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AUUC Malankas



January was Malanka month, with AUUC Branches sharing in the tradition. Shown above is a moment from the event in Vancouver, as photographed by Dan Fung, as the Dovbush Dancers present the ever-popular "Hopak". Reports of the celebrations in Regina and Vancouver appear on pages 8 and 9, respectively, of this issue.

Impoverishment

The Government of Canada likes to point to reduced numbers of Employment Insurance recipients as evidence that the economy is improving. To tens of thousands (maybe more) of unemployed workers that is a cruel joke. Their Employment Insurance benefits have run out, but their jobs have not returned.

In many instances, they have exhausted their savings, maxed out their credit cards, emptied their retirement funds and fallen behind on their mortgages and utility bills.

A recent study found a 50% jump in mortgages that were

more than 90 days in arrears, compared to last year, with 40% more late payments on credit cards. In 2009 household debt was 145% higher than family income, and climbing.

Families are facing the choice of selling family homes before the lenders foreclose. In a downward spiral, they lose access to credit, utilities are shut down, the car goes, and difficult decisions have to be made between food and medications, clothing and transportation.

The inadequate McJobs which become available are swamped with applicants. Some help is available though food banks and similar resources, but this falls far short of need. Welfare, such as it is, requires total destitution.

The federal government does not intend to help much. As reported by Carol Goar in her *Toronto Star* column on February 15, Liberal Party MP Derek Lee wants to spend up to a year studying the problem. NDPer Tony Martin was hopeful that public pressure would lead, in "the not-too-distant future" to our taking "responsibility for each other".

Financial advisors and shells for financial institutions can push tax free savings accounts all they want, with information on how much "only" \$100.00/month will be in 25 years, but at the moment, for many people, that's not even a dream.

Protecting Financial Institutions

In spite of all the boasting about the strengths of our financial system, and especially our banks, Prime Minister Harper and Finance Minister Flaherty had enough doubt about the matter to bring in regulations toughening up the conditions for granting mortgages. The new conditions are scheduled to come into effect on April 19.

Among those conditions are a requirement requiring first time house buyers to meet more stringent conditions on their ability to manage higher interest rates if their down payments are under 20%. Higher down payments are required for purchases of income or speculative properties.

(The two-month lead time may result in a spate of quick deals — is it too cynical to suggest that was the idea? However, in the longer term it is expected that the new conditions will dampen the real estate market.)

The government's explanations include a concern about the growing debt load of Canadian residents (to save us from ourselves), and a desire to reduce speculation.

A more probable explana-

tion (though Mr. Harper and Mr. Flaherty poo-poo it) is a concern that the banks and other lenders, without the new regulations, would tend to make themselves vulnerable to defaults as interest rates start to rise, as anticipated, in the not-too-distant future.

Again, in spite of the boasting about the strength of our banking system, there is legitimate cause for such concern. Even a casual glance at the annual reports of Canada's chartered banks reveals that they all had exposure to the asset backed securities which proved so damaging in the USA. Some of that exposure was significant.

If Canada's banks continued to show a profit during the recession, it was due less to their wisdom than to their ability to impose new fees on their customers and hike existing fees by 50%, 100%, or even more.

The jobless recovery has whetted the lending institutions' appetite. Higher stock prices have created pools of cash which can not be allowed to sit idle. Suddenly credit card companies are pushing their wares in malls and supermarkets again, and send-

ing out certificates urging householders to come in and pick up their guaranteed cheques.

While the government is expressing concern about our indebtedness, the lending institutions are all pushing loans at us. If the government really had concerns about us, as opposed to worrying about the consequences for lending institutions of a high level of defaults, then it would regulate the institutions, not the beleaguered individuals.

— Carl Honor

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MP Pensions

The old Reform Party element in the Conservative Party now has another reason to be angry at Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Conservatives in the Parliament.

In 1993, 52 Reform Party members were elected to the House of Commons. In 1995, when the pensions provisions of Members of Parliament were being amended, those Reformers attacked the reduced, but still generous, pensions as gold-plated, obscene and a monstrosity, among other epithets.

Stephen Harper, then a first-term MP, now the Prime Minister, said that he would not be able to look his constituents in the eye if he accepted a package like the one adopted in 1995. He, like most of the other 52 Reformers, opted out of the pension plan.

Eleven of that group of 52 are still sitting Members of Parliament. One of them is a Liberal now; the remaining 10 are Conservatives.

As time passed, they quietly opted into the pension plan which as freshmen they had so vociferously and publicly denounced.

While the pensions of Members of Parliament are not published by the government, the formula by which they are calculated is public. Using this information, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation came up with numbers for the anticipated pensions of the eleven former Reform Party MPs.

One of those 11 will receive only about \$80,000.00 in pension; the other ten will all get over \$100,000.00, including our Prime Minister, who will be getting over \$150,000.00 annually. These are fully indexed to the cost of living, and guaranteed by the public purse.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation wants these pensions pared down to what "most of the private sector has right now".

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Current Eclectic — Long and Short

Turmoil at the TTC

Not to many years ago, it would have been a strictly local story with a limited shelf life. Thanks to the wonders of modern communications technology, a tempest in a Toronto teapot has enjoyed global exposure, and seems to be going on forever.

The start was a photo of a Toronto Transit Committee employee sleeping on the job, snapped on a cell-phone camera and posted to the internet. In no time at all, sensation mongers like *The Toronto Sun* were printing the photo — repeatedly — with nasty articles about the TTC and its employees. The rest of the

commercial press, to maintain market share, followed suit.

(It brought to mind all the front-page photos and the concerned articles a few months ago about the “balloon boy”, a story which turned out to be a fraud perpetrated by publicity seekers.)

Almost as quickly, the copycats got into the act, snapping and posting photos of TTC employees at work, including a 7-minute washroom break (pick up a coffee while I’m at it) in the middle of the night, with passengers (at least one, and that with a camera) waiting in the bus.

Not to miss any opportunity

to catch a miscreant in the act, some passengers took to sitting in the front seat in the aisle across from the driver, cameras at the ready.

Gallons of ink were used on stories with headings like “The TTC is a real mess”, and “Slacker culture rules at TTC”. Municipal politicians took the opportunity to burnish their populist credentials by attacking the TTC and its employees. Some passengers felt quite free to attack drivers and other employees verbally and, even, with spit or other physical assault. At least they had a face, in contrast to the any cowardly commentators (again, using modern communications technology) who hid behind pseudonyms or

didn’t sign at all while spewing attacks showing a total lack of culture (whether in grammar, spelling or vocabulary).

There were few exceptions to the overwhelming chorus of condemnation.

The response of the transit union was: first, to defend the majority of transit workers, recognizing that “some are going to be ‘less than perfect’ some days”; second, to criticize the rude, slovenly and, even, vicious passengers who attack both the personnel and the equipment of the TTC; and third, to attack the transit commission and management for doing a poor job and failing to support staff. While the reaction was an energetic defence of the workers, it probably did not gain much public sympathy, especially as strained through the media.

TTC management undertook to restore the TTC to public favour by putting the onus on TTC staff: an advisory panel to review customer service, with a charter of customers’ rights; a six-hour training program for ticket collectors; providing front-line workers better information about the state of the transit system; sending undercover “evaluators” out to check customer service; putting in more technology to provide information to riders; and so on.

None of these measures get to the root of the problem.

Writing in the *Toronto Star* on February 12, Christopher Hume almost got it right. “In the meantime, however” Mr. Hume wrote, referring to an earlier age, when the TTC was up to its task, “provincial funding for transit has dried up. Queen’s Park, which once covered half of the TTC’s operating budget, now contributes nothing.”

Later in the article, he wrote, “Rider rage might better be directed at ‘senior’ levels of government, whose actions in their own way are every bit as offensive as sleeping fare-collectors, but a whole lot more damaging.”

However, instead of expanding on this theme, Mr. Hume flitted like a butterfly from thought to thought, concluding that, “Regardless, the enemy isn’t the TTC — it’s we who did nothing for a generation.”

Actually, what we did collectively, is to elect a series of neo-conservative politicians like Mike Harris, who slashed corporate taxes while slashing public services. We bought the “there’s only one taxpayer” nonsense, as the rich got richer and paid less tax, and the rest of us got poorer and paid user fees. Now we

are inheriting the whirlwind, of which the tempest in the TTC is but one example.

Look around, and see all the people with shorter fuses in a much tougher world. Frustration, uncertainty, economic pressure are some of the symptoms of the current system where understaffing rules throughout both the public and the private sectors (try to find a sales clerk), where telephone systems and long waits have replaced the pleasant voice of a receptionist (a what?), where nothing seems to work and nothing can be repaired (toss it and get a new one), etc., etc., etc.

So how does that apply to the TTC?

Enter a subway station — almost any subway station at almost any time (some stations, at rush hour, are the exception) — and see one ticket taker where there used to be two. No back up, no redundancy. If you enter when he has left his post for a few minutes (for whatever reason), you get to wait, or you get to steal a ride (hopefully, undetected). If two of you enter and both want to buy tokens and get some information, one of you will wait as long as it takes not necessarily happily. More than two of you at once? Longer waits.

Of course there are the automatic turnstiles — but sometimes they don’t work, like the automatic token dispensers and the automatic transfer dispensers.

Go to the train platform. Wait longer for a train than a few years ago, a train which (especially at rush hour) is fuller than it used to be and may not have any seats — or only dirty ones or only ones occupied by someone who is spread over three or more places.

Hope that equipment failure (never mind sick passengers or other problems) will not delay your trip.

Get off the train: the escalator is not working — again.

At the busy Dundas West subway station, the sliding doors at the entrance go for days (even weeks) without working, cutting in half the capacity of the doors to handle the crowds. This situation is probably not unique.

That is the situation on the TTC, generated by the “cut taxes” brigade, a situation repeated in all the institutions, private and public, people pass through during their day, in each one of which they collect more and more resentment, anger, and other negative feelings, until they lash out at someone (maybe a TTC employee) who lashes back.

While they attack each other, the coupon clippers quietly enjoy the benefits of lowered taxes in a jobless economic recovery, buoyed by new “record keeping fees”.

— Wilfred Szczesny

Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 75/2010

On the Honouring of Participants in the Struggle for the Independence of Ukraine in the 20th Century

Having been thoroughly repudiated by the citizens of Ukraine in the first round of the presidential elections on January 17, President Yushchenko decided to give his compatriots a few parting gifts. On January 20, he posthumously awarded the title “Hero of Ukraine” to Stepan Bandera, former leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, and on January 28 he issued the decree which is presented below in unofficial rough translation. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress issued a statement on February 1 welcoming ‘the long-overdue recognition of Ukraine’s freedom fighters as “Heroes of Ukraine”.’

Considering the results of scientific studies which have been done, recognizing at the state level the outstanding role of participants in the struggle for the independence of Ukraine in the 20th century, for the purpose of honouring them, and restoring historical justice and the true history of the Ukrainian independence movement of the 20th century, I decree:

1. That recognition as participants in the struggle for the independence of Ukraine in the 20th century be given to individuals who took part in political, partisan, underground, and armed struggle for the independence of Ukraine, including in the formations of the Ukrainian Central Council, the Ukrainian National Republic, the Western Ukrainian National Republic, the Ukrainian State (Hetmanate), the Ukrainian Military Organization, the Carpathian Sich National Defence Organization, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, The Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council, and other military formations, parties, organizations and movements which had as their purpose the attainment of Ukrainian independence.

2. That the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine prepare, together with the Security Service of Ukraine and with the participation of the National Academy of Sciences

of Ukraine, and introduce in established form for consideration by the Supreme Council of Ukraine, a draft Law of Ukraine “On the legal Status of Participants in the Struggle for the Independence of Ukraine in the 20th Century”.

3. That the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, with the participation of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, prepare for educational institutions methodological, educational and other materials dedicated to the struggle for the independence of Ukraine in the 20th century.

4. That the Council of Ministers of the Crimean Autonomous Republic, the *oblasts*, and the Kyiv and Sevastopol city administrations use in established form measures to

appropriately honour participants in the struggle for the independence of Ukraine in the 20th century, including activation of patriotic education of the youth and educational work, naming populated street locations, fields, boulevards, parks and squares, educational institutions, and institutions of culture in honour of outstanding participants in the struggle for the independence of Ukraine in the 20th century and events related to the Ukrainian liberation movement of the 20th century.

5. That organs of local self-government implement measures concerning honouring participants in the struggle for the independence of Ukraine in the 20th century.

Viktor Yushchenko
President of Ukraine
January 28, 2010

Simmering Rage

Computer software engineer A. Joseph Stack III was another one of those quiet people who erupt in rage and wreak havoc. In his case, he torched his Austin, Texas, home and flew his private plane into the local Internal Revenue Service building.

Although Mr. Stack is reminiscent of some character out of an Ayn Rand novel — believing that big business, big

government and big labour are the clouds dimming his creative brilliance — his malaise is quite widespread in North America, where many people feel helpless and hopeless.

This feeling expresses itself in many ways: road rage, petty vandalism, aggressive behaviour, etc. Much perceived as “sense of entitlement” may actually be the recklessness of despair.

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The Attack Continues

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

Even as they brag about the soundness of the Canadian banking system and the rebounding economy, the coupon clippers and their representatives are plotting ways to fatten up their profits by attacking the health and welfare of working people.

At governmental levels one focus is the pension plans of civil servants. This "thinking" is enthusiastically promoted by groups like the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, whose members seem interested mostly in finding ways to keep their workers as close as possible to the poverty level. The CFIB never stops campaigning against compensation levels in the civil service and in unionized work places, because these put pressure on CFIB members to treat their workers better.

Unfortunately, in the recession, many unionized workers and retirees have seen their pension plans cut. Now groups like the CFIB find willing partners in government, whether it be Prime Minister Harper or provincial premiers, arguing that pensions which have not been cut should be. Not the highest standard but the lowest should be everyone's goal.

Along with that specific target, groups like the CFIB and governments are also attacking a far broader group and using that attack to undermine the position of all working people. That group is senior citizens. The population is aging, the argument goes. Not only do seniors get pensions, but they also put pressure on the health care system and other social services. Since putting them out of our tax-paying misery is socially unacceptable, we should do the next best thing — find ways to reduce the cost of maintaining them, and finance whatever can not be eliminated by reducing social programs for everyone.

Recently an editorial in *The Globe and Mail* supported the idea from the C.D. Howe Institute (another business think tank) of putting a cap on federal health and social-services transfers to the provinces — as a good start!

Federal funding for local child care is in doubt; hospital funding is under pressure in many provinces and facilities are shutting down; in Ontario it is suggested that injured workers collect less compensation, return to work sooner and get fewer pain killers; children's aid societies are underfunded; welfare fraud is once again a hot topic; while the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters are urging tax incentives to increase employment, Ontario's Auditor General wants higher user fees.

That's just as a taste of what's happening.

COMMENTARY**Ukrainian Election — Done, Finally**

As reflected on several pages in this issue of the "UCH" it seemed for a while that the presidential election in Ukraine was going to drag out well beyond anything reasonable.

Foreign and domestic observers gave assurances that the second round of the elections, while not perfect, had been fairly and democratically conducted, and that the result should be accepted as reflecting the wishes of the electorate.

Leaders from around the world sent their congratulations to Viktor Yanukovich on his election as President of Ukraine

Yulia Tymoshenko was hav-

ing none of it. Gathering up a reported "nine volumes" (whatever that means) of evidence of supposed electoral violations the losing candidate took her electoral challenge to the courts. It appeared that the inauguration of the new president would have to be postponed while the courts studied the "evidence" and made a decision.

As is also reflected on the pages of this publication, her refusal to accept the results of the vote did not meet with the favour she had hoped. In Ukraine and abroad, it was seen as an anti-democratic position. A conflict between her and her political opponent became a conflict between Ms. Tymoshenko and world opinion.

Under this international pressure, Yulia Tymoshenko withdrew her court action.

However, she certainly did not do it with good grace.

Her position was that she had lost faith in the country's courts. news.ninemdn.com.au quoted her as saying, "It has become obvious that this is not a court and this is not justice."

Ms. Tymoshenko having withdrawn her suit, the court decided not to consider the matter further, leaving the way clear for the February 25 inauguration.

Ms. Tymoshenko's supporters have vowed to fight on, and most observers expect the she herself will seek some way to return to power. Just what that might entail will be a subject for much speculation until Ms. Tymoshenko has had an opportunity to regroup, seek out whatever support she might find beyond her own

group, and draw up a plan.

In the meantime, Viktor Yanukovich and the Party of Regions are manoeuvring to replace Yulia Tymoshenko and her group as the government. As president, Viktor Yanukovich very much wants his supporters, perhaps in some sort of coalition, to form the government.

If he fails to achieve this, President Yanukovich will find himself in the same position as President Yushchenko faced, with constant conflict between the office of the president and the Supreme Council, Ukraine's parliament. While analogous to the situation faced by President Obama of the United States, the difficulty in Ukraine would be greater because a hostile Prime Minister would leave little room to manoeuvre.

While recognizing the legitimacy of his presidency, many commentators are quite nervous about the direction in which President Yanukovich will take Ukraine. Specifically, many are concerned that Russia will gain in influence, and that Ukraine will turn its back on the West.

Some specific issues are adding to their fears. One of them are indications that President Yanukovich is interested in extending Russia's lease at Sevastopol for the Black Sea fleet. Another is a proposal that an international consortium be established, consisting of Ukraine, Russia and the European Union, to operate the transfer of natural gas through Ukraine from the East to Europe. In Ukraine, many are concerned about the possible effect if the Russian language is given greater recognition and legitimacy.

However, statements by Mr. Yanukovich suggest that these concerns are probably overdrawn, because President Yanukovich will probably show himself to be quite pragmatic, and because that section of Ukraine's ruling class (the so-called oligarchs) which support him, while interested in cooperating with Russia, are not indifferent to the benefits which can be gained to their west.

The reality of Ukraine is that Russia is its neighbour and major trading partner. Canadians, with the USA as our neighbour and major trading partner, should understand better than most just what that means.

President Yushchenko, the occasional flap notwithstanding, did not cut ties with Russia, nor even substantially alter them. Prime Minister Tymoshenko was careful to assure voters that relations with Russia would continue to be important.

For example, on January 13, *The Globe and Mail* reminded us that Yulia Tymo-

(Continued on Page 14.)

From Our Readers

I enclose a donation to the Sustaining Fund, in the amount of \$100.00, in commemoration of Caroline Bagan's 100th birthday, and on behalf of Bill Uhryn and Mike Uhryn, accomplished musicians, who contributed their talents to make Caroline's birthday party more enjoyable and fun.

Family and friends gathered on Caroline's birthday, December 24, to celebrate this milestone. What a privilege it is to be part of the Bagan family and to know this wonderful lady.

I would also like to thank your company for publishing Caroline's story in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, February, 2010, issue.

— Elsie Bagan
Whitehorse, Yukon

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www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum

Vancouver AUUC
<http://www.auucvancouver.ca/>

Winnipeg AUUC
<http://ult-wpg.ca/>

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

Orange Sunset

The first round of Ukraine's 2010 presidential election took place on January 17.

For months, all of the public opinion polls had predicted that Viktor Yanukovich would be the top vote-getter and that Yulia Tymoshenko would be second, and the polls were right. Yanukovich received about 35% of the vote, while Tymoshenko received about 25%.

Since Yanukovich did not garner the necessary 50% of all votes on January 17 to win on the first ballot, a run-off vote, involving only Yanukovich and Tymoshenko (the top two vote-getters) was held on February 7.

Long before the election outcome was decided, the fate of out-going President Viktor Yushchenko, co-leader with Yulia Tymoshenko of the 2004 Orange Revolution, had already been determined. On January 17, he received barely 5% of the vote. By doing so, he set a new world record of voter mistrust. Never before has an acting president scored so low in a presidential election.

An uncompromising ideologue, Yushchenko's blind determination to pursue membership in the American NATO military alliance (while Ukrainians are overwhelmingly opposed to NATO), and his frequent, deliberate provocations of Russia (while Ukrainians have long considered Russia a friend), helped alienate him from mainstream Ukrainians.

At the same time, he neglected matters which the public believed were important to them. Corruption ballooned in his five years in office. The health service is a shambles. Aggressively tearing down hundreds of Soviet-era monuments unnerved millions of ethnic Russians, and was often done at the expense of rebuilding the economy.

Naturally, Yushchenko sees it differently. Political analyst Sergei Rudenko stated, "In Yushchenko's opinion, the nobleness of his historic mission will be judged only by future generations and the electorate do not fully understand the logic of his action."

(Interestingly, one of Yushchenko's biggest cheerleaders, ex-president George W. Bush expressed similar sentiments about his own place in history. — GB)

Amazons

Running away to the forest with an all-women tribe of dominant Amazons is a fantasy few mistreated women will ever realize, despite the vows that they make when they're unhappy with some

bozo. But in Ukraine, a tribe of 150 women who call themselves the Asgarda live completely separate from society in the Carpathian Mountains, where they train in the martial arts.

The Asgarda aren't jilted lovers, though — .

The women, some of whom are quite young, have seceded from society because sexual trafficking is rampant in East European countries like Ukraine, and gender oppression is a fact of life everywhere in the world. The fed-up women of the Asgarda isolate themselves from men in a statement of female empowerment and independence.

According to *Planet* magazine, they live according to the tribal traditions of the Amazons in Greek mythology and train with swords from a Soviet karate master.

And, apparently, they all have scary knives!

Those of you who are interested in further information can examine the ten photographs in *Planet* magazine taken by French photographer Guillaume Herbaut, who documented the women of Asgarda and their mountain life.

Tombstone House

Police in Crimea recently took a local man into custody on suspicion of vandalism. The 42-year-old man was arrested in his home town of Simferopol, where he owned a home.

During a search of his house and yard, the police found 38 marble tombstones of different sizes and colours. They also realized that much of the house itself was built of the marble tombstones.

It turned out that the man, with the help of two others, had been stealing the tombstones from the local cemetery and was using them as construction material for his house.

The accomplices of the cemetery thief were found and arrested as well. One of them, age 40, is a resident of the city of Kerch. The other is a homeless person living in Simferopol.

The police are continuing their investigation and trying to determine the actual number of tombstones stolen.

(Surely it wasn't the residents of the cemetery that tipped-off the police? — GB)

Toxic Poisons Removed

The last train removing a highly toxic and volatile rocket fuel component from a storage site near the south-western Ukrainian town of Kalynivka left recently as part of

a project by the Organization For Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to remove the threat posed by the substance from all of Ukraine.

The train carrying the last of the 1,000 tonnes stored at the site will travel to specialized chemical plants in Russia, where the fuel component known as melange will be safely disposed of in a process that results in chemical products for civilian use, such as paint components.

The deteriorating containers holding melange posed a threat not only to Kalynivka, a town of 20,000, but also the nearby regional capital Vinnytsya, which has a population of 365,600.

"Now that the last trainload of melange has left Kalynivka, this toxic hazard is no longer a threat to local residents. From this moment on, nearby communities can enjoy a safer environment," said Matthew Geertsen, manager of the project.

Melange was widely used in the armies of the Soviet Union, the Warsaw Pact and some other countries to propel short- and medium-range rockets.

Salo Festival

There is still a place left in Europe that is not afraid to celebrate the glories of pork fat.

The provincial seat Poltava, a city set deep in Ukraine's eastern black earth heartland, held its annual pork fat festival on schedule this year. Attendance at the mid-January outdoor event was heavy and visibly enthusiastic.

"There is nothing more important to a Ukrainian than *salo*," said Poltava mayor Andriy Matkovsky. "*Salo* is our national food; it is to us what sausage is to Germans or hamburgers are to Americans."

The selection at the festival was tantalizing: white slices of *salo* speckled with sea salt, grey-black slabs dressed in coarse black pepper, smoked bacon, spiced ham, blood sausage, and fire-red lard blocks powdered with ground hot paprika.

"Our Ukrainian ancestors always ate *salo*, and they lived longer than us," said Viktor Kikot, a Poltava government worker.

"Pork fat in and of itself is perfectly healthy," said Dr. Andriy Getya, director of the Kvasnytsky Institute of Swine Breeding (KISB). "Like anything else the key issue is to use it in moderation, not excess."

Data published by the KISB shows that pork fat contains "practically no cholesterol", as compared with 86 milligrams in 100 grams of beef or 112 milligrams in 100

grams of chicken.

"The thing you have to understand is, *salo* is basic to our Ukrainian cuisine," said Elena Cherpakina, a Poltava nurse. "We eat it on bread with garlic, we fry it for snacks, we use it to make soup stock, we mix it into our dumpling fillings."

Want Twin Babies?

In western Ukraine, a place alive with folk tales, there is one village where legend appears to be borne out by reality.

The peculiarity of Velikaya Kopanya is most evident in its local school, in which twelve pairs of twins are enrolled as pupils.

There are 58 pairs of twins in Velikaya Kopanya, a village of only 4000 people, not far from the borders of Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania.

Misha and Vanya Fogorosh are 10 years old. They have blond hair and mischievous smiles. They are identical, dressed the same and, they say, their father can't tell them apart.

"A few times in school, when Vanya did not do his homework, I pretended to be him and got a good grade for him," claims Misha.

In a traditional Ukrainian house not far from the school is Maria Chorba. Her twin sister Anna died three years ago. Ms. Chorba is 75, and is officially the town's oldest twin. She says she has three pairs of twins among her grandchildren. Although she can't explain why there are so many multiple births in the village, she states that it is not a recent phenomenon.

The suspicion that "there's something in the water" has spread across the country. Locals tell the story of a woman from a town 150 kilometres away who was unable to have children. She would regularly drive to the village to drink its water. Within a few months, she got pregnant — with twins!

It is stories like these that have given the water a reputation for being near-miraculous.

The owner of a local restaurant, Maria Fyodoranich, comments, "We have queues of suitors for girls from our village — we are that popular. Everyone wants our genes."

"And it's all because of this water," she laughs.

Uncontrolled Capitalism

In July—August of 2009, experts of the state enterprise Ukrmetrteststandart tested more than 70 kinds of dairy

products. Preservatives, dyes, and additive impurities were found in 44 of them.

In particular, while supposedly producing traditional foods for Ukrainian consumers, business owners were using ingredients not normally used in such recipes. For example, vegetable fats were found in ice-cream (which should contain only milk fats). Some samples of ice cream contained up to 90% of vegetable fats. Non-milk fats were also found in butter. Some samples of butter contained up to 25–30% of non-dairy additives.

As if these instances of fraud weren't serious enough, a sample of sour cream was found to contain no milk fat!

Adulterants were found in many other foods, including chocolate bars and yoghurts, all without descriptions or warnings on the labels.

According to Volodymyr Semenovych, chief scientist at Ukrmetrteststandart, manufacturers were using the adulterants to cut costs.

Nazi Collaborator

On January 22, five days after his humiliating defeat in the January 17 presidential elections, out-going President Viktor Yushchenko signed a decree awarding the title of "Hero of Ukraine" posthumously to Stepan Bandera, one-time leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists.

During the Second World War, Bandera collaborated with the German Nazis when they invaded Soviet Ukraine. He not only helped form SS units in the German army, he allowed his men to kill Polish, Ukrainian, and Jewish civilians.

Reaction to Yushchenko's act was swift and highly emotional.

Not surprisingly, Bandera is honoured in western Ukraine, and there the award was praised. In most of the rest of Ukraine, however, the reaction was one of anger.

A Ukrainian Member of Parliament, Konstantin Zarudnev, a parliamentarian from Sevastopol in the Crimea, burned his passport and threw the ashes into a garbage can.

"I am convinced that everyone living in the state of Ukraine thinks the way I think. My actions indicate that I do not want to be an MP or a citizen of a country where terrorists and serial killers become heroes," Zarudnev said.

A lawyer from the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, Volodymyr Olentsevych, filed a lawsuit in court to challenge

(Continued on Page 16.)

**Ukrainian
Page
Submitted
Separately**

**Ukrainian
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The patrons at the Malanka celebration in Regina were treated to a concert program which included a performance by the Lileya Dancers of a playful "Kozachok", choreographed by Lisa Wanner and Zack Evans, who instruct the group.

On January 16, 297 patrons at the Regina Performing Arts Centre enjoyed an evening of good food, beverages, fine performances and plenty of dancing. Malanka 2010, sponsored by the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance, along with the Regina Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, proved to be another wonderful suc-

Malanka — Regina Style

cess that gave everyone attending a fantastic evening of entertainment.

Though Malanka was oversold and things were a little tight, nobody seemed to mind.

From the beginning of the evening that included cocktails and appetizers, to the in-

credible meal catered by J and J Specialty Catering with some help from the AUUC *varenyky* crew, to the performance by the Poltava Ensemble and the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts, to the lively dancing to the Rock and Roll All Stars,

the night flowed from beginning to the end.

The Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance performed under the direction of Dance Director Oleksandr Byelyayev and Orchestral Director Natalia Osypenko; the Poltava School, including the pre-Poltava and Lileya dancers were under the direction of Lisa Wanner and Zack Evans.

The 45-minute show was well received by the audience, ending with a standing ovation after the final "Hopak".

The evening continued with various raffles and distribution of door prizes.

Of course no Malanka would be complete without a dance, on this occasion to the music of The Rock and Roll All Stars. The music had young and old up on the dance floor, and also had plenty of participation during the traditional *kolomeyka*.

The Regina AUUC is grateful to all the volunteers who facilitated an enjoyable evening, and in particular the Malanka Committee: Bernie Zopf, Cindy Greschner, Sasha and Wanda Lapchuk, Zoya Shmyr, Randy McLeod, Kris Wanner, and Lynne and Alex Lapchuk.

— Sasha Lapchuk

Super Bowl Party in Toronto



Above are some of those attending the Third Annual Super Bowl Party at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto. Enjoyment of the game was enhanced by the new 52" television screen.

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



What is a Super Bowl party without great food? It has become part of the tradition that Jerry Dobrowolsky prepares the Chili.



Bernardine Dobrowolsky presented his prize to Rudy Wasylenky, one of the evening's winners.

On Sunday, February 7, AUUC Toronto Branch held its 3rd Annual Super Bowl Party at the AUUC Cultural Centre.

In honour of the two competing teams, the hall was partly decorated in the blue and white of the Indianapolis Colts and partly in the gold and black of the New Orleans Saints.

Before the game started, the guests were invited to take part in a high stakes football pool and a challenging, but fun-filled football trivia contest.

With everyone being given a badge in support of their favoured team, it became quite evident that the Saints were the preferred choice among the majority of this group.

To keep a great tradition going, the fans were treated to Jerry Dobrowolsky's delicious chili, accompanied by pasta, French bread and a variety of flavoured butters.

As anyone who watched the game can attest, it became quite an exciting match — all the more so at this event because of the enjoyment of the newly-acquired 52" television screen.

At the end, everyone received a trivia prize, with choices from team-coloured beads, mini trophies, Valentine treats and "Go Canada" merchandise in anticipation of the Olympics.

The very happy jackpot winners from the football pool included Nataalka Mochoruk, Anne Yaroff, Rudy Wasylenky and Mike Stefiuk.

Regardless of their favoured team, everyone had a great time, and all enjoyed leaving to the sound of Zydeco music, which celebrated the New Orleans victory.

— B. Dobrowolsky



Candace Sundbo, Aaron Cook and Renata Tkatchuk were among the many volunteers who helped to make Poltava 2010 Malanka a success.

— Story Photos: Mark Greschner



Anna Lekach and the Pre-Poltava dancers, directed by Lisa Wanner and Zack Evans, performed the exciting and unique "Kubanushka".



The Poltava Ensemble, instructed by Oleksandr Byelyayev, ended the concert with the ever popular "Hopak", choreographed by Mr. Byelyayev.

— Story photos: Dan Fung



Shown above are some of the guests who enjoyed the concert program at the Malanka hosted by the AUUC Vancouver Branch on January 23.

Malanka — Vancouver Style

This year, the AUUC Vancouver Branch held its annual Malanka celebration on January 23, inviting its members, guests and the wider community to join together with the wonderful band *Chervony Mak* in ringing in the Ukrainian New Year.

Malanka is the traditional celebration of New Year's Eve, which falls on January 13 according to the Julian Calendar. It is celebrated all over the world by those of Ukrainian heritage or those who just aren't ready to call the holiday season quits.

The celebration grew out of pagan rituals that evolved into Christian feast days, this one to honour St. Malania. Originally, Malanka celebrations or performances were held in villages and featured special songs and costumed actors. Malanka, a young girl, would be accompanied by a group that would parade through the village performing their songs and skits. Often fortune-tellers and a mock-fight between men dressed as bears would follow.

The intention was to create a topsy-turvy and undoubtedly funny performance where a young man would play the part of Malanka — her entourage would sing songs praising her beauty and attributes while the "girl" herself would be clumsy and awkward.

According to the Folklore Studies Association of Canada, the activities would mask an unofficial and preliminary matchmaking in the village, as the groups would seek out the homes of unmarried girls.

Later, in Canada, these traditions were replaced by

door-to-door carolling, which also served an early courtship purpose, and had the added benefit of raising funds for the community church groups.

In Ukraine, Malanka celebrations continue in the old way, while in many places they have evolved into a New Year's Eve supper and dance.

Here in Vancouver, the evening began with cocktails, allowing old friends and new to chat and relax while waiting for the concert to begin.

The vibrant colours of the costumes and outstanding displays of athleticism and precision were breathtaking.

It is always a joy to listen to the harmonies of the choir, led by the supremely talented Beverley Dobrinsky.

The Dovbush Dancers and the Barvinok Choir performed traditional pieces that prompted feelings of sentimentality and familiarity, remembering loved ones with whom we've shared experiences, and making our culture come alive.

It was with this sense of translating our heritage into new and exciting experiences for generations to come that the evening unfolded.

A delicious dinner combining dishes like *kutya*, perogies, *holubsti*, *kapusta*, and *nachynka* with Canadian buffet fare ensured the diners were well prepared for a night of dancing and merriment. The hard-working kitchen staff always makes our events great successes and I wasn't sur-



Barvinok Choir, directed by Beverley Dobrinsky, sang songs of the season — *shchedryvkiy* and carols.



Dovbush Dancers in "Welcoming Dance" presented the traditional bread and salt.



The "Hopak" as performed by the Dovbush Dancers never fails to impress the audience.



Andy Fielding and Sheila Allan provided the cocktail hour music as guests gathered for the Malanka celebration.

prised to see many people going back to the buffet to enjoy extra helpings of the fantastic meal.

Later, *Chervony Mak*, a Ukrainian dance band specializing in old favourites, polkas and many newer dance tunes, took to the stage, and had everyone on the dance floor before long. The group is a popular band for Ukrainian events, and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2008.

The talented musicians held their own in a seemingly never-ending *kolomeyka*, as dancers young and old took to the floor to show off. People gathered in a circle, weaving in and around each other, just as they have done for generations; our young dancers carried on a tradition that has endured not only for centuries

but through vast migrations, as Ukrainians found their way to the New World.

The *kolomeyka* is performed at parties from Edmonton to New York to Curitiba, Brazil. It's an amazing thread that links our people, their ideals and their means of expression.

Dancers entering the circle, many young and some with a few more *kolomeykas* under their belts, had a look of pride and excitement as they prepared to display a newly mastered turn or a long-unused step. The crowd enthusiastically encouraged the dancers, who eventually exhausted their repertoire and themselves.

The band *Chervony Mak* kept the party going for everyone who took to the floor.

— Laurel Parasiuk Lawry



The dance floor was crowded all night as people reacted to the music.



Chervony Mak, a new band for the AUUC, provided the dance music which kept the guests moving.

Sudbury: Four Poets Who Changed the World

— Story photos: Vicki Gilhula

On the afternoon of Sunday, January 31, at the Jubilee Centre in Sudbury, the Jubilee Folk Ensemble presented *Four Poets Who Changed the World* to an audience exceeding the organizers' expectations.

The program concept was simple: an opening section of four numbers performed by the Jubilee Folk Ensemble; a middle section, with an introduction followed by the presentation of two poets; a final section presenting two more poets. From this simple concept grew a varied and entertaining multimedia production which held the audience fully attentive for over two hours (including an intermission) — for the reading of poetry!

Part I ("Musical Introduction") opened with J.P. Sousa's "Thunderer March", in recognition of Walt Whitman's volunteer service as a nurse during the American Civil War.

It continued with "Oy-ra", a medley of Ukrainian folk dances, a nod to the folk roots of Taras Shevchenko.

The third number was "Rhumba" by Dieter Kreydler (arranged by P. Veprinski).

The section ended with "Scottish Dances", a medley



Oryst Sawchuk, Music Director of the Jubilee Folk Ensemble and producer of *Four Poets Who Changed the World*, is AUUC Sudbury Branch President.

of traditional strathspeys and reels.

The 16-member Jubilee Folk Ensemble, conducted by Oryst Sawchuk, was enthusiastically applauded for its work.

The JFE, recognized in the program as having "evolved from the original mandolin orchestras of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (AUUC)", has a unique sound based on a unique collection of instruments. In addition to violins, mandolins, a mandocello, and a violoncello, the group incorporates a clarinet,

a flute, a recorder, a trombone, and both a piano and an accordion into all its music. During the weekend, Mr. Sawchuk worked on adding a guitar to the mix.

The basic idea, as explained by Oryst Sawchuk (though not in these words), is that each person is part of the folk of the local community, and any instrument that person plays is (therefore) a legitimate and welcome part of the folk ensemble. This stresses a contemporary and dynamic aspect often omitted from the concept of "folk", linking it organically to time and place.

Host and interlocutor Roger Nash opened Part II. He introduced the balance of the program, spoke of the nature of the North in general, and of Sudbury in particular, in contrast to (and defiance of) the South in general, and Toronto in particular. He spoke about the four poets to be featured during the afternoon, and about their work. He underlined the features shared by the four individuals from such diverse times and places.

Mr. Nash, a former president of the League of Canadian Poets and award-winning author, concluded his remarks, as befit "the living poet" (as he was labelled, in contrast to the other four), with a poem of his own.

The first of the four poets, Walt Whitman (1819–1892), was presented by John Lindsay. In this portion of the program, the pattern of the presentations was set: as Mr. Lindsay recited the poems "1861", "Once I Passed Through a Populated City", and "Song of the Open Road", the Jubilee Folk Ensemble played, respectively, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming", and "My Old Kentucky Home" as lead-ins and lead-outs to the poetry.

The second poet was a contemporary of Whitman, but half a world and a historical epoch apart. Taras Shevchenko (1814–1861) was portrayed by Wilfred Szczesny, who introduced himself with a brief greeting in Ukrainian, repeated in free translation in English.

The Ensemble then played "Poem of Ukraine", during which Mr. Szczesny read a brief biography of Taras Shevchenko. As the music came to an end, the reader joined in to sing a verse of "Reve ta stohne" (The Mighty Dnipro Roars and Bellows).

The Ensemble played the introduction to "Jubilee Medley" to bracket "Young Masters, If You Only Knew", Shevchenko's protest against the romanticized view of village life, based on his personal experience.

Soprano Sandra Faubert



The presentations of poetry (and some song) were done by (left to right): Wilfred Szczesny (Taras Shevchenko); Ron Tough (Robbie Burns); John Lindsay (Walt Whitman); Roger Nash, host, "interlocutor" and living poet, whose introduction to the readings included one of his own poems; and Alex Martinez (Pablo Neruda).

continued with "My Evening Star", based on one of Taras Shevchenko's lyrical poems.

Read in English in an abbreviated version, "The Caucasus", an acerbic attack by Shevchenko on the hypocrisy of the "civilizing" mission of the Russian Empire, the "prison house of nations", tapped varying emotions in the audience as the poetry drew on a range of poetic devices and moods.

This section ended with a reading of "My Testament" (Zapovit), accompanied by the Ensemble.

After the intermission, Sandra Faubert accompanied by the Jubilee Folk Ensemble, opened Part III of the program with the Cuban song "Guantanamo".

Alex Martinez portrayed Chilean poet Pablo Neruda (1904–1973). Nobel Prize for Literature winner Pablo Neruda, whom many consider the best and most influential poet of the 20th century, was deeply committed in anti-Fascist socio-political activity. A firm supporter of President Allende, Neruda was mortally ill with cancer when Pinochet took power. His funeral is considered the first public demonstration against the Pinochet dictatorship.

The reader, Alex Martinez, "left Chile in 1974", according to the printed program, "choosing to live in exile rather than under the Pinochet dictatorship."

This presentation was in Spanish with projection of English translations onto a screen. Poems read were "The Beloved Country", "The Dictators", and the love poem "Poema XV". The final poem of this section was "Saddest Poem", a poem of lost love.

At various points, the Jubilee Folk Ensemble provided music with "El Relicario", "Estrellita" and "La Paloma".

Before the reading of "Saddest Poem", the audience was treated to the song "Gracias a la Vida", based on a poem by the Chilean poet Violetta Parra. Singing was Maria

Martinez, daughter of Alex. A young talent, Maria shows promise for the future.

Accompanying "Gracias a la Vida" was the young guitarist Jamie Dupuis, who also accompanied one of the poems. The ability of this young man, who truly impressed the audience, is partly reflected in his ability to change completely, on the eve of the performance, the accompaniment which he had prepared and rehearsed for the song.

The conclusion — and climax — of *Four Poets Who Changed the World*, moved from the 20th century back to the 18th, with Ron Tough's portrayal of Robert Burns (1759–1796).

Described in the program as "a theatre arts professional", Mr. Tough became his subject, delivering a monologue in the first person, with a natural flow in the words leading from one program item to the next and nuanced emotional resonance throughout.

The poems themselves were very familiar: "The Tree of Liberty", with the introduction to "The Highland Laddie" played by the Ensemble; "Flow Gently Sweet Afton", accompanied by the JFE; "To a Mouse"; "My Love Is Like a Red, Red Rose"; "My Heart's in the Highland"; and "A Man's a Man for All That", with the Ensemble.

Illness in the group led Kith 'n Kin to withdraw from the program, so Ron Tough enhanced his presentation (yes, it was definitely an enhancement) by doing the singing where required.

The program ended with Robert Burns's "Auld Lang Syne", accompanied by the Jubilee Folk Ensemble, as the performers, and the audience, joined hands and voices in an expression of the shared humanity exemplified by the four poets.

This was an upbeat ending to an event which the audience seemed to feel was time and money well spent.

— Carl Honor

Where's the Wine?

The January gathering of the Edmonton AUUC seniors was an active occasion.

First, there were many birthday celebrants recognized: William Chomyn, Eva Doskoch, Victor Horon, Rose Kereliuk, Jed Olynyk, Mary Romach and William Uhryn.

When it came time to toast the guests of honour, the wine had not been poured — not for the head table nor for the crowd of 35!

William Uhryn quickly came to the rescue (with members of his family) with the question, "Hi, there! Would you like red or white?"

Before we started with the first course of our traditional Ukrainian Christmas meal, the *kutya*, William Uhryn brought traditional greetings and best wishes in Ukrainian to each and all of us.

"With wheat from our farms in the Peace River country, I bring to you the most heartfelt good will of Christmas greetings and blessings for the New Year. May the grains of rye and wheat that you sow yield more this year than last year; may all the piglets grow quickly; may the hens and their chicks be happy; may the rooster look after them well and may the cows have twins! Most importantly, may the stork bring all the younger ladies in our group twins! In conclusion, I wish you good luck, good

health and many years of happy life!"

Eva Doskoch recalled, much to our enjoyment, what it was like, when she was a child, to go Christmas caroling. Eva said with a smile in her eyes, that they would first go, before the sun came up, to the wealthy homes to get the best treats and then to the rest of the community, until night came.

The head table led us to the banquet table of traditional food: pickled beets, *nachynka*, pickled herring, creamed mushrooms split peas and sauerkraut, meat balls in sauce, *nalysnyky*, mashed beans with garlic, cabbage rolls, *studanetz*, compote and *perisky*. All of these dishes were prepared by the seniors themselves: Eva Doskoch, Olga Horon, Rose Kereliuk, Lucy Antoniow, Sandy Gordey, Ann Kawchuk, Nina Uhryn, Mary Tropak and Shirley Uhryn. For our January gathering this is becoming a tradition which works well.

On behalf of us all, Pauline Warick extended best wishes to Olga Dorish and Jed Olynyk, both unable to attend because of ill health.

After the hearty meal came the business meeting. The minutes of the last seniors' executive meeting were read and accepted. Eva Doskoch, the senior's program co-

(Continued on Page 12.)

JoKe TiMe

An American automobile company and a Japanese auto company decided to have a competitive boat race on the Detroit River. Both teams

practiced hard and long to reach their peak performance. On the big day, they were as ready as they could be.

The Japanese team won by a mile.

Corporate management decided that the reason for the

crushing defeat had to be found. A Continuous Measurable Improvement Team of executives was set up to investigate the problem and to recommend appropriate corrective action.

Their conclusion: The problem was that the Japanese team had 8 people rowing and 1 person steering, whereas the American team had 1 person rowing and 8 people steering. The American Corporate Steering Committee immediately hired a consulting firm to do a study on the management structure.

After some time and billions of dollars, the consulting firm concluded that "too many people were steering and not enough rowing." To prevent losing to the Japanese again next year, the management structure was changed to "4 Steering Managers, 3 Area Steering Managers, and 1 Staff Steering Manager", and a new performance system was introduced for the person rowing the boat to give him more incentive to work harder. "We must give him empowerment and enrichment. That ought to do it."

The next year the Japanese team won by two miles.

The American Corporation laid off the rower for poor performance, sold all of the paddles, cancelled all capital investments for new equipment, halted development of a new canoe, awarded high

(Continued on page 16.)

100th Birthday in Welland!

—Photos: George Sitak



On Monday, February 1, the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC, conducted by Rudy Wasylenky, appeared at Woodlands of Sunset Retirement Home in Welland to help mark the 100th birthday of Martha Maksymiuk, a long-time member of the Shevchenko Seniors and dedicated perogy maker. In the picture below, Joan Sitak presents a gift basket from the Shevchenko Seniors to Martha Maksymiuk (seated), while Mrs. Maksymiuk's son Bill Melnyk looks on.



Where's the Wine?

(Continued from Page 11.) ordinator, reviewed the activities that will follow for the balance of the year.

For February, it being heart month, we will have a speaker about our hearts. March will be a recognition of Taras Shevchenko. For April, we will be going to the Jewish synagogue in Edmonton. May will probably be a day trip to the Red Deer dinner theatre.

June's activities are still in the making.

The AUUC Seniors' Club is

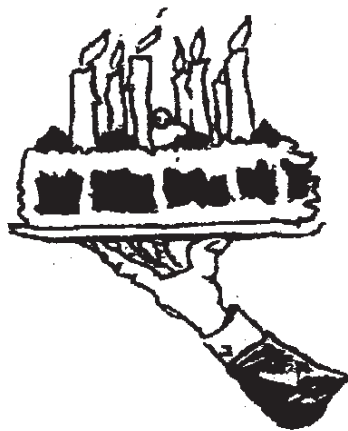
working with the Latin American community to host and recognize International Women's Day through the song, dance, art, and food of the two cultures.

This will be on Saturday, March 7, 2010, starting at 2:00 p.m., at the Ukrainian Centre in Edmonton.

The afternoon closed with five games of Bingo, with Maurice Warick as the caller. The winners received traditional Ukrainian artifacts.

— Shirley Uhryn

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Lucy Antoniw
Merle Schnee
Mike Ursuliak

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

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

Margaret Hallstrom

Enjoy your day with family and friends!



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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On the History of International Women's Day

Printed below is an abridgement of an article by Prof. Annelies Laschitzka, then Vice-President of the Historians' Society of the German Democratic Republic, which appeared in *The Ukrainian Canadian* in March, 1975 — thirty-five years ago. That edition of the magazine was devoted to women's issues in recognition of both International Women's Day and International Women's Year, which had been declared by the United Nations.

"International Women's Day has brought me a crushing amount of work," wrote Clara Zetkin on March 7, 1928, in a letter to one of her two sons. At seventy she was, as she said, as worn-out and tired as a person could be. Her other son Maxim, was upset about it every day, but, as she said with sly irony, "I never should have invented International Women's Day back in 1910".

* * *

For almost 40 years, Clara Zetkin had been fighting for the formation of a broad international women's movement of working women and

all democratic and peace-loving forces. How often must she have thought back to the International Workers' Congress in July, 1889, in Paris where, as a delegate of the Berlin working women, she delivered her first major speech on the woman question. She passionately pleaded for the woman's right to work and economic independence, for the right of working women to take part in the struggle for their party. She was terribly agitated, and probably unaware that that historic moment was the beginning of an important part of her life's work: the fight to organize the

German and international socialist women's movement.

The next time she attended an international meeting, the socialist congress in Paris in the Autumn of 1900 with Rosa Luxemburg, she was much more sure of herself, and considered it a decisive task to confront the dangerous alliance of reaction in the world with the international alliance of the working people, and felt that the women and youth had to be a part of this alliance. For with imperialism at the turn of the century came the spectre of genocide, threatening the happiness of the peoples, the millions of families, the development of women as individuals with equal rights, the health of children and the life and future of the youth.

This time it was her friend and fellow fighter Rosa Luxemburg who took the floor and expounded in her paper "The peace of nations, militarism and the elimination of standing armies" the thesis that something new was needed in the struggle against militarism, imperialism and war in view of the new phenomenon of imperialist world policy. Platonic declarations and international action in the economic sphere, she said, were not enough. She called for international protest movements against militarism and war and in particular the involvement of women and youth in active struggle for peace. Reason enough had been given since the mid-nineties. There had been the wars by Germany, France, Britain, Japan and Russia against China, the war of United States monopoly capital against Spain, the war conducted against the Boers by the English. These military conflicts by the capitalists over the partition and redistribution of colonial spheres of influence formed the alarming background to the proposals made by Rosa Luxemburg at the socialist congress in Paris, in full conformity with the views of Clara Zetkin.

Just as the birth of International Women's Day was preceded by painstaking work by thousands of fighters for the rights of women, just as every International Women's Day in every country only becomes a day of struggle and celebration for the women of the world through tiresome work at routine tasks, the experience of the national organizations affiliated to the WIDF* has shown that the rights of women have to be fought for with special means and methods. Clara Zetkin said repeatedly that an appeal had to be made to the interests and pe-

*WIDF—Women's International Democratic Federation

From Our History

cularities of each woman, and in 1920 she wrote, "Involvement of women in society and for society means a doubling of the productive force. And more: the freest participation of women in all spheres of social life means a richer, more varied quality of achievement . . . Social life would gain not only in volume but in variety, in depth and refinement, if women were able to operate as freely developed, well-rounded individuals in all spheres."

* * *

In this connection she wrote: "If the woman is to have full social equality with the man—in truth and in fact, not just with lifeless laws on long-suffering paper, and if she, like the man, is to have the chance of free development and exercise of total humanness, two main conditions have to be given: private ownership of the means of production must be replaced by social ownership, and the activity of women has to be incorporated into the social production of commodities in a system free of exploitation and servitude. Only the fulfilment of these two pre-conditions . . . guarantee that the woman can function as a worker and creator with equal duties and equal rights in a community of workers and creators with equal duties and equal rights, and that vocational activity and maternity can complement each other to make up a full life."

Clara Zetkin herself was much too realistic and too familiar with the actual life and thinking of women, with the problems of their international organization, to present this scientific prospect for the emancipation of women schematically as the only watchword in the practical day-to-day struggle. This long term objective was for her something to be kept in mind when deciding on the concrete tasks of the day. Every International Women's Day and every step required concrete analysis of the specific objective and subjective factor, so that the concrete work of women in their emancipation struggle could be stimulated by the right slogan at the right time and advanced step by step in the direction of the major goal.

Peace and women's suffrage, no more and no less, were written on the banner when Clara Zetkin "invented" International Women's Day. This was in Copenhagen in 1910, on the 26th and 27th of August. Even before the International Socialist Congress

began its deliberations, more than 100 delegates from 17 nations came together in the Second International Conference of Socialist Women.

The First International Conference of Socialist Women in 1907 had also been held on the eve of the International Socialist Congress, in Stuttgart, and had led to the formation of the International Women's Secretariat under Clara Zetkin's leadership. Since then a great deal had been achieved among progressive women on the international level. In Copenhagen in 1910, reports on the movement of working women were submitted from 14 countries: Austria, Bohemia, Denmark, England, Finland, Germany, Holland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. The purpose of this Conference was to expand the contacts between organized women in the various countries. Ways and means of bringing about universal suffrage were debated. Following a report by the German social democrat Kate Duncker, there was a discussion on mother and child welfare services. International solidarity was expressed for the Finnish independence struggle against Russian Tsarism, and a further resolution renewed the commitment to fight for peace within the ranks of the working people.

The high point of the Conference was the unanimous adoption of the resolution submitted by Clara Zetkin, Kate Duncker and others which concluded as follows:

"That in agreement with the class-conscious political and trade union organizations of the proletariat in their countries, the socialist women of all countries every year arrange a Women's Day serving the primary purpose of agitation for women's suffrage. The claim must be elucidated in its interconnections with the whole woman question in accordance with the socialist approach. Women's Day must have an international character and be painstakingly prepared."

This was the beginning of International Women's Day. Its initiator was Clara Zetkin, who saw it as a promising way of mobilizing large numbers of women in the fight for their rights, the welfare of their children, and peace in the world. It was inspired by the multifarious experience of working women in decades of class conflict between capital and labour and by the experiences of the suffragettes. The

(Continued on page 14.)

Who, What, When, Where

Edmonton — International Women's Day will be celebrated at the Ukrainian Centre, 11018 - 97 St., on Sunday, **March 7, at 2:00 p.m.** It will be hosted by the **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizen's Club** with special guests being Chilean singers and dancers. **Hour-long concert** planned, with **lunch** to follow. For more information, **phone (780) 424-2037.**

* * *

Toronto — The Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation will host a **Ukrainian-style dinner** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West, starting at **6:00 p.m.** on Saturday, **March 6.** The program includes the **Hahilka singers.** For reservations, call **416-534-8662.** Admission: **\$25.00/person.**

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will host a **concert** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West on the afternoon of Sunday, **March 21.** The program will feature the **Hahilka singers** and the **Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra (AUUC).** For more information, contact members of the **Toronto Branch Executive, or phone 416-588-1639.**

(This program will be repeated at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Welland on April 11.)

* * *

Winnipeg — At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, **March 7,** at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue (at McGregor), the **AUUC Winnipeg Branch** will celebrate the **legacy of Taras Shevchenko** in music, poetry and dance, featuring the **Festival Choir, Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, Yunist Dance Ensemble,** and the **AUUC School of Folk Dance,** as well as **vocal and bandura solos.** The concert will be **followed by a perogy supper.** **Tickets are available from members, or call 488-1008 or 589-4397.** Admission: **Advance purchase — \$15.00; At the door — \$20.00.**

* * *

Winnipeg — At 7:00 p.m. on Monday, **March 8,** at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue (at McGregor), the **Canadian Society for Ukrainian Labour Research** and the **Department of German and Slavic Studies** at the University of Manitoba, will host the **lecture "Between Communism and Nationalism: The adventures of Ivan Kulyk in Ukraine and Canada"** by **Prof Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern** of Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois. **Admission free.**

* * *

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.

Alice Chitrenky

With great sadness, the family is announcing the passing of their dear mother and *baba*, Alexandra (Alice) Theresa Chitrenky, in her 91st year.

Alice was predeceased by her parents Theodor and Maria Gingeristy, her husband John, her sisters Nellie Sawchuk, Olga Micholuk, and Joan Vajda, and a brother in his infancy.

She leaves to grieve her absence her children, Joan Kowalewich (Bill Bilecki), Leona (Bunny) Levchuk (Larry) and Bob Chitrenky

(Margot). *Baba* Alice will be especially missed by her beloved grandchildren, Bryan Kowalewich, Michael Kowalewich (Nataliya Kapitanova), Elena Kowalewich, Janine Verrault (Shaun) and Jamie Levchuk.

Alice's focus in life has always been two-fold: family first and the AUUC second. A very strong and determined woman in all aspects of her life, she was passionate, stoic, and stubborn, but yet was also supportive, loving and full of fun. Her influence, integrity and morality have played a



strong role in guiding her children and grandchildren through their lives.

Alice worked hard all her life. She was born on August 4, 1919, in Montreal. At age 19, she married John and moved to Vancouver, leaving her family and all that was familiar to her to be with him and start a new life.

She worked in a restaurant as a cook but worked evenings so that she was home in the day to look after her children. Later, she worked as a shipper and clerk for *Ukrainska Knyha* until her retirement.

From the time of her childhood in Montreal to her years in Vancouver, Alice was a very active participant in the cultural and organizational work of the ULFTA and later the AUUC.

While steadfast in her support of John in his leadership endeavours in the AUUC (especially when he was the BC Provincial Secretary) at the same time, she was making her personal mark in the development of the AUUC, with fund-raising and doing "woman's work" — she was always in the kitchen at the hall

cleaning, cooking and generally being the "Boss".

Alice was an active member of the AUUC Vancouver Branch and of the Seniors' Club, and always participated in the perogy bees, until her final illness proved to be too much of a challenge.

Proud of her Ukrainian heritage and proud of the contributions of her children to the Association, she simply burst with pride when her grandchildren appeared on the stage.

She was a great nurturer, and her greatest joy came when she could feed us all when we gathered for family events. Even when she was unable to cook for us, she talked about making dinners. We can never forget her, in her forever present apron, and her words "Eat. It's good for you."

Alice never did anything the easy way and she didn't take the easy way out. She really never did complain of the pain caused by her illnesses nor the restrictions placed upon her independence. Plagued by the many serious illnesses over the past year, she finally succumbed to the painful effects of bone cancer. We hope that she has found peace.

In August, 2009, the family held a 90th birthday party at the hall in her honour. She was excited and really enjoyed being with her family and friends. At that time, we reflected on her 90 years noting that she had beaten the odds life had presented her. We also expressed our appreciation of her unconditional love. She always put us first, never interfering in our lives but al-

ways there for us when we were in need. Her love, her support, and her hugs will always remain with us in our hearts and thoughts as precious memories. She will be missed.

"Wonderful memories woven in gold.

These are the memories we tenderly hold.

Deep in our hearts her memory is kept.

To love, to cherish and never forget."

We would like to express our warmest thanks to all her friends and our friends for their kind words of condolence and their offers of support during this very trying time.

We invite you to join us in a celebration of her life on Sunday, March 7th, 1:00 pm at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 805 E. Pender Street in Vancouver.

In light of her life-long support of the AUUC, donations to the AUUC Vancouver Branch Sustaining Fund would be greatly appreciated by the family in lieu of flowers.

Ukrainian Election

(Continued from Page 4.) shenko had negotiated with Vladimir Putin to reach an accord on the natural gas issue.

The difference with Yanukovich is that, not having to project any measure of anti-Russian posturing, he can propose and pursue measures which are beneficial both to Russia and Ukraine, with or without the European Union.

An example might be the proposal of a consortium on transportation of natural gas. The anti-Russians are immediately wary because Russia is involved. But this is potentially a win-win-win situation. Ukraine wants to retain a reliable and profitable pipeline business; Russia wants an efficient, cost-effective and reliable delivery system; Europe wants a reliable and cost-effective supply system.

At the same time, Ukraine has much to gain by closer ties to the European Union, and President Yanukovich is not ignorant of, or indifferent to, this reality.

True, it seems probable that Ukraine will no longer be talking about joining NATO — at least not for the next few years. For a Ukraine sitting between Russia and NATO, posed to benefit from good relations with both, this would seem to make more sense than throwing in with one or the other. After all, the prospect of a war between the two, potentially disastrous for Ukraine, is slim.

— Wilfred Szczesny

International Women's Day

(Continued from page 13.) US women, according to the report of the National Women's Committee of the Socialist Party of the United States to the Copenhagen Congress, had begun holding a women's suffrage day on the last Sunday in February, and this served as a model. There was great enthusiasm and excitement at the Second International Women's Conference in Copenhagen in 1910. Clara Zetkin was re-elected as international secretary. Continuation of the international women's conference was considered. The delegates were optimistic about the success of the "new means of agitation", International Women's Day, but it is unlikely that any of them could have dreamed that 50 years later, in 1960, women from all over the world would come together in the same city of Copenhagen to commemorate the decision that had brought together millions of women of all continents, all skin colours, all world outlooks and all nations.

About a million women and men participated in Denmark, Germany, Austria and Switzerland when International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time on March 19, 1911. In the years that followed, International Women's Day rallies spread to more and more countries. Holland and Sweden were added to the list in 1912, and Russia in 1913. In March 1915, the International Socialist Women's Conference was held in Berne, attended by 25 delegates from Germany, England, France, Holland, Italy, Poland, Russia and Switzerland. This conference, under the leadership of Clara Zetkin was the first step towards common struggle against the imperialist world war. This act, like so many in March of each of the following years, was in the tradition of the spirit of International

Women's Day. In all the years since the inception of International Women's Day, the women have fought for their own rights and linked this with the general struggle of their people for social progress and peace in the world. More and more, International Women's Day has become a day of solidarity and friendship among the women of the world. Today the many millions of people who take part in March 8 activities in a variety of ways are beyond counting....

The history of International Women's Day in all its detail and in all stages of the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, fascism and war has not yet been written. But one thing is certain. The formation of the Women's International Democratic Federation on December 1, 1945 in Paris, the city where Clara Zetkin gave her first international address on the woman question, was a milestone in the more than 60 years of often dangerous and difficult progress of International Women's Day.

The thirtieth anniversary of the formation of the WIDF, the World Congress of Women and International Women's Year in 1975 will be a special stimulus for March 8 this year and confront it with special tasks. These great anniversaries, at which the women of the world will report on many, but still widely differing achievements, should be an occasion to look back on what has been achieved, to compile facts and documents on the history of International Women's Day in the various countries and continents, and to fill out the picture of the worldwide participation of women in the struggle against war, oppression and misery, for a future of progress, freedom, justice and peace. The image of Clara Zetkin will shine forth more brightly than ever.

Sustaining Fund Donations

Elsie Bagan, Whitehorse YK, <i>Commemorating Caroline Bagan's 100th birthday</i>	\$100.00
Helen Hrynchyshyn, Vancouver BC	100.00
John Paluck, Castlegar BC	100.00
Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Toronto ON	100.00
Michael Stefiuk, Mississauga ON	100.00
Natalka & Robert Martin, Calgary AB.....	75.00
Andrew & Elsie Lukenchuk, Kelowna BC <i>In memory of father John, mother Mary, and brother Albert Kostiuk</i>	70.00
Shevchenko Senior Citizens Club, Welland ON ...	70.00
Floyd & Elsie Williston, Winnipeg MB	70.00
William Maruschak, Toronto ON	50.00
June Morris, Toronto ON	50.00
Helen Baker, Toronto ON	30.00
Maria Gargal, Toronto ON	30.00
Kay Skrabek, Calgary AB	25.00
Mary Akerley, Calgary AB	20.00
Frances Hobbs, Port Colborne ON	20.00
Tony & Lydia Husak, Calgary AB	20.00
Nick Hykawy, Calgary AB	20.00
Amil Tropak, Edmonton AB	20.00
Walter Mirosh, Winnipeg MB	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.



Taras Shevchenko Museum

Shevchenko the Prophet

Selections from an introduction by Borys Oliynyk to a book of Taras Shevchenko poetry. Borys Oliynyk is a great poet, author of over 40 books, laureate of many state awards including "Hero of Ukraine", Academician of the Ukrainian Academy of Science, politician, Chairman of Fond "Kultura".

The work of every great poet is deeply rooted in the cultural traditions of his people. Taras Shevchenko's poetic roots can be traced back to the legendary library of Yaroslav the Wise, the immortal author of *The Lay Of Igor's Host*; Bohdan Khmelnytsky and his colonels, some of whom graduated from the universities of Europe; the Kiev Academy, which was the alma mater of the great Russian scientist and scholar Mikhail Lomonosov and the world famous philosopher Hrihory Skovoroda; as well as the composer Maksim Berezovsky, a member of several European academies, the Bologna Academy in particular. Finally, there are hundreds of thousands of folk songs which became the mother of Shevchenko's poetry, to quote Oles Honchar.



Borys Oliynyk

It should not be forgotten that Kvitka-Osnovianenko, Ivan Kotliarevsky, Yevhen Hrebinka and other creative writers had long been working in Ukraine by the time Shevchenko was establishing himself as an artist, poet and public figure.

Shevchenko was destined to live only forty-seven years. However, Pushkin lived only thirty-seven years, and Lermontov a mere twenty-eight. But if we subtract from Shevchenko's forty-seven the years he spent in exile and serfdom, this becomes a desperately small figure.

He experienced everything: the jails of St. Petersburg Permits, denouncements, his own jailors' pleasantries Everything — even the vast steppe of Orenburg,

Also its fortress...

All the same, risking strong objections, I will dare to assert that it is difficult to find a happier figure in world history than Shevchenko. Even in the hard years of his childhood, this poor orphan had his bright days when he soared in his daydreams while picking up from his rebellious grandfather an unruly spirit and the Cossacks' love of freedom. He was happy not merely because he loved, and was loved in turn by, women from even the elite circles, who sensed in him that earthly power and spiritual profundity which the lazy beau monde so lacked.

He was happy not only because he had tasted the exquisite delight of having discovered the artist and poet in himself. It was one such moment, when he glowed with inspiration in the Summer Garden, that fate sent him his compatriot Soshenko. And the latter introduced the young Shevchenko to the noble and unforgettable Bryulov, Zhukovsky and Venetsianov, thanks to whom he became acquainted with the highest achievements of world culture while studying at the Academy of Fine Arts. He was happy not only because of the thrill of danger which perhaps only great political figures and soldiers experience and which he himself encountered when he rose to the level of a public figure and statesman, laying the foundation to a future confederation of free Slavs in the Society of Cyril and Methodius.

These were truly blessed moments of inspiration. And yet it was not this which elevated him to such unique heights among the world's greats. Shevchenko experienced the pinnacle of happiness, which fate bestows only upon the immortal, when he became one with his people, able to sense them in his heart, realizing his responsibility for their past and present, and more importantly, their future. He fulfilled his historical mission, having asserted the national identity of his people in a multinational world. To this end he sacrificed two thirds of a life given to him by cruel fate, but at the same time he earned the right to be immortal. The right to declare to his contemporaries and future generations:

We walked the straight path, you and I,
We've never cheated, compromised,
Or lived the very slightest lie.

— Selected by Bill Harasym

JoKe TiMe

(Continued from page 12.) performance awards to the consulting firm, and distributed the money saved as bonuses to the senior executives.

* * *

Jokes Below Are From Toronto's

Love and Laughter

A group of men aged forty decided to go out for dinner. They settled on Dining Elegance as the restaurant, be-

cause it had friendly young servers in revealing uniforms.

Ten years later, at age fifty, they decided on Dining Elegance because it had good food and reasonable prices.

At age 60, they chose Dining Elegance again, because it was quiet and did not allow smoking.

At age 70, Dining Elegance was selected because parking was convenient, and access was easy by cane or walker.

At age 80, they thought Dining Elegance was a good idea because, as one said, "We've

never been there."

* * *

As Jerry was driving along, he saw a pig standing on the road. Jerry stopped, and not spotting a possible owner, he put the pig into his car, on the back seat. A little further along he saw a policeman and stopped to ask for advice.

"I don't know," said the cop. "Why don't you take him to the zoo?"

A week later, Jerry was stopped by the policeman, who spotted the pig in the back seat. "Didn't you take him to the zoo?" the officer asked.

"Yes, I did," Jerry replied. "He enjoyed it so much that now I'm taking him to a Blue Jays game."

* * *

A totally deaf old man was fitted for a hearing aid, resulting in perfect hearing. On a follow-up visit a month later, his doctor asked the old fellow how his family had reacted.

"I haven't told them yet," he replied. "I've just been listening to their conversations. So far I've changed my will three times."

Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 5.) Yushchenko's decree. Valery Golenko, chairman of the Luhansk regional council, has also applied to the courts to have the award cancelled.

The Sevastopol City Council passed a resolution stating that council deputies "condemn President Viktor Yushchenko's action in the glorification of accomplices to fascists such as (Roman) Shukhevych, (Stepan) Bandera and others similar to them."

The Russian Jewish Federation denounced Yushchenko's action, stating, "The historical fact that Bandera cooperated with fascists during the Great Patriotic War and participated in forming the SS battalions is not at all embarrassing for Mr. Yushchenko."

Russia's foreign ministry called Yushchenko's move "an event of such a repulsive nature that it could not fail to provoke an unambiguously negative reaction, primarily in Ukraine."

Finally, a web site called russiaprofile.org (I don't know who they are, but they don't seem friendly to Russia. — GB) stated, "The posthumous honor (notice the American spelling — GB) for Bandera will be seen as a last ditch attempt by Yushchenko to sabotage his successor (Yanukovich and Tymoshenko, then battling to win the presidential election, could not afford to antagonize western Ukraine. — GB) and to stick a middle finger up at Moscow."

Sculpture Recovered!



Roger Golden has informed the Shevchenko Museum in Toronto that *Baba*, the sculpture honouring his grandmother, has been recovered after being stolen early in January, 2010.

A front-page story and photos in the *Town Crier*, a local newspaper, prompted a phone call to police, who collected the sculpture and brought it home.

The caller had picked up *Baba* from the street, believing the sculpture was being thrown out. Police speculate the thieves abandoned the sculpture after discovering it was made from Winterstone (cement) rather than bronze.

Baba is a bit bruised, but can be fixed," Mr. Golden wrote.

"A POINT OF VIEW"

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