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Malanka in Winnipeg

— Photo: Ataya Enns



On Saturday, January 16, the Winnipeg Branch of the AUUC celebrated the New Year with a night of music, dancing, prizes and a late night meal, put on by the Yunist Dance Ensemble. A report, with another photo, appears on Page 6.

US President Obama Visits Cuba!

One headline said, “Canadians hit Cuba ahead of U.S. tourists”.

Certainly Canadians are aware that the changes in relations between Cuba and the USA will create new conditions in tourism to Cuba. The expectation is that travel to that country will become more expensive, that the country will become more like the many other places cater-

ing to American travellers, and that the ambience will gain an American aura.

Many Canadians are indeed trying to get in before those changes happen, some of us making our first trip, while there is still time.

It can be expected that some of the million plus Canadians to visit Cuba each year will be exploring other destinations.

However, the significance of the changes in Cuba-US relations, of which President Obama’s trip is a brilliant symbol, goes far beyond its effect on Canadian tourism. There can be no doubt that we are at the threshold of profound transformation of Cuban society and deep alteration of the conditions of the life of the Cuban people.

The die was cast in and about 1991, when the world system of socialist states went out of existence. The friendly community of states in which Cuba was able to live in dignity and prosper disappeared. The country had to scramble to find ways to survive.

The last 25 years have been a monumental struggle, and Cuba’s survival is a tribute to Cuban determination, patriotism, flexibility, and even hero-

(Continued on Page 8.)

The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated May/June, 2016. Announcements of events in May, June or early July 2016, or articles for the May/June issue, should be in our office by April 10. Thank you for your consideration.

NEC AUUC Meets Face-to-Face

The National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians met in Winnipeg on the weekend of March 12 and 13 for its first face-to-face meeting in over a year.

The report of National President Bob Seychuk concentrated on the sale of the AUUC property near Sylvan Lake in Alberta and the property owned by the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation in Oakville, Ontario.

The sale of the Sylvan Lake property was completed shortly before the meeting, providing badly needed cash. The sale of the Oakville property was probably some months from completion.

In considering the report of National Treasurer Kathy Schubert, the NEC turned its

attention to the balance sheet, with particular focus on clearing liabilities.

The NEC examined AUUC circumstances in a couple of localities, and decided on courses of action to address issues in the Winnipeg and Toronto Branches.

The NEC devoted a lot of attention to preparation of the 46th AUUC National Convention, scheduled for the Thanksgiving weekend this year.

Among the preparations made was the establishment of a committee to consider amendments to the AUUC constitution.

The first preconvention discussion bulletin, with the “Call to the 46th AUUC National Convention” and other materials, was to be issued shortly after the NEC meeting.

Denmark vs Refugees

Denmark may be the place where people are happiest, but that probably does not apply to refugees or Muslims.

For one thing, toward the end of January, the country decided to let police seize valuables worth more than 10,000 kroner from asylum seekers. The confiscated assets are supposedly to be used to pay the cost of feeding and housing the refugee while the application is being processed.

The measure was brought in by the minority Liberal Party government and was supported by the Social Democrats and the anti-immigration Danish People’s Party.

Supporters of the bill say the law brings refugee claimants into line with the rules for welfare recipients, and that several other jurisdictions in Europe have similar rules.

However, in Denmark this is only one of many changes aimed at asylum seekers, which seem to be directed at Muslims.

Denmark has passed a se-

ries of measures to discourage refugees, including increasing the waiting period from one year to three before family members can join a refugee.

Changes made last year included reducing benefits and shortening temporary residence permits.

That was the injury. There was also insult. A town in central Denmark requiring day care centres and kindergartens to include pork in their menus.

Supporters of the requirement contend that serving traditional Danish food such as pork is essential to preserve national identity.

While Denmark has been targeting refugees in recent legislation, this measure takes a swipe at all Muslims in the country.

Opponents say that the requirement has no purpose other than targeting Muslims, as there has never been an effort to ban pork from any menu in the town in question.

Europe’s Democratic Retreat

An editorial in the *New York Times International Weekly* at the end of January expressed concern about “Poland’s retreat from Democracy”, including adoption of dictatorial measures constituting a right-wing nationalistic assault on the media and the courts.

The European Commission has started an investigation to determine whether Poland has violated the democratic norms of the European Union.

The article says that sanctions are unlikely because

(Continued on Page 8.)

In This Issue

125th Ukrainian Canadian Anniversary	10
3 Minutes to Apocalypse ..	3
As the World Turns, Turns, Turns and Turns ..	2
Bunny Yoga at Vancouver AUUC	8
Commentary	4
Comparing two Cases	8
Current Eclectic	3
Editorial	4
Edmonton Seniors Remember and Honour ..	5
Event Addresses Gender-Based Violence	6
From Malanka at Vancouver AUUC	8
From Our Readers	4
Happy Birthday, Friends .	11
Here Come the Drones! ...	3
Islamophobia	4
Join Us!	11
Joke Time	8.11
Love and Just Desserts in Winnipeg	6
Malanka at Winnipeg AUUC	6
Poltava Annual Concert ..	12
The Problems of Water ...	4
Regina AUUC Celebrates Malanka	7
Riding the Gravity Wave ..	3
Russia Sues	9
The Savchenko Case	9
Myron Shatulsky	2
Sustaining Fund	11
Ukraine’s Political Crisis ..	9
Ukrainian Miscellany	9
UN “Concerned” about Canada	3
Useless Studies	3
Valentine’s Day at Toronto AUUC	5
Who, What, When, Where	11

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Current Eclectic

Riding the Gravity Wave

Most of us will have little influence on anything after we die. A few of us, however will continue to be the centre of attention long after our bones are buried.

One of the latter is Albert Einstein, physicist or mathematician or something.

About a hundred years ago, Einstein came up with ideas like $E=mc^2$, nothing can exceed the speed of light in a vacuum, a mass of matter distorts space and time, and many more.

One of his ideas is the thought that gravity comes in the form of waves.

In the hundred years since he did his work, scientists have been testing Einstein's

ideas, and so far he's been right every time. Furthermore, many of the ideas which seemed so abstract at the time have had tremendous practical applications.

Part of the difficulty of testing Einstein's ideas has been finding instruments which can detect and measure some of the effects he projected. Over time, scientific instruments have become increasingly sensitive and the techniques for interpreting the measurement have become more sophisticated, allowing more and more of the theoretical work to be tested.

So it was with the theory of gravity waves. Using lasers and a lot of other stuff, in a

project involving over 1000 scientists from 14 countries (including researchers from the University of Toronto), it was possible to detect a movement of Earth smaller than the width of an atom. The scientists were able to do this same measurement in two locations, and establish that the time gap between the two measurements was 10 milliseconds, the theoretically established time required for the gravity wave to move between the two locations.

The discovery of gravity waves potentially provides a new way to study astronomy, to learn more about the nature of the universe. That's just the immediate promise. No one can predict the long-term uses to which this discovery may be turned.

To think that it all started with Albert Einstein, whose main tools were his brain, something to write with, and something to write on!

3 Minutes to Apocalypse

University of Chicago scientists who helped develop the atom bomb created the Doomsday Clock in 1947. The clock is a warning, a vivid image reflecting the danger of human extinction by nuclear weapons, climate change and/or new technologies. While the setting on the clock is subjective, rather than objectively precise, it does reflect the concerns of a large group of scientists about the level of threat faced by humanity.

At the end of January, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* reported that the clock would remain at three minutes to midnight, reflecting a belief that humanity is closer to extinction than it has been since 1983.

In decreasing the time from five to three minutes to midnight last year, the scientists said that climate change, modernization of nuclear weapons, and large nuclear weapons arsenals posed "extraordinary and undeniable threats to the continued existence of hu-

manity".

The decision to keep the time at three minutes included as factors such matters as rising tensions between the USA and Russia, weapons tests by the People's Republic of Korea, and "a lack of aggressive steps to address climate change". Positive changes like the nuclear agreement with Iran were offset by negative developments like increased tensions between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan.

The closest the clock has been to midnight was two minutes, in 1953, when the USSR and the USA tested hydrogen bombs. In 1991, the clock went to 17 minutes to midnight when the Cold War officially ended and the USA and Russia started deep cuts to the nuclear arsenals.

Decisions about the clock are influenced by a large group of physicists and environmental scientists from around the world, including many Nobel laureates.

Here Come the Drones!

Increasingly they are seen playing a variety of roles in television programs. Your neighbour may own one, and the government is starting to think about what regulations have to be imposed to keep us all safe, whether safe from injury by a careless user, safe from interference with regular aircraft, safe from use by terrorists, or safe from any other threat the fertile security mind can dream up.

Six countries, including the USA, are using them for targeted killing by remote control. Nigeria is also using them; so are Britain, Israel, Syria, and

Pakistan, and there has been some discussion about the need for Canada to acquire them.

At least 78 countries use surveillance drones and more than 20 have, or are developing, armed drones.

As far as the USA is concerned, the big problem is China, because, according to the Americans, China is undermining US efforts to control the spread of this weapon. Apparently reported sales by Israel to India and Jordan are of no concern. (It appears that, once again, proliferation is okay, but only to our friends

— who, like the Taliban, may not be our friends tomorrow.)

In the USA, use of drones by President Obama to kill Americans abroad without due process sparked a heated debate. Supporters liken it to using lethal force against a terrorist or criminal in action. Opponents argue that lethal force is only permitted to counter an immediate threat, while the state may otherwise kill murderers and terrorists only after due process.

An additional concern, however is the number of innocent by-standers who have become collateral damage in US targeted strikes. Though former CIA Director Michael Hayden seems to be comfort-

able with this carnage, other observers find that use of drones creates "more grief than gratitude", motivating action against the USA and other remote killers.

A report in the *Toronto Star* on March 9 says that drone warfare is not cheap. Unlike the drone your neighbour may own, a military drone is high maintenance — more costly than an F-16 fighter jet.

The article says that 170 people are needed to keep one drone combat mission in the air at a time. They have a short range and are susceptible to weather — "even clouds", the article says.

Targeting is also a problem. Spotters on the ground are best for identifying targets and providing their location, but they may not be reliable. Sat-

ellite surveillance has both positive and negative aspects.

Given the enthusiasm with which countries in conflict (even countries like Canada, just looking for conflict) seem to be adopting this technology, one suspects that the article by Olivia Ward may be overstating somewhat the drawbacks associated with the use of drones.

Another article in the "Star", on March 6, calls drones "a relatively inexpensive bombing system" which "lowers the threshold for using lethal force at a distance".

What is not to be disputed is that drones are reshaping modern warfare, just as, historically, every new technological development in history — tanks, submarines, cannons, etc., etc — has done.

Useless Studies

There seems to be an endless supply of studies purporting to measure some aspect of national life and ranking countries of the world. They range from relatively objective ones, like the Global Wealth Report presented in the February/March, 2016, issue of the "UCH" (which nevertheless carry biases because of underlying assumptions) to a couple of very recent ones of little conceivable value.

These studies are produced to give a semblance of scientific objectivity to causes which have little or none, even though they may address serious objective problems. They can be fun, if not taken too seriously.

One example of these is the corruption rating, as expressed in the Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

This index ranks 168 countries on a variety of factors like accountability of governmen-

tal leaders for corruption, "perceived prevalence of bribery", and the responsiveness of public institutions to citizens' needs.

The first problem with the index is that there are no objective data measuring these criteria, so the index uses "expert opinions".

The second problem is that the index, like many of its kind, try to combine varied kinds of information into one number, so those compiling the index have to decide how to weigh the factors to come up with a number.

So the index rates Denmark as least corrupt, followed by Finland, Sweden, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, Canada, Germany, — all with scores better than 80/100.

Transparency International concluded that "corruption remains a blight around the world".

No surprise there.

Another, similar, study was the world happiness index prepared by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

This study combines a number of factors to decide where people are happiest. The top ten? Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden.

Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Canada — these seven make the top ten of both lists.

Those countries that made the top ten on only one list — Iceland, Singapore, Germany, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, Australia and Sweden — were not much farther down on the other index.

These results could be chance (just how it turned out), bias (the built-in weighting), or cause and effect. Someone should get a government grant to study how public happiness affects social corruption.

UN "Concerned" about Canada

Canadians may be among the happiest people in the world, but they're not too happy to complain. Complain they did.

In February, over two dozen Canadian groups concerned about homelessness, poverty and other social issues took their complaints to Geneva, where the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was conducting its 10-year review of Canada's compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights.

On March 7, the UN Committee issued a report expressing concern about the

continuing housing crisis in this country.

The UN essentially urged Canada to treat economic, social and cultural rights as human rights protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The report contained several recommendations on tackling homelessness.

The Government of Canada led by former Prime Minister Harper habitually rejected similar UN criticisms of Canada. In contrast, this report seems to have drawn a more agreeable reaction from all levels of government, without generating any commitment to new initiatives.

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Islamophobia

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

Though there is no shortage of denials, Islamophobia is a reality in Canada. Many Canadians fear that Muslims are roaming about the country with murder in their hearts. As this fear is based in ignorance, it is ruled by imagination and a "better safe than sorry" reaction.

On a grand scale, it is the sort of fear and ignorance which supported the government of Stephen Harper, and supports the likes of Donald Trump, Marine Le Pen, and the many other politicians who promise to protect "us" from "them". On that scale, it is dangerous because it can become a hysterical political movement targeting a particular group, as the Nazis targeted the Jews and others, with widespread harm.

On a smaller scale, it is a source of injustice against ordinary people, making them fearful and sometimes actually doing them harm.

An example is the incident in Vancouver, during which three persons were seen taking pictures at the Pacific Centre Mall. Some disturbed citizen reported three suspicious men, looking Middle Eastern, taking pictures of exits and entrances.

In no time at all, the police were on the case, and pictures of the three were all over news reports and social media.

Looking Middle Eastern (whatever that means) is not a crime, nor is taking pictures in a mall (as tourists and others do). However, the result of the incident is that the three tourists from England, one of them a 14-year-old "man", were afraid to travel around Vancouver for fear of being targeted.

Thousands of residents of Vancouver, guilty of "looking Middle Eastern", share that fear, as do thousands in our other big cities and smaller numbers in smaller communities. Those thousands include children and women and seniors, as well as men.

It is shameful that people can not feel safe in this country for no other reason than the irrational fears of those who have bought into Islamophobia.

If we must be afraid of something, be afraid of riding in a car or crossing a street, be afraid of working in construction, be afraid of taking a shower, or downhill skiing. These and other activities pose a far greater threat to our health and safety than do people who "look Middle Eastern".

Be afraid of Donald Trump and Marine Le Pen and their supporters, who are the real terror threat. Even be afraid of police in Vancouver and Toronto and other cities, who are afraid, and shoot people.

"Looks Middle Eastern"? Give us a break!

COMMENTARY

The Problems of Water

There are two main problems of water: loss of fresh water, and lack of access to clean water.

A study published in the journal *Science Advances* reports that more than 4 billion people (almost two thirds of the world's population) deal with severe water shortage at least one month a year. Half a billion people suffer severe water shortage all year round.

The numbers in this study, prepared by two experts at the University of Twente in the Netherlands, are much higher than those in previous reports.

Almost half of the people facing these shortages live in China and India, with millions more in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria and Mexico. However, even the United States is not immune, in states like California, Texas and Florida.

One unique aspect of this new study was that it compared water usage and availability month by month, instead of annually.

The authors of the study attribute the shortages to increased population, requiring more food, coupled with a growing demand for water intensive foods such as meat.

In addition, the growing demand for biofuels requires more crops like corn and sugar cane which require much water.

The problem appears both on the surface of the globe, with depleted reservoirs and dry river beds, and in the depths of Earth, where ground water (95% of the world's liquid fresh water) is being used faster than it is being replenished.

(The 2015 report of the World Economic Forum said that global water crises are the greatest threats facing humanity.)

An interesting case study is Lake Poopo, once Bolivia's second-largest lake, which was declared evaporated in December, 2015. (Note: Lake Poopo was saline rather than fresh water.)

Though the lake has evaporate twice before and each time bounced back, there is doubt that it will return again.

The main part of the problem is global warming: the disappearance of glaciers in the Andes has reduced the source of Poopo's water, and warmer temperatures (increased by 1°C) have meant increased evaporation.

A significant contributing factor, however, is diversion of water from the lake to use in mining (100 mines are upstream from the lake) and, to a lesser extent, in agriculture.

The consequences already include the departure of families who have sold their animals and abandoned their fish nets. Longer term, it is anticipated that the country's capital La Paz, could face catastrophic droughts and 3 million people could see diminished food and water supplies.

Loss of water resources will become more of a problem into the future. It is estimated that freshwater lakes are heating up twice as fast as the world's oceans. In addition to faster evaporation of the water, this also endangers native fish species and other native biota, increases the risk of invasive species, and leads to increased algae blooms.

(Lake Superior is the second-fastest warming lake in the world, behind Sweden's Lake Fracksjon.)

One of the thorniest problems and sources of conflict between Israel and the Palestinians over all the decades has been access to water in a part of the world where this resource is not plentiful. There

are many other areas where the main conflict has not centred on oil or gold but on water, without which there is no life.

However, even where water is plentiful water security is not guaranteed. Canada provides many lessons on the need not only for water, but also the need for clean water. This country also provides many lessons on the consequences of failing to treat water with respect.

The outstanding example of water problems in Canada is the situation faced by hundreds of First Nations communities in this country, communities living with "substandard water services", as Maude Barlow understated it. Ms. Barlow noted, "First Nations people are 90 per cent more likely not to have access to clean drinking water and sanitation than other Canadians."

In April 2014, the CBC News website carried an article claiming that "About 39% of First Nations water systems deemed 'high risk'".

Still, First Nations communities are not the only places in Canada where there are concerns. Industrial pollution, coupled with tightening governmental budgets, has made many Canadians wary about the safety of the water they drink.

The incident at Walkerton in Ontario was a wake-up call, and shows that there is no room for complacency. In 2000, Premier Harris and Environment Minister Newman denied that the crisis could have been a result of the Conservative government's downloading of services on to municipalities.

However, NDP Environment critic Marilyn Churley, noted that since coming to power in 1995, the Conservatives had slashed the environment ministry's budget by 40%, resulting in the ministry cutting a third of its staff and closing regional offices, including four water-testing laboratories.

Cutbacks and downloading resulted in a weakened system of checks and balances. It could happen again.

(Continued on Page 12.)

From Our Readers

Thanks for the great newspaper. It's wonderful to keep up my Ukrainian heritage!

— Dora Welch
Port Colborne ON

SEE US ON THE WEB!

AUUC (National)
auuc.ca

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

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

Taras Shevchenko Museum:
www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum

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

Winnipeg AUUC
<http://ult-wpg.ca/>

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

Edmonton Seniors Remember and Honour

Wine was used to toast birthday celebrants Lucy Antoniwi, Clarence Kapowski and Helen Williams at the Edmonton seniors gathering in March.

It being March, honoured also were Taras Shevchenko and International Women's Day.

Information about Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861) was taken from the article "Greatness of Taras Shevchenko", written by Yar Slavutych. Some excerpts follow.

"Son of simple enslaved people, he rose from obscurity to the heights of world literature and became an ardent defender of human rights, 'a prince in the realm of spirit,'"

"... Ukraine 'lulled to sleep by the enemies,' as he said, showed her the glorious past of her sons, drew attention to the terrible nineteenth-century serfdom and predicted for her

a great free future. Thus, Shevchenko began the formation of the modern Ukrainian nation. His work was carried on and completed by Ivan Franko, Michael Hrushevsky and others."

"Almost all the East Ukrainian territories gradually became the province of the Russian Empire while the West Ukrainian lands fell under the Austrian-Polish rule. The Ukrainian gentry, enticed with privileges, became either Russianized or Polonized and subsequently left their people without any social and cultural guidance. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the concept of Ukrainian nationality had almost disappeared, and Ukraine, forcibly divided between Austria and Russia, vanished from the political arena, as well as from geographical maps of the world."

"Moreover, the serfdom, introduced by the Russian Em-

press Catherine II in the previously free Ukraine turned the freedom-loving Ukrainians into nameless serfs, downtrodden and illiterate 'Ivans without kith and kin.' No wonder that Shevchenko himself was born a son of a serf. Fortunately, his talent as a painter helped him to gain freedom in his twenty-fifth year."

"Shevchenko himself very often spoke of Ukraine as a country distinctly different from Russia. After the severe and unjust attacks of V. Belinsky, a Russian chauvinistic scholar, who blamed the poet for the only "sin," that of writing in Ukrainian(!), Shevchenko advised his literary friends:

"Do not pay attention to Russians. Let them write in their own language, and we shall use ours. They are a nation with their literature, and we, too, are a nation with our own literature... Brothers! Do not despair, but pray to God and work purposefully for the glory of Ukraine, our hapless (enslaved by Russians - Y.S.) mother."

"My beautiful country, rich and opulent!

"Who has not ravaged thee?"

"At this point we should concentrate our attention on one of Shevchenko's most famous poems, The Great Grave, in which the poet symbolically pictures the history of Ukraine.... However, Moscovy has not succeeded in finding the great grave in which presumably the independence of Ukraine is buried. This mysterious poem serves as Shevchenko's bitter protest against the devastation of Ukraine by Russia, whom he regards as the chief enemy of the Ukrainian people."

And so, to Women's Day.

Did you know that many inventions were created by women? A partial list includes: the car heater, Margaret A Wilcox, 1893; (The Landlord's Game) Monopoly, Elizabeth Magie, 1904; fire escapes, Anna Connelly, 1887; the life raft, Maria Beasely, 1882; residential solar heating, Dr. Maria Telkes, 1947; the medical syringe, Letitia Geer, 1899;

the modern electric refrigerator, Florence Parpet, 1914; the ice cream maker, Nancy Johnson, 1843; the computer algorithm, Aba Lovelace, 1842; the dishwasher, Josephine Cochrane, 1887; closed circuit television security, Marie Van Britton Brown, 1969; the modern paper bag, Margaret Knight, 1871; the central heating concept, Alice Parker, 1919; and lastly, Kevlar (life saving material that is 5 times stronger than steel, used to make bullet-proof vests), Stephanie Kwolek, 1965?

President Paul Greene shared some of his research about International Women's Day.

Some extracts follow: "International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic cultural and political achievements of women. The day also makes a call to action for gender parity."

"In 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter (Continued on Page 11.)

Valentine's Day at Toronto AUUC

On February 14, 2016, the AUUC Toronto Branch celebrated its annual Love & Laughter event.

With the hall decorated in red and dotted with hearts, happy faces and endearing quotations, the guests were treated to a light luncheon of sandwiches, veggies and dip and desserts of baked goods



Natalka Mochoruk was an enthusiastic participant, both singing and joking.

and fresh fruit.

Connie Prince acted as MC for the day and began the program by encouraging everyone to consider sharing a funny joke and displaying their musical talent with a few bars of a song with the word "love" in it.

Whether it was the lure of the prizes or the spirit of the day, the activities were most successful and created much love and laughter throughout the room.

And what could add more to the theme of humour than an episode of "I Love Lucy"?

And what better episode than the chocolate factory adventure in keeping with the theme of the day?

You always know that an event has been a success when the crowd lingers long after the program ends. On this day of love and laughter, that's exactly what happened.

— B. Dobrowolsky

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



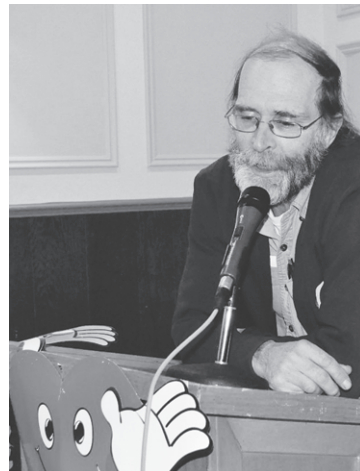
AUUC veterans Trofim Horod (seated) and Bill Harasym shared a moment.



Adele Paraschuk won the joke contest.



Vicky Vuksinic took to the microphone.



Mark Stewart was among the wags.



Adele Paraschuk (standing) spoke with MC Connie Prince (seated), while Bernardine Dobrowolsky (left) and Vera Borusiewich (right) looked on.



Photo displays of various kind prepared by Jerry Dobrowolsky have become a regular feature of AUUC Toronto Branch events. Among those viewing these albums were (left to right) Yevhen Pogoryelov, Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Ann Malnychuk and Bill Malnychuk.



IVAN FRANKO MUSEUM

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Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 5L6
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Free Admission by appointment only

Event Addresses Gender-Based Violence

On March 6, a Ukrainian Labour Temple Speakers Series event addressed gender-based violence.

Host and organizer Emily Halldorson welcomed the audience to this International Women's Week event, sponsored by the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians.



Emily Halldorson was host and organizer for the event.

She noted the history of the commemoration and the support of the AUUC of the struggle for women's rights for many decades.

She introduced Sarasvati Productions, which has organized the "Monologues" to tell important stories of women's struggles and achievements. Last spring they undertook an intergenerational storytelling project in partnership with West Central Women's Resource Centre. Through this project, Sarasvati's artists connected with storyteller Helena Kelly and focused the Women's Week events on the theme of *Stolen Sisters*.

The "Monologues" presented were:

— "Warrior" by Helena Kelly, who used a traditional storytelling technique to follow a young woman who escaped a troubled life to save herself. Helena portrayed the story of a young woman who has lived with the harsh realities of being taken into care, living through an abusive relationship and battling poverty

to discover the warrior within herself. The piece was performed by Montana Lehmann who is studying theatre at the University of Winnipeg.

Helena relocated from Mexico to Canada when she was ten.

— "Stolen Girls" by Hope McIntyre was a dance performance based on the abduction of the Nigerian schoolgirls (who have not yet been found) in April, 2014. The story was written as a narrative, and contemporary dancer Sydney Macfarlane, who is currently studying at the University of Winnipeg, performed it. The voice-over

is by Florence Ikwudili, Co-Chair of the International Institute for Women's Rights Manitoba.

— "Finding Freedom" was a slam poem by Shamin Brown, who challenged the social isolation that keeps the voices of women and children in the sex trade silenced behind a veil of shame. Brown has published the autobiography, *I'm an addict: In bits and pieces*. She has used her writing and spoken word performances to address her experience with drug addiction, sexual exploitation, childhood sexual trauma, domestic violence and the apprehension of

her children by child and family services. Today, she is a University graduate who shares her story of hope and healing with women and youth groups.

The speakers for the event were:

— Lubna Hussain, Volunteer Coordinator for the Islamic Social Services Association. She spoke about what can be done to end domestic violence, and the misconceptions Westerners have of the role and rights of women in Islamic culture. She used the metaphor of the roots of a tree to demonstrate how women

(Continued on Page 7.)

Malanka at Winnipeg AUUC

On Saturday, January 16, the Winnipeg Branch of the AUUC celebrated the New Year with a night of music, dancing, prizes and a late night meal, put on by the Yunist Dance Ensemble.

Yunist, specifically Elise Pierre, Patricia Pierre, Ataya Enns, Shaela Enns, Chantel Reles, Michelle Hladun and Braelen Scott even surprised guests with a performance of the "Kozachuk" on the dance floor!

This event was a perfect way to celebrate the New Year.

The night began with guests arriving and checking out the silent auction prizes, including two tour visas to Folklorama, Winnipeg's two-week multicultural festival, taking place each August.

Guests enjoyed drinks and good company, with several people getting up to dance the

polka! A couple of hours into the event, Yunist performed the "Kozachuk", surprising the guests with this lively central Ukrainian folk dance.

A late-night meal was served, consisting of pyrogies, kovbasa (kubasa) and pickles.

Following this meal, the 50/50 draw, a raffle, silent auction prizes, and the door prize were announced, with much excitement among those who had their numbers drawn.

Following these events, the clock struck midnight and guests gathered in a circle on the dance floor as the "Kolomeyka" music began! The Yunist Dance Ensemble

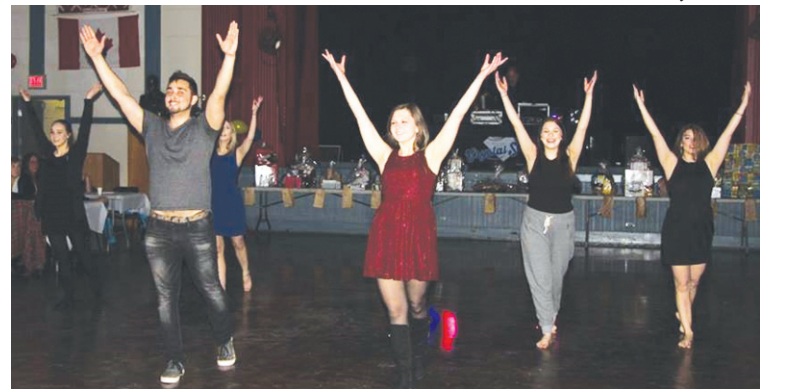
and several guests from the crowd took the spotlight with a dance off featuring solos, duets, combinations and energetic lifts.

Following the "Kolomeyka" everyone continued to have fun until the night came to an end.

This year's Malanka social was an awesome way to bring in the New Year. With the dancing, music, and food, this event was a blast! The Yunist dance ensemble's efforts in planning and organizing this event paid off, as guests left with good memories, excitement, and prizes.

— Ataya Enns

— Photo: Ataya Enns



The Yunist Dance Ensemble surprised the guests with a lively "Kozachok".



Presenters at the March 6 event at the Ukrainian Labour temple in Winnipeg.

Love and Just Desserts in Winnipeg

On January 31, the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg was the scene of a concert billed as "an afternoon of music and song celebrating LOVE of some of our favourite things". And so it was; the concert committee, headed by Nancy Kardash, treated us to a veritable smorgasbord of love-themed performances jointly presented by AUUC Winnipeg Branch and the AUUC Festival Choir.

The MC duties were shared by Lionel Steiman and Tusia Kozub who, in their introductions, connected each piece to a specific kind of love.

For instance, the Festival Choir, conducted by Vasilina Streltsova, opened the concert with four varied pieces, starting with "Viva Musica Mundi" (Long Live the Music of the World). This song is

based on the theme of love of music. Anna Khomenko, the choir's accompanist, performed a piano solo with the theme of love of the theatre and arts.

And so the concert continued, filled with themes of many kinds of love. Some of these themes were – love of good times singing with the family, of a child, of a mother, of history and folklore, of travel, of the seasons, of food, of nature, of dance – even love of a horse!

The Festival Choir was followed by the North End Jewish Folk Choir, conducted by Koren (Kozub) Kaminski and accompanied by Dale Rogalski. They entertained us with four Yiddish songs.

Next came the trio of Karin (Kozub) Woods, Nancy Kardash and Tusia Kozub,



"The happy faces of some of the enthusiastic young performers of the Russian Children's Education Centre, Erudit."

singing about the love of their white horse, "Mi Caballo Blanco".

Ilena (Kozub) Zaramba, accompanied by Tusia Kozub, sang the beautiful song "My Curly-headed Baby".

The first half of the concert closed with the Festival Group of the Russian Children's Education Centre, Erudit, directed by Ekaterina Shishkina, conducted by Vasilina Streltsova,

and accompanied by Anna Khomenko. The ensemble impressed the audience with its artistry and colourful costumes.

The second half of the concert opened with two dramatic songs by Laura Varga, accompanied by Anna Khomenko.

Next the Jewish Women's Choir of Jewish Child and Family Services appeared,

conducted by Vasilina Streltsov and accompanied by Anna Khomenko. [Lina (Vasilina) and Anna seemed to be the hardest-working people on the stage that day, with Lina directing three groups and Anna appearing as accompanist no less than six times!] The choir presented three contrasting songs.

Next was a vocal duet by Ian and Nancy Walker, the lovely "Ae Fond Kiss", written by the Scottish national poet, Robert Burns.

The Russian Children's group, Erudit, appeared again, with two delightful pieces, and the concert closed with the Festival Choir of the AUUC singing four songs, ending with the reprise of "Viva Musica Mundi".

Thanks to all of the performers, concert coordinators, volunteers, and to the enthusiastic audience. It was a "love"ly afternoon.

— Tusia Kozub

Regina AUUC Celebrates Malanka

— Story photos: Mark Greschner



A crowd of over 300 people enjoyed a night of good food, a great performance and fantastic dancing all night long.

On January 16, 304 patrons enjoyed an evening of good food, beverages, fine performances and plenty of dancing. Malanka 2016 of the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance, along with the Regina Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, proved to be another wonderful success that gave everyone attending a most enjoyable evening.

Greetings on behalf of the

Regina AUUC and the Poltava Ensemble were given by Sasha Lapchuk, President of AUUC Regina Branch.

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

All tables were adorned with helium-filled balloons.

The evening's activities were conducted by Masters of Ceremonies Ken Lozinsky and Dave Wilson.

The Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance presented a 45-minute program, under the direction of Dance Director Lisa Wanner and Orchestral Director Natalia Osypenko.

Also appearing, from the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts, were the Pre-Poltava and Lileya dancers, under the direction of Emerry Millette and Daniel Hebert.

In all, there were some 80 performers.

The evening continued with door prizes being given away and the Malanka Raffle. After purchasing raffle tickets, one would place the ticket or tickets in that box in front of 6 theme baskets that one would like to win. Basket themes included "For Her", "For the Kids", "For the Party", "For the Sports Fan", and "For New Year's". This was extremely popular, as it

Winnipeg Event

(Continued from Page 6.) are rooted in a society and provide the base for every culture.

— Leah Gazan, from the Lakota First Nation and a lecturer at the University of Winnipeg, told how the violence against indigenous women is rooted in the colonial past and perpetuated by economic conditions today. She noted that systems of discrimination continue to suppress the aspirations of indigenous peoples, but that women are leading in the movement for change.

Discussions with the performers and speakers rounded out a very stimulating and entertaining afternoon.

— Dennis Lewycky

had been last year.

Of course no evening in Regina would be complete without a dance, and at this Malanka it was to the music of the Slow Motion Walter Band. The music had young and old on the dance floor, and plenty of participation during the traditional "Kolomeyka".

The Regina AUUC is grateful to all the volunteers and

sponsors who facilitated an enjoyable evening, and in particular the Malanka Committee: Cindy Greschner, Sasha and Wanda Lapchuk, Shawn and Jennifer Swicheniuk, Zoya Shmyr, Erin Stepenhoff, Dion Tchorewski, Davie Wilson, Jennifer Wilson, Lynne Lapchuk and Noah Evanchuk..

— Sasha Lapchuk



The Poltava Dancers present the ever popular "Hopak".



Poltava Dancers Julia Pringle and Elenor Lekatch help sell tickets to the ever popular Poltava Raffle.



Everyone danced to the incredible sounds of "Slow Motion Walter".



One of many raffle winners Lindsay Romain with the "For Her" spa and pampering basket.



Chef Joe Oddo presents his famous buffet that was enjoyed by all.



The Lileya Dancers of the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts present "Bukovensky Tanets".



The Pre-Poltava Dancers of the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts present "Kozachok".

Europe's Democratic Retreat

(Continued from Page 1.) Hungary and other governments sympathetic to Poland would veto them. The Law and Justice Party, led by former Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski won the election in October and has moved quickly to implement its conservative agenda.

It has stacked the courts with sympathetic judges, reduced the courts' ability to block legislation, tightened governmental control of state-owned media, and put a thug in charge of police and intelligence services, among other measures. (Sounds like Canada's former government, doesn't it?)

These measures are similar to laws imposed by Prime Minister Orban of Hungary.

The article makes excuses

for Poland, Hungary and others. These countries, it says, were isolated for many years from free market economics and social liberties of the West, and are having trouble adapting. In addition they resent their continuing lower standard of living.

The article points out that these phenomena are not unique to Eastern Europe. Throughout the continent, reactionary movements like the Law and Justice Party have become prominent.

The article does not, but could have, mentioned Denmark, which has been swinging to the right on wings of Islamophobia. The article could also have mentioned France, where the Front National led by Marine Le Pen openly flaunts its opposition to

cultural diversity Ms. Le Pen came to Canada to tell us that multiculturalism is the path to ruin.

Toward the end of last year, the Front National had very good support in the first round of voting in French regional elections. They were only stopped in the second round when the Socialist Party withdrew from key races to allow Conservative candidates to win.

In Greece, the Syriza Party has formed a coalition with the far-right Independent Greeks to rule with a majority. Though the two parties are normally far apart politically, they share a distaste for the austerity measures imposed by creditors: the European Central Bank, the European Commission and the International Monetary Fund. Other than a challenge to the creditors, it is not known what the consequences of this strange fellowship might be.

Comparing Two Cases

Omar Khadr.....Nadiya Savchenko

Minor.....	Adult
Civilian.....	Military pilot
Taken to war by parent.....	Volunteered for militia
Possibly killed a soldier.....	Possibly killed two civilians
Seriously wounded.....	Not wounded
Tortured.....	Not Tortured
Scorned by homeland.	Rewarded by homeland
Victim of USA.....	Championed by USA

Bunny Yoga at Vancouver AUUC

— Photo: Delores Fung

A very EARresistable fundraiser was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Vancouver in February: Bunny Yoga or Zaichyky Yoga.

Combine 38 participants with yoga mats, 13 friendly toilet-trained shelter rabbits from the Vancouver Rabbit Rescue, 10 volunteer rabbit wranglers and 1 wonderful teacher of Hatha yoga, and you have the perfect recipe for a lovely afternoon at the Ukrainian hall of the Vancouver AUUC on Sunday February 7, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

— Nina Hobbis



Nicole Bizovie of the Dovbush Senior Dancers enjoys the yoga class with Sandra, a Flemish Giant rabbit.

— Photo: Nina Hobbis



Alex Tilker, husband of Dovbush dancer Caitlynn Schell, and his mom, Jane, share a stretch with Meatball, a rabbit from Vancouver Rabbit Rescue.

JoKe TiMe

A gentleman walked into a bank and said he was going to Europe on business and needed to borrow \$5,000.

He handed over the keys to a new Rolls Royce parked in front of the bank as security. Everything checked out, and the bank agreed to accept the car as collateral for the loan. An employee drove the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parked it there.

Two weeks later, the gentleman returned, repaid the

\$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer said, "We are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The gentleman replied, "Where else in New York can I park my car for two weeks for 15 bucks?"

* * *

The defence attorney was cross-examining the coroner:

Attorney: Before you signed the death certificate, had you taken the pulse?

Coroner: No.

Attorney: Did you listen to the heart?

Coroner: No.

Attorney: Did you check for breathing?

Coroner: No.

Attorney: So, you weren't sure the man was dead, were you?

Coroner: Well, let me put it this way. The man's brain was sitting in a jar on my desk. But I guess it's possible he could be out there practicing law somewhere.

US-Cuba Relations

(Continued from Page 1.) ism. They did not capitulate, and have not surrendered, to the pressure from their powerful and hostile northern neighbour.

Cuba enters the new chapter in its national life as an equal, a sovereign state dealing with another sovereign state which has its own reasons for wanting a rapprochement.

Cuba survived, and even managed to stand head and shoulders above its neighbours in some respects. Nevertheless, it must be admitted that the Cuban people have paid a heavy price for that survival.

There are shortages, and therefore there is an unofficial market. There are also licenced private enterprises. There are joint ventures (most obviously, but not only, in tourism) involving foreign investors. There are beggars.

The development of relations with the USA means that these phenomena will continue. Not only will they continue, but there will be pressure for their accelerated de-

velopment.

One factor which will build that pressure will be the very fact of more foreign investment and increased prosperity, creating a hunger which will feed on itself. That is already a reality in Cuba, but the inevitable flood of American investment will magnify the effect. The resulting economic inequalities and other dislocations will generate the need for more opportunities for official Cuban private enterprise.

An even more significant factor, perhaps, will be the change in perspective experienced by Cubans. American propaganda will flow more freely, of course, and so will other forms of consciousness formation.

So far, Cubans have had the isolation of the embargo as an explanation for economic hardship, but the more relations develop the less will hardship be acceptable.

It is the American hope that these new circumstances will alienate the Cuban people from their political and social

leaders. After all, this has happened throughout the former republics of the USSR and countries of Eastern Europe.

That may well happen in Cuba, dragging the country fully into the world capitalist system as a source of cheap labour and cheap resources. If that does happen, one can hardly be too critical of Cuba; far stronger countries have succumbed.

Perhaps the experience of China becomes relevant.

China has over a million millionaires, and scandalous abuse of working people in some of its factories. People have moved their businesses from Canada to China because they could make more money in that country. The rapid urbanization of the population and the rapid industrialization leave people living in smog-drowned slums.

In spite of all that, there appears to be room for arguments whether China is still a socialist country.

Can Cuba learn from China and become another miracle, without the smog? That remains to be seen, but it is not to be ruled out.

From Malanka at Vancouver AUUC

— Story photos: Dan Fung



At the Vancouver AUUC Malanka, the Dovbush Dancers presented "Shchedrivochka" choreographed by Anna Kanavets. The story is that the young man, Joey Hobbis, is happily dancing with the ladies when he is suddenly enticed by a bowl of perogies.

Ukrainian Miscellany

Ukraine's Political Crisis

In early February, it was reported that Ukraine's Minister for Economic Development and Trade, Aivaras Abromavicius, one of several foreign appointees in the government brought in to help Kyiv with reforms, had announced his resignation, citing corruption levels in the state.

His resignation is a huge credibility blow for Ukraine in the eyes of the International Monetary Fund, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Commission and EU member states.

The "reforms" included privatizing over 1,000 state-owned assets, some of them potentially very valuable, in order to transform the economy. "I believe a state with weak institutions, like Ukraine, is a bad owner of the assets. We can only make our economy more successful and dynamic by selling the assets, preferably to Western investors, who will make them more dynamic and transparent," Mr. Abromavicius said.

Mr. Abromavicius charged that he has been pressured by

the President's administration to appoint "questionable individuals" to his team or to key positions in state-owned enterprises. He mentioned Igor Kononenko, a close ally of President Petro Poroshenko, his deputy in the bloc in the Verkhovna Rada, as well as Poroshenko's old business partner, as the one interfering with his work.

Kononenko denied the accusations and said that Mr. Abromavicius was trying to shift blame for his own failures in running the Ministry.

Mr. Abromavicius' resignation was followed the next day by his first deputy, Yulia Kovaliv, and the rest of his team. Two deputy ministers and Ukraine's trade representative have also resigned.

Deputy Prosecutor General Vitaly Kasko resigned, with similar accusations and complaints.

Some other cabinet members have also expressed frustration at the pace of progress in their ministries. Infrastructure Minister Andriy Pyvovarsky has threatened to resign, while Health Minister Alexander Kvitashvili tendered his resignation last summer, only to have it rejected by parliament.

Abromavicius' resignation must also be approved by the Supreme Council.

President Poroshenko said in a statement that Mr. Abromavicius had recognized the support the President had given him. "As far as I'm concerned, this support is guaranteed in the future also. I believe that Aivaras should stay as Minister and continue reforms," he said.

The statement did not address the allegation of meddling in appointments in the Ministry.

A joint statement by ambassadors from the US, UK, EU and other countries said that the diplomats were "deeply disappointed", as the Minister and his team "have made important strides, implementing tough but necessary economic reforms to help stabilize Ukraine's economy, root out endemic corruption, and bring Ukraine into compliance with its International Monetary Fund program obligations."

Commenting on the resignation, Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk called it a "fuss" aimed at "discrediting the government and individual members of the cabinet, whom I and our faction

support" in order to control state revenue and "seize power".

In the lead-up to a vote on February 16, it was reported that a vote of non-confidence in the government was imminent.

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko called for Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk to resign and for a total cabinet reshuffle. President Poroshenko also called for the resignation of Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin. He said that political infighting in Ukraine served the interests of Russia.

Yuriy Lutsenko, the parliamentary leader of President Petro Poroshenko's party, Ukraine's largest, said that his party had "taken the decision to rate the cabinet ministers' work as unsatisfactory".

Maksym Burbak, the parliamentary leader of Prime Minister Yatsenyuk's party, Ukraine's second largest, told lawmakers that voting against the government could trigger early elections.

The vote came, and Prime Minister Yatsenyuk survived, as enough deputies of the President's party and others stayed away to let him win. However, two parties left the governing coalition, one of them MP Yulia Tymoshenko's Fatherland Party.

As the Prime Minister tried to fend off early elections by bringing another party back into the alliance, the buzzards circled, positioning themselves to become the next Prime Minister.

Volodymyr Hroisman, Ukraine's parliamentary speaker, who has not ruled himself out of the running, reportedly said that Prime Minister Yatsenyuk and his team have "lost connection" with the ruling coalition in parliament.

Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko, herself a candidate for Prime Minister, said that Ukraine's government isn't in crisis and is still performing its duties.

Economy Minister Aivaras Abromavicius, whose February resignation hasn't been approved, said that Ukraine needs a new Prime Minister,

and seemed to favour Ms. Jaresko.

Another politician who could benefit from this situation is Mikheil Saakashvili, the former president of Georgia and now the governor of the Odessa region, who has made anti-corruption the main topic of his public speeches. He created the Anti-Corruption Forum, which has been a huge success and has already been extended to three other Ukrainian cities.

It is hard to believe that Saakashvili's ambitions will be limited to Odessa. If he was looking to move to the top level in Kyiv, Abromavicius' resignation gives him the chance to transform his anti-corruption movement into a party and use his popular anti-corruption message to good effect in future elections.

Mr. Saakashvili's reputation as a symbol of Georgian reforms (and as a politician with one of the highest approval ratings in Ukraine) should help him quickly establish his party and attract many activists and technocrats to its list. He is already supported by the Democratic Alliance and is negotiating with the People's Power party, a bottom-up party which became a sensation in the last local elections.

Tymoshenko's party, it has been reported, will not object if ex-Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili becomes interim Prime Minister until an early ballot.

Ukraine's failure to tackle corruption and implement reforms has already derailed a Western aid program that keeps its war-ravaged economy afloat.

Last year, the International Monetary Fund gave Ukraine a \$17.5 billion package to be spread over four years, but so far only \$6.7 billion has been disbursed.

Ukraine has been waiting since October for the next tranche of aid, worth \$1.7 billion, which has been held up by concerns over the slow pace of reform.

However, an election seems unlikely because even more instability is possible.

The Savchenko Case

By now, probably, most people have at least heard of the case of Nadiya Savchenko, who was on trial in Russia, for complicity in the murders of journalists Anton Voloshin and Igor Korneliuk of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company.

The Ukrainian government and media, and their like-minded followers around the world, as well as NATO members and most Western media, have made Ms. Savchenko a rallying symbol in their current anti-Russian campaign.

On the other side, she has become a symbol of the criminal behaviour of the Ukrainian government and its ultranationalist supporters in eastern Ukraine.

Who is Nadiya Savchenko?

Commenting on Izvestia, Serget Markov reported, *inter alia*, that she is a Ukrainian officer being tried for murdering two Russian journalists.

Nadezhda Savchenko, in Russian) was absent with leave when she went to the Donbass to fight 'separatists'. She joined the neo-Nazi Aidar battalion, and was serving as a spotter in the murder of the Russian journalists. There appears to be strong evidence that she was serving as a gunner at the time of the murder.

The prosecution charges

that it was not by chance that the Russian journalists came under fire; they were targeted.

Ms. Savchenko was arrested in Russia when she was spotted in a camp, among hundreds of Ukrainian military people, and identified as the spotter who helped organize the fire against civilians. It turned out that she was also involved in attacks on the two Russian journalists who were killed.

On March 9, RIA Novosti in Russia published an article by Ilya Remeslo, legal counsel for *Russia Today*, from which may be extracted both facts and speculation useful for better understanding the case from the Russian point of view.

Concerning the defence, Mr. Remeslo wrote that:

Firstly, the defendant's lawyers argued that Russia has no right to judge Savchenko on its territory, since she is a citizen of Ukraine and the crime of which she is accused was committed on the territory of Ukraine.

However, the Russian Criminal Code allows foreign citizens who committed a crime outside Russia to be prosecuted on the territory of the Russian Federation if the offence was directed against a national of the Russian Federation. So the prosecution is legal under Russian law.

Secondly, it was argued that, as a deputy of the Par-

liamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Ms. Savchenko has immunity from prosecution.

However, Russian law and the Statute of the Council of Europe do not allow exemption from criminal liability in connection with the membership in PACE. The Charter of PACE and the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe apply immunity solely to statements and voting in the course of the work of PACE. Ms. Savchenko's alleged offences long preceded her "election" to PACE and have nothing to do with her activities in PACE.

Thirdly, her lawyers tried to dispute the charges, presenting into the case file documents from Ukraine. They demanded to hold a series of examinations. The admission of documents from Ukraine was denied, as Savchenko's lawyers had no powers to gather evidence on the territory of Ukraine. (*To a non-lawyer, this seems obscure.* -Sz)

Mr. Remeslo indicated that Ms. Savchenko's lawyers decided that their best course was not to disprove the charges, but to discredit the court, with an abundance of public relations in the Ukrainian media, scandals in court, and rallies supporting Ms. Savchenko.

Russia Sues

It was reported in the last issue of the "UCH" that, in December, Ukraine had defaulted on its debt to Russia and declared a moratorium on repaying the debt. In mid-February, TASS reported that the Russian Finance Ministry had filed a lawsuit against Ukraine in the High Court of Justice in London for nonpayment of a \$3 billion loan.

TASS reported that "The claim was filed in the Finan-

cial List [the disputes trial system — TASS] on the 17th February,' a Court's representative said. 'Names of parties are: The Law Debenture Trust Corporation PLC versus Ukraine represented by the Minister of Finance of Ukraine acting upon the instructions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine,' the source added."

The Financial List is part of the Commercial Court, established to handle claims over 50 million pounds sterling.

125th Ukrainian Canadian Anniversary

The first Ukrainian wave of Ukrainian settlement in Canada started in 1891, 125 years ago. As part of the commemoration of this event, which we pinpoint as September 7, 1891, the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* will publish an 8-installment series of articles this year, discussing aspects of the Ukrainian Canadian experience. In this issue, we discuss the first wave of Ukrainian immigration.

The First Wave: Beginnings

From 1891 to 1914, an estimated 170,000 Ukrainians immigrated to Canada, pushed out of their homeland by poverty, and in particular the shortage of land, and drawn by a campaign of recruitment of settlers to open and settle Canada's Prairie Provinces.

Though Ukrainians came to Canada earlier with various expeditions on various missions, these were temporary excursions with no thoughts of permanent settlement. The first arrival of Ukrainians in this country with a view to taking up residence was the landing of Ivan Pylypiw and Wasyl Eleniak in Montreal on September 7, 1891.

The first article in this series ("Ukrainian Canadians: the Pre-History", *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, January, 2016, Page 11) discussed the factors which drove Ukrainians out of their homes at the end of the 19th century.

The editorial in the special issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian* dated September, 1981, and devoted to the 90th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada expressed it thus:

"Neither whimsy nor curiosity, neither a sense of adventure nor a spirit of conquest, brought the Ukrainians across an ocean to Canada. Like other peoples who have migrated in their hundreds of thousands, wrenching their roots out of their native soil, leaving behind all that had been their very life to travel to a strange and distant land, the Ukrainians decided to leave their homeland and embark on a difficult journey into the unknown because of severe social and economic pressures growing out of the historical development of Ukraine. The decision to make Canada their destination was determined by opportunities created at a particular stage in this country's growth, by the need for settlement of the vast western prairies and a larger work force if Canada was to meet the challenge of growth into independent statehood. It was this confluence of historical circumstances which, on the one hand, drove Ukrainians to emigrate and, on the other, made Canada eager to receive the immigrants."

And so it was for Pylypiw and Eleniak. Though the second richest farmer in Nebyliw in the Carpathian foothills, Ivan Pylypiw was unable to provide for his family. Before

turning his attention to Canada, he travelled to the Kuban in Russia, but did not find land to meet his needs.

Therefore, leaving behind his wife and three children, at age 33, he set out for Canada, accompanied by his friend Wasyl Eleniak and brother-in-law Yurko Panisko. (Panisko had to turn back for lack of money.)

After filing claims in Winnipeg for homesteads, they decided to travel to Calgary for more exploration, and liked what they saw.

Their next stop was Gretna, Manitoba, for work on the harvest. Pylypiw left for Ukraine in December, 1891, leaving Eleniak behind.

The Austrian authorities in Ukraine did not favour the idea of emigration from Ukraine, and placed serious difficulties in the way of Pylypiw's efforts to return to Canada with his own and other families.

Nevertheless, arrangements were made for twelve families, and in 1892 most of them left for the new world. (Some stayed behind, having been frightened off by the anti-emigration campaign.)

Pylypiw returned to Canada in spring, 1893, with his own family, and those of his brother-in-law and one other villager.

Eleniak left Gretna for Ukraine in spring of 1893, and returned with six or seven other families.

This trickle became a flood which changed the face of the Canadian west, and had no small influence on life in other parts of the country.

Naturally enough, the immigrants tended to settle in communities of their countrymen, as this provided easiest opportunities for social interaction and mutual assistance. Such community was important when the nearest town might be a day's journey or more away.

Such community also encouraged the development of social institutions like schools and churches, as well as permitting informal gatherings for entertainment.

For the most part, the Ukrainians who came to Canada between 1891 and 1914, when the outbreak of World War One pretty much stopped the immigrant flow, were peasants, intent on building a future by farming the rich land which was available to them.

However, conditions of life

in the new country required work off the farm for survival, especially in the early years. Men left their wives and children to clear the land and work the homestead, as required to be allowed to keep the homestead, while they went to the cities in search of paid work.

Many are the stories, too, of older girls taking jobs as domestic help, sometimes to provide more income for the family, but often for room and board to relieve some of the economic pressure on their own families.

Other factors contributed to the movement of Ukrainian immigrants (and before too long, the young Canadian born) into the cities or other locations as hired labour. A certain number immigrated with no intent to farm, and others eventually abandoned their homesteads.

In the process of working as hired labour, the mentality of the immigrants was transformed from that of peasants to that of industrial workers.

Among the most abused workers, as new immigrants often have been in Canada, the Ukrainian workers quickly learned the value of united action in the struggle for better conditions. Soon they were active in trade unions and other institutions of the Canadian working class.

In the work cited above, Peter Krawchuk wrote that some of the Ukrainian immigrants had a history of political involvement in the "old country" (not his terms). Among the earliest of these was Kyrylo Genyk, who came to Canada with a group in 1896. A close friend of Ivan Franko, Mr. Genyk had been a member of the Russo-Ukrainian Radical Party, and had spent time in jail in Eastern Galicia for spreading socialist propaganda.

In 1903, Kyrylo Genyk organized the Taras H. Shevchenko Reading Society of like-minded people. In 1906, under the leadership of Vasyl Holovatsky, this reading society expanded its activity to include "political-community life".

In 1907, Ukrainian branches of the Socialist Party of Canada were formed in Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, and Nanaimo, British Columbia. In November of that year they started publishing *Chervony prapor* (Red Flag), the first Ukrainian socialist paper in North America. This sug-

gests that Ukrainian Canadian sociopolitical involvement was quite high by that time, as was the urban population.

By January, 1908, seven Ukrainian branches of the Socialist Party of Canada existed in western Canada.

In November, 1909, the Ukrainian branches of the Socialist Party of Canada, very critical of the leadership of the Socialist Party of Canada, met in a convention in Winnipeg and formed the Federation of Ukrainian Social Democrats of Canada (FUSD).

The Canadian Social Democratic Party was formed in 1910. The FUSD joined the Canadian Social Democratic Party as a component part with some degree to sovereignty.

In January, 1914, the FUSD was renamed the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party.

Mr. Krawchuk notes that the USDP was active, in the period of an economic slump, in organizing the unemployed Ukrainians and in the struggle for relief. They supported the International Workers of the World and maintained a class-struggle stance.

The Ukrainian Canadian community was divided along several lines quite early in its existence.

In his book *Our Stage*, Mr. Krawchuk noted the settlement of Ukrainians in communities and benefits it provided. He noted that, in the earliest period, most communities did without churches or clergy, but soon there were both Greek Catholic and Greek Orthodox congregations were formed, drawing on clergy from the United States. Often the struggle between different religious trends became quite "energetic".

Added to that conflict was the struggle between religious groups and the secular groups formed, for example, by immigrants who had been active in Prosvita reading rooms.

Kyrylo Genyk organized the Taras H. Shevchenko Reading Room, but he also established *Canadian Farmer*, the first Ukrainian newspaper in Canada, and encouraged the organization of amateur Ukrainian performing arts.

On May 1, 1904, the first Ukrainian concert in Canada, honouring Taras Shevchenko, was held. The program included solo singers and instrumentalists, poetry reading and a male chorus.

On May 14, a drama group organized by the Taras H. Shevchenko Reading Room staged the three-act comedy *The Argonauts* by Hrehory

Tshlinsky.

The next known theatrical activity in the Reading Room wasn't until November, 1906.

Canadian Farmer reported that students at the Rus-Ukrainian Seminary had staged a concert in the hall of the T.H. Shevchenko Society to mark the 46th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's death. Apparently part of the presentation was in English, to accommodate English guests in the audience.

When the Socialist Party of Canada was formed in 1907, its activities included performing arts, which was reflected in *Red Flag*.

When the Shevchenko Reading Society split in 1909, each of the two factions formed a drama group, and *Working People*, which began publishing in 1909, also noted the existence of Ukrainian Workers' Drama Circle.

On March 11, 1911, *Working People* reported that the municipal and provincial authorities, as a "result of malevolent denunciations by the Ukrainian nationalists who are in the service of the Conservative Party", were hindering the cultural educational work of the Ukrainian socialists.

In 1911 to 1914, there were four active Ukrainian drama groups in Winnipeg, operating with "an intense rivalry".

By 1914, then, the Ukrainian Canadian community was divided politically as the Liberal and Conservative parties vied for the immigrants' favour on the right and a variety of tendencies competed on the left.

Philosophically, the community was also divided. Not only were the traditional Ukrainian churches competing fiercely for Ukrainian Canadian souls, but a range of other denominations had their oar in. The range of secular organizations was broad, with the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party of greatest concern to both the governmental authorities and the opponents of the revolution brewing in the Russian empire.

In spite of all the conflict within the community, Ukrainian Canadians had profoundly influenced Canadian society and were continuing to do so.

The prairies had been settled, and the tremendous agricultural potential of the land had been unlocked. The strong backs and work ethic of the Ukrainians had built Canadian wealth in the cities' industries, in the mines and in the forests.

On the other hand, with war looming in Europe the loyalties of these foreigners were questionable. With the economy in a slump they were taking jobs from "real Canadians", and they were getting "uppity" with their demands for relief and other social measures.

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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Edmonton Seniors

(Continued from Page 5.)
hours, better pay and voting rights.”

“In 1910, a second International Women’s Conference was held in Copenhagen. A women named Clara Zetkin (leader of the Women’s Office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany) tabled the idea of an International Women’s Day (i.e. in every country there should be a celebration on the same day)... Over 100 women attended from 17 countries representing unions, socialist parties, working women.”

“In 1917, on the last Sunday of February, Russian women struck for ‘bread and peace’ in response to the death of over 2 million Russian soldiers in WW1.”

“In 1975, IWD was first celebrated by the United Nations. Then, in December, 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women’s Rights and International Peace to be observed in each country in accordance with their historical and national traditions.”

Bill Askin, MA, shared his extensive learning. He addressed the contributions of Louise McKinney, Nellie McClung, Henrietta McEdward, Irene Parlby and Emily Murphy, most of whom came from Edmonton, Alberta. These women were Members of the Legislative Assembly, active politically in Alberta. These women were influential in getting women recognized as legal persons in

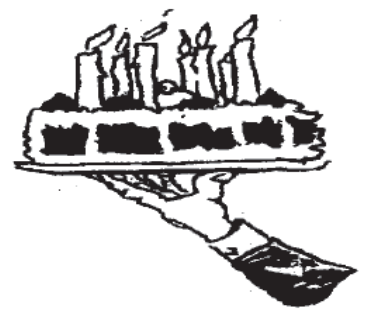
a case in 1929.

Louise McKinny worked in the Non-Partisan League, which went on to become the UFA in Alberta in 1930, then the CCF in the 1950s, and finally the NDP. These powerful women were part of the Temperance lobbying in 1916 to 1924.

Mr. Askin recalls that when he was a young man and he wanted a beer with the boys, they went to the “MEN only bars”, and the women went to the “WOMEN only beer parlours”!

— Shirley Uhryn

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Anne Husar

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

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

Joan Kowalewich
Audrey Skalbania

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

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

Rose Kwiecinski
George Sitak

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

JoKe TiMe

An artist asked the gallery owner if there had been any interest in his paintings, on display at that time.

“I have good news and bad news,” the owner replied. “The good news is that a gentleman inquired about your work and wondered if it would appreciate in value after your death. When I told him it would, he bought all 15 of your paintings.”

“That’s wonderful,” the artist exclaimed. “What’s the bad news?”

“The guy was your doctor.”

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will serve a **Perogy Lunch** at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 East Pender Street, from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** on Saturday, **April 16** and Sunday, **April 17**.

* * *

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver will participate in the **BC Ukrainian Festival and Competition** all day on **May 7** at the Clarke Theatre of Heritage Park Secondary School in **Mission, BC**.

* * *

Calgary — AUUC Calgary Branch presents **Ukrainian Heritage Celebration**, an afternoon of music, song and dance featuring the **Calgary Hopak Ensemble**, with the **Trembita Folk Choir** from Edmonton, on Sunday, **May 14**, at **2:00 p.m.** at the **Leacock Theatre**, Mount Royal University. Tickets are **\$20.00 for adults; \$10.00 children** aged 3 – 12 years. Call **Darlene** at **403-271-2379** for tickets.

* * *

Welland — AUUC Welland Branch will present a concert/banquet on the afternoon of Sunday, May 15, at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, 342 Ontario Road. More details will be available in the next issue of the “UCH”.

* * *

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

Elsie Williston, Winnipeg MB	
<i>In memory of my husband Floyd</i>	\$1,000.00
AUUC Welland Branch, Welland ON	260.00
Helen Hrynchyshyn, Vancouver BC	100.00
William Malnychuk, Mississauga ON	100.00
Shevchenko Senior Club, Welland ON	70.00
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Dora Welch, Port Colborne ON	20.00
Alice Klim, Kamloops BC	10.00
Walter Mirosh, Winnipeg MB	10.00

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

Poltava Annual Concert

On Saturday, February 6, the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance and the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts presented

their Annual Concert/Recital. The concert was attended by 387 people who enjoyed an evening of skill and talent featuring over 100 performers.



Performing for their very first time, and stealing the show, the Novice Dancers of the Poltava School present "Perogy Dance".

— Story photos: Mark Greschner



The Junior Dancers of the Poltava School present "Zhytomir Quadrille".



The Poltava female dancers perform "Vesnyanka".



The Intermediate Dancers of the Poltava School perform "Krutyak".

*Welcome to the only
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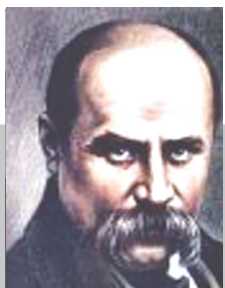
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The Beginner Dancers of the Poltava School perform "Tropotianka".



The Poltava Ensemble perform "The Gypsies".



The Poltava Ensemble premiere "Dzumbalyky", adapted from the repertoire of the Nadzbruchanka Ensemble.



The Poltava female dancers perform "Lacemakers" in new costumes purchased through the generous donations of the Swicheniuk Family and the Regina Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians.



The Poltava male dancers perform "Sailors Dance" from the repertoire of the Virsky Dance Ensemble.

Water Problems

(Continued from Page 4.)

Globally, there are two trends as concerns access to clean water; one of them is promoting access to clean water, the other is threatening supplies.

On the first side is the United Nations General Assembly resolution of July 28, 2010, declaring access to clean drinking water and sanitation as a basic human right.

Canada, led by Prime Minister Harper, was among the countries that opposed the resolution. However, since then, every country has accepted the concept and affirmed its commitment to act accordingly.

Some 50 countries have enshrined the right to clean water and sanitation in law. Courts in India, France and the USA, among other places, have ruled in support of the right to water.

Since the year 2000, at least 235 municipalities, including some in Europe, have moved their privatized water systems to municipal control.

It is reported that, as a result of the UN and governmental action, in the last 25 years almost 2 billion people have a better situation concerning water.

Still, some 2.5 billion people (including many Canadian First Nations), have to drink water from polluted sources.

That brings us to the other side of the water situation: factors (other than the effects of global warming) making clean water scarcer for people.

In spite of the general recognition of the right to water, in Europe and the USA the combination of higher prices and increased poverty has led to water supplies being turned off for nonpayment of bills.

Committed to growth, many governments are making water supplies to industries a higher priority than water for the people.

Provisions of many trade and investment agreements, like the Trans-Pacific Partnership give corporations the right to sue for compensation governments that pass laws giving priority to water (or other rights) to their people.

And Canada? In December, 2014, Larry West, environmental issues expert, wrote that Canada was flushing some 200 billion litres of raw sewage, directly into natural waterways every year. Montreal pumped 900 billion litres of sewage into the St. Lawrence River, including 3.6 billion litres that entered the river as untreated raw sewage. Victoria pumped its raw sewage directly into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, an arm of the Pacific Ocean.