the evidence which supports your predictions. (He did not mention the consistency of think tank findings.)

c) Don't be afraid to say, "We don't know." (How does he feel about the words, "I don't know?")

Well, then, what is a young (Continued on Page 14.)

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**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Current Eclectic — Long and Short

Events in Sri Lanka

In April, 2006, in response to a campaign by the government of Sri Lanka, the Conservative government of Canada declared the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) — the Tamil Tigers — a terrorist organization (one of 32 countries to do so). Anyone who provided aid or comfort to the LTTE, the most active opponent of the government of Sri Lanka, was subject to the full force of Canada's anti-terrorism legislation.

As early as October, 2008, the government of Canada issued information which included in its text that, "Canada regrets the decision of the Government of Sri Lanka to withdraw from the 2002 Ceasefire Agreement, as this is likely to make the search for a durable political solution more difficult and to increase violence. Canada remains gravely concerned by the impact of the escalating hostilities on civilians, including humanitarian workers and human rights defenders. The renewal of the conflict in Sri Lanka has led to thousands of deaths and hundreds of thousands displaced. Current diplomatic efforts are focussed on supporting greater compliance with international norms in human rights and international humanitarian law, urging parties to the conflict to provide humanitarian access and assistance to civilians affected by the conflict, as well as promoting good governance, pluralism and the rule of law."

The statement also indicated that, "Canada looks to the Sri Lankan government — the democratically-elected leaders of all citizens — to present a viable political solution to the conflict which satisfies the legitimate aspirations of all citizens, regardless of language, religion, or ethnicity."

Further, "Canada, in concert with like-minded countries, and through international fora such as the United Nations, has raised with the Government of Sri Lanka concerns regarding reports of human rights violations. With the escalation of the conflict, independent human rights reporting is that much more critical. Canada strongly supports the presence of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Sri

Lanka with a full mandate to report on the human rights situation."

This was the tone used in addressing the government of Sri Lanka, which was considered by many international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to be among the foremost offenders against human rights.

As the government of Sri Lanka waged its war against the population trapped in a conflict zone, the diplomatic language did not become more "energetic". An example of the position of the government of Canada and others is the April 25, 2009, statement by the Foreign Ministers of the G8. In the statement, the Foreign Ministers "express our deep concern about the mass civilian casualties and deteriorating humanitarian situation in Northern Sri Lanka".

Concern is also expressed about reports that "civilians who have been injured are unable to move to safety", but all the blame seems to be placed on the LTTE for using civilians as human shields, the killing of civilians and terrorism.

The only indication that fault goes beyond the LTTE to the government is the "call on all parties to take necessary action to avoid further civilian casualties".

"We support the decision by the UNSG to dispatch a UN humanitarian team to the no-fire zone," is an interesting sentence in the statement. It suggests recognition that the no-fire zone, a small area into which the government had directed civilians, was a source of concern, though the concerns were not expressed.

While the implied criticism of the Sri Lankan government may be strong language in a diplomatic statement, it is by no means of a tone to discourage the government of Sri Lanka from barring independent observers while waging a vicious anti-Tamil campaign in the area.

In May, 2009, the government of President Mahinda Rajapaksa after having barred foreign journalists and aid workers from areas in which fighting was going on or which were about to be attacked, it is reported that the government then launched an assault that made no distinction between combatants and civilians. Anyone trying to flee the combat arena, which reportedly included the no-fire zone, was shot.

The government set up "welfare villages" (displaced persons camps) which in May, 2009, held up to 300,000 peo-

ple. Aid agencies and various governments criticized the government of Sri Lanka for restricting access to the camps and preventing refugees from leaving. There were serious concerns about the conditions in the camps.

Canadian Neil Buhne, the United Nations' highest ranking representative in Sri Lanka, however, was not concerned. He thought the criticisms were unfair, as the government had successfully repressed the Tamil insurgency. Among the hundreds of thousands in the detention camps, he had "no doubt, there are at least a few hundred Tigers." Some of them "are probably hard-line cadres," he opined, while others, undoubtedly had "an association".

While others were concerned about the exclusion of Save the Children and the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Buhne was quite satisfied that the "World Food Program has a centre providing a regular food supply and nutritional supplements".

A year later, it appears that up to 100,000 Tamils (the government admits to 65,000) are still in those displaced persons camps.

The government says that land mines have to be removed before the displaced persons (Tamils) can return to their homes. However, there are also indications that large numbers of Sinhalese have been moving into the areas in question.

It has been estimated that 40,000 civilians were among the Tamils killed in that final conflict, with additional numbers dying of hunger and/or lack of medical care — and the accusation is that these casualties were the result of government policies.

Now, the International Crisis Group, an NGO headed by Canadian Louise Arbour, has called for an international investigation into possible war crimes and human rights violations by both the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government.

Louise Arbour is a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, and a former chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for the Balkans and Rwanda.

The International Crisis Group is funded by governments (including Canada's) and other donors to study armed conflict and how to prevent it.

The Sri Lankan government has rejected both the concerns of the ICG and the call for a United Nations investigation.

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Ottawa, Chitranganee Wagiswara, ascribed the concerns to efforts by "Tiger leaders and their supporters abroad to discredit the government".

Ms. Wagiswara also said, on behalf of the government of Sri Lanka, that the world had no business investigating such "unsubstantiated" allegations in a sovereign country.

Aside from concerns about events in Sri Lanka, the ICG is concerned that other governments combating insurgents might be tempted to adopt the "Sri Lankan option" — preventing international observation or intervention, unrestrained military action without distinguishing between civilians and combatants, refusal to negotiate and disregard for humanitarian concerns.

In February, 2010, the *Toronto Star* printed an editorial expressing concern about Sri Lanka's move from a "Year of Living Dangerously" to a "Year of Living Dictatorially", discussing President Mahinda Rajapaksa's attacks on his political rivals in the January, 2010, elections, as well as on journalists who have been critical. After detaining the main opposing candidate, he called another election for April, hoping to win enough seats to be able to amend the constitution. That bid failed, but support from smaller parties may provide the strength he hoped to gain.

An interesting development since the April election is that the Internal Affairs Ministry and the Urban Development Authority have been subsumed under the Defence Ministry.

The announcement by Defence Spokesman and Mass Media and Communication Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said that the change was intended to expedite development activities.

The full significance of the militarization of this aspect of government activity remains to be seen.

— Wilfred Szczesny

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"5) Check with local authorities for restrictions on campfires or burning brush.

"Visit www.safeathome.ca for further tips.

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Chief Bruce Burrell,
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595 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2K4
Phone: (800) 856-8242; Fax: (204) 589-3404
E-mail: auuckobzar@mts.netUkrainian Canadian Herald editorial offices are located
at 1604 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 1A7
Phone: 416-588-1639; Fax: 416-588-9180
E-mail: kobzar1@on.aibn.comSubscription price: \$30.00 annually (including GST)
\$40.00 Foreign subscriptions.
Advertising rates available on request.

PUBLICATIONS MAIL REGISTRATION No. 40009476

Signed articles represent the viewpoint of the author, and do not
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Thoughts About the Afghanistan File

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

The process of inquiry into Canada's behaviour in Afghanistan with respect to detainees continues. It should continue, so that the details can be established and facts can be documented. While that formal and, presumably, rigorous process is far from complete, there are already conclusions which can be asserted with a fair degree of confidence which are of interest.

Clearly, the government knew, or should have known, that at least some detainees turned over to Afghan authorities were being tortured. This is because (in addition to other reasons), in other contexts, the government (and the media) have never been shy about saying that prisoners were tortured in Afghanistan, because a range of international observers and organizations said so, and because some of our diplomats were reporting it.

An argument can be made that none of those reasons constitutes proof. However, it can also be argued that the accumulation of suggestive evidence was such that to ignore it or discount it, rather than acting on it, was to shirk the government's obligations under international laws and treaties.

Furthermore, it appears (and will probably be established by the investigations) that the decision not to act on the evidence of torture was based not on the purported weakness of the evidence, or a belief that there was no torture, but rather on the perceived benefits of such a course: to avoid the cost of keeping the detainees; to reduce the possibility of Canadian troops being caught abusing detainees; to benefit from any useful intelligence torture might elicit. Acceptance of this abhorrent policy was encouraged by dehumanizing detainees, as was done by Canada's top military spokespersons.

The government took deliberate steps to discourage any investigation into government policy on this issue, including accusations of disloyalty and "being more concerned about the fate of Taliban detainees than about Canadian troops". After the inquiries (one by the Military Police Complaints Commission, another by a Commons committee on Afghanistan) began, the government, citing security concerns, took every possible step to make their work impossible, including impugning career diplomats with a history of distinguished service.

The security threats are to war criminals in the Canadian establishment, who will never be brought to justice.

COMMENTARY

"A Small Price to Pay"

Call it spin doctoring, call it salesmanship, call it scoring debating points, call it what you will, it all comes down to trying to fool the people into believing that they are getting something they're not or into believing that they are getting more than they are.

Unfortunately, that kind of misleading rhetoric seems now to infuse everything that comes out of the mouths of politicians and every utterance of spokespeople for corporations and their owners. Unfortunately, the commercial media, and even such public institutions as the CBC, seem increasingly merely to parrot the official line, not challenging even the most ridiculous assertions.

An example of this sort of "discussion", which barely stays within the bounds of honesty (and maybe goes beyond, depending on how "honesty is defined) is the whole effort to gain support for the harmonized sales tax. (I'll draw on the Ontario case for supporting material, as I know that case best.)

For days, even weeks, we have been subjected to an HST promotion campaign which has been going on about creating 600,000 jobs in Ontario. In this depressed economy, how can anyone oppose the creation of 600,000 jobs?

On May 7 of this year, the

Toronto Star printed an item by Len Crispino, President of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. In that item, Mr. Crispino repeated the 600,000 jobs stuff, but he added information that most of the sales pitches omitted — over 10 years!

First of all, consider that the people selling us this stuff have been proving for years that they can barely predict what will happen next week, never mind in 10 years. If you believe they can, go back over their statements in the last decade (more if you like, or fewer) and see for yourself.

Second, how big a deal is 600,000 jobs over 10 years, coming out of our currently depressed economy, especially if the quality of those jobs (is that occasional part-time at minimum wage?) is not specified?

Third, the 600,000 jobs number comes out of a study by Jack Mintz of the University of Calgary (thank you, Mr. Crispino, for that information).

Think back to the front-page article "Identifying Authorities" in the May, 2010, issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*. So who is this Jack Mintz, a scholar at the University of Calgary, who does economic studies touting the job-creating properties of the HST?

It turns out that Dr. Mintz is a former President and Chief Executive Officer of the C.D. Howe Institute. Before going to the University of Calgary in 2008 to create a new School of Policy Studies, Dr. Mintz was at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto.

The C.D. Howe Institute

and its admirers label it "a non-partisan organization that promotes the application of independent research and analysis to major economic and social issues in Canada" whose "official mandate is to improve the standard of living for Canadians through sound public policy solutions".

Its critics on the other hand, call it a "right-wing think tank". Their view of it is buttressed by the Institute's consistency in supporting positions such as, on the one hand, calling Ontario's proposed green energy fee "likely an unconstitutional tax" and, on the other hand, supporting a tax on Canadians based on their use of health care, using the money to lower personal income tax rates.

One need not assume or suggest that Dr. Mintz is dishonest, and one can assume that Dr. Mintz is actually highly skilled in his arts. However, one should also recall that all socioeconomic studies have underlying assumptions, including assumptions about social values, which determine the final conclusions.

Therefore, when Dr. Mintz, whatever his credentials and expertise, reaches conclusions, the roots of his study should be examined. This is not to suggest any special treatment for Dr. Mintz — nobody's conclusions should be accepted without considering the roots.

The *Toronto Star* article by Len Crispino starts with powerfully emotive rhetorical images — "brighter future for our children", "Who among us is satisfied with the status quo?" — with their content to be supplied by the imaginations of the reader.

"Brighter future for our children" — is that a future in which Canada finally matches Mexico in its business-tax levels and socioeconomic indicators, or a future in which Canada is a leader in the health and welfare of its residents?

And he never stops. "Naturally, no one likes taxes at all", he asserts. However, if nobody liked taxes at all, we would not have any. Most people, in fact, recognize that taxes (as someone once said) are the price of civilization, and if we are to be a civilized society we must have a tax structure which promotes social health and welfare, not a structure which promotes the unlimited enrichment of Canada's richest families at the cost of impoverishing everyone else.

There is no room here for a point-by-point discussion of Len Crispino's article, with its promises of lower prices, higher wages and other benefits. Suffice it to say that, his "small price to pay" is a \$4.5 billion burden to working people for a \$4.5 billion tax cut to corporations. — Sz

From Our Readers

I look forward to getting the paper — you all are doing a great job. Keep it going!

— Jerry Gawura
Canton, Michigan

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Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

Atomic Power Needed

The Chernobyl tragedy in 1986 led Ukraine to abandon its nuclear arsenal, but the country needs nuclear power as its main energy source, Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich said recently.

Ukraine witnessed one of the world's worst man-made disasters at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant on April 26, 1986, when a plume of radioactive fallout was released into the atmosphere and over an extensive geographical area, including the western Soviet Union and most of Europe.

"Ukraine was the first to feel and realize the danger originated from the peaceful use of atomic energy and it was, perhaps, one of the reasons for our country to voluntarily give up its nuclear weapons," said Yanukovich.

At the same time, the Ukrainian president reiterated the country's need for nuclear energy supplies. "Whether we want it or not, Ukraine's energy future is impossible without the nuclear energy industry," he said.

In 2007, nuclear energy supplied 47.5% of Ukraine's electricity production of 195 billion KWH.

Ukraine plans to build eleven new reactors by 2030, almost doubling its current nuclear power capacity.

Swine Flu Scare

Swine flu is under scrutiny once again as pharmaceutical companies are being accused of hyping up a "false pandemic".

A representative from PACE (the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) claims that the United Nations World Health Organization colluded with major drug companies and changed the definition of "pandemic" to ensure maximum profits with no risks for the pharmaceutical firms.

If PACE is putting forward the theory that the swine flu hysteria was engineered by pharmaceutical companies to generate revenue, then Ukraine is a perfect example. The first revelations of the flu epidemic in Ukraine back in October, 2009, caused panic across the country. News of the pandemic dominated the agenda of most Ukrainian mass media. Public reaction was so strong that all anti-flu products flew off the shelves of pharmacies and drug stores across the country.

Of course, pharmaceutical companies in Ukraine profited from the hysteria. The combined profits of all pharmaceu-

tical organizations in Ukraine in October, 2009, alone amounted to over \$200 million, which was more than they had earned during the entire year before.

The biggest controversy surrounds the antiviral drug Tamiflu. When the first delivery of 300 tons of Tamiflu was delivered to Ukraine, Yulia Tymoshenko (then prime minister) revealed that some pharmacies had already sold the drug at ten times the original price. Furthermore, a respectable British medical journal wrote later that it was doubtful whether the medication could actually help anyone suffering from H1N1.

As it turned out, the number of those who died of swine flu in Ukraine was smaller than the country loses annually due to regular seasonal flu.

Dr. Wolfgang Wodarg, Chairman of the PACE Health Committee, said, "The World Health Organization installed a private-public partnership with pharmaceutical companies that started some 8 years ago, and it seems that the pharmaceutical industry has very successfully influenced it because they had a lot of profit with two false alarms by the World Health Organization. First, it was a bird flu alarm which never happened. And the second was the swine flu alarm, which was just a normal flu we experience every year, and even milder than most of the years."

China Interested

After going nowhere for much of the last five years, Ukraine-China relations are poised for a fresh burst of momentum under new president Viktor Yanukovich.

Getting China interested in Ukraine's economy could produce a welcome boost of investment.

The world's superpower, with more than 1.3 billion people and the world's fourth largest economy, remains governed by a very conservative Communist Party cadre. And the rulers reacted very cautiously to Ukraine under the five years of rule by the Orange Revolution tandem of Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko.

There was no official visit at the highest level between the two nations — not even during the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. And major investment projects were put on hold.

Some official documents of the Chinese government referred to the Orange Revolution as "a coup d'état of Yushchenko and Tymoshenko".

"China did not take the Orange Revolution enthusiastically

and was waiting for a clear political course to take hold," says Ihor Gumenyi, an official handling relations with China within Ukraine's Foreign Ministry.

If true, the election of Yanukovich and his speedy consolidation of political power were perhaps taken as a welcome sign by the Chinese leadership, who seized the opportunity to meet personally with the new Ukrainian president. During the April 11 - 14 nuclear security summit in Washington, China President Hu Jintao granted Yanukovich a prized one-on-one meeting.

To further advance relations, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry expects a visit to Ukraine by Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in the very near future. Moreover, the Chinese president has already invited Yanukovich to visit China later this year.

Veterans Respected

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said recently that the year 2010 will proceed under the sign of authority's special care about veterans.

In the words of the head of state, the first payments to veterans started with the adoption of the 2010 budget. By July 9, this money will be paid in full, Yanukovich assured.

The President emphasized that the government intends to continue taking measures in support of war veterans and invalids in the year of the 65th anniversary of the victory over fascism. The authority earmarked UAH 140 million (US\$17.5 million) for housing for the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 invalids, and UAH 50 million (US\$6.5 million) for providing them with automobile transport. The government intends to pay special attention to this issue, and this order was given to executive power bodies.

Yanukovich noted that the May 9 veteran parades took place in Kyiv, Odessa, Sevastopol, and Kerch. "Our children must know history, know the price of this victory," the President underscored.

IMAX In Ukraine

IMAX is a very large movie film format and projection standard invented in Canada in the late 1960s. It has been steadily refined since then, and can now be found in movie theatres around the world.

IMAX movie screens are much larger than standard screens, running from 51 feet x 37 feet to 117 feet x 96 feet. Because of the size, IMAX

movies provide a spectacular and unique visual experience.

The Canadian corporation IMAX recently announced that they, and the Ukrainian Triumph Media Group, are about to construct three new IMAX theatres in Ukraine.

One, to be opened in June, will be located in Odessa. A second, to be opened this autumn, will be located in Lviv. The third will be located in Kyiv. These theatres will have an audience capacity of 350 seats each.

On average, construction of an IMAX movie theatre costs about US\$3 million.

In Ukraine, the first (and only) IMAX theatre opened in Kyiv in 2008. It has been a commercial success.

Victory Day

The following letter appeared in the opinion section of the American newspaper *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

"American troops are among the 10,000 people in Sunday's Victory Day parade in Moscow, a month after the signing of the historic Russian-American arms-reduction treaty.

"We Won Together" is the Russian slogan on this 65th anniversary of the end of the World War II in Europe. Although the Soviets and Americans were ideological enemies before, during, and after world War II, we were allies in fighting the Nazis.

The two nations may have won a common victory, but our war experiences were vastly different. That explains why Victory Day is a highly emotional public holiday in Russia while not even listed on many calendars in the United States.

It is time to refresh ourselves on what happened during the war.

Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union with the intent to annihilate it. Loss of life was staggering: about 27 million Soviet people died, half of them civilians. Thirteen million Soviet soldiers lost their lives, compared with 400,000 American troops.

"We lost too many people, and it is difficult to forget it," says Yevgeny Martemyanov, who lives in Moscow. . . .

Where fighting occurred in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, "World War II is a living memory because in practically every family someone was killed in that war," says Larisa Nikitenko of north-central Ukraine. . . .

The Germans burned crops and livestock and confiscated food from homes. People ground up tree bark and boiled weeds to survive, and many died of starvation. Hunger persisted after war's end.

These memories, passed by

survivors to children and grandchildren, haunt the collective Slavic soul. Tears flow on Victory Day, says Natalia Golovanova of Kupyansk, in eastern Ukraine. "Men, children — everybody, when they hear a speech or a song about the war or watch a movie about those who defended the Motherland or speak with veterans."

"We do not want this kind of horror to ever happen ever again," says Valeria Rusyn of Uzhhorod, in western Ukraine.

Dyen Pobedy (Victory Day)

On May 9, the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv marked the 65th anniversary of the victory in World War II, along with other former Soviet members of the anti-Hitler coalition.

The celebrations started with the ceremony of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and continued with a triumphant parade on Kyiv's central streets.

This was the biggest military parade in the history of sovereign Ukraine in terms of troop participation and hardware. And it actually was the first time since Ukraine became a sovereign state in 1991, after the collapse of the USSR, that Russian and Ukrainian troops have marched together in the central street in Kyiv.

Over 70 servicemen from the Russian armed forces came to Kyiv to participate in this parade. This clearly signified how important this day was for both Ukraine and Russia, which back in 1945 were a single Soviet state.

Performances for children were held in practically every park of the city.

Up to 7 million Ukrainians perished during World War II and many were put into forced labour. The centre of Kyiv was set ablaze when the Germans tried to capture it. More than 600,000 people became prisoners after Kyiv fell.

World's First Underwater Tweet

(It is absolutely true that, as I get older, I get more easily confused by the new electronic gadgets that keep popping-up on the market. For example, here I am writing about tweeters, and yet I am not even sure what they are.)

Ukrainian TV journalist, Julia Gorodetskaya, recently sent the world's first underwater tweet from the floor of the 19-foot-deep Nemo, a dolphinarium (aquarium for dol-

(Continued on Page 14.)

**Ukrainian
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Poltava Reunion

The Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance held their first ever reunion on April 9, 10 and 11, at both the Ukrainian Cultural Centre (Friday and Sunday) and the Turvey Centre on Saturday. This event brought together former members of the Ensemble, including dancers, musicians, vocalists, conductors, and dance directors. Some, like Ginger Kautto, dated back to the very beginning of the group.

Let's back up to the summer of 2008, when long-time

dancers Donna Bannman (Machuik) and Norman Sawchyn began discussing the need for such an event. They had noticed that many former members had not stayed connected with the Ensemble, even at annual performances and fundraising events such as Malanka, Mosaic and the Annual Concert Recital, and many people had moved away from Regina. Donna and Norman decided that now was the time to reconnect those people to Poltava.

Collaboration began in ear-

— Photo Randy Dickin



On Friday night there was a reception for people registering for the weekend.

Poltava History Documented

Having grown up in the Regina AUUC where I also taught dancing and worked with youth and children, I was invited to speak at the Poltava Reunion about the early, formative years of that Ensemble.

It was a great pleasure to attend the event and see, through an historical photo exhibit, the organizational roots of Poltava and its development over the past 50 years, making the Poltava Ensemble one of the foremost dance ensembles in our country.

The exhibit, mounted by Donna Bannman, was made possible by the earlier care and preservation of precious archives by Anna Lapchuk and later Alex Lapchuk.

These archives also helped produce the book *Poltava: Celebrating Our Past — Building Our Future*, which is not so much a written history as a pictorial one, dating from as early as 1918, supported by clippings and concert reviews. The book, compiled by Donna and done in full colour, was one of the highlights of the Reunion.

Another highlight was the film *Celebration!* created by Norman Sawchyn. This exceptional film not only contains footage of past Poltava performances, but delves into the early history of the AUUC, documenting the background and growth of this fine Ensemble.

Although both the book and film are specific to the Regina AUUC and Poltava Ensemble, in essence they reflect every Branch's history and should be made available to all AUUC branches in the country.

An important aspect of the Poltava Reunion was that it was attended in the majority by younger people in their 50s, 40s and 30s and from various ethnic backgrounds, a significant factor in the success and sustainability of the Poltava Ensemble.

Although these young people came to enjoy meeting old friends and colleagues, it was not only a party. It was an expression of sincere appreciation of how the years they spent in Poltava enriched their lives.

Kudos to the Poltava Reunion Committee for successfully achieving a major event in the life of the AUUC.

— Ginger Kautto

nest in July, 2008, and a core reunion committee was struck with Lyle Knobbe and Betty-Ann Donison. This group defined the goals and objectives of the reunion, and set out a framework. Agreement was quickly reached that, along with the reunion itself, two other major deliverables were to be produced: a book and a documentary.

Donna focused on gathering, organizing and selecting the archives that would be used in the book. Artifacts needed to be digitized, but doing them all was not an option, given the time frames and the limited funding. Donna defined an outline of what was needed in the book, and set out to create it. Putting in only what was necessary still made the first draft too big. Trimming out 100 pages was a more difficult task.

In the meantime, Norman set out creating a vision and outline for a documentary. Using his creative talents, he

created a proposal for funding from the now defunct Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN), which was turned down. Not deterred, Norman tackled the task himself, hiring a camera crew, interviewing, writing a script, editing, and producing the 50-minute documentary.

Finding former members proved to be one of the biggest challenges. Had it not been for the internet and social networking, finding these people may well have been impossible. Of the many searches, e-mails, phone calls, and message posts, a long list was soon born; however, not everyone was found.

The committee sent out quarterly newsletters to keep everyone informed and excited.

In January, 2010, an event that seemed far off was suddenly looming. Final touches and preparations were finished and the big weekend was upon us.

On Friday, April 9, 2010, the Ukrainian Cultural Centre (the hall), at 1809 Toronto Street, was filled with about 90 excited people who had registered for the event. Attendees came from across Canada, from Vancouver to Toronto, and even from the United States. Hugs, cries, laughter and many memories were shared that night. A feeling of a homecoming filled the hall.

Saturday, April 10, 2010, was dedicated to a day-long program. Hundreds of archives, including the four old stage backdrops from the 1920s, were on display, making the large Turvey Centre look cosy.

The book entitled *Celebrating our Past — Building our Future* was dedicated by Donna Bannman during the opening remarks. Participants were treated to the showing of a film made in 1974 — *Poltava, Heritage of Dance*, created by Norman Sawchyn. (Continued on Page 11.)



Shown above and below, in photos by Lyle Knobbe, are three original stage backdrops, displayed for the Reunion participants.



Joint Concert/Banquet in Welland

—Photo: Wilfred Szczesny



The April 11 concert/banquet in Welland began with a hot and cold buffet prepared by the local women (mostly), which led to sure signs of appreciation: full bellies and loosened belts. (Unless otherwise indicated, photos are by Stacey-Ann Lawrence.)

On the afternoon of Sunday, April 11, members of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and their family and friends gathered at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Welland for a delightful afternoon of Ukrainian culture, featuring the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra (AUUC) and the Hahilka Singers of Toronto.

The singers brought some of their most entertaining musical theatre to the afternoon, while the orchestra played a combination of popular selections and folk music from around the world, as well as providing strong accompaniment to several vocal solos and duets.

The afternoon began with a delicious home-made buffet, featuring the many talents of the ladies of the Association. One by one, the host for the afternoon, Clara Babi, called tables to come for Canadian staples like meatballs (complemented by a delicious mushroom sauce) and roast beef (with light and fluffy mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables), along with Ukrainian selections like cabbage rolls and home-made perogies — definite crowd favourites.

For my taste, the garden salad was drenched in dressing made with too much vinegar. On the other hand, some diners seemed to like it that way.

Can anything compare to fresh, home-made dessert? Each table, decked out with fresh flowers in milk glass



Natalka Mochoruk opened the concert with an emotionally powerful reading of Taras Shevchenko's "Zapovit", to orchestral accompaniment.

vases, was brought its own enticing selection of dessert classics like butter tarts and various cookies, to be enjoyed with tea and coffee throughout the concert.

With full bellies and loosened belts, the packed audience turned their attention to the stage.

Starting not quite on time, the orchestra, led by Conductor Rudy Wasylenky, began their first set to an eagerly awaiting audience.

The orchestra's costumes, particularly the embroidered skirts worn by the women, created an attractive tableau.

Wilfred Szczesny, orchestra member and Master of Ceremonies for the event, introduced the orchestra to the crowd with his usual vigour and presence.

The opening number, "Zapovit" (My Testament), featured the poetry of Taras Shevchenko, read in Ukrainian by Natalka Mochoruk. The audience was immediately captivated by this emotionally powerful presentation.

The unique arrangement of "Dobry vechir" (Good Evening) from the National Millennium Festival of 2000 had audience members commenting on how lovely the traditional song sounded. Unfortunately, the complicated rhythms and tempo changes of the arrangement were not always cleanly executed.

Joy Edward's strong accordion stood out in the soulful "Dark Eyes", a well-known

Russian romance. The song, in three variations, garnered comments about how beautifully the song was played. Then, all were moved to stomping, clapping, and shouts of "HEY!" throughout the final movement — "Who Will Buy My *Bublychky*?"

This afternoon's music featured both traditional Ukrainian folk music and music from around the world. Did you know how well mandolins express Latin American music? Some of the afternoon's most stunning selections were Haiti's "Yellow Bird", Cuba's "Guantanamera", and an original arrangement of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" from the hit musical *Evita*. The group has reason to be proud of the traditional quality that the mandolins, as well as Joy Edward's accordion and Walter Hunka's bass, evoke.

The arrangement of the popular Cuban tune "Guantanamera", featuring vocalist Ken "Bud" Speck, seemed a little slow, lacking energy. That said, Mr. Wasylenky's choice to have the melody sung, rather than playing an instrumental version of the song, highlighted the orchestra's talent for accompaniment.

Mr. Speck also lent his melodic voice to another crowd favourite, "My Melody of Love", a Polish song made popular by Bobby Vinton. Harmony was provided by

(Continued on Page 12.)



Accompanying the Hahilka Singers on keyboard was the talented Peter Krochak.



A view of the orchestra. Joy Edward's strong accordion stood out in the soulful Russian romance "Dark Eyes".



The Hahilka Singers began their set with "Oy pidemo zhinko" (Let's Go Wife), a duet featuring Maria Gargal and Wilfred Szczesny.



Maria Gargal (left), Terri Rivest, Claudia Rabzak and Lorna Clark (right) sing their dedication to the beaux in "Humorous Ditties".



Claudia Rabzak (left) and Lorna Clark complain of their aches and pains, and look for relief. The simulated violence was realistic enough to scare little children.



Maria Gargal (holding evidence) suspects, correctly, that Lorna Clark has done a bit of chicken rustling. Terry Rivest (left), Claudia Rabzak and Mary Saik (partially obscured) provide an encouraging chorus.



Ken Speck, with his melodic voice, sang the Polish song "My Melody of Love" and a laid-back version of "Guantanamera".

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Poltava Reunion

(Continued from Page 8.)

One of the feature activities of the reunion was the staging of a dance featuring any former dancer wanting to participate. Three weeks prior to the reunion, about six former dancers came to rehearsals to learn a dance, so that they could assist in teaching any of the dancers just arriving for the reunion weekend. The Poltava Reunion Dancers practiced on Saturday morning and afternoon, with the orchestra.

Lunch featured perogies made by the hall perogy making group.

A fashion show of costumes used by Poltava Dancers past and present followed lunch. Organized by Lisa

Wanner (Shmyr), dancers from the AUUC School and Poltava Dancers modelled costumes from the generations, with narration by Jeanne Lunney.

The AUUC School performed several dances for the participants.

A banquet with entertainment was held on Saturday night, attended by 200 people.

The Poltava Ensemble opened the evening with a full program. Before Poltava's "Hopak", the Reunion Dancers (under the direction of former Dance Director and Choreographer Darcy Dietrich) performed "Zapletu vinochok" (I Shall Weave Wreathes). Lyle Knobbe played the

—Photo: Lorne Olafson



The Reunion Dancers practiced on Saturday morning and afternoon.

opening solo on the clarinet while Norman and Donna entered the hall reminiscing about dancing one more time "for old times sake".

There were many tears of joy and an overwhelming feeling of pride from dancers and audience alike. The standing ovation and applause were loud and long!

After supper, it was time to present the screening of *Celebration!*, the new documentary created by Norman Sawchyn about the history of the Poltava Ensemble. The room was darkened, the DVD was started, and for the next 50 minutes not a sound could be heard, except for the presentation. I had never before witnessed a room of 200 people as mesmerized as I did this night. At the end, another standing ovation and thunderous applause were the response of the participants.

Many items were donated for sale and a silent auction which went a long way to helping pay the bills, including major costs incurred to produce the book and the documentary. (Not a dime of grant money was made avail-

—Photo: Lorne Olafson

able to the event.)

Goodbyes were said on Sunday morning, April 11, back at the hall. A hot breakfast was served to those willing (and able) to attend. Old photo albums were shared, and talk of future get-togethers could be heard here and there. All agreed it was a very worthwhile event.

Having to say "goodbye" was difficult, knowing that you may not see many of these individuals for a very long time again. However, thanks to this event and the internet, some may be more connected than ever before!

Committee work is not yet done. Many clean-up activities need to happen, including putting away the displays and processing orders for additional books and DVDs. This will be done in a few months and then this project will close. As the Ensemble turns to preparations for another busy Mosaic, the memories that we helped create will be there for all to think about for some time to come.

— Donna Bannman
Lyle Knobbe



The Reunion Dancers performed to an audience of 200 at the banquet-concert

—Photos below and bottom: Lyle Knobbe and Darcy Dietrich

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Above and below, part of the wealth of historical material on display.



— Photo: Victor Horon

Honouring Edna Chmiliar

After their meeting on Sunday, April 18, members of the AUUC Edmonton Branch paid tribute to Edna Chmiliar, a Branch member of long standing. The tribute below was delivered by Bob Kisilevich.

Edna moved to Edmonton on August 1, 1930, to live with her aunt Frances Kaminska, who lived just a block away from the old ULFTA Blue Hall, as it was known then. She was taken to the hall and watched orchestra rehearsals.

The hall was a busy place as members and friends, living in its near proximity, walked and rode street cars to meet socially and/or to participate in Ukrainian cultural activities. Edna remembers dances held every second Saturday night, and said "I attended all the concerts on weekends and the hall was always full."

Edna started taking man-

dolin lessons when she was nine years old, in 1933, and not long afterward found herself, in her words, in the "talented orchestra of 30 members".

Her talents developed in the thirties and forties, with the help of "talented" conductor/teachers Demyan Wichrestow, William Holowach, and Mary Pashka (now Mary Kuzyk), who, in her very senior years, still plays first mandolin with the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble orchestra in Toronto.

During that time, Edna recalls playing at ULFTA concerts at the Blue Hall every other week.

From 1952, after the opening of the Edmonton Ukrainian Centre, she continued playing under conductors William Philipowich and Bill Chomyn.

She reminisces about all the different places she played in AUUC orchestras and ensembles at concerts in Alberta

communities and towns as well as Jubilee Auditoriums in Edmonton and Calgary, other cities like Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat, and in festivals held by the AUUC in provinces across Canada.

About her earlier organizational involvement, she says, "... it was the beginning of a very busy life with the hall. Saturday was very busy for me, teaching the children to play the violin and mandolin from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m."

Edna was also an orchestra conductor with the ULFTA and AUUC in the 1930s and 1940s. "I wrote music by hand for the orchestra and choir, and also took music home to work on," she says.

From her earlier days, she is in a picture of the Edmonton Symphony, in its Philharmonic days, sitting in the violin section.

All in all, she continued playing mandolin and violin in (Continued on page 13.)



Pauline Warick handed the well-wrapped bread and salt to Edna Chmiliar (seated) at an event on April 18 to pay tribute to Ms. Chmiliar for many years of service.

Joint Concert/Banquet in Welland

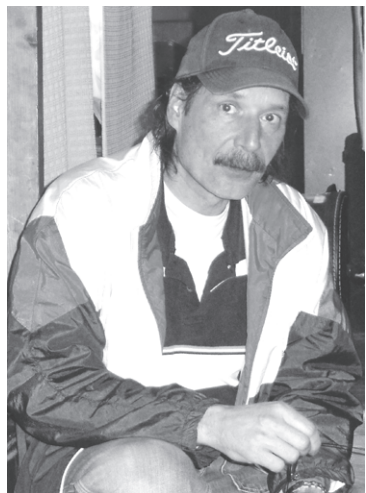


In addition to conducting, the multi-talented Rudy Wasylenky produces most of the orchestra's musical arrangements, and joins in the vocals.

(Continued from Page 9.) Rudy Wasylenky.

Other vocal duets were sung by Rudy Wasylenky and Wilfred Szczesny, who make great singing partners. Their voices blend as though they have sung together all their lives.

They certainly left this member of the audience wanting more. Actually, however much I enjoyed the entirety of the orchestra's performance, my favourite numbers were



John Manning served as sound technician for the afternoon.

the vocals.

Midway through the orchestral entertainment, the focus shifted to the floor, to the Hahilka Singers. Their selections for the afternoon focused on humour, and were indeed very entertaining.

The group, accompanied on the keyboard by the very talented Peter Krochak, was introduced by long-time conductor Nataalka Mochoruk. She emphasized the theatrical quality of their performance, and brought a humour of her own to the presentation. All of their numbers but one drew on the strong voice of Wilfred Szczesny, and all but one told stories of the many ways in which a man can get into trouble with women.

Their first song, "Oy pidozhinko" (Let's Go, Wife), a song about a wife unwilling to work but eager to attend a wedding in a remote village, brought smiles and laughter to all the audience members who understand the Ukrainian language.

Their second number "Oy te harney Semene" (Oh, You

Handsome Simon) provided a lesson for Kanye West — women aren't the only gold diggers! Simon, played by Mr. Szczesny, is eager to declare his love for Handzya, played



Flirtatious Lorna Clark finally figures it out — to gain Wilfred Szczesny's attention, show him the money.

by Lorna Clark — after she reveals her money. The acting was well done, and really added to the theatrical quality of the selection.

During the next number, "Zhartivlyvi kolomeyky" (Humorous Ditties), a style of folk song in which each verse is sung by a different member of the group, Lorna Clark, Claudia Rabzak, Terry Rivest and Maria Gargal took turns singing humorous expressions of their dedication to their beaux.

The following number, "Oy slaba ya, slaba" (Oh, I'm Ill), seemed challenging vocally, and the timing was also slightly off, requiring the accompanist to compensate. Fortunately, the number was so entertaining that the group's issues were either hardly noticed or entirely forgiven. Again the choir played their roles well,

Lorna Clark even giving Mr. Szczesny a slap on the back so realistic that it worried some of the small children in the audience.

The singers recovered well for their last number, "Preyshla kuma do komoyinky", a song about a missing chicken which found its way into a neighbour's soup pot. The argument got loud enough to wake Szczesny from his slumber, and the crowd had quite a chuckle as he emerged in a red night shirt.

All in all, the singers did a fantastic job of bringing humour and entertainment to the crowd.

Once again the audience turned their attention to the orchestra. Their second set of folk songs from around the world began with the German number "In Rudesheim", adapted by Mr. Wasylenky for the orchestra, which was well received by the audience.

The following numbers, "Yeechaly chloptsi" (The Boys Rode) and the final selection, "Ukrainian Folk Melody", gave the audience more opportunity to bop their heads and dance between tables to tunes sung by Messrs. Wasylenky and Szczesny, taking their minds off distractions like minor sound system issues and an exciting 50-50 draw.

The Welland orchestra's and Toronto singers' concert and luncheon was a highly enjoyable afternoon. Congratulations were certainly in order after the success of the performances which left the audience so well entertained that any minor issues the orchestra and singers had were made insignificant.

We look forward to the next concert.

— Zorya Murphy

Victory Day at FRC

The closure of the Gardiner Expressway all but paralysed the city of Toronto on Sunday, May 6, bringing traffic to a virtual halt. Yet, the Federation of Russian Canadians hosted a Victory Day event that, although it got off to a late start, was sold out, with

the hall on Denison Avenue solidly packed.

Any joint performance of the Beryozka Choir and Hahilka Singers is always an event in which I enjoy performing, and it was disappointing that I could not join in the celebration at my usual post in the soprano section.

I was, however, delighted to sit in the audience and take in this feast for the eyes, ears and taste buds. From the colourful costumes, through the traditional dances, to the unique voices of the Beryozka Choir and Hahilka Singers, the audience was well-entertained for the afternoon.

The hosts were truly hospitable, providing a delectable home-style buffet afterwards, followed by an amazing array of desserts, also home-made.

To end the event, no one went home empty-handed. There were gifts for all, and an abundance of door prizes that symbolized the joyful theme of spring.

The atmosphere in the hall was clearly one of family and friendship. As performers, we often say that our audiences are very forgiving, but sitting on the sidelines I could see the graciousness of the performers, their professionalism and spontaneity in light of a few false starts and mishaps.

The afternoon started off with the Podushka Dancers setting the mood with a playful Russian "*Khorovod*". This group began as an exercise club for former Ukrainian dance group participants. The more demanding steps have been adapted to the dancers' current stage in life.

Then, Natalie Mochoruk read two poignant poems that connected the themes of war

and the heartbreak that mothers experience in sending their sons off to the unknown and possible death.

This was followed by a series of spirited Ukrainian folk songs by the Hahilka Singers. To the audience's astonishment and delight, Conductor Natalie Mochoruk replaced the absent Mary Gargal. She took to this role with enthusiasm and dramatic style, as she performed solos in "*Oy pido-mo zhinko*" (Let's Go, Wife), "*Oy ty harney Semene*" (Oh, You Handsome Semen), "*Zhartivlyvi kolomeyky*" (Humorous Ditties) and "*Preyshla kuma do kumonyky*" (The Case of the Missing Chicken).

All the performers excelled in dramatically depicting the fun-loving nature of the Ukrainian people. You certainly did not need to know Ukrainian to understand the humour in these songs.

Solos and duets were also performed by Lorna Clark, Claudia Rabzak, Mary Kallis and Wilfred Szczesny.

Next, Rosemary Pollock performed two solo numbers with her natural easy charm, accompanied by Vasha Julea playing accordion. Vasha, I might add, was the hardest working performer of all, accompanying all the dance numbers and Russian and Ukrainian songs.

This was followed by a Belarussian dance by the Podushka Dancers, who seem, by the way, to have a never-ending costume selection from which to choose.

Then, on a more serious note, Michael Celik reflected on the 65th anniversary of the end of WWII with an historical account from the Russian perspective.

At last, it was the Beryozka Choir's turn to perform.

I didn't think they would be able to top the performance of their Gypsy number of the year before. To my surprise, they were up to the task.

The singing began in the outer room (Are they rehearsing out there? I thought to myself) and one by one these brave women made the procession down the long aisle to the stage, all the while singing, and thus began to weave a tale of the "respected" mother-in-law in comedic style.

Almost seamlessly they transitioned from one song to another. I lost count of the number of pieces.

They ended their performance with the well-known "*Vo Pole Byerozonka Stoyala*" (Birds Stood in the Field).

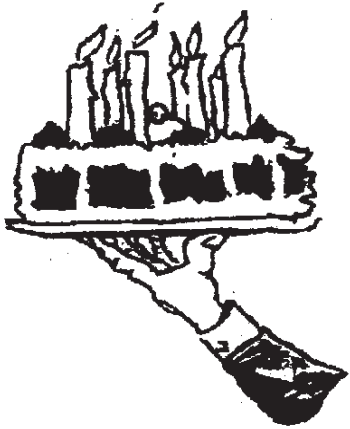
Hahilka, once again, had the opportunity to perform, this time singing the beautifully melodic number "*Synoviy*" (To My Son) in full voice. After this, the two choirs joined forces and sang a rousing number, "*Katyusha*".

Finally, the audience was encouraged to join in by singing the chorus of "*Luchy bulo*" (It Would Have Been Better). It was such an uplifting and lively song that I broke my vow of singing silence, and joined in the fun.

I applaud all the performers who work so hard to keep alive the traditions of both the Russian and Ukrainian cultures in their many art forms.

— Terry Rivest
(Look for photos from this event in our next issue.)

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

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

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

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

- Joe Dzatko
- Natalie Mochoruk
- Anne Omylanowski

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

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

- Mary Fedosenko
- Carol Snider

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

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

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

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

Edna Chmiliar

(Continued from page 12.) the organization until 1998 — that's like 60 years.

As well as playing, Edna has participated and volunteered in the ULFTA and AUUC for more than 70 years.

During her active life, Edna has been a credit to her family, the Edmonton AUUC and the community. Her life has been, and is, one of integrity. She treats everyone she meets with compassion, dignity and respect. Her positive attitude is infectious.

After her retirement from a government job, Edna spent many years at the Edmonton Ukrainian Centre as music librarian and administrative assistant, helping in the office and phoning members about social and culture events — continuing even now talking to

members of the Edmonton AUUC seniors and inviting them to events.

After retiring from the Ukrainian Centre, she is able to relax, watch TV and reflect on her life.

To use a metaphor, one's life is done with mirrors. What we put out is what we get back! Edna has made countless friends in the AUUC locally, provincially and nationally, leaving her with many, many memories of activities and achievements throughout her life — all of which no doubt give her a sense of peace and personal satisfaction.

So, today we present Edna with tokens of our appreciation. And we honour her for her AUUC membership, her cultural and social participation and contribution, and for helping to make the AUUC, the Ukrainian Centre, a better place.

Thank you, Edna.

TFSA

(Continued from Page 1.) \$12.4 billion of the \$15.8 billion was invested in the first six months. In other words, the "rate of take-up" dropped drastically after the initial spate of interest by the one in five of eligible people who have opened a TFSA.

The article gives us a success story — an Ottawa woman enjoying a winter holiday at the Vancouver Olympics, using money from her TFSA to pay for *her family's* trip.

That woman opened her TFSA in January, 2009, and "made roughly 8% by investing in mutual funds". By my calculations, if she invested the maximum \$5000.00 into her account, she would have earned "roughly" \$400.00. So the question is how much is left in her TFSA. The probable answer is "not much". She did not need a TFSA to do this, except for the \$120.00 (or, more probably \$160.00) tax saving. The only conceivable reason why she would have done this, instead of taking a \$2000.00 tax break with an RRSP is that her RRSP contribution is maxed out.

The next question is why is

The Globe and Mail trying to make us feel that this woman and her family got some kind of tremendous advantage? The answer is, "Probably because *The Globe and Mail* is part of the 'patriotic' effort to help control inflation."

Why have more people not taken a TFSA? A survey showed that almost 60% of the non-participants claimed not to have the money to spare. In spite of all the publicity, 42% of non-participants said they did not know enough about TFSAs.

That is the same story as the tale of the RRSP, which (by the way) drew \$33.3 billion in contributions in 2008.

Just one more set of statistics. The average amount in each TFSA was \$3,400.00. The average amount in TFSA accounts at retail banks, more likely to be used by those with less income, was \$3,170.00. The average amount in the accounts at full-service brokerage firms, more likely to be used by sophisticated investors (i.e., higher income people) was \$5240.00.

The last question, then, is "For whose benefit?" The last answer, again, is, "The rich get richer, and the poor get sold a bill of goods."

— Carl Honor

Sustaining Fund Donations

Fred Pawluk, Richmond BC	\$100.00
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Jerry Szach, Vancouver BC	20.00

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

Patricia Chytuk

Patricia "Pearl" Chytuk passed away peacefully at Barrie, Ontario, on Monday April 26, 2010, at age 91.

Pearl was a wonderful spirit, a champion of the common man, a pioneer of feminism in its infancy, an integral force in the early trade unionist movement. Her commitments were felt within the Mine-Mill union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and the Ukrainian community (particularly the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians) within Sudbury.

Always generous, she frequently opened her home to visiting artists and academics.

As an active retiree, she made numerous vacation trips to Cuba, which she described as her favourite place to visit.



Her favourite times were spent with family and friends over the comfort of great food and conversation. Her family will forever remember the weekly Sunday dinners and legendary *perohy* that Grandma always made.

Born in Saskatchewan, Pearl, with her husband Dan, made her way to Sudbury, and remained there until recently moving to Barrie to be near Michael.

Pearl was predeceased by her husband Dmytro (Dan) in 1983, her son Greg in 1968, and her brother John and his wife Yvette.

She will be remembered by her daughter-in-law Diane of Sudbury, grandchildren Michael of Barrie, Colleen of Sudbury, Debbie (husband Dean) of Collingwood, and Treanna (husband Andy) of Surrey, BC, and great-grandchildren Sean, Patrick, Amanda, Joshua, Keegan, Grace Samantha, Aurora and AJ., and nieces and nephews Allan, Linda and Robert, as well as many friends.

As Pearl requested there was no public visitation or service. Cremation and a private family internment were at Park Lawn cemetery in Sudbury.

Who, What, When, Where

Regina — The AUUC Regina Branch and the Poltava Ensemble will participate in Mosaic Festival of Pavilions, June 3, 4, 5. The Poltava Pavilion will be at the Regina Performing Arts Centre. Passports available at the door.

* * *

Toronto — The AUUC Toronto Branch presents a Mother's/Father's Day Celebration at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West, starting at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 6. The program includes the Hahilka Singers, the Beryozka Choir of the Federation of Russian Canadians, and the Podushka Dancers. Cakes and coffee will be served. Admission: \$10.00/person.

* * *

Toronto — The AUUC Toronto Branch presents a Canada/Shevchenko Day Picnic at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West, starting at noon on Thursday, July 1.

* * *

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.

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Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 5.)
phins?) in Odessa, Ukraine.

The scuba-tweeting session was broadcast by local media and documented by regional press.

The preparation process and the underwater tweeting were also filmed and placed on YouTube.

The tweet was sent via a mobile phone sealed in plastic. Radio waves passed to the surface through an elongated antenna.

Gorodetskaya, who did not know how to dive or swim prior to the event, quickly overcame her doubts when she discovered the opportunity to be the first underwater Tweeter user.

"Being underwater for the first time is not easy — to navigate, to move, not to mention sending messages.

"Your ears are smothered; the wetsuit compresses the body; your movement is constrained by fear. But it was well worth standing the test.

"It was an unforgettable experience — to tweet side-by-side with dolphins at a depth of 19 feet underwater," said Gorodetskaya.

(What's a tweet?)

Economists

(Continued from Page 1.)
economist to do, as recessions come and recessions go?

"...offer words of calm and assurance, and focus on helping people prepare for any possible number of economic outcomes." (Banks can just do fine in any market.)



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:

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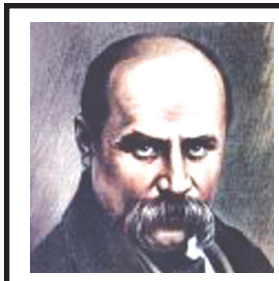
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Sent as a separate page.



Taras Shevchenko Museum

Shevchenkiana Rarities Returned



John Tefft, Ambassador of the USA to Ukraine, signed the guest book at the Museum of National Literature in Kyiv. Mr. Tefft, who introduced the exhibition called "Lost and Returned Rarities of Shevchenkiana", recited Shevchenko's "Testament" in Ukrainian at the opening reception.

A large part of Shevchenko's archive was unfortunately destroyed during World War II, however, researchers guessed that some part remained undamaged. Only recently it was discovered that part of the archive was taken abroad by Andriy Tereschenko, a director of Shevchenko House-Museum in Kyiv at the time of WWII.

After the Kursk Bulge Victory of the Red Army and the attack to the West, occupational authorities organized evacuation of cultural values to Germany. Among cultural treasures were 11 containers of Taras Shevchenko archives. A special train with them and other priceless items came under Allied air attack in Poland. Many Shevchenko archive items were lost.

During those dark times, the director of the Shevchenko House-Museum, Andriy Tereschenko, and his family took a part of the collection to Munich, Germany, and then, at the beginning of the 1950s, to New York, USA.

While immigrating to the USA, Tereschenko put valuable papers and drawings in an old suitcase and successfully conveyed them across Europe to New York. In that way, part of real Shevchenkiana was saved!

After Tereschenko's death, his widow handed over the suitcase to the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences in New York, USA. Even after that, the secret of the suitcase was not discovered for a long time. Only the director of the Academy's archives, Vasyly Omelchenko, knew about the treasures in the old suitcase.

After Omelchenko's death, the head archivist of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences, Tamara Skrypka, broke open the suitcase and discovered real Shevchenkiana!

Last March, these priceless documents, over 100 of them, were returned to Ukraine! All those rarities were displayed in the Museum of National Literature in Kyiv in March-April of 2010. Among the exhibits are one of the first publications of *Kobzar*, documents written by Taras Shevchenko, his photos, lithographs, and also a collection of drawings by Hryhoriy Chestahivsky, who accompanied Shevchenko's coffin from St. Petersburg to Kaniv.

The exhibition, called "Lost and Returned Rarities of Shevchenkiana", was introduced in Kyiv by John Tefft, Ambassador of the USA to Ukraine. During the opening reception, Mr. Tefft recited Shevchenko's "Testament" in Ukrainian!



Tamara Skrypka, head archivist of the Ukrainian Free Academy of Sciences in New York, holding an item of Shevchenkiana.

Poltava Annual Recital

With apologies for the delay, we present photos from the Poltava Annual Recital in February of this year.



The Poltava Ensemble presented a new "Welcome" dance, showcasing several regions of Ukraine, choreographed and instructed by Oleksandr Byelyeyev.

— Photos: Mark Greschner



Guennadi Ostrikov performed "The Cossack", which tells about a young Cossack who asks a beautiful Ukrainian woman to marry him. She declines, and tells the Cossack that he has nothing to offer her.

The Novice class performed a spirited central dance, "Hopachok", under the direction of Katie Wihak and Ayla Dmyterko.



As is customary in many ensembles, the Poltava Ensemble re-staged "Na Vesni", a central Ukrainian dance depicting the spirit of spring and the exuberance of youth.



Under the direction of Laura Fellingner and Zack Evans the Junior class presented "Tropotyanka".



The evening concluded with Hopak, originating in the sixteenth century Cossack camps, Hopak remains one of Ukraine's most popular dances. In modern times, women have established their place in the dance, adding excitement and colour to the competition.

JoKe TiMe

Two guys were studying chemistry at York University. They were so confident going into their final exam that, two days before, they decided to go to McMaster in Hamilton to party with some friends.

They had a great time. However, they over did it, and didn't make it back to Toronto until the morning of the exam.

Rather than take the final, they found their professor af-

terward to explain why they had missed the exam.

They told him that they went up to McMaster University for the weekend, and had planned to come back in time to study. However, they had a flat tire on the way back. They didn't have a spare, and couldn't get help for a long time, so they were late in getting back to campus.

The professor thought this over and told them they could make up the final on the following day.

The two guys were re-

lieved. They studied that night and went in the next day for the final. The professor placed them in separate rooms, and handed each of them a test booklet and told them to begin.

Each looked at the first problem, which was worth 5 points. It was something simple.

"Cool," they thought. "This is going to be easy."

After doing that problem, each turned the page.

Question #2 said: "Which tire?" (95 Points).