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Winnipeg's Malanka Celebration

—Photo: Wilfred Schubert



A Malanka skit was the centrepiece when AUUC Winnipeg Branch held its Malanka Celebration on Saturday, January 12, at the Ukrainian Labour Temple. A story about this event, with pictures, appears on Page 7.

The Next Issue

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated April, 2013. Announcements of events in April or early May, as well as articles for the April issue should be in our office by March 10. Thank you for your consideration.

Foul Ministerial Ethics

Around the middle of January, two Federal Ministers acted in unethical ways.

One was Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, who was reprimanded by Ethics Commissioner Mary Dawson for a letter he wrote to the CRTC (Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission) on behalf of a company in his constituency which was competing for a radio licence.

The Prime Minister's Office defended Mr. Flaherty on the grounds that he was acting in the capacity of a Member of Parliament trying to help a constituent. That would be allowed, apparently.

Unfortunately, the letter was signed not by a mere MP, but by the Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for the GTA, which is not permissible. As a matter of keeping politics out of administrative actions, Ministers are not allowed to seek to influence administrative tribunals in their decision-making.

Mr. Flaherty responded to Ms. Dawson by e-mail, calling the use of his ministerial title "regrettable", and promising not to do it again.

Mary Dawson said that the matter was closed.

A few days earlier, Julian Fantino, formerly Ontario Provincial Police Commissioner and now International Cooperation Minister, had to remove two signed letters from the web site of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The two letters, highly charged political attacks on the Liberals and the NDP, violated Treasury

Board rules designed to prevent use of publicly funded public service and governmental web sites for partisan political purposes.

Mr. Fantino's office said that posting the letters was an error, and the letters were removed from the CIDA web site.

Over the years, there have been many instances of the Conservatives violating ethical standards (and even legal ones), with issuing an apology their only penalty — and sometimes not even that.

It is becoming increasingly difficult not to conclude that the Conservatives are either very stupid (which is very improbable) or that they are following a deliberate policy of ignoring ethical or legal considerations whenever the apparent benefit outweighs the possible cost.

Many women like the bad boys. In the coming elections we shall see whether many voters like the bad politicians.

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Disregard for Rights

A shocking governmental disregard for the Charter of Rights and Freedoms has come to light as a result of revelations by a federal lawyer.

Edgar Schmidt, a lawyer with the Department of Justice for over a decade, has challenged in court the instructions given to civil servants concerning constitutionality of laws being prepared for Ministers of the Crown for presentation to Parliament.

A Minister is supposed to inform Parliament if a proposed law could infringe on the Charter or Bill of Rights. Ministers normally do this on advice provided by Justice department lawyers. Mr. Schmidt has charged that internal governmental policy is to use a test which allows

faulty legislation to go forward without Parliament being made aware of potential problems.

According to Mr. Schmidt's charges, which have not been proven in court, as the caveat goes, no advice of a potential problem is given to a Minister if an argument, however slim, can be made for the legislation. The result is that legislation infringing Charter rights can be enacted without reference to its probable illegality and, therefore, people can be convicted and imprisoned, fined and even deported, in violation of their Charter rights.

As of this writing, the government had neither confirmed Mr. Schmidt's charges, nor filed a statement of defence. A lawyer representing the Justice Department, however, is reported to have said that different levels of the Department of Justice may be operating under different criteria. For example, Alain Préfontaine pointed out, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson is an attorney who can form his own opinion.

That could be like the proverbial fox guarding the chicken coop. If it were governmental policy to ignore potential violations of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms then the Minister of Justice would probably be party to that policy. Furthermore, Prime Minister Harper has shown himself quite capable of replacing any minion who will not adhere to Harper's instructions.

Consistent with the issue raised by Mr. Schmidt are recent court decisions, one strik-

ing down a portion of the Immigration Act, and others overruling some minimum sentencing provisions, on grounds that they violated the Charter.

As is typical of this government, which simply removes critics instead of dealing with their criticisms, Mr. Schmidt has been suspended without pay supposedly for violating his duties as a public servant. His sin appears to be violating his oath of confidentiality by exposing the government's deliberate actions in disregard for the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Oaths of confidentiality are a necessary measure to maintain legitimate secrets. People who break them do not do so lightly, as the consequences can be quite severe. It takes courage on the part of civil servants to break their oaths, and we should all be grateful when they do so to reveal practices which violate the rule of law.

Legal experts and civil libertarians are concerned, as we all should be, by the government's approach on this question. It is a procedure which puts the onus of defending the Charter against bad laws on defendants who seldom have the financial means to undertake such an expensive legal challenge.

One political science professor has suggested that parliamentarians clearly need to be more forceful when laws are discussed. However, this government is notorious for limiting debate in a variety of ways, so that's easier said than done.

This certainly looks like another example of Stephen Harper's anti-democratic style of governance, bringing us close to dictatorship.

Democracy

As we go to press, Samara is about to announce the people's choice for the best moment for Canadian democracy in 2012. Choices were: the Quebec student movement, Canada's women premiers, checks and balances (like the supreme court), a House of Commons ruling in defence of opposition voices, and Idle No More.

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separate
page.**

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewich

Language and Literature Competition

In January and February, 2013, Ukraine has been in the midst of the Third International Taras Shevchenko Linguistic-Literary Competition of Pupils and Students, which started on January 15.

Participation outside of Ukraine is being supervised by organizing committees which selected juries in each country. Invited to participate in the organizing committees and juries were teachers of Ukrainian language and literature, scholars, writers and poets.

The tests to be completed by contestants were set by the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine.

Competition will be by age categories: 10-12 years, 13-14 years, 15-16 years, 17-19 years, college students, and university students.

In Canada, juries are to send the work of the winners, to the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada by March 15, 2013.

Additional information about the competition is available from Natalia Holub, First Secretary, Culture and Information, Liaison with Ukrainian Community by phone [(613) 230-2961 ext 105] or e-mail [n.holub@ukremb.ca].

Ukraine and the IMF

An International Monetary Fund mission was expected to arrive in Ukraine on January 24, 2013, for talks with the Ukrainian government.

Ukraine expected to sign a new cooperation agreement with the IMF to raise \$15 billion in new loans, as First Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Arbutov said on January 14.

In July, 2010, the IMF approved a \$15.15 billion standby loan for Ukraine "in support of the authorities' economic adjustment and reform program".

Ukraine received two tranches worth a total of over \$3.4 billion. Then the provision of further aid was suspended in December, 2010, when Ukraine refused to increase gas prices for households, an extremely unpopular measure, as demanded by the IMF.

Ukraine's payments to the IMF in 2012 amounted to \$3.74 billion at the current exchange rates) — a record in the entire history of relations between Ukraine and the fund since 1994. According to

the IMF, the record high figure of payments in 2012, related to the maturity of short-term credits issued after the 2008 crisis, could be surpassed in 2013: Ukraine will have to repay SDR 3.77 billion (\$5.8 billion), including SDR 110 million in interest.

The Fitch international rating agency in early November, 2012, noted that such a level of payments to the IMF is likely to exceed Ukraine's capabilities on foreign borrowings and the IMF's partial refinancing would be needed.

In 1999-2007, Ukraine's payments to the IMF exceeded the funds received from the fund. In 2008-2010 Kyiv was a net recipient of funds.

Over 19 years of cooperation, the IMF has issued SDR 12.26 billion to Ukraine and has been repaid SDR 6.6 billion, including SDR 1.36 billion in interest.

Ukraine's international reserves in 2012 fell by 22.8%, or \$7.25 billion, to \$24.55 billion.

Ukrainian Election Results

On October 28, 2012, as the "UCH" informed its readers, Ukraine held parliamentary elections. Somehow we failed to report the results, so we give you the broad picture now.

The leading Party of Regions received the support of 30% of the voters. The parties that won seats in the Ukrainian legislature (Supreme Council, or *Verkhovna rada*) and are considered in the opposition were Fatherland (*Batkivshchyna*), the liberal UDAR and the far-right Freedom (*Svoboda*), with 25.54%, 13.96% and 10.44% of the vote respectively.

The only other party that crossed the election threshold of 5% was the Communist

Party of Ukraine, with 13.18% of the vote, in fourth place in popular support.

While acknowledging some violations during the election process, the monitoring mission from the European Parliament indicated that the parliamentary elections in Ukraine were at a higher level than those in other post-Soviet countries that the EP had observed.

Aleksander Kwasniewski, a former President of Poland, speaking to Polish media in Brussels, cited Ukraine's united opposition, which does not exist in Russia, Belarus, or the countries of Central Asia. He also talked about a much higher level of civil freedom and freedom of the press.

Arms Dealer to the World

Ukraine is reported to be providing weapons, paid for by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, to anti-government rebels in Syria, and to the regimes in Iraq and Afghanistan, courtesy of the Pentagon.

The *Eurasia Daily Monitor* reported recently that Ukraine has shipped weapons to insurgents fighting the Syrian regime of President Bashar Assad.

"By their clandestine nature, Ukrainian arms deliveries to the Syrian rebels resemble Ukrainian arms supplied to

the Croatian army and Kosovo Albanian separatists in the 1990s as part of covert operations supported at the time by the United States," the *Eurasia Daily Monitor* noted.

"Weapons crates found in the Syrian city of Aleppo showed the arms were delivered from the Ukrainian port of Gostomel and exported by Dastan Engineering from LCW (Luhansk Cartridge Works), a major ammunition manufacturing plant in Luhansk," the report noted.

Granary to the World

Ukraine's grain output dropped 18.6% to 46.2 million tons in 2012, the State Statistics Service said on January 15. Nevertheless, Ukrainian agricultural exports increased by nearly 40%, reaching \$17 billion, according to Mykola Prysyzhnyuk, Ukrainian Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food. He noted that Ukraine's agricultural industry produces twice as much as is consumed by the domestic market.

Local experts attributed the lower grain harvest to unfavourable weather conditions, in particular the autumn drought during the planting season and severe cold snap in February.

Ukraine had a record grain harvest of 56.7 million tons in 2011.

Ukrainian agricultural exports in January — October, 2012, included meat, fish, dairy, poultry, vegetables, vegetable oils, sugar, wine, nuts, and apples, as well as 6.7 million tons of wheat.

Major buyers of Ukrainian agricultural products in 2012 were countries of the Euro-

pean Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In 2011, Ukraine joined the world's top three grain exporters. A year earlier, in 2010, it landed fourth on the list of the leading grain exporters, following the USA, the EU, and Canada.

Ukraine currently ranks number one in global barley exports.

Additionally, Ukraine became the third largest corn supplier in the world in 2011, surpassing Brazil behind the USA and Argentina. In 2012, China, the world's largest corn consumer, imported Ukrainian corn for the first time.

Winter grains entered dormancy in Ukraine with among their best condition ratings in recent years. Therefore, Ukraine's wheat harvest is likely to recover this year to 19 million tonnes Agriculture Minister Prysyzhnyuk told reporters.

Other analysts provided higher estimates. For example, UkrAgroConsult said it expected the 2013 wheat harvest to rise by more than 40% to 21 million tonnes due to favourable weather during autumn sowing and wintering. The consultancy pegged Ukraine's overall grains production in 2013 at 51.85 million tonnes, a rise of 24%.

Peacekeeping in Africa

On January 10, the Ukrainian parliament approved a presidential decree on the deployment of Ukrainian peacekeepers to Ivory Coast as operational support for a United Nations mission.

A total of 266 lawmakers in the 450-strong parliament voted for the bill.

According to the decree, signed by Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich on December 29, 2012, the Ukrainian mission will be composed of 130 peacekeepers and three Mi-24 helicopters. It will stay in the African country until July 31, 2013.

Financing costs of the mission will be covered by the Ukrainian budget, with subsequent compensation by the UN.

One of LCW's main exports is the 7.62 mm cartridge used in AK-47 assault rifles, which are used by both sides in the Syrian civil war.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar, both Persian Gulf monarchies, are bitterly opposed to Assad's republican regime, which is a close ally of Iran.

Ukraine has become notorious for providing weapons to warring countries in Africa and the Middle East, often in defiance of UN arms embargoes.

"The Syrian civil war represents only the latest case of Ukraine being involved in supplying weapons to an ongoing violent conflict," *Eurasia Daily Monitor* observed.

"For example, the Central African Republic and Chad each purchased Mi-28B combat helicopters and portable air-defence systems from Ukraine that in both cases were used in domestic civil wars and to support guerrilla groups in neighbouring states."

Ukraine is also reported to have supplied 200 tanks to Ethiopia since 2010. Ethiopia is engaged in fighting rebel groups in the Ogaden region and has tense relations with neighbouring Eritrea. The two countries, among the poorest in the world, fought a bitter border war in 1998-2000.

In 2011, Ukraine supplied tanks and upgraded armoured personnel carriers to Sudan, along with 30 BM-21 Grad armoured rocket launchers, 30 122 mm 2S1 Hvozhdika self-propelled artillery guns and 43 anti-missile systems.

Explanation

George Borusiewich, because of health problems, was unable to prepare his page for this issue. We wish him a full and speedy recovery, and look forward to his return to this page in the near future.

Ukraine — China Military Cooperation

Ukraine is ready to intensify military cooperation with China, said Prime Minister Mykola Azarov at a meeting with members of the State Council of China, including China's Defence Minister Colonel General Huanle Liang.

According to Mr. Azarov, a good example of bilateral cooperation in the military sphere is building Ukraine hovercraft for the Chinese army. Possible in the future, according to the Prime Minister, is cooperation in the aerospace

industry.

In turn, Huanle Liang said that China is set to intensify strategic cooperation with Ukraine, especially in the military sphere. "China is willing to further strengthen business cooperation with Ukraine in all fields in order to bring a new level of strategic partnership between our countries," said the Minister of Defence of PRC.

He stressed that Ukraine and China have great potential for the development of bilateral relations.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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Not Time for Despair

AN EDITORIAL BY WILFRED SZCZESNY

In early January, as we go to press, and probably as you read this in February, the news media are rich in news items and op-ed articles about Idle No More and, more generally, matters related to Canada's First Nations.

The information and opinions are presented, for the most part, in ways which draw the attention of most Canadians away from the real issues. Every divergence of opinions in the broad spectrum that is the community of First Nations is highlighted, with questions posed about its significance for the movement of Native People. Issues of fiscal accountability are made central, while the inadequacy of funding (with or without accountability) is ignored. Demonstrations, especially those which interfere with traffic, are highlighted, while the reasons why the demonstrations are happening are ignored. Other peripheral issues are highlighted while the roots of Idle No More remain, mostly, shrouded in mystery.

Consequently, non-aboriginal Canadians find their confusion, rather than their understanding, growing. Expressions of despair that the relationships between the First Nations and other Canadians can be healed or that the problems of poverty-stricken reservations can be solved become more frequent.

Worse, expressions of frustration, hostility and, worst of all, racism also become more frequent.

While it is possible that the resulting tensions will lead to violent confrontations, such an outcome is not inevitable. Because violence will not address, let alone solve, the underlying problems, any violence can be expected to be very limited.

Influential people increasingly realize that First Nations, acting in concert, are potentially a powerful force. Those same people recognize that the population growth of the First Nations will tend to increase their strength as part of the fabric of Canada. Therefore there is a growing acceptance of the need to negotiate a solution, rather than ignoring the problems or trying to impose someone's agenda.

Successful negotiation depends on understanding not only the legalities and technicalities, but also the viewpoint of one's negotiating partner. Sometimes, this is the part of negotiations that is hardest to attain. In particular, participants who consider their own views as self-evident, natural and superior will often find it difficult to accept that the other side's views have any validity.

The process will take time. As happened in the past, so it can be expected in the future, that the road will not run smooth. Nevertheless, this moment seems better suited to hope than despair.

COMMENTARY

About the Issues

There are a great many issues. The issues listed below barely scratch the surface.

An issue is Prime Minister Harper's cancellation of the Kelowna Accord soon after he came to office. That was a \$5 billion plan to create jobs for First Nations and raise living standards. It has been replaced by — nothing but a paternalistic determination to assimilate First Nations.

An issue is the Northern Gateway pipeline, which will cross 700 rivers and streams as it travels, for a quarter of its length, over the land of an alliance of over 100 British Columbia First Nations which have banned this Enbridge project.. This land was never ceded to the Crown, and is used for hunting and fishing by members of the Yinka Dene Alliance.

An issue is that the government of Canada has projected fourteen pieces of legislation which the First Nations "believe are the laws of an adversary" (Tim Harper, *Toronto Star*, December 19, 2012).

An issue is that 600 aboriginal women have been killed or gone missing in the last two decades, without an enquiry, and that half of violent crimes against aboriginal people are unprosecuted, twice the general rate.

An issue is that Sister in Spirit, an organization gathering statistics on violence against First Nations women, has lost its funding. So has the First Nations Statistical Institute.

An issue is that the RCMP has been spying on the Yinka Dene Alliance, including monitoring private meetings. The RCMP activity is seen as part of the Harper government's efforts to discredit opponents of the pipeline who are trying to protect their environment.

An issue is that the federal government, instead of sending aid to Attawapiskat, a community on James Bay, as winter approached in 2011,

sent a third-party manager to look after their finances, a move which the a court later ruled to be completely unreasonable.

Without evidence, Prime Minister Harper accused the reserve's leaders of mismanaging \$90 million in support sent over 5 years. This is the equivalent of \$9000.00/person/year, in an area where everything is far more expensive than in the south. So far, the main mismanagement problem appears to be that all the spending was not properly documented with receipts.

Since then, the government has spent \$3 million to send 22 trailers and/or mobile homes to Attawapiskat, a community of some 2000. The community is still in desperate need of housing, with over 80 people in makeshift accommodations and many more in housing which is covered in mould. When international organizations criticized Canada for this violation of human rights and international agreements, the government basically told them to butt out and mind their own business.

On December 11, 2012, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence started a hunger strike against the government's lack of respect for First Nations Concerns and aboriginal treaties. She said that Prime Minister Harper had undertaken an "aggressive, assimilatory legislative agenda" that was contrary to the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. The housing crisis and inadequate water supplies were more than she was willing to bear.

And Attawapiskat is not alone.

Days later, the Idle No More movement was born. Idle No More was critical of several items of legislation, and particularly the omnibus Bill C-45 which, they objected, weakens environmental protections.

By mid-January, 2013, thousands of Idle No More

people were active across Canada, blocking roads and railway lines. Their numbers were growing, and so was international support.

* * *

At first, there were no treaties. The British crown, for example, simply granted the Hudson Bay Company all the territory draining into Hudson's Bay, without considering that there were already inhabitants on the land. Similarly settlements were established along river banks and the shores of lakes, without consideration for the effect such settlements, including private farms all along the water, might have on the populations who used the waters for transportation and food.

These conflicting uses led to conflicts. As neither side found it desirable to be permanently at war, treaties were signed to regulate the use of certain tracts of land.

These treaties were signed between sovereign nations — a First Nations group which inhabited a certain area and Britain, with some dignitary representing the monarch.

The settlers were not very concerned about the details of a treaty, and settlements just spread. Local authorities were not interested in enforcing treaty terms.

That is why major cities like Toronto, Mississauga and others sit on land claimed by First Nations.

In the 19th century the Indian Act was enacted. Certain tracts were recognized as reservations, other lands were recognized as "owned" by municipalities or individuals who had acquired them from the crown (like the Ukrainian farmers on the prairies), and remaining land was designated Crown land.

Treaties and other inconvenient details notwithstanding, the Crown took it upon itself (acting through Parliament) to specify what rights the people on reservations had, what obligations the government had, and even to define who qualified for rights on reservations.

So complete was the power the government usurped that it relocated entire communi-

(Continued on Page 11.)

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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.

Mary Skrypnyk Remembered

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Larissa Stavroff, the main speaker, augmented her presentation with a slide show prepared by Jerry Dobrowolsky.

On December 9, 2012, a celebration of the life of Mary Skrypnyk was held at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto. Family, colleagues, and friends gathered to pay homage to Mary, a dedicated and tireless activist in the cause of social progress, and a world-respected literary talent.

Among those attending were political dignitaries, as well as Shevchenko Museum and AUUC members and leaders.

The event was organized as a joint undertaking by the AUUC Toronto Branch and the Shevchenko Museum, with considerable input by close friend Larissa Stavroff.

As part of the preparations, a 16-page booklet detailing Mary's life was produced and distributed to all those in attendance.

Wilfred Szczesny, *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* Editor-in-Chief, did an excellent job as Master of Ceremonies. Under his comfortable direction, the afternoon unfolded as a love-in, rather than as a wake.

To accommodate her responsibility to attend a community meeting she had organized in defence of a fire station, Sarah Doucette, Toronto councillor for Ward 13, was first at the microphone. She spoke about her connections to Mary through the Doucette family, and about the summer cabin they rented at the AUUC Camp Palermo.

Peggy Nash, Member of Parliament, spoke about the two major commonalities she

and Mary shared — both feminists and both activists in the peace movement. Mary was a union shop steward for the United Electrical Workers, as was Peggy Nash's father.

Cheri DiNovo, Member of Provincial Parliament, called Mary an "incredible woman", and said that she should be remembered for her "left-wing social activism". She ended by vowing, "We will keep on with your work."

Robert Seychuk, National President of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, spoke eloquently of Mary's role in building the AUUC and expressed the gratitude of all AUUC members for her contribution.

Lyudmyla Pogoryelov, Director of the Shevchenko Museum, elaborated on Mary Skrypnyk's long-time work with, and support of, the Museum. She mentioned a \$1000 donation that Mary made to enable the Museum to publish a valuable translation.

Wilfred Szczesny also spoke about Mary, stating that he had learned much about journalism from her. Accord-

(Continued on Page 11.)



Rose Manning



A rich display of photographs, printed matter and other exhibits, set out by Bernardine Dobrowolsky, reflected the diversity of Mary Skrypnyk's life and work.

Political Representatives



Peggy Nash, MP



Cheri DiNovo, MPP



Councillor Sarah Doucette

AUUC Organizational Representatives



AUUC National President Bob Seychuk



Lyudmyla Pogoryelov, AUUC National Committee member and Shevchenko Museum Director



Wilfred Szczesny, AUUC National Recording Secretary and "UCH" Editor-in-Chief

Family and Friends



Patricia and Paul Hutchinson



Mary Kuzyk



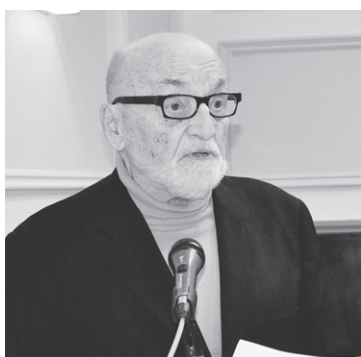
Paula Boleia



John Eleen



Anne Thomson



John Boyd



Olga Dzatko



Bill Malnychuk

Vancouver's Christmas Dance School Recital



"Hopak Kolom" was performed by the Bilka Dancers (under the direction of Karli Dionne and Tatyana Beck).

A touch of Christmas magic came to the Ukrainian Hall in Vancouver on Sunday, December 9, 2012, as young and old gathered to celebrate the season through dance and music. Wintry decorations set the stage for the much-anticipated performances of the AUUC dancers, accompanied by the Vancouver Folk Orchestra.

The audience was led through an afternoon of exhilarating displays of talent by MC Peter Lukomskyj, who captivated the audience by seamlessly informing us of the program in both English and beautifully spoken Ukrainian.

The afternoon began with the striking and dramatic Transcarpathian dance "Tropotyanka", performed by the senior performing group, the Dovbush Dancers. Under the direction of Debbie Karras, they impressed the audience with their superlative coordination, clarity and openness.

The choreography for "Tropotyanka" was provided by Merited Artist of Ukraine Serguei Makarov, a guest instructor for the Dovbush Dancers.

The next performance could have warmed even the chilliest of winter hearts — the Zaychyky Dancers, aged 3 and 4, danced their "Malenkiy Tanets", under the instruction and choreography of Alexandra Beck and Taralyn Karras. The children were dressed in full costume, and charmed the audience

while displaying the beginnings of their foundational ballet and character steps.

The following two dances — "Hopak Kolom" performed by the Bilka Dancers (under the direction of Karli Dionne and Tatyana Beck), and "Divochiy Polka" performed by the Zirka dancers (under the direction of Danya Karras) — had the audience clapping to the beat as the children worked hard to demonstrate their increasingly complicated steps. The smiles on the bright young faces on stage showed the exhilaration and excitement that the children felt as they tapped and twirled, clapped and skipped to the music provided by the orchestra.

The orchestra, directed by Stephen Ho, took centre stage to perform "Bright Shines the Moon", based on a traditional Russian folk melody.

The quick and bouncy "Bukovynsky Tanok" showed off the Dovbush Dancers' focus on polishing every movement, while displaying the strength of the male dancers, and lyricism of the female dancers.

The dancing continued, with two *Kozachoks* performed by the Veselka Dancers (Danya Karras instructing) and the Druzhba Dancers (instructed by Alexandra Beck and Taralyn Karras). The *Kozachok* is a social dance, incorporating some of the more traditional choreographic shapes while weaving



MC Peter Lukomskyj conducted the program in both English and beautifully spoken Ukrainian.

a living tapestry of choreographic forms.

The Sopilka dancers (instructed by Tatyana Beck) performed a *Hopachok*, which has the essence of a traditional *Hopak*, featuring solos by both male and female dancers, but is usually performed by younger dancers, in this case 9- and 10-year-olds.

The final dance performance of the afternoon was a brand new dance for the Dovbush group. "Krutak", taught by Serguei Makarov, showcased the many swirls and twirls of the female dancers. This flirtatious dance, found in the mountain villages of Transcarpathia, is often performed at parties and is noted by the syncopation of steps and vibrant colours of the costumes.

Christmas carols, plenty of food and laughter, and a visit from Dyid Moroz bearing presents for all the children topped off the event.

The AUUC 2012 Christmas recital was a success not only in entertaining the audience with the talents and enthusiasm of its performers, but also in bringing together an ever-strengthening community of people from diverse backgrounds who value the preservation of the cultural heritage and kinship provided by the Ukrainian Hall.

Vancouver is one of the few cities in the AUUC that is fortunate enough to offer the children the opportunity to perform to live music, and the orchestra certainly added to the depth of the experience enjoyed by all at the Hall that afternoon.



The Zaychyky Dancers, the youngest group, danced their "Malenkiy Tanets", under the instruction and choreography of Alexandra Beck and Taralyn Karras.



"Divochiy Polka", performed by the Zirka dancers under the direction of Danya Karras, had the audience clapping to the beat.

— Story photos: Dan Fung



A spirited "Kozachok" was performed by the Veselka Dancers (Danya Karras instructing).



The Druzhba Dancers, instructed by Alexandra Beck and Taralyn Karras, presented another "Kozachok".

Unknown at that time, it was to be the final performance to be enjoyed at the Hall by Harry Hoshowsky, a much admired performer who passed away peacefully in his sleep on December 26, 2012.

— Chiara Hnatiuk



The final dance performance of the afternoon was the flirtatious "Krutak", presented by the Dovbush group. Taught by Serguei Makarov, the dance found in the mountain villages of Transcarpathia featured the many swirls and twirls of the female dancers.



A delicious potluck meal ended the day, to everyone's delight.

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Winnipeg's Malanka

— Story photos: Wilfred Schubert



The Festival Choir did the carolling as the AUUC Winnipeg Branch celebrated Malanka at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on January 12.

“It was like a big house party,” was the response of one guest at AUUC Winnipeg’s 2013 Malanka celebration. There was carolling, feasting, dancing, and a floor show. The Festival Choir organized the event and did the carolling. Other acts included the Yunist dancers, the Malanka Players and Band, magician Gordon Gilbey, fortune teller Cheryl-Anne Carr, and Mike Moskal the Roving Accordionist.

Dancing after dinner consisted of waltzes, country two-steps and polkas to the music of violin and accordion played on the dance floor.

The atmosphere was so completely different from the Malanka North End Social done in prior years with disk jockey and loud pop and rock music that this years organizers were reluctant to advertise this New Year’s Eve as a Malanka for fear the event would be misunderstood.

Still, and in an extraordinary way, a Malanka is what it was. Mystery, magic, and the warm friendship typical of a village or small town were captured.

Lily Stearns developed the concept for the evening, wrote the script for the show, and chose the costumes and hall decorations.

But this was far from a one-person production. Lily worked with choir director Vasylyna Streltsov, who had relatively recent experience with New Year’s celebrations in Ukraine. Also, she received important advice from Nancy Ursuliak and Katherine McLennan. There was much creative input from choir members and other participants, so it was really a collective production.

Winnipeg Branch support, especially from Gloria Gordienko, Susan Szczepanski, and Kathy Schubert, was invaluable.

The choir entered singing a carol asking whether the Master was at home. The choir were received and ushered into the home by Victor Krenz (*hospodar*) and Joyce Krenz (*hospodynya*).

Victor and Joyce explained the meaning of the proceedings and introduced the songs.

The choir’s carols were full of New Year’s greetings,



The Yunist dancers, under the direction of Justin McGillivray, did a Gypsy Dance in spectacular costumes, illuminated by the special lighting set up by Eugene Semanowich.

hopes for prosperity, peace, and justice, some magic, some romance, some pure fun, and a concentration on the earth and its creatures.

After a carol about Malanka and her boyfriend Vasyl it was time for the centrepiece of the show, the Malanka skit.

Tradition allows considerable variance in the skit, but basically it involves the killing of Malanka (or sometimes Goat) by the Devil (or sometimes Death), and then the resuscitation of the deceased, followed by much rejoicing. The meaning of the skit is conjectural, but it seems to be an acting out of what the people hope will happen, that nature will be resuscitated and bad fortune chased away.

Quite possibly, for believers in magic, the ritual performance was thought to help bring about what was hoped for.

Tim Gordienko played a properly silly and love-struck Malanka who finally, after a couple of doses of vodka, rose from the dead, embraced her boyfriend Vasyl, played by Rosie Carr, and then chased the Devil, played by Gloria Gordienko, out of the building.

Justin McGillivray played the Doctor. This was obviously an intellectual with his moon-shaped glasses and dangling stethoscope, but he was also obviously a dumbbell who knew neither which end of the stethoscope was which nor exactly what part of the body he was supposed to be listening to.

When Malanka was poked to death by the Devil, Vasyl called loudly for the Doctor, who came and pronounced the



The Doctor, having examined Malanka and pronounced her dead, tried to revive her with a bicycle pump.

patient dead.

“Do something,” yelled Vasyl, so the doctor produced a bicycle pump and started pumping. The resuscitator did not work, so the Doctor appealed for money so that he could apply serious medicine. Payment having been made, the Doctor produced the vodka.

Meanwhile the Goat, played by Kim Boss, pranced around mischievously. The Goat is part of the tradition, and its role in the proceedings is unclear.

The Malanka Band, headed by Annis Kozub, played Ukrainian dance music throughout this little piece of delightful silliness.

The music for the evening was a pleasant surprise. Annis Kozub organized a band

consisting of himself on the violin, Cory Hedin on accordion, and David Swatek on double bass. They played classic Ukrainian folk music during the cocktail hour and then a set of sprightly dance tunes during the Malanka skit.

Mike Moskal, the Roving Accordionist, was nicely versatile as he circled the tables during dinner and then broke into some polka music when the dancing began. Annis and his violin joined Mike in several duets on the dance floor.

The Yunist dancers, under the direction of Justin McGillivray, had spectacular costumes, illuminated by the special floor show lighting set up by Eugene Semanowich. They did a Gypsy dance that fit in well with Cheryl-Anne

(Continued on Page 10.)



Master of the house, played by Victor Krenz (*hospodar*) and his wife, played by Joyce Krenz (*hospodynya*) acted as hosts during the Malanka skit.



Accordion player Mike Moskal demonstrated his versatile talent.



The Malanka Band featured Annis Kozub, Cory Hedin and David Swatek.

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Hahilka Singers Appear at FRC Celebration

On Sunday, January 13, the Russian Club on Denison Avenue in Toronto was filled to capacity as the Federation of Russian Canadians of Ontario gathered for a New Year Celebration.

— Story photos: Mike Celik



The popular Kostya Parusis sang to guitar and guitar/accordion accompaniment.

The afternoon started, following opening remarks, with a concert program enjoyed by all.

First on the program were the Podushka Dancers. The podushka Dancers started life as an exercise program for seniors, but sometimes perform on a public stage. On this occasion they presented as four women doing a Hungarian dance to accordion accompaniment by Vasha Julea. Lillian Mitchell is the director and choreographer for the group.

Next on the program was Rosemary Pollock. Accompanied on the accordion by Vashya Julea, Rosemary aced her two humorous songs, and was well-appreciated by her



Four women from the Podushka Dancers opened the concert with a Hungarian dance.



The Hahilka Singers of the AUUC Toronto Branch, Conducted by Nataalka Mochoruk, appeared at the FRC New Year Celebration.



The Beryozka Choir, conducted by Nataalka Mochoruk and accompanied on Accordion by Vasha Julea, closed the concert



The Russian Club in Toronto was filled to capacity on January 13 for the annual New Years Celebration. Some of those attending are shown above.

audience.

The Hahilka Singers of the AUUC Toronto Branch followed, conducted by Nataalka Mochoruk (who also joined in the singing) and accompanied by Vasha Julea on the accordion. The group presented three numbers (one of them a two-song medley) which were very well-received by the audience. Both "Oy ty harnay Semene" (Oh You Handsome Simon) and "Yarema" had the listeners in stitches, both because of the humour in the lyrics and because of the unique comic presentation.

Third on the program was Kostya Parusis, a perennial favourite at the FRC. He accompanied his own songs on a guitar, with the accordion of Vasha Julea joining on occasion.

Concluding the program was the Beryozka Choir of the FRC, conducted by Nataalka Mochoruk and accompanied on accordion by Vasha Julea (who was a very busy musician on that afternoon). The choir sang some old favourites, as well as new

numbers in a program which captivated the audience.

Concert MC was Nataalka Mochoruk, who entertained the audience in her usual inimitable style.

Following a brief interlude during which wine and zakusky (appetizers) were served, everyone enjoyed a hot and cold buffet, and then dessert and coffee. All agreed that the food was up to the high standard for which the Russian Club has become known.

Door prizes and other gifts are always part of this annual event, and the tradition was well-maintained this year.

— Participant



Vasha Julea provided accordion accompaniment to all acts on the concert program.

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch invites you to our **Night of Foolishness — Spring Family Dance and Fundraiser** — on Saturday, **March 9**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **805 East Pender Street**. Great Give Aways, Door Prizes, Toonie Toss and Snacks. For tickets contact Kelly at 604-299-2509, or e-mail: bizovie@telus.net.

* * *

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch Spring Perogy Lunch, Mini Bazaar and Children's Swap Meet will be held on Sunday, **April 14** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, **805 East Pender Street**, from **11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Join us for Borshch, Pyrohy, Holubsti, Kovbasa and Sweets.

* * *

Regina — Poltava's Annual Concert, featuring the School of Ukrainian Performing Arts and the Poltava Ensemble will be staged on Saturday, **February 9**, at **7:00 p.m.** at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre**. For tickets, available at Regina Performing Arts Centre, **779-2277**. For further information please leave a message at **522-1188**.

* * *

Rosthern — The Poltava Ensemble will be in concert in **Rosthern, Saskatchewan**, at **7:00 p.m.** on Saturday, **April 13**. For further information please leave a message at **522-1188**.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will be hosting **Love and Laughter** at the AUUC Cultural Centre, **1604 Bloor Street West**, from **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **February 17**. Appearing on the program are the Hahilka Singers, a jokes competition, prizes, finger food and desserts, and more. Admission: **\$10.00/person**.

* * *

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, **March 3**. 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.



Rosemary Pollock shone in her presentation, to the delight of the audience

Coming Soon

In the next issue, look for *Malanka* reports, a Vancouver report on their Night of Foolishness, a report on Toronto's Love and Laughter and much more.

Edmonton Seniors Celebrated the Season

— Story Photos: Victor Horon



Birthday celebrant Nina Uhryn and her friend Sandy Gordey.



Bill Uhryn (standing) and Mike Uhryn (with Paul Greene, who is not in the picture) provided music.



Chef Michael Hollen carved the turkey, part of a feast that was enjoyed by all. With stacks of go-withs, this was one of the few hot hearty Christmas meals that some of our seniors will have had this season.



Santa handed out gifts to all the good little boys and girls.

We were really celebrating the coming of the New Year! We all have so much fun at these monthly gatherings!

It was December 18. William Uhryn was talking about *solonena*, those slabs of pork fat with just a hint of meat! He and Anne Husar were discussing the good old times and *solonena*.

Sandy Gordey overheard this conversation and wanted Bill to bring some for her too!

As Nina Uhryn was a December birthday celebrant, she was gifted with some *solonena* too!

A comment of appreciation was made to the cooks, Diane Ries and Michael Hollen, for this, one of the few hot hearty Christmas meals that some of our seniors will have this season.

There were three hot, golden browned, moist turkeys, and mounds of accompanying foods — including a seven-layer overnight vegetable salad and concluding with a dessert of home-made Black Forest cake!

”Wasn’t that great!” enthused Sherry Capowski.

After the meal Mike Uhryn, on accordion, accompanied Bill Uhryn in his singing of traditional Ukrainian songs: “The Moon in the Sky” (*Meesyats na nebee*) and “Yasyny” (Aspens). Paul

Greene made it a trio!

While Mike was on the accordion, we all joined in the singing of many Christmas carols.

We were startled by the jingling of bells and “HO! HO! HO!” from our dear Santa, who asked if we had all been good. Santa asked, too, if we were all enjoying ourselves!

To both questions we answered in the affirmative! Santa then gave each of us a lunch bag of goodies!

President Pauline Warick reminded all of us about our January, 2013, gathering when we will honour and maintain our heritage by practising some of the traditions and having a potluck meal of many Ukrainian Christmas dishes!

— Shirley Uhryn



Tekla Yaremchuk was one of eight lucky winners of the annual poinsettia raffle.



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Winnipeg's Malanka

(Continued from Page 7.) Carr's performance as Gypsy fortune teller, who introduced the dancers as members of her troupe.

Cheryl-Anne performed with a dramatic flair which must have inspired confidence

in her predictions because she was kept busy the entire evening.

Gordon Gilbey, the Magician, was as much a stand-up comedian as an illusionist. As part of his act he “decapitated” a member of the audience.

A number of people commented on the “warmth” of the evening's party. The hall's decorations were in subtle,

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
- 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 and March celebrants:

- Margaret Card
- Joy Edwards
- Olga Katrynuik
- Bill Lukan
- Wanda Lukan
- Martha Maksymiuk
- Olga Young

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

warm colours which may have been partly responsible for this.

Another cause might have been the fact that all the guests were members or friends of the Branch and their families. Everyone had reason to feel part of the Master's household, extended family, and circle of friends.

— Brent Stearns

About the Issues

(Continued from Page 4.) ties without so much as a “by your leave”, when it wanted to vacate a certain territory.

However, the treaties and grants created rights and titles, and the current struggles of the First Nations are mainly dedicated to recognition of those rights and titles by the Government of Canada.

As part of that arrangement, the government reserved for itself all rights to certain parts of the wealth on a reservation, such as miner-

als. Again, it would freely grant some company permission to mine on a reservation, with no benefit to the people from that reservation, with the possible exception of some jobs (unless those jobs were filled from off the reserve).

Fairly recently, with the growing militancy and resistance of First Nations, companies have on occasion found it mutually profitable to reach an agreement with the people of the reservation. These are the cases repeatedly raised in a “look at these guys; why don’t you do the same” kind of way, without considering the specific circumstances of each reservation.

First Nations have become more active in defence of Crown lands. Their specific interest arises from their rights (hunting, for example) on crown lands, as well as the interrelationship of water (and other assets) on reserves and crown lands. More generally, First Nations are aware that a healthy environment is the precondition for healthy people and healthy communities.

These are the considerations which lead to opposition to construction of some pipelines and other activities potentially harmful to the environment. Such opposition is the source of confrontation between the First Nations and those governments which value private economic activity above all else, especially when those governments are actively (but often stealthily, in huge omnibus bills) eliminating environmental protections.

From the beginning of the reserve system, governments have sought to assimilate the First Nations. One early example was the residential schools. A recent example is the proposal to transform property on the reservations from common to private ownership. This is a recipe merely for dispossessing the people and forcing them to move off the reservation.

A vivid example of how this works was provided by Ukraine after 1990. Tenants were given ownership of their apartments; workers, shares in their work place. Without incomes (wages and pensions were not being paid for a while) ordinary people had to sell their new property, to the major benefit of the oligarchs.

Fortunately, recent court decisions, Idle No More, and public opinion are just a few of the opposing forces.

Mary Skrypnyk Remembered

(Continued from Page 5.) ing to Wilfred, Mary’s greatest strength was her tolerance of other people’s shortcomings. Even when she strongly disagreed with someone, she never left the other person feeling belittled.

Larissa Stavroff was the keynote speaker, and with the help of Jerry Dobrowolsky’s slide presentation, painted a broad and interesting picture of Mary Skrypnyk and her accomplishments. Sprinkled throughout Larissa’s presentation were phrases like “a woman ahead of her time”, and “a modest woman who never faltered”.

However the best summation of Mary’s life was a quotation by Mary herself, captured by Larissa, and presented by her to the gathering. “The beacon that has lighted my way has always

been my desire to fashion a better life for mankind, a strong belief in the brotherhood of all peoples and faith in a socialist system which will create a better world.”

Many people requested time at the microphone to speak of their relationships with, and memories of, Mary Skrypnyk. These people included Patricia and Paul Hutchinson, Olga Dzatko, Paula Boleia, Rose Manning, Bill Malnychuk, John Eleen, Anne Thomson, Mary Kuzyk, and John Boyd.

It is difficult to put into words the depth of the admiration, respect and love for Mary that was expressed by so many of those present. However, Wilfred’s last comments caught much of it: I don’t know about you, but I found this a very uplifting afternoon.”

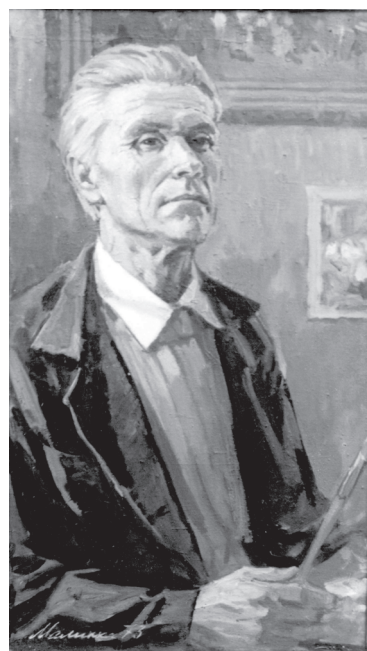
—George Borusiewich

Mykola P. Malynka

(Continued from Page 12.) bottomless forms, and inserted the frame... On October 18, 1959, the bust was established on a pedestal with a ceremony appropriate to the occasion.

Mykola Panasovich, heartened by his success, set to work on other ideas, thanks to which the historical landscape of the town later gained other monuments and decorations, and even the coat of arms of Yahotyn, which was placed at the crossroads of the lines from Kyiv and Kharkiv — until some official spotted in the design a trident, banned at the time.

It would not be wrong to say that Shevchenko occupied a very prominent place in Malynka’s creative process. So did V.I. Lenin, the leader of the revolution, but that was created in the framework of politicized art, as Mykola



Self-Portrait. 1973

Panasovich confided to regional journalists. Shevchenko was for the soul, for the conscience.

Shevchenko’s themes seemed to flow through his

brush from the *Kobzar* to the canvas, recreating the images of struggle for the freedom and daily life of Cossack Ukraine. Among these works are “The Cossack Troops Return from an Expedition”, “Kobzars”, “A Zaporozhian Hut at Supper”, the diptych “Yasyr” and “A Slave Market in Kaffri”.

“Kobzars”, like many other canvases, is shown in the art gallery of Yahotyn, the town in which the artist spent his life, and where he is eternally written into the list of honoured townspeople.

Malynka, who was a member of the Ukrainian Art Society and the Soviet Art Foundation, was not merely an artist. He was the master of his soul, which he filled with sincere concerns and pure thoughts. It is precisely in the modest spaces like Malynka’s soul that the eternal truths are nourished, to which we are drawn all our life.

— Tatyana McCoy

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

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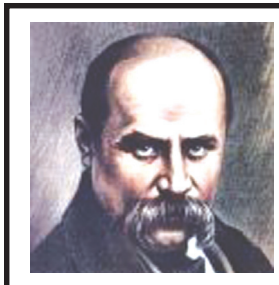
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Taras Shevchenko Museum

Mykola P. Malynka

Toward the 10th anniversary of his birth

It is a well known fact that the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto is the only museum of its kind in the Western hemisphere. It gathers material reflecting the deep respect of Ukrainians from all walks of life for their national poet-thinker Taras Shevchenko, and it is always on the lookout for new material which might restore a forgotten detail or even add a new one.

No wonder, then, that each item on display reminds the visitor, that we are all reflections of people who came before us. The museum is not only about Taras Shevchenko and the epoch which shaped his legacy; it is also about those who have found great inspiration in Shevchenko's wit and personality, and who thankfully and proudly have been preserving a national treasure of Ukraine from generation to generation.

The Shevchenko museum in Oakville, established in 1952, was destroyed by arson in September 16, 1988. It was several years before the Ukrainian immigrants, in 1995, opened a new museum, this time in Toronto. They appealed for help to all those in Ukraine who held dear the memory of the Kobzar.

I am proud that my countryman, artist Mykola Panasovych Malynka, was among them. Two of his paintings can be found in the museum's holdings. One is "Guest-house on the Repnin Estate at Yahotyn", which shows the building in which Taras stayed for some time while visiting the Repnins (his first visit was in 1843). To the artist it seemed amazingly suitable. "Let our brothers in

Canada know about 'some Yahotyn' (as was said by some pompous official in Kyiv)." The second one is a copy of Shevchenko's self-portrait.

What exactly prompted his contribution? That's quite a story...

Yahotyn is one those charming little towns in the Kyiv Region of Ukraine where the threads of the present and the past are tightly interwoven. Every stone is a moment in history, every name is a character combining patriotism, generosity and an industrious spirit.

Among those names is that of the artist Mykola Malynka.

Born in 1913, Mykola Malynka studied from 1933 to 1937 in the Kyiv Art Institute and in 1937 to 1939 at Moscow's Grekov Studio of Battle-Scene Artists. He worked at the Studio of Applied Art in Western Ukraine.

Mykola Malynka was a man of rare talent, but he was not aggressive in promoting himself or his work. However, he had the good fortune to live and work at the same time as Oleksander Stepanovich Neporozhnyi, a person of great organizational talent and faith in Ukraine and its people. Neporozhnyi could, on the slightest evidence, detect the strength of the talent behind the brush.

Thus Malynka's pictures quickly began to find their place in the displays not only of the local historical museum (which he had helped build), in the village museums of the region and, from its opening, in the local art gallery and museum of sciences, but also, later, in exhibitions in Kyiv, capital of Ukraine.



Kobzars

Among these, particular mention should be made of his portraits, and above all his picture of his countrywoman, National Artist of Ukraine Kateryna Bilokur. The sparse style of the work obstinately expressed love in defiance of illness, poverty, and familial adversity.

There are also pictures of another countryman, twice Hero of Soviet Ukraine General Andriy Kravchenko; a portrait of Hetman Ivan Mazepa; a canvas which shows two historical giants — Hetman Pavlo Polubotok and Peter I, the holder of the Russian throne; and of course, his entirely lifelike self-portrait.

Like all artists, Malynka was a child of Mother Nature, her servant, lover and knight. No one, other than he himself and a person called Zavysnyi, knew how often he rejected his work before he got it right.

My father, who was an artist (though not comparable to Malynka) said of that moment of getting it right, "The very soul laughs." I want to believe that Malynka's soul laughed every time when he succeeded in bringing to amazing life on canvas the picturesque local scenery.

The landscapes on Malynka's canvases are pictures before which souls stand still. People stay a long time before the canvas "Father's Yard", as though before Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa". For every person, sinking into the unique mystic of a Ukrainian house bleached by the winds in which one spent one's childhood is personal, individual.

Is that not why the village freedom in his work seems to flourish in a riot of colours and feelings? Like the picture, for example, of the parental home of Kateryna Bilokur in Bohdanivtsi; or the canvases created under the influence of the powerful images of the Ukrainian poet-thinker Taras Shevchenko, who visited Yahotyn, created here, participated in spirited discussions with local people and even planted chestnut trees here.

Malynka had a childhood typical for the time: no sooner out of the cradle, it seemed than behind the plough, the sower or the binder. He loved a field ready to be harvested and even did a self-portrait in the middle of an abundant rye field.

In the 1970s, he built a house which has become a kind of local landmark called simply "Malynka's house".

What is Malynka's house? It is the one building in Yahotyn whose mute bricks seem to talk to passers-by.

When he was building it, Mykola Malynka grasped a deeply buried general feeling and expressed it in a glazed-tile mosaic covering an entire wall, the very wall which faces the street — that is, the people. He portrayed a young Ukrainian woman wearing a wreath and an embroidered blouse, holding an ancient kobza — a national folk musical instrument.

No person could pass that house indifferently. For it was no longer Khrushchev's "thaw". In the capital they had become embarrassed to speak Ukrainian and the kobza, and its sister the bandura, had almost become museum exhibits.

People did not want to forget that they were Ukrainians.

Long before constructing his house, Malynka, then 40 years old, developed an interest in sculpture.

At that time Yahotyn had not a single statue of Shev-

chenko, though it was here that he wrote "Tryzna", "Twins" and "Archaeological Notes", and painted the portrait of Prince Mykola Repnin, a self-portrait and the sepia "Shevchenko Paints a Village Yard".

The idea of creating a bust of Shevchenko took such a hold of Malynka that for a certain period he had no time for painting, family or, sometimes, even food.

He began with doubts, concerns and even despondency, because he was a mere beginner in this realm.

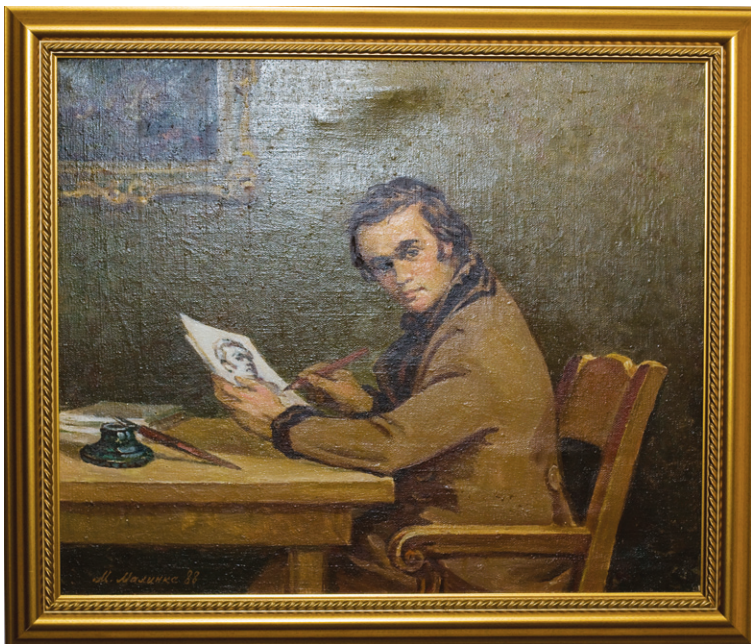
As it happened, the newly-minted sculptor revealed his soul to his friend, the historian and teacher Oleksander Lutsenko. "... And I began to model myself. I modelled until the clay started to dry out. Then I carved it with a knife. Both the modelling and the carving succeeded. I thought, 'Let the sculptors criticize me for my lack of craftsmanship. Let them! I admit this sin. I can already see, nevertheless, that it will be our Taras...'"

When it was time to pour, he and his wife, Oleksandra Ivanivna, worked together as they once did by the cradle. They mixed the concrete, poured it into the seemingly

(Continued on Page 11.)



Guest-house on the Repnin Estate at Yahotyn.



Copy of Shevchenko's self-portrait.

**Welcome to the only
Taras Shevchenko Museum in the Americas!**

**Запрошуємо до Єдиного на Американському
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