

Shevchenko Museum AGM

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



The Annual General Meeting of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation was held in Toronto on March 8. Elected to the Board of Directors and the Audit [Committee] were: Seated (left to right): Len Sedun – Board Member, Andrew Gregorovich – President, Bill Harasym – Vice-President, Shirley Uhryn – Edmonton, Lily Stearns – Winnipeg, Debra Skrabeck – Calgary; standing (left to right): George Borusiewich – Vice-Recording Secretary, Bob Ivanochko – Regina, Bernardine Dobrowolsky – Recording Secretary, Bob Seychuk – Ottawa, Lyudmyla Pogoryelov – Director, Nancy Stewart – Treasurer, Joe Dzatko – auditor, Larry Kleparchuk – Vancouver, Jerry Dobrowolsky – Auditor. Not in the photo: Clara Babiy – Welland, Oryst Sawchuk – Sudbury, Vera Borusiewich – Auditor, Bill Malnychuk – Auditor. The report on events of March 8 and 9 begins on Page 2.

On Saturday, March 8, the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation held its 18th Annual General Meeting at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto.

As well as a business meeting, it was a heart-warming reunion of sorts, since the Board had convened only virtually for its 17th AGM in 2013. It also became a festive occasion since it was the weekend of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko.

Following the election of the AGM officers, with Wilfred Szczesny elected as chairperson, the minutes of the 17th AGM were read and adopted, and the reports of the Resident Executive Committee were delivered.

In his President's Report, Andrew Gregorovich stressed the importance of the bard of Ukraine's bicentennial anniversary and accredited Shevchenko as "the founder of the modern Ukrainian literary language".

Andrew also reported on the Museum's contribution to the 200th anniversary through its sponsorship of a Shevchenko stamp through Canada Post, and its publication of the book *Kobzar: Poetry of Taras Shevchenko in Ukrainian, English and French*.

Bob Seychuk, in the dual role of Ottawa Branch representative on the Museum Board and AUUC National President, offered greetings from the AUUC National Committee and National Executive Committee. He also congratulated the Museum Foundation on its 62nd anniversary and thanked its dedicated members and supporters for their fundraising efforts for the Museum.

Bob concluded by referring to the positive partnership between the Foundation and the AUUC.

In her Director's Report, Lyudmyla Pogoryelova highlighted the Museum's activities over the past year, including the publication of the trilingual book, the stamp project, the acquisition of artifacts from Ukraine and the creation of a Strategic Plan. Lyudmyla listed the exhibitions that had been presented and revealed exhibit plans for the remainder of the year.

Particular attention was given to the exhibition devoted to the 200th anniversary of the birth of Shevchenko, which was to open officially in the Museum's gallery on the following day, March 9. This exhibition would also be displayed in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Regina AUUC Branches during their Shevchenko celebration concerts, as well as during the Mosaic Festival in Regina and possibly in the Manitoba Museum in Winnipeg.

Bill Harasym, in his presentation of the Lands Development Committee Report, described three legal matters that were presently being dealt with, pertaining to the Oakville property: right-of-way, assessment and expropriation.

Bill also informed the group that a person now living in Russia but born in Ukraine, with a Shevchenko family connection, was interested in do-
(Continued on Page 2.)

The Next Issue

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated May/June, 2014. Announcements of events in May, June or early July, 2014, as well as articles for the May/June, 2014, issue should be in our office by April 10. Thank you for your consideration.

Because of space constraints in this issue, the report we have received on the Vancouver AUUC Spring Concert will appear in the May/June issue, along with news from Sudbury.

We Need Your Support!

The progressive Ukrainian Canadian community is composed of people with an interest in the quality of life in our country and around the world. We are interested in engaging in the public discussion of issues, and we are interested in influencing the policies which are adopted by public institutions and governments at all levels.

We are interested in the arts, particularly Ukrainian performing arts as they have evolved in Canada, and the activities of a range of institutions, like the Shevchenko Museum in Toronto and the Canadian Society for Ukrainian Labour Research, among others.

Those of us who participate in the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, whether as members or as friends, are interested in the activities of AUUC Branches across Canada.

These, and our other interests as human beings attached to various social groupings, only become significant if there is some form of communication. Unless these interests are shared with others, they are no different from the dreams of our sleep. If shared with others, they can become part of improving the quality of life for all.

Among the various ways in which we interact with others, a newspaper like the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* can be a powerful resource. In every issue, the "UCH" strives to reflect the varied interests of our readers. In every issue the reader finds information about Canada and the world, reports on events in our community, discussion of themes from our culture and history — the gamut of topics reflecting our humanity. We try to make the "UCH" a significant contribution to the lives of our readers.

Like you, we can not function in isolation. We need various forms of interaction to give us vitality. We thank those among you who send us photos and articles. We thank those of you who comment on this publication, to let us know what you like and what you do not like. We thank the many supporters who send money to our sustaining fund through the year.
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Thank You

Special thanks to George Borusiewich and Zorya Murphy for their assistance in preparing this issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*.

Shevchenko Museum Annual General Meeting

(Continued from Page 1.) nating a re-creation of the Shevchenko statue that had been stolen from the property.

During the Question & Answer period, architect Len Sedun and planning consultant Grant Morris explained several issues related to the plans for the property.

Following Treasurer Nancy Stewart's Financial Report and Jerry Dobrowolsky's Audit Committee Report, nominations and elections for the Board of Directors took place. The following positions were established for the coming year:

Vancouver: Larry Kleparchuk

Edmonton: Shirley Uhryn

Calgary: Debra Skrabek

Regina: Bob Ivanochko

Winnipeg: Lily Stearns

Sudbury: Oryst Sawchuk

Welland: Clara Babiy

Ottawa: Bob Seychuk

The following Resident Executive Committee members were elected:

Director: Lyudmyla Pogoryelova

President: Andrew Gregorovich

Vice-President: Bill Harasym

Treasurer: Nancy Stewart

Recording Secretary:

Bernardine Dobrowolsky

Vice-Recording Secretary:

George Borusiewich

Member: Len Sedun.

The Audit Committee members elected for the coming year include Joe Dzatko, Jerry Dobrowolsky, Bill Malnychuk and Vera Borusiewich.

The 18th AGM concluded with a moment's silence for all Foundation friends and supporters who have passed away in the past year, with special remembrance of Steve Smoly, at one time a Board member from Regina.

With the business agenda having been successfully completed, all Board members and guests were invited to attend a reception in the Museum for a preview of the exhibition in honour of the bicentennial and a mini launch of the book *Kobzar: Poetry of Taras Shevchenko in Ukrainian, English and French*, which was dedicated to the special anniversary.

Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Museum Director, acted as MC and introduced Bernardine Dobrowolsky, who gave an overview of the 30-panel exhibit highlighting the life of Ukraine's beloved bard. This was followed by a beautiful recitation of two of Shevchenko's poems by Natalka Mochoruk in Ukrainian and Wilfred Szczesny in English. *The Caucasus*, honouring the Caucasian nations' struggle for independence was powerfully delivered, as was *The Dream*, a story of a young mother and her infant son.

Andrew Gregorovich then introduced the new book of poetry, drawing attention to the fact that the 231 page deluxe volume of 50 poems has a colour section of 19 Shevchenko paintings as well as thirteen black and white illustrations.



About 50 people attended the banquet on the evening of March 8, celebrating the bicentennial of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, following the Museum AGM.

To further celebrate the occasion, a banquet was held at the AUUC Cultural Centre with about 50 guests, including the members of the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra, who would perform for the audience later. Bill Harasym acted as Master of Ceremonies during the Ukrainian-style dinner, which was catered by Baby Point Lounge.

A delightful addition to the evening was the arrival of Ms. Yoko Okano, a special guest from Paris, France. Yoko flew to Toronto specifically for the anniversary celebration and expressed to the audience her respect and affection for the poetry of Taras Shevchenko.

Following the delicious meal, the Welland orchestra, under the direction of Rudy Wasylenky, presented a wonderful and powerful concert as a tribute to Shevchenko. The concert began with a solo

vocal performance by Wilfred Szczesny, accompanied by the orchestra, of the beloved "Zapovit", during which the entire audience rose to its feet.

Other solo numbers by Wilfred included "Reve ta stohne" and "Dumy moyi". Rudy and Wilfred gave a rousing duet performance of "Pozvol' meni maty".

The instrumental repertoire of the orchestra was composed of such beautiful numbers as "Oy hylia, hylia" and a medley called "Ukrainian Melodies" arranged by Rudy.

The guests were also treated to two songs in English, sung by the talented Margaret Card: "My Heart Will Go On", the Celine Dion theme from the film *Titanic* and "You Needed Me", the Anne Murray classic. This wonderful concert concluded with a much-demanded and lively encore by the ensemble.

The finale of the evening

was a performance by the renowned bandurist, Victor Mishalow. Apart from his brilliance in playing the instrument and in his singing, Victor proved to be a most engaging storyteller. The audience left feeling most enthralled by this presentation.

The grand finale to the entire weekend was a public wine-and-cheese reception for the official exhibition opening and book launch at the Museum on Sunday. The program presented to the Board and guests the day before was repeated, with additional poetry recitations in Japanese by Yoko Okano and in French by Victoria McKhail.

The events of the weekend were a fitting tribute to Taras Shevchenko, confirming that great works of art and thought long survive their creators, as the message they bring is fresh and relevant in each age.

— B. Dobrowolsky

Edmonton AUUC Seniors



January birthday celebrants were Rose Kereliuk, Bill Uhryn, Victor Horon and William Maxim.

In an aura of merriment and reverence, the Edmonton AUUC Seniors gathered on January 21 in the tradition of Ukrainian Christmas to recognize the birthdays of Eva Doskoch, Victor Horon, Rose Kereliuk, Bill Uhryn and William Maxim.

William Chomyn's passing was noted with a tribute from President Pauline Warick. Pauline noted that Mr. Chomyn was born on January 14 and died January 6!

A minute of silence followed.

Bill Askin wrote of Bill Chomyn, "We offer our tribute to Bill and his achievements. He was noted for his life long unflinching cultural, social involvement and inspiration to the AUUC and the public."

"Hark! Hark!" The evil spirits were called to join our festivities. Since none responded, Anne Husar, our eldest, brought in the sheaf of wheat upon which the spirits of our ancestors rest. Ann placed the sheaf on a *rushnyk* (embroidered cloth) of

honour next to a loaf of bread.

A minute of silence was then observed in tribute to our ancestors.

Next it was recalled that when Ukrainian family gathered around the festive dinner table, with oat straw beneath it and goodies for the wee children, the head of the house would throw some of the *kutya* (boiled wheat) up to the ceiling. If it stuck there, the



Nina Uhryn won the punch bowl set.

forthcoming year was going to be good and bountiful.

We then proceeded to eat OUR *kutya*.

William Uhryn recalled that when he was young he went to a country church in northern Alberta. There he was taught religion in the Ukrainian language as well as to read and write the Ukrainian language. Today William belongs to the Trembita Choir, where he proudly uses these skills.

At church Bill was taught, and today shared, the New Year's greeting "Khristos razhdayetsya". In keeping with tradition, William wished each of us good luck and good health, with the hope that we all meet again next year at this time.

The head table led the way to the dinner which had been prepared by the seniors: Lucy Antoniwi, bread and *kutya*; Sandy Gordey, *studynets* (jellied meat); Olga Horon, *pampushky* (buns) and cabbage rolls; Ann Kawchuk, meat balls in gravy; Nina Uhryn, mushrooms with cream; Rose Kereliuk, *nachinka* (corn meal); Pauline

Warick, dill pickles as well as a fruit plate and poppy seed cake; Mary Tropak, herring; and lastly, baked salmon by Shirley Uhryn.

Many of those in attendance helped to clean.

Anne (Fannie) Hruschak was our birthday celebrant in February. When interviewed about being the guest of honour, she was enthusiastic:

"Oh! Golly! Great to be with everybody here. Pauline asked me how old I am. I told her 86 years and then I thought; I better figure this (Continued on Page 3.)"



Anne Husar brought in the wheat for a prosperous New Year.

Edmonton Seniors

(Continued from Page 2.) out! I am 87 years old! It is so good to be here with all these great people!”

“My name, Fannie, has a story. When my father emigrated to Canada, the authorities asked the name of his daughter, me. My father was illiterate so he did not know the equivalent of ‘Hafiya’, the name on my immigration papers! The English equivalent is Fannie! The story goes on. My husband, years ago, went to get my passport and unknowingly saw my name at point of immigration to Canada!”

After we had sung “Happy Birthday” and “*Mnohiya*

Leeta”, and toasted Anne, President Pauline Warick expressed the wish that the “friendship, caring and love for each other continue in our seniors”. We raised a glass!

As treasurer of our seniors’ group, Olga Horon presented an audited financial statement for 2013. It was moved and carried that the audited financial statement be accepted. The auditors were Eva Doskoch and Bill Askin.

Pauline recited a poem: “Always have a dream, remember not only the defeats you experienced but the victories too...”

William Uhryn, in keeping with his hobbies, brought a dis-

play of art, dried flowers and oil paintings, to the gathering. One part of the display was cartoons, and you know Bill — the cowboy hat and his moustache are his signatures. Imagine a cartoon in which a would-be cowboy is in his green hospital gown, open at the back, and passing the nurse at the reception desk *en route* to get an X-ray.

The cowboy snorts to the nurse, “I feel naked without my hat!”

In preparation for the 200th Shevchenko Anniversary Concert of the Edmonton AUUC Branch on March 30, a group of senior volunteers, led by Lucy Antoniw, went to the Branch’s library to review the Shevchenko

artifacts and memorabilia contained there.

Mary Tropak and Rose Kereliuk are responsible for this display.

Marion Ursuliak came along, too. Marion read some of the titles of the books on the shelves, and gave the English equivalent when needed.

With a sparkle in her eye and with pride, Marion said that her father taught her to read and write the Ukrainian language. “The winter nights were long!”

Many seniors are volunteering for the Shevchenko concert and banquet. Paul Greene is selling tickets. Lucy Antoniw will be thanking our guest speaker, Lyudmyla Pogoryelov, from the Taras Shevchenko Museum in To-

ronto. For the banquet Eva Doskoch will be taking tickets and Morindi Began will be serving the food to the ticket holders. Anne Sawchuk and her grandson will be taking tickets for the event at the door. Mike Uhryn, the President of the AUUC Edmonton Branch, is contributing as well.

When the concept of the Shevchenko concert was conceived a few months ago, it was the Edmonton AUUC Seniors who said that they supported the project and would physically help stage the event. As writer of this article and chair of the event, I wish to say that the Edmonton Branch seniors have not faltered once.

— Shirley Uhryn

Vancouver AUUC Christmas Recital

The Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Vancouver was decorated with sparkling Christmas wreaths and festive poinsettias, a perfect venue for our young dancers to show off their talents and ignite the Christmas season with joy.

The show kicked off with all dancers marching in, from the tiniest performers at the front to the impressive young men at the back, to the cheerful music provided by the Vancouver Folk Orchestra. The dancers displayed a variety of intricate and colourful costumes, created by Janice Beck to represent different regions of Ukraine.

To start, the audience was treated to a special *Kozachok*, choreographed by Danya Karras to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the Ukrainian hall. This dance included performances from four of the dance classes — Druzhba, Veselka, Yalynka, and Zirka. Though the per-

formers ranged from 5 to 15 years of age, they moved in unison and shared the stage in harmony.

We were exceptionally fortunate to have an MC for the event who was able to guide the audience through the event in both Ukrainian and English. Peter Lukomskyj, the father of two young dancers at the Hall, introduced each of the dances with explanations of the regions of origin of each dance, in addition to describing the musical numbers performed by the Vancouver Folk Orchestra, and by some of the more musically-inclined dancers.

Our youngest, the Zaychyky Dancers, instructed and led on-stage by Alexandra Beck, had the whole audience clapping along to their playful and energetic “*Malenkiy Tanets*”. They followed their teacher in a series of steps, keeping time to the music with no fear of the bright lights and the sea of faces fixed on

them.

Next up, the little squirrels (Bilka Dancers), instructed by Tatyana Beck, demonstrated all the fundamentals of Ukrainian dance, forming lines and circles and turning out sequences of choreography like seasoned pros.

The last performance from the Junior School was a “*Hopachok*” performed by the stars, the Zirka dancers, instructed by Karli Dionne. Their energy and enthusiasm were contagious.

The afternoon switched gears to focus on musical performances. First was the Vancouver Folk Orchestra who set the holiday tone with “Christmas Time is Here”, by Vince Guaraldi.

Next up, the Vincent children held the audience completely spellbound with their beautiful harmonies in “Precious Tune”. With Kael on guitar, Marlaina on violin, and Chloe and Desiree joining in the singing, these four children shared their beautiful gift of music.

Mila Sinal confidently took the stage with her solo performance of the medley “Have Yourself a Merry Little Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas”. What a treat to enjoy such creative expression!

Leading us back to the dancing were the lovely Yalynka Dancers, in Russian costumes, their hair in braids, encouraging the audience to enjoy their playful and merry performance, instructed and choreographed by Taralyn Karras. Their dance of slow-paced graceful steps wasn’t over until topped with a fast-paced encore.

The Veselka Dancers, instructed by Danya Karras, performed “*Zakarpatsky Tanets*”, looking like dancing dolls, bouncing along with arms and legs animated in huge motions.

The Lukomskyj family stepped up to offer their talents for all to enjoy. The au-



The girls prepare to dance a traditional Kolomeyka.



The AUUC Vancouver School of Dance performers make their grand entrance at the 2013 Christmas Recital.



The preschool class performs their dance onstage for the very first time.

— Story photos: Dan Fung



Lily Parasiuk performs “Amazing Grace” to get the crowd into the Christmas spirit during the carol singing.

dience clapped along to young, confident Kiera Lukomskyj’s solo performance of “Firework” (by Katy Perry), then was enchanted by “*Oy chorna ya se chorna*”, a Ukrainian folk song performed by Peter and his youngest daughter, Ella. This was surely one of the highlights of the day.

The senior dancers of the School of Dance, the Druzhba Dancers, performed a fast-paced “*Bukovynsky Tanets*” with a lot of opportunity for the boys and girls to showcase their talents. The choreography emphasized the intricate footwork of the girls and the

demanding squats and kicks of the boys.

The final performance of the evening was a traditional Ukrainian song and dance, the “*Verkhovyna Kolomeyka*”, in which performers of all ages took turns showing off their talents in the middle of the performers’ circle.

Everyone headed downstairs after the show to enjoy food, laughter, sing-along Christmas carols, and a visit from Dyid Moroz, Grandfather Frost, who brought gifts to the tired, well-deserving children!

— Chiara Hnatiuk and Lisa Wawrynychuk

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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\$40.00 Foreign subscriptions.**Advertising rates available on request.****PUBLICATIONS MAIL REGISTRATION No. 40009476***Signed articles represent the viewpoint of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.***Minimum Wage: Do the Math****AN EDITORIAL BY WILFRED SZCZESNY**

In recent months, there have been discussions about the minimum wage in several parts of Canada. Impassioned speeches have been made favouring a minimum wage set to provide income at the poverty level, a slightly increased minimum wage, or the existing minimum wage (to avoid the great job losses caused by an even a slight increase). Other possibilities, such as a guaranteed annual income, have been part of the discussion.

In Ontario, the legislature passed an increase in the minimum wage which failed even to make up for the increased cost of living in the years since the last increase. However, the legislators of all parties felt very virtuous because they included an automatic cost-of-living increase into the future. Every percentage rise in the cost of living would be matched by the same percentage increase in the minimum wage. At least those earning the minimum wage, the argument went, would not fall farther behind.

However, that argument is just wrong. In fact the automatic increase builds in a growing gap between the cost of living and the minimum wage. Here is the math.

Let us suppose that the living wage is \$14.00/hour, and that the minimum wage is \$12.00. The difference is \$2.00.

If the cost of living increases 2%, the living wage becomes $\$14.00 + \$0.28 = \$14.28$. The minimum wage rises by 2% to $\$12.00 + \$0.24 = \$12.24$. The difference of \$2.00 has become a difference of \$2.04.

In general, if the living wage is $\$w$ /hour and the minimum wage is $\$m$ /hour, the difference is $\$(w-m)$ /hour. If the cost of living increases by $d\%$, the living wage becomes $\$(w+dw/100)$ and the minimum wage becomes $\$(m+dm/100)$. Now the difference is $\$(w+dw/100) - \$(m+dm/100)$, or $\$(w-m+wd/100-md/100)$. Because w is greater m , $wd/100-md/100$ is positive, so the difference has grown. Furthermore, the difference will always grow if the minimum wage is less than the living wage, and the cost of living increases.

However virtuous that politicians may feel about tying the minimum wage point for point to the cost of living, the fact is that they are tying the working poor to increasing poverty.

That is not the whole story. For one thing, the minimum wage increases *after* the cost of living has been increasing for some time, which represents hardship for a large group of workers. In addition, many minimum wage jobs are precarious employment, occasional and/or part time, adding to the gap between cost of living and income. In Ontario, once again, the NDP and the Liberals decided to retain poverty and let it grow.

COMMENTARY**The Situation in Ukraine****Statement from the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians National Executive Committee regarding the situation in Ukraine as of March 2, 2014.**

As the last decade of the 20th century began, the world system of socialist states was dismantled, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was shattered into a set of new countries. Ukraine was one of the newly formed countries in the geopolitical reality which emerged.

In Ukraine, as in most of the countries of the former socialist world, one of the first processes set in motion was the privatization of social capital. This privatization was done in a way which led to rapid accumulation of wealth by relatively few individuals. This process of accumulation happened throughout Ukraine, east and west.

In less than two decades, individuals now known as oligarchs amassed hundreds of millions, and even billions, of dollars in assets. By 2008, the top 50 oligarchs accounted for 85% of the country's Gross Domestic Product. By the end of that year, Ukraine had a few more than 80 billionaires, including Rinat Akhmetov, the richest, at \$23 billion.

The oligarchs were involved in Ukrainian parliamentary politics very early in their evolution. Scores of political parties were formed. Over time (spanning less than 25 years) these evolved into a handful of parties strong enough to win a parliamentary seat: the Party of Regions (associated until recently with Victor Yanukovich), UDAR (a relatively new party, now led by Vitaly Klichko), Batkivshchyna (associated with Yulia Tymoshenko), the Communist Party of Ukraine, and Svoboda (a far-right party based in Galicia, Western Ukraine).

From the beginning, the oligarchs have used Ukraine's parliament to reward their friends and punish their rivals. Since November, 2013, this struggle has been particularly

sharp, with the opposition to the Party of Regions and the presidency of Victor Yanukovich engaging in extra-parliamentary activity which has culminated in Mr. Yanukovich being deposed.

As a result of the historical development of Ukraine, the interests of the oligarchs are, to a large extent, geographically divided, between east and west.

As a result of Ukraine's strategic position, NATO (and particularly the United States) and the European Union in the west, and Russia in the east, have keen interest in developments in Ukraine.

Encouraged by the NATO countries and the European Union, the opposition to the Party of Regions has played on the prejudices of many Ukrainians, especially in Western Ukraine. In this atmosphere, far right-right activists, with strong encouragement from partners in Germany and others, are emerging as a serious threat.

These facts create many dangers for Ukraine, as well as for the world.

There have already been attacks on members and supporters of the Party of Regions. Some factions involved in the opposition have bragged about their history of struggle against the Jews and Communists. There is a real threat of politically motivated violence against broad sections of the population by right-wingers who are now riding high.

Some of the early decisions of the new government suggest the possibility of limiting language rights and other restrictions on the freedom of ethnic Russians, and possibly others. This could well lead to continued conflict, including violence.

The internal dangers have their compliment in external

dangers. The EU, the United States and Canada look to the situation in Ukraine as an opportunity to advance their strategic interests in Central Europe. Russia has long been wary of western designs on Ukraine. Thus it comes as no surprise that Russian forces have moved into the Crimea. This shows how dangerous and unstable the situation is as Russia responds to what it sees as a threat to its strategic interests in the region. This dangerous situation is exacerbated by the warnings of Obama, Merkel and Cameron and the visit of John Baird at the head of a high ranking Canadian delegation. Thus, the people of Ukraine are caught between the internal fight of the oligarchs and the external pressure of the big powers.

These are among the issues which cause us deep concern about developments in Ukraine. We urge all parties involved in events in Ukraine to take a step away from violence and seek peaceful political resolution of differences.

We call on the countries of NATO (including Canada) and the EU to reduce their stance of hostility to Russia. The continuation of the Cold War, with Russia substituted for the Soviet Union, is a dangerous policy which limits, rather than enhancing, global development. Inflaming anti-Russian sentiment in Ukraine can only increase conflict in that country, without producing any long-term benefit to Ukraine or its partners.

We call on the countries of the West, especially Germany, to stop encouraging, aiding and abetting the far-right groups in Ukraine. A fascist Ukraine will pose no less a danger to the world than did Nazi Germany, also encouraged by western countries for many of the same reasons, including the expectation that it would be a weapon aimed eastward.

We call on the current government and future governments of Ukraine to act with restraint and exercise common sense. Corruption in
(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.

Regina Celebrates Malanka

On January 18, 2014, 270 patrons enjoyed an evening of good food, beverages, fine performances and plenty of dancing. *Malanka 2014*, jointly sponsored by the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance and the Regina Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadian proved to be another wonderful success that gave everyone attending a most enjoyable evening.

Greetings on behalf of the Regina AUUC and the Poltava Ensemble were given by Mr. Sasha Lapchuk, Branch President of the AUUC. Among the dignitaries attending the event were NDP MLA Trent Wotherspoon and Liberal MP Ralph Goodale.

The beginning of the evening included cocktails and appetizers (pickled herring, *kutia*, Kyiv garlic cheese), and was followed by an incredible meal catered by Joe's European Deli and Catering, with help from the AUUC *varenyky* crew, headed by Gerry Shmyr and Emily Laslo.

All the tables were adorned with helium-filled balloons and complimentary copies of the Regina's National Ukrainian Festival (2005) program, provided by the Regina AUUC.

The Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance presented a 45-minute program. They are under the direction of Dance Director, Oleksandr

Bayleyev and Orchestral Director, Natalia Osypenko.

From the Poltava School of Dance, the Pre-Poltava and Lileya dancers under the direction of Lisa Wanner and Daniel Hebert, performed as well.

In all, there were some 80 performers.

The evening continued with various raffles and door prizes that were given away under the guidance of MC Dave Wilson.

Of course, no social evening in Regina would be complete without a dance, and at this *Malanka* it was to the music of the Ficor Show Dance Band. The music had young and old up on the dance floor, with plenty of participation during the traditional "*Kolo-meyka*."

Our *Malanka* was covered, unexpectedly, by the daily *Regina Leader Post* with two pictorial pages in its weekly insert "*QC*". The event was also covered by Regina CTV on its evening news.

The Regina AUUC is grateful to all the volunteers and sponsors who facilitated an enjoyable evening, and in particular the Malanka Committee: Cindy Greschner, Sasha and Wanda Lapchuk, Zoya Shmyr, Shawn and Jennifer Swicheniuk, Lynne and Alex Lapchuk.

— Alex Lapchuk

— Photo: Sasha Lapchuk



Malanka Committee member Wanda Lapchuk (3rd from right) posed at the *Malanka* with fellow teachers from the public school system

Photo: Michael Bell, Regina Leader-Post



The Poltava Ensemble performed at *Malanka 2014*, Ukrainian New Years Celebration, held at the Regina Performing Arts Centre in Regina on Saturday January 18.



The Poltava Ensemble Orchestra, conducted by Natalia Osypenko, was included in the 45-minute program as 270 patrons enjoyed the food and the entertainment at the *Malanka* in Regina.

— Photo: Sasha Lapchuk



Serving the public: Renata Tkachuk, Bev Halushka and Ro Boyd.



— Photo: Sasha Lapchuk

Among those selling raffle tickets were Anastasia Shved and Jeff Lozinsky.

Winnipeg Malanka — Another View

A report on the Winnipeg AUUC Malanka appeared in the February/March issue of the "*UCH*". Another viewpoint on that event is given below.

I had not attended a *Malanka* celebration in a number of years, so wasn't sure what to expect.

On the evening of January 11, as I entered the beautiful and historic Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple, I was immediately greeted by a number of long-time friends. How delightful! Greetings & hugs were exchanged. I had just a few minutes to be seated at our table with my siblings and their guests before the program started.

We were welcomed by host and hostess (*hospodar* and *hospodinya*) Victor Krenz and Katherine Korol-McLennan. They played their characters well.

The Festival Choir under the direction of the capable Vasylyna Streltsov presented a selection of New Year's carols. They were accompanied by pianist Anna Khomenko & accordionist Brent Stearns. The choir sang with lots of energy and enthusiasm. A few of the carols were new to me and were

quite lovely. The duet by Nancy Kardash and Vasylyna in the piece "*Oy u horodi (In the Garden)*" was especially enjoyable.

Following the choir performance was the *Malanka* skit with the choir members, the host and hostess, and the *Malanka* skit players (Tim Gordienko, Che-Rosie Carr, Kim Boss and Gloria Gordienko). Musicians were Annis Kozub, Cory Hedin and David Swatek. Wow!! It must have been no simple task to put the skit together.

The performers are to be applauded for their efforts and their abilities and, in the case of the *Malanka* skit players, their agility. The crowd gave them a well-deserved ovation.

Then came the "Gypsy Dance" by the women of the Yunist Dancers. Beautiful costumes and the upbeat gypsy music enhanced the fine performance.

The choir then offered a couple more carols, after which dinner was served.

I would be remiss if I didn't

mention Lewis Catering because the meal was absolutely delicious and very ample chicken, meatballs, carrots, potatoes, *pyrohy*, *holubtsi* (cabbage rolls), cole slaw and more. The servers were attentive and polite.

During dinner we were treated to the music of strolling accordionist Mike Moskal, another lovely feature of the delightful evening.

We were fortunate to have the Great Gordini (the multi-talented Gord Gilbey) and his wife, Kim, at our table. Gord is an illusionist but could also be a stand up comic. His presentation is very professional and entertaining. The audience certainly gave him their full attention & hearty applause.

Gord told me that his aim is to make people laugh and he certainly succeeded.

I didn't get to have my future predicted by Fortune Teller Cheryl-Anne Carr, but judging by the line up she is very popular.

The evening was rounded out with dancing and conversation.

As I made my farewells, I felt how fortunate I had been to attend such a wonderful evening. It would have been a bargain at twice the cost!

Z novym rokom! Happy New Year!

— Karin (Kozub) Woods

Toronto AUUC Loves and Laughs

Our Love and Laughter annual event, held on February 16, was preceded this year by a short Branch Meeting (pressure of time and not enough days in the month).

The mood for our Valentine Day gathering was established at our front entrance by an artistic "Live and Love" display.

The hall itself was appropriately decorated, including large musical notes and clefs dangling from the ceiling. Small plaques on each table, inscribed with the words "Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much", offered sage advice to our guests.

Entertainment for the afternoon was provided, as

usual, by the Hahilka Singers. Conductor Natalie Mochoruk, keyboard artist Peter Krochak, and the vocalists were all dressed in colourful Ukrainian costumes.

Because illness prevented one of our vocalists from attending, former Hahilka Choir member Connie Prince stepped in and performed as

smoothly as if she had never missed a rehearsal.

Natalie was excellent, not only conducting, but introducing each number and discussing/explaining it to the audience. Singer/actor Wilfred Szczesny was bold, assertive and firm. Peter Krochak, as always, was talented and rock-steady on the keyboard. Lorna Clark was melodic and warm,

and naturally-talented Connie wiggled while singing (wiggled??).

For me, one highlight of the afternoon (amongst several) was a duet by Lorna and Peter. Overall, it was an imaginative performance, well-received by an appreciative audience.

Next, our guests were in-
(Continued on Page 11.)

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowsky



At Love and Laughter in Toronto, former Hahilka Choir singer Connie Prince (right) joined Hahilka Singers Lorna Clark and Wilfred Szczesny, accompanied by Peter Krochak.

Movie Afternoon in Toronto

On Sunday, March 2, 2014, AUUC Toronto Branch held a Movie Day featuring the epic film *Reds*. This picture centres on the life and career of John Reed, the journalist and writer who chronicled the Russian Revolution in his book *Ten Days that Shook the World*, and stars Warren Beatty and Diane Keaton.

To create the atmosphere and to enhance the feeling of being there, the audience was treated to Russian music from the '30s and '40s as they entered the hall.

Included in the light menu were sliced kolbassa, pickled herring with sour cream, rye bread, cubes of cheese, mini pepperoni sticks and dill pickles.

The film is quite long, lasting three hours and fifteen minutes. Everyone seemed to be eagerly anticipating the half-time intermission — not because the movie wasn't being enjoyed, but because word had circulated that Natalka Mochoruk's homemade cheese and berry *nalesnyky* (crepes) were to

be served then. And they were worth the wait! A dollop of jam and of whipping cream were served with each piece. Needless to say, intermission lasted a little longer than planned!

The audience remained just as intrigued by the story line in the second half. Everyone left feeling very satisfied and well entertained, but totally surprised, as they left after the long afternoon had flown by, that it was already getting dark outside.

— B. Dobrowsky

Welland Orchestra Plays in Vineland

—Story photos: Sidney Garvin



About 50 residents of the United Mennonite Centre in Vineland enjoyed a concert by the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra (AUUC) on February 12.

On February 12, 2014, the Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians performed for the residents of the United Mennonite Centre in Vineland. The 16-number program was selected with a non-Ukrainian audience in mind.

The performance opened with "Lara's Theme" from the film *Doctor Zhivago*. The first of three instrumental numbers, this instantly recognized piece is always well received by audiences.

Next on the program was "Bei Mir Bist Du Schon", with vocal soloist Wilfred Szczesny.

In a program marked by variety, the next number was the Gershwin song "Embraceable You", with Margaret

Card as vocal soloist. Many performers have sung this song. Billie Holiday's 1944 recording was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2005.

Ms. Card continued, now joined by Rudy Wasylenky in a vocal duet, with "Just because". The audience was quite taken by the sound effects provided by Wayne Hosick.

The second instrumental, "Speak Softly, Love" from the movie *The Godfather*, followed.

"Moon River", composed by Henry Mancini, with lyrics by Johnny Mercer, received an Academy Award for Best Original Song for its first performance, by Audrey Hepburn in the 1961 movie *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. It also

won the 1962 Grammy Award for Record of the Year and the

Grammy Award for Song of the Year. On this afternoon, Margaret Card performed the vocal solo.

Starting with "Moon River" Margaret Card and Wilfred Szczesny took turns. Mr. Szczesny continued with Bob Dylan anti-war classic "Blowing in the Wind".

Then it was Ms. Card with "My Heart Will Go On" the love theme from the movie *Titanic*.

Then it was Mr. Szczesny again, this time with Mr. Wasylenky, in "Jamaica Farewell", the song popularized by Harry Belafonte.

Tom Jones wrote the lyrics for Ms. Card's next number, "Try to Remember", the first number in the musical comedy *The Fantasticks*.

The string of vocals was broken with the third, and final, instrumental on the program, Doris Day's first #1 hit, in 1945, "Sentimental Jour-

ney".

Marg Card returned with two Anne Murray vocals: "Could I Have This Dance?" and "You Needed Me".

To justify its name, the orchestra then performed the only Ukrainian number on the program, "Ukrainian Folk Medley". Vocals in this lively selection were by Messrs. Szczesny and Wasylenky.

After "Vera Lynn Medley" with vocalist Margaret Card, the concert ended with "Beer Barrel Polka", sung by Ms. Card with Mr. Wasylenky.

There were many signs that the audience enjoyed the presentation: oohs and aahs, toe tappng, head nodding, clapping, and singing along. A particularly interesting indication of interest is the number of staff and others taking a few moments out of their activity to stand in the doorways to catch just a bit of the music.

— Volodymyr Lucky



The Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC, Conducted by Rudy Wasylenky, appeared in concert at the United Mennonite Centre on February 12.

Annual AUUC Concert-Recital in Regina



The vocal trio of Volodymyr Tomilin (left), Natalia Osypenko and Guennadi Ostrikov performed “Halya Goes for Water”. Guennadi also sang “Kievlianka” and “A moment in Time” as vocal soloist.



Dave Wilson was the MC for the Concert-Recital

The Annual Concert-Recital of the AUUC Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts and the AUUC Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance featured 125 performers before an audience of 400 at the Regina Performing Arts Centre on February 8, 2014.

The Poltava Ensemble Dancers are directed by Oleksandr Byelyayev, with Assistant Lisa Wanner and Ballet Mistress Tetiana Moisey. The Ensemble Orchestra, which accompanied all the dances, is under the direction of Natalia Osypenko. It was also featured in two orchestral selections: “Dnirovsky Waltz” and “Poliushko polie”.

The six classes in the School are instructed by the following: Novice and Beginner – Katie Wihak, Jordan Bidyk and Kayla Swicheniuk; Junior and Intermediate – Dallas Montpetit and Nicholas Dmyterko; Lileya and Pre-Poltava – Lisa Wanner (Administrator of the School) and Daniel Hebert

The AUUC is indebted to the nine instructors of the School, Ensemble and the parents that assisted with the six children’s groups, as well as those that manned the foyer
— Alex Lapchuk



The Poltava Ensemble premiered its latest “Hopak”, the traditional ending to Regina’s Concert Recital.



With memories of the golden domes and vibrant folk melodies of Russia, The poltava Ensemble performed “Sviatkovy Suvenir”



The female dancers of the Poltava Ensemble performed “Viteretz”, adapted from the Virsky National Dance Company of Ukraine.



The Lileya Dancers, the second oldest class in the school, performed “Children’s Hopak” They are directed by Lisa Wanner and Daniel Hebert.



The Zaichyky-Novice Dance Group, with just five months of classes made their first appearance on the stage with “Kryachok”. They are under the direction of Kayla Swicheniuk, Jordan Bidyk (both in the picture) and Katie Wihak.

— Story photos: Mark Greschner



Numbering some 11 children, the Malyatka-beginner Dance Group, under the direction of Katie Wihak, Kayla Swicheniuk, and Jordan Bidyk performed their version of “Tropotianochka”.



The Kalyna-Junior Dance Group Class, under the direction of Dallas Montpetit and Nicholas Dmyterko, performed “Polisianka”.



The Yalenka-Intermediate Class, under the direction of Dallas Montpetit and Nicholas Dmyterko, presented “Lemkivsky Triasunets”.



The Pre-Poltava Dancers, directed by Lisa Wanner and Daniel Hebert, appeared with “Bukovensky tanets”.



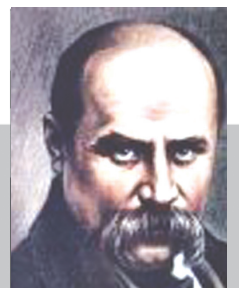
How appropriate that in February in Regina the Poltava Ensemble preented “Zymushka” (Winter Games).

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separate
page.**

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewich

Hot Air And Hypocrisy

(Marina Lewycka is the author of *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*. On March 10, the British newspaper *The Guardian* published an article by her, about the recent events in Ukraine. The above title is hers. Printed below are some excerpts).

"Instead of blustering into their microphones in a frenzy of self-righteous indignation, the leaders of the US and EU would do well to spend a few minutes swotting up on the history of this volatile region. They would learn that Crimea has a long history of conflict between its Ukrainian, Russian and Tartar communities."

"The last time the British got involved was in 1853-6, and that, too, was a shambles. This time, the west's intervention has been foolish and inept, and its hypocrisy is shameful. Less than a month ago, a violent insurrection in the streets of Kiev against the elected government was greeted in the west as an uprising of 'the people of Ukraine' choosing the west against closer ties with Russia. Everyone knows, if they stop to think about it, that such a simplistic characterisation of 'the people of Ukraine' is wilfully naive, but the breathless journalists and huffy politicians gushing their stuff never stop to think. Thinking is dangerous. It can lead you to see the other person's point of view."

"When things turned nasty in Kiev as armed protesters, some of them with fascist insignia, seized control of government buildings, the police cracked down, and snipers gunned down police and protesters in the streets. But who exactly were these snipers? The Estonian foreign minister, Urmas Paet, not a natural ally of Moscow, thought it was at least credible that they belonged to the anti-government Maidan protesters."

"Yanukovich fled, with his ill-gotten wealth. Yulia Tymoshenko was released from jail, with her ill-gotten wealth (which is OK in her case, because she is pro-west). Let us just pause to remember, before we gallop on to the next crisis, that Yanukovich, for all his grotesque self-enrichment, was democratically elected, as few of the new self-appointed government have been."

"The cynicism and hypocrisy with which some politicians have tried to pick apart the seams in this delicate and ancient fabric fills me with rage and despair. The histories of Russia and Ukraine have been entwined since at least the ninth century, and so

have Russian and Ukrainian families. Only in some fascist paradise are people ethnically pure."

"But the western powers should be careful not to colude with neo-Nazis (though to judge from much media coverage, their snipers and molotov cocktails are OK, because they're on our side)."

Violent Clashes In Kharkiv

(From the website *euro-news.com* dated March 1.)

"Dozens of people have been hurt in clashes in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

Violence reportedly broke out when pro-Russia activists stormed the regional government's headquarters. Thousands of people had gathered outside the building during a protest against Ukraine's new leaders who ousted president Viktor Yanukovich a week ago. They denounced the Kyiv authorities that have been installed — and called for reunification with Russia.

A Russian flag was later seen being raised.

As well as Kharkiv, protests have also taken place in other cities — including Donetsk, Yanukovich's home town and power base.

The violence in Kharkiv highlights the challenges Ukraine's new leaders could face in mainly Russian-speaking regions — which oppose the largely pro-Western course charted by the newly installed government."

Tit For Tat

Ukraine's new justice authorities have issued warrants for the arrest of pro-Russia leaders in the Crimea region. A Russian court issued an arrest warrant for Ukrainian far-right leader Dmytro Yarosh on charges of inciting terrorism.

What About Crimea?

(A BBC reporter toured Crimea and filed a report dated March 9. Here are some excerpts. — gb)

"We pulled up to a road block on the road from Sevastopol to the Crimean capital, Simferopol. The checkpoint was under mixed command — Ukrainian police who had defected from Kiev to Crimea's pro-Russian autonomous government, heavily-armed soldiers wielding AK-47 rifles and a group of Cossacks — one of whom was ready to talk. "I've come from Russia," he said. "We have the right to be here because

the local people asked for our help, to protect them from the fascists of western Ukraine."

Many among the ethnic Russian majority in Crimea have openly asked for Moscow's support here. They brand the revolutionaries of Kiev's Independence Square 'fascists'.

It's an allegation based on the far-right groups that supported the uprising that toppled President Viktor Yanukovich, as well as the nationalism (support for Hitler's invasion of Ukraine. — gb) of Western Ukraine during World War Two.

History weighs heavy here."

Anti-Russia Sanctions

There have been many reports in the news lately about sanctions against Russia for its alleged role in the current Ukraine crisis. The sanctions threatened have ranged from trade restrictions, expulsion from the G8 organisation, seizure of Russian assets, etc.

The sanction I like best is the one proposed (seriously) by American Republican Senator John McCain. He demanded that rich Russians be barred from Las Vegas!

This was reported on the CBC website on March 6.

The "Right" Rears Up

(The following are excerpts from an article in the March 11 issue of *The New York Times*).

"During the Independence Square protests, Dmytro Yarosh made a name for himself as an expert with fire-bombs. Now, just weeks later, Mr. Yarosh, leader of the right-wing coalition known as Right Sector, says he is running for president. When Russia's politicized state media talk about the "neo-fascists" and "anti-Semites" who pulled off what the Kremlin calls a coup in Kiev and are now supposedly threatening Russians in Crimea and eastern Ukraine, they have men like Mr. Yarosh in mind."

"Mr. Yarosh's bid for office is best understood as the latest maneuver in the ceaseless churn and infighting among the leadership of western Ukrainian nationalist groups — White Hammer, Patriots of Ukraine, and the Trident of Stepan Bandera, the organization Mr. Yarosh helped found in the early 1990s."

"For Ukraine's interim government, Right Sector has been invaluable in securing power."

"The group has been named by the Kremlin as a justifica-

tion for its military intervention. Sergey V. Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, said (recently) that the interim government, 'to our huge regret, is dependent on the radical nationalists who seized power in an armed attack. Effectively, there is no state control whatsoever over public order, and the music is dictated by the so-called Right Sector, which operates by the methods of terror and intimidation.'"

"In one of his first public appearances, Mr. Yarosh arrived at a hotel conference room in a scrum of bodyguards with pistols, all dressed in black."

"As Right Sector has made the transition into politics, its leadership has moved from an occupied post office into rooms at a hotel near Independence Square. The group still keeps stocks of beer bottles filled with gasoline on the sidewalk outside, even though there are no longer any riot police officers to fight."

"Mr. Yarosh said Right Sector was not about to disband its paramilitary units. He said they were needed to maintain a deterrent against Russia, while Moscow says they are used to maintain control over the interim government by using street muscle to intimidate lawmakers."

Other Opinions

(The news agency CNN published a pro-coup article by writer Anna Borshchevskaya. Here are some responses to her article. Punctuation, grammar and spelling are as in the original. — gb)

Blogger "Joseph McCarthy" — Who is this Anna Borshchevskaya to say that we should do anything about Ukraine and thus sticking our noses into where we have absolutely no business at all? The idiotic policy is why we're broke and no only that it makes us the most hated country in the world today.

Blogger "bobcat2u" — I agree Joseph, this Anna alphabet person is obviously one of the Ukrainians who was pro EU entry. This is totally an internal issue and should be handled as thus. The world at large has been trying to push us into every conflict that is happening right now. We are finally winding down on the last ill conceived invasion we were thrust into and its time to bring everyone homes and let those that holler the loudest to jump in and take a shot at it.

Blogger "matslats" — The author hasn't even said what is the role of the West! Just as well, for then she would have to recount how USA is funding, training, equipping & supporting both the blood-

thirsty Islamic militants in Syria and grass-roots neo-nazi thugs overthrowing an elected government in Ukraine.

Blogger "Willis" — The democratically elected President was run out of the country and now there is a group of unelected replacements saying they are 'mobilizing forces' and 'preparing for war.' Blogger "Rob" — Are you not aware of the countless countries that America has invaded without pretext? Does Kosovo sound familiar? If Kosovo chose to break away, why can't Crimea? Crimea has a majority of 60% or more, so after the banning of the Russian language in Ukraine, Russian TV channels have also been banned, by the maidan elected parliament who do not represent the entire Ukraine.

Blogger "toomanyhypocrites" — Hope there is war and they send my neighbors kids. They play loud music.

(The following comments were taken from *global-publicsquare.blogs.cnn.com*. Although the opinions on this website are more pro-west than pro-east, I have chosen to record here mostly pro-east opinions. The reason for this choice is that you, the reader, are already flooded with pro-west comments in your daily newspapers, TV, and radio broadcasts. It sometimes helps to hear the other side. Yes, there is another side. — gb)

Blogger "Mike" — I think you have a deep misunderstanding of the crisis. Putin is no villain, this is not some Hollywood movie. Everyone wants to live in prosperity and peace, you somehow assume that Russians don't, and the rest of the 'free' world do. I am Russian and I am free. There is no more propaganda in the Russian media than in the West. Why are you not mentioning neo-nazi elements currently in top government positions in Ukraine? The first law introduced was to ban Russian language, the second law was to get rid of the Supreme Court, the third law was to allow for denial of Nazi crimes.

Blogger "NotBuyInIt" — Russia has a lot to learn about liberty and they are trying. But to suggest that America is superior to Russia in its practice of what it calls democracy is ludicrous.the USA is every bit the plutocracy Russia is. Perhaps more.

Blogger "Sotir Ilievski" — Russians and Ukrainians are brothers. It pains me to see this quarrel. Also it is hard to understand how a violent action in toppling a duly elected government is OK for one side, but the same actions in Crimea are illegitimate....

Shevchenko Bicentennial

In this year of the celebration of the birth of Taras Shevchenko the "UCH" will publish a variety of materials related to the Bard of Ukraine. We begin with a serialized presentation of the introductory essay by Yevgen Kirilyuk, then Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, to the publication *Taras Shevchenko: Selected Works*, produced in Moscow by Progress Publishers. The article was written in Russian, which is reflected in the translation into English. The peculiarities of the language (including use of "the Ukraine") are left as they were originally. Some punctuation has been edited.

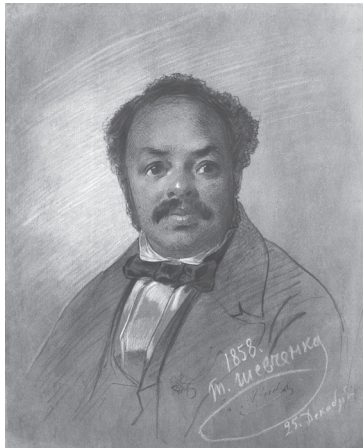
The Bard of the Ukraine

(Continued from the February/March issue.)

On his return to Petersburg in 1844 Taras Shevchenko became acquainted with a number of free-thinking Russians who later formed the secret political circle of M. Butashevich-Petrashkevsky. He became a consistent revolutionary democrat, an active fighter against serfdom and the autocracy. In the poem "The Heretic" (about the great Czech patriot and reformer Jan Hus) and other works Shevchenko developed still further the theme of Slavic unity and brotherhood. In the poem "The Caucasus" he enlarged this theme to call for the joint struggle of all the peoples of the Russian empire against the autocracy. He openly attacked the whole feudal-autocratic order ("A Dream", 1844) and called for a people's revolution ("To the Dead, the Living and the Unborn", "The Cold Ravine", "My Testament"). Tsarist censorship ruled out the possibility of having his works published, so the poet neatly wrote them out by hand in an album entitled *Three Years* (1843-45).

Back in the Ukraine, Shevchenko joined the secret political Society of Cyril and Methodius, in which he advocated a consistently revolutionary policy. In 1847 the society was exposed and its members were arrested and taken to Petersburg for trial. The cruellest punishment of all was meted out to Shevchenko. He was made a soldier and banished to distant Orenburg, the tsar personally adding to the sentence: "forbidden to write and to paint". From Orenburg Shevchenko was sent to the Orsk battalion.

By banishing him and making him a soldier (the term of army service at that time was twenty-five years), the tsar strove to kill the poet and artist in Shevchenko. But Shevchenko continued to write his freedom-loving verses both in the dungeon of the Third Department (political police) in Petersburg and in the Orsk fortress. The poet fashioned



Taras Shevchenko's Portrait of Ira Aldridge

miniature notebooks, wrote his works in them in the tiniest of handwriting, and kept them concealed in the legs of his boots.

There were humane people even among the officers. Captain-Lieutenant Butakov took Shevchenko along as an artist on an expedition to explore the Aral Sea in 1848; i.e., he disobeyed the tsar's orders. On his return to Orenburg the poet lived in private quarters and wore civilian clothes.

Shevchenko's poetry of the exile period reached a higher stage. In the brown, sun-baked steppe he nostalgically recalled his distant Ukrainian homeland, the wide, free Dnieper and the boundless black earth plains, the people and their sad lot. Again and again he conjured up his homeland's glorious past, its plight during the years of serfdom, and visions of the better days to be. He dreamed of a peasant rising, of final victory over the tsars and feudal gentry. In "The Princess", "Marina", "P.S.", (Pavlo Skoropadsky) he described typical feudal masters, in "Marina", "The Outlaw" and "If It Should Chance" he presented types of the people's avengers. In "Kings" he openly called for the overthrow of the autocracy.

In exile he continued to champion friendship among the nations, he made friends with Polish revolutionaries and addressed his poem "To the Poles" to them; he devoted many warm, friendly lines to the local Kazakh people, and also painted them.

In 1850 the poet was arrested again on charges laid by an officer, returned to Orsk for trial and then banished still farther away, to Novopetrovsk fortress on the Mangishlak Peninsula on the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea (today Fort Shevchenko).

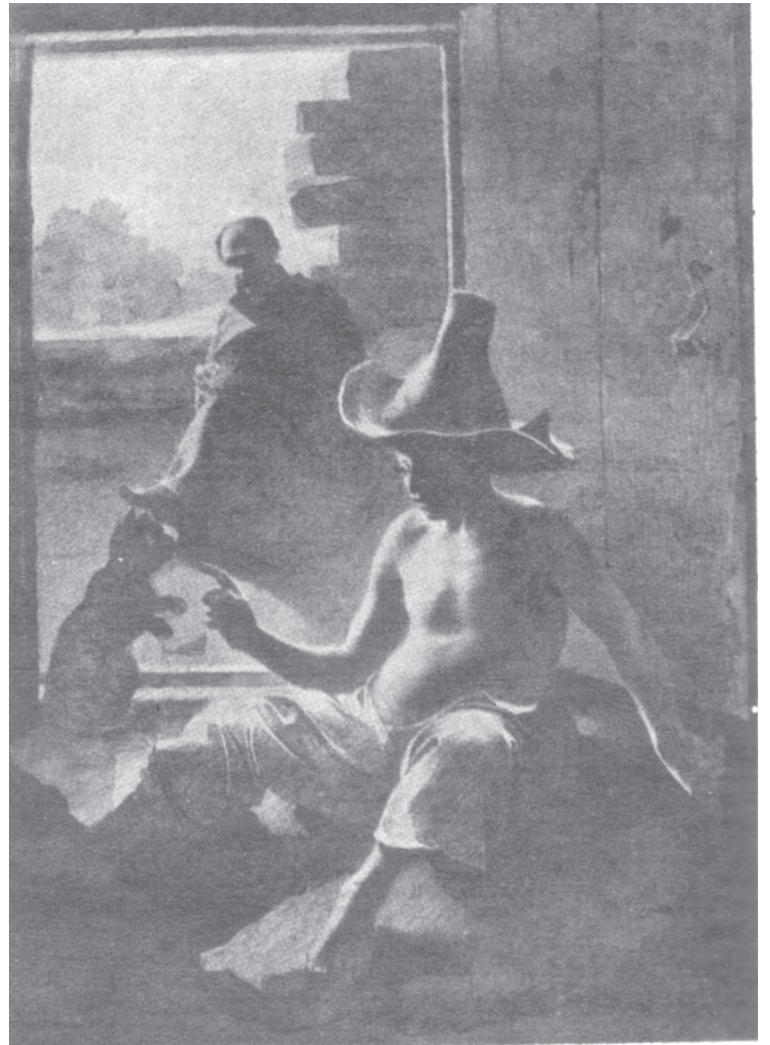
During this second period of his exile Shevchenko wrote a number of novels in Russian, hoping to get them published in periodicals. Some of the novels have the same plots as his poems "The Servant Woman"; "The Outlaw" and "The Princess", while others — *The Musician*, *The Artist* and *The Journey* — have new plots. They contain much autobiographical material. Not one of the novels by Kobzar Darmograi (Shevchenko's pseudonym) was published during the author's lifetime.

Shevchenko was not immediately amnestied, as were other political prisoners, after the death of Nicholas I. He was released from banishment only after long and insistent intercession on the part of his Russian friends. Even then he was long denied entry to the capital and was forced to wait at Nizhny Novgorod (today the city of Gorky).

When he learned that his release had been granted, Taras Shevchenko started his *Diary*, a wonderful human document which provides us with a living portrait of the implacable revolutionary and deep thinker. For example, watching the steam-engine at work on a boat, he voiced prophetic thoughts on the revolutionary significance of the development of engineering and science, which would inevitably bring an end to the old order.

On his return to Petersburg, Shevchenko drew close to the outstanding public figures of that time, the Russian revolutionary democrats Chernyshevsky and Dobrolyubov, and the Polish revolutionary democrat Sierakowski.

In his last years Shevchenko's poetry reflected the flames of the peasant revolts, the revolutionary situation in the pre-reform Russia of 1859-61. The poet widely utilised Biblical settings and imagery for his passionate denunciation of the rulers and calls for a revolutionary uprising ("The Neophytes", "Maria", numerous "imitations" of *Isaiah*, *Jezekeil* and others). In the poem "I'm Not Unwell" Shevchenko appeals to the people not to place their hopes in the reform promised by the tsar, but to win their freedom with the axe. He dreamed of a republican form



While in exile in Kazakhstan, Shevchenko often painted local people, sometimes including himself in the picture. This image is reproduced from the July/August, 1976, issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian*.

of government. In "The Half-Wit" he asks:

"When will we greet

"Our own George Washington at last

"With the new law of righteousness?"

For him Washington was a symbol—the president of a republic established on the basis of a constitution.

A notable page in Shevchenko's life was his friendship with the prominent British actor Ira Aldridge, an American Negro by origin, who came to Petersburg in 1858 to perform in several Shakespearean plays. Enthralled by his magnificent performance, Shevchenko and his friends greeted Aldridge with such enthusiastic applause that it evoked protests from prudish theatre-goers. Soon the Ukrainian poet-artist and the Negro actor met at the home of F. Tolstoy, the vice-president of the Academy of Arts, and became fast friends. Shevchenko painted a portrait of Aldridge, which bears the latter's autograph. Tolstoy's daughter wrote of this friendship in her memoirs: "These two individuals had more in common than just similar traits of character: in his youth one had been a serf, while the other was a member of a despised race; both experienced much bitterness in life, and both passionately loved their unfortunate peoples."

At this time, too, Shevchenko joined Turgenev, Saltykov-Shchedrin, Dostoyevsky, Marko Vovchok and others in an angry public protest against anti-Semitic diatribes in the journal *Illustration*.

In 1859 Shevchenko was finally permitted to revisit the Ukraine, where he again saw his relatives, who were still in serf bondage. He was soon arrested on charges of "blasphemy", however, and ordered to return at once to Petersburg.

Ten years of prison and exile had undermined the poet's health and he died when he was but forty-seven years of age. Shevchenko was buried in Petersburg, but later his remains were disinterred and borne to the Ukraine, as he had willed in "My Testament", and he was buried on May 22, 1861, on a hill overlooking the Dnieper near the city of Kanev, where he had dreamed of settling with his family. Mourners carried handfuls of earth in their hands to the grave, building a high funeral mound over it. In 1939 a magnificent monument was erected on this spot. Shevchenko's grave has become a veritable shrine.

(To be Continued.)



Shevchenko often derived income by painting portraits, like this one of Maria Maxymovych. Prints of this and other art by Taras Shevchenko are available from the Shevchenko Museum.

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:

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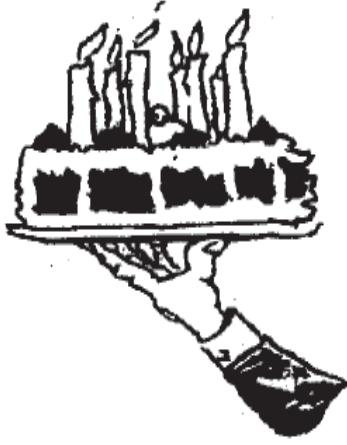
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Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Anne Husar

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

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

Joan Kowalewich
Nick Mackiewich
Audrey Skalbania

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

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

Rose Kwiecinski
George Sitak
Greta Taylor

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

We Need Your Support!

(Continued from Page !.)

We need all that support and more. We need more letters to the editor, and more reports about activities beyond major concerts. We need writers to our "Commentary" column. We need more interaction with our readers, to help us reflect your interests better. And we need money.

At its meeting in January 18 and 19, 2014, the National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians decided, once again, to conduct a sustaining fund campaign, with a target of \$20.00 per member. This campaign is to run in April and May.

In his letter dated March 6, AUUC National President Bob Seychuk suggested that AUUC Branches hold some type of fund-raiser as a way of raising awareness of the publication. He also urged building circulation.

We second these ideas, and wish Branches success.

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will host a **Perogy Lunch and Mini-Bazaar** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 805 East Pender Street, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 13.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will hold its Annual General Meeting at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West on Sunday, April 27, starting at 1:30 p.m.

* * *

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

Sustaining Fund Donations

Marie Harasym, Toronto ON	\$100.00
Helen Hrynchyshyn, Vancouver BC	100.00
Olga Pawlychyn, Winnipeg MB	100.00
Bob Seychuk, Ottawa ON	100.00
Elsie Williston, Winnipeg MB	100.00
Mary Harrison, Winnipeg MB	75.00
Sylvia Surette, Richmond BC	75.00
John Redko, Whitby ON	70.00
Shevchenko Senior Citizens Club, Welland ON	70.00
Olga & Myron Shatulsky, Winnipeg MB	
<i>In memory of Bill Chomyn</i>	50.00
Mary Akerley, Calgary AB	20.00
Sophie Sywolos, Edmonton AB	20.00
William (Bill) Uhryn, Stony Plain AB	20.00
A. Tolmie, Vancouver BC	15.00
Robert Klymasz, Winnipeg MB	10.00

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

Toronto AUUC

(Continued from Page 6.) vited to participate in a joke contest. Conceived and organized by Bernardine Dobrowolsky, the contest allowed the audience to laugh at themselves.

With Elizabeth Hill and Joseph Dzatko as judges, members of the audience stepped up and offered their best an-

ecdotes. Most jokes were good, some were better. And the winners were: Natalie (first prize), Connie (second prize), and Jerry Dobrowolsky (third prize). All in fun!! Natalie's embroideries were much sought-after door prizes.

The coffee was great, the pastry was delicious, and the audience went home well-satisfied and smiling.

— **George Borusiewich**

The Situation in Ukraine

(Continued from Page 4.) Ukraine was not, and is not, limited to the Party of Regions, nor are ethnic Russians enemies of Ukraine. Attacking them, or attacking the Communists, or attacking certain religious groups, or attacking any group, will not move the country forward. Instead, deal with the social and other problems, and bring everyone into the struggle for a brighter future.

In addition, we call on the current government and future governments of Ukraine to resist the temptation to

make the question a choice between East and West. There is no reason why Ukraine, if it chooses to do so, can not have beneficial relations with both the EU and Russia. In the process, Ukraine could serve as a moderating influence between the two camps and affirm its independence and its own course in the world.

We are hopeful that the greatest dangers posed by the situation in Ukraine will be avoided. Our wish is that the crisis can pass without further bloodshed.

**Sent as a
separate
page.**