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Successful Dovbush Seminar



Photo: Dan Fung

The Dovbush Dancers of Vancouver AUUC ended their summer with a four-day seminar during which they learned two dances. The report, with more pictures appears on Page 7

Best Wishes of the Season!

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

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

Drums of War

Before he became Prime Minister, there were wars Stephen Harper did not like — namely, the wars joined by the Liberal government, like the war in Afghanistan.

However, since assuming the leadership of the country, Prime Minister Harper has not met a war he did not like, including Afghanistan. In fact, his devotion to Afghanistan has been such that we start to suspect that he plans to measure the success of his time in office by the number

of body bags carried down the Highway of Heroes.

The Harper Government couldn't wait to get into Libya. Not only did it urge its allies to intervene (to protect civilian lives, he said), but it never stopped bragging that a Canadian was top dog when it came to bombing Libyans.

Now the Government of Canada, led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, is looking for another foreign adventure.

Two stand out among the various possibilities

The first, and most promising in terms of the opportunity for more Canadians to slaughter and be slaughtered, is Syria. Canada has already signalled its interest in some action against the government of that country.

Canada's frigate stands ready in the Mediterranean to support the Arab League (based in Cairo, which has its own possibilities as a foreign intervention), which has been rattling its sabres.

Another option is Iran, where Israel is the lead hound, supported by Israel's American puppy-dog. The ostensible concern is that Iran may get a nuclear weapon.

The fact is that nine states have nuclear weapons or have conducted tests. None of them, including Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has been preemptively bombed. Clearly something else is going on in this instance.

In This Issue

90 Years! The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra	2
As the World Turns	8
AUUC Toronto Branch Remembrance Day	5
Canada-US Trade Conflicts	3
Commentary	4
Condolences	4
Current Eclectic	3
Dovbush Dancers' Successful Seminar	6
The Economy Tanking?	3
Editorial	4
Edmonton Seniors' Meetings	7
From Our Readers	4
Happy Birthday, Friends .	11
Harper and Free Trade	3
Join Us!	11
Palestine at the UN	3
PRPP: the Banks Like It ..	3
Season's Greetings	7
Season's Greetings ad	10
Myron Shatulsky	2
Soushko Exhibition	12
Sustaining Fund	5
Taras Shevchenko Museum	12
The Fellow Traveller	8
Thoughts on "Occupy"	4
Toronto AUUC Oktoberfest	5
Ukrainian News Briefs	9
Welland Orchestra at Heidehof	12
Who's in Real Trouble?	4
Who, What, When, Where	11
Winnipeg's Hallowe'en Howl	6

It is anticipated that the next issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* will appear in January, 2012. The deadline for material to appear in that issue is December 10, 2011.

It Didn't Happen

Reading Page 2, you will see information about the November 19 unveiling of a plaque designating the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg as a National Historical Site of Canada. Unfortunately, that event has been postponed to some unspecified date.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR — 3 НОВИМ РОКОМ!

The National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians extends best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2012 to all members and friends of the AUUC and readers and supporters of *The Ukrainian Canadian Herald!*

Like the paper? Why not get a sub?

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Current Eclectic — Long and Short

Canada-US Trade Conflicts

The United States likes to think of itself as a champion of free trade. It promotes and joins free trade agreements around the world, and bullies other countries into lowering any impediments to the free flow of American goods.

That's the official image of the USA, and most Americans probably believe it. However, the dedication to free trade seems mainly to be a devotion to the free flow of American products. That is the reality with which Canada has been contending for decades, and which we still face.

In mid-November, Canada "won" another free trade battle against the USA. (The quotation marks are required because these wins never seem to be final.)

The issue this time was country-of-origin labelling demanded for Canadian (and Mexican) pork and beef exports. The regulations required American meat packers to process the imported meat in a separate stream incurring extra costs.

The World Trade Organization ruled that the requirement was contrary to WTO rules, and constituted discrimination against Canadian and Mexican beef.

The USA has had the requirement in place since 2008. The cost to Canadian producers has been estimated in the millions of dollars, with each head of cattle devalued by about \$100.00.

The USA had 60 days to appeal the ruling, and initial

indications were that there would be an appeal.

The United States is Canada's largest export market for cattle and hogs.

Another trade issue between the two countries has been the "Buy American" aspect of an American jobs bill. It is feared that Canadian firms could lose access to billions of dollars in sales to the USA of goods and services.

The delay of the Keystone pipeline project, designed to take Canadian oil to refineries in Texas has been another irritant to Canadian producers and the government. Again, Canada is the largest foreign energy supplier to the USA.

One effect of the increased concerns about America's trade practices in a depressed economy has been more talk of the need to diversify Canada's export markets. This sounds good, but "the proof of the pudding...."

Palestine at the UN

Everyone is aware that the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has accepted Palestine as a full member.

In the wake of that decision, the United States of America announced that it would not make its \$60 million payment due to UNESCO for this year, and would suspend its \$80 million annual contribution to the UNESCO budget. Israel announced an end to its \$2 million contribution. Canada announced that it would continue its \$10 million contribution, but would not help make up the shortfall of USA and Israeli withdrawal.

The loss of American financing is expected to affect some UNESCO projects, and the campaign has already begun to blame Palestine

The vote at UNESCO was 107 for, with a baker's dozen or so opposed, and the balance of the 194 members not voting.

While recognizing that the

loss of the US donation would hurt, commentators noted that UNESCO survived a 20-year American boycott from 1984.

The decision at UNESCO qualifies Palestine for membership in several other UN agencies, should it choose to join. It also makes it more probable that membership applications to other agencies would be favourably received.

The application for membership in the United Nations went to the Security Council in early November. It appeared that Palestine could count on only eight of the nine votes it would need to gain membership, and a decision was postponed to allow Palestine time to consider whether it wished to press for the vote.

It is known that, if the Security Council votes for Palestine's membership, the USA will use its veto.

Germany had indicated that it would vote against admitting Palestine, while France and Britain indicated that they would abstain.

One concern about admitting Palestine into full membership is that it would require the UN to act against the occupation of one member state (Palestine) by another (Israel). This is a step which even some countries that support statehood for Palestine are unwilling to take.

PRPP: The Banks Like It

Smoke and mirrors continue to be preferred tools for much of the activity of the government led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. An example is the Pooled Registered Pension Plan unveiled in November.

Ted Menzies, Minister of State for Finance, reportedly called the PRPP "the most significant step to bolster retirement savings since introduction of the Tax Free Savings Account in the 2008 federal

budget".

However, that is not saying much. The TFSA was a lot of noise without a lot of benefit. While the TFSA may have been of some limited benefit to some people in very specific circumstances, its real value has been shown by the low participation rate and the low levels of investment (on average) by people who have set up a TFSA.

The government launched the PRPP as an alternative to

expansion and improvement of the Canada Pension Plan which, Mr. Menzies indicated when making the PRPP announcement, is now off the table.

The Canadian Bankers Association like the plan, because small- and medium-sized businesses will be able to offer registered pension plans to their employees. That means some pretty hefty administration fees for banks and other financial institutions.

What else does it mean? While companies may be required to offer PRPPs to their employees, they will not be required to contribute to the fund. Furthermore, workers will be allowed to opt out.

Writing in the *Toronto Star* on November 19, Moshe A Milevsky, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Finance at York University's Schulich School of Business, wrote that, "One thing is for certain, a PRPP — like an RRSP or a TFSA — isn't a pension. It's just another tax sheltered savings plan."

As is the case with the RRSP and the TFSA, the people who most need help in saving for their retirement — the unemployed, those working at low-paid and/or part-time jobs, and others in tight financial circumstances — will be least able to participate. As these people head into a future of destitution, the corporations and the governments, absolved of all responsibility, will smugly blame the impoverished for their improvidence in failing to use the many savings options provided.

Harper and Free Trade

In August, Prime Minister Harper became the first foreign leader to make a state visit to Honduras following a coup d'état in 2009. The coup replaced elected president Manuel Zaleya.

Though Canada initially opposed the coup, in June of this year it joined the United States of America in promoting the return of Honduras to the OAS (Organization of American States).

Honduras is considered to be one of the poorest and most violent countries in the Americas. According to Human Rights Watch, at least eight journalists and 10 political opponents have been killed since Porfirio Lobo Sosa became President

In case you missed it, in August Canada reached a free trade deal with Honduras. Canada's Prime Minister Harper, who has a lot to say about human rights elsewhere, just dismissed concerns about

rights in Honduras, and questioned the motives of those raising the issue. According to Harper, they just want to protect local interests.

Harper's own motives in signing the deal are not above question. Last year, total trade between Canada and Honduras was less than \$200 million. However, in the picture are Canadian mining companies whose practices have raised serious questions.

Prime Minister Harper protects certain special interests, among them mining companies and oil companies.

Other special interests are of no concern, including small farmers (he is willing — even eager — to sacrifice marketing boards and supply management for a deal in the Asian-Pacific) and health care costs (among other items, he seems to favour more profits for big pharma as part of a free trade deal with the European Union).

The Economy Tanking?

The Harper government has been tireless in bragging about the Canadian economy and its superiority to the economic arrangement of other countries. It has been quite free with "good" advice to other countries.

Sometimes the government has relied on incorrect information (no bank bail-outs in Canada), sometimes it resorted to questionable counting (a part-time, minimum-wage job, or selling stuff door-to-door, is a job just like a unionized job with decent benefits), and sometimes it ignored the reality that Canada can not prosper while our trading partners struggle.

However, reality can only be ignored for a limited time. Just about now is the time when the government of Canada has to face the truth.

In early November, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced that a planned increase in Employment Insurance premiums would be scaled back and that the target for balancing the budget will not be met because of slower-than-expected economic growth.

In late October, the Bank of Canada slashed its predictions for the rate of growth of the Canadian economy in the immediate future. Private sector economists supported the

gloomier picture projected by Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of Canada.

He also recognized the danger posed to Canada by the possibility that the European and American economies would dive, with dire consequences for Canada as well as many other countries.

Domestic demand is expected to be the main driver of growth (the little there will be), with foreign demand falling victim to a possible recession in Europe and a grim outlook in the USA.

The general gloom makes it improbable that business will be buying much, and governments are working toward reducing deficits.

The shock which focused the government's attention, apparently, was the loss of 54,000 jobs in October, bringing the official rate of unemployment to 7.3%. A slight increase had been projected.

A measure the government has taken to "save jobs" is to extend work sharing agreements under which workers agree to work fewer hours, making some of their losses up with EI, so that companies can avoid lay-offs.

Back in March, when tabling the budget, the government indicated that, at that time, 280,000 jobs had been saved by this arrangement.

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Who's in Real Trouble?

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

It has often been said that if you owe a bank \$10,000.00 and can't pay, you're in trouble, but if you owe a bank \$10,000,000.00 and can't pay the bank's in trouble. For the moment, in Europe, the USA and around the world that bit of wisdom has been forgotten, as financiers are still able to sell another view: that "in a world awash in debt, power shifts to the creditors". (Fareed Zakaria, *Toronto Star*, September 19, 2011)

Because people still believe that the financiers have the power, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece (just to mention a few of many countries) are imposing terrible austerity measures on their populations. The poorer the country (and particularly its people), the harsher the pressure to produce even greater impoverishment.

So far, that has been working — sort of. The people with the money have been able to generate greater yields on their investments by squeezing even more out of those who have, over the last decades, and certainly in the last five years, experienced increasing impoverishment.

However, there is a limit to the process of further enriching the rich by further impoverishing the poor. There is an absolute limit, reached when the poor no longer have the energy or other requirements to produce any more wealth for the rich. This is a limit which can only be reached in limited time and place, because it is the point at which, globally reached, the world economy will have collapsed totally.

There is also a relative limit, the point at which the people who are being squeezed call a halt to their further impoverishment. We seem to be at the beginning of that point. Food riots in many parts of the world; riots against austerity measures in several European countries, as well as some of the wealthier Asian countries; even the "Occupy" movement — these are just a few of the instances of people saying, "Enough."

"When you have nothing, you have nothing to lose," the song said. If you have never had anything, then the will, energy, and strength to fight may be lacking. However, if you had, and have lost, and see yourself continuing to lose; if you have no stake in the present and no hope in the future; if the only prospect is to go from bad to worse — then you may become a raging tiger.

Dan Leighton of the group Compass, in Britain, reportedly said, "From bankers to media barons, private interests have bankrupted and corrupted the public realm." (Cited by Olivia Ward, *Toronto Star*, August 10)

The public realm may be about to return the favour.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to Toronto Bureau Chief George Borusiewich, his wife Vera, and their family on the death of Nancy Borusiewich on September 28, 2011.

COMMENTARY

Thoughts on "Occupy"

What a difference! The attitude, that is, of the 1%, its apologists and its foot soldiers toward protesters quietly occupying parks and other public spaces in "the free world", and protesters pressing for regime change in Ukraine's *maidan*, or the countries of the "Arab Spring", or other places in which the 1% have a predatory interest.

In the latter cases, the public voice in the "free world" expects governments under threat to show infinite patience, and allow the demonstrators to occupy public space indefinitely. When that public space is in the "free world", however, a few weeks just about exhausts patience, and the authorities send in the police in riot gear to evict the campers, tear down the tents, and dispose of whatever is found.

If the Arab Spring was more violent, don't thank the authorities. Their troops wore riot gear, and were ready to bust heads.

It is of more than a little interest that in New York, where "Occupy Wall Street" started the movement, through a range of other cities in North America, to the locations which joined most recently, the authorities decided almost at the same time within a few days to act against the campers. Was there collusion, or was it "follow the leader"?

The reasons were somewhat varied: the health and safety conditions of the occupation sites; the right of the general public to unlimited enjoyment of the spaces; complaints of nearby residents about noise; the presence in the camps of the homeless, the unemployed and other "undesirables" (as though they are not an important part of

the 99%); and others. And of course, "They've made their point, whatever that was, now it's time to stop." Nor would the opposition be complete without, "Why don't they join a party and get involved in the political process?"

Just what does that mean, "they've made their point", especially with an added "Whatever it was"?

Their point has been that a change is needed toward more equity in the distribution of social wealth, that the 1% must start to pay more of the cost of civilized society, that the trend begun in the presidency of Ronald Reagan of funneling more wealth to the 1% while more tightly squeezing the 99% has to be reversed.

Has that point been made? Where is the evidence?

The evidence that we are getting more of the same is plentiful. Even as *The New York Times* was reporting that banks in the USA were implementing new or higher fees on a variety of services, banks in Canada were informing their customers of the same moves.

At least one Canadian bank sent out a notice with over three pages of 10-point type (this is 10-point type) specifying new or higher fees.

In Europe, where the 99% have been waging some serious protests, elected governments in Greece and Italy (perhaps, by the time you read this, elsewhere too) have been replaced by appointed financial technocrats willing to impose bankers' conditions on suffering people — to save the financiers. The latest rumblings have been about the danger to investors posed profligate France.

Free trade agreements (deals to allow money to flow freely across borders while

From Our Readers

Russ and I leave October 27 for Buenos Aires for six weeks. We have never been on this type of trip, so we're looking forward to the experience. Perhaps we'll even get to see the Shevchenko monument in Buenos Aires!

Regards to all,

— Diane Garrett,
Thunder Bay ON

preventing action by governments to protect their citizens from the resulting social devastation) continue to expand. An example is the coming expansion of the Trans Pacific Partnership, originally four countries, with five more negotiating entry, and Japan and Canada applying.

Canada (elimination of the Canadian Wheat Board already under way) appears to be more than happy to negotiate an end to other supply management systems, notably dairy and poultry, and other "liberalization" of agriculture.

The combination of tax cuts and service cuts, with other "incentives" to the 1%, designed to shift wealth from the 99% to the 1%, continue to be the order of the day.

In the United States of America, a bipartisan "Super Committee" formed to reach some agreement on a budget is bogged down because the Republican foot soldiers of the 1% insist that reduced taxes for the billionaires is the true way to prosperity.

In Canada, the economic burden continues to shift to the 99%, while the government and its apologists continue to insist (growing unemployment and impoverishment notwithstanding) that Canada's economy has been great, and that there were no bailouts in the wake of 2008 (facts to the contrary notwithstanding).

It is no accident that the countries of southern Europe, where social supports are lowest and unemployment is highest, are accused of prof-

(Continued on Page 11.)

SEE US ON THE WEB!

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

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

Taras Shevchenko Museum:
www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum

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

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

AUUC Toronto Branch Remembrance Day

On Sunday, November 13, 2011, members and friends of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians gathered at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto for a Remembrance Day service to honour AUUC members who served in the Second World War.

Opening remarks were

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowsky



UJPO National Co-President David Abramowitz was the main speaker.

made by Toronto Branch Vice-President George Borusiewich, who also acted as Master of Ceremonies.

The program got under way with Bernardine Dobrowsky's reading of the poem *In Flanders Fields*, which set the sombre tone for the day's event.

A tribute song (*Ñòìçòü iääü ð³÷êîþ êóðäài* — A Grave Mound Stands by the River) was sung by the Hahilka Singers, which include Conductor Natalka Mochoruk, Zena Bolychuk, Lorna Clark, Claudia Rabzak, and Wilfred Szczesny.

Pianist Peter Krochak, accompanist to the singers, played a heartfelt rendition of Chopin's "Nocturne".

The keynote speaker was David Abramowitz, National Co-President of the United Jewish People's Order. He delivered an eloquent speech



Peter Krochak accompanied the Hahilka Singers, played a piano solo (Chopin's "Nocturne"), and provided other music during the afternoon.

in which he spoke about Remembrance Day not only as a time to pay tribute to all soldiers, but also as a time to remember the many innocent people who have lost their lives around the world as a result of war. He emphasized that people continue to struggle for their rights as exemplified by recent upheavals in the Arab world and by the Occupy movements that have seen people set up tent cities in Canada and the United States as they rally against injustice and inequality.

Once Mr. Abramowitz's speech drew to a close, the Hahilka Singers continued with the theme of humanity's yearning for peace by singing Ed McCurdy's 1950 anti-war classic *The Strangest Dream*.

In tribute to the 125 Toronto-area AUUC members

who served in the Second World War, AUUC Toronto Branch President Jerry Dobrowsky did a reading of their names. Many of them were brothers, and with their youthful innocence they were unaware of the horrors they would face and how their destiny would be drastically altered. Many of their lives and families would be shattered; their dreams unrealized.

Library and Archives Canada figures show that, of the 1,159,000 men and women who served in the Canadian Armed Forces during the Second World War, (1939-1945) 44,093 lost their lives.

Seeking to add a human face to the war, Mr. Borusiewich introduced attending veterans Bill Harasym and Tony Kulchin. Mr. Harasym declined an invitation to speak. Mr. Kulchin, on the other hand, seized the opportunity. He said that war remains an ugly reality of our

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowsky



George Borusiewich, Toronto AUUC Branch Vice-President acted as MC.



Branch President Jerry Dobrowsky read the names of some 125 Toronto area AUUC members who served in World War II.

world, and provided varied examples

Lightening the mood, the Hahilka Singers began belting out several tunes, one of which included the Ukrainian folkloric tale of Yarema. At his father's behest, he took a wife. A week after the nuptials, his bride ran away with a rich lad. "But he survived," Ms. Mochoruk exclaimed with a hearty chuckle. The song was a fitting addition to the program's overall theme, which was the triumph of the human spirit over adversity.

A raffle was also held and three lucky winners walked away with beautiful embroidered motifs courtesy of Ms. Mochoruk.

A sing-along of wartime songs such as "We'll Meet Again" and "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree" saw people sway back and forth as they sang in unison.

Mr. Borusiewich's closing remarks captured the sentiment held by the audience members as he paid a special tribute to those who served in the war. He also extended his gratitude towards David Abramowitz, noting, "It had been a long time since we heard such a stirring presentation."

At the program's conclusion, everyone had a chance to enjoy refreshments and an opportunity to share their thoughts on the program.

The contribution Ukrainian Canadians made to the Second World War was substantial, and according to Peter Krawchuk's book *Our Contribution to Victory*, "It is generally conceded that there were 40,000 men of Ukrainian origin in the Canadian armed forces in World War II. This was the highest percentage contributed by any ethnic group in Canada in proportion to their numbers in the population as a whole." It is also noted that a large percentage of them were members, or children of members, of the Ukrainian progressive labour-farmer organizations.

In a book entitled *Maple Leaf and Trident: The Ukrainian Canadians during the Second World War* by Thomas M. Prymak, the following is stated: "By D-Day, however, this figure had been adjusted downward to about

(Continued on Page 6.)

Toronto AUUC Oktoberfest

— Photo: Bernardine Dobrowsky



Oktoberfest revelers were led in song by Len Sedun (left) Bill Malnychuk, and Jerry Dobrowsky — The Three Tenors.

On Saturday, October 22, Toronto AUUC Branch held its annual Oktoberfest. As usual, the hall was decorated to emulate a Bavarian beer garden, with an added splash of gourds, pumpkins, scarecrows and bales of hay to reflect autumn in Canada.

To the sound of oom-pah-pah music in the background, the guests mingled, sipped and munched while waiting for the German-style luncheon.

Potato pancakes, prepared from scratch by the brother-sister team of Jerry Dobrowsky and Nancy Stewart, have become the big attraction of the meal. This challenging and time-consuming delicacy, was accompanied by bratwurst, a German green salad, a variety of bread and

buns and various condiments. And of course, there was the grand finale of cakes and coffee!

But people had to "sing for their supper", as Len Sedun, Jerry and Bill Malnychuk, occasionally breaking into some fancy footwork, led the group in a German-style sing-along.

Yet the chance to croon was not over. A karaoke machine had been set up with the big screen TV, enticing anyone brave enough to do a solo. Thanks to Nancy Stewart, Pat Ignaczewski, Len Sedun, and Wilfred Szczesny for entertaining us!

And *danke schön* to everyone who attended this annual celebration. See you *nächstes Jahr!*

— **Bernie Dobrowsky**

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— Photo: Dan Fung

Dovbush Dancers' Successful Seminar

— Photo: Taralyn Karras



Dovbush rehearsing their new "Tambourine Dance".

Vancouver's Dovbush Dancers, under the direction of Caitlynn Tielker, completed their 2010/11 season on a high note, winning gold medals and five trophies at the B.C. Ukrainian Dance Festival, one for each regional category in which they performed.

In order to continue building on their success, they began the new dance season early, spending four days during the final week of August attending a dance workshop in Vancouver. The dancers worked between five and six

hours each day, developing their dance presentation and solos, and learning two new pieces of choreography to add to their repertoire.

This workshop was conducted by Vladimir (Volodya) Makarov, a former dancer and soloist with Kyiv's famous Virsky Ensemble who now lives and teaches dance in Edmonton. He taught the dancers a central Ukrainian "Tambourine Dance" and a very exciting "Volyn Dance".

The group worked hard to learn this complex choreogra-

— Photo: Taralyn Karras



Dovbush boys receiving instruction from Volodya Makarov.

phy in such a short time, and are continuing to polish the dances during their regular weekly rehearsals. With the addition of new costumes their goal is to have the dances ready to present later this fall.

As well as working with the Vancouver's senior dance group, Vladimir provided a three-hour mini-workshop to students from the AUUC School of Dance. The children who attended ranged in age from 9 years old to 13 years old. They had the opportunity to work on turns, tricks and technique to improve their individual and group presentation. The dancers enjoyed the class so much that they hope to have another opportunity for a special workshop later this year.

Thanks for organizing the workshop and feeding the



Dovbush adding the finishing touch on their new "Volyn Dance" under the watchful eye of Vladimir "Volodya" Makarov.

dancers and instructor must go to the Dovbush parents, particularly Debbie Karras (who organized the instruction, flights and accommodation for Vladimir), and Janice Beck, Delores Fung, Nina

Hobbis, and their crew who planned, shopped and cooked the delicious meals.

It takes everyone's effort to provide the experiences that help Dovbush keep improving.

— Janice Beck

Winnipeg's Hallowe'en Howl

— Story photos: Gloria Gordienko

On October 28 the AUUC School of Folk Dance in Winnipeg sponsored their annual Halloween Howl. This family event has become a much-awaited event for super-heroes, fairies, witches, goblins and all those who, for a few hours a year, can pretend to be anything they wish to be.

This night the Ukrainian Labour Temple was transformed into an eerie dark den of fun and excitement. Both laughter and screams filled the night air, while piles and piles of candy and treats filled the Coffin of Sugar.

In keeping with the traditions of the Manitoba social, the music blared, the children danced, and the parents sat back and enjoyed all the fun.

Highlights of the night included the chicken dance, the butterfly, the hokey-pokey and many other dances, some known only to those under thirty.

Our own Baby Carrot (Kim Boss) once again did an excellent job hosting the evening, leading the children and adults through many games and activities.

After roasters and roasters of hot dogs were eaten, gallons of soft drinks were drunk

and mountains of sugar disguised as pastry and cookies were wolfed down, the party continued.

A silent auction was held and many happy winners rushed to receive their prizes.

At the witching hour of 9:00 (well past the bedtimes of many of those attending) the music stopped, and for the first time in hours one could hear oneself think. Parents gathered up their sugar-charged children and slowly made their way out into the evening air, hoping that once the sugar wore off they would be able to tuck their superhe-

(Continued on Page 10.)



Baby Carrot (Kim Boss) was an excellent hostess.

Remembrance Day

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



The Hahilka Singers performed at the AUUC Toronto Branch Remembrance Day on November 13.

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky

(Continued from Page 5.) 25,000 fluent Ukrainian speakers. There were, of course, many more who were not fluent, or who concealed their ethnic origin."

(A special "thank you" to Jane Naisbitt, Head of the Military History Research Centre at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, for providing me with resources on the contribution Ukrainian Canadians made to the Second World War.)

— Ayah Victoria McKhail



Bernardine Dobrowolsky read "In Flander's Fields".



The Coffin of Sugar, the dentists' favourite spot, was a popular stop for revellers.



Super-heroes, fairies, witches, ghosts, goblins, and other creatures (both evil and benign) came to life at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg on October 28 as the AUUC School of Folk Dance held its annual Halloween Howl.

Edmonton Seniors' Meetings

—Photo: Victor Horon



Nine of the eleven seniors whose birthdays were marked in September attended the celebration, but the others were not forgotten.

The Edmonton AUUC Seniors met on the third Tuesday of September and of October to celebrate birthdays, share a meal, and take care of other business.

As the members gathered on September 20, chatting over coffee, the resident orchestra of Mike Uhryn,

William Uhryn and Maurice Warick played dance tunes. A group of ladies started to do the round dance, and asked our Sasha to join us. A good time was had by all. Another one of our dancers needed neither her cane nor her walker to dance!

Morinde Bagan, Clara

Yaremchuck, Edna Chmiliar, Anne Kawchuk, Amil and Mary Tropak, Marian Ursuliak, Olga Horon, Ann Parfeniuk, Shirley Uhryn and Bill Askin, whose birthdays were in July, August and September, were honoured in September.

Edna Chmiliar, who contacts all our members monthly, reminding and encouraging them to come, was unable to attend, but she was recognized for her birthday and best wishes were extended to her.

Each celebrant received a gift from William Uhryn, who brought a bag of stuffed toys.

The noon luncheon for 36 people was prepared by able caterer Diane Ries, who will continue to prepare and serve our meals. However, in January we will once again have the traditional Ukrainian Christmas meal brought by our members.

After the meal, President Pauline Warick presented a review of last year's speakers and activities. The topics covered by professionals were wellness; legal matters facing seniors; Grandmothers for Grandmothers in Africa; osteoporosis's effect on the bones, muscles and joints, and the aging population of seniors.

Pauline continued to recap our activities by reviewing that we acknowledged the 150th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's death as well as International Women's day.

Our group of seniors made monetary donations through the year to the "UCH", the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Mustard Seed Institute for the needy, Steven Lewis Foundation's Aid to Africa, Grandmothers for

(Continued on Page 10.)

**To our friends across Canada and in Ukraine,
May the New Year bring
Good Health, Happiness,
Peace and Prosperity.**

**Larry and Dianna Kleparchuk
Vancouver, BC**

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

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

Vancouver AUUC Branch

Happy New Year!

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

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

**AUUC Regina Branch
Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance**

*Season's Greetings from beyond
the mountains to all AUUC Per-
forming Arts Groups and friends
across Canada.
Wishing you happiness, hope and
peace this holiday season.*

**Barvinok Choir and Vancouver Folk Orchestra
Vancouver, BC**

**Season's Greetings from the
Dovbush Dancers!
Wishing all AUUC members
and volunteers a happy and
healthy 2012. Thank you for
everything you do for us!**

**Dovbush Dancers
Vancouver, B.C.**

*At this joyful time, thoughts
turn to friends across the
country. We share the task of
carrying our heritage forward
with every graceful dance step.*

**AUUC Vancouver School of Dancing
Vancouver, BC**

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

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

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

**Wilfred and Jennifer Szczesny
Mississauga, Ontario**

*Season's Greetings
to all members and friends
for a Happy, Healthy,
Prosperous and Peaceful
New Year in 2012!*

**AUUC Group
Thunder Bay, Ontario**

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

Drinking on the People's Tab

(This is a condensation of an article by Andrey Kurkov which appeared recently in The New York Times.)

The Chernobyl disaster of 1986 brought great joy to my family. The Soviet Union relocated hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians from the contaminated area to new houses in other parts of the countryside.

Ukrainians are shrewd. Many families that had lost one home tricked the government into giving them two houses as compensation, and then sold them off at ridiculously low prices.

That was how my wife and I came into possession of an excellent second home in the country, with a garden and a plot to plant vegetables in, and a separate brick shed that was later converted into a real Finnish-style sauna — for only \$6,000.

We have lived part-time in that village ever since, through the Soviet Union's fall and Ukraine's (I am tempted to say "great") Orange Revolution. We lived there through Yulia Tymoshenko's defeat of Viktor Yanukovich and ascent to Prime Minister, and through Viktor Yanukovich's subsequent defeat of Yulia Tymoshenko and ascent to President.

Last month, his judges sentenced her to seven years in prison for abusing power (or disrespecting him). But in the meantime, many more mundane things have happened in our village.

The first person to make our acquaintance there was the village policeman. Once he invited me to a pub that was owned by an acquaintance of his in a neighbouring village. We drove there in my car.

"Don't worry, you can drink as much beer as you want! With me in your car nobody will stop us!" he told me.

I understood it would have been simply impolite not to drink in his company, so we had a good binge.

The bearded owner came to our table several times and told us about his business plans.

At the end of the evening, I noticed that the policeman was not about to pay for the beer we had drunk. I tried to pay, but he said to me, politely yet firmly, "Don't do that! It's all right, I invited you!"

After the Orange Revolution in 2004, the state administrator was replaced by an "Orange" man. Soon after, the new administrator was caught red-handed being bribed into selling-off the villagers' com-

munal land, without consulting the village council. Somewhat later it became clear that the administrator had been caught only because he had taken money from several different people, none of whom had ever come into possession of the land.

Years have gone by and the land has not been returned to the village; no one knows who owns it now.

Ukrainians, Come Back

About six weeks ago, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich made an official state visit to Brazil.

While in Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city, he met with the Ukrainian diaspora. At the meeting, he stated that he was always happy to meet with the Ukrainian diaspora, and invited Ukrainians now living in Brazil to return to Ukraine.

"And it would be good news for me to hear that someone had returned. Return to Ukraine; it's interesting to live there," he said.

Yanukovich told the gathering about reforms in Ukraine that are aimed at improving Ukrainians' lives.

Migration of Ukrainians to Brazil started 120 years ago. Out of a total Brazilian population of 192 million people, about 500,000 are ethnic Ukrainians.

On January 19, 2010, the president of Brazil signed a law under which August 24 became an official holiday — national Day of the Ukrainian community.

Yulia's Troubles Multiply

In 2004, Yulia Tymoshenko was a leader of Ukraine's Orange Revolution. She helped her co-leader, Viktor Yushchenko, become President, and he, in turn, appointed her Prime Minister.

In October of this year, a district court in Kyiv found Yulia Tymoshenko guilty of abusing her power by forcing through a 2009 gas deal with Russia on terms which many said were unfavourable to Ukraine, and sentenced her to seven years in jail.

More recently, Ukrainian prosecutors announced that they are opening a probe to investigate whether Tymoshenko was involved in the murder of a member of parliament. The investigation is into the 1996 contract killing of Deputy Yevhen Shcherban, who was shot in an airport.

Senior prosecutor Renat Kuzmin stated that prosecutors had evidence that Tymoshenko could be involved in

the crime, along with Pavlo Lazarenko, who was Ukrainian Prime Minister at the time, and who has since been jailed in the United States for fraud and money laundering.

"We have a transcript of a witness being questioned in the United States in which the witness states directly that the murder of Shcherban was paid for from Lazarenko's and Tymoshenko's accounts," Kuzmin was quoted as saying. "We have the documents and we want to check them."

Tymoshenko rose to prominence as a major gas trader under Lazarenko's government after capitalism was installed in Ukraine in the 1990s.

Vatican Stripper

A young Ukrainian woman sneaked past security and partially stripped in front of St. Peter's Basilica just after the Pope's Sunday *Angelus*. She belongs to the Ukrainian women's-rights group called Femen whose topless tactics have attracted increasing public attention in recent years.

The blond-haired Vatican protester, initially wearing tight jeans and a see-through black tulle top, struck provocative poses against the backdrop of the basilica and the papal apartments, where Benedict XVI had given his traditional blessing moments earlier.

She brandished a black placard demanding "Freedom For Women", and then took her top off.

Italian police eventually subdued the topless activist, who was still kicking and screaming as they dragged her away.

Femen was founded in Kyiv in 2008 to combat sex tourism, prostitution and sexual harassment targeting female university students in Ukraine.

The Pope, who has been accused of holding intolerant views on women's rights, is a favourite target of Femen's activists.

Protesters Clash with Police

Riot police clashed with protesters outside the Ukrainian parliament recently during the latest in a series of demonstrations against government policies.

Around 2,000 protesters, including veterans of the clean-up from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and private businessmen, were gathered outside the parliament when the violence broke out. The demonstrators broke down a

metal security fence and tried to approach the building, shouting, "Shame." But riot police forced them back amid scuffles.

Protests against the authorities and clashes between protesters and law-enforcers have become more frequent in recent months.

Ukrainian law currently places people who fought for the Soviet Union in the 1979–1989 Afghan war, and people injured in the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power accident, in a special tax and benefits category, giving them reduced prices on most government-provided services, including public transport, electricity, and telephone bills. About 10 million Ukrainians depend on these benefits.

In September, members of parliament (the majority of whom are millionaires - **gb**) gave initial approval to a bill cancelling the benefits for 16 categories of citizens.

Vasily, a Chernobyl veteran and demonstrator, stated, "I've already had two heart attacks, I have no money for medication, and they are taking away my last pennies. I have a wife and two kids. What are we going to do now?"

"We're going to take the *Verkhovna Rada* (Ukrainian parliament) apart, brick by brick, and hang its Deputies, one by one."

(Hooray for the 99%. - **gb**)

President Visits Cuba

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich completed a three-day visit to Cuba, his first to the communist nation, on October 23. His state visit schedule included official talks with Cuban President Raul Castro Ruz, a wreath-laying ceremony at the monument of national hero Jose Marti (martyred revolutionary leader of Cuba's fight for independence from Spain), and a two-hour visit with former Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Regarding his meeting with Fidel, Yanukovich said that he is "a man filled with deep thoughts about what is happening in the world. I was able to see a man who was full of life, was very energetic, enjoyed life, and took a very good attitude to Ukraine."

In addition, the Ukrainian President's schedule included a visit to the Tarara health centre, where Ukrainian children of the Chernobyl disaster are undergoing treatment and rehabilitation. At the health centre, President Yanukovich announced that Ukraine will take over the financing of the care of the Ukrainian children. He pointed out that since 1990, Cuba had been providing not only

the medical care, but also the money, for the treatment of the Children of Chernobyl.

24,000 Ukrainian patients, including 20,000 children, have received care in Cuba.

The high point of President Yanukovich's visit was undoubtedly the presentation to him by Raul Castro of Cuba's highest award, the Order of Jose Marti. This award was presented to the Ukrainian President for his personal contribution into the development of the relations between the two countries and as "a sign of respect and love" of the Cuban people for the Ukrainian people.

Liberation of Kyiv

In November, Kyiv celebrated the 68th anniversary of its liberation from the Nazis.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich congratulated the people of Kyiv, war and labour veterans, and all citizens of Ukraine on this important occasion. He posted the following message on the President's official web site:

"During the crossing of the Dnipro and the battle for Kyiv, hundreds of thousands of fighters died heroic deaths to remain forever a bright example of courage, sacrifice and love for their native land. Today we bow our heads before the memory of liberator soldiers and the city residents; we worship the living participants in those heroic events."

Yanukovich also noted the heroic labour of Kyivans who rebuilt the capital.

New Soccer Arena

Ukraine's fourth and final stadium for UEFA EURO 2012 was opened in Lviv with the staging of a concert and fireworks display recently (UEFA is Europe's governing body of soccer - **gb**).

President Yanukovich was not present for the sold-out ceremony, but he was an interested observer the previous day.

"I have no doubt that the opening of this stadium will stay in the memory of the citizens of Lviv forever," he said. "This is a stadium for young football (soccer - **gb**) fans who will bring their children and grandchildren here in years to come."

The opening ceremony featured 2,000 volunteers, actors, dancers, acrobats and artists from various countries who appeared in a vast theatrical production dedicated to the history of Lviv. Performers included several popular Ukr-

(Continued on Page 11.)

Edmonton Seniors

(Continued from Page 7.) Grandmothers in Africa, and Pastors for Peace.

President Pauline Warick praised us as seniors for our continued volunteering and keeping of the Ukrainian tradition. She was confident that, as we go into our new season, this atmosphere would continue.

Elected to our executive for

the coming year were: President — Pauline Warick; Vice-President — William Uhrn; Recording Secretary — Lucy Antoniwi; Vice-Recording Secretary — Shirley Uhrn; and Treasurer — Olga Horon.

The Program Committee of Rose Keryliuk and Mary Tropak will arrange speakers and activities for the year. (Eva Doskoch was recognized for her outstanding work in this area over the last couple of years.)

Through brainstorming, a

list of topics for speakers and day trips was generated to give input and direction for our program committee.

Shirley Uhrn agreed to prepare the monthly news sto-

ries for the "UCH".

The auditors are Bill Askin, Ed Makowecki, and Maurice Warick. To complete our committee Sophie Sywolos agreed to stand as director.



IVAN FRANKO MUSEUM

200 McGregor Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 5L6
(204) 589-4397

Free Admission by appointment only

Sophie Nemis

On December 3, Sophie Nemis celebrated her 95th birthday in Winnipeg with her family.

Happy Birthday!

Love, Patricia and Joe, Lisa and Lara Dzatko



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Ukrainian Canadian Herald

Season's Greetings

Remember your family and friends with a message! We invite you to express seasonal greetings through an ad in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* in the January, 2012, issue. One line (name and city) on two columns is only \$10.00. A five-line ad as shown is only \$35.00. **See the diagram on this page for sizes.** Larger ads are \$5.00/col./cm.

Deadline: December 10, 2011.

Send your request to:

SEASON'S GREETINGS MESSAGE
595 Pritchard Avenue,
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4
Phone 1-800-856-8242, Fax: (210) 589-3404
e-mail: auuckobzar@mts.net

or: SEASON'S GREETINGS MESSAGE
1604 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M6P 1A7
Phone: 416-588-1639 Fax: 416-588-9180
e-mail: kobzar1@on.aibn.com

Please indicate the desired ad size:
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\$30.00 (Four-line greeting — up to 20 words)
\$35.00 (Five-line greeting — up to 25 words)
Other

Issue requested:
_____ January issue (deadline December 10)

Greeting in: English _____ Ukrainian _____

Request sent by:
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e-mail: _____ Or in person: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Prov. _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
e-mail: _____

MESSAGE:

Date: _____ Signature: _____
Cheque enclosed _____
Invoice required _____ Office receipt # _____

Rose Keryliuk and Shirley Uhrn were the Nominations Committee.

The Edmonton seniors will continue to meet the third Tuesday of each month, starting at 12:30 p.m.

The birthday celebrant in October was Sherry Capowski. Sherry blew out her candle with her mother, Anne Husar, seated beside her at the head table.

President Pauline Warick shared with us the sad news that senior citizen member Steve Sakal passed away on October 15, 2011, at the age of 98 years. Steve Sakal was a members of Carpet Bowling at the Ukrainian Centre through the years. A minute of silence was observed in memory of Steve Saskal.

The theme for October was Hallowe'en.

Pumpkins mocked us at each table and ghosts tried to frighten us as we came to the banquet table for our luncheon of hot turkey sandwiches, provided by Linda, our caterer.

People were interested in the two displays this month supplied by our members.

Nestor Bagan has been a lapidary (that is, a rock hound) since 1978. One of the rocks in his collection is 2 million years old, and found one mile deep.

Also at this seniors' gathering was a display of caricatures of the world, shared through a display of some 20 pictures by Maurice Warick.

Well, Maurice is our resident comedian. All dressed for the occasion, Mr. Hallowe'en, came through the door for a visit with us. He proceeded to shake hands with some of our seniors. Then — my gosh — his hand would fall off at the wrist, and the ladies would let out a small scream and a good laugh by all would follow.

Our able program planners, Rose Kereliuk and Mary Tropak, are making plans for a bus day trip in December to visit a local nursery which is all decorated with Christmas trees of the world. For the month of November a guest speaker will be coming to share tips for proper nutrition in our older years.

— Shirley Uhrn

Hallowe'en Howl

(Continued from Page 6.) roes, their fairies, their ghosts, and their goblins into bed.

Proceeds from this annual fund-raiser are used to support the Winnipeg Branch AUUC School of Folk Dance. Many, many thanks go out to all those who helped prepare for this night, and to those who once again made this event an overwhelming success.

— Kathy Schubert

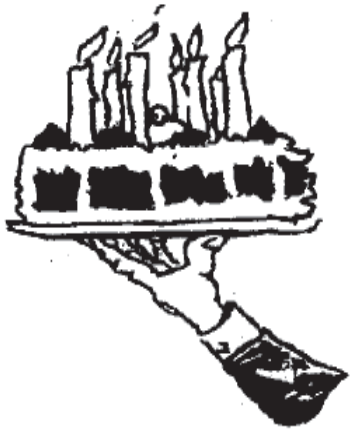
Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 9.)
ainian singers, notably 2004 Eurovision Song Contest winner Ruslana.

Work on the stadium began in November, 2008. Its design combines traditional Ukrainian architecture with a modern slant, its two-tiered stands offering perfect sight lines for viewing matches. A transparent roof protects fans from the elements, while a walkway at the back of the lower tier provides a sense of space and comfort.

With the seats in the upper deck predominantly blue, and those below mostly yellow in the design of the Ukrainian flag, the stadium's allegiances will be suitably reflected. Kyiv, Donetsk and Kharkiv are the other three Ukrainian cities hosting matches, along with four cities in neighbouring Poland.

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Carol Bagan
Irene Kingsmith
Nina Uhryn

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

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

Lydia Kit
Lori Miskevich
Mary Yaworski

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

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

Mary Sielski

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

Who, What, When, Where

Calgary — The **Calgary Hopak Ensemble** will present the **Annual Winter Concert on December 4 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **3316-28th Avenue SW**. For tickets call **Darlene at 403-271-2379**.

* * *

Calgary — The **AUUC Calgary Branch** will host **Malanka** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **3316-28th Avenue SW**, on Saturday, **January 14, 2012**. For more information or tickets call the Ukrainian Cultural Centre at **403-246-1231**.

* * *

Regina — The **Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance** and **AUUC Regina Branch** will host a **Malanka** (Ukrainian New Year's) celebration at the Regina Performing Arts Centre, **1077 Angus Street**, on Saturday, **January 14, 2012**. **Cocktails** and appetizers at **5:00 p.m.**; **supper and Poltava Ensemble performance at 6:30 p.m.**; **dance to Ficor show dance band at 9:00 p.m.** For tickets, call the Regina Performing Arts Centre at **(306) 779-2277**. **Admission: \$45.00**.

* * *

Vancouver — The **Christmas Recital** of the **AUUC Vancouver School of Dancing** will be held on Sunday, **December 11, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **805 East Pender Street**. A **reception** will follow the concert, **Christmas carols** will be sung, and **Dyid Moroz, with the Snow Maiden, will visit** the School during the reception. Tickets are **\$10.00, available at the door**.

* * *

Vancouver — The **AUUC Vancouver Branch** will host **Malanka** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **805 East Pender Street**, on Saturday, **January 21**. **Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.**; **program at 6:30 p.m.**; **Dinner at 7:00 p.m.**, followed by **dancing to a live band**. Admission: **\$40.00/person**. Call **(604) 879-2089**.

* * *

Winnipeg — The **Winnipeg AUUC Christmas Concert** will be staged at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, Pritchard and McGregor, starting at **noon on December 10**. The concert will be followed by **hot dogs and a visit from Santa**. Everyone welcome. Admission: **\$6.00**.

* * *

Winnipeg — The **Winnipeg AUUC** will host a **Malanka** (Ukrainian New Year's) celebration at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, Pritchard and McGregor, on Saturday, **January 14**.

* * *

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.

Thoughts on "Occupy"

(Continued from Page 4.)
ligacy, laziness and general lack of discipline, while the countries of the north impose measures to further impoverish the people of Spain, Italy, Greece, and others yet to be named.

The "Occupy" movement, for the most part, has not expressed specific demands ("Roll back tuition fees", "Save our health care" — that kind of stuff). Nor has it projected an alternative ("Down with capitalism", "Long live Taoism" or whatever).

Does that mean that the "Occupy" movement has no discernable purpose? Hardly! What signs would show that the "Occupy" movement has actually "made their point"?

The fundamental change which would show that the

"Occupy" movement had made its point would be a turn in the direction of reducing the growing chasm between the 1% and the rest — in the first place by reversing the erosion of tax structure (more tax brackets, with higher brackets, as it was in the past), including restoration of earlier corporate taxation levels.

Another sign would be a reversal of the privatization under which corporations get increased profits while workers get decreased earnings.

Another would be restoration of social programs, eliminating the new and higher user fees.

The list would be very easy to expand. Greater equality and a brighter future, that's what the "Occupy" movement wants.

— Wilfred Szczesny



JOIN US!

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

AUUC NATIONAL OFFICE

National Executive Committee AUUC
595 Pritchard Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4
Phone: 800-856-8242 Fax: (204) 589-3404
E-mail: mail@auuckobzar.net

VANCOUVER BRANCH

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

CALGARY BRANCH

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

EDMONTON BRANCH

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

INNISFREE BRANCH

c/o Mike Feschuk
5221 - 45B Avenue
Vegreville AB T9C 1L3
Phone: (780) 632-3033

VEGREVILLE BRANCH

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

REGINA BRANCH

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

WINNIPEG BRANCH

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

OTTAWA BRANCH

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

SUDBURY BRANCH

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

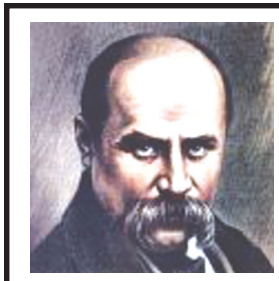
TORONTO BRANCH

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

WELLAND BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
342 Ontario Road
Welland ON L3B 5C5
Phone: (905) 732-5656

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Taras Shevchenko Museum

Soushko Exhibition

— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny

On Saturday, October 29, 2011, art enthusiasts flocked to the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto for the opening of a special art exhibit and sale by Ukrainian-Canadian artist Larissa Soushko.

Soushko's passion for the arts developed in her formative years growing up in Odessa, Ukraine. Her father, Vasilij Soushko, was a graphic artist; painter; poet, and journalist who served as a war reporter during the Second World War. Returning to Odessa in ailing health, he died at the age of 33, shortly after witnessing humanity at its worse.

Yet the legacy he left behind was a powerful one, and he instilled a passion for the arts in his daughter. In fact Soushko recalls, at around the age of eight, watching her father paint, mesmerized by his every move.

In the Soviet Union, high school students were encouraged to pursue music or the fine arts, and Soushko honed her skills in painting and drawing. "Based on my experience, embedded in Russian and Ukrainian culture is an immense appreciation and understanding of the arts. Today,



LARISSA SOUSHKO

that tradition continues."

While Soushko would later study architecture at the prestigious Moscow Architectural Institute, she was able to draw parallels with her many creative interests. For example, her eye for detail, her knowledge of structure, and her penchant for aesthetically-pleasing designs were complementary.

Today, she is a successful artist, and her paintings have been exhibited in various galleries around the world in addition to gracing private collections from East to West, including in Ukraine, Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic, the United States, and Canada.

She's also a poet who has had seven books of poetry published. With themes ranging from love to sorrow, her most recent compilation, entitled *Selected Poems*, was published in September, 2011.

And in between all that, she still finds time to challenge anyone to a game of chess, noting she's an avid player.

Soushko's art work is reflective of neo-impressionism, which sees artists drawn to modern urban scenes, landscapes and seashores. For example, in her painting entitled "Resting Yachts", yachts can be seen on an idyllic lake on a lazy summer day. The colours blue, lavender, and

white are interspersed with shades of pink and the light hues convey a sense of warmth.

While she derives inspiration from Toronto and its environs, she has a particular penchant for Muskoka.

"There's a feeling of serenity there, and everything from the azure sky to the trees and lakes are strong motifs for me."

She finds Canadian winters especially intriguing. "I'm drawn to the stillness that's associated with the season and the beauty of crisp, white snow."

This is expressed in her art work. For example, with a painting entitled "Snow Path", which incorporates subtle shades of white, cream, pink, and blue, one could visualize a path being created by people careening through the freshly-fallen snow.

Admiring the painting was Marie Prociw. Crediting her late husband Jerry Prociw, who was also an artist of Ukrainian descent, with enhancing her love for the arts, she points to how such a piece can offer viewers a glimpse into Soushko's personality. "While a degree of strength is palpable, I feel there's a sense of humility that emanates from this painting, which is characterized by her delicate use of colour and her blending techniques."

Peggy Nash, M.P. for Parkdale – High Park who recently announced her candidacy for the federal New Democratic Party (NDP) leadership, also found Soushko's art work to be appealing. "The paintings make our natural surroundings come alive, and we're given a sense of the seasons that are reflected. The texture is rich and it's evocative of nature, which is multidimensional. They're truly wonderful paintings."

Sculptor Oleh Lesiuk, who is also the President of the Ukrainian Association of Visual Artists of Canada and the Vice-President of the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation, found the sense of optimism conveyed in Soushko's paintings most captivating. "The colours can range from bold to subtle, yet the interplay and what's depicted by the landscapes or flowers has a positive impact on people. Soushko is a highly respected and celebrated artist in the community."

It's a sentiment shared by Lyudmyla Pogoryelov, the museum's Director and Curator of the exhibition, which features 20 oil paintings. "I've always been amazed by Larissa's talent. The paintings are warm and intimate, and they reveal her impressions of Canada through a unique lens that resonates with viewers."

For Soushko, having her work exhibited at the Taras



Marie Prociw examines two of the 20 paintings in the exhibition which will continue to December 30.

Shevchenko Museum is especially momentous. As an artist and poet, Shevchenko's cultural and historical significance have had a profound impact on her.

She also notes the influence Shevchenko had on her father's life as an artist. "My father created a very beautiful portrait of Taras Shevchenko in graphics. It was prepared as a show piece to apply for membership in the Union of Soviet Painters, yet he died shortly thereafter."

Upholding Shevchenko's legacy has always been important to Soushko, and during events to commemorate his life in Ukraine, she would often translate from Ukrainian to Russian, the works of other prominent Ukrainian figures of political, cultural, and literary significance, such as Ivan Drach and Dmytro Pavlychko.

With everyone from children to senior citizens admiring the collection, the event was a resounding success. Soushko was heartened by the immense show of support and favourable remarks she received throughout the reception. "I'm very thankful to all those who attended. I'd also like to extend my gratitude towards the museum's staff and volunteers for managing the event so well. I paint from the heart and it's very meaningful to be able to share my work with so many people."

The exhibit and sale will continue until December 30, 2011, at the Taras Shevchenko Museum.

(A special "thank you" to Victoria Kravchyna, who acted as an interpreter from Russian to English during my interview with Larissa Soushko.)

— Ayah Victoria McKhail

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Taras Shevchenko Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelov officially opened the exhibition with comments about artist Larissa Soushko and the artists's work.



Visitors to the official opening of the Soushko exhibition also had an opportunity to view the rest of the Taras Shevchenko Museum, and to enjoy refreshments.

Welland Orchestra at Heidehof

— Photo: Joan Kruger



The Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC, conducted by Rudy Wasylenky, appeared in concert at the Heidehof Home for the Aged in St. Catharines on Wednesday, October 26, with a program which accented German selections in the orchestra's repertoire. The audience often sang along, as well as tapping, clapping, nodding, and even conducting, clearly enjoying the show.

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