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Convention Banquet and Concert

— Photo: Wilfred Schubert



The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, conducted by Annis Kozub, was on the program, with other groups, on Saturday, October 8, when AUUC Winnipeg Branch entertained delegates to the 46th AUUC National Convention and other guests. A report on the banquet and concert, with additional pictures, appears on Page 6.

Drumming Up

With the TransPacific Partnership in some doubt after the election of Donald Trump, and some uncertainty about how open the Canada-US border will be for trade, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been seeking other places to drum up business. An interesting one is Argentina.

Mr. Trudeau and Argentina's President Mauricio Macri have agreed to extend their cooperation, as both believe that free trade is the road to prosperity. Canada is looking forward to selling its pork to

Argentina for the first time since 2002. Argentina is hoping for some foreign investment, to add to the mining operations Canadian companies already have in that country.

Canada will also work with Argentina to expedite the settlement of 3000 Syrian refugees, through a program similar to Canada's private sponsorship program.

The aspirations in this agreement are modest, and include working through the World Trade Organization to further open their borders to good and services.

A more formal agreement into which Canada has entered is the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade agreement which will eventually remove tariffs on almost all Ukrainian products.

It is unlikely that either country will get rich by this deal, as Ukraine is rather far down in the list of suppliers to the Canadian market and customers for Canadian goods.

For more significant is the Canadian deal with Europe, which almost came to nought, but was rescued with a little adjustment.

Again, the US-Europe deal seems to be dead, so this may

The Next Issue

The next issue of the "UCH" will be dated January, 2017. Announcements of events in January, 2017, or early February, 2017, as well as articles for the January, 2017, issue should be in our office by December 10. Thank you for your consideration.

About Canadian Values

The way to keep out undesirables these days is to test their acceptance of Canadian values. One of the candidates for the leadership of the Conservative party would entrust that task to the men and women at Canada's entry points, who would ask a few questions and decide that the applicant should just go home.

But these days, when I hear talk about Canadian values, I wonder which values that might be. The honest truth is that the Canadian values I learned in that distant past when I was going to school have been replaced by a different set of values.

For example, I was taught that it was better that for a hundred guilty men to go free than that one innocent man be punished. I see no sign of that today. The current slogan seems to be better that innocents be punished than my safety be endangered.

Another value I learned was "innocent until proven guilty". Not any more: now it seems to be "if you're inno-

cent, prove it."

In my youth, the song was, "They can't throw you in jail for what you're thinking." Now they definitely can, even if you're not thinking it.

Once upon a time, a man's home was his castle, but to-

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CORRECTIONS

In the 7th paragraph of "Winnipeg 'Thoughts and Reflection'" on page 8 of the September/October, 2016, issue of the "UCH" we refer to Leah Decter as "He". We regret any resulting embarrassment.

In the November, 2016, issue, the folios on pages 2-12 mistakenly read "September/October".

In that same issue, in the caption on page 1, Eugene Semanowich was incorrectly identified, as was Julia Meeder (seated in the front row, not Luda Dabeka, who is correctly identified as standing) and in the caption to the photo at bottom right on page 3, we should have indicated that Glenn Michalchuk was AUUC Winnipeg (not Welland) Branch President.

We apologize for these errors, and thank the readers who brought them to our attention.

Best Wishes of the Season!

The publishers and staff of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* extend best season's greetings to our readers and supporters, and to their families and friends.

May you enjoy the festive season in happiness, safety and good health, and may the new year bring all that you truly desire!

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AUUC Commits to Reconciliation

Throughout the 46th AUUC National Convention, the theme of reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous peoples framed much of the weekend's discussions. The AUUC affirmed its commitment to being a part of the ongoing process of reconciliation through the passing of a declaration and several resolutions, and the inclusion of a formal ceremony at the opening of the Convention.

National President Bob Seychuk began Saturday morning's meeting by acknowledging that AUUC Winnipeg Branch and the Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple are located on Treaty 1 territory, and that the land on which we gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

He then invited Elder Madeline Hatch to open the Convention with a traditional prayer.

Following the prayer, Con-

vention delegates participated in a smudge ceremony, facilitated by Madeline. Madeline is a community elder in the North End of Winnipeg. She is often seen bringing greetings and prayers at community events in the area, and is an active member of local initiatives fighting against violence and poverty in our community.

We thank Madeline for marking this momentous occasion with us.

The Convention passed three resolutions concerning Indigenous peoples.

The first identified the historical wrongs which have been carried out against the First Nations people by the Canadian state through the use of residential schools and other forms of cultural destruction, and the denial of their hereditary rights as Indigenous peoples.

The second focused on the injustices done to the Métis people and the memory of Louis Riel.

The third discussed the



Elder Madeline Hatch (right) and author Emily Halldorson are friends from the community.

mercury contamination present in the Wabigoon River in Ontario, which has had a devastating effect on the traditional ways of life and the health of the people of Grassy Narrows First Nation.

All three resolutions called on the Canadian government (and in the case of the third resolution, the Ontario government, too) to take appropriate remedies to render Indigenous peoples equal partners in Canada, and to work towards solutions for the human rights abuses which are still endured

today by Indigenous peoples across the country. The resolutions will be sent to the appropriate government representatives, and Prime Minister Trudeau.

A fourth resolution, which was raised from the floor, was discussed at length, but did not pass. This concerned the abolition of the Indian Act. Delegates agreed that such a decision should be determined by Indigenous peoples, and as there is currently no clear consensus on this issue among Indigenous communities, the

feeling of the delegates was that it was not appropriate to pass a resolution supporting the abolition of the Indian Act at this time.

The Convention also passed a "Declaration on the 125th Anniversary of Ukrainian Immigration to Canada", which was read aloud by Wilfred Szczesny during the Saturday evening banquet festivities. This declaration, in part, acknowledges Ukrainian pioneers involvement in the dispossession of Indigenous people from their ancestral lands, and commits the AUUC to joining the movement to correct this historical tragedy.

(The full text of the "Declaration" appears in the November, 2016, issue of the "UCH".)

The AUUC has been a strong proponent of women's rights, labour rights and other social justice causes over the past 98 years. The injustices done to Indigenous people are among the pivotal human rights issues of our time and of our country's history, and I commend the AUUC for committing to be a part of the long journey to reconciliation which lies ahead of us all.

— Emily Halldorson

Some Issues Affecting First Nations

What follows are not First Nations' issues; they are everyone's issues. The list is far from a complete list of issues affecting First Nations; it is just a selection of items that have recently appeared in the commercial press, presented in no particular order.

In the week of November 19, the Quebec and Labrador division of the Assembly of First Nations urged the government of Quebec to comply with demands for an independent public inquiry into police mistreatment of Indigenous people. The government declined to hold an inquiry, choosing instead to turn the matter over to national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women.

That exchange arose from accusations by native women in the area of Val d'Or of abuse by officers of the Quebec provincial police. There were dozens of complaints, but only two individuals were charged. Those individuals were two former police officers whose alleged offences were committed in a community about 1000 kilometres from Val d'Or.

In addition to disappointment about the outcome, the complainants also feel fear for their future safety as the police officers who were suspended return to service.

Inuit in Labrador are in danger of methylmercury poisoning, according to a Harvard

University study of hydro dam effect related to the Muskrat Falls project. Damming the lower Churchill River will sharply increase the concentration of the chemical in the fish, birds and seals which are the food source for the local population.

Similar or greater concentration of methylmercury is expected at 11 other hydroelectric projects across Canada, some of which are already under way.

In early November, 230 households in a community 45 minutes by plane north of Sioux Lookout were without clean drinking water and sewage because of four ruptures in the main line carrying water to North Caribou (Weagamow) Lake First Nation.

People in the affected area had rashes, eczema, and stomach pains.

Similar signs were found in Kashachewan First Nation, the James Bay coast.

There were 134 water advisories across Canada, 90 of them in Ontario. Most were in First Nations communities.

At the beginning of November, Canadian First Nations were pressing Prime Minister Trudeau to speak up against Enbridge Inc, a Canadian company, for its role in severely violating the rights of Indigenous people and their allies at Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota.

By November 1, 140 people had been arrested while opposing construction of the Dakota Access pipeline. The pipeline, designed to run under the Missouri River carrying oil to a refinery in Illinois, would threaten traditional sacred lands and the water supply of the Standing Rock Sioux.

The International Treaty Alliance of 85 First Nations and Tribes, and provincial chiefs from British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario, have all challenged the Prime Minister to back up his words on the importance of relations with Indigenous people, with action on this issue. In addition to travelling to North Dakota to support the action there, solidarity demonstrations have been held in Canada.

In early November, Inuit politicians were calling on Indigenous and other leaders to protect children from the sexual abuse and suicide which were rife in many communities. In Canada's far north, most communities lack the resources to deal with the problem.

Much of the abuse is thought to arise from abuse suffered at residential schools over almost 120 years. The abused become abusers, setting off an expanding ripple effect. Jason Smallboy, Deputy Grand Chief of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, representing 49 Indigenous communities in northern Ontario, estimates that 80-90% of alcohol and drug addiction on reserves is related to sexual

abuse.

In mid-October, three girls aged 12 to 14, two from Stanley Mission in northern Saskatchewan and the other from La Ronge, committed suicide. Following their deaths, the government of Canada sent three therapists to counsel youth in the area on Fridays and Saturdays.

Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde, who is from Saskatchewan, noted that the aboriginal youth suicide rate is five times the national average.

Vice-Chief Bob Merasty of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, which represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan, criticised Health Canada for not having the extra supports in place "a long time ago".

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band said that there had been nine suicide attempts in a week, and more than 20 youths are considered to be at risk.

Sexual abuse and other forms of abuse also lead to other forms of self-destructive behaviour, including suicide.

Chief Simon Fobister of the Grassy Narrows First Nation in northern Ontario says that federal and provincial governments must help his community overcome the effects of decades of mercury poisoning.

When the government closed the local fishery in the 1970s because of the mercury, health impacts were not the only problem. There were also marital breakdowns, social

upheaval, and some suicides.

As the residential schools were being wound up in the 1950s, another form of forced assimilation of Indigenous children was starting. In the 1960s, thousands of First Nations children were taken from their families and placed with non-Indigenous families. Their birth certificates were destroyed to eliminate the documentation of their origin.

In 2009, a class-action lawsuit was launched in Ontario on behalf of some 16,000 individuals. Finally, on August 23, 2016, the case was going to a summary judgment proceeding. It was an opportunity for the lawyers for the plaintiffs to convince the judge that their case was strong enough for a decision without a trial.

After that first day, during which government lawyers did not speak, the case was held over to December 1, at which time the judge should provide a ruling.

Developments in Thunder Bay in September raise again the issue of police investigations of Indigenous people's deaths. The Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD) will study the police investigation into the death of Stacey DeBungee, who was found in a Thunder Bay river on October 19, 2015.

Rather than properly investigating the death, or at least waiting until an autopsy had been performed, the police issued statements deeming that the death had been non-criminal.

(Continued on Page 6.)

Current Eclectic

Efficacy of GMOs Questioned

In an article in *The New York Times*, reprinted on October 31 in the *Toronto Star*, and now cited here, Danny Hakim reported on a “NYT” study of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which revealed a surprising reality.

Much of the debate concerning GMOs has centred on their safety: are they a threat to our health and are they environmentally dangerous? While there has been heated

arguments about whether they will make us all victims of cancer or whether their production will lead to the release of a deadly, uncontrollable omnivore, there has been widespread agreement that they would produce higher agricultural productivity. There was also acceptance of the theory that the GMOs would lead to reduced use of pesticides.

The “threat to health” issue

may never be resolved, and the *New York Times* study may have generated another long-term debate. It seems that GMOs may not be effective in raising productivity after all.

The “NYT” study compared agricultural productivity in Canada and the USA, where GMOs have been encouraged and widely adopted, with the numbers in Western Europe, where GMOs have, for the most part, been rejected for the last twenty years.

Based on United Nations data, the study found that the USA and Canada have gained no discernable benefits in terms of yields or chemical use reduction.

Yield trend lines between Canada and Western Europe

have shown no change in Canada’s favour over the last 20 years. The same is true in comparing Western Europe and the USA, except that in at least one instance, sugar beets, Western Europe has shown an edge recently.

Nor have GMOs led to reduced use of chemicals.

For example, some genetically modified crops, like corn and soy beans, have led to the reduction by a third of chemicals that kill insects and fungi in the USA, but data from the US Geological Survey shows that this has been accompanied by a 21% rise in use of herbicides. In contrast, in France, use of insecticides and fungicides has decreased by almost two thirds (twice as much as in the USA), but the

use of herbicides has also declined — by a third.

Companies like Monsanto, the world’s largest seed company, are very profitable, selling both genetically modified seeds and the chemicals (pesticides, fungicides and herbicides) designed to be used with them. All evidence to the contrary notwithstanding, they continue to maintain that their products are crucial to the increased food production required to feed the world’s growing population.

In response to the data, the companies suggest changing the basis of comparison: a single American state compared to France, say.

What’s that they say about, “Figures don’t lie, but liars figure?”

Paris Agreements Targets Failing

Even before the American elections on November 8, a United Nations agency warned that the world was far from reaching the ambitious goals set by the Paris Agreement for the limitation of global warming.

To reach the target of limiting global warming to 2°C above the pre-Industrial Revolution level, annual carbon dioxide emissions to 2030 must be limited to 42 billion tons. However, the reductions pledged for the Paris Agreement still leave the annual emissions at 54–56 billion tons by 2030, which would mean

global warming of 2.9° – 3.4°. Greenhouse gas emissions, which includes CO₂, increase world temperatures by keeping heat in the atmosphere instead of allowing it to radiate into space. With higher temperatures, glaciers and ice sheets melt. One evident result is higher sea levels, which flood inhabited islands and low-lying coastlines (meaning cities). Another result is more severe heat waves and droughts. These phenomena affect the food security of species, including human beings, whose agricultural practices fail and need rapid and

radical adjustment. United Nations Environment Program leader Erik Solheim has warned that, “The growing number of climate refugees hit by hunger, poverty, illness and conflict will be a constant reminder of our failure to deliver.”

The election of Donald Trump to the presidency of the United States creates greater doubt that the global warming targets will be met. President-elect Trump has said word to the effect that global warming was a fiction concocted by China to put the United States at a disadvantage.

Optimists expect that this Trump position, and many others, will be moderated by the reality of the presidency. It is to be hoped that they are right, as the world is otherwise in very serious trouble.

Celebration Politics

It’s public money, spent by public officials for a public event, but it’s treated like a party’s financial campaign money. In the latest iteration, it’s the money (about \$105 million) budgeted by the government of Canada for the Canada 150 community infrastructure program.

An October 15 report in the *Toronto Star* reported on allocations under the program in the period June, 2015, to June, 2016.

Former Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the program in May, 2015. Toronto MP Adam Vaughan, told the “Star” that the Conservatives set application timetables that were difficult for community organizations to

meet. He said “It was clear that the Conservatives had tipped off some on how to apply and kept others in the dark.”

At the time (after the 2011 elections), Conservatives held 54% of parliamentary seats, but their riding got at least 68% of the funding. The NDP, then the Official Opposition, held 33% of the seats, but got only 13.9% of the funding. The Liberals, with 11% of the seats got 5.5% of the funding.

Projects spanning several ridings got 10.7% of the funding.

Guy Caron, MP (NDP) got the information about the first year of the program by a parliamentary inquiry.

The Liberal government has decided to prolong the program for another year, with another \$150 million. The government need not report until the second year ends, if then.

Trump’s Choices Raising Concerns

As we go to press, President-elect Donald Trump is selecting members of his Cabinet and other key figures in his administration. His choices are deepening concerns among people who were already worried about his political orientation.

By November 18, he had made five major appointments. Four of them were men who have made negative comments about Muslims and African-Americans.

As head of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), Trump has nominated Mike Pompeo. Though hundreds of American Muslim leaders have condemned terror attacks, Mr. Pompeo, who is affiliated with the Tea Party, has accused them of silence on the issue. Their silence, he has reportedly said, makes them “potentially complicit in these acts”.

In full disclosure, it has been pointed out that in one speech Mr. Sessions urged people to distinguish between terrorist and regular Muslims.

Apparently he said that there are “many Muslims of good will”.

Trump’s nominee for Attorney General, the country’s top law enforcement agency is Jeff Sessions. In 1986, a Republican controlled Senate denied him a federal judgeship because of his anti-Black racism.

Among other things, Mr. Sessions has already decided that Trump’s proposal to ban foreign Muslims from entering the USA is constitutional. He has also said that grabbing a woman by her genitals is not sexual assault.

Trump’s pick for his top national security advisor, Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, has written that fear of Muslims is rational. He has said that Islam is like cancer, and is a political ideology, not a religion.

Stephen Bannon, chosen as chief strategist, heads a website supporting a white nationalist movement.

Of these four, only Sessions and Pompeo require Senate confirmation hearings, probably a mere formality.

ICC Losing Its Grip

At the end of October of this year, Gambia followed Burundi and South Africa in declaring its intention to leave the International Criminal Court. The announced intention by these three countries generated fears among ICC supporters that a mass withdrawal would follow.

Then, in mid-November, Russia announced that it was withdrawing from the International Criminal Court. Russia signed the treaty in 2000 which established the ICC, but never ratified it.

The departing countries charge that the International Criminal Court focuses on Africa and other people of colour, while ignoring crimes committed by “Caucasians”. Their complaint is somewhat supported by the history of the ICC, including the fact that only Africans have been charged in the six most recent cases.

Other critics of the ICC have made similar charges

against the ICC. When the ICC acts against Europeans, as they did (for example) in Yugoslavia, the charges seem to be consistent with the policies of NATO and countries like the USA. On the other hand, Henry Kissinger, who was the architect, many thought, of war crimes and crimes against humanity, was never in danger of being charged. Nor did the crimes committed by the US government under President George Bush lead to any charges.

Supporters of the ICC, including Amnesty International, claim that the ICC prosecutes perpetrators of some of the world’s worst atrocities, and is the only source of justice for many Africans. However, AI and many other so-called human rights group are themselves accused of following behind the foreign policy of the USA and the European Union.

While something like the International Criminal Court

sounds like a good idea, it is only acceptable to the extent that it is seen as a truly unbiased institution which applies international law evenhandedly to all criminals. That is unlikely in an international situation in which one rather significant country declares its citizens immune (as the USA has done) and has the power to enforce that position.

Some commentators have expressed the belief that the defections are an aberration, because the world needs international law and order. They believe that the ICC will survive and (in the long run) prosper — or something similar will emerge.

They may well be right; even a severely curtailed ICC can continue to work, if adequately financed by those who want it. In the long run, with changes in the international order, such an institution could conceivably become a legitimate source of world law.

Until that time, the ICC, like other international institutions, will be tainted by the reality of international politics.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**So, It's President Trump**

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

In the editorial in the July/August, 2016, issue of the "UCH", referring to the November 8 election, I wrote:

"Donald Trump may ... get 30% of the vote. The American people who rejected Barry Goldwater ... have as much sense now as they had then. In the face of the Trump threat, they will turn out in record numbers to vote against him. Many voters who have no love for Mrs. Clinton, including most supporters of Bernie Sanders, will hold their noses and vote Clinton to prevent a disaster called President Trump."

Was I ever wrong!

They did not turn out in record numbers — actually they did: record lows, especially in states won by Hillary Clinton.

Mr. Trump was elected by about 25.3% of the voting age population, which would be closer to 30% if only eligible voters were considered, but he actually got about 46.7% of votes cast.

Though many voters may have chosen to "hold their noses and vote Clinton", giving her more votes than Trump got, many others stayed home or voted for third party or independent candidates.

With few exception, all the pundits (and the pollsters) have been busy explaining why they were wrong in predicting a Clinton victory. They make many good points.

My own excuses are basically two. Vote distribution — Clinton lost too many large states by very narrow margins. More fundamentally, I underestimated voter rejection of the status quo and the 1%, whether represented by the orthodox establishment candidate Hillary Clinton or the populist establishment candidate Donald Trump.

My former editorial also said, "If the ugliness of Donald Trump is allowed to fade and he is elected, any honeymoon will be brief. Mr. Trump will be unable to suppress his true nature. ... when Mr. Trump reveals himself, America and the world will lose."

Now it's President-elect Trump (a status to be confirmed by the electoral college on December 19), and on January 20, 2017, President Trump. Having been wrong before, I hesitate to predict too categorically, but here goes.

Between now and then, the reflexes and beliefs of a lifetime will not suddenly change. President Trump will continue to look after himself and people like him (his "shareholders") and be a "smart businessman" by abusing and cheating everyone else.

America and the world — look out!

The World at a Crossroads**COMMENTARY**

When he addressed the Parliament of Canada, President Obama noted that there was a growing unrest worldwide created by the failure of the globalized economy to provide benefits to working people. It was necessary, he said, to ensure that the free trade agreements which were on the table also provided benefits to the "middle class".

This wisdom has been repeated by many others, including the Prime Minister of Canada.

However, having made that speech, President Obama went home and continued to press for support for the TransPacific Partnership. Not in the speech, not in the negotiations of the TPP, and not anywhere else did he suggest any changes which would help align international economic relations with the interests of working people or the middle class.

Nor have any specific ideas been put forward by Prime Minister Trudeau, or members of his Cabinet or the Liberal government, or the other institutions of the economic elite in Canada or around the world, or anyone else with power of enough significance at least to begin the process of change in the smallest way.

Quite the contrary; with the speeches out of the way, it has been business as usual. The TPP was negotiated as usual, the Canada-Europe Trade Agreement was unchanged.

The comprehensive agreement between Europe and America, the agreement between Canada and Ukraine, and all the other international agreements being negotiated behind closed doors, with or without public knowledge — all of them continued to be negotiated as charters of freedom for corporations to invest how and where they choose. All of them continued to limit the powers of elected governments to restrict trade in pursuit of humane social policies. All of them continued to give working people the right to be internationally exploited in a "free" labour market and freely deported without any supports should they be injured, ill, or just "surplus".

Now, the opposition has reared its head.

Brexit, the vote in Britain to leave the European Union, was a major message. The threat to CETA from a small region in Europe was another. The election of Donald Trump in the USA was a message of world-shaking importance.

These and other developments all followed the speech in Canada by US President Obama, a speech motivated by years of smaller but growing resistance. These included resistance like the Occupy movement in the USA, the election of an anti-austerity government in Greece, and other acts of popular resistance. These other popular acts were, in one way or another, contained. However, the sentiment behind them continued to grow, and the angry frustration at the lack of change grew with it.

Change is needed. The political left and the political right agree on that. Increasingly, the so-called political centre, the official representatives of the rich and powerful which have, hitherto, seemed to be the sensible, reasonable and natural leaders of society, has also had to agree, at least by paying lip service.

Change is needed — but

what kind of change?

The political right has benefited greatly by the desire for change felt by working people. Right-wing political parties in many European countries have been gaining popular support, and, in some places, seem poised to take part in government or even to assume control.

In the United States, the political right wing has assumed power by taking over one of the parties which was once more or less in the political centre. This did not happen suddenly, but was a process spread over years, as the Tea Party and other ruthless segments of the Republican Party bent the party to their will.

Anyone who doubts the political position of the American President-elect need only think about the haste with which the right-wing European groups (like France's National Front) congratulated him. Though separated by an ocean, the American and the Europeans are united by a shared world outlook. It is an outlook that promotes change, but not change to assist working people.

It promotes change which attacks working people for who they are: working people who have the wrong skin colour (racism), the wrong religion (Islamophobia), the wrong sex (misogyny), the wrong country of origin (xenophobia), the wrong lover (homophobia), and so on.

It promotes change which attacks working people for what they need: universal public health, universal public education, affordable food and housing, secure and adequate jobs, trade union protection on the job, social equality, and many other benefits of an advanced civil society.

This is the kind of change promised by Donald Trump and the right wing parties rising around the world. How do they gain support for such change, which is actually change harming the very working people who vote for it?

(Continued on Page 8.)

From Our Readers

Thanks so much for the lovely pages of events at the AUUC Calgary Branch published in the September, 2016, issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*. The little ones were thrilled to see their pictures in the newspaper!

— Darlene Hrynychshyn
Calgary AB

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.

Oktoberfest at AUUC Toronto Branch

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky

A photo story by Connie Prince.



Sunday, October 23, the Toronto Branch of the AUUC, welcomed friends to Oktoberfest.



Bartenders Diane Garrett and Nancy Stewart provided an enthusiastic crowd with a variety of libations. This was sumptuously complemented by a German buffet, expertly prepared by resident Chef Extraordinaire, Jerry Dobrowolsky, Sous Chef (equally "extraordinaire"), Bernardine Dobrowolsky and her world famous German Potato Salad, Diane Garrett's home baked pumpkin pies and quinoa salad and Nancy Stewart's coleslaw. The food? GENIAL! (awesome)



Ninety-two-year-old Bill Harasym was delighted to celebrate his birthday to a German theme.



While the guests enjoyed their lunches, our recently adopted Italian musician, Albert Iaboni, serenaded them with German, Italian and English music



Albert's music so resonated with Diane and Russell Garrett, that they were compelled to "cut loose" and show us their "jive" moves. (Fred and Ginge — "step" aside!)



A "break" in the dancing was orchestrated by Bernardine Dobrowolsky, who was visibly shaken by the "Donald Trump"/"Charlie Sheen" responses to the trivia question: "What celebrity was ejected, and subsequently banned, from the Munich Oktoberfest?" The actual answer is Paris Hilton — apparently she wore a gold lamé dress promoting some American champagne.



Bill Malnychuk and his partner Adele Paraschuk demonstrated a different dance style.



The icing on the strudel of the event occurred when Yevgen Pogoryelov shared his winnings from the 50/50 draw with the guests. The afternoon? WUNDERBAR!

JoKe TiMe

But I guess it's possible he could be out there practicing law somewhere.

* * *

In a murder trial, 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, when you signed the death certificate, 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.

A doctor was lecturing. "The material we eat is enough to have killed most of us years ago.

Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat diets can be disastrous. But there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and we all have, or will, eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"

After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, "Wedding cake."

AUUC Winnipeg Branch Entertains the Convention

— Photo: Wilfred Schubert

On Saturday, October 8, after the first day of intense discussions at the 46th AUUC National Convention in Winnipeg, delegates and friends attended a banquet and concert at the Ukrainian Labour Temple. This was an opportunity for delegates to relax after a long day, and for people to mingle, greet old friends and make new acquaintances.

AUUC Winnipeg Branch President Glenn Michalchuk welcomed us, and noted that this year is the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada. He noted that the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians was also looking forward to organizing celebratory events to mark its 100th anniversary in two years. He highlighted the importance of the Association in continuing to make the Labour Temple a centre of progressive activity.

In noting our ongoing efforts to engage with the wider community, he mentioned the upcoming showing at the Labour Temple of the National Film Board film, *this river*, a story of the families who drag the Red River as part of their struggle to find missing aboriginal women.

Mr. Michalchuk then introduced two invited guests.

Kevin Lamoureux, Liberal MP for Winnipeg North, spoke about the rich ethnic and cultural diversity of Winnipeg's North End, with particular emphasis on the Ukrainian community. Mr. Lamoureux suggested that Winnipeg's historic Ukrainian Labour Temple would be a fitting location for a Canadian citizenship ceremony. We look forward to exploring this possibility.

Ross Eadie, City Councillor for Mynarski ward, in which the Ukrainian Labour Temple is located, reminisced about his North End childhood, telling of the times he would walk past the Labour Temple and wonder what was going on behind the walls of this massive building. Ross continues



AUUC Winnipeg Branch President Glenn Michalchuk extended a welcome to those in attendance.

— Photo: Wilfred Schubert



Member of Parliament Kevin Lamoureux suggested that the ULT would be a fitting location for a citizenship ceremony.

— Photo: Wilfred Schubert



City Councillor Ross Eadie continues to be a good friend of the AUUC.

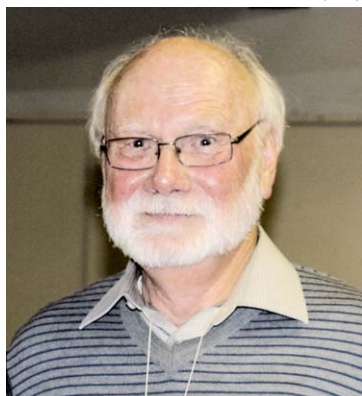
to be a good friend of the AUUC.

After the reception, we were treated to a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The dinner was pre-



Author Tusia Kozub emceed the concert which followed the dinner.

— Photo: Dan Lewycky



AUUC National President Bob Seychuk addressed the concert audience.

— Photo: Wilfred Schubert



A special greeting was extended to Sophie Nemis, a long-time AUUC member who was approaching her 100th birthday.

pared by Steven Hunter, ably assisted by Thea Kaminski.

(Steven also prepared the very tasty delegates' lunches throughout the weekend. Many thanks to Steven, and to the hard-working kitchen crew volunteers.)

After coffee and pumpkin pie, we enjoyed a concert featuring Winnipeg's cultural groups.



Conductor Annis Kozub led the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra through "a delightfully varied program".

— Photo: Wilfred Schubert



The Yunist Dance Ensemble, directed by Justin MacGillivray, performed three spirited dances.

— Photo: Wilfred Schubert



The Festival Choir closed the concert with seven numbers, ending with "Slava pionepam — Glory to the Pioneers".

The entertainment included three spirited dances by the Yunist Dance Ensemble, directed by Justin MacGillivray.

The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, under the baton of Annis Kozub, presented a delightfully varied program, including, among other numbers, "Kolo", "Gabriel's Oboe" and "The Entertainer". An audience favourite was "Tumbalalaika", a traditional Yiddish song arranged by Winnipeg composer Sid Robinovitch.

National President Bob Seychuk briefly addressed the audience with information about the Convention.

Kathy Schubert extended special greetings to Sophie Nemis, a long-time member of AUUC Winnipeg Branch, who would soon be turning 100 years old. Sophie's family is throwing a huge birthday party at the Labour Temple in December to mark this auspicious occasion.

Wilfred Szczesny read the "AUUC Declaration on the 125th Anniversary of Ukrainian Immigration to Canada". The "Declaration", which appeared in the November issue of the "UCH", was adopted earlier that day by the Convention.

The concert ended with the Festival Choir, directed by Lina Streltsov and accompanied by Anna Khomenko. The choir sang seven songs linked together with narration. On this occasion, the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration, each song had special significance because of its connection with our Association's choirs over the years. Their performance ended with "Slava Pioneram — Glory to the Pioneers".

It was a fitting tribute and a rousing ending to a very enjoyable evening.

— Tusia Kozub

First Nations

(Continued from Page 2.)

Similar procedures were followed in seven other First Nations deaths. The OIPRD will investigate whether there was misconduct in the investigation of the eight deaths.

In the midst of all that investigation, after Akvin Fidler, Grand Chief of Nishawbe Aski Nation, wrote a comment to the facebook page of *The Chronicle Journal*, a message in reply, which may have been sent by a mem-

ber of the force, is being investigated by the Thunder Bay Police.

Questions are being raised after it was learned that two men were switched at birth at Norway House Cree Nation hospital. This is the second such switch in the 1970s that has come to light, perhaps too much to be coincidence. The RCMP is investigating.

While the Prime Minister has been very free with declarations and symbols of rec-

onciliation between indigenous people and others, he has been less generous with funding for First Nations. In fact, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found in January that the government discriminates against indigenous children living on reservations.

The government accepted that finding, and set aside \$635 million to right the wrong — or so it seemed. The money is to be spent over five years, with the greatest amount not payable until 2019. The \$71 million for immediate

relief was quite inadequate.

Determining that the government had failed to address the issue adequately, the Human Rights Tribunal issued a second order in April. In September, it issued a third order.

Toward the end of September, the Canadian Human Rights Commission and two First Nations asked a Federal Court judge to find the government in contempt for failing to heed the Tribunal.

Is the government being hypocritical?

At long last, the govern-

ment established a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. With some impatience, the Native Women's Association commented on the lack of visible progress. Chief Commissioner Marion Buller replied that the commission was moving quickly, compared to the usual pace of setting up offices, staff, etc.

The way the project was announced, she said, led to unrealistic expectations that the sessions would start immediately.

At this joyful time, thoughts turn to friends across the country. We share the task of carrying our heritage forward with every graceful dance step.

**Dovbush School of Ukrainian Dance
Vancouver, BC**

May the message of PEACE touch all our Friends Throughout 2017

Lucy, Vadim, Lisa, Anatole, Sean, and Stacey Nykolyshyn, and Rudiger and Lydia Hedrich & their families



Season's Greetings from beyond the mountains to all AUUC Performing Arts Groups and friends across Canada.

Wishing you happiness, hope and peace this holiday season.

**Barvinok Choir and Vancouver Folk Orchestra
Vancouver, BC**

We greet our AUUC family members, friends and supporters throughout Canada and Ukraine.

Peace, Health and Happiness To all in the New Year!

Vancouver AUUC Branch

Greetings and congratulations to all who helped lift the AUUC out of the doldrums with a bright future!

Bill Harasym, Toronto

Ukrainian Holiday Dishes

CABBAGE ROLLS (Holubtsi)

Choose a large head of cabbage. Cut out the core with a sharp pointed knife and place the head in deep pot, cut end up, adding enough boiling water to cover the head completely. Cover the pot and bring it to a boil. Remove the lid and let stand in water until the leaves are soft and pliable.

Drain the cabbage and separate the leaves from the head gently, taking care not to tear them. Cut off the hard centre rib from each leaf. With the larger leaves, divide the leaf in half. Ukrainian cabbage rolls are made smaller and daintier than those of other countries where variations of this dish are also popular.

You will need for the filling:

- 2 cups rice
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 medium onion, chopped fine
- 2 tsp. salt
- Butter or other fat
- Salt and pepper
- 1 to 1½ cups of tomato juice or soup stock.

Wash the rice well to remove all starch. Add salt to boiling water, then add the rice. Bring to a brisk boil, but do not cook completely. Remove from the heat, cover, and allow to stand till all water is absorbed. Cook the onion in the fat until a light golden colour. Mix with rice and season to taste.

Allow to cool. This is the simplest filling, but interesting variations can be made by:

- Substituting soup stock for water in boiling the rice;
- Adding chopped, cooked or fried mushrooms to the rice;
- Adding cooked ground pork or ham to the filling;

Add ¼ cup or more of fresh chopped dill to the filling. Dry dill can also be used, but only a teaspoon.

Your filling cooled off, place a generous portion of filling on each leaf and roll lightly. Before placing rolls in the pot, line the bottom with a few of the large outer leaves to prevent burning. Arrange the rolls in layers, sprinkling each layer with salt (and paprika if desired). Add the tomato juice or soup stock combined with a couple of tablespoons of butter or melted fat over all. Vegetable oil can also be used. Cover with a few leaves to prevent scorching, then cover tightly and bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees) for 1.5 to 2 hours or until both cabbage and filling are cooked. Serve with sour cream, mushroom sauce,

cream sauce, or any other favourite sauce or gravy. They also go well with recipe below.

MARINATED HERRINGS (Oseledtsi)

Marinated herrings are a delectable morsel when properly prepared, and very few holidays go by that the Ukrainian host does not prepare a jar to serve as an appetizer (zakuska) or just as a midnight snack.

Here is a recipe that comes from the Lviv district of Ukraine that might be just different enough to change your method of preparation in its favour.

The herrings (use salt herrings) should be thoroughly soaked and washed in several

changes of water for 24 hours at least. For the last few hours, soak them in milk.

After the soaking, remove the milt, from inside the herrings, mash it fine with the addition of 1 tablespoon of oil and 2 tablespoons of sour cream. Set aside.

Remove the head and tail, skin and bones (this last is optional) from the herrings, then cut each fillet into 3 or 4 pieces. Arrange the herring slices in a glass jar, alternating with onion rings till full. Now mix ½ cup of vinegar, 1 teaspoon of mixed spices, a couple of bay leaves, and ½ cup of water. Add milt marinade and pour over herrings. Cover tightly and let stand for one day before using. They are ready to eat the next day.



To All AUUC Members and Friends



Best Wishes for Health, Happiness and Prosperity in a World of Peace!

Winnipeg AUUC Branch

May 2017 bring Peace, Happiness and Joy to all our friends.

Olga and Myron Shatulsky

To our friends across Canada and in Ukraine, May the New Year bring Good Health, Happiness, Peace and Prosperity.

**Larry and Dianna Kleparchuk
Vancouver, BC**

Best wishes for the holiday season and the coming year. May all your aspirations be fulfilled, all your hopes be met, and all your dreams come true.

**Wilfred and Jennifer Szczesny
Mississauga, Ontario**

COMMENTARY

(Continued from Page 4.)

First, they draw on the anger of the working people flowing from powerlessness and frustration. Then, they direct that anger against other working people (immigrants, Muslims, unionists, women, students, homosexuals, intellectuals, people on social assistance — whoever can be made a target). Third, they present themselves as allies of working people against the “establishment”, whether an amorphous oppressive elite (career politicians, say) or a specific target like Hillary Clinton.

The irony is that they themselves are part of the oppressive elite, but they pose as anti-establishment outsiders. They are able to succeed with that pose because they are well funded to do so. Behind every successful right-wing political movement stands an individual or group with deep pockets.

Donald Trump is an excellent example of all these claims.

A fantastically rich man (though we don't know for sure, as he has not revealed his holdings) who considers cheating to be smart business

and is famous for stiffing his business associates, a person who outsources his business to foreign countries, a man who abuses women and discriminates against people of colour, a candidate who has promised to deprive great numbers of their health care, and on and on — and who was repeatedly exposed as a liar — successfully gained the support of working people. He posed as their champion against the establishment, represented by Hillary Clinton, supposedly responsible for their misery.

He was well funded, not only by direct donations to his campaign, but also by the support for his policies expressed by groups like the National Rifle Association, the Ku Klux Klan, and many others.

How dangerous is the Trump phenomenon?

While it remains to be seen how far down that road he will lead America, it is hard not to see the parallels between the USA on November 8, 2016, and Germany in the early thirties, when Adolph Hitler was “democratically” elected to Germany’s parliament and went on to become dictator. It is also hard not to notice the similarities in the appeal to the voters used by Hitler and Trump.

Hitler decided to use constitutional means, rather than

a violent takeover and showed, once power had been achieved, that he was no democrat.

Donald Trump, even before his election, showed that he was no democrat. What remains to be seen is how far he will go in ignoring the niceties of the system of government, which includes a separation of powers, and sets rules for the functioning of the system.

Similarities notwithstanding, there are also differences between the ascent to power of Adolph Hitler and Donald Trump. For example, one pundit, who claims some success in predicting the course of American politics, foresees that Donald Trump will be impeached midterm, an option not available to the Reichstag.

To be sure, impeachment seems improbable with Republicans controlling both the Senate and the House of Representatives, but improbable is not impossible, as the election demonstrated. If President Trump acts in ways that make Republican loss of power probable, they may well seek to unseat him.

The point is that the centres of power tolerate, and even encourage, the right-wing movements, including the Trump phenomenon, because they are no threat to the system. They allow the disaf-

ected to expend their angry energy without leading to fundamental change. Quite important, they act as a counter to the left-wing opposition which, if it caught on with the masses, would pose a real threat to the positions of the privileged elites.

While we can only speculate about the damage President Trump will do, though he has given us material for some pretty good guesses, we can see already the damage he has done even before attaining the presidency.

Hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of Americans have lived in fear, since November 9. They are afraid of their neighbours and the people they meet on the street, at school, at their work places — wherever they may go. In his electioneering, and then by his election, Donald Trump gave attacks on minorities a certain legitimacy, and the frequency of such attacks has increased. The KKK and other such groups have been bolder in putting out their messages of hatred and in soliciting recruits.

Great numbers of people live in fearful anticipation of how the new Congress and President will restrict family reunion, not to mention the threat of deportation. This includes deportation of people who have never known any other country than America to places that are foreign to them, where they will not know the language, and where they have no supports.

In some instances, the very fact of being deported will make a person an object of official suspicion to a country’s authorities.

By refusing to state unequivocally that he would accept the election results if he lost, Mr. Trump has given fuel to the opponents to his own election, who have been demonstrating with chants of “Not My President”. These demonstrations will probably die out over time, but people could die before that.

Another image from Germany comes to mind, of Nazis battling their political enemies in the street. Of course, depending on what President Trump and Congress decide to do, popular demonstrations in opposition may become a saving grace upholding the honour of the Republic.

In Canada, at least one aspirant to Conservative leadership is following Trump’s lead.

It will be interesting to see how the international community deals with President Donald Trump. Ukraine and others have already put the squeeze on concerning Russia. Japan has checked whether it has to become a nuclear power. Will Cuba be pushed back to the 1990s? Will Mexico pay for the wall (which may be a fence)?

Interesting times indeed!

Ukrainian Canadian Herald

Season’s Greetings

Remember your family and friends with a message! We invite you to express seasonal greetings through an ad in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* in the January, 2017, issue. One line (name and city) on two columns is only \$10.00. A five-line ad as shown is only \$35.00. **See the diagram on this page for sizes.** Larger ads are \$5.00/col./cm.

Deadline: December 10, 2016, for January, 2017.

Send your request to:
 SEASON’S GREETINGS MESSAGE
 595 Pritchard Avenue,
 Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4
 Phone 1-800-856-8242, Fax: (210) 589-3404
 e-mail: auuckobzar@mts.net

or: SEASON’S GREETINGS MESSAGE
 1604 Bloor Street West
 Toronto ON M6P 1A7
 Phone : 416-588-1639 Fax: 416-588-9180
 e-mail: kobzar2@aim.com

Please indicate the desired ad size:
 \$10.00 (One line: name and city only)
 \$20.00 (Two-line greeting — up to 10 words)
 \$25.00 (Three-line greeting — up to 15 words)
 \$30.00 (Four-line greeting — up to 20 words)
 \$35.00 (Five-line greeting — up to 25 words)
 Other

Greeting in: English _____ Ukrainian _____

Request sent by:
 Mail: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 e-mail: _____ Or in person: _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Prov. _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 e-mail: _____

MESSAGE:

Date: _____ Signature: _____
 Cheque enclosed _____
 Invoice required _____ Office receipt # _____

Season’s Greeting Ad sizes at Various Prices

Name and city (one line only)	10.00
Two-line greeting..... (up to 10 words)	\$20.00
Name and city	
(up to 15 words)	\$25.00
..... Three-line greeting.....	
Name and city	
(up to 20 words).....	\$30.00
..... Four Line Greeting.....	
Name and city	
(up to 25 words).....	\$35.00
..... Five-line greeting	
Name and city	

Ukrainian Miscellany

Incompetent Russian-Terrorist Forces

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress regularly issues "Crisis in Ukraine: Daily Briefing". The November 18, 2016, issue started:

"1. Russian Invasion of Ukraine

"The National Security and Defense (sic) Council of Ukraine (RNBO) reported that yesterday towards Luhansk, Russian-terrorist forces fired on Ukrainian positions at Stanytsia Luhanska, Krymske, Orikhove and Zolote. Near Popasne, Rus-

sian-terrorist forces shelled Ukrainian positions with artillery. Towards Donetsk, Russian-terrorist forces fired on Ukrainian positions at Avdiyivka. At Troitske, Zaytseve and Pisky, Russian-terrorist forces shelled Ukrainian positions with mortars. Towards Mariupol, Russian-terrorist forces shelled Ukrainian positions along the Pavlopil-Shyrokyne line with mortars and artillery. The RNBO reported that in the last 24 hours, no Ukrainian sol-

diers were killed and one Ukrainian soldier was wounded in action."

Each edition begins the same way: a recitation of many attacks with artillery and/or mortars, ending with an incredibly low Ukrainian casualty count.

It's somewhat like Hollywood movies in which the bad guys, whoever they may be (the cattle baron's sons, the gangsters, the foreign agents, the extraterrestrials, the Indians), can't shoot the hero to save their lives.

Perhaps the heavy weapons sent to Donetsk, Luhansk, or wherever, to Russian-terrorist forces should come with instructions.

Record Grain Harvest Is Trouble

Bloomberg News reported on November 18 that bumper harvests in Ukraine, the breadbasket of Eastern Europe, "from wheat to corn to sunflowers, is overwhelming the capacity of a money-losing rail monopoly that hasn't added a new freight locomotive in almost five decades and can't keep up with the pace of repairs on battered and broken grain wagons. Longer waits to secure transport are disrupting deliveries in a country that is one of the world's biggest shippers of grain."

"While the amount of grain shipped by rail increased in recent years as Ukraine's agriculture industry expanded, the number of rail cars fell because junked wagons weren't replaced by the Ukrainian Railway Co., or *Ukrzaliznytsya*."

"Production of Ukraine's

seven biggest crops will jump to a record 85.8 million metric tons in the 2016-2017 season, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Grain exports are forecast by Kiev-based researcher UkrAgroConsult to rise 6 percent to a record 40.7 million tons, adding to pressure on railroads connecting fields to export terminals on the Black Sea."

"The country sees a grain harvest of 64 million tons this year, also an all-time high, Agriculture Minister Taras Kutovyi told *Interfax*...."

"Ukrzaliznytsya, which controls rail lines in Ukraine and almost two-thirds of its grain wagons, failed for years to invest in replacing equipment, including grain hoppers, according to Chief Executive Officer Wojciech Balczun.

"The number of wagons is in constant decline," Balczun

told the government.... 'For many years, Ukrzaliznytsya has been using up and wearing out its reserves.'"

"In the three years through 2015, the company disposed of 192 grain hoppers that weren't replaced.... As of March, eight more had been discarded this year. Each hopper can carry about 70 tons of grain."

"Balczun wants to raise prices he says are too low, given the investment needed to upgrade the railroad, though the government hasn't indicated it would support an increase. Corruption at the company remains 'a huge problem,' Balczun has said...."

"We're not planning to buy hoppers," Balczun said in an e-mailed response to queries. "We see opportunity for more efficient use of cars by our clients' and more privately operated wagons, he said."

Ukraine "is among the biggest exporters of sunflower oil, barley, rapeseed, corn and wheat."

Saakashvili Launches Political Party

Days after his resignation as governor of Odessa Region, former Georgian president Mikheil Saakashvili launched a new political party in Ukraine.

A *Reuters* report on November 11 reported that Saakashvili said that "his new party would not have ties to big business and would not accept politicians or officials who had been in public life for a long time."

Saakashvili severely criticized Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, one of Ukraine's wealthiest businessmen. He charged that the President was less interested in reform than in building his personal wealth and that of his friends.

Saakashvili, in making his

announcement, played up positive comments about him made by American President-elect Donald Trump. He also adopted some of Trump's election-winning rhetoric. "Our goal is to change the current so-called political elite," he is quoted as saying, "in reality — the dregs of society, those who are identical to the Russian ruling class."

Mikheil Saakashvili was granted Ukrainian citizenship in early 2015, to allow him to assume the governorship of Odessa. He was one of several foreigners brought in, supposedly, to eliminate corruption in Ukraine and improve transparency. Many have since resigned or been dismissed, usually with bitter exchanges about President

Poroshenko's failure to support efforts at reform.

Going further, Saakashvili charged that President Poroshenko had replaced President Yanukovich's "old cronies" with his own "basically racketeer businesses".

President Poroshenko replied through an official, Vitaliy Kovalchuk, who essentially accused Saakashvili of incompetence, a standard Poroshenko tactic also applied to head of Odessa port customs, Yulia Marushevskaya, a Ukrainian who also resigned, and police chief Dekanoidze, a former Georgian government minister.

Ukrainian citizens perceive a high level of corruption in the country. A recent poll found that three Ukrainians out of four think that corruption now is no better than it was under former President Viktor Yanukovich.

Visa-Free Regime for Ukraine

Back when they were dumping President Yanukovich, Ukrainians expected all sorts of things which have not materialised. One of those expectations was easy access to Western Europe. It seems like forever that Ukraine has been seeking this benefit, which the European Union has not readily granted.

On November 18, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress reported in "Crisis in Ukraine" that the prize was "one step closer".

The report was rather full of bureaucratic gobbledegook, with phrases like "agreed, on behalf of the European Council, 'a negotiating position on visa liberalisation'", "It confirmed the Commission proposal", "the entry into force of visa liberalisation for Ukraine should be

at the same time as the entry into force of the new suspension mechanism", and so on.

The situation is that, "On the basis of this mandate, the presidency will start negotiations with the European Parliament."

"Peter Javorcik, Slovakia's Permanent Representative to the EU and President of the Permanent Representatives Committee, stated, 'By giving its green light today, the Council has demonstrated its commitment to visa-free travel for citizens of Ukraine, taking into account that all requirements have been met. Credible reform is the right path and should be encouraged....'"

All of that could conceivably mean actual progress, but it is not unreasonable to wonder how many more steps there may be.

CUFTA

Kyiv and Ottawa signed a free trade agreement on Monday, July 11, after two years of talks. Under the agreement, Canada will open 98% of its market to Ukrainian exporters.

Kyiv estimates trade with Canada at \$263.8 million as of 2014. In 2013, Ukraine was the 55th-most important destination for Canadian exports and 86th-largest source of Canadian imports.

"This extremely important document will raise trade and economic relations between the two countries to a new level," said First Vice-Prime Minister of Ukraine Stepan Kubiv on his Facebook page.

The talks started in September, 2014. The new agreement aims to develop eco-

nomics and trade cooperation between the two countries. In particular, it is intended to make trading of industrial and agricultural goods easier, and deal with intellectual property protection and public procurement issues.

It also implies the removal of trade restrictions and the complete abolition of trade tariffs after a grace period of three to seven years.

Ukraine's main exports to Canada are copper wares, mineral fuel, oil and refining products, ferrous metals, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and fertilizers.

Canada has the third largest Ukrainian population in the world (more than a million people) after Ukraine itself and Russia, however, only one-tenth of that population speaks or understands the Ukrainian language.

National Police Chief Resigns

On November 14, *UNIAN News* reported the resignation of Khatia Dekanoidze, Chief of Ukraine's National Police. Her deputy, Vadym Troyan, has been appointed Acting Chief.

Ms. Dekanoidze was the last of the post Yanukovich Georgian reformers still serving. Her resignation followed closely on the departure of Mikheil Saakashvili, who stepped down as governor of the Odessa region on November 7.

Georgian Eka Zguladze, the Deputy Interior Minister who had overseen the creation of the new National Police force,

resigned in May, 2016.

Ms. Dekanoidze, in a statement, addressed three main challenges to her work: the first was inadequate financing to allow efficient operation; the second was the need to reform the prosecution system and the courts; the third was political interference in the work of the police.

"Politicians can not and should not use or try to use the forces of law enforcement to defend their political interests. Without an understanding of this, the country will sooner or later be doomed to a confrontation between society and government," she wrote.

125th Ukrainian Canadian Anniversary

The first 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* has published a series of articles discussing aspects of the Ukrainian Canadian experience.

We conclude this series with remarks delivered by Myrna Kostash on September 24 in Edmonton, at “*Tak bulo*” (That’s How It Was) the commemoration of the 125th anniversary staged by AUUC Edmonton Branch. (For a report, see the November, 2016, issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*. We thank the author for permission to print this material, which we have edited to conform to “UCH” style.

Some weeks ago I was invited by a progressive arts and culture magazine in Toronto to contribute an item in celebration of their 50th anniversary. As the editor put it, “We’ve reached out to all corners of the country to ask interesting, forward-thinking Canadians what ideas Canada needs now to bring us into the next 50 years.”

How could I refuse? But which idea, exactly?

Then, almost back-to-back, the very different governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan announced that 2016-17 was the Year of the Ukrainian-Canadian. And I knew I had my subject. Here’s the title from the magazine: **Time for a reboot: 125 Years and Counting: Ukrainians celebrate settlement**

I was writing for a virtually unUkrainian audience, so here is how I began (and please indulge me the use of the collective “we” – it does not include everybody, as will be apparent).

“We Ukrainian-Canadians landed east of Edmonton in 1892 on our proverbial quarter-sections and ever since have never stopped extolling the wisdom of our forebears in choosing to settle on ‘free lands’ in an apparent ‘wilderness’ on which railway track had been fortuitously laid for our benefit. Years of the familiar litany of perseverance, fortitude and sacrifice followed, and, hey, presto! Rolling fields of wheat and canola – on farms so big they look like the *kolkhozes* of Soviet yesteryear – and in the cities other fruits of great-great-grandbaba’s resilience: our PhDs and QCs, our SUVs and time-shares, our cabinet ministers and comedians on CBC TV.

“We visit the ancestral graves in rural church yards: headstones written in Cyrillic we no longer know how to read. We vote for politicians with Ukrainian last names who send us Easter and Christmas greetings in our community newspapers in Cyrillic which they can’t read either. We send our kids to Ukrainian dance school – great costumes – because we are so damn colourful. We eat perogies – not *pyrohy* any more – and send money to orphans in Ukraine (there’s a lot of them) and wear Remembrance Day poppies because, you know, like, we’re proud Canadians.

“Ever since we Ukrainian-Canadians climbed up from bohunk status to poster kids of multiculturalism in the 1970s, we have scarcely changed our tune.”

What was I, am I, so upset about?

Ever since I wrote *All of Baba’s Children* way back in 1978 – that’s 38 years ago, more than a generation ago – I have been alert to the ways in which we Ukrainian-Canadians construct our stories, our history, our narratives as an ethnic community. Forty years ago it was a case of challenging my *parents’* generation of historians and writers, whom I pronounced guilty of whitewashing, sentimentalizing, and misrepresenting our history or histories in order to present a safe and sanitized version for mass consumption in an Anglo-American, Coca-Colanized, Slavophobic society.

Well, you can see I was on my high horse. But I struck many nerves – I made friends and enemies with that book – but the fact is it has never gone out of print. There is still something Ukrainian-Canadians (and other hyphenated readers) find refreshing in my take-no-prisoners approach.

But now, looking at how we are celebrating 125 years of settlement, with the addition of newer generations in the mix, I am feeling that I have to write *All of Baba’s Children* all over again.

Why am I feeling this?

The *Edmonton Journal* published a report on the Harvest Festival recently held at one of our most popular and attractive institutions for the general public, the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village.

The reporter quoted the Village’s head of communications, David Makowsky: “This is the history not only of what the Ukrainian pioneers would have done in the Fall time but also other pioneers, other immigrants, who came to Alberta and settled here to take advantage of the homestead land the Canadian government was offering.”

I read on, hoping for an acknowledgement that our history in this country has moved on ... and I found it. A visitor, Randy Grant, admitted he had come to the Festival “for the perogies”. Makowsky again: “We want people to get a sense of natural history, cultural history and just the human history of early Alberta.”

To be fair, this is pretty in-



Myrna Kostash spoke at “*Tak bulo*” (That’s How It Was) in Edmonton on September 24. The text on these pages varies slightly from her remarks at that event.

clusive – immigrant history covers a plurality of communities – but the claim that the *Ukrainian Heritage Village* – or anyone’s *Heritage Village* – can give us a sense of “human history” is, in my view, a stretch.

Similarly, the promotional video of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Museum. We see video of a horse-drawn wagon, onion-domed churches, a grain elevator, a young woman in a *babushka* weeding her garden. The amiable narrator in a woollen flat cap tells us that a visit here is “a way for Albertans to learn about their past”.

Albertans? In their undifferentiated Albertanness? This also is an unsustainable claim.

I’m being picky, perhaps, and hard on the *Ukrainian Village*, but it is the very visible, very active and successful face we present to visitors as our “heritage” and has a special responsibility, I would argue, for the story it constructs.

Construction of our history in this province since the 1890s is everywhere replicated in summary accounts that begin with Ivan Pylypiw and Wasyl Eleniak, early “catalysts” of Galician immigration, proceed through the life-stories of settlers who “persevered and prevailed”, in spite of frankly racist bigotry from “British Canada”, to produce intellectuals, professionals and businessmen who gradually assimilated into mainstream Canadian society without losing, for a couple of generations anyway, their pride in their church, their language, their colourful folklore. “Kiss me,” read a button once, “I’m Ukrainian.”

The implication is that, prior to the prodigious investment of our labour, the land had

been useless, unproductive, and uninhabited. Albertans will learn nothing here of the fact that we had taken homestead title on land ceded to the Crown by Cree signatories of Treaty Six in 1876 and a mere seven years after the North-West Resistance of 1885, a resistance that was fatally broken.

(Speaking personally, if I were to rewrite *All of Baba’s Children*, I would now myself have to acknowledge that I had completely ignored Indigenous pre-contact history on the “*vil’ni zemli*” in my “radical” account of our history on the prairies. I would acknowledge that a mere 15 years separated the hanging of Louis Riel – and, a few weeks later, of eight Indigenous warriors at Fort Battleford in Canada’s only mass hanging – from the year my grandfather took out homestead title on that “free” land at Royal Park. Fifteen years! It may as well have been 1500 years for all the attention we paid to the people who had been cleared off the land in sometimes brutal circumstances so we could prosper.

(What do we know of the Peasant Policy of 1889 by which First Nations were to copy “peasants of various countries” and keep their operations small and their machinery rudimentary? A single acre of wheat, a portion of a second acre of roots and vegetables, and a cow or two were to support an Indian farmer and his family. First Nations people were thought too primitive to succeed in agriculture.

The *peasant farming policy* was implemented to protect and maintain non-First Nations farming pursuits. I repeat: **to protect and maintain non-First Nations farming pursuits.** That’s us and ours.

(Then there came the Pass and Permit system. It gave the Indian agents and farm instructors great power in flow of goods in and out of the reserve, where First Nations farmers had to attain permits to sell their goods. Sometimes permits were not granted or were granted too late and the goods rotted.

Now, why would they want to do that? **Successful farming on the reserves — i.e., that which produced a surplus — was considered a direct threat to the viabil-**

ity of immigrant farmers. That’s us. The Permit system remained in the Indian Act until 1995.)

At our Heritage Days, our pioneer villages, our *pysanky* festivals, what do Albertans learn of the remarkable success of Ukrainian-Canadian socialists and Communists in organizing immigrants, not on farms but in the packing plants, the mines, the extra gangs on the railways? It’s as though the only narrative worth commemorating is the one down on the homestead and in the country churches and small towns in the bloc settlement, whence flowed our entire “heritage”, and where there was no misery, no alcoholism, no anti-Semitism, no racism, no abuse and assault of women and children ... and no social and political activists to combat them.

What about our relatives in the cities, who worked on the killing floor of the packing plants, dug ditches, took in washing, cleaned houses, and never went to church? They went to the Labour and Farmer Temples. They subscribed to Ukrainian-language socialist newspapers. They sent husbands and brothers to the Spanish Civil War to defend the Spanish Republic from a fascist coup d’état. They crowded the halls to see a new play from Soviet Ukrainian playwrights, in which capitalists and landlords got the heave-ho.

At the 1931 convention of the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association, it was declared that “cultural-educational work should at last be put on the right class track. All the bourgeois-urban trash, in drama as well as song, should be thrown out from our labour-farmer stage.” (Not to idealize this milieu – this wasn’t necessarily a popular slogan; and ordinary members of the Temple eventually wanted to know just what had happened to those Soviet playwrights such as Myroslav Irchan who disappeared in the Stalinist Terror of the 1930s.)

They were CCFers and socialists and communists, pacifists, suffragists, anti-racists, health workers, union organizers, teachers, orchestra conductors, as passionate about their Galician heritage and their place in Canada as any other Ukrainian immigrants and families.

The unsuspecting Albertans at our heritage festivals will be told none of this. And so they will have no idea how complex “settler” identity is. How a family of landless Galicians in bare feet, disembarked on an Edmonton station platform, could also be unwitting squatters on Indigenous land. How, three generations later, Ukrainian-Canadians struggle to remember the stories great-
(Continued on Page 11.)

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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National Executive Committee AUUC
595 Pritchard Avenue
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Phone: 800-856-8242 Fax: (204) 589-3404
E-mail: mail@auucobzar.net Web site: auuc.ca

VANCOUVER BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
805 East Pender Street
Vancouver BC V6A 1V9
Phone: (604) 254-3436 Fax: (604) 254-3436
E-mail: auucvancouver@telus.net
Website: www.auucvancouver.ca

CALGARY BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
3316-28 Avenue SW
Calgary AB T3E0R8
Phone: (403) 246-1231
E-mail: Calgaryhopak@shaw.ca

EDMONTON BRANCH

Ukrainian Centre
11018-97 Street
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VEGREVILLE BRANCH

c/o Lil Humeniuk
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REGINA BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
1809 Toronto Street
Regina SK S4P 1M7
Phone: (306) 522-1188 Web site: www.poltava.ca

WINNIPEG BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
591 Pritchard Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4 ult-wpg.ca
Phone: (204) 582-9269 Fax: 589-3404

OTTAWA BRANCH

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TORONTO BRANCH

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COFFEE & A CIGARETTE? BETTER TAKE A WALK

A person is 50 years old. He has a busy life but sometimes feels tired and inclined to take a nap after work. If the job requires it, he can still spend several nights in succession working, smoking one cigarette after another and fortifying himself with cups of strong coffee. Suddenly, he feels a sharp pain in his heart.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Heart attacks can be forestalled by walking.

Here are a few recommendations.

At the end of the working day, on your way home, set aside half an hour for walking. For example, if travelling by public transport, get off the bus some distance from home. If driving, walk around the block. In some cities 25 per cent of trips by car and 12 percent of those by public transport are made over a distance of less than one kilometre. You would do well to cover it on foot.

Raise your head slightly. Thrust your hips forward and your back will assume a correct position. Start a step from the hip, so to speak, rather than from the knee. Naturally, one can't remember this at all times in day-to-day walking, but the more frequently you practise it the sooner your walk will improve.

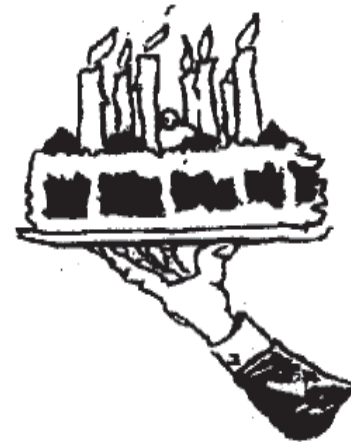
Keep up this easy fashion of homecoming — if possible, in any weather. At some moment you will no doubt catch yourself thinking: "I feel better." After all, walking, even slow walking, is capable of making changes in all organs and tissues of your body and of normalizing your nervous system.

Soon you will develop a competitive urge — a desire to catch up and overtake other pedestrians. Choose someone who is walking some 10 metres in front of you. On leaving the "target" behind choose

another "victim" and pursue him without reducing speed. However, your choice must be honest: don't opt for some old woman! First, pick coevals, then catch up with, and outstrip younger people. Your speed of walking will imperceptibly increase and you will find yourself spending less time on getting to wherever you're going.

The next thing to consider is your breathing. First make a deep exhalation, then a deeper inhalation (as if trying to sniff the air). The exhalation. **(Continued on Page 12.)**

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Nina Uhryn

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

The **Toronto Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to December celebrants:

Lydia Kit
Lori Miskevich

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends birthday greetings to December celebrant:

Elizabeth Montagliani

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

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

Pat Shipticki
Mary Sielski

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

Sustaining Fund Donations

Bill Bilecki/Joan Kowalewich, Burnaby BC	\$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.

Myrna Kostash

(Continued from Page 10.) grandbaba told them of the "Indiandy" down the section road who hired on at harvest time ("good workers"), stories told once and never again. Why aren't they included in our harvest festivals?

How nevertheless their grandchildren would also call this land "mother" and give thanks for it through their own labour in the face of economic despair and dispossession. How some forebears skipped the homestead altogether and worked as actual ditch-diggers in Edmonton, inspired on their picket lines by Wobblies from Butte, Montana; worked as laundresses for the "English" families who handed down much-appreciated win-

ter coats. How the settlers' children became schoolteachers in the back of beyond, the necessary bridge between ancestral folk customs and more-British-than-thou patriotism. I could go on.

The alternative stories are legion, and I am learning some of them as I prow through my own family's "archive", which includes that ditch-digger, that laundress, those schoolteachers, and even a great-uncle who was deported from Canada as a radical, and vanished.

They offer us the wonderful opportunity to turn our attention to our stories, not in nostalgia, but in critique and re-imagination.

— Myrna Kostash

COFFEE & A CIGARETTE?

(Continued from Page 11.) tion should be longer — as if blowing up a balloon.

Now you have reached your home — taking 25 minutes instead of the usual 30. Congratulate yourself and, as a reward, in the spare five minutes try to make it to your floor — at least part of the

way — on foot. Each flight of stairs will increase your pride in your achievement, so that by the time you cross the threshold of your home you will feel every inch the hero. Only mind that the stair climbing is daily, not occasional. Start with one flight, then increase the number to two, three.

Climbing stairs consumes 15 calories a minute.

According to research fig-

ures, a person expends the same amount of energy when crossing a plain at a speed of 3.5 kilometres an hour with a load of 100 kilograms on his back.

So, if you feel seedy and wish to shake off the stress of the working day, don't reach for a cigarette or a cup of coffee. Walk at least part of the way home. And don't rush to flop down on the sofa to watch TV.

Deals

(Continued from Page 1.) be Europe's road into North America. — unless President Trump closes that trade route.

What appears to be the case is that Canada has a big appetite for bilateral agreements country-to-country. Who knew that we had an FTA with Jordan or the Honduras,

to mention just two?

And who even heard of a Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement? Canada has a long list of those.

Of course, you probably want to have them if you intend to invest your money in a lot of foreign countries, and it turns out that Canada sure does.

JoKe TiMe

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.

"Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition, because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'."

* * *
First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper... it's worse when you forget to pull it down.

* * *
When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra and Acne!

Values

(Continued from Page 1.) day, it is no sanctuary.

There was a protection against self-incrimination, but now, you have to give them your password and encryption key.

I remember a time when only the bad guys used torture; now you can't tell the good guys from the bad guys.

Which of those Canadian values shall we expect the applicant for permanent resi-

dency to espouse?

Of course when I was much younger, there were other Canadian values, too.

Homosexuals were sickos against whom it was okay to discriminate, including jailing them for certain expressions of their sexuality.

Pregnant girls should be sent away so they won't bring shame on the family.

People with certain kinds of illnesses, tics, etc. should be kept out of sight, so as not to offend our sensibilities.

Winnipeg Concert and Supper



The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, conducted by Annis Kozub, played to a large audience.

— Story photos: Victor Dobchuk



The Festival Choir, conducted by Lina Streltsov and accompanied by Anna Khomenko, performed selections which, together, told a story of Ukrainian immigration to Canada.

On Sunday, November 6, the Winnipeg Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians hosted our annual "Fall Concert and Perogy Supper". Building on the suc-

cess of last year's inaugural event, this year saw an increase in attendance — an almost sold-out crowd.

The concert performance was similar to that of the re-

cent Convention Banquet, featuring the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, the Festival Choir, the Yunist Dance Ensemble, and several of our youngest dancers from the AUUC School of Folk Dance.

This was followed by a delicious Ukrainian supper and dessert. It was nice to see the basement hall so packed and the food lineup reaching through the hall and all the way up the stairs!

Thank you, as always, to our volunteers, members and friends, who make these fundraising events successful and so much fun!

— Emily Halldorson

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — Dovbush School of Ukrainian Dance Recital will be held on Sunday, December 11, at 2:00 p.m. at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 805 East Pender Street. Tickets available at the door.

* * *

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will host Malanka – Ukrainian New Year Celebration on Saturday, January 21, at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 805 East Pender Street. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for cocktails. Cultural Performance at 6:15 p.m., with dinner and dancing to live music to follow. Tickets: \$50.00/person. To purchase yours, call (604) 254-3436.

* * *

Calgary — Calgary Ukrainian Hopak Ensemble will stage Winter Concert: Celebrate the Season at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 4, at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 3316–28 Avenue SW. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance, or \$15.00 at the door. Tickets are available by calling Darlene at 403-271-2379.

* * *

Calgary — Calgary Ukrainian Hopak Ensemble will host Malanka: A Ukrainian New Year's Celebration. Cocktails from 6:00 p.m. followed by a traditional Ukrainian supper, then dance the night away to the music of a live band, on Saturday, January 14, at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 3316–28 Avenue SW. For tickets, call the Ukrainian Cultural Centre at 403-246-1231.

* * *

Regina — On January 14, Ukrainian New Year's celebration Malanka will be enjoyed at the Regina Performing Arts Councils (RPAC), 1077 Angus at 4th Avenue. Cocktail hour, banquet, cultural program by the AUUC Poltava Ensemble and dance — all for the low price of only \$50.00. Tickets available only by calling the RPAC Box Office at 779-2277. Sponsored by the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians.

* * *

Winnipeg — AUUC Winnipeg Branch invites you to a Xmas Potluck Party. Save the date — Sunday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m.

* * *

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



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