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Winnipeg AUUC Celebrates Malanka

— Photo: Wilfred Schubert



On January 11, AUUC Winnipeg Branch celebrated Malanka, Ukrainian New Year's Eve, with an event that included a Malanka skit. A story about this event, with pictures, starts on Page 5.

The Next Issue

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

Austerity as the Norm

Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty is looking toward 2015, the year of the election, not merely for a balanced budget, but for a surplus in the billions of dollars. In his years at his post, he has worked toward that goal by making austerity the norm for Canadians while filling the coffers of the banks and other corporations.

Of course, he had much company on this path, including Liberal finance ministers.

The basic idea is simple: cut corporate taxes because this must be done to attract investment and stimulate the economy; then cut social programs on the grounds that they are no longer affordable.

The tax cuts must not be permitted as an explanation for the need to cut social programs. Instead, the aging

population, "overly-generous" public employees pay packages, the general wastefulness of government, unreasonable public expectations and other such explanations are to be used as causes.

Never explain why the user-pay system for essential services is better than social programs supported by taxes. Above all, never explain why, as the banks get richer, working people get poorer.

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New TFWP Rules Criticized

Among the changes to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program which came into effect at the end of last year is one that allows employers who have been convicted of human trafficking, sexually assaulting a worker, or causing the death of a worker to apply for workers under the program.

According to the federal government, the restriction was dropped because it was "too rigid and cumbersome". The government claims that other changes which were introduced protect the safety of temporary foreign workers.

Those other changes in-

clude a requirement that employers "make reasonable efforts to provide a workplace free of abuse". Some other changes tighten the requirements concerning Labour Market Opinions, and give the government more power to alter decisions concerning an LMO.

[A government of Canada web site explains that "An LMO is the opinion provided by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)/Service Canada to the officer that enables the officer to determine whether the employment of the foreign worker is likely to have a positive or negative impact on the labour market in Canada.]

Critics like Naveen Mehta, general counsel for the United Food and Commercial Workers, have called the changes nothing more than a smoke screen which will do little to protect the rights of either Canadian or temporary foreign workers.

Allowing previously convicted employers to use the program on the grounds that preventing their access is too hard certainly reinforces concerns about the government's commitment to TFW safety. Furthermore, at a time when the trend in governmental regulatory agencies is to reduce staffing (and, hence, the frequency and intensity of inspections) tighter regulations give no confidence that control will be better. These

days governments have been known to limit "inspections" to a review of documents submitted by the companies being monitored.

It may well be that, as the UFCW general counsel suggested, "These (amendments) are purely PR responses for a government that wants to get re-elected..."

AUUC National Committee Meets

The AUUC National Committee elected at the 45th AUUC National Convention in October, 2013, met in Winnipeg on January 18 and 19 for its first full meeting. At this meeting, the NC considered a broad range of issues.

Finances were one of the key concerns considered at the meeting. Participants were optimistic that the financial difficulties of the last few years were finally nearing resolution, and by the end of 2014 the AUUC should be on a solid footing nationally.

A budget was adopted.

The committee structure was reviewed, and a number

of changes were introduced to reflect the results of the 45th AUUC National Convention.

It was decided to have a campaign this year in support of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, and appropriate arrangements were made. The campaign will run from mid-March to mid-May.

The meeting considered plans for the commemoration of the bicentenary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko and celebration of the centennial of the AUUC.

The meeting, which had a positive atmosphere for the most part, also considered a number of other questions.

Bill Chomyn

The *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* extends condolences to the family of long-time AUUC activist Bill Chomyn, who died in an Edmonton hospital on January 7, 2014, a week before his 85th birthday.

More information about the life and work of Bill Chomyn will appear in our next issue.

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Current Eclectic — Long and Short

Extraterritoriality

It's not new, but it seems suddenly to have taken on a new life and energy. The reference is to the American practice of forcing its laws on other countries, as well as individuals and companies based outside the USA.

A current hot example is the

law passed by the USA requiring financial institutions abroad to act as agents of the American government. Specifically, banks are being required to report to American authorities financial information about "American persons".

If they fail to do so, the foreign banks could face penalties in the US, including confiscation of assets they have in the US and loss of the right to conduct business in that country.

This is a serious threat to the major Canadian banks, all of whom have expanded their banking operations into the USA.

Rather than strongly opposing the demand that Canadian institutions be coerced into serving as foreign agents, the government of Canada seems to be submitting to the American demands.

This is in sharp contrast to the energetic expressions of opposition from Canadian authorities when the USA attempted to impose its own laws concerning business with Cuba on Canadian firms.

In fact., it was recently reported that the US had imposed penalties on several Canadian and European com-

panies for breaching American laws against trade with Cuba.

There are numerous examples these days of America imposing its laws beyond its borders. One example is the requirement that American authorities be told who is in aircraft flying into American air space, even if he aircraft is not landing in the USA. In some cases, at least, airlines changed the routing of their flights to avoid flying over the USA.

However, in most cases the airlines complied with the requirement. This is now a layered problem, with no-fly lists and other matters complicating the life of Canadian people and companies.

Israel Adding to Settlements

On January 10, Israel announced that it would build 1400 new homes in Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. These are lands which the Palestinians claim and intend to incorporate into a Palestinian state under a two-state solution. (A two-state solution refers to a solution of the conflict between Palestinians and Israel on the basis of recognition of two sovereign states: Israel and a Palestinian state.)

Israel, on the other hand, sees these lands, which they captured from Jordan in 1967, as territory which would be part of Israel.

Most countries consider the West Bank and East Jerusalem to be occupied territory, making the Israeli settlements illegal (in the case of the US, "illegitimate").

According to Peace Now, an Israeli anti-settlement group, 5500 tenders for new housing in these territories have been issued since peace talks started in summer, a significant increase from the 2000 and 3000 in previous years.

A representative of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that the Israeli announcement undermines American efforts to establish

a peaceful path to a two-state solution.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who was in Israel in early January trying to push the peace talks forward, has said that the building of housing in "disputed" territories raises questions about Israel's commitment to peace.

As part of the agreement last summer to restart negotiations, Israel has released a number of Palestinian prisoners. It is widely believed that Prime Minister Netanyahu made the announcement to placate their coalition partners in government.

The announcement may also be related to the Israeli threat to punish the Palestinian Authority for upgrading its status at the United Nations to nonmember observer State.

US: Hands off Ukraine!

American politicians and officials of both the Democratic and Republican parties seem to consider it quite reasonable to appear at Independence Square in Kyiv and encourage citizens of Ukraine to oppose their government. Such activity would not be tolerated for a second by Americans if Ukrainian parliamentarians attended a large rally of the Occupy movement and urged opposition to the governmental policies.

Such hostile activity toward

a legitimate government by parliamentarians from another country is normally considered a prelude to war.

Now the American Senate has ratcheted up the level of activity against the elected government of Ukraine by unanimously passing a resolution on January 7, "in support of the Ukrainian people".

The American Senate should be reminded that the government of Ukraine was elected in a process which international observers declared acceptable. Furthermore the party in power in Ukraine recently won four of five by-elections.

The resolution "in support of the Ukrainian people" is a resolution in support of a minority of the Ukrainian people. It is in fact a resolution challenging the majority of the Ukrainian people, who support their government, and reject the suggestion that the USA has a right to threaten "targeted sanctions" against Ukrainian authorities.

Opposition leaders are trying in the streets to get the regime change they can not achieve at the ballot box.

The USA should keep its hands off Ukraine!

Conflict Zones Follow-Up

In the November, 2013, issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, there was a survey of conflict zones in the world. What has happened since in these areas?

It has been revealed that in October the USA established a "cell" of military personnel in **Somalia** to advise and coordinate African troops in the fight against the Al Shabab militia. Other American involvement includes the use of drones deployed from neighbouring Djibouti for surveillance and air strikes, and occasional raids by Special Operations forces. The CIA has operated a base in Somalia for many years.

Since 2007, the USA has trained and equipped an 18,000 strong African Union force (mostly soldiers from Uganda and Burundi), as well as helping finance the Somali national army.

Ethiopia and Kenya have occupied areas of Somalia near their borders.

South Sudan has sub-Saharan Africa's third largest oil reserve (after Nigeria and Angola). Three years ago, the USA engineered the formation of the country, with its Christian majority, by a separation from the mostly Muslim Sudan. Since about December 15, 2013, starting with a po-

litical conflict, violence has been growing. Over a thousand people were killed in just a month, and there is danger of a civil war along tribal lines.

Uganda has been building up its military strength, in cooperation with the government of Sudan, and is threatening to "protect" oil producing areas in South Sudan against anti-government militants.

The USA has been trying to avert a civil war, and has encouraged the UN to station a strong peacekeeping force.

Rising in the headlines in late December and early January has been conflict in **Central African Republic**, a country with a Christian majority. The violence started to grow in March, 2013, when the elected Christian-led government was overthrown in a coup by Muslim rebel groups. Toward the end of the year, a Christian militia was openly attacking government installations in an effort to remove President Djotodia and his government. France has at least 1600 troops in the country, who have been accused of supporting the Christian majority. The African Union has peacekeeping troops in the country, who have been accused of supporting the Muslim government.

It was reported on January

11 that President Djotodia had resigned. However, it was not immediately clear whether that would end the bloodshed which had claimed over 1000 lives by that time and displaced nearly a million people.

There has been no major change in **Pakistan**; drone strikes by the USA continue.

Following violent elections in **Bangladesh**, opposition members have gone into hiding as police have carried out sweeping raids with arrests of opposition members. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has indicated an intent to stop the violence "with an iron fist". Human Rights Watch has said that the arrests were part of weakening critics, limiting dissent and consolidating party power.

Since its separation from Pakistan in 1971, Bangladesh has had two presidents assassinated and 19 unsuccessful coups d'état attempts.

With peace talks slated for the end of January, the government in **Syria** appeared to have gained the initiative, assisted by Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iran's Basij militia. Opposition forces are reported to include over 1000 different groups. At the start of 2014, two major groupings began to kill each other in a conflict that spread quickly over four

northern provinces held by anti-government forces. The fighting claimed almost 500 victims in one week as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant shot it out with a variety of other factions.

At the end of 2013, violence in **Iraq** climbed to levels unseen since 2008, which included bombings in Baghdad which targeted Christians. Other targets have been people in crowded public places, Shiite Muslims, and Iraqi security forces.

At the same time, there have been massive military operations in Iraq's western desert in a hunt for insurgents.

It is estimated by the UN that over 8000 people have been killed in Iraq in 2013.

In **Egypt**, the military-backed government has declared the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization, creating the conditions for even harsher measures against the group and its members, and harsh prison sentences against demonstrators. An early reaction was a pro-Morsi demonstration in Cairo, leading to five deaths.

The government has also implemented a new tactic involving armed civilians: in exchange for providing armed civilian opposition to pro-Morsi action, large families would enjoy political support by authorities in the coming election.

Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 9.) strong message that discrimination has no place in the game," the governing body said in a statement.

A monitoring group attended the September 6 match, and reported, "Nazi salutes and racist monkey noises targeting a Brazilian-born Ukraine player who is black, and that neo-Nazi banners were on display."

In a published ruling, FIFA's disciplinary panel said that "the offensive, denigratory and discriminatory actions of a group of Ukrainian supporters were shameful."

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.***Less Advice, More Income****AN EDITORIAL BY WILFRED SZCZESNY**

Financial advisors and others with adequate incomes and more or less secure jobs continue to lecture the less fortunate about the need to put money aside for retirement. They continue to give good advice about avoiding debt and reducing the cost of debt.

It is very apparent that they have no idea of the circumstance of large numbers of people.

Of course, there are people who mismanage their resources, people who go into debt living beyond their sizeable means, people who give no thought for the future and their old age. However, they are not the majority of those people who face mounting debt and are not putting money aside for a rainy day or retirement.

Most people who have no savings, but have growing debt, are in that situation because they have inadequate incomes. They are not lazy: many of them have two or three part-time, minimum-wage jobs and still struggle to meet their monthly expenses. They are not extravagant, trying to decide between spending on the latest high-tech gadget and spending on a car upgrade: many of them are trying to choose between buying a refrigerator and buying a stove. They are not self-indulgent, choosing between this vacation destination and that: they are choosing between buying food and paying rent. Their choice isn't between saving in an RRSP or in a tax free savings account: their choice is between loading more onto their credit card or not buying needed medications.

It is easy to feel that the people going deeper into debt are somehow inferior, somehow responsible for their dire circumstances. The fact is, however, that many of them were doing quite well, thank you, before their company decided to relocate to another country, or decided to cut its work force, or decided to lay off permanent staff in favour of temp-agency workers. Many of them were coping before parts of the social safety network were frozen, or reduced, or even eliminated while the cost of living continued to rise.

It is good advice to get a job or get a better job — the Canadian economy just lost 60,000 full-time jobs. It is good advice to go to where the jobs are — relocation costs money. It is good advice to retrain for a job-of-the-future — single courses cost hundreds and even thousands of dollars, with no guarantee to future work.

There is good financial advice to be given, and there are people who could benefit by taking the good financial advice. In many cases, however, the people who are being given the good advice, and are being criticized for not taking the good advice, do not need more good advice. What they need is more income.

COMMENTARY**Canadian Economy Slumps**

As the old year ended and the new one began, Canada had much very disquieting economic news.

A major shock was the loss of jobs in December, 2013, which took most forecasters by surprise.

Statistics Canada reported that Canada's official unemployment rate rose to 7.2%, an increase of 0.3% from November, as the economy lost a net 45,900 jobs.

Economists had expected an unchanged unemployment rate, and net creation of about 14000 jobs.

The economy lost 60,000 full-time jobs, eliminating almost all the full-time job gains in 2012. Part-time work increased by more than 14,000 jobs.

(Note that full-time jobs and part-time jobs are treated as equal when net job creation is being reported. As far as the statistics are concerned, 35 hours at \$20.00/hour is the same as 15 hours at \$10.25/hour. Governments, and especially our federal government, are very pleased to say "a job is a job".)

At the same time, the Canadian dollar has been dropping in value compared to the American dollar. From a position not very long ago, of parity, and even slightly higher value, by early January the looney had dropped to 91.5 cents.

The Minister of Finance speaks of the drop in the value of the dollar as a positive development. He argues that it will reduce the price of Canadian products in foreign markets, and especially in the USA, thereby increasing demand. The increased demand, Mr. Flaherty believes, will create jobs in Canada. It sounds as though prosperity is around the corner.

That's the theory, and it sounds good. In reality, this theory is Economics 101, the Conservative government's

favourite economics. It ignores the realities of the real world.

In the real world, if foreign economies are doing poorly (as many of them, including the American, are doing) lower prices may not generate much additional demand. Under certain conditions, it may not generate any additional demand.

In the real world, the additional demand, especially for raw materials or machinery, is not instantaneous; there is usually a time lag.

Furthermore, increased demand, and the consequent increased production does not necessarily translate into a proportionate increase in jobs in Canada. With so much slack in the Canadian economy, increased production may be achieved by intensifying the work of existing work forces, or by increasing the hours of existing jobs. Another possibility which is common these days is that the work will be moved off-shore to Asia, or even to the United States, which could even lead to loss of jobs.

Even if the lower looney leads to lower prices for Canadian products on international markets, which leads to added demand, which leads to more jobs in Canada, and even if those jobs stay in Canada, the benefit to working people may not be as advertised. The jobs which are created, these days, are less likely to be full-time jobs at union rates than part-time, minimum-wage jobs, perhaps staffed by foreign temporary workers.

This difference between the Economics 101 story the government tells and what happens in the real world, may explain why Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz was led to say that "the resurgence in exports is taking longer than expected" and to predict that "the economy

won't reach full output for two years." (He may be optimistic at that.)

It is by no means clear that the lower Canadian dollar will generate much benefit to Canadian workers. It is clear, however, that the lower looney will bring additional hardship, because of higher prices for imported goods.

In the real world, the higher prices for imported goods Canadian consumers see from the lower looney arrive with little, if any, delay. The fact is, too, that a Canadian shopper in a supermarket or other store, particularly in winter, is surrounded by imported goods that have become more expensive. Higher prices for imports lead, though with some time lag, to higher prices for whatever Canadian goods are available.

This happens for at least two reasons. The first is that reduced price competition from imports encourages domestic producers to charge more. The second is that higher prices on imported inputs increases the cost of production.

So, the average Canadian, with little (if any) increased income and doubtful prospects for improvement, is immediately facing higher prices for imports and over time will see a general increase in all, or almost all, prices.

The government of Canada seems unconcerned about the situation. With their eyes on the next federal election, the government is concentrating on two economic points: producing a budgetary surplus by 2015 and putting the best possible face on the dismal performance of the Canadian economy.

Producing a budget surplus is based on several factors. It depends on the continued strengthening of the American and Canadian economies, which currently looks iffy. It also depends on the sale of assets. Finally, it depends on continuing spending cuts, which always translates into increased human misery.

Putting the best face on involves fanciful spin-doctoring. For example, Mister Flaherty suddenly sees no consumer debt problem.

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Shevchenko Bicentennial

(Continued from Page 10.) poetry is imbued with true humanism and internationalism. Let us examine, for example, *Haidamaki*, in which the struggle of the Ukrainian people against the Polish gentry is graphically described. In order to prevent enemies of

the Ukrainian and Polish peoples from exploiting sections of the poem to foment national hatreds, Shevchenko wrote into it a ringing appeal for the unity and friendship of the Ukrainians, the Poles and all the Slavic peoples.

That appeal had nothing in

common with reactionary Pan-Slavism which masked the expansionist policy of the Russian autocracy. In that same *Haidamaki* the young poet spoke in Aesopean language of Tsar Nicholas I, the gendarme of Europe, saying: "the executioner rules". Nicholas's censors passed

those lines, but when the *Kobzar* was being republished in 1860 the "liberal" censors of Alexander II detected "sedition" in them and crossed them out.

When in 1843 Shevchenko returned to the Ukraine after fourteen years' absence, he heard his own songs and bal-

ads from the lips of peasants and minstrels. Shevchenko visited his native district and saw his relatives and friends still bearing the heavy yoke of serfdom. He travelled a good deal through the Ukraine and was shocked by what he saw there.

(To be Continued.)

Edmonton AUUC Christmas Concert

There is nothing more giving than the laughter of little children and their performance on stage for a concert.

On December 21, 2013, the Edmonton AUUC performing arts group shared what they had learned by presenting a Christmas concert.

The Tiny Tots sang three songs in Ukrainian, complete with actions: "First Snow", "Podorozee zhuk" and "Oy na horee kalinonka".

The Trembita Choir also performed for us. Conductor Marina Lavrinenko then called, "I need a few kids to help us."

Up onto the stage came several eager youngsters, Zaychyky, to play their xylo-

phones and accompany the Trembita Choir in singing "Christmas! Christmas! Have a Very Merry Christmas Day"!

Accompanying the choir was pianist Svetlana Dianuk.

Vas Olaru, a young teen studying the piano, played the Ukrainian classic "Bells". Marina Lavrinenko accompanied him.

Nataliya Kovalenko led her promising early teenagers, Kalyna, in a few dances. It was encouraging to see these five pairs so proudly do the basic steps of Ukrainian dancing!

"Yahoo! Santa's coming!" said an eager little voice!

— Shirley Uhryn

Edmonton Seniors

(Continued from Page 6.) Warwick, and a gingerbread house which was raffled.

The lucky ticket holder for the colourful gingerbread house was Mariam Ursuliak!

Mike Hollen, a professional candy maker, donated a chocolate bowl filled with his and Diane's chocolates for a raffle. The recipient was Mariam Ursuliak.

Pauline Warick, in her comments, recognized the elders of our group, long-time members who play such a vital role: Anne Husar and Sophie Sywolos. Pauline wished each of them, happiness and peace.

Pauline concluded with, "a thank you to the executive members and volunteers in the preparation of today's event. Somehow at Christmas

we all feel a special need to reach out and say 'Hello!' to friends who mean so much and bring much happiness by being a part of our lives in the Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens' Club!

"Merry Christmas!"

The seniors will meet once again on the third Tuesday, on January 21, 2014, at 12:30 p.m. This gathering will feature a traditional Ukrainian Christmas meal and customs.

Members of our own Trembita Choir, under the direction of Marina Lavrinenko, have been invited. As it is a work day, it is difficult for some choir members to attend, but those who can will come to sing Ukrainian carols for us.

— Shirley Uhryn

those lines, but when the *Kobzar* was being republished in 1860 the "liberal" censors of Alexander II detected "sedition" in them and crossed them out.

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ads from the lips of peasants and minstrels. Shevchenko visited his native district and saw his relatives and friends still bearing the heavy yoke of serfdom. He travelled a good deal through the Ukraine and was shocked by what he saw there.

(To be Continued.)

Winnipeg AUUC Malanka

— Story photos: Wilfred Schubert



The Yunist Dancers, the senior dance group, made a positive impression with their lively "Gypsy Dance".



The Festival Choir staged a Malanka skit, a traditional entertainment.

On the evening of Saturday, January 11, members and friends of the AUUC Winnipeg Branch gathered at the Ukrainian Labour Temple to

celebrate *Malanka*, the traditional Ukrainian New Year's Eve festivity.

Guests were greeted by the hostess and host: Katherine

Korol-MacLennan (*hospodinya*) and Victor Krenz (*hospodar*).

The entertainment started with New Year's carols by the Festival Choir, conducted by Vasylyna Streltsov, and accompanied on the piano by Anna Khomenko and on the accordion by Brent Stearns.

Their performance included five numbers, including "Oy u horodi" (In the Garden) with a vocal duet by Vasylyna Streltsov and Nancy Kardash.

Next on the program was the *Malanka* skit, for which musical accompaniment was provided by Annis Kozub, Cory Hedin and David Swatek.

Concerning the skit, the printed program noted that:

"The oldest elements in the Malanka tradition are the theme of death and re-birth, representing the "death" of winter and the "re-birth" of spring. This finds expression in both the New Year's carols and in the Malanka skits. Celebrations of the changing seasons date back to antiquity and can be found among many cultures throughout the world. The Malanka celebration is named after a 6th century saint, Melanya. Her "name" day falls on January 13th when Ukrainian New Year's eve takes place. Malanka is generally the central character. In our skit this evening, attention is focused on her goat (who was thought

(Continued on Page 7.)

Anastasiya Voytyuk at Shevchenko Museum

Anastasiya Voytyuk went to Regina in December, 2013, to play bandura in the show *Mourning Mavka* at the Mackenzie Art Gallery. When that engagement ended, she travelled to Toronto, in December, where she contacted Lyudmyla Pogoryelov of the Shevchenko Museum.

Arrangements were made for two concerts on January 10 and 17 at the Museum.

Over 30 people squeezed into the limited gallery space in the Shevchenko Museum in Toronto for a January 10 concert billed as "Creative Bandura Evening", featuring Anastasiya Voytyuk.

Ms. Voytyuk was quite informal as, shortly after 7:00 p.m., she took her place in the intimate setting, a mood which was maintained throughout the evening.

Ms. Voytyuk started the varied program with a brief carol medley from Lviv, including a *shchedrivka*.

She then called in and introduced Brian Lahaie, who accompanied her throughout,

mostly on a drum. They continued the program with a *vesnyanka* (spring song) called "Lisom, lisom".

She also called in button accordion player Tangi Ropars, who did not appear until the performance was well under way. As the program continued with "Chervona ruta", Jaash Singh, another drummer came on.

The group continued with "Dobrey vechir, pane hospodare", a song we would associate with Malanka, and "Chorniy cheresnii", a folk song.

Following a song about a dove mourning her mate, who was killed by a falcon, Ms. Voytyuk switched to guitar for the song "Soloveyka", words by Taras Shevchenko.

The first half ended with a Lemko folk song about three women who loved the same man.

Ms. Voytyuk opened the second half with the Hutsul carol "Vydno rayu", another

(Continued on Page 12.)

Sustaining Fund Donations

Bob KisiIevich, Edmonton AB	\$70.00
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Edmonton Seniors' December Gathering

The theme of this article is giving in the tradition of Santa Claus and Christmas.

The excuse (if we needed one) the Edmonton AUUC seniors had for gathering and sharing our warmth and friendship was December birthday celebrant Nina Uhryn. "*Mnohaya leeta,*" Nina!

Warm wishes of welcome were extended to Lauren Bandura who came with her friend Sandy Gordey! Hope to see you again!

In keeping with the tradition of Christmas, one must eat fruit cake for dessert. Shirley Uhryn liberally marinated the 10-pound cake with *Kirschwasser* fruit spirits and wrapped it with cheesecloth to rest for some days.

Before I went to cut the cake for dessert, I brought it from one table of seniors to

the next to take a smell! Some of their comments follow.

Nick Kereliuk breathed heavily and gasped, "Ah! I'm in Heaven right now!"

"People have killed for less than this!" quipped Bill Askin.

Dinner was so aptly prepared again by our caterer, Diane Reis, and her professional chef helper, Mike Hollen. Mike stood at the end of the buffet table with his carving knife and cut liberal pieces of golden roasted turkey for each of us.

Diane and Mike unfailingly prepare a hot meal for our monthly seniors' gatherings.

In recognition of their efforts the Edmonton AUUC seniors invited them to the head table to eat their meal and then, to the recipients' surprise, accept the Christmas bonus to each of them from ALL of us!

Clarence Capowski brought



Everyone enjoyed the delicious festive feast of roast turkey prepared by Diane Reis and Mike Hollen.

the wine for the luncheon.

Mike Uhryn brought his accordion and serenaded us with classic tunes while we enjoyed the meal together.

Nelson Mandela's message was, "Love comes from the heart!" Our president, Pauline Warick, aptly pointed out that it was Shevchenko's message too!

Through motion and vote, the Edmonton seniors decided to support Edmonton AUUC Branch in celebrating Taras Shevchenko's 200th anniversary with a concert on Sunday, March 30, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. A banquet is to follow the concert directly. Tickets will be pre-sold and go on the market on approximately January 31.

The guest speaker will be Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, curator of the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto. She will be bringing the travelling display of Shevchenko artifacts and copies of the commemorative book *Kobzar* for sale.

Kobzar will contain fifty of Shevchenko's poems in English, French and Ukrainian.

The book will, in addition, include 16 coloured pages of paintings by Shevchenko, including his self-portraits.

Paul Greene made a motion that the Edmonton seniors make a donation of \$1000 to

the publication of *Kobzar*. This motion was discussed and carried.

Poinsettias graced the tables. Eva Doskoch and Olga Horon decorated the tables fitting for the season.

Bill Uhryn, from his collection, brought a Christmas coffee mug for each person present. Lucy Antoniw filled each cup with a Japanese orange, traditional Christmas candy, and chocolate-covered almonds and raisins.

At the end of the afternoon, draws were made for the poinsettias. Winners were Sherry Capowski, Virginia Witwicki, Steve Sachsich, William Maxim, Sandy Gordey, Mary Tropak, Faye Hrushak, Mariam Ursuliak, and Victor Horon.

Olga Horon also won a poinsettia. Olga, with her big heart, decided to give hers to her daughter who made a gingerbread sleigh filled with Christmas candies for Pauline

(Continued on Page 5.)



Lucy Antoniw (right) and writer Shirley Uhryn were among those enjoying visiting with their friends.



Seniors Club President Pauline Warick cheered on birthday gal Nina Uhryn as Nina blew out her candle.

Santa Claus Came to Winnipeg

On Saturday, December 14, the Winnipeg Branch of the AUUC celebrated the holiday season in an afternoon showcasing the talents of the AUUC School of Ukrainian Folk Dance and guests from the Blessed Virgin Mary Church.

The event was a perfect way to come together and celebrate before the Branch's cultural activities break for the Christmas season!

The afternoon began with a concert, with Kim Boss as MC and queen of the corny Christmas joke!

Performances by groups from the dance school at Blessed Virgin Mary Church provided variety, and were a welcome addition to the concert which usually focuses solely on showing off the talents of our own AUUC School of Ukrainian Folk Dance.

Another pleasant surprise was the children's carolling throughout the concert.

Che Madden-Carr sang a sweet rendition of "Hangin'



Angela Rodrigues played three Christmas tunes on her flute.

Round the Mistletoe" while the AUUC Tiny Tots and the AUUC Juniors delighted the audience with classic favourites "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Jingle Bells".

Angela Rodrigues played three beautiful Christmas tunes on her flute.

Highlights from the AUUC School of Ukrainian Folk Dance included "Gypsy Children", performed by the AUUC Intermediates, and a "Kozachok" performed with style and energy by the Yunist Dance Ensemble to close off the show.

Following the performance, there was a kid-friendly lunch, with plenty of Christmas cookies for dessert!

Family and friends milled about the hall socializing and checking out the table of holiday decorations and gifts set up for those who might want to get a bit of their Christmas shopping done while attending the party.

The silent auction prizes were drawn, including a grand prize draw for a lottery tree, with the proceeds going to Silver Bay Bible Camp in memory of Cassandra Mailman, a former member of the AUUC School of Folk Dance, who passed away in 2013.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the event — for

those guests under 12, that is — was the special guest who arrived late in the afternoon. Santa Claus showed up to give the children gifts and hear

their wish lists for what they would like to discover under their trees when they wake up on Christmas morning!

— Emily Halldorson



An attentive audience attended the concert in the impressive hall of the Ukrainian Labour Temple.

Story photos: Emily Halldorson



The Yunist Dance Ensemble closed the program with a stylish and energetic "Kozachok".

Winnipeg

(Continued from Page 5.) to symbolize good fortune). The various roles in the Malanka skits were generally played by boys. They would go from house to house in various disguises, playing pranks, and performing the skits. They would be welcomed into the homes and be rewarded with money and refreshments. The skits themselves border on the absurd: a wonderful opportunity to poke fun at human nature. Both the skits and the New Year's carols are full of hope for the future — happiness, prosperity and good health for everyone, and peace in the world. It is in that same spirit that we offer our special New Year's celebration: *Z Novym Rokom! Happy New Year!*"

Playing parts in the skit were Tim Gordienko (Malanka), Ché-Rosie Carr (Vasyl), Kim Boss (Goat) and Gloria Gordienko (Devil).

The fortune teller is an important tradition in Malanka celebrations. On this evening, this service was provided by Cheryl-Ann Carr.

Continuing the entertainment was "Gypsy Dance", performed by the Yunist Dancers, the senior dance group which is instructed by Justin McGillivray. This colourful and lively dance is always a hit with audiences, and particularly when done as well as it was on this occasion.

The Festival Choir returned with two more numbers appropriate to the evening.

A fine dinner provided by Lewis Catering was enjoyed by those in attendance.

After dinner entertainment was provided by Gordon Gilbey, who drew on the audience for assistance with his magic act.

The evening ended with dancing.

An event like this involves many people, all of whom deserve recognition. In addition to those already mentioned, or those participating in the Festival Choir or Yunist Dancers, thanks go to Mike Moskal Eugene Semanowich, Jeanne Romanoski, Lily Stearns, Marian Kowal, John Marsh, Susan Szczepanski and Darryl Rankin.

Special thanks go to the guests, without whom there would have been no celebration.



Guest accordionist was Mike Moskal.



Katherine Korol-McLennan and Victor Krenz, as *hospodinya* and *hospodar*, bade the guests welcome.



In the Malanka skit (left to right): Tim Gordienko as *Malanka*, Kim Boss as the goat, Ché-Rosie Carr as Vasyl.



Musicians Annis Kozub, Cory Hedin and Davis Swatek accompanied the *Malanka* skit,



Magician Gordon Gilbey (left), with help from audience member Walter Hercia, entertained after dinner.

Toronto AUUC Branch Movie Afternoon

— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



A small but appreciative audience gathered to view *The King and I* at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on January 5, and to savour items of Thai cuisine.

On Sunday, January 5, 2014, the Toronto Branch held its first Movie Afternoon of the new year, featuring the 1956 film *The King and I* starring Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr.

Because the setting of the movie is the historical kingdom of Siam, now known as Thailand, the decor and cuisine reflected a distinct Thai flavour.

On approaching the buffet table of appetizers, the guests' eyes were immediately drawn to the beautiful rice-paper umbrella, opened and adorning the silk tablecloth and bamboo runner. The exotic mood was immediately set.

The delectable bite-size treats included chicken satay, vegetable spring rolls and sweet chili chicken. A tray with raw vegetables was paired with the choice of peanut or Thai chili dipping sauces, and the final offering was a ginger chutney combined with cream cheese on a

cracker.

And of course, the universal staple of movie-going — freshly popped popcorn — added a delicious aroma to the room.

While the hall was dimmed for the showing of the film, a little extra mood was added by the coloured silk shawls that were placed over the wall lighting.

The audience was quite intrigued by the film, enjoying the occasional clip of humour and humming along to some of its more familiar musical tunes.

As was true with many quaint musicals from the '50s, a "Musical Intermission" allowed the guests to enjoy the western-style sweets and coffee that were being served.

Everyone left feeling most satisfied, perhaps with the sense of adventure of experiencing a different culture or a hint of nostalgia for the Hollywood of yesteryear.

— Bernie Dobrowolsky

Poltava Dancers in the Nutcracker Ballet



As with other cities across Canada, *The Nutcracker Ballet* has become a feature of the holiday season in Regina. The first production was by the Moscow Ballet, on November 18. The second production was by the Do It With Class Studio of Regina, with four performances on the Main Stage of the Conexus Theatre on December 18 and 19.

Members of the Poltava Ensemble were requested by the Do It With Class Studio to be featured in the Russian segment of *The Nutcracker Ballet*.

In the picture above, standing in front, is Tatiana Moisey, Poltava's Ballet Instructor, who played Clara's Mother in the production. Ms. Moisey, formerly of Moldova, danced with the Bolshoi Ballet. Standing behind her, left to right, are James Bell, Emery Millette, Julia Pringle, Kayla Swicheniuk, Amber Zilinski, Lisa Wanner, Dallas Montpetit and Nick Dmyterko.

**Sent as a
separate
page.**

Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewicz

“Why Did Ukraine’s Euolution Fail?”

(This is the title of an article by Vijai Maheshwari, a protest supporter. The article was published on the web site *The Daily Beast*. The following are a few excerpts from the article. Spelling and grammar have been left as in the original.)

I was walking past Independence Square two weeks ago (December 22 – **gb**) when an animated journalist friend broke the news. “Putin has agreed to purchase 15 billion dollars in Ukrainian debt and slash the price of gas by a third. What do you think? Is this going to inflame the protesters further?” he asked.

“Of course,” I said.

I couldn’t have been more wrong. That weekend, less than ten thousand people answered the opposition’s call to protest the deal with Russia.

Over the next few days, the wind seems to have been knocked out of the opposition movement’s sails.

Many of the protesters from Western Ukraine also began to pack up their tents and leave for home. Local residents, who had been supportive of the protest movement, started to lose interest. Said Zhenya, a hair salon owner, “There’s no reason for them to be here any longer. It’s like hanging around at a party after all the girls have left,” he said.

Looking back, it is incredible that such a courageous revolution could have been stamped out so easily by a power play by the Kremlin. Yet Putin’s offer immediately stabilized Ukraine’s hryvna, and lifted the spectre of default by a struggling nation.

Reduced gas prices are manna for common Ukrainians. As long as the struggle between a European Ukraine and a Russia-centric Ukraine was purely ideological, most (about half – **gb**) Ukrainians supported the protesters. However, when Putin demonstrated the monetary superiority of an alliance with Russia, common Ukrainians saw the writing on the wall.

With average salaries just over \$300 a month, and local industries suffering, Russia’s offer gives Ukrainians a second chance to lift their country out of its economic woes.

Protest Smaller

The January 9 issue of the *Financial Times* wrote, “Protest crowds in central Kiev have thinned in recent days to their lowest numbers since anti-government rallies began

six weeks ago as Ukrainians returned to work after the holidays, raising questions about the opposition’s future course.”

The January 12 news report on *ABC News* was headlined “Ukraine Protest Smaller, But Still Visible”. It went on to say, “Tens of thousands of activists rallied in the centre of the Ukrainian capital on Sunday, while the organizers of the weeks-long anti-government protests looked for a future strategy amid dwindling numbers and a continuing government crackdown on the protesters.”

Reporting on the same rally, the January 12 edition of *Fox News* stated, “Opposition leader Vitali Klitschko told a crowd of more than 20,000 people Sunday that a quick victory should not be expected and urged Ukrainians across the country to press ahead with street and other protests.”

Opposition Leader Hurt

(The following are excerpts from a January 11 report in *The Hindu*, an Indian newspaper with a daily circulation of 15 million).

“Ukraine’s former Interior Minister (turned opposition leader) was injured in a scuffle with police as anti-government demonstrators are resorting to aggressive tactics in an effort to rekindle waning protests.

Ex-Minister Yuri Lutsenko was one of 10 people injured when 200 opposition activists blocked a courthouse in the capital Kiev to protest against prison terms to three ultranationalists convicted of planning to blow up a statue to Vladimir Lenin two years ago.

Mr. Lutsenko sustained head injuries and was rushed to hospital.

The month-long anti-government protests ran out of steam after Russia last month offered crisis-hit Ukraine a \$20-billion bailout package of loans and heavy discounts on natural gas supplies. Opposition leaders have now changed tactics to re-ignite protests.

“Maidan (Independence Square – **gb**) should not stand pat, because if we do not move forward, we get rolled back,” said Arseniy Yatsenyuk, another protest leader. “That is why we have adopted new tactics of guerrilla forays against police, (President) Yanukovich, (Prime Minister) Azarov, --”

Vasylkiv Terrorists

The violence that broke out on January 10 in which oppo-

sition leader Lutsenko was injured took place outside a courthouse in Kyiv.

Three men, labelled by some as the Vasylkiv Terrorists, were found guilty of plotting to blow up a statue of Vladimir Lenin. The three were members of the far-right organization Patriot of Ukraine.

A police search of the organization’s office in Vasylkiv (Kyiv Oblast) found leaflets calling for the destruction of the monument and the assassination of President Viktor Yanukovich. A home-made bomb was also found.

The district court sentenced them to six years in prison.

About 100 demonstrators (the *Times* of India called them nationalists) clashed with police inside the courthouse.

The police then attempted to transport the three men to prison in police vehicles. Demonstrators outside the courthouse, now numbering about 200, blocked the roads, poured paint on the windshields so as to prevent movement, and rocked the vans while pelting the police with stones.

Anti-riot police were called. In the ensuing melee, about 15 demonstrators and about 20 police were injured.

According to the news agency *Bloomberg*, Vitali Klitschko, a leader of the opposition, reiterated a call for European Union sanctions against senior Ukrainian officials in relation to police violence.

Food For Thought

The news media are clogged with the latest developments on the Ukrainian scene.

Western media are, not surprisingly, pro-west. They report in detail every slight, every injury, every offence, real or imagined, by the “other side”.

Since my Ukrainian is anaemic, I can’t read the news reports of the “other side” but, to be evenhanded, I would guess that they are just as biased.

To contribute my very humble two cents, I don’t see this conflict as a battle between the “people of Ukraine” and the “Ukrainian government”. (This is, however, the picture painted in the western media).

From my very inexperienced vantage point, the conflict is economic (i.e., trade), not political (i.e., rightwing/leftwing or democrat/dictator), and involves two halves of the Ukrainian population: those that prefer to have closer economic ties with the West and those that wish to have closer economic ties with the East.

The Yanukovich govern-

ment is straddling the European Union/Russia fence.

Because the President has played his cards so well, he has obtained huge economic concessions from Russia. For example, for years he has pleaded with Russia to release Ukraine from the crushing gas deal Ukraine signed some years ago. Russia just thumbed its nose — a deal is a deal. However, when President Yanukovich threatened to sign a deal with the European Union, Russia overnight found it in its heart to slash Ukraine’s gas price by *one third*.

While the West (and their sycophants in Ukraine) are busy playing geopolitics, the historic divisions in Ukrainian society are rapidly hardening.

Ten years ago, Ukrainians rejected out-of-hand any possibility of Ukraine splitting up into Eastern Ukraine and Western Ukraine. Now, however, these once-rejected alternatives are being seriously discussed.

To quote a blogger on the web site EurActiv, “Ukrainians on social networks have started to more actively discuss the question of what option would be better for Ukraine — the so-called ‘Belarusian’ or ‘Yugoslavian’ scenario. The first one means the unitary country, but without democratic freedoms, and the second one, as its known, — the (splitting) of Ukraine (into a couple of states) with ...violence and civil war.

“It is symptomatic that the majority of people discussing this subject and being supporters of different political camps, have already decided for themselves — it is better to have two (or three) Ukraines, because allegedly mental distinctions between representatives of the West and the East of Ukraine are too great.”

Klitschko Barred

Ukraine’s Supreme Administrative Court has upheld a law that may ban famous boxing champion and opposition UDAR Party leader Vitali Klitschko from running for president in the upcoming elections. The court overruled Klitschko’s motion against the Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine’s Parliament) and its President Viktor Yanukovich.

On October 24, the upper house endorsed an amendment to the Ukrainian Tax Code, stipulating that a permanent resident in a foreign country could not be considered a resident of Ukraine. The legislation was signed into law by President Yanukovich on November 8.

The boxing champion may be directly hit by this law, since

he has been known to have a permanent residency in Germany and to have paid taxes there.

The UDAR Party has called the new provision a provocation, while its leader claimed he would run for the presidency in 2015, whatever the odds.

Museum Reopens

Local authorities in Moshny village opened the Taras Shevchenko Museum after its reconstruction.

The designers were able to preserve the spirit of the 19th century, unique photos, icons, memories, furniture, *rushnyky* (Ukrainian embroidered towels) and other items of the village lifestyle.

The museum complex also includes a house, a stable, a well and a cellar.

The museum area is 1,540 square metres.

National Geographic

The magazine *National Geographic*, published by the American Geographical Society, wrote its first article about the nature, culture and lifestyle of the Ukrainian Polissia Region in northern Ukraine.

The text on a series of expeditions around the forests of Zhytomyr Oblast is well illustrated with high-quality photos.

The magazine plans to prepare and publish more articles on the region, including the Chernobyl zone, as well as the culture of herbs consumption, and rare flora and fauna.

Ukraine Sanctioned

FIFA, the international governing body of football (soccer), rejected Ukraine’s appeal against sanctions imposed after fans racially abused their own black player and made Nazi salutes at a World Cup qualifying match.

FIFA previously criticized the “shameful” incidents at the September 6 qualifier played in Lviv, which is bidding to host the 2022 Winter Olympics.

FIFA said that its appeals committee confirmed that Arena Lviv is barred from staging qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup. The stadium hosted three matches during the 2012 European Championship.

Ukraine must also play its first home qualifier on the 2018 program in an empty stadium.

“FIFA also insists on strict punishments to send out a
(Continued on Page 3.)

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 translated 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



Taras Shevchenko
Self-Portrait

Taras Shevchenko, the brilliant national poet of the Ukraine, is one of the classics of world literature. His all-embracing humanism, deep and genuine folk character, and revolutionary ardour make him comprehensible and close to the hearts of the people of all nations.

Shevchenko lived at the time when his homeland was split in two by the Russian and Austro-Hungarian monarchies, and the mass of the Ukrainian people — the peasantry — was in serf bondage to feudal landowners. The people waged a ceaseless struggle for their social and national emancipation.

Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861) was born into a serf family in the village of Morintsy, in the Kiev Province. He experienced the severity of forced labour from earliest childhood, knew and felt the sad plight of “the poor, unsmiling muzhik”, surrounded by the magnificent ever-smiling nature of the Ukraine.

He lost his mother before his ninth birthday; his father died two years later. But while the masses of the serfs were illiterate, the orphan waif received an elementary education: in return for heavy taskwork the boy did for a sexton, the latter allowed him to attend classes he conducted for boys of more favoured circumstances. Taras early began to display artistic talent. This was not simply the urge to draw, which is common among children, but an overpowering calling. Despite threats and beatings, he drew

everything he saw or heard of, using a pencil, charcoal, chalk — whatever he could lay his hands on. Taras dreamed of studying art under a good teacher, but landed in his master's manor instead, first as a kitchen-boy and later as indoor *kazachok* (lackey). When he was fourteen years of age Shevchenko was taken away from his native Ukraine by his master, Baron Engelhardt. They lived for some time in Vilno (Vilnius), where Taras was once cruelly punished for daring to light a candle and draw at a time when his master was away at a ball. Engelhardt later realised that Shevchenko would never make a good lackey, and decided to make him his “court” painter.

Shevchenko was seventeen when he arrived in Petersburg, then the capital of the Russian empire. Engelhardt apprenticed him for four years to a painter, Shirayev. In Petersburg he became acquainted with the outstanding artist Karl Bryullov, who was a professor at the Academy of Arts, the noted poet Zhukovsky, the artist Venetsianov, the connoisseur of arts Vyelgorsky, and also his fellow-Ukrainians: the artist Soshenko, the writer Grebinka and others. They became deeply interested in the gifted serf youth and sought to have him admitted to the Academy of Arts, but he was barred because of his status as a serf. So they bought his release from bondage for a large sum of money, and on April 22, 1838, when he was twenty-four years of age, Taras Shevchenko received his certificate of freedom from serfdom.

In Petersburg, while he diligently applied himself to painting and graduated from the Academy of Arts, he devoted himself with mounting fervour to poetry, which (according to his own testimony) he began to write during the white nights of 1837. And this proved to be his true calling. While he was to be an artist by profession all his life and eventually was awarded the title of Academician in engraving,

poetry was always his true passion, in which his artistic brilliance and revolutionary spirit found their clearest expression.

It was in Petersburg that Shevchenko's first Ukrainian verses were born: romantic ballads, lyrical elegies and songs (“The Bewitched”, “The Wild Wind”, “The Water Flows Into the Blue Sea” and others). In them the poet adopted and developed the chanting style and imagery of the *kobzars* (folk minstrels). He had often listened to them in his childhood as they sang folk songs of the legendary past of the Ukraine, of how the free Cossacks defended their homeland from its enemies, and of the heroic figures of the peasant rebels, the Haidamaki.

As a blind minstrel, plucking at the strings of his *kobza*, sings of the wide Dnieper River with the pale moon swimming in the sky above it, of the maiden abandoned by her lover, of the spacious steppe dotted with grave mounds under which lie the bones of heroes, of the military campaigns of the Cossacks and of the struggles of the people for freedom and right, so did Taras Shevchenko “talk with the people” in his verses. The struggle of the Ukrainian people with their enemies provide one of the main themes in Shevchenko's poetry.

In 1840 a small book of verse appeared in Petersburg, entitled *Kobzar*. It contained only eight poems, but that booklet shook all Russia and the whole Slavic world. Some of his early verses were also published in Yevgen Grebinka's Ukrainian almanac *Lastivka* (The Swallow). And in 1841 Shevchenko's biggest work, *Haidamaki*, an epic poem about the armed struggle of the Ukrainian Cossacks and peasants against the Polish feudal gentry in the eighteenth century, was published as a separate book.

Shevchenko was firmly rooted in the Ukrainian literary tradition. In his youth he had read the poet and philosopher G. Skovoroda, he knew and deeply appreciated the works of Kotlyarevsky, to whom he penned an elegy, Osnovyanenko, to whom he addressed a poetic message, and others. He also studied the rich treasure trove of advanced Russian literature: Pushkin, Lermontov, Koltsov, Gogol, etc. (It is worth noting that even in his early period he was also writing poetry in the Russian language.) He was conversant with and learned from the gems of world literature. Thus, he



The Shevchenko family home, sketched by Taras Shevchenko.

could recite many of Mickiewicz's poems in the Polish original, and tried his hand at translating some of them. He knew Byron's works well. In his foreword to the projected new edition of the *Kobzar* in 1847 Shevchenko mentions Walter Scott and expresses his high esteem for Robert Burns. In his novel *The Artist*, written in exile when he had no library or reference book at hand, and in other novels written in that period, he mentions Shakespeare (*The Tempest*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*), Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, Richardson's *Clarissa Harlowe* in the French translation, Oliver Goldsmith's *The Vicar of Wakefield*, Ossian, Edward Gibbon, Byron, Scott (*Woodstock*, *Kenilworth*, *The Fair Maid of Perth*, *Quentin Durward*, *The Antiquary*), Charles Dickens (*David Copperfield*, *Nicholas Nickleby*) and others.

But even in his first ballad to come down to us, “The Bewitched”, Shevchenko was not an apprentice, not an imitator. There was no such period in his work. His early

poem “Katerina” is a peerless work on the life of the people in his own time, just as the poem *Haidamaki* is an outstanding work on an historical theme. Shevchenko stepped to the forefront of Ukrainian literature from the very start. This was due not only to the young poet's brilliance, but mostly because he was a genuine people's poet. It is characteristic that the title of his first slim booklet of poetry, *Kobzar*, was later applied to all collections of Taras Shevchenko's poetry and to the poet himself.

Shevchenko was a true people's poet not only because he wrote in the Ukrainian language that was actually spoken by the people, thus laying a solid foundation for the Ukrainian literary language as a whole, and not only by the closeness of the *Kobzar* to the oral Ukrainian folk poetry (that trait was also common to the Ukrainian romanticists), but mainly because he expressed the thoughts, feelings and aspirations of the broadest sections of the Ukrainian people. At the same time his

(Continued on Page 5.)



The painting “Kateryna” is one of many Taras Shevchenko did on the themes of his poetry.

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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WELLAND BRANCH

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Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Lucy Antoniow
Clarence Capowski
Fanny Hruschak

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

The **Toronto Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to February and March celebrants:

Patricia Dzatko
Alexandra Tomaszewski

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

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

Margaret Hallstrom
Dianna Kleparchuk
Leona Levchuk
Dora Stewart

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

The **Welland Shevchenko Seniors** extend a happy birthday wish to February and March celebrants:

Margaret Card
Joy Edwards
Olga Katryniuk
Bill Lukan
Wanda Lukan
Martha Maksymiuk
Olga Young

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

A lawyer was waking up from anesthesia after surgery, and his wife was sitting by his side. His eyes opened and he said, "You're beautiful!" Then he fell asleep again.

A couple of minutes later, his eyes opened and he said, "You're cute!" The wife, disappointed, asked, "What happened to 'beautiful'?"

His reply was, "The drugs are wearing off!"

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will host a **Concert with Guests** at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 805 East Pender Street, starting at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **March 2**. Refreshments to follow.

* * *

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**.

* * *

Edmonton — AUUC Edmonton Branch will hold its **Shevchenko Anniversary Celebration** at the Ukrainian Centre, 11018-97 Street, on Sunday, **March 30**. The viewing of a **Shevchenko display** will begin at **1:30 p.m.** The **concert** which starts at **2:00 p.m.** will be followed by a **banquet**. The main speaker will be **Lyudmyla Pogoryelov**, Director of the Shevchenko Museum.

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Regina — **Annual Concert-Recital** presented by 120 performers, featuring the **AUUC Poltava Ensemble** and the **AUUC Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts**, will be presented on Saturday **February 8**, 2014 at **7:00 p.m.** at the **Regina Performing Arts Centre**, Angus and 4th Avenue. For tickets phone the **RPAC Box Office at 306-779-2277**.

* * *

Winnipeg — AUUC Winnipeg Branch is holding its **Annual General Meeting** at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **February 23**, at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue.

* * *

Winnipeg — AUUC Winnipeg Branch is planning a major **celebration of Taras Shevchenko's life and his influence** on Ukrainian and Ukrainian Canadian culture, politics and history. The event in **late March** will include a display provided by the Taras Shevchenko Museum, and a showcase of music and reflections on Shevchenko's importance. For more information, please contact **Emily at (204) 891-8238**.

* * *

Vineland — The **Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC** will appear in **concert** at the **United Mennonite Home in Vineland**, from **2:00 p.m.** on Wednesday, **February 12**.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will host **Love and Laughter** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West, starting at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **February 16**. Among the planned activities are a presentation by the **Hahilka Singers** and a **joke contest**. Admission: **\$10.00/person**.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will host a **movie afternoon** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West, starting at **2:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **March 2**. For more information call **416-588-1639**.

* * *

Toronto — The **Taras H. Shevchenko Museum** will hold its **Annual General Meeting** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West, on Saturday, **March 8**. A **visit to the Museum** is scheduled at **4:00 p.m.** Dinner will be served at **6:00 p.m.**, followed by entertainment by **Victor Mishalow** and by the **Welland Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra**. For more information or **Dinner tickets**, call **416-534-8662**.

* * *

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.

Note to Readers

As a consequence of discussion at the recent meeting of the AUUC National Committee, the "UCH", as of this issue, will be providing information about the Annual General Meetings of AUUC Branches.



Taras Shevchenko Museum

Generous Donation of Shevchenko Artifacts

The Taras Shevchenko Museum has received new exhibits from Ukraine.

In the summer of 2012, the Board of Directors of the Taras Shevchenko Museum sent a request to the National Shevchenko Museum in Kyiv, and to the ministry of culture of Ukraine, requesting a donation of new exhibits for the Museum to celebrate 200th anniversary of the birth of Ukrainian national poet Taras Shevchenko.

The Museum's request was received positively. Senior curator of the National Shevchenko Museum in Kyiv Yulia Shilenko collected and packed two parcels of 51 artifacts, and a library department of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine collected 32 books for the Museum.

The items were brought to Canada by the Ukrainian government delegation led by Volodymyr Rybak, Chair of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, who came to Canada on an official visit on November 24-26, 2013.

There was a short ceremony planned for the Shevchenko monument in Ottawa during which official donation of the artifacts to the Shevchenko Museum was foreseen. However, due to extremely cold weather, the ceremony was shortened and included just putting flowers and a group photograph with representatives of the Ukrainian community in Ottawa. Half an hour later, the parcels were taken from the Embassy and brought to Toronto.

Among the artifacts donated by the National Shevchenko Museum in Kyiv are all 28 of Shevchenko's engravings, six engravings by Ukrainian graphic artists V. Harbuz and M. Stratilat, the 7th volume of the academic publication of Taras Shevchenko's works, Shevchenko's selected poetry in Spanish, many editions of *Kobzar*, albums, CDs, analytical and critical materials, reproductions of Maria Pryimachenko's art works, two large-format editions of Kotlyarevsky's *Eneida* with illustrations, and much more.

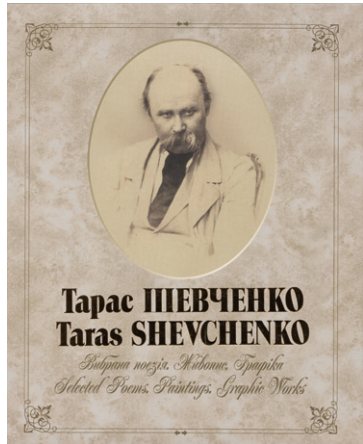
The Ukrainian Ministry of Culture sent 32 books, among which are the first two volumes of a newly published Shevchenko encyclopedia.

The Board, staff, volunteers and supporters of the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto are very thankful to receive such a great donation for the Museum's collections and library.

The newly acquired items will be used by the Museum to hold the exhibition *All Shevchenko's Engravings* later in the year, and etchings by M. Stratilat will be used in the new Taras Shevchenko jubilee exhibition. A display of new publications on Taras Shevchenko will be held in the library of the Museum.

The Museum thanks its colleagues in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture, and the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada for a generous donation and assistance in bringing the donated artifacts to Canada.

— Lyudmyla Pogoryelov, Director
Taras Shevchenko Museum



Anastasiya Voytyuk at Shevchenko Museum

(Continued from Page 5.) *shchedrivka* (with Tangi Ropars on button accordion), and the Lemko carol “*U hlyboki dolyni*”.

For a change of pace she performed a dance song, and then “*Mayoran*”, with the audience joining in with a sort of refrain.

The Mokosh Toronto Folk Band performed next. They appeared as a vocal trio singing *a cappella*. (Why “band”? Because, apparently, they do perform with a group of musicians (including, sometimes, Jaash Singh.)

The women sang with a strong *narodney holos* (folk voice, also called wild voice), starting with two Bulgarian songs and a Serbian song, and continuing with “*Verba zele-na*”.

As Mokosh performed, one by one the other musicians joined in, with Ms. Voytyuk leading the way. By the time they reached the *kolomeyka* “*Oy, zakuvala zozulenka*”, it was almost like a planned finale number.

The performers got prolonged applause. After some discussion on stage between

Ms. Voytyuk and Mokosh, the encore was provided by Anastasiya Voytyuk. It was a “cute” song about naughty beaver kits who deserve to be beaten with a stick at bedtime, but we won't beat them because we haven't the heart, and they're soon asleep.

The show ended at about 9:20 p.m., after which many of the audience socialized over cookies and coffee or tea.

As shown by the applause, the audience quite enjoyed the concert. Ms. Voytyuk is indeed a master of the bandura, plays an unobtrusive guitar, and has a pleasant voice. Most important, her pleasure as she performs just shines through.

It was very interesting to hear the “creative” aspect of the evening's bandura music, which was most striking in the Shevchenko song and in “*Chervona ruta*” by Ivasiuk. The classics live on precisely because new generations of musicians adapt them to the idiom of the day.

Mokosh was a good addition to the program, providing striking contrast to Ms. Voytyuk. Their inclusion of Bulgarian and Serbian songs was also welcome.

For the most part, the informality of the presentation added to the pleasure. However, sometimes there is too much of a good thing: the constant comings and goings of some of the musicians was somewhat distracting. Even more distracting were the late arrivals, some of them over a half-hour into the program.

It was positive that the other musicians joined with Mokosh, a move that did not seem to have been planned. It is to be hoped that in the repeat performance on January 17, which I was unable to attend, this was done less tentatively, on the third or fourth song of the Mokosh presentation.

Aside from the numerous really late latecomers, the distractions and weaknesses were minor, and acceptable, particularly in the context of the informality.

Those who missed this show, missed an entertaining evening of music.

— Wilfred Szczesny



Anastasiya Voytyuk (vocals, bandura and guitar) and percussionist Brian Lahaie were on stage throughout the program.

— Story photos: Wilfred Szczesny



Mokosh Toronto Folk Band (Left to right: Talia Lysiak, Cassandra Prus, Alexandra Bachynskyy) appeared as a trio singing without accompaniment. Then, one by one, the other performers joined in.



The concert ended with all the performers on stage (left to right): Tangi Ropars, Anastasiya Voytyuk, Jaash Singh, Alexandra Bachynskyy, Cassandra Prus, Brian Lahaie, Talia Lysiak.

Welcome to the only
Taras Shevchenko Museum in the Americas!

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