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— Photo: Dan Fung

On December 10, the Vancouver AUUC School of Dancing held its Christmas recital at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre. The program included the Dovbush Dancers performing their new “Hopak” from the AUUC National Dance Seminar in Sylvan Lake, Alberta. The story and more photographs are found on Page 7.

About the Trade Deficit

Here is yet one more piece of the murky Canadian economic picture: Canada’s trade deficit.

In mid-January, it was reported that Canada’s trade deficit had dropped sharply at the end of 2010. A trade surplus is considered possible in 2011.

Such a change would normally be considered a good thing. However, analysts are looking at the reasons for the change, and are not pleased with what they see.

One concern is that the drop in the deficit is largely due to a decrease in imports, an indication that the Canadian economy was slowing as the year ended.

Another concern was the shift from exports to the USA of manufactured goods to exports to the rest of the world of resources and raw mate-

rials. The weak American economy continues to hurt Canada.

The strength of the Canadian dollar is another concern, as it tends to reduce even further American purchases from Canada. It also tends to make Canadian goods more expensive elsewhere in the world, cutting into exports, and make imports from abroad cheaper in Canada.

Upward pressure on the

Canadian dollar also comes from increased foreign investment in this country. Part of that investment is driven by the high world prices for the materials which Canada sells. Another part is driven by the fact that Canada has some of the lowest (and still declining) corporate tax rates in the developed world.

Whatever actually happens, Harper’s government spins everything as a narrative on how well Canada is doing, and claims credit for the most contradictory of developments.

Beating a Dead Horse

The TFSA, the Conservative Party’s smoke-and-mirrors RRSP alternative, designed to make poor people feel even worse about not being able to save for their retirement, is still being flogged, though it is pretty much a dead horse.

One recent magic trick was reportedly done by a tax expert from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, who did some math to show that (given appropriate assumptions) the amount of after-tax cash accumulated in Registered Retirement Savings Plan and a Tax Free Savings Account could be identical.

One assumption is a 5% rate of return. However, CIBC does not offer anything like 5% until the 5th year of a TFSA — unrealistic assumption #1.

Another assumption is a 40% income tax rate, both when opening the accounts and when drawing the money out. Hands up everyone paying income tax at a 40% rate — unrealistic assumption #2.

Another assumption is a \$5000.00 investment into an

RRSP or \$3000.00 into a TFSA. However, most people do not have an RRSP or a TFSA because they are still trying to find money to pay the rent, buy some food, and look after other essentials. Thousands of dollars into an investment (or savings) vehicle, is (for many people) unrealistic assumption #3.

The tax expert in question says that most people are “blinded by the refund” connected with the RRSP. He advises that the RRSP tax refund be treated as the present value of the tax to be paid later (but gives no math to support that proposal).

Of course, people with that much money could always invest in an RRSP and use the tax refund to invest in a TFSA. Or, more probably and profitably, invest in some bank stock.

Even if some bank staff have time for useless mathematical hocus-pocus, the banks still seem to do well — even in bad times — and the income tax rate on dividends from taxable Canadian corporations is really low.

Changes to the “UCH”

Regular readers of the “UCH” will notice two major changes in the publication. The first is a reduction in the number of pages from 16 to 12. The second is the elimination of the two Ukrainian-language pages.

These changes are a reflection of the need to reduce production costs.

We thank Olga Yermak, Ukrainian pages editor, for her years of service, and wish her well in the future.

AUUC Planning April Press Campaign!

The 44th National Convention of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, in the face of a difficult financial situation in the AUUC, decided that publication of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* must continue.

To assist in carrying out this Convention decision, the AUUC National Committee charged the AUUC National Executive Committee, led by Vera Seychuk, with a task which the organization has not known in well over a decade — a campaign to collect money for the “UCH” and increase the paper’s circulation.

Though experience with such a project is scant both at the national and the Branch level, Vera Seychuk and the NEC have set the ball in motion, with initial steps.

The press campaign is scheduled for April, 2011.

There are two aspects to the campaign: fund raising and circulation building. With no recent experience in what is possible, and with the campaign just around the corner, campaign financial targets were set to be modest and attainable, but meaningful: an average of \$20.00/member.

The circulation target is “every AUUC member a “UCH” reader; every AUUC household a “UCH” family”. This circulation target is recognized as an ideal which is far from reality, but a goal worth pursuing.

Little time is available for the Branches to organize a campaign. Many Branches have already set out a calendar of activities which could be negatively affected by the introduction of major fund raising events. Each Branch is encouraged to find the best way, in its particular circumstances, to achieve the goals of the campaign.

All AUUC members are urged to cooperate with their Branch Executive, and with

any committee which may be formed for this task, in making the campaign a success.

You are also urged not to wait for someone else to act. Take the initiative: send some money earmarked for the campaign to your Branch treasurer; collect some money for the cause from someone you know; sell someone a subscription.

And when your target is met, keep going — the “UCH” needs the money!

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Current Eclectic — Long and Short

Emigration a Serious Problem

In 1981, when the Ukrainian Canadian community was celebrating the 90th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, we were reminded that the source of our joy was a cause of sorrow for our kinsmen in Ukraine.

And so it was, for Canada's gain in hard working, ambitious workers was Ukraine's loss of those same workers. The move by tens of thousands, and eventually hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians to Canada was a contribution to the enrichment of this country and the further impoverishment of the "Old Country".

As it was over a hundred years ago, so it is today, as huge numbers of Ukrainians leave difficult circumstances at home to seek a better life abroad.

Even more than in the past, each of those emigrants embodies a social investment lost to Ukraine.

In remarks to the Ukraine-World Society (formerly Society Ukraina) on its 50th anniversary, President Viktor Yanukovich indicated "that the most painful problem now is the so-called fourth wave of emigration, when millions of people are leaving the country, forming a great disharmony in our spiritual life".

In his congratulatory remarks President Yanukovich stressed that the Ukrainian diaspora had been an active force in the creation of an independent Ukrainian state and contributed to the recognition of Ukraine's independence in 1991 by the United States, Canada, Poland, Argentina and other countries.

President Yanukovich highlighted the influence of Ukrainians abroad, "that part of the nation, which is one third to half of it, that influences our internal and external policy very actively".

The president recognized the diversity of opinion among Ukrainians abroad, who have hotly debated "the Chernobyl disaster, the *holodomor* of 1932-1933, the situation in Ukrainian culture, and the protection of the Ukrainian language".

As is the orthodox belief in Ukraine, among emigrants of the fourth wave, and among many emigrants of earlier waves (and many of their descendants), President Yanukovich included Ukrainians abroad, down through their many generations, as part of the Ukrainian Nation. This gave him a claim to their energy (and, presumably, other assets) in meeting the pressing growing needs of the Ukrainian state and its people.

Canada Leads G7?

The more attention one pays to the business section of the commercial press, the more confusing things seem.

In December, we were being warned about the dangerous levels of consumer debt. It would be years, we were told before the job market recovered to pre-recession levels.

Then, lo and behold, *The Globe and Mail* informs us on January 14 that Philip Cross, Statistics Canada's chief economic analyst says that Canada is the "only G7 country to have recouped its losses from the 2008-2009 recession".

"Real GDP and employment remain below pre-recession levels in the other six countries," according to Mr. Cross.

Sounds straightforward

enough. But wait: read on, and learn that full-time employment in Canada is still 64,000 below its pre-recession peak. Oh?

Yes, and that explains why total hours worked remain 0.7% below their peak.

Doesn't that sound like Canada is one of the *seven* G7 countries where employment remains below pre-recession levels.

And the actual numbers? God knows, given all the confusion.

Well, what about the GDP (Gross Domestic Product)? Well, it appears that the collapse of Canada's export markets was accompanied by a collapse of business investment — by about 20%. Mr. Cross's report says that investment has picked up, but remains below pre-recession levels. Is Canada's real GDP really back to pre-recession levels, or is Canada one of the *seven* G7 countries with real GDP below pre-recession levels?

All the higher economics really taxes the brain, especially the magic of a fully recovered Canadian economy while our best customers are still worrying about bankruptcy, or at least the possibility that their credit ratings will be slashed.

Of course, there is a superhero: the careless, over-extended Canadian consumer. It seems that this super-hero, the saviour of the economy, saved the day by continuing to spend freely.

Consumer spending, we are told, only dropped by 2%, instead of the 6% of earlier recessions. How did consumers do it? They started with strong balance sheets. Their jobs did not disappear as much as in previous contractions. They were able to borrow more than in other countries.

That last point reveals the real super-heroes: policy makers who provided a sounder financial system (than in other countries? than in previous recessions?) and took steps to "shore up capital and lower interest rates".

"Shore up capital" probably means "bail out the corporations with workers' money".

"Lower interest rates" probably means "the hook which the policy makers will sink into the fish when they raise interest rates again".

Then the December warnings about consumer debt will be seen to be accurate prophesy, showing once again the genius of economic prognosticators.

In the meantime, here is another concern: the high value of the Canadian dollar, which should make imports cheaper but will make exports harder to sell.

Is the dollar overvalued, as some say, or still undervalued, as others claim? Await the answer with bated breath.

More on G20 Policing

Some 400 complaints were filed with the Office of the Independent Police Review Director against policing during the G20 weekend on June 26 and 27, 2010, in Toronto. According to a December 18, 2010, article in the *Toronto Star*, six months later not a single police officer has been disciplined "for the broken bones and bruised bodies civilians endured that weekend".

The article in the "Star" comments on the results experienced by six people who had filed official complaints with the OIPRD, Ontario's civilian-run police oversight agency.

Five of the complainants had their files given over to the Toronto police for investigation. They were unhappy with the results. Three reported being urged by the investigating Toronto police officers to drop their charges.

One complainant was satisfied with the results of the investigation — that case was investigated by two civilian OIPRD investigators.

According to the "Star" story, OIPRD director Gerry McNielly reported that the service hired eight additional investigators on contract to systematically review the summit, supplementing nine investigators on staff.

About 100 complaints were "screened out" (which seems to mean "not accepted"). About 200 cases were kept for investigation by the OIPRD. The rest were given to the original police services for "self-investiga-

tion", including 78 given to Toronto police.

The RCMP received 28 complaints, but did not announce a lead investigator until December 15, 2010.

The quality of Toronto police investigations may be illustrated by their inquiry into the complaint of Geoffery Bercarich, participant in a protest bike rally.

According to Mr. Bercarich, he was punched in the face and tackled by several officers after he decided to "pull his bike over to the sidewalk". The police officers involved, apparently had two stories. The cop who punched Mr. Bercarich says he thought that Mr. Bercarich was going to collide with him, so swung at the cyclist to dismount him. Other officers named in the complaint reportedly said that Mr. Bercarich had "picked up his bicycle, raising it above his head." These stories do sound rather different.

A civilian witness who made the complaint on behalf of Mr. Bercarich (who was later advised that his own complaint would be redundant) was not satisfied with the investigation, particularly because the investigating officer interviewed the four officers named in the complaint, but not civilian witnesses.

In the meantime, remaining charges against G20 demonstrators are being dropped one by one. Julian Ichim had charges of counselling to commit mischief dropped in November. On December 20, Jaroslava Avila had con-

spiracy charges dropped, for lack of evidence. In the intervening six months these two people have lived under various severe restrictions on their freedom.

As of December 21, eighteen other people were due to return to court on January 31 for preliminary inquiries.

Shortly after the January, 2011, issue of the "UCH" went to press, it was reported that a Toronto cop was being charged with assault with a weapon in the beating of Adam Nobody.

Only one officer identified Constable Babak Andalib-Goortani. About a dozen more who were in the area when Mr. Nobody was attacked could not identify any misbehaving colleague. At least a few of those are themselves misbehaving, ignoring their duty to bring miscreants to justice.

Constable Babak Andalib-Goortani, who can be seen attacking other victims in photos from the G20 weekend, among them a *National Post* photographer, had earlier charges of using excessive violence, unrelated to the G20, dismissed by a judge.

As December came to an end, the my-coppers-right-or-wrong crowd were trying to whip up sympathy for Constable Babak Andalib-Goortani by painting him as a generally good guy. Among other items they reported on his "mercy mission" delivering ambulances to Central America. However, that mission was undertaken in late October, early November, as the probability that the cop would be identified and charged grew.

Two other officers connected to the beating of Adam Nobody have also been accused of excessive force in a 2009 arrest unrelated to the G20 events.

Apparently there are officers who like to wield their bilies, and other officers dedicated to the code of silence.

Lawsuits are proceeding against the police.

One is filed by his lawyers for Dorian Barton, who had his right arm broken and suffered a black eye during an attack by police. This suit is against the Toronto Police Services Board and seven unnamed officers. The suit seeks \$250,000.00 for assault and battery, unlawful arrest and detention, and "negligent investigation". The SIU ended investigation of Mr. Barton's complaint, citing lack of evidence. More evidence has since been provided, and the investigation has resumed.

Mr. Barton was not a protester; he was merely a curious onlooker taking pictures when he was attacked. A witness saw Mr. Barton dragged by his injured arm. Mr. Barton spent 30 hours in custody. He was among the first to have charges against him dropped on August 23.

There are four other incidents (in addition to the Barton and Nobody cases) investigated by the Special Investigations Unit, and dropped for lack of evidence. It is to be hoped that those investigations, too, will be resumed with additional evidence.

There are two class action suits, representing hundreds of complainants under way.

— Volodymyr Lucky

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**Poverty and Illness**

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

If you ever see *The Toronto Star* on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday, look for the article by Joe Fiorito. You will usually get a very personal, no-nonsense, down-to-earth piece of writing. The topic will be something very local, even personal, but loaded with a far broader, even universal, significance.

On January 7, for example, Mr. Fiorito wrote about a stroll in Downsview, an area of Toronto, with Dennis Raphael, a York University professor of health policy and management. Mr. Fiorito was interested in the area because it was a place where the maps of poverty, illness and crime overlap. "What kind of poverty? Crushing. What kind of crime? You name it. How about illness? Lets talk diabetes."

The journalist and the professor then discuss the relationship between illness (with diabetes as the focus) and poverty.

On the basis of his studies, the professor has concluded that the correlation isn't illness and lifestyle, but illness and poverty. "People who are poor," the professor says, "don't have the resources to be healthy." Poor people are three or four times more likely to have diabetes.

Poor people are poorly able to access resources: they don't go to ball games or movies, and do not speak of recreation, volunteering, or going out with friends.

The journalist says, "In other words, poor people have fewer ways to relieve their stress, and stress is a factor... of diabetes, and I don't know any poor people who are relaxed." (Mr. Fiorito makes it his business to know a lot of poor people.)

The professor drew a contrast between the resources given to severely ill people, and people with disabilities, and their inability to afford the food they need to be healthy.

"The relationship between obesity and diabetes?", the journalist asks. The professor answers, "It isn't whether you are fat, it's whether you are poor."

The countries that have low poverty rates, the conversation continues, are those with good social programs, and those are also the countries with better health. Canada is not one of those countries. Here, the poor do not get child care, or tuition, decent social assistance, or solid employment insurance, or a lot of other things.

"The dots ought to be easy to connect," the journalist concludes.

Joe Fiorito may not always be right, but he is always worth reading for his lessons in connecting the dots of major problems in a "Gee, I get that" homey way.

COMMENTARY**About Social Poison**

The defence is that Jared Loughner, accused of multiple killings and even more injuries in Tucson, Arizona, on January 8, is solely responsible for his acts at that time and place. The central argument of those trying to wash themselves of guilt is that all the fault lies with the shooter, the single individual who pulled the trigger. Gun laws are irrelevant, they argue, the political atmosphere doesn't matter, the circumstances of society should be ignored. Only one person did the crime, and all the other people living in similar circumstances did not. Responsibility must lie with the individual.

This beguiling position appeals to those among us who like to feel superior by blaming the poor for their poverty, the ill for their illness, and the criminals for their crimes. Whenever anything unfortunate happens, such people come to the fore. Those who take this position seldom, if ever, think, "There, but for the

grace of God, go I."

So, was Jared Loughner responsible for the fact that in Arizona he was able to go into a store and legally buy an automatic hand gun and a 33-round magazine with at most a very perfunctory background check?

Perhaps he shares in the blame. Perhaps, at some point, he voted for some candidate or some measure supporting free access to all guns, and the right to carry them concealed. If so, he holds only a very small part of that blame, sharing it with millions of other voters.

Whatever part, if any, was played by Mr. Loughner in creating Arizona's gun laws, the bulk of the responsibility must lie with the gun lobby, including the National Rifle Association, the politicians under the NRA's thumb, and the right-wingers who insist on their right to bear any and all arms without any restrictions or controls.

**Non-Partisan
Conservative Politics**

Stephen Harper, the master player of partisan political games, is now (mid-January — who knows what he'll claim in the future) making the claim that the decision to purchase F-35 fighter planes was all about jobs.

Speaking at a Héroux-Devtek factory in Dorval, surrounded by aerospace workers, the Prime Minister defended the \$9 billion (up to \$16 billion, if the service contracts are included) as a job-creating Economic Action Plan.

Mr. Harper accused the opposition parties of "playing partisan games with these crucial contracts", and taking positions which were completely irresponsible, when they could have grandstanded in Québec.

Gilles Labbé, President and Chief Executive Officer of Héroux-Devtek, supported Mr. Harper's position. He

indicated that the purchase of the jets would mean hundreds of jobs at that company over the next twenty years. He also warned that the final decision on purchasing the fighters must be made immediately, otherwise the window of opportunity "to join the ranks of Lockheed Martins' global supply chain" could be closed.

Of course, pork-barrel politics and the desire of Prime Minister Harper and his Conservative Party to seek a parliamentary majority by making inroads in Québec would have a bearing neither on the jet fighter deal nor on the nonpartisan Prime Ministerial appearance in Dorval and, during the same trip, at the Bell Helicopter Textron Canada factory in Mirabel.

Aren't we lucky to have such a nonpartisan champion of jobs for Canadians through nonpartisan contract awards?

As unbelievable as it may seem, in the aftermath of the shooting, in spite of the fact that others at the gathering had weapons, pro-gun advocates said that the shooting would have been stopped sooner if even more people there had been armed!

Is Mr. Loughner an apolitical person who committed a random act, as some claimed?

A *Toronto Star* article on January 16 reports that Mr. Loughner was unhappy about an answer he got from Representative Giffords at an earlier meeting. On YouTube he writes of having read the Constitution of the USA. He also indicates that he "can't trust the current government". True, the YouTube entry does not seem very coherent, but it also does not seem very apolitical.

The YouTube entry also undermines the claim that it was a random act. While it is possible, however improbable, that Mr. Loughner, just happened to pick the political gathering, from all the choices available, for his violence, his political rantings would seem to reduce substantially the probability of a random act. It seems more probably that the act was insane, but not random.

A politically motivated act performed in an insane fog could pose quite an analytic challenge to anyone trying to understand the workings of the mind and the influences which moved it. Nevertheless, the mind was working in some way and there was some sort of influence.

There is a lot of history to mass murder, both in the USA and outside its borders. The experience is that mass murderers very rarely (if ever) just start shooting. There is always (or almost always) a reason, however twisted, for the deed — a perceived slight, some sense of an injustice, a feeling of a threat from some enemy, an authoritative voice that directs the action, or some such. Sometimes the influence is easily discerned; at other times it is difficult or impossible to trace, but it is always there.

(One of the many interest-

(Continued on Page 10.)

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

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

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<http://ult-wpg.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.

Vancouver AUUC Christmas Recital



Members of the Vancouver Folk Orchestra played carols, adding to the warmth of the evening.



Druzhba Dancers performed their new "Hopak" to the delight of the audience."



Dovbush Dancers performed a "Kolomeyky", with new choreography taught at the 2010 Dance Seminar at Sylvan Lake by Serguei Makarov.



The Dovbush Dancers performed the ever popular "Bereznyanka".



Tatyana and Alexandra Beck serenading the audience with "Sour Candy".

Christmas was in the air when the dancers of the Vancouver AUUC School of Dancing held their recital on December 12. Families gathered to attend the concert and the celebrations that followed. The children were filled with anticipation as they donned new and colourful costumes, practised their dances before taking to the stage, and tried to contain their excitement about an anticipated visit from Dyid Moroz.

The concert began with a flourish, as the Dovbush Dancers took to the stage to perform a "Kolomeyky" choreographed for them by Serguei Makarov. It was a vibrant and engaging piece that brought together the varied costumes and dance styles of regions within Ukraine. The dancers were excellent, maintaining their technique, their joy, and their showmanship throughout the confluence of styles, partners, and swirling choreography that filled the small stage. Many of the audience members were moved by the performance and continued to talk over dinner about its beauty and excitement.

The preschoolers, our Zaychyky Dancers, performed their "Malenkiy tanets" (Little Dance), and once again stole the show as the audience sat at attention, enjoying the determination of some dancers and the casual approach of others, and sensing the exhilaration felt by the youngest of our students.

The Bilka Dancers and the Zirka Dancers performed variations on the "Kozachok", each group bringing their style, their enthusiasm, and their differing expertise to the piece.

A delightful character dance by the Sopilka Dancers charmed the audience, with its fishermen — and pretty girls distracting them from their work.

"Hopaks" were performed by the Druzhba Dancers and the senior performing group, Dovbush, and had the audience cheering and shouting, inspired by the technical prowess of the soloists.

A special treat for the audience this year was the "Russian Dance" from *The Nutcracker*, staged by Debbie Karras, the School's Director, and performed by the Dovbush Dancers. They repeated it at the Pacific Dance Arts ballet school's Christmas recital the following week.

Musical pieces were performed by the Vancouver Folk Orchestra, setting the holiday mood especially with Vince Guaraldi's *Christmas Time is Here*.

Two of our dancers, the Beck sisters, wowed us with
(Continued on Page 6.)



The youngest participants won the hearts of guests and assembled families.

— Story photos: Dan Fung



The Bilka Dancers enjoy showing the audience their "Kozachok".



No Christmas celebration would be complete without the much anticipated appearance of Dyid Moroz and Snow Maiden.



A new version of the "Russian Dance" from *The Nutcracker* performed by the Dovbush Dancers.



With the concert and lunch out of the way, it was time for a bit of carolling.

ADAM'S SONS ACCLAIMED AT WINNIPEG PREMIERE

A new play and a new amateur theatre company made their debut in Winnipeg on February 20 and 21. The occasion was the Theatre 100 production of *Adam's Sons* by Hannah Polowy and Mitch Sago. Both the play and the theatre company came through their first test before an audience with superb results, and in the words of Lillian Gibbons, staff writer for the *Winnipeg Tribune*, "won a standing ovation at both performances."

"This was something new in the long years and many-sided cultural activities of the Ukrainians in Canada," wrote Nick Hrynchyshyn, editor of the Ukrainian language newspaper *Zhyttia i slovo*, in a full-page review. "The show was a wonderful success. The audience was enthralled by the Saturday and Sunday performances."

"The performance of *Adam's Sons* at the Playhouse Theatre," wrote Grisha Okulewich, editor of the Russian language newspaper *Vestnik*, in his review, was a "great success and on a high artistic level."

There is no question that the premiere of *Adam's Sons* broke new ground and set some new precedents in Canadian theatre. It marks the first time that a stage drama, based on a Ukrainian literary classic, has been written and

produced for English-speaking audiences in Canadian theatre.

The experience proves those people wrong, both in legitimate theatre and in the cultural community, who argued that "such a play can only have an appeal for its own ethnic group"; or that "It is impossible to transfer the essence of Ukrainian literature to the English stage." The response of the audiences, made up of many national backgrounds, made this clear.

A prominent figure in Winnipeg theatre told the authors that he was "delighted with the way in which the play allows those of us from other ethnic backgrounds to familiarize ourselves with many of your traditions and heritage."

The question of language access to drama based on Ukrainian literature and life was much appreciated by many in the audience of other than Ukrainian origin. This successful venture into bilingualism by Theatre 100, in its production of *Adam's Sons*, was one of the out-standing and exemplary achievements. It points the way towards a new dimension in Ukrainian theatre, without diminishing in any sense the need to revive Ukrainian language theatre in the major centres of the community.

Worthy of note was the

comment of a well-known director in Canadian theatre, made at the second performance of *Adam's Sons*, that "professional theatre in this country could not afford to produce a play with the kind of authentic costuming that is required. It is only possible in the way you are doing it — a combination of cultural groups like yours, thoroughly familiar and comfortable in your folk art, and professional and semi-professional talent."

It must also be said, however, that the cultural forces of the AUUC, on which Theatre 100 is based, could not have produced the play at this point in time without the talent and expertise of professionals and others from the ranks of local theatre.

It took a company of 151 actors, singers, dancers, musicians, directors, technicians and administrative people to produce the play. While only 17 of this total were from outside the groups of the AUUC — the director and leading actors among them — they were decisive to the artistic quality of the production. The orchestra, with 24 members, was an indispensable part of the production. The play could almost be described as a musical drama. For the music was both incidental and integral to the story line. In many scenes it served to enhance mood; in others, such as in the wedding scene, it was a vital and pervasive element of the action.

These facts illustrate something more than the size of the job that was done, and which challenged the resources of a new theatrical company. They may well indicate the direction in which amateur theatre must move, if it is to grow and fulfil its role, and could provide the answer to future productions of major works that professional theatre won't or can't undertake — be this for reasons of limited resource, or fear and prejudice towards new and so-called ethnic plays.

If there were fears that the story of the play, Ukrainian in content and English in performance, would alienate the audience; or that the new generations would find it irrelevant and the older generations meaningless; these were quickly dissipated as the curtain opened on each performance.

Lillian Gibbons, writing in the *Winnipeg Tribune*, notes the recurring theme of land in this "Ukrainian folk lore play... To the audience, it was more than entertainment, drama, singing, dancing — though it was all of this: it was grandfather's dream, land of his own, and the immigrants'

From Our History

Adam's Sons had its premiere in Winnipeg in February, 1971, forty years ago, at the Playhouse Theatre. This report (here slightly abridged) on the two-day presentation appeared in the April, 1971, issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian*. The story had no by-line, and the photographs were not credited.

dreams as they streamed into Canada 80 years ago." And Adam, the eternal father of sons, finds truth through tragedy — and she refers to the closing lines in Ivonika's soliloquy and the play:

"Earth enough for all God's creatures! Only when we learn to share this earth... to celebrate life... will we be worthy of its promise."

The challenge that faced the authors of *Adam's Sons* was to be true to the story, to its time and place, and yet retain and transfer the intrinsic content of *Zemlya* to the modern English stage in Canada. They tried to meet this problem by seeking and underscoring those universal values which transcend both time and change.

The epoch in which the story takes place was far different from our own time. Feudal customs and ideas still prevailed. The ownership of land was the determining factor in the human condition, and it lay at the root of the main conflict within the society of the day. Land was a measure of a man's worth ("A man is nothing without land!"), whether in the family, the village, or in the larger social order.

Olga Kobylanska's powerful novel portrays this conflict within the microcosm of family and village life. She shows how land hunger erodes and corrupts human relationships, builds into explosive frustrations, and erupts in blind violence and destruction. However, the root of the evil is not in the land or family, but in the deprivation of the peasantry. This is still true in many parts of the world today.

In an age that is suddenly conscious of man's violence to his environment, the strong thread of Ivonika's love for the land, and his affinity for nature, serves as a reminder to us today that modern industrial society can not ruthlessly exploit and despoil the beauty and resources of this earth without endangering the future.

We speak of the generation gap today as if we invented it. Yet Ivonika and Sava clearly illustrate this break down in communications between the two generations. The motivation and the needs of each are different.

The father is tied to the land by a past which no longer has the same meaning for his youngest son. Only at the end of the play does Ivonika fi-

nally realize the nature of this conflict: "Even the dawn looks different, for it belongs to the young as it once did to me. My days are spent and behind me. I have gathered my harvests... But I shall be judged by the seeds I planted for younger hands to reap."

And if parents today are worried about the mores of the young, with their open rebellion against traditional parental authority, the defiance of Sava — and of Rakhira — are like echoes down the corridors of time.

Today's audiences could also understand the suffering of Parasenka as she is forced into a loveless marriage by her mother. There is a familiar ring to Dokia's words, as she tells her daughter that "most girls know from the day they are born... that it's their fate to make some man a good wife!" The hypocrisy and injustice of what happens to Parasenka is readily seen in our own time when one marriage in every three is a failure and when the very institution of marriage is being shaken to its foundations.

There is a strong condemnation of militarism as Mikhailo is called up for military service; and a pervasive emphasis on the dignity and creative role of labour.

Finally, there is the dimension of history that is relevant to the memories and past of the Ukrainian immigrants who settled here, and for generations of their children.

It is in the profusion of customs, rituals, artifacts, colourful dress, and in the beautiful songs and exhilarating dances of the Ukrainian people. But audience enjoyment of this folkloric treasure was far from limited to those of Ukrainian descent.

The audiences at both performances were a cross-section of the public, embracing many ethnic origins and three generations. There were people in their 80s and youngsters in their teens. There was a total response to the drama that unfolded: the older people for the memories it evoked of an earlier time and place, and the young people for those things that are common and familiar to their own experience and time.

Laszlo M. Nagy directed the play with great perception for the story and the people in it. He told the authors, when he first read the script, that, "I know the people in this

(Continued on Page 12.)

Vancouver AUUC Christmas Recital



The Zirka Dancers showing their confidence and skill in performing a "Kozachok".

(Continued from Page 5.) their blend of harmonies and guitar accompaniment as they sang their favourite song, *Sour Candy*.

Our MC for the event, Gordon Hobbis, entertained us with jokes and stories, and also assisted in making an exciting announcement: the Dovbush Dancers will be featured in a Fashion Show to be held at the AUUC Hall in March, showcasing the clothing designs of Darlene Karimione, one of the School's parents. The event will benefit the Dancers. A small preview of her fashions at the concert stimulated a lot

of interest and enthusiasm.

Didn't someone once say that a meal without wine is like a day without sunshine? Well, the same can be said for a Ukrainian event without food. Tables full of food were admired, discussed, and finally consumed, as the dancers and their families enjoyed one another's company and basked in the warmth of another season spent together.

Carols and music filled the air as *Dyid Moroz* presented the children with gifts before, finally, we all said, "Good night," and, "Merry Christmas!"

— Laurel Parasiuk Lawry

Edmonton AUUC Children's Concert

On Saturday, December 18, the Edmonton AUUC Trembita School of Performing Arts staged a successful Children's Christmas Concert

at the Ukrainian Centre.

The Tiny Tots stole the show with their energy, eagerness, dress and smiles. They sang "Dobry ranok" (Good

Morning), and showed a sample of their ballet barre.

A crowd pleaser was their segment of the dance "The Garden". One of the performers carefully watered all his growth in his garden. Up popped each plant, and together they performed a happy dance to celebrate their growth in the sunny garden.

Budding folk singers with piano accompaniment by their teachers, Marina Lavrinenko and Yulia Martishuk, then entertained with a variety of songs: "New Day", "Latin Beat" and "Pony".

The young and enthusiastic beginner dancers hopped and imitated as they danced "Zaychyky" (Little Rabbits).

Three mandolin students added to the variety of the program when they played "Hot Cross Buns" and "Jingle Bells".

Sophia Lavrinenko, accompanied by her pianist mother, played "O Sole Mio" and "Santa Lucia" on a mandolin.

The parents, families and AUUC Branch members in the audience appreciated the work of the children's instructors: Lara Rosiewich and Tamara Lapchuk Krausher, dance instructors; Jodi Archibald, who teaches the beginner mandolin students; and Marina Lavrinenko and Yulia Martishuk, music teach-

ers, who teach the children songs and singing.

"The children's performance of song, music and dance offers great hope and bodes well for the revitalization of the AUUC children's performers and for establishing a fu-

ture Trembita Dance group," stated AUUC Branch President Mike Uhryn, after having thanked the instructors for the program and the parents and the audience for their attendance.

— Shirley Uhryn

— Story photos: VictorHoron



The children's choir is taught by conductor Yulia Martishuk and pianist Marina Lavrinenko.



Dance instructors Lara Rosiewich and Tamara Lapchuk Krausher work with the young dancers.



Mandolin beginners are taught by Jodi Archibald.



Santa Claus came to visit, bringing gifts for the children.

— Story photos: VictorHoron

Edmonton Seniors: All Smiles

On Tuesday, December 21, the AUUC seniors present at their monthly birthday gathering were all smiles, appreciative of a Christmas dinner and social with a variety of activities: singing, poetry reading, and even some ballroom and Ukrainian dancing.

Seniors' President Pauline Warick opened the social proceedings by introducing Irene Kingsmith, the lone senior birthday celebrant attending. President Warick also recognized Caroline Bagan, approaching 101 years (who was not able to attend because of distance, but who sent greetings to the group via her family) and Nina Uhryn, who, too,

was unable to attend.

Newcomer Olga Fol, who happened to be celebrating her birthday, also joined Irene at the head table. Olga Fol and Peter Pecur, who sings in the Trembita Choir, were acknowledged and welcomed by Pauline.

When our resident musicians (Maurice Warick, Bob Kisilevich, and Bill and Mike Uhryn) played dance music, Olga and Peter set the example as they got onto the floor for some ballroom dancing and were soon joined by others.

Then more seniors rose and formed circles to do a short version of a *Kolomeyka*.

Bill Uhryn followed by sing-

ing several songs — even some naughty Ukrainian tunes, which brought laughter from the audience. He then led everyone in singing a few Christmas carols.

Pauline Warick recognized the main volunteers, including one in particular — Edmonton AUUC Branch President Mike Uhryn, who had come at 6:00 a.m. to open the hall for the caterer so that she could start cooking and preparations for a most delicious Christmas dinner.

Members enjoyed mouth-watering moist turkey and dressing, as well as a variety of attractive, colourful and nutritious dishes and desserts.

Santa Claus, with a "ho-ho-ho", made an appearance and gave everyone a gift — a mandarin orange — because ALL the seniors had been good all year. Then, he helped in the raffling of almost a dozen poinsettias which were part of every table decoration.

Edna Chmilar, an honorary and longtime AUUC member, made a fitting capsule comment about the seniors' afternoon social and activities when she said, "This was one of the best gatherings!"

Next month the seniors will do it again when they gather



The Edmonton AUUC seniors combined their December birthday celebration with a Christmas party.

on the third Tuesday afternoon to celebrate our Ukrainian Christmas.

— Shirley Uhryn

JoKe TiMe

The Meaning of Dreams

A young woman was taking an afternoon nap. After she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?"

"You'll know tonight," he said.

That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it—only to find a book entitled *The Meaning of Dreams*.



The seniors were up for a brief *Kolomeyka*.



Almost a dozen poinsettias, part of the table decorations, were won by attending seniors.

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewich

Bandera Award Stripped Away

A court in Ukraine has pronounced invalid a presidential decree to bestow the title of Hero of Ukraine on the country's late nationalist leader Stepan Bandera.

The decree was signed by Ukraine's ex-president (Orange Revolution co-leader) Viktor Yushchenko.

According to court rulings, the Hero of Ukraine award can be given only to a Ukrainian citizen, while Bandera died in 1959 — well before the 1991 creation of the Ukrainian state.

Stepan Bandera led the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) from 1941 to 1959. OUN members, who began to be called Bandera men, have numerous crimes on their record. They murdered some 100,000 Poles, Czechs, and Jews in the western Volyn region.

Thousands of Ukrainians, who refused to cooperate with OUN were also brutally murdered.

Bandera is regarded as a criminal in Poland for those crimes and for terrorist activities before World War II. Poland's late president, Lech Kaczynski, claimed that Yushchenko's posthumous award to Bandera in January, 2010, was "against the historical process of dialogue and reconciliation."

The Simon Wiesenthal centre also expressed outrage at Yushchenko's award, saying Bandera was responsible for the deaths of thousands of Jews.

World's Best Psychic

Hayal Alekperov from Azerbaijan has become the best psychic of the international *Psychic Challenge* contest held in Ukraine.

The last, 7th, tour of the Ukrainian *Psychic Challenge*, which became an international project, announced its winner on January 9, 2011. According to the results of the audience's voting, Hayal Alekperov from Azerbaijan is the best psychic in the world.

First prize was \$32,000.

The other contestants were: Alexandra Shepelenko, a Ukrainian bioenergetics specialist; Moduako Grandson, a voodoo shaman from Nigeria; Marina Homushku, a shaman from Tuva Republic of the Russian republic; Pavel Liundishev, a Ukrainian white magician; Anna Galliers, a medium from Great Britain; Jeniffer Wallens, a USA medium; Vladimir Meljukhin, a Russian clairvoyant; Kyamrian Samedov, another Azerbaijani psychic; Rodika

George, a witch from Romania; Farida Magomedova, a witch from Dagestan; and Sabukhi Imanov, a psychic.

Ukrainian TV Channel STB is already preparing for the 8th season of the *Psychic Challenge*.

Cigarettes

A total of 36% of Ukrainians smoke tobacco, including the 31% who smoke every day, according to a study by the World Bank. The results were published in a report titled *Main reasons for the high death rate in Ukraine*.

According to statistics compiled by the United Nations, the average percentage of smokers in Europe is 28.6%.

Ukrainian men with primary education and women with higher education are inclined to smoking, including daily smoking.

The average age that daily smokers start the habit is decreasing, and at present is 16 years.

The smallest percentage of smokers is found in the west of the country (24.6%), while the largest is in the east (34%). Some 80% of daily smokers are men.

In the younger age groups there are four times as many smokers as in the older age groups.

Churches in Peril

The rustic beauty of Ukraine's famed wooden churches is surpassed only by their capacity for survival. Dotted the countryside from the Carpathian Mountains to Crimea, they have withstood centuries of unforgiving winters.

Now, in an era when religion thrives in Ukraine, wooden churches as old as 600 years face ruin at the hands of the unlikeliest of enemies — the priests and parishioners who began "improving" them.

In Sytykhiv, a hamlet hidden away in western Ukraine's dense woodland, preservationist Andriy Salyuk is shaken by what he sees. Sheathed in sky blue and white plastic siding is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a wooden Ukrainian Greek Catholic church built in 1878.

"I'm speechless," Salyuk said, as he scanned the siding, the brown bathroom tile covering the church's front stoop, the sheet metal encasing its cupolas. "I feel so sorry for the way that this church is being ruined. The kids who are playing in this village today won't see this church in 20 years, because by then the wood underneath will have

rotted out."

Priests and parishioners in other villages have cocooned their structures in metal plating or, in some cases, burned them down to build brick or stone replacements.

For Salyuk, the wooden churches are icons of Ukrainian architecture, as synonymous with the country's cultural heritage as painted Easter eggs and borshch.

The available statistics provide some interesting food for thought. Since the demise of Soviet Ukraine in 1991, 68 wooden churches in the Lviv region alone have been gutted or razed. During the many decades of Soviet rule, only two of the region's wooden churches were destroyed.

The Bachelor

Sexy Dancing With The Stars pro Maksim Chmerkovskiy has steamed up the dance floor with beauties including Brandy Norwood, Erin Andrews and Mel B, but now he's taking his moves to his homeland of Ukraine, to win the heart of one lucky lady in that nation's version of *The Bachelor*.

On his website, Chmerkovskiy wrote, "This is the first thing in a VERY LONG TIME that I'm doing for ME. For the first time, I don't really care what people think. First time that I'm not being judged, placed, or criticized."

Chmerkovskiy arrived in Ukraine on November 26, almost immediately after the latest *Dancing With The Stars* season ended. He reportedly filmed for four to six weeks.

In a press release, he stated that after turning 30, he (and his family) felt it was time to get serious about settling down.

On his website, he states, "I know it's hard to find someone you can connect to on a project like this, but nothing is impossible. For the sake of the show I can't reveal anything, but I must say I am very pleasantly surprised so far."

High Blood Pressure

Every third Ukrainian aged 18 — 65 has high blood pressure. This was one of the main findings of a study conducted by the World Bank.

The results, published in a report titled *Main reasons for the high death rate in Ukraine*, also showed that obesity is a serious problem. Two out of three overweight Ukrainians (with obesity) and with high blood pressure are older than 40. At the same time, the percentage of young people with high blood pres-

sure is growing, especially among young men.

In eastern Ukraine, almost every third respondent aged under 40 has high blood pressure. The situation is even worse in the west, where 47.5% of people under 40 have high blood pressure.

Almost 29% of the respondents are overweight, and 20% suffer from obesity.

According to the study, the respondents with low income are more susceptible to high blood pressure, while the prosperous respondents are mainly diagnosed with obesity.

Shark Attacks

A German woman was killed and four people from Ukraine and Russia were injured by sharks at an Egyptian tourist resort last month.

According to the Ukrainian newspaper *Segodnya*, the lifeguards on the beach had no first aid supplies and used rags torn from their shirts to bind the victims' wounds.

Tourist Anatoly Bondarenko, interviewed with his wife in Kyiv's Boryspil airport, alleged Egyptian officials initially lied to tourists about the presence of an aggressive shark in the vicinity. "The hotel managers first told us people (who suffered shark bites) had cut themselves on coral," he said.

Beaches in the area were closed for several days, then later reopened, but only to licensed divers. Anti-shark nets were put in place, but a total ban on tourist swimming was maintained.

According to investigators, sharks of different species were behind the series of attacks.

Egypt is a major Ukrainian tourist destination because of its relatively low cost and the ease with which a Ukrainian national may obtain an Egyptian visa.

Svoboda Party

The Svoboda (Freedom) Party did surprisingly well in last October's local elections. The strong showing by an extreme-right nationalist party put the party and its leader — and its anti-Semitic rhetoric — into the national spotlight.

Svoboda, which until recently had been relegated to Ukraine's political fringe, handily won in three of the western-most provinces — Lviv, Ternopil, and Ivano-Frankivsk.

The party, whose campaign emphasized Ukrainian patriotism and resistance to the Kremlin, captured between 30 and 34 percent of the vote in the three districts.

Oleh Tyagonybok is Svoboda's charismatic leader. He

calls himself a Ukrainian patriot. His opponents call him a racist and a neo-Nazi.

Svoboda's grassroots are in old Galicia, a rugged region formerly belonging to Austria-Hungary and Poland. Unlike the rest of Ukraine, it came under Russian control only after World War II.

Tyagonybok entered parliament in 2002 as a member of former President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine political party. Yushchenko expelled Tyagonybok from the party in 2005 over a televised diatribe in which Tyagonybok praised Ukrainian "partisans" who fought "Ruskies, the Krauts, Jewishness and other unclean elements." He called on Yushchenko to strike fear into the "Russky-Kike mafia" running Ukraine.

Blonde Is Better

The poor of Eastern Europe have one commodity the West wants: long, naturally blonde hair that can be turned into extensions. In poverty-stricken villages, glistening strawberry blonde hair may be a woman's only insurance in times of hardship.

A 16-inch braid carefully tended over the course of several years can fetch around \$50. The same braid, after processing, may sell to an American customer for \$500.

Blond hair is valued for its relative scarcity and because it can be dyed to match almost any woman's natural colour.

"It's not hard to understand why people in Ukraine sell their hair a hundred times more often than people in Sweden," said one hair importer based in Ukraine. "They are not doing it for fun. Usually, only people who have temporary financial difficulties in depressed regions sell their hair."

The blonde hair trade is far from new, though as eastern European countries slowly make economic gains, it is becoming more difficult for hair scouts to find girls willing to part with their locks.

President Yanukovich — One Year Later

(The following has been extracted from an article in the January 9 issue of *New Europe*.)

While Ukraine still faces many challenges, 2010 was without doubt a year of progress with new President, Viktor Yanukovich, carrying out key reforms, much to the surprise of his critics.

Stability has returned, the economy is on the up, and for-

(Continued on Page 10.)

Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 9.) eign policy is being carefully balanced. From being an unreliable, inconsistent, unstable country, Ukraine has become dependable, consistent and progressive.

On January 17, 2010, Ukraine entered a new chapter in its history when the Orange Revolution finally ran out of juice. The first round of the presidential election reflected the deep disappointment of Ukrainians toward their one-time hero Viktor Yushchenko,

and on February 25, his rival, Viktor Yanukovich, took over Ukraine's leadership.

Yanukovich inherited a country on its knees both economically and politically. The new President wasted no time in launching efforts to turn Ukraine's fortunes around.

Lip-service was replaced by actions, a long awaited reform package was launched, stability returned after years of political squabbling, and following two years of economic decline the economy is slowly getting back on track, with growth for the last quarter of 2010 at +4% of GDP.

Relations with Russia, which under Yushchenko hit rock-bottom, have been normalized and ties with the European Union have intensified.

After a year in office, the President's popularity remains

stable at around 45%, comparable to when he was elected (almost 49%). This is in stark contrast to his predecessor.

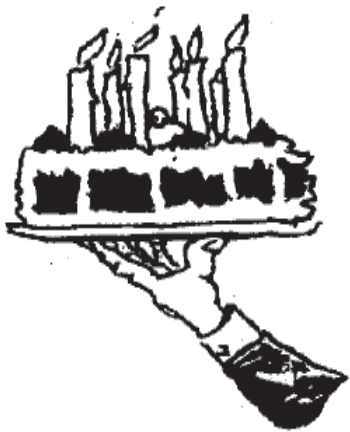
Yushchenko came to power with 52% of voter's support, which dropped to 14 — 19% after a year.

Visible improvements in the country, including more money in pockets, better public transport and increased political stability have contributed to the sustained popularity of President Yanukovich.

Commentary

(Continued from Page 4.) ing articles on this event is "No One Listened to Gabrielle Giffords", Frank Rich, *The New York Times*, January 16, 2011. Mr. Rich deals with various issues, including the growing violence in the USA.)

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Fanny Hruschak
Jean Rogers
Harry J. Strynadka

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 February celebrants:

Patricia Dzatko
Mary Saik

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

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

Dianna Kleparchuk
Leona Levchuk
Dora Stewart

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

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

Joy Edwards
Olga Katrynuik
Martha Maksymiuk
Olga Young

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

Who, What, When, Where

Regina— Poltava School and Poltava Ensemble Concert will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 12, at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre**. Admission: adults — \$16.00; children (10 and under) — \$8.00. Tickets are now available at RPAC — phone (306) 779-2277.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will host a **Super Bowl Social** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West, on Sunday, February 6. Refreshments and hot food will be served. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Admission — \$10.00/person.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will host **Love and Laughter** on Sunday, February 20, at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West. Doors open at 1:00 p.m., with the program (Hahilka, jokes, followed by finger foods and desserts) starting at 1:30 p.m. Admission — \$10.00/person.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will host a **Movie Afternoon** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West, on Sunday, March 6, at 2:00 p.m. Popcorn and other munchies on hand. Admission — \$5.00/person.

* * *

Readers of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* are invited to submit items of interest to the progressive Ukrainian Canadian community for free listing in this column. The deadline for material is the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication.



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

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Ukrainian Labour Temple
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Sent as a separate page.



Taras Shevchenko Museum

My Countryman O. Neporozhniy

I was born and raised, and lived my adolescent and early adult life, in Yahotyn, a county seat in Kyiv Region of Ukraine, the city which was once a possession of Kyrylo Rozumovskiy, the last Hetman of Ukraine, the city where Ukrainian poet-humanist Taras Shevchenko was a welcome visitor.

There is a beautiful park in my home town. In the 19th century, Prince Mykola Repnin-Volkonskiy, the last owner, had rare samples of European flora planted in the park. Throughout his numerous visits to Repnin's family, Taras Shevchenko planted chestnut trees — a whole alley, named "Tarasova Alley" by the locals.

The park survived nature's droughts, famine, and also the Nazi occupation (1941–1943).

In 1960, my school teacher was Oleksander Neporozhniy. If he had survived, he would have been 90 years old on January 6, 2011. He became an outstanding historian and a contributor to the local newspaper where I was starting my career as a journalist.

His personality didn't fit any stereotype. Oleksander Neporozhniy was the only person around who wore the old-fashioned Ukrainian embroidered shirt. His Ukrainian language was clear, with no *surjyk* — the ugly mix of Ukrainian and Russian used by the majority of the population.

He explored local history, encouraging us to re-examine our own views and increasing civic values.

He opened the past to us: the Cossack movement in our region, the Yahotyn pages of Shevchenko's life, the World War II tragedy.

He fought Soviet bureaucracy to establish Yahotyn county as a sample of well in-



Oleksander Neporozhniy
1921 — 1998

tegrated museums and galleries, monuments and restorations which would portray the people of the county — the locally grown talents and heroes. Among those talents were the self-taught artist Kateryna Bilokur, who rose to the level of People's Artist of Ukraine, and Mykola Malynka, whose talent was used in the creation of the Taras Shevchenko bust-monument dated 1959.

Neporozhniy's biggest fight, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, was for a new monument of Taras Shevchenko. It took a while for a decision finally to be made, and several years more for the monument to be erected.

Ivan Honchar, the famous Ukrainian sculptor, portrayed Shevchenko in his young years, when the 29-year-old poet arrived for the first time in Repnin's Yahotyn in 1843, years before his exile to a remote outpost in Kyrghyzstan for a whole decade.

The monument is located in front of High School #3. The sculptor depicts a young, energetic Shevchenko with a book in his hand. The poet seems to appeal to passers-by: "Gain knowledge, brothers!"

Think and read ..." (from "My Friendly Epistle").

Education is really the key to our future. Deeply understanding this, Oleksander Neporozhniy was looking to our future, shaping our sense of the native culture and history. In other words, he was sculptor of our souls and minds, although he never tried to be a sculptor.

He painted. His famous oil was of a unique local church which was destroyed in 1936, during the state's hunt against Christianity.

Neporozhniy was an accomplished writer — there was nothing to be edited in articles he contributed to our newspaper. He contributed also to numerous Kyiv magazines and newspapers.

Better yet, he was an expert in Ukrainian language and literature. It is no wonder that the doorway of his house on Nekrasova Street in Yahotyn was crossed by many famous Ukrainian writers. Ukrainian literature text books for school students and teachers' reference books authored by Oleksander Neporozhniy were common. He also prepared many classical works of Ukrainian and foreign writers for publishing



Ivan Honchar's statue of Taras Shevchenko, unveiled in 1972 in Yahotyn, Ukraine.

houses.

The tourist industry in Ukraine is far from the tourist industry in Canada and the USA. But people are visiting Yahotyn to see the prehistoric settlement in the village of Dobranychivka, the hut museum of Kateryna Bilokur in the village of Bohdanivka and the guest house in the local park where Taras Shevchenko stayed during his visits to the Repnin princes.

With the restoration of the

guest house, Neporozhniy, enthusiast of local history, established his own Shevchenkiana in the 1990s.

Visitors enjoy the paintings of the local artists, which reflect Taras Shevchenko's life in Yahotyn. During this time, Shevchenko wrote the poem "Tryzna", the novel "Twins", and his "Archeology Journal", and painted the portraits of Mykola Repnin, his self-portrait and the sepia known as "Shevchenko is painting the villager's yard".

Oleksander Neporozhniy died in 1998. He remains unrecognized — there is not even a small bust of him. He was simply honoured with Makarenko's medal and the title Honourable Citizen of the City of Yahotyn.

However, he must be best remembered for his patriotic struggle to keep alive a Ukrainian ethnic, social and historical identity — no matter what direction the political winds were blowing. He was a real patriot, the kind of person of which the Kobzar of Ukraine would be proud.

— Tatyana McCoy

(Tatyana McCoy is a freelance journalist out of Belleville, Illinois, USA. The article is abridged.)

ADAM'S SONS ACCLAIMED

(Continued from Page 6.) play. I met them as a boy... lived with them, in the village where I grew up, and on my grandfather's land." His grasp of the psychology and motivation of the people in the drama, his interpretation of the various roles and scenes, was an important factor in the brilliant performances by the leading actors and cast.

The performances of John Pierce as Ivonika and of Carmelle Le-Gal as Anna were *tours de force*. Their grasp of the two main roles, and their brilliant performances, will be long remembered. Stage veterans Viola Cowdy as Maria, Pat Van Der Tol as Dokia, and Winston Macdonald as Onufriy, were excellent in their roles.

Outstanding among the younger actors were Joyce Humeniuk as Parasenka, Michael Gagnon as Sava, Ilena Greenberg as Rakhira, Karol Kasals as Todorika, and Richard Dopson as Mikhailo.

William Philipovich, musical director, arranger and conductor, and the fine string orchestra under his baton, gave the show one of its rich and colourful dimensions. Not a few people said that "the music alone was worth the price of admission." Mr. Philipovich was also one of the prime movers in developing Theatre 100 and in the preparation of the stage production.

The Veselka Dancers, under the direction of choreographer Ron Mokry, were very much at home in the exciting wedding scene, and turned in good performances as village youth in other scenes.

The play was written as a multimedia production, with the use of recorded sound and speech, and film strips and slides to create backdrops for the scenes. Rear-screen projection was not possible on the stage of the Playhouse, and this technique had to be dropped. But other effects were used, with good results, under the supervision of stage manager Peter Swayne.

The structure of the play is such that transitions from scene to scene (and there are sixteen of them) require quick and evenly-paced changes. It

was found that some of the sets were cumbersome, would slow the pace at some points in the production, and these were scrapped only a few days before the premiere. Sparse sets were used effectively instead, with more emphasis on lighting and technique.

Many people commented, after each performance, on "how quickly the time passed", and "isn't the play a bit short" — although it runs two hours and twenty minutes. This was a well-deserved tribute to the stage crew under the supervision of Victor Krenz.

Theatre 100's first venture was undoubtedly a great success, and the same can be said for the play based on a Ukrainian literary classic. There is a place in Canadian amateur theatre for such groups as Theatre 100, and for such plays as *Adam's Sons*.

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