

HERALD ВІСНИК

ЛИПЕНЬ/СЕРПЕНЬ, 2012р. НОМЕР 244 ПІК XXI

JULY/AUGUST 2012 NO. 244 VOL. XX1 Price \$2.25

The Next Issue

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated September/October, 2012. Announcement of events in September, October or early November as well as articles for the September/October issue should be in our office by August 10. Thank you for your consideration.

Looking for Your Help

The Association of United Ukrainian Canadians is now in summer mode. For the most part, rehearsals of the performing arts groups are suspended to the fall, and Branches are not meeting, at least until mid-August. However, behind the scenes preparation is underway for the coming season.

Among the earliest AUUC activities with the coming of September will be a campaign to raise funds for the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, a campaign which the National Committee has decided will be waged in September and October.

We hope that you — each and every reader of the "UCH" — will participate actively in supporting our paper. This publication makes an important contribution to keeping AUUC Branches and activity groups aware of each other, giving us a sense of belonging to a national, and not merely a local, identity. The "UCH" also helps to keep the AUUC in the public eye as a group with an interest in all features of Canadian and Ukrainian Canadian life.

Your help is essential in ensuring that our paper can continue to serve you, our community, and the broader Canadian public. At this time, when money is tight everywhere and the prospect of another economic down-turn is a part of daily conversation, every donation contributes toward ensuring that the "UCH" will continue to appear. That means your contribution, too. Please be generous.

Thank You!

We gratefully thank Larissa Stavroff for her generous assistance in verifying biographical information about Mary Skrypnyk, and for providing the picture of Ms. Skrypnyk which appears on this page.

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PUBLICATIONS MAIL 40009476
POSTMASTER: IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO
KOBZAR PUBLISHING CO. LTD. 595 PRITCHARD AVENUE
WINNIPEG MB R2W 2K4

Mary Skrypnyk

December 11, 1915 — May 27, 2012

— Photo: Ashley and Crippen



On May 27, 2012, Mary Skrypnyk passed away. From her earliest childhood and into her 90s, she had been involved in the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and its predecessor organization. For four decades she worked on the staff of *The Ukrainian Canadian*, first in tabloid format, then as a magazine. She earned international fame and respect as a translator of Ukrainian literature in a wide range of genres into English. She was a woman of many accomplishments.

Mary Skrypnyk's death diminishes further our link to the generation of AUUC leaders who came into prominence in the 1920s, 1930s and early 1940s. A biography of Mary Skrypnyk appears on Page 3 of this issue.

Imperialist Power

Can you imagine Canada as an imperialist power? Here's some help.

On June 5, 2012, in an article on The Star.com, Allan Woods presented information based on some 200 pages of material obtained under the Access to Information Act.

The opening line of the story was, "The military is hunting for seven strategically placed nations willing to host a network of Canadian bases aimed at cutting costs and boosting response times to future wars, disasters, and humanitarian crises."

According to the report, two of these bases already exist — in Germany and Kuwait. Canada is actively seeking a location in Singapore.

One more would be on each side of Africa, another in the Caribbean and Latin American area and the last in the area of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The order for the search was reportedly issued by Chief of Defence Staff General Walter Natynczyk in November, 2008.

While the stress in public statements is on humanitarian missions, commentators noted that recent plans for armaments acquisitions, including aeroplanes, would suggest a less benign purpose — perhaps more actions like the war on Afghanistan or the attack on Libya.

There is, however, another aspect to consider.

In recent years, Canada

has been active from time to time in deploying its military in support of Canadian corporations, like mining companies, facing "difficulties" whether from a government, a rebel force, or the company's work force.

These recent years have also been a period when Canada has been very aggressive in pursuing free trade agreements with all and sundry. These essentially are agreements allowing the free movement of capital. It is to be expected that Canadian corporate investments will grow rapidly in coming years.

This free movement of capital is often at odds with the interests of local people, who take various forms of action (strikes, plant occupations, etc.). Can we be looking at gunboat diplomacy?

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Mary Skrypnyk

Mary Skrypnyk's father, Theodore, came to Canada as a teenager in 1907. He first worked building streets in Montreal, then as a logger in northern Ontario, then as a silver miner in Cobalt, Ontario. Her mother, Olena Sawdan, also a teenage immigrant (in 1912) met and married Theodore in 1914.

Soon the couple moved from Cobalt to Timmins, Ontario, where Theodore took a job with Hollinger Gold Mine.

Mary Skrypnyk was born in Timmins in 1915. She was the first of four children.

As a child, Mary participated in a campaign by the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association to raise money for victims of the drought induced famine of 1921–22 in Ukraine.

Her parents helped build the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Timmins, where Mary attended Ukrainian school until (in 1923) the family moved to a farm near Bismark on the Niagara peninsula, between Thorold and Welland.

In Timmins, the family had had a rich involvement in Ukrainian and Ukrainian Canadian culture. In their new home, Mary's father became the family's teacher, continuing the children's instruction in Ukrainian language and diligently familiarizing them with Ukrainian literary classics, as well as Ukrainian folk lore.

The family had a Ford, and travelled regularly to Thorold and Welland to attend concerts and plays staged by the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association in those localities.

The Ukrainian population in their area increased over time, and soon Mary was participating in local productions, staged in private homes.

Mary's mother, only 33 years old, died in 1928, when Mary was only 12. Mary, who had just finished public school, saw her formal education come to an end. However, she continued her own education by reading everything that came her way.

Both her parents had been members of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, and

meetings of the Communist Party of Canada (which Theodore joined in 1922) were held regularly at the Skrypnyk home in Timmins. At age 13, Mary set out on the trail blazed by her parents — she joined the Young Communist League. She herself considered this the start of her "organizational activity".

At age 15, as a consequence of the Great Depression, Mary had to leave home in search of work. After a three-month search, she found a job in Hamilton, Ontario, at the Tucket Tobacco Factory. Though she characterized this firm as a "notorious sweatshop", she stayed for eight years (for most of the depression).

Mary joined the ULFTA in Hamilton, participating in the cultural-artistic activities.

She had remained a member of the YCL, and at age 17 she joined the Communist Party of Canada. She was an active member of the CPC until the Party split in 1991, when she let her membership lapse.

In 1932, Mary started flying lessons, an expensive activity which she could only pursue occasionally. Persevering, in 1934 Mary attained a pilot's licence, becoming the first woman pilot in Hamilton.

She also took an interest in parachute jumping, and made two jumps.

In 1938, after some hesitation, Mary accepted an invitation to attend a six-month ULFTA Higher Educational Course in Parkdale, near Winnipeg. After completing the course, Mary was assigned to work in Winnipeg, teaching in one of the suburbs. She taught Ukrainian school, dancing, gymnastic and beginners' music.

During her two-year stint working in Winnipeg, Mary became acquainted with leading members of the ULFTA, developing life-time friendships.

It was also in those two years that she started writing, first preparing manuals for children's activities and then submitting articles to the Eng-

lish page of *People's Gazette* ("Narodna hazeta").

Mary attributed to these activities a reawakened love of the Ukrainian literature she had developed in her childhood.

When the activities of the ULFTA were banned by the Canadian government, Mary went back to the Hamilton tobacco factory. However, the factory management learned of her Winnipeg activities (when the RCMP traced her), and she was dismissed.

Mary moved on to the Otis Fenson Elevator Factory, which had been converted to war production. She became a member of the United Electrical Workers' Union, serving as a shop steward and a union representative to the management committee. She was employed at this firm for three years, until moving to Toronto in 1943.

While working at the Otis Fenson Elevator Factory, Mary wrote for *Ukrainian Life* ("Ukrainske zhyttia"), which was published in Toronto.

In 1943, Mary accepted an invitation to move to Toronto to become a Linotype operator for *Ukrainian Life*.

In Toronto, to become a better Ukrainian folk dance teacher, Mary attended ballet school for five years.

Mary was invited to work for the National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, with responsibility for the children's sector.

When *The Ukrainian Canadian* began publication in 1947, Mary started contributing articles to it. She was soon given responsibility for the production of children's pages.

In 1948-9 the AUUC sent Mary on an extended tour of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. She spent four to six weeks in various localities, helping the local participants bolster their cultural-artistic work and prepare regional and local festivals of song, music and dance.

Mary was put in charge of the first year of operation when the Ukrainian Children's Camp was established near Toronto in 1950.

After the camp season ended in 1950, Mary joined the staff of *The Ukrainian Canadian* as an editor. While Mary was never the editor-in-chief of the publication, she was its chief editor during much of her time on staff.

Later in 1950, Mary was elected to the National Executive Committee of the AUUC.

In 1951, Mary took the first of many international trips — to attend the World Festival of Youth and Students in Berlin, with a subsequent tour that included her first visit to Ukraine.

In 1954, Mary left for two years of schooling in Kyiv, Ukraine, studying Ukrainian



Mary Skrypnyk at her desk, working on *The Ukrainian Canadian* in 1977.

language, history and literature. She took full advantage of her opportunity to submerge herself in all aspects of the culture of Ukraine, voraciously ingesting all the cultural riches in her environment. She returned to Canada with a rich collection of books, recorded music and other forms of Ukrainian culture.

In subsequent years, Mary frequently travelled to Ukraine and many other parts of Europe, as well as Cuba and other countries, as a representative of the AUUC on various delegations at Ukrainian and international events.

In 1970, while representing the NEC AUUC (along with William Harasym and Michael Korol) on the 1970 tour of Ukraine by the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble of the AUUC, Mary was able to accompany her father on a visit to his native village of Kiseliw — his first return in 63 years, just two years before his death.

Mary continued on the NEC AUUC until the AUUC National Convention on October 12-14, 1991, when she and ten other veteran AUUC leaders retired from their official AUUC leadership roles.

At the end of 1991, with the appearance of the last issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian*, Mary also ended her four-decades-long tour on the staff of Kobzar Publishing Company.

When Mary left Ukraine after her two years of study in the early 1950s, she left with a Dnipro Publishers contract for translations. This was a milestone in a decades long pursuit.

At one time, Mary said, "The greatest satisfaction of my life derives from translating works of Ukrainian classical writers into English."

She certainly left behind an impressive body of work reflecting that sentiment. Nevertheless, her words are beyond merely modest in reflecting the scale and scope of her translating activity.

In addition to the great number of translations of Ukrainian literary classics, Mary has to her credit the translation of folk tales, many contemporary works, and scholarly works such as *The*

Humanism of Shevchenko and Our Time by Yevhen Shabliovskyy.

She was Peter Krawchuk's translator of choice, recreating in English scores of items, including such works as *Our Stage* and *Our History*.

Mary's last major translation was Olga Kobylanska's *On Sunday Morning She Gathered Herbs*, published by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press in 2001.

For her work in popularizing the works of Taras Shevchenko, in 1961 Mary was one of four Canadians awarded medals by the Shevchenko Jubilee Committee in Ukraine.

That was just one of the many honours she received in recognition of her work in translation. Among others are the Maxim Gorky Prize, awarded to Mary by the Writers' Union of the USSR in 1976, and the Ivan Franko Prize for 1986, from the Writers' Union of Ukraine.

Mary is included in the 5-volume *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, published by the University of Toronto Press.

In 1994, Mary became a member of the Writers' Union of Ukraine.

Mary's interests, it must be noted, went far beyond her literary, translating and journalistic activity.

Mary was an active supporter of the peace movement, and was active in both the Voice of Women and the Congress of Canadian Women.

Mary was a founding member of the Canadian Society for Ukrainian Labour Research. She was active in the CSULR, and submitted papers to several CSULR conferences.

For decades, Mary was a member of the Executive of the Board of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation. In 2005, she donated her translation of Shevchenko's *Katerina* to the Museum.

Mary loved the theatre, and frequently attended performances in Toronto, as well as frequently travelling to the Stratford and Shaw festivals.

Mary Skrypnyk died in Toronto on May 27, at age 96.



Mary Skrypnyk (centre) with Steve Smoly and Rose Manning at the March 7, 2004, Annual General Meeting of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation.

— Photo: George Borusiewich

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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

Advertising rates available on request.

PUBLICATIONS MAIL REGISTRATION No. 40009476

Signed articles represent the viewpoint of the author, and do not
necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**Be Very Afraid**

AN EDITORIAL BY WILFRED SZCZESNY

We are repeatedly told that the innocent have nothing to fear. The case of Byron Sonne is a striking counter-example. The case of Byron Sonne teaches us to be afraid, be very afraid.

Mr. Sonne was arrested days before the June 26–27 weekend of police riots in Toronto. In the following two years he and his paid a high price.

His relationship of 15 years abruptly ended after his wife of eight years was arrested and released after a few days — under very restrictive conditions, including a ban on communicating with her husband.

His parents spent their retirement savings on legal fees.

His career prospects as an internet security expert have been severely compromised — government work and high-level contracts for corporations are very unlikely.

Why was this high price exacted? “For the crime of simply being a bit odd,” as one blogger wrote.

Specifically, as reported in a *Toronto Star* article on May 16, 2012, long before the G20 meeting was scheduled for Toronto, Mr. Sonne “...was poking the bear’,,, to see if authorities could tell the difference between a bona fide terrorist and a troublemaking smart aleck.”

He started in 2009 by making available on line an eclectic collection of “inflammatory” material, including “The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion”, “*Mein Kampf*”, “Setting Fires with Electrical Timers” and other stuff like that. This had no effect — he was able to cross into the USA for a hackers’ conference.

So he bought a large quantity of ammonium nitrate (which can be used to make explosives) in instant cold packs. Again, crossing into the USA was no problem.

So he applied for a handgun licence and a private investigator’s licence, both requiring RCMP and police background checks, and was approved for both.

On June 15, 2010, he took pictures of the controversial security fence in downtown Toronto, and his troubles began.

The police stopped him and got his identification by (illegally) threatening to arrest him for jaywalking. They used the information to dig into all the stuff dating back to 1209 to make a case, and got a search warrant to find various chemicals at his home. They arrested him on June 22, 2010. He spent 330 days in jail.

On May 15, 2012, Mr. Sonne was judged not guilty on all charges by Ontario Supreme Court Justice Nancy Spies.

None of us is going to be as extreme as Mr. Sonne, but any one of us can be victims of extreme policing.

COMMENTARY**Poverty in Canada: UN**

In a United Nations report released on May 16, UN envoy Olivier De Schuter said that Canada has “a system that presents barriers for the poor to access nutritious diets and that tolerates increased inequalities between rich and poor, and aboriginal and non-aboriginal peoples”.

Among the facts cited in the report :

— one tenth of families with a child under six can not meet their daily food needs;

— in 2011, close to 900,000 Canadians used food banks each month;

— some 3,000,000 Canadians, including 600,000 children live below or near the poverty level;

— the situation in many aboriginal communities is desperate;

— compared to the general population, many indigenous people have considerably lower levels of access to adequate food.

None of these claims, and others in the report, is in dispute. Most of them are readily found in literature from authoritative Canadian institutions, including various levels of government.

Nor can the recommendation that Canada adopt a national food strategy be considered objectionable, particularly bearing in mind targets which have been set over the years for the elimination of child poverty and the fact that child poverty is growing in this country (while decreasing in in some other advanced capitalist countries).

So how did the government react to the report? Did it acknowledge that there was a problem of hunger in Canada? Did it indicate that it would study the report to unearth any useful proposals which might be implemented? Did it say anything, however insincere, that would give the poor any hope for a better future?

Not at all. Instead they got on their high horse and attacked the report, its author,

and the United Nations for daring to talk about hunger in this country. Essentially what they said was, “Our hungry are not as hungry as their hungry, so leave us alone.”

Minister of (Draconian) Immigration (Measures) Jason Kenny opined that it was a waste of United Nations money to investigate developed countries. Wealthy and developed countries (who tolerate, even encourage, poverty and hungry children) should be beyond criticism.

Minister of (Declining) Health Leona Aglukkaq, who surely deserves some sort of special recognition for her heroic efforts in the battle for good health (of the Conservative government) in Canada initially said that Mr. De Schuter knows nothing about it, because he has not been in the north. She later took another tack: hunger in Canada’s north is best combated by fighting environmentalists who

“are trying to cut off Inuit access to the seal hunt, polar bears and fish.

The economy must always be put front and centre, of course, so along with all that, Ms. Aglukkaq notes that improving the prospects for jobs and the economy is the best way to improve food security in the North.

(The Conservative government seems to be able to find a destructive environmentalist component wherever they find opposition.)

Considering all the bragging the government does about the country’s strong economic situation, it can hardly plead lack of resources to reduce poverty. However, Harper’s Conservatives prefer to continue reducing the tax burden on the corporate sector (reducing governmental income) while cutting services (thereby increasing poverty).

As the *Toronto Star* pointed out in an editorial on May 20, 2012, “Letting the poor fall further behind is a heartless and economically unwise policy choice, not a fiscal necessity.” That, unfortunately is the Conservative Party’s choice in government.

Canada and Torture

There are many positive international reports about Canada. Unfortunately, there are too many negative reports as well.

One such negative report released recently comes from the United Nation Committee Against Torture. The report accuses Canada of following security practices which expose people to the danger of torture.

The report says that Canadian officials contributed to the mistreatment of Omar Khadr at America’s Guantanamo Bay facility. (The Supreme Court has ruled that Canadian officials violated Mr. Khadr’s rights by interrogating him at Guantanamo.)

The report also says that Canada had a role in violations of the human rights of Arab Canadians in Syria and other places. Among the victims, who should receive

apologies according to the report, were Abdullah Almalki, Muayyed Neruddin, and Ahmad El Maati. These three are suing the Canadian government. An inquiry headed by former Supreme Court Judge Frank Iacobucci found that Canada had contributed to their torture by sharing information with foreign intelligence and police agencies.

Given a year to respond to the report, the government has chosen its usual immediate response: don the mantle of indignation and cry, “We’re not the worst; leave us alone!

Canadian law permits transfer of people to possible torture. Canadian government policy is to accept information obtained by torture, and to pass it to third parties.

As a minimum, Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews, should adhere to Canada’s international treaty obligations.

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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.

Welland Orchestra Entertains in Toronto

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



The Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra, conducted by Rudy Wasylenky, appeared at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on April 22.

The Welland AUUC orchestra visited Toronto on April 22. On what has now become an annual event, the Welland, Ontario, cultural group filled the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto with music and song.

The carloads of performers



Mandocello player Ken (Bud) Speck sang "My Melody of Love" and a Vera Lynn medley.

started arriving at 11:30 a.m., well before the 2:00 p.m. concert time, and the next thing we knew, an unplanned, spontaneous, hillbilly jamboree had broken out. Welland's John Kukoly (violin) and Wayne Hosick (guitar) joined Toronto's John Manning (banjo) to rock the Toronto hall with hard-driving, soul-shaking rhythms.

This was possibly the first time ever that the rafters of the AUUC Toronto hall shook to the twang of an all-out country-western hoedown!

After having announced their Toronto arrival in this delightful fashion, the visitors sat down to a lunch of borscht, fresh sandwiches, pastry and coffee.

Then, having changed into



A small but appreciative audience enjoyed a varied program of fourteen numbers (plus the encore, "Kalinka"), including eight vocals.

Ukrainian costumes, the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra took the stage.

With Toronto Branch President Jerry Dobrowolsky as master-of-ceremonies and Wilfred Szczesny as announcer, the Welland group proceeded to entertain and delight the Toronto audience as they have done so well in



Mandolin player Wilfred Szczesny also announced the numbers, and sang in six of the fifteen numbers performed.

the past.

Under the baton of Conductor Rudy Wasylenky, they skillfully performed a variety of Ukrainian, English and Russian pieces to enthusiastic applause.

When they performed Bob Dylan's "Blowing In The Wind", the audience joined in.

When vocalist Ken Speck sang a Vera Lynn medley, the feeling of nostalgia in the audience was palpable.

Other pieces drew the audience into clapping in rhythm.

Performers know that they have completely captivated their audience when the audience joins in their performance. And, on April 22, the AUUC Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra did just that!

As icing on the cake, the audience refused to let the performers off the stage until they did an encore!

To produce this event re-

quired the help of many people in Toronto, including Lorna Clark, Claudia Rabzak, Nancy Stewart, Mark Stewart, Bernardine Dobrowolsky, Jerry Dobrowolsky, Vera Borusiewich, John Manning, and others.

Special thanks to Natalie Mochoruk for her donation of raffle prizes.

But most of all, "Thank you, Welland!"

— George Borusiewich



He loves to sing, so Conductor Rudy Wasylenky (left), shown above with Ken Speck, vocalized in most of the songs on the program.

A Joyous Choral Celebration in Winnipeg

On Sunday, April 29, the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians' Festival Folk Choir in Winnipeg teamed up with another local group, the North End Jewish Folk Choir, to present "To Life! L'Chaim! Na Zdorovya!" The concert was held at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, whose large windows were lit up with sunshine on the lovely spring afternoon.

The first half of the concert featured the AUUC Festival Folk Choir, conducted by Vasilina Streltsov and accompanied by Dale Rogalski. The audience was treated to a new type of performance by the Choir, whose selections for the afternoon were woven into a play created and directed by Nancy Kardash-Ursuliak and Katherine Korol-McLellan.

Walter Mirosch designed a lovely set for the event, which supported the realistic portrayal by the Choir of a gathering of friends and family on a Manitoba farmstead, coming together to eat, drink, dance and socialize.

The Choir's first attempt at acting was a tremendous success with the audience, which thoroughly enjoyed the engaging show put on by the performers.

The musical selections did not disappoint either. Highlights included a medley of "Ukrainian Fiddle Tunes", performed by violinist Annis Kozub, and "Rushnychok", a duet performed by Lionel Steiman and the Festival Folk Choir's Harry Stefaniuk.

Following a short intermission, the North End Jewish Folk Choir took the stage to bring a different but equally pleasing dynamic to the afternoon's concert.

Conducted by Koren Kaminski and also accompanied by Dale Rogalski, the choir performed a diverse repertoire which concluded with a trio of children's lullabies, followed by "Daylanu Shalom" and "Die Gedanken sind frei", two songs which share the themes of peace and freedom.

(Continued on Page 11.)



The Festival Choir of the Winnipeg AUUC opened the concert with a first half "play" depicting a gathering of family and friends on a Manitoba homestead.

— Story photos: Wilf Schubert



To open the second half, the North End Jewish Folk Choir presented a selection which included *Tumbalalaika*, sung by members of the Choir, and showcasing the talents of Angela Kaminski on the flute and Brent Stearns on the accordion. (Brent is not shown.)

Edmonton Seniors' Easter Luncheon

On April 17, Anne Husar, with her Easter crown and surrounded by pussy willows, *paskas* and friends, was our guest of honour as birthday celebrant of her 91st birthday this month. We honoured Anne by singing birthday wishes, toasting with red wine, singing "*Mnohaya Leeta*", and encouraging her successfully to blow out her candle! (She did not tell any one her wish!)



Birthday celebrant Anne Husar, with her hand-embroidered tablecloth.

What a joyous monthly gathering of the Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizen's Club!

Edna Chmiliar unfailingly phones each of us, taking a head count for the caterers as to who will attend each third Tuesday.

Our sharing of Easter was started by a reading of her poem "Wheat: Kernels of Heritage" by Lucy Antoniw (See the poem below.-Ed.)

Anne Husar shared with us a hand-embroidered tablecloth she received in 1978 from her mother-in-law, Mrs. Malanka Husar, in the Ukraine. It had bold colours and at the eight-inch hand-crocheted white-bottom lace edge were embedded singing birds on branches.

This is art! It is not done any more and for that reason Anne said it was "priceless". Anne Husar has plans to donate it, along with a large piece of linen fabric that her mother made, to the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto.

Bill Askin, another member of the seniors club, comes each month unfailingly. Bill comes from Vegreville, a community some 1.5 hours east of Edmonton.

I asked why he comes monthly to share this event. Without hesitation Bill responded, "I have known these people and they are my type of people. I hear their views about Ukrainian culture, politics, the past and the future."

Bill recommended that the guest speakers be more diversified. It would be good to hear about conditions today in



Bill Askin travels an hour and a half from Vegreville each month for the Senior Citizens' Club gathering.

Ukraine and the Eastern bloc.

Through time our membership is dwindling. Father Time has his own plan. With reflection in his voice, Bill Askin shared that if this group is discontinued on a monthly basis, "We'll really miss it!"

Bill Uhryn brought an extensive display of Easter eggs. Days before, he boiled and dyed chicken eggs. Then, at our social, we each chose one and had an egg fight to see who had the egg with the

strongest shell.

The winner was Sandy Gordey to whom Bill gave an Easter rabbit with its own Easter egg.

You know Bill. This year he forgot to bring his red coloured Easter egg — a rock!

Our caterer, Diane Ries, prepared an elaborate Easter dinner. Glazed ham, marinated baked potatoes, lazy cabbage rolls, green salad, and *paska* (an Easter bread) made by Lucy Antoniw, along with other dishes, were spread on the banquet table.

Our able Program Committee (Rose Kereliuk and Mary Tropak) have made plans for spring activities.

On May 26, we will go by a CNIB bus to tour the Edmonton Waste Treatment Plant. This is a "unique collection of advanced waste processing and research operations including facilities for composting, processing of recyclables, processing of electronic and electrical waste, production of power from landfill gas, environmental protection and monitoring, construction and demolition recycling and future production of alcohol fuels from processed waste."

"The EWMC also houses a research and development facility... — a public-private partnership to advance research, develop and demonstrate technology, and provide technical training in waste management."

(These excerpts were taken from the city of Edmonton's brochure about their internationally proclaimed waste treatment centre.)

For June, 2012, Rose and Mary are negotiating plans for a tour of our capital city, Edmonton. This introduction to the city, with commentary, will include prominent residences, Government House, the Royal Alberta Museum, University of Alberta, Old Stathcona area, river valley, China Gate, Telus Science Centre and the Muttart Conservatory. This trip is sponsored by Edmonton Tourism.

May each of you have a blessed summer of "health, love and happiness", to use the words of our president, Pauline Warick.

— Shirley Uhryn



Lucy Antoniw with a tray of bread chicks ready for the oven.

Wheat: Kernels of Heritage

centuries of peasant lives
in countless villages
on the fertile plains of Eastern Europe
depended on good harvests
of one staple grain —
wheat

sown, tended and harvested
on small plots of land
allotted to each family
by the landlords
other grains were planted
in the limited spaces
rye, oats, barley, flax
these were also necessary:
rye for hearty dark daily bread
flax for oil, fibres for cloth
oats and barley, to feed the few animals

but *wheat*
milled into finer flour
was precious
saved for breads for special occasions
sweet light dough
shaped into high round loaves
the *kolach* with glowing centre candle
for Christmas Eve
centrepiece of twelve traditional dishes
to be shared by all the family
gathered at the special holiday table
wheat at this meal, *kutya* —
boiled wheat with poppy seed and honey
all must have some of this dish
an ancient ritual
the father gives his blessing at this time
for good fortune for all

Easter Sunday morning
the family shares *paska* —
again a light airy egg dough
round bread decorated with symbolic cross
often blessed at midnight service —
a Greek Orthodox rite

the most elaborate high round bread,
dove and greenery decorated,
the traditional wedding centrepiece



the *korovai*,
all good wishes for the new couple
kneaded into the very rich dough
shaped pairs of doves
on the glazed braided top
amid sprigs of myrtle and *barvinok*
for love and prosperity and fertility —
in fields and family

the early pioneers of the Canadian prairies
brought these traditions,
these rites, these memories with them
they adhered to them
were comforted and sustained by them
on the fertile wheatfields
of their new homes —
some continue today
symbols of past generations
when *wheat* was basic and significant
in the lives of Ukrainian families

— Lucy Antoniw.

Regina Concert-Recital

The Annual Concert-Recital of the AUUC Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts and the AUUC Poltava Ensemble featured over 110 performers before a capacity audience at the Regina Performing Arts Centre on March 3.

The Poltava Ensemble Orchestra, under the direction of Natalia Osypenko, accompanied the dance numbers and was featured in the orchestrations of the folk song "Korobushka" and "Carosel" from Mussorgsky's "Pictures At An Exhibition".



The Malyatka-Beginner Class, under the direction of Katie Wihak and Dallas Montpetit, perform "Veseli Pustunts".

Guest vocal soloist 11-year-old Valeria Honchar sang the contemporary Ukrainian song "Here Is Ukraine".

Valeria has been in Canada for two years and had been nominated to appear on Ukraine's television program "Ukraine Has Talent".

She appeared nightly at the AUUC Poltava Ukrainian Pavilion during Regina's Annual Mosaic Festival.



The Lileya Dancers, under the direction of Lisa Wanner and Daniel Hebert, performed "Hopak Molodiy".



The Intermediate-Yalynka Class, under the direction of Laura Fellingner and Nick Dmyterko, presented "Volynochko".

In our next issue, look for a report on Regina's Mosaic.

— Story photos: Mark Greschner



The Zaichyky-Novice Class, under the direction of Katie Wihak and Dallas Montpetit, performed "Kryzhachok".



The Poltava Ensemble Dancers, under the direction of Oleksandr Byelyayev, premiered Oleksandr's tribute to the ending of winter with "Zymushka".



The Junior-Kalyna Class, under the direction of Laura Fellingner and Nick Dmyterko, performed "Duba Tanetz".



The Pre-Poltava Dancers, under the direction of Lisa Wanner and Daniel Hebert, premiered "The Carpathians".

A woman asked her golfer husband, "If I were to die, would you remarry?"

The man replied, "Yes, I've been very happy in this marriage and I would want to be this happy again."

The wife asked, "Would you give her my car?"

"Yes," he replied. "That's a good car."

"Well, would you live in this house?"

"Yes, it's a lovely house. I've always loved it here."

"Well, would you give her my golf clubs?"

"No. She's left handed."

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

Benefits Of Liquor

Ukraine could create jobs and boost tax revenues by introducing regulations for domestic production of rum and whiskey, a member of parliament said.

Andriy Pinchuk, a member of the ruling Party of Regions, stated that a new draft law would help farmers boost grain production, increase sowing areas, and create jobs.

The alcoholic beverage industry in Ukraine, itself a major producer of grains such as barley, corn, and wheat, has traditionally focused on *horilka* and vodka (common eastern European strong spirits) and brandy.

"Statistical data show an increase in imports of rum and whiskey due to higher demand for these alcoholic beverages in Ukraine," Pinchuk said.

Minority Languages Bill

In June in Ukraine the *Verkhovna Rada* (parliament) gave initial approval to a language bill which would expand the use of minority languages.

A previous attempt to pass the bill resulted in a physical brawl inside parliament that was so violent that several politicians were taken away in ambulances. The recent second attempt was equally heated, but less violent, and passed with 236 votes in the 450 member parliament.

Demonstrators massed outside parliament during the debate, but they seemed to be divided equally between those in favour of the bill and those opposed. The police were successful in keeping the two factions separated.

Fanning the flames of anger were differing interpretations of the bill. Those opposed charged that the bill made Russian an official language. A prominent English newspaper, *The Guardian*, stated in its June 5th edition that, "Ukraine's parliament gave initial approval to a law that will make Russian an official language." Very inflammatory.

On the other hand, a web site, *Gulfnews.com*, on June 6th, stated, "The bill expands the use of minority languages, but stops short of granting Russian the status of an official second language."

Even *The Guardian*, in its June 5th edition, stated in its last paragraph, "The law does not only apply to Russian but would also benefit 17 other languages such as Bulgarian, Yiddish, Crimean Tartar, Polish, and Hungarian."

Pee Anywhere

Kyiv authorities have decided not to impose fines on foreigners for urinating in "authorized places", Kyiv city acting mayor Oleksandr Popov told a press conference.

According to Popov there are enough public toilets in the city, and the problem is not in an insufficient number, but in an insufficient cultural level.

"Who would think that someone would pee in the central street? I don't want to go into details, but let's say these are kind of new impressions," he added.

The official assured the press that communal cleaning services "localize and remove such consequences". Popov also said normally people are fined for relieving themselves in the streets, but this time the authorities decided to let it go. "We are not going to fine foreigners. Ukrainians, on the other hand, can be punished."

Asked why foreigners are given such liberties, the official said that, "People came to have some rest and some fun. Let them do both," he said.

Ukrainian Orphans

A Turkish tour operator plans to take 100 Ukrainian orphans on holiday to the southern Turkish province of Antalya as part of a social responsibility project.

Anex Tour launched a program this year that aims to show 100 children who live in orphanages other parts of the world. They will be hosted at a five-star Anatolia hotel.

In an interview, Anex Tour Ukraine office director Mehmet Gundogu said the project aims to bolster the morale of the orphans and show them the hospitality of the Turks.

The Ukrainians will travel to Antalya in four groups of 25 for which Anex Tour will meet all costs.

Environmental Concerns

Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov recently expressed indignation at violations of environmental legislation.

During a recent meeting, he stated, "Forests are being cut over, water resources are being drained, river banks are being overbuilt and devastated." He added that the penalties for environmental pollution are not feared or are being ignored.

"... who is master in our house: poachers, loggers, builders, or the people and the

state?" Azarov asked.

Of the many responses and suggestions he received, there were two that bear noting. The first was by Alexiy Vasyliuk, Deputy Head of National Ecology Centre, whose comments included: "Another problem is toothless public ecological inspectors. During Soviet times public inspectors could even confiscate weapons, while now they are absolutely helpless."

The second comment was from Mykhailo Chechetov, Deputy Chairman of the ruling Regions Party. "We must instill care for nature from childhood. On the other hand, those adults who do not understand this must be punished. Unfortunately, what we had in USSR we left behind. Sometimes we adopt really bad things from the West."

Booze Tours

International visitors to Ukraine for the Euro 2012 football championship showed limited interest in tours to cultural and historical sites, preferring to visit breweries and distilleries instead. Tourist agencies in the eastern city of Kharkiv, one of Ukraine's four games venues, had the heaviest bookings for a tour called "The Ukrainian Beer Marathon", and another tour called "The History of Ukrainian Vodka".

The beer tour visited several local breweries and allowed tourists to sample wares and observe production. The vodka tour took them to a single distillery and then to a local village, where folk-style moonshine was offered.

Both expeditions lasted approximately half a day and cost the equivalent of \$62.00.

Lwow – Lvov – Lviv

When Włodzimir Chomicki fired the ball into the net on July 14, 1894, to hand the home team from Lwow victory over the visiting Krakow side, he scored the first recorded goal in Polish football. Over a century later, in 1999, 16-year-old Chomicki's goal was also recognized as the first recorded goal in Ukrainian football, scored in what is now the Ukrainian city of Lviv in the west of the country.

Europe's shifting borders have certainly made Lviv (or Lwow in Polish) an appropriate choice for the Euro 2012 matches held there in June.

Located about 50 kilometres from the present Poland-Ukraine border, the city has been at the centre of brutal conflicts between Poles and Ukrainians.

When Chomicki scored his

goal, Lviv was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It was annexed in 1772 after centuries of Polish rule by the Austrian Habsburgs, who called the city by its German name, Lemberg. In World War I, the city was invaded by the Russian army, who called it Lvov, and then retaken by Austria-Hungary. As the Habsburg's empire collapsed, Ukrainians declared independence in 1918, naming Lviv the capital of the West Ukrainian Republic.

Ukrainian nationalists carried out terrorist attacks against Poles (seen as enemies of independence) and against Ukrainians who "collaborated" with the Polish state.

In 1941, the Nazi invasion of Ukraine was welcomed by the Ukrainian nationalists, many of whom enrolled in the invader's army. At the same time that they fought fellow-Ukrainians in the Soviet Red Army, they decided that they should remove Poles from the territory of what they hoped would be the basis of a future Ukrainian state in the two regions around Lviv.

Tens of thousands of Poles were brutally murdered.

Having lost swathes of its Jewish and Polish inhabitants, Lviv became a Ukrainian city.

Ukraine's Nazi Militia

(This item was written while the Euro 2012 Football Championship was still under way).

A report on the web site www.dnaindia.com states, "Neo-Nazi paramilitaries are clandestinely training football hooligans to inflict mayhem during Ukraine's Euro 2012 match against England. An investigation by *The Sun* has filmed members of the extreme right-wing militia The Patriot of Ukraine, as it drilled thugs in unarmed combat, knife fighting, and the use of pistols at a secret camp. All three of England's group matches are in Ukraine, which is jointly hosting the tournament with Poland. The Patriots, whose 3,500 members run illegal military training camps, teach the thugs fighting skills and offer 'education' in their ideology."

EURO Tourist Boom

According to preliminary reports, an average of 300,000 people entered Ukraine on EURO match days. For the month of June, this is expected to translate into an increase of 90,000 tourists daily compared to the same period last year.

On June 11 (the match day

between Ukraine and Sweden), over 100,000 fans visited Kyiv's Independence Square.

Most of the EURO visitors arrived from the cities of Moscow, London, Frankfurt, and Tel Aviv. Each of the visitors spent an average of EUR 800 (Can\$1040) during their three to four days stay in the country.

The final figures are expected to show that EURO 2012 was a major commercial success for both business and the state.

Capitalist Ukraine

Ukraine's richest man, Rinat Akhmetov, added \$3 billion to his net worth in the past six months by paying about \$600 million for state-owned energy assets recently privatized by the Ukrainian government. He was the sole bidder in two of the five government auctions held in the past six months. The purchases give him control of about 70% of Ukraine's thermal power output, and boost his personal fortune to more than \$18 billion.

According to the **CIA World Factbook**, 35% of Ukrainians lived below the poverty line in 2009.

A report written in April, 2008, by the United Nations Development Programme {UNDP} states, "Poverty is a fairly new phenomenon for Ukraine, and originated from the re-distribution of resources during the country's historic transformations on the way to a market-based economy."

{In plain English, that last sentence states, "Poverty in Ukraine started when Ukraine lurched into capitalism."}

Government Swindled

Two valuable original paintings in the offices of the Ukrainian government have been mysteriously swapped for fakes, the country's Culture Ministry reported recently. The landscape paintings by 20th century Ukrainian artist Mykola Hlushchenko have been on display in the government building since August 2001.

"Chemical tests have shown that both paintings are replicas of Hlushchenko's works," the Ministry said in a statement. The Ministry said the replicas appeared to be 5-10 years old.

Ukraine has had five prime ministers since August, 2001, two of whom have held the post twice — current president Viktor Yanukovich, and his rival Yulia Tymoshenko.

Insurers have valued the original paintings at about \$144,000 combined.

Who, What, When, Where

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch, in cooperation with the Shevchenko Museum, will celebrate **Canada Day/Shevchenko Day** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West, on Sunday, **July 1**. Doors open at **noon**; the program starts at 12:30 p.m. The program includes a tribute to Taras Shevchenko, commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Shevchenko Museum, Canada trivia, a slide show by Jerry Dobrowolsky and more. The admission price of **\$12.00 (\$5.00 for children under 12)** includes **picnic food**: hot dogs, sausages, hamburgers, salads, and sweets.

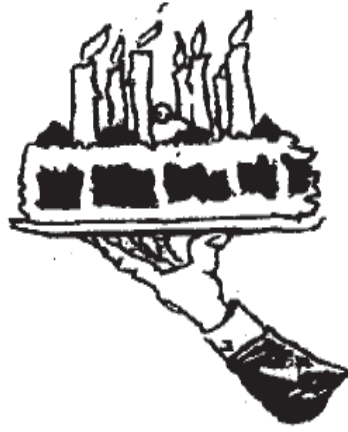
* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch, will host a banquet in honour of The Crew at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West, on Sunday, **September 9**, starting at **noon**. The event will be catered by **Baby Point Lounge**. Admission **\$35.00**.

* * *

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.

Happy Birthday, Friends!



The **Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens Club** wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of July and August.

- Morindie Bagan
- Edna Chmiliar
- Anne Kawchuk
- Bob Kisilevich
- Amil Tropak
- Mary Tropak
- Marion Ursuliak
- Tekla Yaremchuk

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

The **Toronto AUUC Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to August celebrant:

Vic Mihay

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends birthday greetings to July and August celebrants:

- Mary Blonar
- Mary Brown
- Mary Nehoda
- Dorothy Oreskovich

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

The **Welland Shevchenko Seniors** extend a happy birthday wish to July and August celebrants:

- Anne Hunka
- Mike Moskal
- Ann Muzar
- Rosaline Theoret
- Christine Whatmough

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

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 Web site: auuc.ca

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
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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

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 Web site: 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

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

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Sustaining Fund Donations

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Kosty Kostaniuk, Winnipeg MB	100.00
Andrew & Elsie Lukenchuk, Kelowna BC <i>In memory of Mary & John Kostiuik</i>	50.00
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Winnipeg Choral Concert

(Continued from Page 5.)

Highlights of this portion of the concert included “*Papir iz Doch Vays*”, a vocal duet performed by Harry and Dora Rosenbaum, and the well-known song “*Tumbalalaika*”, sung by members of the Choir, and showcasing the talents of Angela Kaminski on the flute and Brent Stearns on the accordion.

For the finale, the AUUC’s Festival Folk Choir returned to the stage to join the North End Jewish Folk Choir in three songs: “Sunrise, Sunset”, “To Life! To Life! *L’Chaim!*” and “*Pobazhanya*”.

A particularly enjoyable aspect of this concert was the collaborative effort by the two choirs to put on a fresh and unique style of performance. I look forward to seeing these groups together again in the future.

— Emily Halldorson



Walter Mirosch (standing centre) was among the soloists in the first half of the concert.



Tim Gordienko and Kim Boss, performing with the dance group.



The dancers take a bow after entertaining the audience



The Festival Choir of the AUUC in Winipeg and the North End Jewish Folk Choir joined voices for a three-song finale.



Harry and Dora Rosenbaum performed a duet in “*Papir iz Doch Vays*”.

Movie Afternoon in Toronto

In the afternoon on June 10, members and friends of the AUUC Toronto Branch gathered at the AUUC Cultural Centre to view the film *The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming*, Norman Jewison’s 1966 classic.

Some of the advertising for the event had advised, “For those of you who haven’t seen it, please be ready to roll with laughter — it’s hilarious!”

Indeed, it was hilarious, and people did roll with laughter.

Those who had not seen it and were put off by the name, expecting some sort of Cold War anti-Soviet propaganda piece, were pleasantly surprised; they emerged from the viewing with very positive expressions about both the comedy and the message of the film.

The story starts with a most improbable event: a Soviet submarine runs aground on a sandbank near a small town on an island off New England

when the captain (ignoring all warnings about the shallow water) takes the vessel too close to shore. The captain just wanted to see America because (as one character explained) he had never seen it before.

Unable to sail away, the crew of the submarine, including the captain, are terrified of the consequences (both to themselves personally and to world peace) should they be discovered.

The captain sends out a landing party to find a motor boat with which to pull the submarine of the shoal. In the farce which ensues, the sailors, who want nothing other than to get away from there, are driven to escalating violence (though no one is injured) as panic about a “Russian” invasion grows in the town.

It all comes down to a showdown, with a cannon on the submarine and scores of Americans’ personal weapons

aimed at each other — will there be a bloodbath as shooting starts, or will someone back down?

Then the attention of both sides is turned to an emergency. Townsfolk and submarine crew cooperate to rescue a boy trapped on a church tower. The animosity and fear evaporate, and goodwill rules.

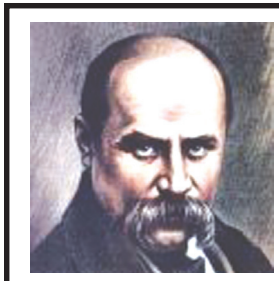
Now the problem is to get the submarine away safely, as the US Air Force has been notified and is sending a couple of planes. The townsfolk set up a convoy to accompany the sub as the dispersed landing party rejoin their crew mates, and away they go.

The Cold War was going strong in 1966, and this was one of the few films of that time which did not reflect the general political atmosphere. Instead, Jewison played to the humanity of the people on both sides of the political divide.

Using stereotypes of American characters from history and entertainment media, the film enriches its impact on the viewer to make the point that the Cold War hysteria was silly, and even harmful. — Sz



Harry Stefaniuk and Lionel Steiman joined voices in “*Rushnychok*”.



Taras Shevchenko Museum

Orly Donates His Painting



While in Toronto in April, artist Victor Orly (right) donated his painting "Bridge of Unity" to the Shevchenko Museum. Also in the photo is Consul Anatoliy Oliynyk of the Ukrainian Consulate in Toronto.

In a presentation on April 23 an outstanding Ukrainian artist from France, Victor Orly (Gennadi Grebniov), donated his pastel "Bridge of Unity" to the Shevchenko Museum.

Victor Orly was in Toronto to take part in Toronto Art Expo 2012, which took place in the Toronto Metro Convention Centre on April 19–22.

It was a great pleasure to meet the artist, a proud Ukrainian who came all the way from Marcel, France, to show his beautiful paintings — a harmonic synthesis of Ukrainian traditional art and modern neoimpressionist trends — to the multicultural public of Toronto.

There was a special atmosphere, created by his art, at Victor Orly's exhibition booth. One got a feeling of immense azure of the sea and the sky, the magic of rocky shores and bays, the beauty of pristine forest, and the poetry of old architectural structures.

Painted in the style of impressionism, the artist's works radiate sun, light, and a special energy that connects Ukraine, where Victor was born and raised, and France, where he has lived for the past eight years.

Gennadi Grebniov was born in Kyrovohrad, Ukraine, in 1962. He graduated from art school and Kyrovohrad Pedagogical



Autumn Song (oil on canvas)

University.

Living and working in a new country, Gennadi took an art pseudonym, Victor Orly. This name has a symbolic meaning for the artist. It is connected with the name of Pylyp Orlyk, a Kossak colonel and a founder of the first European constitution. It is believed that the small town near Paris is named after Pylyp Orlyk's son Hryhory Orlyk, a colonel in the French army.

The artist's favorite field of activity is pictorial art, especially motifs of romantic landscapes. His paintings reflect a world filled with poetry and beauty. His brush strokes are full of energy, emotions and feelings. There is a combination of time and space, imagination and memories, dreams and fantasies, ideas and harmonies. The paintings' palette evokes deep emotions. Nature and man, the land and the sky, the sea and the sun, history and modern times — these are the codes that represent the creative concept of the artist: to express his striving for harmony, perfection and love.

A great nature lover and romantic by nature, Victor often addresses the genre of still life. Flowers blossom in his paintings. Bright, vociferous colours inspire the artist, opening a vast space for creativity. Along with their light and warmth, Victor's paintings are also philosophical. By using historic retrospectives, the artist induces the audience to think deeply about our common human values.

His new ideas of using cinematographic elements, means of photography and sculpture, combination of different details and special colour scale contribute to the expressiveness of his paintings, giving almost a physical feeling of the extensionality of things, rhythm and movement.

Victor Orly actively participates in the cultural life of Ukraine. He founded Capital, an association for cultural relations between France and Ukraine, which promotes the exchange of art exhibitions between the two countries.

Victor also does ceramics, interior and exterior wall paintings, church restorations, and book design. Over the last five years Victor has participated in more than 30 art exhibitions around the world.

Victor Orly's art works are in museums and numerous private collections in France, Italy, Ukraine, Russia, Poland, the Netherlands, China, and the USA. Now, a beautiful pastel, "Bridge of Unity", found its home in the art gallery of the Shevchenko Museum in Toronto.

We heartily thank the artist for his generous donation, and wish him inexhaustible energy, new creative ideas and powers, appreciative audiences and many great successes.



Jazz (oil on canvas)



The Blue Telephone (oil on canvas)



Under the Southern Sun (oil on canvas)

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