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Correction

When preparing our January, 2012, issue we neglected to change the month in Ukrainian in the masthead. The issue should have been dated СІЧЕНЬ 2012р.

We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience arising from this error.

Stolen Statue Recovered!

In a bizarre chain of events, the small bronze statue of Taras Shevchenko which was stolen in Oakville from the grounds of Shevchenko Memorial Park (as the area was then known), overnight from September 30 to October 1, 2001, has been recovered. Police investigation at the time of the theft was unable to solve the crime.

On November 22, 2011, by e-mail, an antique dealer from Hamilton, Ontario, offered to sell the statue to the Shevchenko Museum. Photographs of the statue were enclosed with the e-mail.

An examination of the photographs by Bill Harasym, Vice-President of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation (the Foundation), and Lyudmyla Pogoryelov, Shevchenko Museum Curator, showed a strong resemblance between

our stolen statue and the object in the pictures.

Next day, Ms. Pogoryelov and Mr. Harasym phoned the antique dealer. They were informed that the statue was being stored in a building in Hamilton, Ontario (about 75 km. west of Toronto), and the dealer wanted \$2,500 for it.

The day after, Ms. Pogoryelov, Mr. Harasym, and Andrew Gregorovich, President of the Foundation, drove to Hamilton to examine the statue and talk to the antique dealer. When they saw the statue, stored in an otherwise bare and empty room, Ms. Pogoryelov and Mr. Harasym immediately felt that it was the stolen statue.

The dealer stated that our team must make a decision on the spot, because the building had been sold and had to be vacated the next day. He did not know that the statue was

previously stolen.

The piece evidently went through several hands before it came into the possession of the owner of an antique business.

Efforts to negotiate the price failed; the dealer refused all lower offers. Our team then agreed to the purchase, and gave him a cheque for \$2,500.

At this point, the discussions turned friendly and unguarded. It emerged that the antique dealer was Ukrainian and had learned all about Shevchenko from his mother. He was disturbed to hear that the statue was probably stolen, and voluntarily offered to not cash our cheque until the statue's status was resolved.

Several days later, the antique dealer phoned Mr. Gregorovich to say that he had contacted the person from whom he had bought the statue. That person, Mr. X, apparently wealthy, reportedly

(Continued on Page 12.)

Vancouver AUUC Recital

— Photo: Dan Fung



At the Vancouver AUUC Christmas Recital at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre on December 11, 2011, the children of Vancouver's AUUC School of Dancing displayed talents of many kinds in a program enjoyed by family and friends. For a report and more pictures from the event go to Page 5.

— File photo: "UCH"



This bronze monument of seated Taras Shevchenko, sculpted by Ivan Honchar, stood by the entrance to Shevchenko Memorial Park in Oakville. Overnight from September 30 to October 1, 2001, the statue was stolen by unknown persons for unknown reasons. The thieves separated the statue from its pedestal, which they left behind. Oakville police, notified of the theft, were not very optimistic that the work of art would be recovered.

The Next Issue of the "UCH"

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated April, 2012. Announcement of events in April or early May should be in our office by March 10, along with articles for the April issue. Thank you for your consideration.

In This Issue

As the World Turns.....	8
Attacking Iran	3
AUUC Seniors' Activity in Edmonton	11
Commentary	4
Current Eclectic	3
Editorial	4
Endangering Our Health	3
From Our Readers	4
Happy Birthday, Friends .	10
Join Us!	10
Joke Time	10, 12
Kvitka Tsisyk Song Competition	11
Legal or Common Law? ...	4
Malanka 2012 in Regina .	11
More International Rankings	3
Orchestra Entertains Mennonite Seniors	7
Random Economic Considerations	3
Myron Shatulsky	2
Some of This and a Bit of Something Else	2
Sustaining Fund	10
Taras Shevchenko Museum	12
The Fellow Traveller	8
Toronto AUUC Cooking Classes	7
Ukrainian News Briefs	9
Vancouver AUUC Christmas Recital	5
Who, What, When, Where	10
Winnipeg AUUC Christmas Concert	6
A World in Conflict	4

AUUC National Committee

The National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians met in Winnipeg on January 13–15, 2012, largely to continue work on issues considered during the meeting in June, 2011.

Foremost among these questions was the financial situation of the AUUC.

At its last meeting, the National Committee decided to list Camp Kum-in-Yar for sale, but any sale had to be approved by the NC. The listing never happened. This time, the National Committee reaffirmed its decision to list the property, but empowered the National Executive Committee

(Continued on Page 7.)

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Current Eclectic — Long and Short

Random Economic Considerations

Just after mid-January, the Bank of Canada made a point of the cost to Canada's economy of the crisis in Europe. According to Canada's central bank the cost to this country was about \$10 billion in lost economic output, or about 0.6% of all goods and services expected to be produced this year.

By the end of 2012, according to Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney, Europe's effect is predicted to reduce global production by 1%.

As compared to the early years of the recession, business investment in machinery and equipment has increased, but in recent months it has slowed again.

Mr. Carney said that Canadian business balance sheets are "in their best shape in recent memory". Nevertheless, businesses do not seem to be in a rush to invest in upgrading their operations. This is a disappointment to governments which had hoped that the private sector would compensate for the reductions in public sector spending.

Of course, the dangers arising from record levels of consumer debt were part of Mr. Carney's concerns, especially "extreme levels of debt for those who are most vulnerable. It seems that people in circumstances like those enjoyed by Mr. Carney still have not grasped that the "most vulnerable" have little choice. Go deeper into debt, or go hungry, and/or do not buy winter clothing, and/or don't pay the rent — those are some of the real choices of the "most vulnerable".

That same perspective seems to inform the views of editorial writers for our larger newspapers, who issue exhortations to consumers to "begin paying down their debt before interest rates rise". (*Toronto Star*, January 11, 2012, for example.)

Equifax Canada, reported on January 10 that consumer borrowing rose by 4.5% in the last three months of 2011. The good news, if that's what it is, is that there has been some shift from credit card borrowing to such cheaper forms as lines of credit.

The bad news hidden behind this trend may be that people are switching from credit cards to other "credit products" because the credit cards are maxed out. The idea is to borrow on your line of credit to pay on your credit card, thereby creating more borrowing room.

Even as they raise alarms about the dangers of high levels of consumer indebtedness, the Bank of Canada and the Government of Canada, recognize that the main factor keeping the economy afloat is consumer spending. The rest of the picture is bleak — depressed export markets, especially the USA and Europe, cuts in public sector spending, and the reluctance of the private sector to invest in a depressed market.

What both the private and the public sectors have no trouble doing is taking advantage of the situation to attack the very people whose spending is the only bright spot. Lay-offs continue to be the order of the day for both private and public sector employers, as are replacement of unionized workers by cheaper unorganized workers, and even outrageous demands that workers tolerate reductions in their compensation of up to 50%

(as is being done by the US-owned Caterpillar in London, Ontario, which locked out its workers after to declined that generous offer).

These moves by employers are driven not by necessity but by opportunity. The result, though there are other factors, is that poverty is rising in the G20 countries. That is the information provided by Oxfam, an international charity organization in mid-January.

According to the Oxfam report, more than half of the world's poorest people live in G20 countries. Furthermore, income inequality is growing in almost all G20 countries, while it is falling in most low- and middle-income countries.

Canada ranks just behind Russia, China, Japan and South Africa among countries

with the fastest growing gaps. However, in terms of over-all inequality, Canada does well, ranking behind only France, Korea and Germany.

Oxfam warns that Canada's relatively good position on income inequality is threatened by the reduction of social support programs at a time when "market forces" (that is, the power of corporations and the enrichment of the corporate elite) are cresting.

Only in Korea, among high-income G20 countries, has income inequality shrunk in the last two decades.

Among emerging G20 nations, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico decreased income inequality — but not for the poorest people.

The Oxfam report notes that environmental degradation disproportionately affects poor people, even in rich countries.

Saudi Arabia was not evaluated in this study for lack of comparable statistics.

More International Rankings

It sometimes feels like every cause and organization is out there doing some sort of study ranking countries or cities or schools or God knows what according to their international standard. Some of these rankings may be more important than others, and some may be more significant than others.

How much credence can one give a study, for example, which weighs 300 indicators to determine a ranking?

Such a study was conducted by the Washington-based research organization Global Integrity, which found that, based on 300 indicators, Canada had dropped from 11th to 19th in measures of corruption among 100 countries.

Least corrupt, the study found, was South Korea, with

Syria at the bottom of the pile.

Countries in central and eastern Europe are reportedly becoming more corrupt.

On the other hand, at about the same time, the Global Peace Index compiled by the Institute for Economics and Peace and the Economist Intelligence Unit, based on "only" 23 indicators, found Canada to be the 8th, most peaceful country in the world in 2011, up from 14th in 2010.

The United States ranked 82nd among the 153 countries studied. (Canadians always like to measure our country against the USA.)

Iceland was in first place. 14 of the top 20 countries were from western or central Europe.

Canada's ranking may drop as more people go to prison.

Attacking Iran

Escalating terrorism against Iran, supposedly to discourage that country from developing nuclear weapons, includes targeted assassinations of nuclear scientists.

In the last two years, there have been at least four such acts. In the most recent one, not only the nuclear scientist, but also his driver, were killed. The attack, which consisted of attaching a bomb to the scientist's car occurred in city traffic, endangering other people in the vicinity.

Israel does not claim credit overtly for the murders on Iran's street, but projects broad hints to suggest that these "bad things" that are happening to Iran, "things that are happening to it unnaturally", are part of the pressure Israel and its partners (particularly the United States and Great Britain) are applying to Iran.

The United States has denied, so far, any part in the assassinations. However, the USA has acknowledged in the past that it has carried out targeted assassinations against others of its foes. It is hardly imaginable that the USA would make any serious effort to dissuade Israel from such

a policy.

Quite the contrary, should the United Nations Security Council attempt even the mildest criticism, the USA would veto the effort. That is the history of the USA-Israeli relationship to the United Nations.

Furthermore, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has blamed the victim, tacitly absolving the aggressor of responsibility by putting the responsibility on Iran for its "provocative behaviour" and "its search for nuclear weapons".

There is growing concern in the international community that the escalation of action against Iran could lead to some form of "military action" in the region. American actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the international attack against Libya, show clearly that such concerns should not be lightly dismissed.

There have been other pressures exerted on Iran as well, one of which is virus attacks against Iranian computers controlling functions at uranium enrichment plants.

There is also a growing threat of an embargo affect-

ing Iran's petroleum exports. The US has imposed sanctions against Iran's central bank, which affects Iran's sales to refineries.

The European Union is reportedly considering an embargo against Iranian oil, and Japan (an important Asian customer) has undertaken to buy less oil from Iran.

Iran launched a counteroffensive against the threat of an embargo. Countermeasures included warnings about consequences to countries increasing production to compensate for loss to the international market of Iranian oil.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest producer and a close American ally, is the only member of the 12-country Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with significant spare capacity. Saudi Arabia has said that it would increase its output.

Iran has also launched a diplomatic offensive which included visits to Venezuela (another significant producer) and other countries.

Iran's threat to cut off the Strait of Hormuz, thereby closing down an important point in oil tanker traffic, has been of great concern internationally because of the danger of military conflict should Iran actually attempt such a measure.

Endangering Our Health

That One Taxpayer we have been hearing so much about ("There's only one taxpayer.") seems determined to cut his tax bill, even if it kills us.

A recent example is the announcement last November by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that it would spend \$21.5 million less in 2013-14 than it does now. That includes a reduction of the equivalent of 234 full-time jobs.

This year, the CFIA plans to eliminate some of the extra spending the Conservative government put into food safety in 2008, after the nationwide outbreak of listerio-

sis.

That outbreak, tied to deli meats from a Maple Leaf Foods plant, resulted in 23 deaths and hundreds of illnesses. Nevertheless, the extra resources for more frequent inspection of meat processing facilities following the outbreak are now to be reduced.

A cavalier attitude toward inspection of food and drinks occasionally grips our One Taxpayer, and tends to last until the next disaster of illness and death. Then the indignation of the many citizens leads to a temporary commitment to ensure that our food and water will be safe.

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Legal or Common Law?

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

I recently heard a discussion between a man and a woman, common law partners, concerning marriage. She would like them to marry; he saw no purpose to it. Her reasons were not made explicit; his argument was that registering a marriage would make no difference to their respective rights and responsibilities.

Just by coincidence, a few days later, I saw an item in a newspaper concerning a case coming before the Supreme Court of Canada concerning that very issue: whether common law spouses have the same rights as married people to support and sharing of property in the event that the relationship breaks down.

The particular case originated in Quebec, where the incidence of common law relationships is the highest in Canada — and where the partners in such relationships do not have the same rights as legally married couples. However, the court's decision will have an effect right across most of Canada — in eight other provinces and territories (including, interestingly enough, Ontario) common law spouses do not have the same rights and protections as those who can produce a marriage certificate.

In a 2002 decision, the Supreme Court ruled 8-1 to uphold the law in Nova Scotia, which does not grant common law spouses the same property rights as married spouses. The argument was that keeping the distinction was the way to respect the wishes of common law spouses to avoid the legal obligations incurred by marriage.

An intervenor in the current case, the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, is arguing that research by social scientists since 2002 shows that people entering a common law relationship are generally not motivated by legal considerations.

In fact, like the couple mentioned at the start of this editorial, most common law couples are under the impression that their legal situation is the same as that of married couples, but in most cases that is a **mistaken impression**.

This couple was not from Quebec, so they do not come under Quebec's Civil Code. That does not mean, however, that a marriage licence would not make a legal difference to them.

Every common law couple should check what the law is in their province or territory. They should also keep an eye on the Supreme Court of Canada: whether it will extend property rights to common law spouses, or reverse the Quebec Court of Appeal decision of 2010 giving common law spouses the right to spousal support.

COMMENTARY

A World in Conflict

The world is in an ugly state as 2012 rolls in. International and civil wars both contribute to this unhappy situation.

Added to all the usual sources of conflict within countries is one that gained significance just a few years ago: the desperate economic circumstances (high unemployment, increasing user fees coupled with reduced public services, and the high price of commodities like gasoline, to name a few factors) of people around the world

First, of course, there is the ongoing situation in Afghanistan. When the USA and its NATO allies invaded that country, the story was hot pursuit of al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. Then the Taliban government became the enemy.

The Taliban government has been replaced, but now another face of violence has

emerged in that country, as soldiers of the Afghan army have taken to killing their supposed NATO allies. American soldiers have been killed in such incidents, it has been reported, as well as French and British troops. This is prelude either to the withdrawal of foreign troops or renewed fighting against another new enemy: the soldiers and police, trained by NATO forces, of the government installed by NATO.

It is reported that neither group views the other with the respect one might expect between allies.

The war in Afghanistan long ago spilled over into Pakistan. If NATO troops do not leave Afghanistan, it can be expected that raids into Pakistan, particularly with the use of drones will grow in frequency and intensity. So will anti-NATO, particularly anti-

American feelings.

There is a positive element concerning Pakistan — peace negotiations with India appear to be making progress.

Little is reported from Iraq these days, but there are signs of trouble brewing as charges emerge of "surging authoritarianism".

In North Africa and the Middle East wars are both real and potential.

In addition to the war drums beating around Iran, there is the situation in Syria.

It seems probable that the anti-government forces in Syria made a serious mistake, expecting the "international community" to intervene, as it did in Libya. However, Libya was a special case in the eyes of the USA, countries like Italy in Europe, and even Canada. Instead of a range of NATO military assistance with the approval, under the pretext of "duty to protect", of the United Nations, Syrian rebels have had observers from the Arab League, obviously with no mandate to intervene.

At "UCH" deadline, there was an Arab League decision to continue its mission of observation, but there seemed to be a lack of resolution among some of the Arab League countries. In addition, President Bashar al-Assad has rejected a proposal from the Arab League for the formation of a government which would include his opponents.

In Egypt and some of the other countries which went through the so-called Arab Spring, the situation seems to be less than stable or, occasionally, stable as the old regimes were stable — by repression of dissent. Though so-called Islamist governments were elected by popular support, their tendency is to instil their views on all minorities. Coupled with difficult economic circumstances, this has every possibility of generating more conflict.

The intolerance of religious extremists is also creating growing tension and violence in Israel, as ultra-Orthodox Jews resort to such heroic acts in defence of morality as spitting on schoolgirls.

(Continued on Page 12.)

From Our Readers

I'm afraid I have to take issue with the editorial, "Quebec: Shameful Discrimination" in the January, 2012, issue of the "UCH".

Let's be clear. We are talking about the French School Commission in Montreal, where 53% of the pupils are from immigrant parents. This school commission has the job of making sure that their pupils learn French (among other things) just as the English School Commission in Montreal has the job of making sure their pupils learn English (among other things). The child in the school yard during school time is still at school and it is the ideal time for them to use what they have learned in class. The teacher has a job to do by encouraging the children to use the language. Your extrapolation, "How long before a less obedient child is in a principal's office being threatened with detentions, suspension or expulsion?" is

nothing less than fear mongering and has nothing to do with reality. The same can be said by your comment implying that teachers might be sanctioned or punished if they do not do the job they are paid to do.

The final test as to whether this is discrimination or not is the reaction of the parents affected by this ruling. My Anglophone grandchildren go to a French school within the French School Commission of Montreal. They are there to learn French so that they can function well in Quebec when they become adults. French immersion is what they need and French immersion is what they are getting. There has been little to no reaction to this ruling which leads me to believe that most parents agree with it and they do not feel any discrimination.

— Roy Semak,
Montreal

SEE US ON THE WEB!

AUUC (National)
auuc.ca

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/>

Winnipeg AUUC
<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

At the Vancouver AUUC Christmas Recital on December 11, 2011, the children of Vancouver's AUUC School of Dancing displayed talents of many kinds.

The youngest dancers, aged 3 and 4 years, wore costumes of pale blue and white, reminiscent of the snowflakes which were sorely lacking outside but plentiful on the stage. With wrist bells and big smiles, they wowed the full

theatre with their sense of music and rhythm.

Slightly older dancers brought a real theatricality to their performance, with a lovely piece choreographed by Tatyana Beck and Meghan Fung about a lively group of children each staking claim to a treasured Teddy Bear. "Tse moye!"

The 9-year-olds looked polished and professional, treating us to a polka with a very big finish as the girls leapt up and onto the boys' outstretched legs — impressive!

The large and colourful 11-14 year-old group, dressed in bright orange Hutsul costumes, paired the quick footwork of the region with complex partnering and patterns that created a whirl of colour.

The senior group from the School of Dancing saw a clever character dance, "Dzhihunets", which tells the story of a lucky young man with four pretty dance partners to win his heart. Unfortunately, he finds himself in such an enviable position that his own cockiness is his undoing and he winds up alone after the young ladies get fed up with his preening.

The Dovbush Dancers performed a variety of dances: some showcasing the beauty and symmetry achieved with opposing lines of dancers travelling together, in counterpoint and weaving intricately through and around one another; other dances displayed the dramatic jumps and turns that have become the hallmark of our senior performing group.

The Vancouver Folk Orchestra, enjoying the addition of new members to its ranks, played seasonal pieces.

Dancers also contributed to the musical portion of the concert, with the Hobbis brothers playing an accordion and violin duet, and Nicole Bizovie playing a beautiful solo on piano.

The evening wound down with carols, dinner and a visit from *Dyid Moroz*, Grandfather Frost, who brought gifts for all the children.

— Laurel Lawry



The Bilka Dancers staged a playful tug-of-war with "My Teddy Bear".

— Story photos: Dan Fung



The Zirka Dancers performed a polka.



Males of the Sopilka Dancers display their skills in a "Hutsul Dance", with the girls looking on.



Nicole (Nicky) Bizovie played "The First Noel".



Dyid Moroz, the Man of the Hour, brought gifts for all the children.



The Dovbush Dancers closed the concert with "Metelitsya".



Lizzy Hnatiuk and Cohen Parasiuk of the senior group of the School of Dancing, in the character dance "Dzhihunets".



Steven Ho conducted the Vancouver Folk Orchestra.



The Dovbush Dancers danced the "Pleskach Spoke Turn".



The Zaichyky preschoolers entertained with the "Snowflake Dance".

Winnipeg AUUC Christmas Concert

With the holiday season almost upon us and Christmas just around the corner, the Winnipeg Branch once again held their annual Children's Christmas concert and Children's Christmas party. In the middle of an always hectic time of the year, spirits were lifted by the efforts put out by the young dancers. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, other families and friends applauded the entertaining performances of all.

Branch member Kim Boss and her daughter Robyn Smith were the Masters of Ceremonies for the afternoon. They led the festivities with almost funny jokes, Christmas carols and other songs, and games.

This December concert gives the children a chance to show off the dance numbers that they have worked so hard to learn since September. The dance portion of the concert consisted of performances by all the schools' groups.

The youngest dancers opened the concert with an upbeat Central Ukrainian dance. This group, with its six girls and four boys, is one of the largest groups.

The Junior dance group lit up the stage with their lively Bukovinian number.

"Lviv Polka", always a crowd pleaser, was performed by the Teen group.

Wrapping up the afternoon were the senior dancers, the Yunist Dance Ensemble, performing "Debutantes".

Interspersed throughout the concert were performances by a number of multi-talented dance school performers who added their personal musical touches.

Angela Kaminski and Angela Rodrigues performed "Silent Night" as a lovely flute duet. Angela Kaminiski also performed a solo rendition of "Jingle Bell Rock".

Angela Rodrigues and her brother William Rodrigues played a number of entertaining selections.

An excellent vocal performance of "Away in a Manger" was sung by Che Rosie Carr.

As always, there was no shortage of holiday treats. Baking was kindly donated by many, and helped sweeten further the already sweet afternoon.

Of course, no Christmas Concert could be complete without a Special Guest Appearance from the Man-in-Red himself. The children lined up to get their photo

with, and gift from, Santa and sneak in their last efforts to remind him of their Christmas wishes.

Special thanks go to those whose volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated. Among them are Mary Semanowich and Olga Shatulsky for the Christmas craft table; dance instructors Mykola Hedrich, Justin McGillivray and Kirsten Schubert; and their assistants Ataya Enns, Haley McQueen and Kim Boss.

— Randi Kellow



Che Rosie Carr sang "Away in a Manger".



The Teen group, instructed by Kim Boss and Kirsten Schubert, performed the "Lviv Polka".



Instructed by Justin McGillivray with assistant Haley McQueen, the Juniors performed a lively Bukovinian number.



The Tiny Tots are instructed by Mykola Hedrich, with assistant Ataya Enns.



Yunist, conducted by Mykola Hedrich, ended the program with "Debutantes".



Angela Kaminski and Angela Rodrigues performed "Silent Night" as a lovely flute duet.



Angela and William Rodrigues performed as a duet on flute and cornet.



Family and friends enjoyed both the concert and the Christmas Party.



The dessert table was a hit with sweet lovers of all ages.

Like the paper?
Why not get a sub?

Toronto AUUC Cooking Classes

— Photo: Lorna Clark



On Saturday, January 14, the AUUC Toronto Branch started a series of cooking classes to spread knowledge of Ukrainian culinary arts. The first class, which allowed participants to prepare varenyky (commonly known as perogies), eat some of them and take some home, was conducted by Lorna Clark.

The picture shows two of the learners, Peter Krochak and Nancy Stewart, hard at work.

AUUC National Committee



AUUC National President Robert Seychuk chaired the National Committee meeting.

(Continued from Page 1.) to take the process to completion. The NEC, at its meeting on January 16, hired a lawyer in Edmonton and made arrangements with a real estate agent.

The National Committee also considered ways to reduce the operating costs of the AUUC nationally and other financial measures. A budget for 2012 was adopted.

An interesting subtext to the discussion of finances was the attention paid to celebration of the centennial of the AUUC in 2018. This extends the attention horizon by some five years, as previous discussion focused on the next National Convention.

The longer view can be expected to affect programming,

as well as financial issues.

The National Committee indicated that the 45th AUUC National Convention would be held in 2013, most likely on the Thanksgiving Day weekend. However, there was no official decision.

An upbeat moment in the meeting was the report by Lyudmyla Pogoryelov that the AUUC now had a national web site (www.auuc.ca). The focus now is on enriching the content of the site, as well as keeping such pages as the



Lyudmyla Pogoryelov announced that the AUUC web site was now a reality, and urged NC members to help make the site a live and accurate source of information about the AUUC.



Dianna Kleparchuk presented a report on AUUC performing arts activity around the country.

events page up to date.

The "UCH" was among the topics under discussion. One agreement out of this discussion was to hold a press campaign, including both funds and subscriptions.

Another aspect was the suggestion, implemented with this issue, that the front page carry more AUUC material. Time will tell whether this move, which tends to make the paper seem more like an AUUC internal bulletin, will undermine the success of an agreement to try to build circulation by providing free copies at a couple of locations in Toronto.

No date was set for the next National Committee meeting, which will be called as circumstances warrant, but in any event in good time to provide adequate pre-convention discussion.

— Wilfred Szczesny

Orchestra Entertains Mennonite Seniors

On the afternoon of December 21, 2011, the AUUC Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra presented a concert for the residents at the United Mennonite Home in Vineland, Ontario. The program was composed predominantly of Christmas music, with a generous sprinkling of other numbers.

Conducting the orchestra was Rudy Wasylenky. Announcing was Bill Luken.

Only three of the sixteen items on the bill were purely orchestral, including the opening "What Child Is this?" (also familiar as "Greensleeves"). The other two orchestral arrangements were "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina", from the

musical *Evita*, and "Yellow Bird", which has roots in Haiti.

The second number was "Jingle Bells", with a vocal solo by Wayne Hosick, who recently moved to the orchestra's mandola section. Mr. Hosick appeared later in the program with the numbers "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" and "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer".

Margaret Card, a female vocalist, has given additional variety to the orchestra's performances. In her debut appearance with the group, Ms. Card was third on the program with "Silver Bells". She also sang the Christmas songs "Winter Wonderland", "Silent



The Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC, conductor Rudy Wasylenky, presented a program at the United Mennonite Home in Vineland on December 21.

Night" (with the orchestra singing along), "The Christmas Song", and "(I'm Dreaming of a) White Christmas". Ms. Card closed the concert with a Vera Lynn medley and "Auld Lang Syne".

Mandocello player Ken (Bud) Speck also appeared as a vocalist, singing "Just Because" in duet with Rudy

Wasylenky.

Rudy Wasylenky also appeared in duet with Wilfred Szczesny, singing "Jamaica Farewell". Mr. Szczesny appeared as solo vocalist in "Blowing in the Wind".

That the audience enjoyed the presentation was shown by the high level of audience participation, which can be

detected on the recording of the concert.

John Manning of Toronto, who was present to make a sound recording, also taped a video. A few days later, he posted about half the concert to YouTube, accessible with the key words "Welland Mandolin".

— Carl Honour



Part of the audience at the United Mennonite Home in Vineland on December 21.



WAYNE HOSICK



MARGARET CARD



BILL LUKAN

— Photo: John Manning

— Photo: John Manning

— Photo: John Manning

— Photo: John Manning

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewich

Biggest Market in the World

The *Privoz* Market in Odessa in Ukraine is said to be the biggest market in the world.

Translating the Russian *Privoz* into English as “Supply Place” really doesn’t do justice to the ambience of the place. How can you describe the sounds, the aromas, the buzz — the very vibrancy of the place — with two simple, unemotional words? *Privoz* sounds so much better, doesn’t it?

There is an ethnic diversity about the *Privoz* that helps create the vibrant ambience. It is noisy and brash in equal amounts. If you understand the language, jokes take on a risqué appeal. And, as in most markets, it is probably best to be careful with your wallet: pickpockets operate everywhere in the world.

There is a colourful history to the *Privoz*, which originally began in 1827 as a farmers’ market in an open square off Privoznaya Street, where local produce was sold from the backs of farmers’ carts.

As the market grew, the stalls mushroomed both indoors and outside. Nowadays, the *Privoz* really is the centre of the city.

Bargains abound, with both new and old rubbing shoulders — both people and goods! You can buy luxury items and you can get cheap bargains.

At the *Privoz* you can buy the best caviar, aubergines, pomegranates, dried apricots and the sweetest melons. The dairy area is redolent of a myriad of smells, from honey to smoked sausage, with a rich bouquet of spices hanging in the air.

If your curiosity is piqued, do visit! But come prepared — it could well take you hours, if you have the stamina, to keep going until you have seen the whole market.

Chicken Kaos

Chicken Kaos was the game being featured in America recently on Apple’s iPhone and iPod devices. This action game features cute characters (adventurous fox Arsi fighting the evil chickens), cool graphics, and awesome explosions.

The game was designed by one of the most acclaimed artists and designers in Ukraine, Arsen Chelidze.

In Chicken Kaos, little fox Arsi’s mission is to catch as many as possible of the eggs that angry chickens throw at him.

A player controls Arsi by tilting the device sideways, so that the fox can catch the eggs or avoid evil eggs that can electrocute him. Extra

points are earned by catching golden eggs, foot-kicking little chicks in the butt, or exploding the chickens.

Mr. Chelidze’s paintings have been featured at exhibits in Odessa and Kyiv, as well as purchased by many prominent Ukrainians. His interior design projects as well as architectural works are seen throughout numerous cafes, bars, restaurants, and hotels in Ukraine and Russia. He has also undertaken furniture design in recent years.

More information about the artist is available on the web at www.chelidze.com.

Ukrainian Express

“High-speed trains that can accelerate to 180 kilometres per hour will unite four Ukrainian EURO 2012 host cities. Their launch is scheduled on May 15,” according to Boris Kolesnikov, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure, the official responsible for Ukraine’s preparation for the tournament.

The trains, manufactured by Hyundai of South Korea, have been named “Ukrainian Express”. They will facilitate, and considerably accelerate, the fans’ transportation between Kyiv, Kharkiv, Donetsk and Lviv, the host cities of the up-coming European championship.

For example, travelling time between Lviv and Donetsk will be reduced from 22 hours to 11 hours, Kyiv to Kharkiv will be covered in 3.5 hours, Kyiv–Lviv in 4.5 hours, and Kyiv–Donetsk in 5.5 hours.

A total of ten trains have been ordered, but only six will be delivered in time for the tournament.

The EURO 2012 championships will take place between June 8 and July 1.

Coach Optimistic

Coach Oleh Blokhin of Ukraine insists that his side are “on the right track” for the UEFA EURO 2012 championships they co-host this summer. “I have no doubt we will present a competitive team at the tournament,” he told UEFA.com.

As the tactician who masterminded his country’s greatest football (soccer - **gb**) achievement to date, Blokhin knows a good national team when he sees one. The 59-year-old was in charge when Ukraine reached the 2006 FIFA World Cup quarter-finals and, after returning to the helm in April, 2011, has overseen a transition that culminated in a 3–3 draw with Germany and a 2–1 victory against Austria in November.

“The Germany game was our most memorable match of 2011, because we managed to score three goals against one of the best teams in the world at the renovated EURO final venue,” said Blokhin. “It showed that we are on the right track, and I have no doubt we will present a competitive team at the tournament.”

It has been a marked transformation for this summer’s co-hosts, who had been through two coaches in the six months since Oleksiy Mykhaylychenko departed, following his side’s failure to qualify for the World Cup in South Africa.

Yuriy Kalitvintsev then managed one victory in eight games before making way for Blokhin.

Referring to UEFA EURO 2012, Blokhin said, “This tournament is very special for me. As I have never played at a European Championship, I want to catch up as a coach.

“We will do our best to please our fans. I hope UEFA EURO 2012 will be remembered in Ukraine not just for the fantastic developments in our sport and in the general infrastructure, but also for the successful performance of our national team.”

Rehabilitating the Guilty

On January 1, hundreds marched in Kyiv, Odessa, and Lviv to mark the birth day of Ukrainian nationalist hero Stepan Bandera.

Stepan Bandera headed the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), which collaborated with the Nazis and actively participated in the murder of Poles, Jews, and Roma (Gypsies). They also murdered fellow Ukrainians who disagreed with them.

To celebrate Bandera’s birth 103 years ago, the western Ukrainian city of Lviv unveiled a big outdoor statue of him in a central area. The project had been in the works for ten years, costing the city \$1.2 million. This represents a budget over-run of more than 100%.

Bandera is a divisive figure in Ukraine. Many in the country’s west see him as a liberation hero, while most people elsewhere in Ukraine detest him as a Nazi collaborator.

Fewer Marriages

The number of unmarried Ukrainian couples living together (which by the way was totally frowned upon in the Soviet Union), has doubled over the years of independence (capitalism - **gb**).

Since 1991, the average age

of Ukrainians getting married has increased by two years. Twenty years ago the average age of men and women officially registering their marriage for the first time was 24.5 and 22.5 years, respectively, which means couples got married after graduating from university. Today, the average Ukrainian groom is 26–27 years old and the average Ukrainian bride is 24–25 years old.

The number of couples living in common law marriage has doubled over that time. Social studies by the M.V. Ptukha Institute for Demographic and Social Studies at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine show that approximately 10–12% of couples live in common law marriage without officially registering their relations.

While, in 1991, approximately 11% of children were born out of wedlock, the number reached 22% last year.

Capitalism Disappoints

Many Ukrainians are quite dissatisfied with life in the country as hopes for economic prosperity have proven largely unjustified.

A survey in 1998 by the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine found that the majority of Ukrainians (60%) believed “it was impossible to bear such a difficult state of affairs”. In 2011, the majority (53%) said it was “hard to live but it was possible to stand such a life”.

On the other hand, people now have less hope for the future. In 1994, 52% of the population expected that the situation in the country would gradually change for the better. In 2011, only 39% of the people showed such optimism.

Many Ukrainians define these days as the era of thieves and swindlers (48%), state-mongers (44%), and beggars (40%).

The rates of social and psychological health of society, which are annually measured by experts at the Institute of Sociology, show that over the last 20 years (since the switch to capitalism - **gb**) Ukrainian society remained in a state of demoralization and instability.

Neanderthals Not Dumb

It had been thought that Neanderthals, who died out around 30,000 years ago, were stupid, primitive nomads who simply lived in caves for shelter.

Forget that idea. Researchers have discovered an elabo-

rate 44,000-year-old Neanderthal house in eastern Ukraine, made from mammoth bones, delicately decorated with carvings and ochre pigments.

The circular house was 26 feet in diameter, and made up of 116 large mammoth bones, including skulls, jaws, 14 tusks and leg bones.

According to the researchers, the cold climate, an open environment and the lack of wood, led humans to use bones to build protection against the wind.

Simon Underdown, a senior lecturer in biological anthropology, who researches Neanderthals at Oxford Brookes University, said, “It’s another piece in the newly emerging Neanderthal jigsaw puzzle. Far from being the stupid cavemen of popular image, it’s becoming increasingly clear that the Neanderthals were a highly sophisticated species of human being. We can now add shelter-building to the list of advanced behaviours that includes burying the dead, spoken language, cooking and wearing jewellery.”

Europe’s Largest Solar Plant

Ukraine is home to what is believed to be the largest solar power plant in Europe, and one of the largest in the world. The project is part of the country’s national Natural Energy project that was launched in 2010.

The country’s goal is to produce 2,000 MW of electricity from wind and solar energy (and nearly 30% of its energy from renewable sources) by 2015.

Once the construction is entirely completed, the area of the power station will equal 207 football fields. The solar power produced should be enough to power 20,000 average-sized households.

Today, Ukraine ranks 12th in energy rankings, with installed renewable energy capacity of 54 GW.

(Bravo! - **gb**).

Taxi Driver Poisoned

Traffic police officers saved the life of a taxi driver poisoned by a passenger.

According to the police, “It happened on Christmas in Mykolayiv. To avoid paying the bill, a passenger drugged the coffee of the taxi driver and escaped.

“Taxi driver Oleksandr Romanov told us that a passenger asked to be taken from Kherson to Mykolayiv (a distance of 69 km. - **gb**). When
(Continued on Page 12.)

Who, What, When, Where

Regina — AUUC Regina Branch will sponsor the **Annual Concert Recital**, featuring 100 performers of the **Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts** and the **Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance**, at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre**, 1077 Angus Street, starting at **7:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, March 3**. Tickets cost **\$16.00 for adults**, and **\$8.00 for children 10 years old and under**, and are available by calling the **RPAC Box Office at 779-2277**.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will be hosting **Love and Laughter** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, **1604 Bloor Street West**, from **1:30 p.m.** on **Sunday, February 19**. Appearing on the program are the **Hahilka Singers**, **Peter Krochak**, a jokes competition, prizes, finger food and desserts. For more information, contact the Branch.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will be hosting a **Movie Afternoon** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, **1604 Bloor Street West**, from **2:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, April 1**. **Mama Mia!** will be viewed. Popcorn and other light refreshments will be available. 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.

Sustaining Fund Donations

Myron & Olga Shatusky, Winnipeg MB	\$100.00
Elsie & Floyd Williston, Winnipeg MB	
<i>In memory of Sonia Stefaniuk</i>	\$100.00
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<i>In memory of Nancy Borusiewich</i>	\$50.00
Mary Akerley, Calgary AB	\$20.00
Katie Tuchak, Chilliwack BC	\$20.00

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

JoKe TiMe

Mike walked into the bar and said to Charlie the bartender, "Pour me a stiff one. Just had another fight with the little woman."

"Oh yeah?" said Charlie, "And how did this one end?"

"When it was over," Mike replied, "she came to me on her hands and knees"

"Really," said Charles. "Now that's a switch! What did she say?"

She said, "Come out from under the bed, you chicken."

* * *

A junior manager, a senior manager, and their boss were on their way to a meeting. On their way through a park, they came across a wonder lamp. They rubbed the lamp and a ghost appeared. The ghost said, "Normally, one is granted three wishes but as you are

three, I will allow one wish each"

So the eager senior manager shouted, "I want the first wish. I want to be in the Bahamas, on a fast boat and have no worries." And he was gone.

Now the junior manager could not keep quiet and shouted, "I want to be in Florida with beautiful girls, plenty of food and cocktails!" And he was also gone.

The boss calmly said, "I want these two idiots back right now."

* * *

"How'd you get that flat?"

"Ran over a bottle."

"Didn't you see it?"

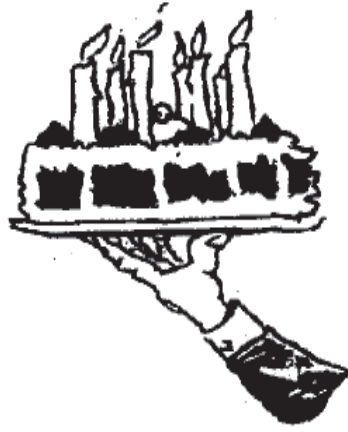
"Kid had it under his coat."

* * *

A guy walked into a pub and asked, "Does anyone here own a Doberman? I feel really bad about this, but my Chihuahua just killed it."

A man leaped to his feet

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Lucy Antoniw
Fanny Hruschak
Jean Rogers
Merle Schnee
Harry J. Strynadka
Mike Ursuliak

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 and March celebrants:

Patricia Dzatko
Alexandra Tomaszewski

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 and March celebrants:

Margaret Hallstrom
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 Katryniuk
Bill Lukan
Wanda Lukan
Martha Maksymiuk
Olga Young

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

and replied, "Yes, I do, but how can that be? I raised that dog to be a vicious killer."

"Yes, well, that's all well and good," replied the first man, "but my dog's stuck in its throat."

* * *

Notice: The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges.



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

AUUC Seniors' Activity in Edmonton

Since the deadline for the January, 2012, issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* passed, the AUUC Seniors in Edmonton have gathered twice — in December and in January.

December is a good month, a joyous month, and a colourful month for the members of the Edmonton AUUC seniors.

Our white table cloths were decorated with brilliant poinsettias with elegant Christmas napkins. Then came along Tekla, Clara Yaremchuk with her walker, who carefully polished and placed the flatware by each of the 32 settings.

Our honoured birthday celebrants this month were Caroline Bagan, celebrating her 102nd birthday, and our Nina Uhryn. Only the best of wishes for health, love and happiness to both of them.

Our cook of a fresh, hot turkey dinner, Linda Ries, was honoured with a small honorarium and a card of thanks signed by all.

The ten poinsettias that decorated the tables were awarded according to the winning ticket stub numbers. This traditional act of our Christmas gathering brought smiles and laughter to all.

Music pervaded the banquet room.

Bill Uhryn brought a tape of

Christmas music which he played as we decorated early in the morning and later as we gathered. Bob Kisilevich played the piano while we sang "*Mnohiya leeta*" to Nina Uhryn, and then he played "For She's a Jolly Good Lady" when we expressed our appreciation to Linda Ries. Mike Uhryn played background music on his trusty accordion and later led us in carols from "Here Comes Santa Claus" to "Silent Night!"

A good time was had by all!

Our president, Pauline Warick, concluded with a "thank you" to the executive members and volunteers in the preparation of today's event.

Somehow, at Christmas, we all feel a special need to reach out and say "Hello" to family and friends who mean so much and bring so much happiness to our lives. Being a part of the Edmonton AUUC Senior's club enables us to share this beauty of the season!"

We ended this gathering with a look forward to January, and our traditional Ukrainian Christmas gathering, with the carrying in of our sheaf of wheat, recognition of our ancestors, and scattering of the wheat, followed by a feast of traditional Ukrainian

Christmas dishes provided in potluck style.

Eventually January 18 arrived, and with it our January meeting.

Cold weather also arrived — a temperature of -43° C! Braving the elements, 34 hearty seniors came to share in a time of tradition and fellowship to honour our birthday celebrants: William Chomyn, Eva Doskoch, Victor Horon, William Maxim, Rose Kere-liuk, and William Uhryn.

Mike Uhryn and Maurice Warick led us in the singing of "Happy Birthday", "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows" and "*Mnohaya leeta*".

As volunteers set the tables with Ukrainian embroidery and small loaves of bread graced with heads of wheat, Maurice Warick played his button accordion.

Dyid Moroz (Grandfather Frost, the counterpart of Santa Claus) greeted each of us as we entered the banquet hall.

Shirley Uhryn called (to no

avail) for the evil spirits to come and join us NOW or never to come to bring harm to us gathered here. Then Anne Husar and Sophie Sywolos, our elders, together carried in the sheaf of wheat, the *didukh*, which became the centre piece of the occasion.

We then all bowed our heads in memory of our ancestors. It is believed that on the wheat heads rest the spirits of our ancestors.

William Uhryn bestowed all goodness in the coming year upon us with wheat from the Peace Country of Alberta. May our precious land provide us with the bounty of food, shelter, health and togetherness.

With that ritual completed, William sang the traditional carol "*Nebo ee zemlya*".

Every culture has its own traditions, customs and holidays. In Ukrainian communities, on Christmas Eve families gather for a traditional meal of 12 meatless dishes, which is a very special occasion.

Kvitka Tsisyk Song Competition

Young singers are invited to participate in the 2nd International Kvitka Tsisyk Competition of Ukrainian Romances, to be held in Lviv, Ukraine, on April 1-4, 2012.

Invited to participate are solo vocalist performers of Ukrainian romances.

Contestants are to prepare two Ukrainian vocal works, accompanied by an instrument or recorded music. One of these songs must be from the works of Kvitka Tsisyk; the other may be any Ukrainian romance. Total length of the performance, including the two songs, may not exceed 10 minutes.

Note that accompaniment by vocal-instrumental ensembles and electronic instruments is subject to certain technical conditions, to be negotiated with the organizing committee.

Contestants will pay their own travel costs to and from Lviv. Costs in Lviv — room and board (breakfast only), the reception and excursions — will be paid by the organizing committee.

Contestants must be 15 to 35 years of age when the contest is held.

All participants will be granted a competition diploma. Winners will be selected in each age category, and given first, second and third prizes. Winners will receive laureate diplomas and valuable prizes.

Judging the performances and selection of winners will be done by a jury. The jury will decide the winners and the laureates of the competi-

tion. The jury's decisions are final; appeals will not be considered.

Stage one will be done at a distance on March 25, 2012, in the form of listening to music submitted by contestants in audio format on CD or DVD, and selection of the best participants. These recordings should be submitted along with the application to participate.

Stage two will be selective, in the form of a contest for the best performance, to take place in Lviv on April 1-4, 2012.

The third stage is the finale, in the form of a gala-concert on April 1-4, 2012, featuring the winners of the second stage and guests.

The organizing committee reserves all radio and television broadcast rights to the auditions and final concerts, their audio and video recording, and the distribution of these materials without compensation to the participants.

In the event of disagreements concerning the conditions of the contest, the Ukrainian text will be considered to be the only correct one.

Applications to participate in the competition will be accepted to March 20, 2012. Applications must include copies of passport pages showing the applicant's age, a printed resume, two suitable photos, etc.

The date of receipt of an application will be based on the first postal stamp.

For more information, e-mail kvitka.konkurs2012@gmail.com.

Lucy Antoniw gave us a short reminder of why we so look forward to our special January lunch — a celebration of Ukrainian Orthodox Christmas Eve which falls on January 6.

Of the twelve meatless dishes the most important is *kutya*, boiled wheat to which poppy seed, honey and nuts are added. The origin of this dish dates back some thousands of years when Ukrainians living on the best agricultural plain in Europe, began cultivating and depending on this nutritious grain. Thus, the symbolism of sharing *kutya* is gratitude for family, good health and bountiful harvests.

As well, a sheaf of harvested grain, a *didukh*, is brought into the eating area and placed upright near the table, honouring the spirits of our ancestors, acknowledging our roots. (Today this is done symbolically, by placing some stalks of wheat on the festive table.)

The centrepiece of the food spread is the *kolach*, a braided ring of sweetened bread, a symbol of the unity of family, the connection with our past, the spirit of eternity.

All the foods are reminiscent of our agricultural village roots: sauerkraut, cabbage rolls, mashed dry beans and peas, beets, mushrooms, pickled herring, stewed dry fruit, and poppy seed roll. All these foods could be dried, pickled or otherwise preserved for the winter in the villages or our own early pioneer homes, without any of the modern conveniences we have today.

Families try to make sure that all family members are present to share this special meal, beginning with *kutya* of which everyone must have at least a spoonful. After this ritual, and the blessings that go with it, the rest of the bountiful meal is shared and enjoyed — just as we did once again this January, with our own cheerful group of friends, the Edmonton AUUC Seniors.

Pauline Warick provided a note of thanks to all the members who brought one or more of the traditional meatless dishes of the Ukrainian Christmas meal: Lucy Antoniw, Rose Kere-liuk, Sandy Gordey, Eva Doskoch, Shirley Uhryn, Olga Horon, Pauline Warick, and Nina Uhryn.

In addition, Pauline praised all those who repeatedly help to clean the banquet hall, kitchen and dishes before we all go home. It is noteworthy that the same people help do particular jobs each time we gather. This monthly gathering is only possible because of many people's repeated efforts.

In closing, we the Edmonton AUUC seniors wish each of you a New Year of love, happiness and health.

З HOБИМ ПОКОМ!

— Shirley Uhryn

Malanka 2012 in Regina

On January 14, 2012, 296 patrons enjoyed an evening of good food, beverages, fine performances and plenty of dancing. The Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance along with the Regina Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians hosted Malanka 2012, which proved to be another wonderful success that gave everyone attending a fantastic evening of entertainment.

Poltava's Malanka was oversold and even though things were a little tight, nobody seemed to mind.

From the beginning of the evening that included cocktails and appetizers, to the incredible meal (catered by J and J Specialty Catering with some help from the AUUC perogy crew), to the performance by the Poltava Ensemble and the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts, to the lively dancing to the "Ficor Show" Dance Band, the night flowed from beginning to the end.

The Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance performed under the direction of Dance Director Oleksander Bayleyev and Orchestral

Director Natalia Osypenko. From the Poltava School, the Pre-Poltava and Lileya dancers, under the direction of Lisa Wanner and Daniel Hebert, performed as well. The 45-minute show was well received by the audience, ending with a standing ovation following the performance.

The evening continued with various raffles and door prizes given away.

Of course, the evening would not have been complete without a dance to the music of the "Ficor Show" Dance Band. The music had young and old up on the dance floor, and also had plenty of participation during the traditional *Kolomeyka*.

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

— Sasha Lapchuk

(We expect to have photos from this event in our next issue.— Sz)



Taras Shevchenko Museum

Foundation 16th Annual General Meeting

The Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation is preparing to hold its 16th Annual General Meeting at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on Saturday, March 10, 2012.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m., with coffee and sweets available from 8:30. Lunch will also be provided.

Expected to be in attendance are members of the Foundation Board of Directors from across Canada and observers primarily from the Toronto area.

The AGM is expected to adjourn at about 5:00 p.m. After that, participants are invited to the Shevchenko Museum at 1614 Bloor Street West for an unveiling in its permanent mounting of the stained glass portrait of Taras Shevchenko presented as a gift from the group of AUUC members in Thunder Bay.

The stained glass portrait

prepared by Damon Dowbak was presented to the Shevchenko Museum in a ceremony in Toronto on Canada Day, 2011.

Participants visiting the Shevchenko Museum will also view the recently recovered statue of seated Taras Shevchenko, a work of Ukrainian sculptor Ivan Honchar. The statue was stolen overnight on September 30 to October 1, 2001, from its pedestal at the entrance of what was then the Shevchenko Memorial Park.

The recovery of the statue slightly more than a decade after its theft, was a delightful surprise.

A banquet celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Shevchenko Museum will be held at 6:00 p.m., at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West in Toronto. Members of the public may purchase banquet tickets from the museum (416-534-8662) for \$35.00/ticket.

A World in Conflict

(Continued from Page 4.)

In other places in Africa, violence continues, sometimes violence redirected after the resolution of earlier conflicts.

One such situation is in South Sudan, which gained its independence only about six months ago. Instead of the stable, "Western-friendly" nation America had hoped to establish, the country has degenerated into an orgy of genocidal murder and revenge killings which the 3,000 combat-ready UN troops have not stopped.

(By the way, exactly what does "Western-friendly" mean in the context of today's geopolitics? Does it mean open to unrestrained and unregulated invasion by foreign capital? Something to think about.)

One such "Western-friendly" country is Ethiopia — so friendly, in fact, that it is moving people off their land so that the land can be "dedicated to foreign investment", according to Human Rights Watch. The government of Ethiopia denies these charges, though at least 70,000 people have been forcibly relocated, and security forces (police and soldiers) have committed violence against people resisting relocation to less fertile land.

Many foreign countries, including Canada, are reported to have reduced aid to Ethiopia because of this problem. Recently, there have been re-

ports of attacks on foreign tourists by armed rebels, possibly the exiled Oromo Liberation Front. The OLF has found a home in Eritrea, which gained its independence from Ethiopia not all that long ago.

The European Union itself is not immune, as one of its member countries, Hungary, moves toward dictatorship under an extreme right-wing government. The country is something of an economic basket case. Though not in the Euro zone, Hungary is relying on bailout funds from the International Monetary Fund and the European Union. These sources may balk at providing aid, supposedly because the government has attacked the independence of Hungary's central bank. Hungary's population, then, can expect both political and economic circumstances to become worse.

Still, there have already been riots in Europe over the economic conditions on that continent, conditions which will deteriorate as costs of borrowing climb and lenders demand further attacks on the situation of working people.

It is, in fact, the global economic crisis which seems to be the main motivator of conflict around the world. Another example is Morocco, not usually a country to make headlines concerning conflict or violence. In Rabat, the capital, five unemployed men, university graduates, set themselves ablaze during protests about the high unemployment levels. Part of a contingent of some 160 demonstra-

tors occupying the building of the Ministry of Higher Education, they set themselves on fire after riot police with truncheons moved to prevent their gathering bread thrown by a crowd of supporters. (For about two weeks supporters were allowed to bring the demonstrators food and water. Then authorities prevented such support.)

Situations of conflict, with actual or potential violence, are currently very widespread in the world, as this sampling shows. Circumstances flowing, basically, from attacks on people's living conditions by elites trying to maximize their own treasuries, are creating these situations even in countries, like those of western Europe, where such conflicts have been quite rare because of relatively high standards of living.

JoKe TiMe

A prominent broadcaster, on a big-game safari in Africa, was taken to a watering hole where the life of the jungle could be observed.

As he looked down from his tree platform and described the scene into his tape recorder, he saw two gnus grazing peacefully. So preoccupied were they that they failed to observe the approach of a pride of lions led by two magnificent specimens, obviously the leaders.

The lions charged, killed the gnus, and dragged them into the bushes where their feasting could not be seen.

A little while later the two kings of the jungle emerged and the announcer recorded on his tape, "Well, that's the end of the gnus and here, once again, are the head lions."

Statue Recovered!

(Continued from Page 1.)

bought the statue in an open-air bazaar for (the dealer hinted) \$500. The dealer bought the statue from Mr. X for \$1000. Because of the dealer's call to Mr. X, Mr. X said that he was willing to discuss a "deal" with us, but only if we didn't report the recovery to the police or our insurance company (who had paid us \$5000 to cover our loss).

A close, but not detailed, examination of the statue shows no damage. It's a "whodunit" story with so many twists and turns that it could have been written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for a Sherlock Holmes story.

At the next meeting, on December 5, of the Resident Executive Committee of the Foundation, Bill Harasym gave a full report, and made a motion to contact the Foundation lawyer, Norman Tomas, and our insurance agent.

For personal reasons, Mr. Tomas was unable to conduct business for several weeks. When he returned, he advised Mr. Harasym to phone the police and report the recov-

ery, which was done.

As of January 20, 2012, neither the police nor the insurance company has responded.

Valued at approximately \$25,000, the beautiful bronze statue of the poet sitting, sculpted in Ukraine by Ivan Honchar, the renowned sculptor, was a gift from Ukraine to Ukrainian Canadians. The sculpture arrived in Canada in the 1950s and was mounted originally atop an amphitheatre on the grounds of the Ukrainian Summer Camp which the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians then owned. Later, it was moved to the entrance to Shevchenko Memorial Park in Oakville, the location of the first Shevchenko Museum, where it stood on a concrete pedestal.

It is planned that the statue will become an exhibit in the Shevchenko Museum in Toronto from March 9, 2012, on the 198th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's birth.

(With files by George Borusiewich and Lyudmyla Pogoryelov.)

Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 9.) they arrived at the destination point, the passenger asked to wait for his girlfriend, and offered to buy the driver a cup of coffee.

"In several minutes the driver felt sick, and the passenger left and hid in some nearby bushes, hoping that the driver would lose consciousness. But the driver managed to start the car and to drive to a nearby traffic police check point. He asked the officers to bring him to a hospital and fainted."

According to doctors at the hospital, the taxi driver was lucky to be brought so fast. Some minutes longer, and the driver would have died.

After their examination of the driver, the doctors diagnosed poisoning with a psycho-active substance.

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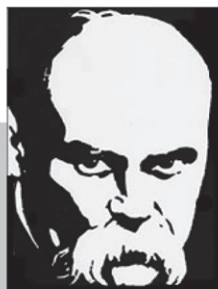
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