

# HERALD BICHIK

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## Edmonton AUUC Marks Shevchenko's 200th



Photo: Wiliam Bibkevich

On March 30, AUUC Edmonton Branch, with performers from Calgary and Lyudmyla Pogoryelov as the main speaker, celebrated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko. The call to begin the festivities was sounded by Bill Uhryn on the trembita. A report on that event, with pictures, appears on Page 6.

## The Main Thing Is to Kill

There are daily instances of people in many parts of the world being killed by the USA.

As we go to press, there is a report out of London that a US drone attacked a "militant

compound" in Pakistan for the second time within 12 hours, killing at least 10 suspected members of the "Haqqani network". That represents a resurgence of CIA work.

Two days earlier, a US air strike in Afghanistan had killed five American special operations troops. The troops had come under fire by the Taliban and called in the air support.

For all the supposed intelligence of the USA and its weapons, friends and enemies both end up dead. It seems that the main thing is to kill.

## The Next Issue

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated September/October, 2014. Announcements of events in September, October or early November, 2014, as well as articles for the September/October, 2014, issue should be in our office by August 10. Thank you for your timely consideration of this matter.

## Court Upholds Privacy

In an 8-0 ruling, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled on June 13 that police must have a search warrant to compel telecom companies to provide even such information as name, address and phone number, when illegal activity is suspected.

The ruling will not stop companies from offering information if they perceive a need.

The principle of the ruling is that internet users have a reasonable expectation of privacy over information that can reveal the nature of their computer usage, and that privacy

can only be intruded upon with a court order.

Police will not need a warrant in an emergency.

The ruling stimulated demands that the government amend Bill C-13, the cyber-bullying bill, and Bill S-4, the Digital Privacy Act, both of which extend warrantless access by police and others to data on internet users

The court ruling was based on an appeal in a case in which police had used a man's internet address to get additional information from his internet service provider. While ruling that this would not be allowed in the future, the court ruled that the evidence obtained could be used in the case in question. The reasons given were: the seriousness of the charges; that police were acting in good faith at a time when the law was unclear; and that excluding the evidence would bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

## Criminalizing Prostitution

Hampered by ideological blinkers, the Conservative government of Canada seems to be incapable of drafting legislation acceptable to Canadians and to the Supreme Court.

One recent example is their Bill C-36, the "Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act". This is the legislation they have tabled to replace the laws on prostitution struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada some five months earlier. The Court ruled then that the laws endangered the life and safety of sex workers.

The court struck down laws banning brothels, banning living off the avails of prostitution and banning communicating for the purposes of prostitution.

Introducing Bill C-36, Justice Minister Peter MacKay said, "The purchase and sale of sex has never been illegal in Canada. That changes today." At a time when polls show more Canadians want prostitution decriminalized than want

a crack down on prostitutes and their clients, the government has taken the exact opposite tack.

The result will be to heighten the danger faced by prostitutes, contrary to the requirement of the Supreme Court. Inevitably, the law will be challenged all the way up to the Supreme Court. The process will take years, during which prostitutes will not only face increased danger as they do their job, but will also be additionally victimized and endangered by the government's devotion to creating as many criminals as they can.

Critics of the proposed legislation allege that the law, in criminalizing prostitution, will force prostitutes underground and into more dangerous conditions, contrary to the order of the Supreme Court.

Prostitute will face fines and/or six months imprisonment for trying to sell sex in a public place, with harshest sentences to activity anywhere near where somebody under 18 years old might reasonably be.

Buying sex will be punishable by fines up to \$4000.00 or up to five years in prison.

Advertising for sexual services is prohibited under the proposed law.

With clients seeking to minimize risk, prostitutes will work alone, in secluded places, with no opportunity to evaluate clients, and further removed from police assistance.

That is not what the Court intended.

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## Goodbye, Sharon. Hello, George and Zorya.

After about a dozen years helping produce the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, primarily by proofreading and assisting with administration, Sharon McCulla has decided to stop. We thank Sharon for her great help, and wish her all the best in the future.

We thank George Borusiewicz and Zorya Szczesny for their generous offers to assist with proofreading the "UCH", and look forward to working with them.

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## Current Eclectic

### Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine

On June 12, *The Guardian* reported that the fighting in Eastern Ukraine was creating a “worsening humanitarian crisis” as tens of thousands of people sought to flee the fighting. Most of the refugees were reportedly from Slavyansk, where the rebellion has established its capital.

An estimated 270 people have been killed in the east, 225 of them from the Donetsk region (which includes Slavyansk) since the government in Kyiv launched its “anti-terrorism operation”

(quotation marks are from *The Guardian*). The reported numbers, from government sources, is thought to be low.

On June 14 it was reported that a Ukrainian military transport plane had been shot down by rebels in eastern Ukraine as it came in for a landing at Luhansk airport. All 49 people aboard were killed. In addition to 40 military personnel being rotated into the area, the plane was carrying military equipment and food.

Rebels claim to have shot down several other aircraft,

including a surveillance plane downed over Slavyansk on June 6.

Rocket-propelled grenades and, most recently, guided missiles have been used against aeroplanes. Rebels claim these weapons were taken from Ukrainian military bases.

“Russia Today” reported that another aeroplane, a bomber jet, was shot down by the rebels, also known as “self-defence forces”, pro-Russian militia” or “terrorists” (depending on the source) in Horlivka.

This second plane was reportedly downed in the early morning hours of June 14, while bombing the local police station. Two people were reported killed and seven injured in this bombing run, some of them with the self-defence forces and some civilians.

### Harper Manoeuvres

*The Globe and Mail* has reported the possibility that Prime Minister Harper has embarked on a series of moves which may lead to “another potential high-stakes legal battle”. If events unfold as projected, the Prime Minister’s adherence to the spirit of the Supreme Court ruling on the appointment of Marc Nadon to the Supreme Court will be in question. Mr. Nadon was ruled ineligible to serve because he was not a member of the Quebec judiciary or bar.

The current matter involves Robert Mainville, who was also on the original list of six possible appointees to the Supreme Court. The Conservative government has moved Mr. Mainville from the Court of Appeal in Ottawa and named him to the Quebec Court of Appeal, the province’s highest court. This could be setting the stage for an appointment to the Supreme Court later this year.

Justice Mainville was appointed to the Federal Court in 2009, and to the Federal Court of Appeal just seven months later. Apparently he is recognized as a “very good guy”, “a very good lawyer, and “a fine judge”.

However, several lawyers

have indicated that the appointment of Justice Mainville to the Supreme Court would be “an evasion of the court’s Nadon ruling”.

“It is a fundamental doctrine of constitutional law that you can’t do indirectly what you can’t do directly,” Tom Heintzman, a former president of the Canadian Bar Association, said. That is another consideration.

It has also been noted that the appointment of Justice Mainville would break the tradition that one of Quebec’s three judges on the Supreme Court is a woman.

It may not matter to the Prime Minister, but it surely does to Quebec lawyers, that such a move would send a message to judges who are already eligible for appointment that they are not good enough for the Supreme Court, a message of contempt not likely to win friends for the Conservatives.

It gives nobody any comfort that Mr. Harper has said that he would not try to get around the court ruling concerning Marc Nadon.

**(Quotations used in this article are taken from [globeandmail.ca](http://globeandmail.ca), updated on July 14. —Sz)**

### Abusive Mode: Legislative

Character assassination is firmly established as a favourite tactic of the Conservative government of Canada when critics of legislation dare to speak against a proposed act.

The most recent example is an attack by Citizenship Minister Chris Alexander against critics of Bill C-24. Bill C-24 would give the government power to revoke the citizenship of people born in Canada who are convicted of terrorism, treason or spying if they have dual citizenship.

In a CBC interview Mr. Alexander falsely said that Rocco Galati, a Toronto lawyer, had defended Ahmed Said Khadr, who died in a fire-fight with Pakistani forces. Mr. Alexander made this connection to smear Mr. Galati, a critic of Bill C-24, who challenges the constitutionality of the bill.

When the opposition raised the issue in the House of Commons, Mr. Alexander extended the smear to the NDP, asking how they could “justify any defence of terrorism, treason or spying as a basis for citizenship”.

Mr. Galati has indicated an intent to sue Chris Alexander for defamation.

If anyone thinks that it was just Mr. Alexander running off at the mouth, consider other instances of using this abusive technique against critics of legislation proposed by the Harper Tories.

Consider the discussion of Bill C-13, the “Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act”. In addition to measures intended to combat online bullying, the act provides for much easier access by authorities, without warrants, to private personal data from telecommunications companies. Critics of the bill who suggested splitting it into two were accused by the government of

supporting child pornography.

Then there was the to-do around the Fair Elections Act. There were many critics of that legislation, among them Marc Mayrand, Chief Electoral Officer.

Mr. Mayrand had often tangled with the Conservatives, who think that dirty tricks — as well as voter-suppression, financial irregularities and other abuses of the Canada Elections Act — are a legitimate part of electioneering. The Canada Elections act was designed to make such abuses either legal or easier.

Pierre Poilievre, the Minis-

ter for Democratic Reform, charged that Mr. Mayrand was only opposed to the bill because, “He wants more power, a bigger budget and less accountability.”

These are just a few examples of a much longer list. In fact, it’s hard to think of a government measure, even among those presented as private members bills, which has not been accompanied by vilification of critics.

The government brings in terrible legislation, and then it compounds its shameful attacks on the character of its critics.

### Abusive Mode: General

Criticising government bills is not the only way to get that treatment from Harper’s Conservative cohorts.

Another way is illustrated by the case of Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin.

It is well to remember that the Supreme Court is loaded with Harper appointees. Nevertheless the Court has issued a number of judgements which conflicted with the wishes of the Prime Minister and his minions.

These include rejection by 8-0 agreement of the theory that the Government of Canada can alter or abolish the Senate without provincial approval. The court rules that any constitutional change requires the provincial approval specified in the 1982 Canadian Constitution Act.

They also include a softening of the Conservative “tough on crime” provisions concerning credit for time served in sentencing introduced by the Truth in Sentencing Act in 2009.

They also include the ruling by the Supreme Court that the

government-appointed Marc Nadon was not eligible to sit on the Supreme Court.

The government attack began with an article in the *National Post*, which published “rumours” that the Chief Justice lobbied against the appointment of Mr. Nadon and complained that the government had damaged the court. The next day, Harper’s office suggested that Ms. McLachlin had acted inappropriately by trying to contact him about a matter “that is or may be before their court”.

An editorial in the *Toronto Star*, pointed out that the attempted contact was months before the October 3 appointment of Mr. Nadon, which triggered the court challenge.

Not only was there no court case, but “It is customary for Chief Justices to be consulted during the appointment process....”

Thus Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin joins an illustrious list of those abused by the Prime Minister and his gang, including the Auditor General and a long list of others. Shame!

### Politics in the USA

The US is preparing for Congressional elections, the so-called mid-terms during which a certain number of congressional seats are contested. The political parties in the USA are holding primaries to select their candidates.

The struggle in the Republican Party between the establishment and the Tea Party is being waged in the context of these primaries.

Republican Eric Cantor was (is, until his resignation becomes effective) the House Majority leader in Congress. After a 13-year career, Representative Cantor was defeated by a virtually unknown darling of the Tea Party, Dave Brat, an economics professor in a Virginia college who has never held elected office.

Mr. Cantor, a conservative politician, was the second most-powerful man in the House of Representatives, and was seen by some as a future Speaker of the House.

Mr. Cantor spent about \$5 million on his campaign in Richmond, Virginia, about ten times as much as Dave Brat, but his prestige, his power, and his money could not overcome the favour of the even farther-right Republican voters, bolstered by the right-wing talk radio, which mostly backed Mr. Brat.

It may be premature to try to project the defeat of Mr.

Cantor into any kind of successful right-wing uprising, particularly given the losses the Tea Party has suffered to mainstream Republicans in other areas. Nevertheless it is already clear that it will have repercussions.

For one thing, the victory of Dave Brat has already given additional energy and hope to the Tea Party. If Mr. Cantor could be beaten, then who is invincible?

Thus, Mr. Cantor’s defeat will push House Republicans further to the right as they seek to escape Mr. Cantor’s fate. It will also cause political hopefuls to move further right to curry Tea Party favour.

One result of the move to the right will be that reform of immigration laws will be indefinitely delayed. None of the majority Republicans in the House of Representatives will want to introduce an immigration reform bill.

Another result may be that the current Speaker of the House, John Boehner, an establishment Republican, will reconsider his decision to retire. The departure of Eric Cantor leaves a void which may not be finally filled until after the coming elections, as various actors and factions jockey for position.

Long-term implications for the republic and the Republicans remain to be determined.



UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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## Ontario Elections

AN EDITORIAL BY WILFRED SZCZESNY

Like it or not, Ontario is rather important in Canada, making Ontario government rather important, and so making Ontario elections important. This particular election was also informative and interesting.

Stripped to its bones, the story is that the minority Liberal government brought in a budget which both opposition parties (for their different reasons) opposed, leading to an election. The election happened on June 12, producing a Liberal majority government.

The big winner was Premier Kathleen Wynne. Her Liberals only got about five extra seats (one is going to judicial recount), based on an increase of about 1% in the popular vote, but she went from a minority to a majority government.

The big loser was Progressive Conservative Tim Hudak, dropping about ten seats, and announcing in his concession speech that he was stepping down as leader.

The paradoxical loser was NDP leader Andrea Horwath, who precipitated the election. Her party gained four seats more than it won in 2011, and increased its proportion of popular vote, but lost the leverage it had enjoyed in the minority parliament.

The entrails will be examined in detail in the coming months, particularly by the so-called talking heads and (no doubt) the Progressive Conservatives.

The analyses will note that the Liberals could not have done it without the help of the PCs, whose program was so wrong as to verge (or maybe even encroach) on the stupid. Ontarians did not want to lose another 100,000 jobs. Nor did we want a promise of a million jobs — over 10 years — which counted a single job as eight jobs.

The analyses may also note that Ms. Horwath made a tremendous blunder in defeating a budget which many voters (including many leading trade unions) perceived as good for the people. Though there is less in the budget than appears at first glance, she could have used her leverage to fight for whatever benefits it promised; now she can not.

Brilliant may be too strong a description for Ms. Wynne's game, but not by much. Leading a government dropping in the polls under constant PC and NDP attack, she boldly crafted a budget which combined public appeal with sustainable public policy. Then she challenged the opposition parties, particularly the NDP, to support the government or let her take the budget to the people.

There was no chance that the PCs would support the government — they rejected the budget sight unseen.

Ms. Horwath took the bait, placed the NDP to the right of the Liberals and produced a Liberal majority.

## COMMENTARY

Unintended  
Consequences in Iraq

Many years, many deaths and much hardship after the United States of America launched its vicious attack on Iraq, President Obama withdrew American troops.

Left behind were devastating human tragedies, and on-going conflict creating even more misery as various factions contested for power.

Left behind was a weak central authority, armed with American weapons, ruling for its own benefit, and the benefit of one group of the population, primarily Shiite Muslims, with others primarily Sunni Muslims, paying the price for belonging to the wrong group.

As the "UCH" goes to press, one of those other groups is waging a determined war against the central authority, and making great gains in its drive toward Baghdad, the capital.

The official position of President Obama started as, "It's a serious problem, but

it's not an American problem." This was a recognition of the high social price the American people paid for that war, and reflected a sincere reluctance to become mired anew in war in Iraq.

In short order, however, the United States appeared to be coming closer to re-engaging in an arena which still smells of American blood.

The concern was that the overturn of the US sanctioned authority was threatened by a force which the USA had declared a mortal enemy. This enemy, it was feared, would wreak terrible destruction on America's friends in Iraq and establish a regime hostile to US interests.

Serious thought is being given to replacing Iraq's political leadership, but there is little incentive for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (the power over-running the country) to stop just because a new front man is installed, when it is having such success.

(ISIS is also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.)

Therefore, US President Obama is looking at ways to stop the advance of the ISIS forces. Having supposedly ruled out "boots on the ground", President Obama and his advisors are looking at other forms of military support: air strikes and supplying more military equipment.

There is a fear that aeroplanes could be shot down, but other options are available, such as drones and missiles.

There is also concern that additional weapons would just be taken over by ISIS as the weapons were abandoned by fleeing Iraqi troops. This has been happening to the billions of dollars in weapons the USA has already provided.

Kurdish fighters known as Peshmerga are reported to have had some success in opposing ISIS in eastern Iraq, in a semi-autonomous Kurdish region. There is some belief that this Peshmerga success could be a new stage in the establishment of Kurdistan, which is a matter of interest to Turkey. Some politicians in Baghdad have expressed concern about the Kurds' moves.

There are also reports, de-

(Continued on Page 11.)

## From Our Readers

(This letter has been slightly shortened. — Ed.)

A letter from the Calgary Council of the AUUC Branch in last month's issue of the "UCH" expresses objections to a March 4 statement by the National Executive Committee on the on-going political turmoil in Ukraine.

I would like to join the discussion. I do so as an ordinary member of the AUUC. The opinions I express are my own.

Early in their letter, the authors state that they "do not feel that the NEC has the right to release this politically motivated (my emphasis) statement...."

According to Wikipedia, "It (our organization -gb) was established in Winnipeg in 1918

as an association of left-leaning (my emphasis) cultural societies ... and the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party of Canada (a socialist party -gb). How much more political can you get?

Since 1918, our organization has never hidden its leanings and has consciously supported the cause of social justice in word and in deed.

I am not aware of any AUUC convention since 1918 that has endorsed a shift-right in our political stance. In fact, about three conventions ago, the delegates voted to add the words "left-wing" to our constitution. This resolution was withdrawn the next morning, because a western Branch (dependent on lottery income, and fearing a backlash from

right-wing bigots in authority), pleaded for the change.

The present constitution includes the word "progressive" as a description of the AUUC.

If I remember correctly, current rules on admitting new members to our organization require not only that candidates read the constitution before admittance, but that they agree to the provisions of the constitution. I would like to address several other points in the Calgary letter, but space in the "UCH" is limited.

I end with a final observation — the NEC is elected by the National Convention and is empowered, during its term, to speak for the AUUC. Did the Calgary letter-writers speak to, and get the approval of, each and every one of their members before writing their letter?

— George Borusiewicz  
Toronto ON

## SEE US ON THE WEB!

AUUC (National)  
auuc.caEdmonton AUUC, Trembita Ensemble  
www.ukrainiancentre-edm.caRegina AUUC, Poltava Ensemble  
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Plus G.S.T.	

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



## Edmonton Seniors: About Elder Abuse

Lauren Bondura was our honoured birthday guest this month. When we sang “*Mnohaya leeta*”, Lauren responded in fluent Ukrainian to our best of wishes.

Lauren has an interesting past. She was raised in a family of twelve siblings in a Central Alberta area next to a community of Cree aboriginals. Therefore her first language was Ukrainian at home and her second language was Cree. When a school was built in her community, she entered

grade 8 and started to speak English.

When I asked her what was the biggest lesson she learned in life, she most unhesitatingly quipped, “Pride in my heritage!”

Pauline Warick’s birthday was recognized as well by President Paul Greene. Pauline was unable to attend.

Rose Kereliuk and Mary Tropak, our program organizers, arranged for guest speakers on the topic “Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention”.

Elder abuse is defined as “any action or inaction by self or others that jeopardizes the health or well being of any older adult occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust”.

This definition was adopted by the World Health Organization.

Elder abuse has many forms: emotional, financial, physical, neglect active and passive, sexual and medication abuse.

Examples of financial abuse cited were borrowing money and not repaying, pressuring a senior to lend or give money, mishandling of seniors’ assets in a trust situation, pressuring

seniors to change a will or to sign documents they do not understand (e.g., power of attorney). Tips to prevent financial abuse:

1. If you have given someone power of attorney, he/she does NOT need joint access to your bank account.

2. Do not give your debit or credit card numbers to friends. Do not leave your PIN number in any place such as your wallet, purse or notebook.

Emotional abuse might involve harassment, intimidation, threats, belittling, “crazy-making”, swearing/name-calling, using withdrawal of contact with children or grandchild-

ren to manipulate.

Examples of bullying are: always controlling the television/activities; arguments in common areas; repeatedly asking for money, food, etc.; insisting on what to do or how to do it; not allowing someone to sit at your table or making gestures or faces at someone passing.

Physical abuse might involve physical assault or threat; kicking, hitting, shoving, pushing, slapping or spitting, as well as inappropriate restraints or confinement.

Neglect encompasses failing to provide proper food, shelter or clothing; preventing  
**(Continued on Page 6.)**

## Multicultural Choir Festival in Edmonton

On March 24 five choirs came together to sing songs of their culture. Included were the Senior Guitars of the Chilean community, the Chinese Melody Choir, Le Clé French Youth Choir, the Czech and Slovak Choir, and the Trembita Choir.

The concert started with the audience defining the term “multiculturalism” which first came into vogue in the 1960s in Canada. The audience said that “multiculturalism” means ethnic or cultural heterogeneity, equality and mutual respect.

According to Mel Hurtig’s *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, the federal government of Canada, in 1971, followed by several provinces, enacted legislation recognizing this important type of diversity within Canadian society and engendering political recognition of it.

Multiculturalism was the theme of this concert.

Before each group’s performance, MC Shirley Uhryn, based on research, provided a brief history of the performing group and its peoples.

Humberto Novella, the production manager of this Festival of Choirs and, in addition, the Chilean troupe director, told me of Chile’s proud aboriginal peoples. The arrival of Spaniards in South America led to conflict between them and the Mapuche, a very proud and strong aboriginal people who fought for their lands and the right to govern themselves.

Spanish colonization lasted about 300 years, until Chile achieved independence from Spain in 1818. In 1900, English, French, German and Italian people arrived, leading to further European domination.

Mr. Novella said with pride that recently Chile has been democratically governed except for the dictatorship of Pinochet, supported by the USA government under Richard Nixon and Henry

Kissinger, when the Chileans once again became victims of landlords and military power. The Chilean peoples’ opposition was led by the Mapuche and their supporters.

Mr. Novella said with pride that the Senior Guitars ensemble would share their Latin American music, both folk and popular. Their first song was the familiar and popular “*El Condor Pasa*” which was received warmly by the audience.

The large Chinese Melody Choir, led by Lucy Tse, followed a short capsule of their history in Canada, written by E.B. Wichberg’s article in *The Canadian Encyclopedia*.

The first Chinese immigrants to Canada arrived from San Francisco in 1858 for the beginning of the Fraser gold rush. The first immigrants directly from China were young peasants from southern China who emigrated because of rural poverty and political upheaval.

Once here, they laboured under appalling conditions, for example working for the Canadian Pacific Railway. For the same work, they were often paid 50% lower than a white worker.

A Canadian Royal Commission of the time reported that, as Asians, the Chinese were “unfit for full citizenship,..., obnoxious to a free community and dangerous to the state”.

The Chinese workers often came alone, sending money back home to their families, with the hope of returning home themselves.

Since 1950, the Chinese immigrants are frequently fluent in English and possess education, financial resources and professional skills. They settle primarily in large urban areas like Toronto, Vancouver and Victoria.

In the Chinese community the web of kinship is strong. The audience applauded on

learning that in Edmonton’s China Town their community has city approval to build a large complex where all services will be provided for the different generations of each family to live under one roof.

“The Melody Cultural and Community Choir registered in 2002 as a non-profit organization. They have a choir, two dancing groups and a senior group. They ... help newly arrived immigrants to settle in Edmonton and learn the community resources to use to improve their life,” wrote President Lucy Tse.

The crowd experienced several songs by the large Chinese choir. In keeping with the theme of multicultural Canada, the men wore red ties which flared at the bottom to feature a large Canadian Maple Leaf!

“The Clé French Youth Choir composed of singers in junior and senior high schools administered by the French School Board ... is actually offered as part of the curriculum at the high school level. They have developed a large repertoire of songs in a number of different languages and time frames (classical to modern). For this concert they have chosen to present songs in French and English,” said Marie Quimet, their music teacher. The group of about 25 young people did not disappoint us, in any way!

When I interviewed Marie Quimet what it meant to be of French ancestry in Alberta, she had some poignant comments.

“Even though the *coureurs de bois* were among the first (Europeans) to come to Alberta, there has always been a battle to live in French.”

“Our ancestors fought very hard for our Francophone School Boards and won the battle only in the mid-1980s.”

“We are a culture with a lot of *joie de vivre* and music has always been a huge part of our cultural identity.”

Ms. Quimet went on to say that she was of the first graduating class of the Francophone School Board!

The audience was also

lucky to share another rare experience: Marie Quimet’s mother sent a tray of maple sugar fudge for us to enjoy! Maria brought several artifacts representative of the Francophone community for display at the back table which featured several of the choirs’ artifacts

Next came the Czech and Slovak Choir of Edmonton, which was established in 2003 to perform at the Christmas concert organized by the Wirth Institute at the University of Alberta. Since then the choir has performed at every annual Christmas concert at that venue, and has also performed Czech and Slovak folk, popular and classical songs at various special events.

In 2012, the Czech and Slovak Choir of Edmonton recorded its first recording featuring collection of Czech and Slovak Christmas songs. Over the years, the choir has attracted many talented and committed individuals, many of whom are singing since the choir’s inception,” reported Kamila.

Kamila conducted the choir, which was accompanied by a most accomplished pianist, Jon! Their repertoire included folk songs, songs by Czech composer Bedrich Smetana as well as four Moravian duets composed by Antonin Dvorak, including “If the Scythe-Blade Were Sharp” and “Slavickovsky’s Fields”.

It was appreciated that Kamila gave an English translation for several of the melodies. Many were most humorous!

The last group to entertain was the Edmonton AUUC’s Trembita Choir.

“The AUUC is the oldest ethnic organization in Canada. We are preparing to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2018. In all those years, the Trembita Mixed Choir has been one of the constants of our cultural program, as men and women have joined voices to present songs that our pioneers brought from their homelands — but also providing a healthy mixture of folk songs (and

love songs as well as songs about workers’ struggles that originated in North America.

“In 2014, we welcomed to the choir newcomers who have arrived in Canada as part of the fourth wave of Ukrainian immigration to this country. They have helped us revive some of the most traditional and beautiful Ukrainian folk songs, some of which include songs featuring lyrics written by Taras Shevchenko, the famous Ukrainian poet and philosopher, whose 200th anniversary we celebrate this year,” wrote Winston Gereluk.

Mention was made that the book *Kobzar* which was featured on the Ukrainian display table. This book was published to mark the 200th anniversary by the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto. *Kobzar* features Shevchenko’s works in French, English and Ukrainian.

The concept of the spring production of the Festival of Choirs was proposed by member Cecilia Novella, from the Edmonton Chilean community. It is a great pleasure for the Edmonton AUUC to sponsor this choral festival as part of their annual program. They are proud of their efforts to contribute, maintain and enhance cultural diversity in our province and our country.

They look forward to continuing to support various ethnic groups in our society in order to develop a true cultural mosaic of the younger generations.

The Edmonton AUUC gratefully acknowledges the participation of guest choirs and music groups: Chilean Senior Guitar Group, Chinese Melody Choir, Le Clé French Youth Choir, and the Czech and Slovak Choir. And of course we all thank our own Trembita Choir.

Lauren Bondaruk, from the audience, shared with us a closing statement. When asked what she has learned is most important in life, her unhesitating response was, “Pride in my cultural heritage!

— Shirley Uhryn



## Edmonton AUUC Marks Shevchenko's 200th

I begin this article with a quote from Mitch Sago former editor of *The Ukrainian Canadian* magazine which was very popular in the 1970s:

"The concert-meeting was held in a rented hall by the Taras Shevchenko Reading Society on May 1, 1904.

"Kyrilo Genik, who organized the society a year earlier in his home, read a paper on "The Childhood Years of Taras H. Shevchenko and His Persecution". The program also featured songs by a male chorus, vocal soloists, a violinist and recitations. 'The hall was filled to capacity,' the newspaper 'Kanadiysky Farmar' reported on May 12, 'and what was most significant for the Canadian Rusyns was that this was the first

evening Concert dedicated to Taras Shevchenko on Canadian soil.'" ("Heritage and History", Mitch Sago, *The Ukrainian Canadian*, March, 1979.)

A hundred and ten years later, a concert at the Ukrainian Centre in Edmonton on March 30 of this year opened with Bill Uhryn playing the trembita, notifying the audience that the Shevchenko 200th anniversary celebration was beginning.

MC Shirley Uhryn greeted the audience. She mentioned that the Senior Citizens Club of the Ukrainian Centre sponsored and helped organize this event. Shirley noted that both John F. Kennedy, President of the United States, and John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister



The Trembita Choir and the Children's Choir, conducted by Marina Lavrinenko, joined voices to sing "This Land Is Your Land". Soloist was Virginia Witiwicki.

— Story photos: William Bibkewich



The Children's Choir, under the direction of Marina Lavrinenko, delighted the audience with three numbers, including "Podorozi zhuk".



Among the songs performed by the Trembita Choir were Shevchenko's "Dumy moyi", with Paul Greene as vocal soloist. Marina Lavrinenko conducted, with accompanying on the piano.



Appearing as a duet were Marina Barsukov and Olesya Nazarenko.

of Canada, both stated that Taras H. Shevchenko is a literary giant of the world.

Next, Mike Uhryn, President of AUUC Edmonton Branch, welcomed the audience to the Ukrainian Centre and wished them an enjoyable day in honouring the Bard of Ukraine.

The Calgary Hopak Dancers continued with "Dobriy vechir", the traditional Ukrainian bread and salt welcome

Our special guest speaker Lyudmyla Pogoryelov, Director of the Taras Shevchenko Museum, in Toronto, Ontario, gave a twenty-minute insight into Shevchenko under the brutal tsarist regime. He wrote about freedom for the Ukrainian people, and he condemned the tsar for tyrannical behaviour toward the poor



The Hopak Dancers of the AUUC Calgary Branch performed "Dobriy vechir", with the traditional bread and salt greeting, to welcome the audience into the Ukrainian Centre.

peasant.

It is important to inform the people about Shevchenko's literary prowess, but he was also a talented painter.

The Tiny Tots from the Trembita Dance School performed a dance named "Khaykazhut vsi", and the

(Continued on Page 12.)

## Edmonton Seniors

(Continued From Page 5.) access to care, e.g., doctor's appointments; ignoring emotional, spiritual and social needs, along with self-neglect.

Sexual abuse is evidenced by unwanted sexual activity; unwanted sexual suggestions or comments; unnecessary help with dressing/personal hygiene. These often go unreported due to fear, shame or guilt.

Medical abuse examples include caregiver over- or under-medication; not filling prescription or stealing medications for use or resale. Risk factors associated with this could include poor health, mental health concerns, cognitive decline, low income, housing issues, dependent adult children, isolation and lack of professional or natural supports.

Elder abuse leads to anxiety, depression, anger/annoyance, withdrawal from activities, isolation, reduction in self-esteem, changes in eating and sleeping patterns or feeling pressured to move.

There are barriers to disclosure of elder abuse: fear, hopelessness, loneliness, shame or guilt, love for the abuser, memory impairment, unaware of resources, language or cultural differences

and acceptance of abuse as normal.

There are seniors' protection partnerships available to manage high-risk cases of elder abuse. Examples in Edmonton, Alberta include: Edmonton Police Service — Victim Services Unit, Victoria Order of Nurses, Catholic Social Services, Covenant Health Geriatric Psychiatry and the City of Edmonton.

To be eligible for access to any of these services one must be 65 years of age or older and reside in Edmonton.

In whatever province you live, help is available to combat elder abuse.

Prevention of elder abuse entails recognizing the warning signs, be willing to ask questions/talk about it, know the resources available to help and empowering your friends/family to accept help.

Presenters, Kate Schmidt and Aneesa Gill from Catholic Social Services, answered questions from the floor.

The Edmonton seniors, in appreciation for these speakers' efforts, gave them a donation which the young ladies announced they would donate to a charity combating elder abuse.

Recognition was also given to past-president Pauline

Warick, past-treasurer Olga Horon and faithful phone caller Edna Chmiliar for their unflinching work through the many years for the Edmonton Seniors. May each enjoy the desk pen set with a clock to keep you going into the future!

Moridi Bagan, we wish you a speedy and successful recovery and may the floral arrangement delivered to you from the Seniors symbolize our good wishes to you. See you next month.

June is field trip month for the Seniors. Plans have been made by Rose and Mary for us to go to the Muttart Conservatory in downtown Edmonton, and probably a country outing to Uhryn Farms for a wiener roast.

The Edmonton AUUC Seniors unanimously supported a position paper to the Conservative government opposing the slashing of funding to the CBC and the termination of 627 positions at the public broadcaster. Proposed was that funding be similar to that enjoyed by the renowned BBC. Currently the funding provided by the Canadian federal government is the third lowest in the industrialized world.

The position paper was prepared by Shirley Uhryn and will be sent to all federal political parties.

— Shirley Uhryn



## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Inspired by the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, an enthusiastic group gathered at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on June 8 to enjoy the 1974 version of the movie *The Front Page*, starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau.

The humorous story recounts the efforts of a tabloid newspaper editor to prevent the retirement of his top reporter.

Jerry Dobrowolsky shared his "California Job Case", a treasured piece of memora-



Eighteen people attended the showing of *The Front Page* at the AUUC Cultural Centre in Toronto on June 8 afternoon.



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bilia from his years as a professional compositor at Eveready Printers.

The "press room" atmosphere was further enhanced by the addition of the "UC Herald Cafe", a delicatessen created by Bernardine Dobrowolsky with Connie Prince as server, wherein hungry movie-goers could order

"custom made" deli sandwiches. (Of course, the traditional popcorn was not overlooked. And what's a press room without coffee?)

A highlight of the afternoon was the celebration of Natalka Mochoruk's birthday, with the presentation of a cake and harmonious singing.

Smiles and positive com-



Connie Prince was the server at the Front Page Cafe, providing nourishment to reporters on the run.

ments attested to the success of the afternoon. Next time, join us!

— Constance Prince

## Winnipeg Dance School Recital

On May 10, there was a Dance Recital for the students of the dance school at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg, a special party to showcase our school

This was a chance to let our dancers and our teachers shine with our new director, Cheryl Ann Carr, who has taken on the enormous commitment of leading our dance school this year.

Starting with the tiny-tot Zaychyky, taught by Michelle Hladun; through the junior Zirka Dancers, taught by Haley McQueen (assisted by Abby Koch); to the intermediate Iskry, taught by Che Madden-Carr (assisted by Abby Koch); and to our teens, the Veselka Dancers, taught by Haley McQueen (assisted by Michelle Hladun) — each of our groups did two dances that were learned this year.

We also had Barbara Becc from the Zirka Dancers do a solo from the *Ukrainian Wedding Suite*, and a duet done by Amber Becc and Shaelyn Hillier.

Yunist, as always, was a big hit with their four amazing dances; they are taught by Justin McGillivray and Elise Pierre.

After all the fabulous dancing we had a pizza and cake treat.

We owe great thanks to our wonderful teaching staff, terrific children and the parents for all they do. Thanks everyone for a memorable year. See you in the fall — and don't forget to bring your friends!

— Linda Becc



The Iskry Dancers, the intermediate group, with Che Madden-Carr.

— Story Photos: Nick Becc



Zaychyky, the tiny tots, with Michelle Hladun.



Yunist Dancers, with Elise Pierre and Justin McGillivray.

## Silver for AUUC Winnipeg Dancers

On April 5, the Winnipeg AUUC Dance School had the privilege of dancing at the Manitoba Ukrainian Dance Festival, held at the Pantages Play House Theatre.

We sent two groups: our Juniors (Zirka) and our Teens (Veselka) both taught by Haley McQueen.

Zirka consists of Lauryn Bater, Spencer Bater, Barbara Becc, Sofia Carr-Gil, Pierce Gard, and Owen Gelmych.

The Veselka Dancers are assistant Michelle Hladun, Amber Becc, and Shaelyn Hillier.

Our dancers did a fantastic job on a big stage in front of a large crowd. Both of our groups received silver medals and some critiquing from adjudicator Vincent Rees.

This event was a great opportunity — everyone had a blast!

— Linda Becc

— Story Photos: Nick Becc



The Zirka Dancers, taught by Haley McQueen, won a silver medal at the Manitoba Ukrainian Dance Festival at the Pantages Play House Theatre on April 5.



The Veselka Dancers, taught by Haley McQueen, also took second place at the festival.



**Sent as a  
separate  
page.**



## Ukrainian News Briefs Selected by George Borusiewich

### Culture Heals

(Excerpts from the June 2 issue of [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com).)

While Ukraine's fight for freedom gets bloodier by the day and Russia faces the West's cold shoulder, in the elegant surroundings of London's Somerset House, one oligarch is using art to get his message across.

"This work is called 'Widows', for one simple reason," says Andrei Filatov as he points towards a picture of five elderly ladies looking forlorn. "Because instead of an icon [on the wall] there is Karl Marx."

And in cottages where the father of socialism has taken the Holy Mother's place, he explains, "This tells us the women depicted have probably lost their husbands in the war."

"I was born in the Soviet Union and I loved that country," says Filatov.

With an estimated \$1 billion fortune this Forbes rich-list stalwart has clearly done well out of his country's break with communism.

For Filatov, just like many Ukrainian-born Russians, the concept of "home" is more complicated than it first seems. Born in Kryvyi Rih in Ukraine, ... he describes himself as Russian but still has relatives in Ukraine.

And like many practical business people with a sizeable stake in this complex region, Filatov leaves the artwork to make the bold political statements, saying only he considers sanctions imposed by the EU and the U.S., "a big mistake".

According to Filatov, "The sooner there is an understanding by the European countries and the U.S., the faster there will be logical, sensible and constructive relations."

### U.S. Sends Military

(Excerpts from the June 5 issue of [www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com).)

A small team of American military advisers will soon head to Ukraine to assess that embattled nation's "mid- and long-term needs for defense reform," a Pentagon official said.

Pentagon spokeswoman Eileen Lainez said senior U.S. defense officials met with senior Ukrainian officials to discuss "ways our countries could strengthen our long-term defense co-operation to help Ukraine build highly effective armed forces and defense institutions."

Lainez said that assessment is being viewed as a first step toward helping to "shape and establish an enduring program for future U.S. efforts to sup-

port the Ukrainian military through training, education, and assistance.

"Since early March, President Barack Obama has approved more than \$23 million in *additional* (my emphasis **-gb**) defensive security assistance to help the former Soviet republic maintain its borders and sovereignty in the face of provocative moves by Russian military forces on Ukraine's eastern border and violence fomented by pro-Russian militants inside Ukraine."

(Is it permissible for Russia or China to send military "advisers" to Venezuela whenever the U.S. moves troops around within *its* borders? **-gb**).

### "Maidan" Lives On

(Excerpts from a June 7 [www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com) report.)

They had already broken down their dusty khaki tent, and now, the three fresh-faced young men and their two middle-aged comrades were dismantling the wood-and-tire barriers that had guarded it.

It was the first tent to come down in the military-style protesters' camp on fashionable Kreschatik Street ... since Ukrainians elected their new president, Petro Poroshenko.... Many camp residents, however, vow to stay until they see whether Poroshenko ends what (many) consider Ukraine's 23-year streak of inept and corrupt leaders since independence in 1991.

Their determination will be a test for newly-installed mayor Vitali Klitschko, the former heavyweight boxing champion, who has said publicly that the camp must go.

Other camp residents said they will continue to occupy the twin jewels of Ukraine's capital of three million.

Khreschatik and Maidan (Independence Square **-gb**) boast Kiev's trendiest shopping area and its revered monuments to independence.

"We want to see what Poroshenko and Klitschko are going to do before we leave," said Serhiy, a middle-aged former army tank commander from Kiev, who asked that his last name be withheld because of personal security reasons. "We've come to understand that almost all politicians are liars and cheats."

### Women's Battalion

(Excerpts from the June 3 issue of *Al Jazeera*, a publication based in the Arabian Peninsula country of Qatar.)

"As killings, rumors, battles and random attacks roil this

swath of eastern Ukraine, checkpoints manned by untrained pro-Russia militiamen have sprouted up across Luhansk and Donetsk provinces.

Ranging from jerry-rigged piles of tyres to sandbag and concrete fortifications, they are meant to stop everything from pro-Kiev provocateurs to the Ukrainian army.

The posts are always intimidating — and often strange. Possibly the strangest is a checkpoint on the edge of the town of Krasny Luch manned by a Women's Battalion headed by Olesya Gerasimenko.

Here in this region dominated by tough but impoverished miners proud of their history, female fighters have also stepped up to the barricades in the struggle against Kiev.

Battalion member Yelena Dustova states, "By 7:15 a.m. (April 7) I was standing here. We didn't have anything. No guns, no clubs, no uniforms even. Nothing," she said. "We stood shoulder-to-shoulder, hand-in-hand — six women," she said with a quiet and simple pride.

"What, should I allow them to shoot at me in my town? No. I will stand here so that they won't be allowed to pass. I have my mom and my kids in there," Dustova said, motioning towards the center of Krasny Luch."

### Ukraine's Search for an Honest Thief

(The above title was taken from a long article by Chrystia Freeland, Member of Parliament for Toronto Centre. The article was published on June 6 in the magazine *Politico*.)

The following are some excerpts.)

Ukrainians today are extraordinarily idealistic — they believe in what they call their "dignity revolution", and many of them are even prepared to die for it. But they are not naive. After 23 years of trying to build a post-Soviet state, and their very recent experience, with the 2004 Orange Revolution, of a democratic uprising that ended with a whimpering return to kleptocracy, they worry that today's nation-building oligarchs could be tomorrow's corrupt authoritarians.

That's one reason the ragtag encampments on the Maidan (Independence Square in Kyiv **-gb**) have yet to be dismantled. With their whiff of mob rule, they make the West nervous. But many Ukrainians see this permanent protest as an essential reminder to their new govern-

ment that the revolution was about changing the system, not putting new people in charge of the old one.

The point isn't that Ukrainians believe they can have a new state without politicians — Poroshenko's electoral mandate is stronger than that of any previous Ukrainian president. But they realize Ukraine won't be saved by a single charismatic figure.

The Maidan toppled a kleptocracy. Its job now will be to keep the new oligarchs in charge honest. This second act will surely be harder than the first."

### Ukraine's Chaotic Response

(This item is taken from a much-longer report in the June 8 issue of the British daily *Telegraph*. The title of the *Telegraph* article is "Ukraine Must Correct its Chaotic Response." The reporter toured eastern Ukraine.)

You might expect the insurgents to be tense and fearful, but I've usually found the (Ukrainian **-gb**) army to be more on edge.

At one roadblock, a suspicious soldier inquired where we had come from and where we were going. Then he abruptly asked my driver, "And what is your opinion of separatism?" When a teenage member of a national army demands to know the political views of the people he is paid to protect, then you know things are going wrong.

The problem is not Ukraine's willingness to fight the rebellion, but the clumsy and heavy-handed way in which it is being done. The events of the past week provide a terrible illustration.

Last Monday, eight people were killed by an explosion inside an occupied government building in Luhansk, which now serves as a rebel headquarters. Video footage showed unarmed men and women in civilian clothes, apparently passers-by, lying dead or writhing in bloodstained agony. As for the cause of the explosion, observers from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe reported: "These strikes were the result of non-guided rockets shot from an aircraft."

Only one side in this war is using air power, so it follows that Ukraine's security forces must have been responsible.

One day later, a hospital was badly damaged when the army recaptured the town of Krasny Liman. The walls of the building were pockmarked with bullet holes and almost every window was blown out. At least one person is known

to have been killed inside.

Meanwhile, hardly a day goes by without mortar bombs exploding on or near civilian homes in rebel-held areas.

One young and educated woman — exactly the sort of person whom Mr. Poroshenko should be winning over — describes feeling "infuriated" whenever she sees Ukrainian troops. They are not liberators, but "occupiers", she says.

### Understanding Ukraine

A CNN poll conducted by the American news agency *CNN* asked the people of Ukraine, "Which foreign political leader best understands the needs of Ukraine?"

The results, published May 14, showed that 28% of Ukrainians chose German Chancellor Angela Merkel. In second place, with 15% of the vote, was Russian President Vladimir Putin. In third place, with 14% of the vote, was U.S. President Barack Obama. Fourth place, with 5%, was held by British Prime Minister David Cameron.

### New Leader; Old Team

(The following are excerpts from the June 7 edition of Germany's *Deutsche Welle*.)

The newly elected president of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, has been sworn into office. During his campaign he promised "a new life" for the country. His team, however, consists largely of Yushchenko-era (remember the corrupt and discredited Orange Revolution? **-gb**) officials.

At the age of 48, Petro Poroshenko is the youngest of the five presidents who have held office in Ukraine since 1991.... Unlike his predecessors, he speaks fluent English; he is also significantly richer, with an estimated wealth of more than a billion dollars.

Like other oligarchs in Ukraine, Poroshenko has always aimed to stay close to the country's leadership. He served the government — as head of the Security Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs under the pro-Western president Viktor Yushchenko.... He also worked with Yushchenko's successor, the pro-Russian head of state Viktor Yanukovich, and for several months he was his Minister of Trade and Economic development.

While Maidan protesters called for a political changing of the guard, Poroshenko's presidency seems to herald the return of Yushchenko's team — starting with (Poroshenko) **(Continued on Page 12.)**



## 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. In this issue we have the first instalment of a paper presented by Peter Krawchuk at a Shevchenko Conference in Palermo, Ontario, on June 26, 1982, and printed in the March, 1984, issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian*.

### From Reading Room to Museum

We have stepped into the 10th decade of Ukrainian settlement in Canada. One can now quite confidently state that the first Ukrainian immigrant to Canada, Ivan Pylypiw (1891), knew about Taras Shevchenko. He was a literate man, having attended the Stanislav Secondary School, though unable to finish his schooling.

The name and literary work of Taras Shevchenko were already well-known in Western Ukraine at that time, especially in the Stanislav Region (now Ivano-Frankivsk), where Pylypiw came from. The poet's first publications reached Galicia in 1841. They were published in the almanac "Lastivka" (The Swallow), which had distribution in that part of Ukraine, at that time subjugated socially and nationally by the Austro-Hungarian empire. So that some twenty years before Shevchenko's death, his poetry was already arousing the people of Galicia to struggle for liberation.

Mass distribution and knowledge of Shevchenko and his work in Galicia, however, came after the poet's death, when it was popularized by noted progressive community activists, Ivan Franko in particular, after the growth and development of revolutionary-democratic ideas, press and literature at the close of the 70s and 80s of the 19th century<sup>1</sup>.

As a matter of fact, the last quarter of the 19th century saw the development of much controversy around Taras Shevchenko's work in Galicia. An important role in this was played by writers Ivan Franko, Mikhailo Pawlyk, Mikhailo Drahomanov and Ostap Terletsky. For example, the paper "Rusky Sion" demanded the banning of the "Kobzar", maintaining that it was giving birth to atheism in Galicia<sup>2</sup>. Still others demanded that the social content be eliminated from Shevchenko's work; that he be presented not

1. Collection of essays from the 11th Scientific Shevchenko Conference. 0. Day. "The Struggle For Shevchenko in Galicia". Kiev, 1983. p. 99.  
2. Ibid, p. 102.



**Ivan Pylypiw, who came to Canada in 1891, was a literate man and knew about Taras Shevchenko, whose poetry first came to Western Ukraine in 1841, published in "Lastivka".**

as a fighter for social justice and national liberation, but as a "prophet of national ideals".

This controversy around Shevchenko received broad coverage in the Galician press and journals of the period — when mass emigration of the peasantry across the ocean — to the United States, Brazil, Argentina and Canada — was well under way. So that the emigrants, particularly those who were interested in community and cultural-educational life and activities at home, knew about Shevchenko, were acquainted with some of his work; some among them even bringing some of his poems, printed in separate booklets, to Canada with them. Someone at that time also brought the "Chihirin Kobzar", published in 1868\*.

Organized community and cultural-educational activities, in the life of the Ukrainian Canadian community, began in the first years of the 20th century with the founding of the T. H. Shevchenko Reading Room by Kyrylo Genik in 1903 and the emergence of the first Ukrainian newspaper, "Kanadiysky Farmar" (Canadian Farmer). May 1, 1904, saw the first honouring of the Great Kobzar in Canada with

\* This "Chihirin Kobzar" was donated by the writer of this article to the Shevchenko Institute of Literature, Ukrainian SSR.

a concert. It, also, was organized through the efforts of Kyrylo Genik, friend of Ivan Franko, with whom he was imprisoned in Kolomeya in 1880 for spreading socialist ideas.

The first Ukrainian newspaper, "Canadian Farmer", reflected the activities of the Taras Shevchenko Reading Room. There were, however, no articles about the poet, nor were any of his poems published on its pages.

The Ukrainian paper "Svoboda", published in the United States and available to Canadian subscribers, did carry articles about the poet and occasionally printed his verse. Kyrylo Genik also appeared often on its pages with articles on social questions.

Therefore, Ukrainian Canadian Shevchenkiana begins with the founding of the T. H. Shevchenko Reading Room in Winnipeg in 1903\*\*. In May of 1904, the first Shevchenko concert was held in Winnipeg. The "Canadian Farmer", reporting the occasion, wrote: "The hall was crowded with people to overflowing, but what was important for the Rusyn Canadians was that this was the first event honouring Taras Shevchenko on Canadian soil<sup>3</sup>.

From that time on, thousands, if not several thousand, Shevchenko concerts have honoured the bard in various centres across Canada, wherever organized Ukrainian Canadian communities existed. These concerts have traditionally been held during the first two weeks of March — on the poet's anniversary of birth.

It is noteworthy that Ukrainian literature from Lviv and Kiev arrived regularly in Canada and formed the basic reading material in the libraries that were being organized across the country. For example: the T. H. Shevchenko Reading Room opened its

\*\* Mikhailo Marunchak writes that an International Reading Room, established in Winnipeg in 1898, was named after Shevchenko, though up to now it is but conjecture, without factual documentation. One of the first social-democratic activists in Canada, Toma Tomashivsky, informed this writer that a T. H. Shevchenko Reading Room existed in Edmonton in 1903.

3. "Canadian Farmer", May 12, 1904.

4. Shevchenko Dictionary. Published by the Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopedia. Vol. 2, Kiev, 1977, p. 403.

**"... from the very beginnings... the Ukrainian community... was not homogeneous in its outlook."**

library, named after Ivan Franko, in 1903. These libraries also carried available works of Taras Shevchenko. Here and there, some of these thin volumes, separate collections of Shevchenko's poetry published by Valentin Yakovenko, a publisher and cultural-educational activist in St. Petersburg, have been preserved in existing libraries<sup>4</sup>. Some of these booklets were republished by "Ruska Knyharnia" in Winnipeg and issued in a "Shevchenko Library" series. Their appearance in Canada heralded the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Shevchenko's birth in 1914. The same publishers, "Ruska Knyharnia", later published the first "Kobzar" in Canada.

The Ukrainian people, disregarding that the celebration of this anniversary was prohibited by the tsarist officials, honoured the memory of their national poet, revolutionary-democrat and fighter for social justice, with dignity and respect.

By that time Taras Shevchenko's name and creative work had already gained great popularity among Ukrainian settlers in Canada, and especially among those who were grouped in organizations and reading societies, who were interested and read literature and the press.

It must be noted here, that from the very beginnings of its organized life in Canada, the Ukrainian community, like other ethnic groups, was not homogeneous in its outlook. It was divided by religious and party lines, by socio-economic



**Kyrylo Genik founded the T.H. Shevchenko Reading Room in Winnipeg in 1903. He also founded "Kanadiysky Farmar" (Canadian Farmer) in May, 1904. In its first issue, the paper reported on the first Shevchenko concert held in Winnipeg, "the first event honouring Taras Shevchenko on Canadian soil".**

distinctions. There was a constant religious and political struggle between the various factions. This struggle reached into all spheres of their social-community and cultural-educational activity.

This struggle was equally harsh in the celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the Great Kobzar. Especially sharp was the dispute between the Greek Orthodox and the Catholic communities who, in essence, turned this occasion into mutual and inflammatory recriminations of hatred and throwing mud at each other. In fact, both cast dishonour on the greatness of the bard and abused his literary heritage. The social democrats refused to participate in this wrangle. To the contrary, they sharply criticized both parties, stating that neither the Greek Orthodox, nor the Catholic factions, were interested in marking the anniversary, but were using the occasion to settle their accounts in the religious field. The Ukrainian Social Democratic Party marked this jubilee with due honour, emphasizing the great importance of the revolutionary heritage of the poet-fighter — the immortal Taras Shevchenko — for Ukrainian workers in Canada.

As is known, not all the work of the poet saw the light of day under the severe restrictions of the tsarist regime. Even those poems and verses that were printed were mutilated by brutal censorship and published with many open spaces in the text. Even in the first years of Soviet power it wasn't possible to completely publish his work in the original, which had earlier been published in different variations. The first Soviet edition of the "Kobzar", however, did carry newly-found originals of the poet's work, as well as the complete poems that had been mutilated by the tsarist censors in the past. These were now recreated from the author's original manuscripts. The library shelves of Ukrainian organizations in Canada were enriched by new supplemented editions of the "Kobzar", published in Kharkiv and Kiev.

New monographs on Shevchenkiana appeared. For the first time researchers were able, in a new way, without restrictions or inspections, to evaluate and illuminate Shevchenko's revolutionary poetry and verse.

The published efforts of these researchers into Shevchenko's literary heritage received broad circulation in Canada — Volodimir Koryak's "The Struggle for Shevchenko" and "Taras Shevchenko in the Light of Our Epoch", by Andrian Richitsky, in particular. Both works, however, while emphasizing the revolutionary (Continued on Page 12.)



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## Commentary

(Continued from Page 4.)

nied by Iran, that Iran has sent forces to assist the fight against ISIS. Iran has said that it would send advisors and other forms of assistance. A later report said that a force of 2000 had been sent from Iran to help defend Baghdad

In an area of the world where refugees abound, this struggle has created vast number of newly displaced people. Out of Mosul alone, just one city, albeit a large one, an estimated 500,000 civilians

have been displaced.

American "contractors" the private sector mercenaries still in Iraq have been moved away from the approaching threat to safer areas.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria has already been exerting its power in the region, joining the attack on the government of Syria, but creating problems for efforts to unite the anti-Assad forces.

A win by ISIS would pose a threat not only to Israel, but also to the states in the region whom an ISIS regime would consider apostate.

Most important, however,

an ISIS caliphate would restrict American commercial and other interests.

That is why the problem in Iraq is, in fact, an American problem, and why President Obama may not be able to avoid new military commitments in that sad country.

"The basic principal obviously is that we, like all nations, are prepared to take military action whenever our national security is threatened," President Obama said, as reported on rt.com.

In anticipation of possible military action, the USA has sent the USS George H.W. Bush, an aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf, along with the guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea and the guided-missile destroyer USS Truxtun.

## Who, What, When, Where

**Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch** will celebrate **Canada Day/Shevchenko Day** at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West on **Tuesday, July 1**, from **12:30 p.m.** (doors open at noon). The program will include a tribute to Taras Shevchenko, various games, and food. Admission — **\$12.00; under 12 years old — \$5.00.** For more information, contact the Branch Executive.

\* \* \*

**Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch** will hold its season-opening banquet at the **AUUC Cultural Centre**, 1604 Bloor Street West on **Sunday, September 7**. The program includes **dinner, a tribute to Taras Shevchenko, Peter Krochak and the Hahilka Singers.** Admission: **\$35.00/plate.** For more information, contact the Branch Executive.

\* \* \*

**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

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<i>In memory of our mother Mary Semkuley....</i>	100.00
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**WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE "UCH", WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.**

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

- Morindie Bagan
- Edna Chmiliar
- Anne Kawchuk
- Amil Tropak
- Mary Tropak
- Marian Ursuliak
- Tekla Yaremchuk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Mandolin Magic in Winnipeg

On Saturday, May 10, the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra and AUUC Winnipeg Branch hosted the annual Festival of Mandolins at the Ukrainian Labour Temple. Always a spring occasion here in Winnipeg, this year's concert did not disappoint, coinciding with one of the warmest and sunniest days after a long and cold winter!

The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, under the direction of Annis Kozub, started the concert with several slow and beautiful melodies, including "Dumka", written by Nikolai Budashkin and arranged by Myron Shatulsky, and "Remi-

niscence", a movement from Sid Robinovitch's *Red River*, a piece originally commissioned by the Seven Oaks Historical Society to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Selkirk settlers arrival in Manitoba.

The Orchestra delighted the audience with a mixture of old favourites and new repertoire. Highlights included "Tanti Anni Prima" from the film *Enrico IV*, written by Astor Piazzolla and arranged by Annis Kozub, and "Talijanska" from the film *Time of the Gypsies*, written by Goran Bregovic and also arranged by Annis Kozub.

The Festival of Mandolins is known for showcasing diverse and talented guest artists, and this year was no different! Big 'n' Dinky is a folk trio with Fred Redekop on mandolin, Jay Taylor on electric bass, and Greg Gardner on percussion. With the upbeat and eclectic mix of folk and Latin-influenced tunes, there was no shortage of toe-tapping in the hall, while these three were on stage!

This year's Festival of Mandolins was an awesome way to end a successful season for the Orchestra, who also released a CD this past December. [Copies of this CD are still available by contacting Annis Kozub at (204) 772-3800.]

— Emily Halldorson

## From Reading Room to Museum

(Continued from Page 11.) content in the poet's work, explained it from positions of social vulgarism and falsely denoted his place in the history of Ukrainian literature. Only later, when Shevchenkiana became an important branch of study in the Literary Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, did the

poet's work receive deep study and thorough elucidation.

The Ukrainian worker-farmer press in Canada carried many articles by Soviet experts on Shevchenko. Olexandr Biletsky, Yevhen Kyryliuk, Yevhen Shablowsky and Ivan Pilhuka — all helped Ukrainian Canadians deepen

their understanding and knowledge of the poet and his works.

The first Soviet All-Union celebration of Taras Shevchenko was held in 1939 — on the 125th anniversary of his birth. At the Jubilee Plenum of the Ukrainian Writer's Union and the Institute of Literature of the Academy of Sciences, the importance and greatness of the poet's literary heritage for all the peoples of the USSR was emphasized. The noted Soviet Ukrainian literary expert, Olexandr Biletsky also, at this time, designated Shevchenko's place in world literature.

This celebration reverberated loudly throughout Canada. "The People's Gazette" (Narodna Hazeta), gave broad coverage to the Jubilee Plenum. The Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association branches, from one end of the country to the other, held concerts marking the poet's 125th anniversary. The ULFTA even took measures at the time, that in this jubilee year of 1939, a monument to Taras Shevchenko be erected in Winnipeg. Unfortunately, this noble plan was not realized, because the Winnipeg municipal authorities, under pressure from some of the leaders of the nationalist organizations, refused permission to erect such a monument. They explained their decision with the statement that no ethnic group, to that time, had been allowed to erect monuments of this type.

In 1939, the "Kobzar", and the five-volume jubilee edition of Shevchenko's work, published in Soviet Ukraine, were presented to Ukrainian Canadians by the Ukrainian Society for Cultural Relations with Countries Abroad, and widely distributed. The Worker-Farmer Publishing Association in Canada issued a large edition of the bibliographic essay, "Taras Shevchenko" by Ilya Stebun.

— To be continued.

## Edmonton AUUC Marks Shevchenko's 200th

(Continued from Page 6.) Zaychyky Group performed "Poltavskiy Kozachok".

The dance instructor is Nataliya Kovalenko.

The audience then enjoyed the children's choir which, under the direction of Marina Lavrinenko, sang three songs: "Podorozi zhuk", "Spring Rain", and "The Girl Walks on the Seashore".

The Hopak Dancers, who were well appreciated by the audience, returned to dance "Hulyanichka".

The grand finale, directed by Kristina Kyaushas, ended the concert performance.

At 5:00 p.m., we began the second part of our celebration: a banquet during which we honoured our seniors eighty years of age and older.

We especially honoured Edna Chmiliar, Pauline Warick, Bill Uhryn and Bob Kisilevich, who have spent most of their lives supporting the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. A photo display of their AUUC activities hung on the walls of the banquet room.

This concluded our celebration, attended by over 200 people.

— Paul Greene



The Hopak Dancers of AUUC Calgary were guest performers at the Shevchenko celebration in Edmonton.



Is there larceny in their hearts? Quite the opposite — tiny tots always steal the show because they are so innocent.



The Zaychyky dance group charmed the audience with "Poltavskiy Kozachok".



The Kalyna dance group added to the pleasure of the audience with their lively steps.

## Ukrainian News Briefs

(Continued from Page 9.) shenko) himself.

Poroshenko was more supportive of Yushchenko than nearly any other prominent business leader, before and especially during the 2004 Orange Revolution. The two are also close friends, and Yushchenko is godfather to Poroshenko's twin daughters.

.... But a close look at his team quickly shows that Poroshenko has surrounded himself with officials from the Yushchenko era.

For example, Poroshenko's election campaign was planned by Ihor Hryniv. The 53-year-old member of parliament ... was once Yushchenko's adviser. He later represented (Yushchenko's) party in parliament.

The 43-year-old foreign policy expert Valeri Chaly was also part of Yushchenko's

team. During Poroshenko's election Chaly was in charge of foreign policy issues.

The 60-year-old Roman Svarych is also back in politics. Yushchenko's former justice minister now consults with Poroshenko on legal issues.

Elsewhere in the country the picture is the same. Viktor Baloha, for example, was head of Yushchenko's secretariat during his presidency. He headed Poroshenko's election campaign in the western Ukrainian province of Transcarpathia.

Yuri Lutsenko, 49, was Yushchenko's Minister of the Interior, was imprisoned under Yanukovich, and campaigned on behalf of Poroshenko.

... not exactly the new faces that he (Poroshenko -gb) was calling for just a few months ago.

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