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Winnipeg Celebrates 95th Anniversary

—Photo: Wilfred Schubert



On March 16, AUUC Winnipeg Branch celebrated the 95th anniversary of both the Ukrainian Labour Temple and the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. A story about the event, with photos, appears on Page 6.

Ukrainian TV in Canada

It was announced in April that *Pershyi Ukraine TV* channel would shortly start broadcasting in Canada, Germany, and the USA.

The channel will focus mainly on the Ukrainian diaspora.

According to *Pershyi Ukraine* general producer Mykhailo Smutok, broadcasting expansion allows keeping Ukrainians living abroad informed about events taking place in Ukraine, including news on Ukrainian language, culture, and so on.

Currently about 2 million Ukrainians are living in Canada and the U.S.

With the collaboration of local providers using modern methods of signal delivery, *Pershyi Ukraine* intends to

broaden its potential audience with the expenditure of no additional funds.

US Crimes against Humanity

The US had George “The Torturer” Bush, and now they have Barack “The Murderer” Obama.

The principle similarities between the two may be that both altered Americans’ concept of what kind of people they are, and that both of them resorted to grotesque legal opinions to justify their immoral violations of the country’s constitution.

It is not universally accepted that President Bush did anything wrong. Nevertheless, it is very widely recognized that his system of secret prisons around the world, his program of extraordinary renditions, and his approval of “enhanced interrogation techniques”, among other practices, were crimes which diminished the USA in the eyes of the world.

A report released in April of this year by a task force established by the Constitution Project confirms that the US engaged in torture, thereby damaging its standing internationally, potentially endangering its military personnel, and violating international treaty obligations.

The task force, led by a prominent Republican and a prominent Democrat, included in its report a 22-page appendix documenting American prosecution or denunciation of similar actions by other countries.

There is other documentation of the criminal activity of

the Bush administration, including a 6000-page report based on Central Intelligence Agency records which is still classified.

US Crimes against Humanity

Which brings us to the post-Bush administration of President Obama. The basic fact is that President Obama has continued most (and perhaps all) of the criminal practices of his predecessor — and added to them.

To begin with, President Obama decided not to investigate or prosecute members of the Bush gang who committed crimes. While his expressed reason was to look forward, rather than back, cynics may be forgiven for thinking that he did not want to set an example which could come back to haunt him.

Then, President Obama has not closed down Guantanamo. Congress has put new obstacles in the way, but if he had acted quickly as he promised he would do, the obstacles would not have been there. Nor has he vetoed bills imposing new restrictions, claiming instead (as did President Bush) certain rights to override laws passed by Congress.

Most recently, the person with a key role in working to close Guantanamo has been reassigned, and will not be replaced.

In the prosecutions by tribunal of five Guantanamo detainees, President Obama continues President Bush’s pitting

(Continued on Page 3.)

The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated July/August, 2013. Announcements of events in July, August, or early September, as well as articles for the July/August issue should be in our office by June 10. Thank you for your consideration.

Drug Safety at Issue

Even large companies, like chain grocers and major food packers have been found to put profits ahead of consumers health. Companies still sell asbestos and products made from the deadly material, not to mention cigarette manufacturers who continue to produce their lethal products. The list is very long of such an approach to business. Then

there’s the health and safety of the workers.

In April we got another example showing that private business is not to be trusted to put the health and safety of people above profits.

The issue was a chemotherapy drug for cancer patients. Almost 1200 patients received a diluted form of the drug prepared by a company which was neither an accredited pharmacy nor a licenced drug manufacturer, and was regulated neither by the provincial nor the federal government.

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq said, following a *Toronto Star* report, that she will “strongly consider” (whatever that means) any recommended changes, if an investigation finds that the federal

Adding Injury...

Our friendly neighbour to the south is investigating yet another way to add injury to the insult they direct toward Canada.

The insult is to treat Canada as a hostile country (remember Soviet Canuckistan?) and ending all that nonsense about the longest undefended border in the world. Now it’s gunships on the Great Lakes, border patrols, passports, and all the other defences needed by Fortress America.

The injury is to make all those Canadians travelling to spend their money across the border pay for all the added security measures which detract from the pleasure of their trip. Homeland Security is suggesting a toll on pedestrians and motorists crossing the border (to be fair, the crossing fee would be paid by Americans too).

Homeland security has asked for a study — not of the impact of the toll, but of the cost of implementing it.

Merchants and politicians are reportedly not pleased, but if it makes us safer...

government is responsible. However, she pointed out, jurisdiction over health-based patient care, pharmacies and mixing drugs is provincial.

Health Canada told the *Toronto Star* that the “policy grey area” of hospitals outsourcing pharmacy services is under investigation.

Of course, these days, hospitals are outsourcing many services as part of the drive to reduce costs. Governments are reducing oversight of the private firms to which the tasks are being assigned, also to reduce costs, and the private operators are doing what they can to reduce their costs.

Whether the weakened cancer medication was the result of an error and inadequate quality control or whether there is some other explanation is something the government is unlikely to tell us. In any event, it is clear that a much more serious approach is needed to inspection and control of firms which do critical tasks involving the health of residents of Canada.

Self-regulation is no regulation; only adequate public control can keep us safe.

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Current Eclectic — Long and Short

How Cyprus Went

As the April, 2103, issue of the **Ukrainian Canadian Herald** was going to press, Cyprus was at the beginning of a financial crisis, with international bankers demanding severe conditions for a bailout. An emergency session of parliament, called to consider the proposal was postponed to avoid the anger of depositors whose money was about to be confiscated for the benefit of the financiers.

Banks in Cyprus were closed on March 15 and did not reopen until March 28 as negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission proceeded.

The final decision was that deposits under 100 000 euros in Cypriot banks would be protected under the state's deposit guarantee. Capital controls included a withdrawal limit of 300 euros daily from

bank accounts.

The country's second-largest bank, Cyprus Popular Bank, (also known as Laiki) is to be wound down, its assets to be transferred to the Bank of Cyprus.

At the Bank of Cyprus, many deposits over 100,000 euros will not earn interest; many others will earn interest, but will not be repaid unless the bank does well.

The 10-billion euro loan to Cyprus comes at a high price.

Cyprus was given until 2018 (extended from 2016) to meet a budgetary target of a surplus of 4% of gross domestic product before debt payments. (This year a 2.4% deficit is forecast.)

A ban on casinos will be lifted, and companies will be given tax exemptions for profits invested in the country, in an effort to stimulate the economy.

The 12-point growth plan

includes spending cuts and tax increases, as well as controls on the flow of money to foreign countries. The measures are expected to send the economy into a deep recession, jeopardizing the country's ability to meet its budget targets.

It is anticipated that the controls will be in effect for years, and questions are being raised whether the package will stimulate or inhibit economic recovery by Cyprus.

The finance minister resigned after five weeks on the job, as two judges were appointed to investigate financial transactions in Cyprus, to determine whether there was any criminal, civil or political wrong-doing leading to the current crisis.

A scandal may be brewing following reports that in-laws of President Anastasiades moved money from the Bank of Cyprus to an unknown destination just weeks before the crisis.

US Crimes

(Continued from Page 1.) of military lawyers against the Justice Department. The military lawyers (concerned about reciprocal treatment of captured American soldiers) tend to want adherence to international standards, while the civilian lawyers insist on laying charges which have no place in military (and in some instances civil) courts.

While President Obama has ordered an end to President Bush's torture policies and the closing of CIA secret prisons, a report issued in February by the Open Society Justice Initiative notes that President Obama has not repudiated renditions and that a CIA-connected prison may be operating in Somalia.

In addition, President Obama has continued the claim by President Bush to have a right to kill suspected terrorists, including Americans, off the battlefield, without judicial or meaningful congressional oversight.

President Obama has been rather active in resorting to drone aircraft to kill people abroad. The main concern seems to be that the definition is expanding of who is a legitimate target. The extension seems to include financiers, which (as Ryan Goodman wrote in the *New York Times*) stretches the laws of war beyond recognition.

Also raised as a concern by Mr. Goodman, was the administration's position that "military-age males killed in a strike zone are counted as combatants absent explicit posthumous evidence proving

otherwise".

That the position of the American administration violates the constitutional rights of American citizens to due legal process is very serious. Even more serious, however, and very dangerous, is the American message to the world that the president of the United States of America has an unlimited right to murder anyone, anywhere at any time.

If you feel like a possible target, or your loved ones have been killed, how do you react?

Redress for victims of the policies of these two presidents has effectively been blocked in the USA. However, there has been action in other jurisdictions.

In February, an appeals court initially convicted a CIA station chief and two other Americans for actions in 2003. The decision also establishes the guilt of 23 other Americans (all tried in absentia) involved in this incident. In the same case, a few days later, Italy's former military intelligence chief was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

In December of last year, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that a German citizen mistakenly considered a terrorist had been tortured in Macedonia in 2003 by a CIA team in Macedonia. Because the European court does not have jurisdiction over the USA, charges in the case were brought against Macedonia for its complicity.

There have been other cases brought against participants, both Americans and others, in these covert actions.

President Obama's assassinations could lead to legal actions against American officials who have committed or ordered murder.

Rethinking Austerity?

There is a great debate under way in the world concerning the value of austerity in overcoming economic crises. In recent decades, opponents of austerity as the path to economic health have been given short shrift. Even Nobel Prize winners like Joseph Stiglitz, who at one time worked for the International Monetary Fund, and Paul Krugman in the United States, have been viewed as eccentric, if not incompetent, for their advocacy of pump-priming and stimulus as the cure for economic basket cases.

In March of this year, the more traditional punitive austerity measures were imposed on Cyprus when the country's banks got into trouble, primarily because of bad investments (mostly in Greece, the story goes).

Now, seemingly out of nowhere, we learn that finance ministers of the G-20 countries are thinking about the wisdom of their devotion to austerity. At least that's the impression created by reports on April 19 from the just-concluded G-20 meeting in Washington.

The new view may have been the result of a new perspective — serious economic problems in Europe. (India's finance minister suggested that it felt like a G-7 meeting because of the attention paid to problems in Europe.)

After years of harsh austerity measures, Europe continues to be in the doldrums. An example of European

countries which have not seen benefits from austerity programs is Britain, which is into its third recession in five years. There are several more.

Greece for example, has been the target of an austerity drive. Its economy has shrunk 20% in five years, and the story from that country continues to be the highest unemployment rate in Europe. Malnutrition is growing as children go to school without having eaten. Private charities, including some that were oriented toward helping in other countries, are providing food to Greek children.

Now that Europe, and not Africa or Asia, is the centre of attention, there is some thought that, perhaps, conditions need not be as stringent.

Japan has undertaken an ambitious US\$1.4 trillion program of economic stimulus to combat an economic downturn. The G-20 countries agreed that the Japanese experience should be closely monitored to study its "side effects".

This reconsideration appears not to be unanimous. Germany continues to insist on "discipline" from countries in trouble. The Netherlands, Finland and Austria are among the countries reported to share Germany's view.

The Government of Canada has taken a two-prong approach to Canada's recession.

On the one hand, it has encouraged corporate profitability (by tax breaks and other

incentives, and by outsourcing government work). On the other hand, it has worked toward balancing its budget by reducing government services, implementing new or higher user fees, and cutting into the social safety net (as with employment insurance, for example).

Two things are certain. One is that the banks, which are businesses, will look after businesses (and themselves in the first instance) to ensure their over-all profitability. The second is that governments are the playthings of business, and will legislate in favour of business. When severe austerity serves the bankers' purposes, that will be the policy; when some other policy serves better — well, severity comes in various degrees.

Events in Cyprus illustrate these two truths very well. The first priorities have been to ensure repayment of the loans from international financiers, and to replenish the capital Cypriot banks lost to bad investments.

The Government of Cyprus was ready to legislate these bankers' priorities with severe measures, but when a popular revolt appeared possible, both the bankers and the government were ready to ratchet the severity down as much as necessary to quell the revolt.

Denmark is an object lesson. For no good reason other than profits, an attack has begun on people's benefits and living standards: lowering corporate tax rates, reducing unemployment benefits, reducing support to students, cutting welfare supports, and so on.

Is France Next to Fall?

So far, the attention has been on the south of the eurozone, on Italy, Greece, Cyprus and Spain.

But the eurozone's second largest economy — France — now appears to be in trouble. The economy shrank in the last three months of 2012, putting it officially into recession.

The government has been taking the traditional measures

to combat recession: create even higher levels of unemployment, reduce business taxes, drive down salaries.

Serious problems in France will be serious problems for Europe, as France is considered too big to fail, but also too big to save.

Look for the European Economic Community to find a different way to resolve France's economic woes.

Residential School Deaths

An estimated 150,000 First Nations children went through the church-operated residential schools system from the 1870s to the 1990s. It has been reported that at least 3000 of those died in residence

The biggest killers were disease (including the Spanish flu after World War I and tuber-

culosis) malnutrition and accidents. Death by fire in burning schools, drowning and exposure were other causes.

Following death by freezing of four children trying to walk home from a school in British Columbia, an inquest recommended that "excessive corporal punishment" of students be "limited".

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**Desertification**

AN EDITORIAL BY WILFRED SZCZESNY

Canada has become the only member country of the United Nations which is outside the "United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in those Countries Experiencing Severe Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa". This is as a result of a federal Cabinet decision in late March, on the recommendation of Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird, to withdraw from the Convention, which Canada signed in 1994 and ratified in 1995.

The action was taken shortly before a major international conference on desertification, in April of this year.

The official explanation for the action, provided by the office of International Cooperation Minister Julian Fantino, was that supporting the Convention cost Canadians too much money, and that the UN Secretariat responsible for administering the Convention was producing a lot of talk but "few results, if any for the environment".

A report in *The Globe and Mail* said that Canada had provided a grant of \$283,000 to support the convention from 2010 to 2012.

Just about everybody in the world (except, apparently, the Government of Canada) recognizes drought and desertification as a major global concern. The resulting losses in agricultural production are a significant negative factor in the fight against poverty and hunger in the world. Nations whose economies are based on agriculture are increasingly hard pressed as water becomes scarcer. Huge population displacements can be expected, along with the possibility that wars will be fought over this increasingly valuable and vital resource.

Faced with this reality, which will only become more severe with global warming, instead of being part of the search to mitigate the problem Stephen Harper and his Cabinet have decided to save about \$100,000 a year by withdrawing from the global effort.

If the concern was lack of results, there was an alternative to abandoning the world: Canada could have taken a leading role in identifying and implementing effective results for the environment. Other countries are doing it..

It wasn't just the money, nor was it the shortage of results; something else was at play here.

In recent months, we have seen the Government of Canada move increasingly away from international cooperation, with international aid and development, and toward policies based in immediate economic self-interest. This short-sighted approach to living in the world community will, in the longer run, prove far more expensive than \$100,000 a year.

COMMENTARY**A Scam and a Sham**

Canada's temporary foreign workers program is supposedly a program to permit businesses to bring workers into the country to fill jobs for which Canadian workers are not available. However, there are reasons to believe that the more basic purpose of the plan is to allow companies to drive down workers' pay packages. Furthermore, that intention to drive down pay levels in Canada is being supported by a range of other legislation at all governmental levels.

The lid came off this particular can of worms when the CBC revealed that the Royal Bank of Canada was drawing on the program to replace 45 of its employees, employees who were required to train the foreign workers who would replace them.

In early reports, the Royal Bank confirmed that 45 employees would be laid off, and their work out-sourced to a smaller number of employees. However, the bank fell back on a technicality: it wasn't really replacing Canadian workers with foreign workers, it said, because it was not hiring the new workers. Instead,

it was giving out the work to iGATE, a labour supply agency. The temporary foreign workers would be gone within three months.

Diane Finley, Human Resources and Skills Development Minister, was quick to call the situation unacceptable — if true.

Ms. Finley, whose department approved the use of temporary foreign workers, suggested that they may have been misled in paperwork. Or perhaps these applications were not among the 20% of applications which were reviewed as part of monitoring to make sure that the rules are being followed.

Ms. Finley instructed her department to work with Citizenship and Immigration Canada to decide what to do next.

The government has promised to tighten up the program.

The RBC then indicated that its 45 workers would be offered other jobs (no details provided). Furthermore, it was just doing out-sourcing, part of a wave that has swept the financial sector. Finally, the foreign workers would not do the work of RBC staff in Canada (of course not, that work was being sent out of the country).

Finally, Gord Nixon, President and CEO of the Royal Bank of Canada issued an apology.

In 2011, over 192,000 temporary foreign workers were allowed into the country. In 2012, there were over 338,000 temporary foreign workers.

At the time events at RBC hit the news, two unions were challenging in court a decision to allow temporary workers to be brought from China to work in coal mines in British Columbia. (Among the job requirements listed by HC Mining was Mandarin speaking.)

At that time, too, a hospital in Winnipeg was accused of ignoring interested local workers in favour of temporary workers from Ireland.

Among the 33,000 plus em-

ployers who have used the temporary foreign workers program are included fast food outlets, as well as financial institutions — and federal government departments (at a time when the government is cutting over 19,000 public service jobs).

Writing in *The Globe and Mail*, Tavia Grant notes that employers like the program because it allows workers to be recruited easily, and cost savings include being allowed, by law, to pay these workers 15% less than the prevailing rate. The article does not mention other features attractive to employers, such as the total lack of fringe benefits, the lack of control over working conditions, and the ability to shed (dispose of? shuck?) any ill or injured worker.

Arthur Sweetman, an economics professor at McMaster University in Hamilton, indicates that the temporary labour program may be keeping the unemployment rate higher than it would otherwise be.

Economics professor David Green of the University of British Columbia is reported as saying that the biggest side effect of the program could be that it is a disincentive for training of Canadian workers.

Toronto has an above average unemployment rate, but hosts 20% of temporary foreign workers in Canada.

The program drives down pay scales in at least two ways. First, it pits workers in Canada against foreign workers who can be paid less and have no workplace benefits or working-conditions protection; second it keeps the unemployment rate higher, making workers more willing to accept whatever job they can find.

The government's claims that the program was intended only to fill gaps in the labour market, and not to undercut Canadian labour standards ring hollow in light of recent changes — to accelerate processing of applications, and to allow temporary foreign workers to be paid 15% less than the prevailing Canadian rate.

The government's overriding interest is the profitability
(Continued on Page 5.)

From Our Readers

I find this paper very informative and interesting. I would like to thank Myron Shatulsky for his perogy dough recipe — it's the best.

Also, it would be nice to read some "traditional Ukrainian" sayings as there are many and so true.

**Herma Pozniak
Ferne, BC**

I enjoy reading your very informative newspaper. It is refreshing to read how very active the organization is in keeping and promoting the Ukrainian culture.

**Natalie Kehoe
Edison, NJ USA**

SEE US ON THE WEB!

AUUC (National)
auuc.ca

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

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

Taras Shevchenko Museum:
www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum

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

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http://ult-wpg.ca/

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

Edmonton Seniors Honour Shevchenko and Women

Pauline Warick, the president of the Edmonton AUUC seniors' club, opened our gathering on March 19 with a warm greeting of "friendship, love and caring"!

Recognized by a muffin with a birthday candle, a donated glass of red wine and the singing of "Mnohaya leeta" were our birthday celebrants Lucy Antoniw and Clarence Capowski. Clarence was unable to attend: his wife Shirley sat in for him.

Lucy Antoniw said it was so good to hear Ukrainian in the song *Mnohaya Leeta*. She said that each month, as she comes to the gathering, she rehearses in her mind the Ukrainian words she is going to use to greet Olga Horon, our registrant, and the others sitting there, drinking coffee and reminiscing. Often they too can be heard looking for the appropriate Ukrainian word to fit into their conversation.

In March, annually, we seniors recognize International Women's Day and Taras Shevchenko's birth on March 9, 1814.

Based on CBC radio's tribute to International Women's Day, Pauline led us to remember the contributions of the following: the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the songs of Sarah McLaughlin, and Hanna Gartner's 30 years in Canadian journalism.

Each lady in attendance received a bundle of flowers in keeping with the theme of "bread and roses". Each also received a book mark which had a tribute to Shevchenko on the front and, on the reverse side, a tribute to some 30 outstanding Canadian women who had a dream.

Shirley Uhryn, Edmonton Branch's Board member of the Taras Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation, gave a synopsis of the March 9, 2013, Annual General Meeting, successfully held electronically.

I continue to admire the operations of the Museum because of their unfaltering efforts to be perceptive, innovative and aggressive, both internationally and (now more so) nationally.

The Museum wants operational grants from the Ontario and Canadian governments. These two bodies say that they are unable to provide financial assistance to the Foundation because Taras Shevchenko is not a Canadian.

As a result, the Museum is now asking Ukrainian Canadians to send them heritage artifacts: fine arts, musical in-

struments, textiles, ceramic textiles, immigration documents, etc., for preservation.

Please contact Victoria Kravchyna at vika.kravchyna@gmail.com, or phone Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelov (416-534-8662) or e-mail Lyudmyla at shevchenkomuseum@bellnet.ca

Victoria or Lyudmyla can supply a list of information needed to establish the provenance of each artifact being donated.

Another highlight of the Museum's activities is that they will have published, by the end of 2013, an anthology of selected writings from *Kobzar* in French, English and Ukrainian to mark in 2014 the bicentenary of Taras Shevchenko's 1814 birth.

Continuing with our tribute to Taras Shevchenko, Lucy Antoniw reviewed some of Taras Shevchenko's life, and William Uhryn sang, in Ukrainian a few stanzas from "Zapoveet" (My Testament).

Lucy concluded by sharing the opinions of many that Shevchenko's writing was so powerful that, so many years later, it still has not lost its strength.

— Shirley Uhryn

— Story photos: Victor Horon



Some of the attendees: (left to right) Emil and Mary Tropak; Rose and Nick Kereliuk; Mike and Nina Uhryn; and Sandy Gordey, Olga Horon and Diana Ries (our great chef).



Lucy Antoniw read about Shevchenko's life and from his works. Bill Uhryn sang "Zapoveet" (My Testament).



ng in on behalf of her dear husband. Antoniw celebrating their March

A Scam and a Sham

(Continued from Page 4.) of corporations. The temporary foreign workers program is only one indication of this truth. Others include the strangling of unemployed workers' access to employment insurance (fewer than half of unemployed workers qualify for benefits), limitations on trade unions' political participation, and increased challenges to workers' rights to organize. Not insignificant in the process of enriching the corporations at the cost of the workers is the government's own firing, over the last few years, of tens of thousands of public service workers, replacing them with temporary and/or contract workers or out-sourcing the work to non-unionized firms which pay low wages and offer few benefits or none at all.

The government has been putting some stress on skills building for Canadian workers. But the jobs at the Royal Bank were precisely high-tech jobs in information technology — exactly the kinds of jobs that were to be our jobs of the future. The lesson of this event is that your skills level is irrelevant — you are vulnerable.

As Daniel Cohn Director of York University's School of Public Policy and Administration, wrote in the *Toronto Star* on April 9, 2013, "The Con-

servative government's skills-upgrading program now appears to be something of a cruel joke as it runs counter to their other policies designed to make it easier for companies to reduce wages and shed Canadian workers, such as the guest worker program, and international agreements we have signed to make it easier for corporations to ship work overseas."

The government scam is the pretence that high-tech skills or training in the trades will be a ticket to a bright future for Canada's young workers, and that the government is developing programs to assist in reaching that future. The sham is the pretence that the programs in place were well intended legislation which is being abused, and amendments will be brought in to make it right.

The reality is that the aim is a "flexible" work force, which means "precarious employment" and permanent grinding poverty.

Precaire employment is what almost half of adults in the Greater Toronto Area enjoy: low paying jobs with uncertain hours; or reasonable pay for serial contracts without benefits or long-term prospects. That includes hundreds of thousands of workers employed by temp agencies.

— Volodymyr Lucky

Family Night Success in Edmonton

The Edmonton Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians held its annual Family Night on March 2, at our Ukrainian Centre, with approximately 170 people in attendance.

First on the agenda was a delicious Ukrainian supper prepared by our cook Diana Ries and her crew. The fare drew many appreciative comments.

Next was a concert program presented by performers ranging from our children, starting at ages 3 and 4, all the way to our Trembita Choir of 80-year-olds.

The youngest dancers, aged 3 and 4 years old, performed first. Cameras flashed throughout their performance.

Then the six- to eight-year-olds performed to the delight of the audience.

The Children's Choir, conducted by Marina Lavrenko, presented three songs in Ukrainian.0

The mandolin players, also taught by Marina Lavrenko, performed two numbers which they learned in the preceding three months.

The senior dance group expertly performed three

dances. The audience showed its appreciation with shouts and generous applause.

The Trembita Choir performed three songs. The audience particularly enjoyed "Pyrohy", with soloist Paul Greene.

Following the concert, a band composed of Sasha Uhryn, Mike Uhryn, Bill Uhryn, Myron Uhryn and Humberto Novella played music for the cakewalk, a tradition at Family Night, with winners taking home cakes baked by our members.

The band then played a *kolomeyka*, which was enjoyed by all the dancers, and finished off the evening with a variety of dance music.

Fun was had by all, and thanks for that go to: Marina Lavrenko, dance school coordinator Kristina Kyaushas, dance school instructors Natalya Kovalenko and Lisa Hight, ticket sale volunteers Paul Greene, Victor Horon and Anne Kawchuk, cakewalk ticket volunteers Marcia Bilyk and Elsie Horon, Ed Bilyk for liquor sales, and finally, Master of Ceremonies for the evening Peter Horon.

— Paul Greene

Winnipeg Marks 95th Anniversary

On Saturday, March 16, members and friends of AUUC Winnipeg Branch gathered at the Ukrainian Labour Temple for an evening showcasing the cultural and political roots of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and the Ukrainian Labour Temple.

This was a vibrant and exciting event! The hall was packed with both older and younger members, performers and politicians, activists and academics.

The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, under the direction of Annis Kozub, kept the audience entertained during the cocktail hour.

Following a tasty dinner, the Festival Choir, under the direction of Vasylyna Streltsov, and the AUUC School of Folk Dance and the Yunist Dancers, under the direction of Kim Boss and Justin McGillivray, presented a wonderful display of traditional song and dance.

One of the highlights of the evening was the showing of a 2012 documentary directed by Aaron Floresco, entitled *Ukrainian Labour Temple*. This film, made possible with the help of the extensive AUUC archives at "the hall", included interviews from Winnipeg historians like Nolan Riley and long-time Winnipeg Branch members, including Myron Shatulsky and Nancy Kardash.

Following the film, Myron Shatulsky took the audience



AUUC Winnipeg Branch President Glenn Michalchuk was Master of Ceremonies.

back in time with his reflections on the life and legacy of the AUUC and "the hall", which sparked contemplation and also laughter, at times.

Keynote speaker Dennis Lewycky, Director of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, brought the audience back to the present day, with his talk entitled "Renewing Our Vision: Social Advocacy 1919-2019". Through his discussion of the recent Idle No More movement, he showed that, although the issues have shifted and causes have changed over the years, social advocacy has not lost its importance.

This event was a delightful way to commemorate 95 years in "the hall" we call home, and 95 years of our organization.

See you all at the 100th!
— Emily Halldorson



The Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg was filled with a variety of well-wishers on March 16, in celebration of the 95th anniversary of the AUUC and the ULT.



Myron Shatulsky reflected on the life and legacy of the AUUC and the ULT.



Dennis Lewycky, Director of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, was the keynote speaker.



City Councillor Ross Eadie was among those present.



Aaron Floresco's video "Ukrainian Labour Temple" was viewed after dinner.



The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, conducted by Annis Kozub, provided a musical background during the cocktail hour.

— Photos: Wilfred Schubert



The AUUC School of Ukrainian Folk Dance, directed by Kim Boss, performed a dance of welcome, complete with bread and salt.



The Festival Choir, conducted by Vasylyna Streltsov, entertained with a selection of songs.



The Yunist Dancers, under the direction of Justin McGillivray performed the "Bukovinian Dance".

The Ukrainian Labour Temple

A Cultural and Political Movement from Winnipeg's North End

A documentary film by Aaron Floresco



Available at: AUUC – Winnipeg Council, 591 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4 (phone: 204-589-4397) for \$25.00, including postage and handling.

In a caption on Page 7 of our April, 2013, issue, we mistakenly called Nancy Stewart by her maiden name (Nancy Dobrowolsky). We apologize.

Annual Concert-Recital in Regina



The Poltava Ensemble opened the Concert-Recital with "Greetings from Ukraine", featuring the Transcarpathian, Bukovinian, Volyn and Centrak regions of Ukraine. They are under the direction of Oleksandr Byelyayev, with Assistant Director Lisa Wanner.



The Novice Dancers made their first appearance on a stage with "Bubonochka". Their instructors are Katie Wihak (above) and Dallas Montpetit.



The Beginners Group, some of whom are shown above, performed "Veseli hutsuliata" under the direction of Katie Wihak and Dallas Montpetit.



The Junior Dancers premiered the Central Ukrainian "Kozachok". They are instructed by Laura Mitri and Jordan Bidyk.



The intermediate Yalynka Dancers performed "Hutzulschyna" under the direction of Laura Mitri and Jordan Bidyk.

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 February 9, 2013.

In addition to the 14 dances, the program included two orchestral selections and two contemporary Ukrainian songs performed by 12-year-old Valeria Honchar, a recent arrival from Ukraine to Regina.

The AUUC is indebted to the eight instructors and the parents that assisted with the six children's groups, as well as those that manned the foyer for this event.

— Alex Lapchuk



Emery Millette of the Poltava Dancers performed in "Moldovan Suite".

Mosaic Coming

On May 30 and 31, and June 1, 2013, "Visit the World" during Regina's Annual Mosaic, A Festival of Cultures, featured in some 20 pavilions scattered throughout the city.

The AUUC Poltava Ukrainian Pavilion is located at the Regina Performing Arts Centre (RPAC), 1077 Angus at 4th Avenue. Featured are: great Ukrainian cuisine, a display tribute to Lesya Ukrainka, cultural performances on the 1/2 hour commencing at 5:30 p.m. (Thursday and Friday) and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

On stage will be over 100 performers of the AUUC Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts and the AUUC Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance.

This is a pavilion not to be missed, in a festival well worth a visit.

Passports are \$14.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children.

Passports are available at RPAC (phone: 306-779-2277) prior to Mosaic, and at the door during the three-day event.

We look forward to giving you a unique experience.



The female members of the Poltava Ensemble presented "Viteretz", adapted from the Virsky National Dance Company of Ukraine.

— Story photos: Mark Greschner



The Poltava Ensemble Orchestra, some of whom are shown above, are directed by Natalia Osypenko. They accompanied all the dances, as well as performing the orchestral numbers "Dniprovsky Waltz" and "Z Debrechina".



The Poltava Dancers presented "Matrossky tanetz" in tribute to the sailors of the Black Sea Region of Ukraine.



The female members of the Pre-Poltava Dancers performed "Pleskach" from the repertoire of the Virsky State Ensemble. They are directed by Lisa Wanner and Daniel Hebert, with the assistance of Ian Temple.



The Lileya Dancers danced "Uzhansky Vesilniy" under the direction of Lisa Wanner and Daniel Hebert.



Daniel Hebert was one of several soloists in one of Ukraine's most popular dances.

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

Adopted Children

The debate for having more control over the living conditions of Ukrainian children adopted abroad surfaced after a Ukrainian boy was shot dead in the United States by his American father.

After the death of 13-year-old Andrew Butler, officials in Ukraine realized that they barely know anything about the fate of nearly half of adopted Ukrainian kids living abroad.

Nearly 10,000 children from Ukraine have been adopted by American parents in the United States. However, Ukraine officials say only 30% of those families report on the living condition of their adopted children.

Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) say that Ukraine needs to ratify the Hague Convention on Adoption, ratified by 83 United Nations member states, to ensure proper monitoring over such families.

Ukraine's Parliament has delayed the ratification of the convention several times.

Some analysts believe the convention does not meet the interests of Ukraine's orphans, but rather favours trafficking in children and gives legitimacy to international agencies that make money from organizing adoptions. However, Ukraine's NGOs take issues with that stand.

The state still does not have an effective mechanism to monitor the condition of children adopted by foreign families. At the same time, adoption within Ukraine and social care remains a priority for the country.

Anti-Smoking Campaign Successful

Ukraine, at one time ranked 4th in the world for the highest number of smokers, is changing tactics to push smokers to kick the habit.

Now cigarette packs include different graphic warnings and statements: a photo of lung cancer is supplemented with the message, "Smoking can cause slow and painful death"; a photo of a woman's face is shown next to a skull with the words, "Smoking causes aging"; and a photo of a woman pushing an empty stroller accompanies the words, "Smoking affects women's ability to give birth."

Olga Sukhina, a representative of Public Organizations Coalition for a Ukraine Free from Tobacco Smoke, says it's a positive step to require tobacco companies to show the consequences of smoking,

"because saying something to a person is one thing, but letting them see the consequences with their own eyes is another".

In the last quarter of 2012, Ukraine adopted three laws that struck at tobacco companies. On September 26, the country banned cigarette ads, and on October 4, introduced the graphic warnings on cigarette packs. From December 16, all restaurants and bars banned smoking on their premises.

The results during the four months starting in September showed 6 billion fewer cigarettes were sold than in the same period the previous year, according to state experts.

Ukraine has seen a dramatic change since adopting these measures — it is now ranked 29th.

Ukraine's Parliament — Turmoil Continues

Pro-government lawmakers in the Ukrainian parliament moved to a different building on April 4 and held a plenary session in the new premises. This action was taken in response to the parliamentary opposition's months-long attempts to shut down parliament by physically blockading the speaker's rostrum, thus preventing the Speaker from starting sessions and voting from taking place.

During the split session, the opposition continued to blockade the podium at the parliament building, while the pro-government deputies voted to approve routine pieces of legislation.

"This is a split-up of parliament, which can lead to its dissolution," said political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko. "Both sides, especially their leaders, have chosen the axes of war, and they are ready to go to war."

Low-Down Dance Party

Mykola Milevsky, 75, and Natalia Stolyarenko, 58, like to "party down".

Literally. Every weekend, they head to a dance party held in a subway underpass in the Ukrainian city of Kyiv.

The location was a gift from the mayor. A group of pensioners were seeking a space to do traditional dances, but didn't have money for rent. So the municipality gave them permission to dance at an underground plaza that's part of the subway system.

About 200 people, many in traditional costume, gather to

sing, play instruments, and most of all, dance.

Gleb Garanich, a photographer, first saw the gathering decades ago. "I stopped for a few moments and then proceeded on my route," he wrote in a blog post. "I was 25 years old at the time and, frankly speaking, this story was of no interest to me."

When he happened upon the dancers again earlier this year, he found he "was no longer indifferent to the lives and destinies of these people". He discovered that the dance provides a way for senior citizens, who often feel alienated in Ukraine's post-Soviet society, to have a good time.

Folk costumes and formal jackets mingle as the partygoers meet every Saturday and Sunday night. The weekly dances are an economical way for them to keep in touch with each other — and their traditions. (From an article in the *National Geographic* -gb)

Nationalists Strike Again

Several people were injured when a riot broke out at a political rally of opposition parties in Ukraine when protesters displayed anti-Semitic slogans.

The April 6 rally in Cherkassy, a city situated 100 miles southeast of Kyiv, turned violent after six men took off their jackets to reveal T-shirts emblazoned with the words: "Beat the kikes" and "Svoboda", the name of a Ukrainian ultra-nationalist movement and the word for "freedom" in Ukrainian. (Svoboda is one of the 3-party opposition in Ukraine's parliament - gb).

Police arrested one of the men, who were also confronted by people attending the rally.

Police questioned 36 people suspected of inciting ethnic hatred in connection with the incident, according to a report by the Coordination Forum for Countering Anti-Semitism, a watchdog group.

One of the people injured at the rally, attended by a few hundred people, was Victor Smal, a lawyer and human rights activist. "I told the men in the T-shirts they were promoting hatred," Smal told the news site *newsru.co.il*. "They beat me to the ground and kicked me until I lost consciousness."

Anti-Hate Bill Defeated

Minority groups in Ukraine have suffered a setback in the wake of the refusal of opposition MPs (including those from the parties of jailed Yulia Tymoshenko and heavyweight

boxer Vitaly Klitschko) to support a resolution that would prohibit "hate speech and degrading expressions".

The draft bill, banning terms that are offensive to Jews and other minorities, was introduced by an MP from Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions, and was supported by the Communists. But the extreme right-wing and openly anti-Semitic Svoboda Party opposed it.

In fact, back in December it was reported that lawmaker Igor Miroshnichenko of Svoboda wrote on Facebook that Mila Kunis, an American actress who was born in Ukraine, was "*zhidovka*", an offensive term for a female Jew.

"The last time this term was used in an official way was during the Nazi occupation," said Eduard Dolinsky, Director of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee, who urged the passing of the anti-hate bill.

Almost all the members of Klitschko's Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform (UDAR) abstained, and 58 members of Tymoshenko's *Batkivshchyna* (Fatherland) bloc voted against the bill.

A government spokesman said: "This was a measure to promote tolerance and outlaw hate speech and degrading expressions, but by their actions opposition MPs have raised questions that go to the heart of their true values."

EU Or Russia? Or Both EU And Russia?

Historically, Ukraine has been the object of a tug-of-war between Europe and Russia. This external conflict between forces outside of Ukraine's borders has been reflected internally by conflict within Ukraine's borders. And the conflict continues.

With changes in Ukrainian leadership have come changes in loyalties. Previous president Viktor Yushchenko was unquestionably pro-Europe. So much so, that he unconcernedly offended Russia on several occasions.

Current president Viktor Yanukovich is playing a much shrewder game. He has been negotiating with both sides without committing to either side. This strategy of "fence-sitting" should ultimately result in the overall best deal for Ukraine.

But what about the citizens of Ukraine? How do they feel? Where are their loyalties?

A recent article published in *businessnewseurope* reports: "Reflecting the deep divide between the east and west of the country, a new poll reveals that the Ukrainian

population is split evenly in its opinion of which way the country should head. Half of Ukrainians would support the country's accession to the European Union, according to a survey conducted by the Rating Group. However, nearly as many say they'd like to see Ukraine join a sort of rump USSR in a single state with Russia and Belarus."

According to the survey, 50% of citizens are in favour of Ukraine's accession to the European Union, 37% are against it, and 13% undecided.

Asked about the creation of a single state of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, 42% of respondents supported this idea, 47% rejected it, and 11% failed to answer.

However, not every Ukrainian sees the ideas as mutually exclusive. "Interestingly, one in four Ukrainians who supports the creation of a single state with Russia simultaneously supports Ukraine's accession to the EU," says the article.

Guinness Records

The number of centuries-old trees, protected by environmentalists, might bring Kyiv to the Guinness book of records.

Some of the wooden "old-timers" of Ukraine's capital are: a 500-year-old Perun oak; a 450-year-old Stetsenko oak; a Borschahiv oak of 350 - 400 years; a 300-year-old Tatar oak; a 120-year-old Stanchynski sycamore; Burdzynskyi cherry trees; a 150-year-old Sukhin cypress; and Sharleman ash trees.

Language in Ukraine

A Kyiv on-line employment agency with the website "rabota.ua" recently ran a survey to determine the language used by Ukrainians in their daily activities. Some of the many findings published in their report are the following:

— 59% of Ukrainians speak Russian at work;

— 54% of Ukrainians speak Russian at home;

— 14% of Ukrainians speak both at work;

— 5% speak Russian at work and Ukrainian at home.

A considerable amount of information on the "language question" was generated by this comprehensive and detailed investigation.

Unfortunately (for me -gb), the report was in Russian, and my Russian skills are almost non-existent. Yet from the little that I was able to decipher (in about a dozen hours of effort), it seems to me that there is much to digest in the report.

Sustaining Fund Donations

Steve Balon, Sudbury ON	\$100.00
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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE "UCH", WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.

Who, What, When, Where

Calgary — The **Calgary Hopak Ensemble**, accompanied by the **Trembita Folk Choir**, will present **Spring Jubilation**, an afternoon of Ukrainian music, song and dance, at the **Leacock Theatre**, University of Mount Royal, at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **May 5**. Admission: **\$15.00 in advance; \$20.00 at the door**. For reservations call **Darlene** at **403-271-2379**.

* * *

Regina — The **AUUC Poltava Ukrainian Pavilion** during Regina's Annual **Mosaic, A Festival of Cultures**, on **May 30 and 31 and June 1**, is located at the Regina Performing Arts Centre (RPAC), **1077 Angus at 4th Avenue**. For more information, see **Page 7**.

* * *

Winnipeg — **AUUC Winnipeg Branch** will host a **Spring Concert** on Sunday, **May 5**, from **2:00 p.m.**, at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, Pritchard and McGregor, featuring the **Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra**, the **Festival Choir**, the **AUUC School of Folk Dance** and the **Yunist Dance Ensemble**. Admission: **\$10.00**.

* * *

Winnipeg — **AUUC Winnipeg Branch** will host the **Festival of Mandolins**, featuring the **Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra**, on Saturday, **May 11**, from **2:00 p.m.**, at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, Pritchard and McGregor. Admission: **\$15.00**.

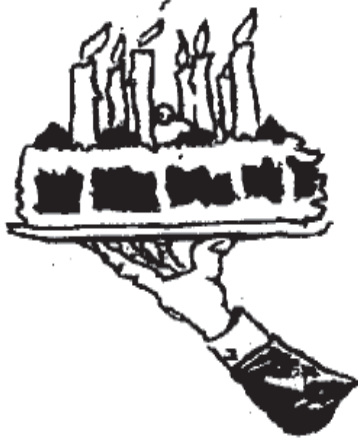
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Toronto — **AUUC Toronto Branch** will host a movie afternoon on Sunday, **June 2**, at **2:00 p.m.**, at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West.

* * *

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 May and June:

Nester Bagan
Sandy Gordey
Paul Greene
Nick Kereliuk
Sophie Sywolos
Mike Uhryn
Virginia Witwicki
Mary Woyewidka
Maurice Warick
Pauline Warick

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 May and June celebrants:

Joe Dzatko
Nita Miskevich
Natalie Mochoruk
Anne Omylanowski

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends best May and June birthday greetings to:

Mary Fedosenko
Charles Hegeous
Carol Snider
Sylvia Surette
Anna Withers

Hope you have a great day!!

The **Welland Shevchenko Seniors** extend a happy birthday wish to May and June celebrants:

Lida Braun
Ron Hlywka
Millie Kish
Joan Sitak
Leonard 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 Website: 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
Phone: (403) 246-1231
E-mail: calauuc@telus.net

EDMONTON BRANCH

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

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 Website: 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
E-mail: auuctorontobranch@gmail.com

WELLAND BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
342 Ontario Road
Welland ON L3B 5C5
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Free Admission by appointment only

Forward to
the 45th
AUUC
National
Convention!

— Story photos: Tony Pizzacalla

Annual Concert and Dinner in Welland



All the seats for the Annual Concert and Dinner at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on April 7 were sold.

On April 7, AUUC Welland Branch hosted a sold-out room of guests for its Annual Concert and Dinner at the Ukrainian Labour Temple.

As they arrived, the guests, who came from as far away as Oshawa to the east of To-

ronto, were met at the door by Tamara Danyluk, in full Ukrainian costume, with the traditional welcome of bread and salt.

They were also met by the gatekeeper, Lida Braun (also in costume), who collected admissions and ensured that the event was not oversold.

The arriving guests were also greeted by sumptuous aromas from the kitchen, stirring appetites with the promise of the delicious food for which their hosts are famous.

AUUC Welland Branch President Clara Babiy said a few words of welcome, and proceeded to direct the guests, table by table, to the food which had been drawing their attention.

The stimulating scents told no lie. The guests, now diners, lined up at the serving tables to receive roast beef with rich gravy and horseradish to curl your hair (as the saying goes), the famous Welland perogies, delicate cabbage rolls, mashed potatoes, salads, and other side dishes and condiments.

The diners enjoyed a feast prepared and served by members of the AUUC, of the Shevchenko Seniors, and of the orchestra — and their friends and relatives. And truly a feast it was, both in quantity and traditional quality. Well done, people!

The meal ended with coffee and trays of pastries, signalling that the next phase of the afternoon was about to start.



Margaret Card's vocals have added another dimension to the appearances of the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra



Welland AUUC Branch President and mandola player Clara Babiy did not thank herself, but she was the human dynamo behind the whole project.



The Hahilka Singers' selections included "Oy pid veshneyu". Left to right are: Claudia Rabzak, Anna Kulish, Lorna Clark and Wilfred Szczesny.



The Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC, conducted by Rudy Wasylenky, presented one of their best performances ever.

This next phase was a performance by the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC. M.C. Bill Lukan introduced Conductor Rudy Wasylenky, and the concert was on.

The first item was "Ukrainian Melodies", a medley of five familiar tunes. Starting with "I Gaze at the Heavens", the selection moves through a variety of tempi to finish with a lively dance melody.

With this first number, the orchestra established that it was about to present one of the best performances of its history. There was good balance between the sections of the orchestra, clean endings and strong entrances with good attention to the conductor's baton, with crisp and accurate runs.

This quality was maintained in "The Birch Tree".

The third number of the program was "Moon River", with soloist Margaret Card. Ms. Card has been well received by audiences since she first appeared with the orchestra, and this occasion was no exception.

The orchestra continued with another medley, "Melodies from Russia". This number begins with a stately legato and builds toward a lively presto. The players resisted the urge to race against the conductor's baton, and also executed well the range of dynamics in the piece.

Margaret Card continued with "Try to Remember", and the set ended with "Speak Softly Love" from *The Godfather*, as orchestrated by Rudy Wasylenky.

Next to appear were the

Hahilka Singers of the Toronto AUUC.

A year ago, when they learned that their accompanist, Peter Krochak, would not be available, the Hahilka Singers declined to appear at this event; this year they decided to go ahead, with Nataalka Mochoruk, their conductor, accompanying on the keyboard. There has been some discussion of the wisdom of that choice.

As was noted before the group started to sing, it was noted that Ms. Mochoruk was not a pianist. She proved the point with a series of wrong notes and discordant chords in each number. This affected the singers, who were uncertain of their introductions and starting notes. This in turn led to problems with remembering their words. As a serious performance, this was poor.

On the other hand, the audience (or, at least, most of them) seemed to accept this as a comedy act. They were amused by Ms. Mochoruk's facial expressions as she struggled to play the accompaniment, as well as by her commentary between numbers. When she shamelessly lobbied for applause to justify a "surprise" as an encore, the response was thunderous.

In the next issue of the "UCH", there will be a report on this same concert, presented in Toronto on April 28. Peter Krochak is scheduled to appear with the group. We look forward to a more positive review of that perform-



Tamara Danyluk met guests at the door with a bread and salt welcome.

ance.

The orchestra started its second set with "Nothing Like a Kossack", with a duet by Rudy Wasylenky and Wilfred Szczesny.

This was followed by the performance of "My Heart Will Go On" by Margaret Card, and then "Yak tantsyuyut Kozaky" with a duet by Rudy Wasylenky and Wilfred Szczesny.

The concert ended with "Beer Barrel Polka", Margaret Card, Rudy Wasylenky and Wilfred Szczesny combining for the vocal.

Following a raffle, Clara Babiy made a few closing remarks.

She noted the absence of Peter Kormos, who died a short time earlier. Mr. Kormos had been a good friend of the AUUC Welland Branch, and

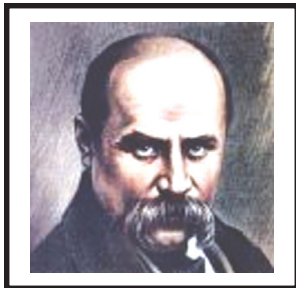
(Continued on Page 12.)



Hahilka Singers conductor Nataalka Mochoruk won the audience with her humour.



Conductor Rudy Wasylenky and mandolin player Wilfred Szczesny joined voices in two duets.



Taras Shevchenko Museum

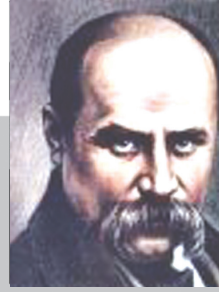


Shevchenko Museum President Andrew Gregorovich (left) with Ambassador Vadym Prystaiko at the Shevchenko Museum in Toronto on January 19.

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worked as an adviser-ambassador and Deputy Head of Mission in the Embassy of Ukraine in the USA. Before that, he worked as deputy head of the NATO Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Canadian community knows Ambassador Prystaiko from his time at the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada in 2002-2006, and is confident that he will exercise his functions professionally and

capably.

Ambassador Prystaiko presented his credentials to the Governor General of Canada David Johnson in Ottawa in December. That same month, he visited Toronto for a meeting with the leaders of most Ukrainian organizations in the area. During his presentation at this meeting he was able to win the favour of most of the participants by his professional response to questions.

— L. Pogoryelov

Annual Event in Welland

(Continued from Page 11.) regularly attended events at the Ukrainian Labour Temple.

Ms. Babiy also thanked the many people who helped make the event a success: the many people who had cooked and served the meal; the Hahilka Singers; Nataka Mochoruk for her donation of embroidered articles for the raffle; Millie Kish for running the raffle; Rudy Wasylenky and members of the orchestra; Lida Braun and Tamara Danyluk for serving at the door; sound technician John Manning; and above all the audience.

— Participant
(Note: Margaret Card performing with the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra can be viewed on YouTube under the heading Welland Mandolin.)

Ukrainian Diplomat at Museum

On January 19, 2013, newly appointed Ambassador of Ukraine in Canada Vadym Prystaiko visited the Shevchenko Museum in Toronto. He was accompanied by the Second Secretary of the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada, Denys Sienik, and Consul of Ukraine in Toronto Anatoly Oliynyk.

The Taras Shevchenko Museum was one of the first cultural institutions that Ambassador Prystaiko visited after his appointment to the post. An excursion through the Museum was guided by Taras Shevchenko Museum President Andrew Gregorovich and Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova. The Ukrainian diplomats were impressed by the Museum's collections and exhibits. They expressed their great interest both in exhibits sent from Ukraine and in Ukrainian Canadian art items.

On behalf of the Ukrainian diplomatic mission of Ukraine in Canada, Vadym Prystaiko expressed gratitude to the Board of Directors of the Museum for its efforts to preserve the best elements of Ukrainian culture and heritage in Canada in this unique institution, and presented a souvenir — a framed Shevchenko postage stamp (#848) issued by the Ukrainian postal authorities in 2006.

Vadym Prystaiko was appointed to the position of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Canada by the President of Ukraine, Victor Yanukovich, on November 8, 2012. Before this appointment, Vadym Prystaiko



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