

# HERALD ВІСНИК

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## 46th AUUC National Convention

— Photo: Wilfred Schubert



Among participants in the 46th AUUC National Convention were: (seated, left to right) Shirley Uhryn, Dianna Kleparchuk, Debbie Skrabek, Gloria Gordienko, Luda Dabeka, Zena Bolychuk, Pat Dzatko; (first standing row, left to right) Kathy Schubert, Larry Kleparchuk, Janice Beck, Wilfred Szczesny, Lucy Nykolyshyn, Blyth Nuttall, Bob Ivanochko, Lorna Clark; (second standing row) Bill Uhryn, Vera Seychuk, Luda Dabeka, Emily Halldorson, Michael Semanowich, George Sitak, Eugene Plawiuk; (last row) Dan Fung, Michael Parasiuk, Andrew Thompson, Bob Seychuk, Glenn Michalchuk, Sharon Dentry.

The 46th AUUC National Convention, held at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg on the weekend of October 8-10, 2016, was held in a spirit of cooperative optimism not seen since the 40th AUUC National Convention held in 1997, when the decision was made to relocate the national office of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians to Edmonton.

An important factor in producing the friendlier, more cooperative atmosphere was the new financial circumstances in which the AUUC

finds itself. The sale of property in Ontario and Alberta, while not transforming the AUUC into a mega-corporation, has provided funding to enable the organization to restore programs which had been eliminated and to look at new initiatives.

An equally, perhaps even more, important factor in producing the new atmosphere was the absence of divisive issues on the convention floor. For the first time in years, the supporters of the AUUC leadership which was replaced in 2001, at the 41st National

Convention, were not a factor. Furthermore, for the moment at least (and for the foreseeable future, it is to be hoped), the conflict within the AUUC Edmonton Branch has abated, and (again, for the first time in years) did not obstruct the Convention's progress. Also, for the first time in a long time, there was no conflict over management or disposition of property.

The differences which continue to exist in the AUUC were, for the most part, set aside. Instead, the Branch delegates and National Commit-

tee members concentrated their attention on a positive, hopeful approach to the future.

A significant example of this new outlook was the discussion of the celebration in 2018 of the 100th anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. With an empty treasury and declining strength, the accent before the Convention was on what the organization could not do. The Convention dedicated an entire session discussing the anniversary, and emerged with a new focus — the “We can't do a festival,” attitude was replaced by a “How can we do a festival?” approach.

In the new spirit, the National Committee is meeting on the weekend of November 19 and 20, with National Committee Alternates and resource people, to explore the possibilities for a festival.

Of course, as was made plain at the Convention, the AUUC will celebrate its anniversary in other ways as well, and not just with a festival. Again, the delay means that details and specific ideas still remain to be decided.

Participants in the Convention discussions were in no mood to haggle over money, but were interested in adding to and strengthening the AUUC legacy — not by do-

nating to third parties, but by building the AUUC component, including the institutions established over the years by the AUUC.

This led to decisions to consider funding for the Canadian Society for Ukrainian Labour Research, agreement to assist with upgrading the Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple, restoration of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* to eleven issues annually, and an expressed interest in negotiating a restructuring of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation to provide more flexibility to that institution to achieve its purposes.

The 46th AUUC National Convention featured a number of innovations, at least as concerns AUUC conventions. The very first one was at the very beginning — a smudge ceremony conducted by elder Madaleine Hatch. This was only one of several ways in which First Nations were part of the Convention. (The next issue of the “UCH” will carry an article reporting on this in **(Continued on Page 2.)**)

## The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated December, 2016. Announcements of events in December, 2016, or early January, 2017, as well as articles for the December, 2016, issue should be in our office by November 10. Thank you for your consideration.

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## AUUC Declaration on the 125th Anniversary of Ukrainian Immigration to Canada

This year, 2016, we mark the 125th anniversary of the arrival in Canada of Wasyl Eleniak and Ivan Pylypiw, Ukrainian peasants scouting the land and evaluating its merits as a new home for their families and compatriots. Much impressed by what they saw, they became the first two drops of a tidal wave of immigration from Ukraine. As we mark this anniversary, we celebrate the remarkable achievements of the Ukrainian Canadian community and its members.

Those achievements have been a magnificent contribution to the building of this country. The Ukrainian peasants (the “men in sheepskin coats” – and the women) who were the overwhelming component of the first wave of immigrants, which stretched from 1891 to the outbreak of World War I in 1914, opened up vast tracts of agricultural land while also serving governmental interest in securing the land from possible American claims and making viable the vision of a railroad span-

ning the continent “from sea to sea”, from the eastern maritime provinces to the riches of the Pacific Ocean.

They helped build that railroad, adding their sweat and blood to mile upon mile of steel. They also helped build the towns and cities that sprang up along the main corridor of communication and transportation and the branch lines. Like many others, they often gave life and limb in the forests and mines which provided the building materials feeding **(Continued on Page 2.)**

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## 46th AUUC National Convention



The outgoing National Executive Committee served as the Convention Steering Committee: (left to right) Wilfred Szczesny, Kathy Schubert, Bob Seychuk, Glenn Michalchuk, Debbie Skrabek.

(Continued From Page 1.) detail.)

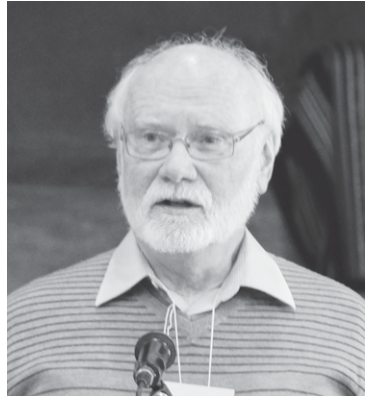
Another innovation, though hardly an innovation in the broader world outside AUUC convention, was in the session discussing the AUUC centennial celebration. The Convention was divided into smaller groups, which, after about an hour and a half, returned to plenary session to report on their discussion.

Because the chair of the session lacked experience with this form, the start was a bit rocky, but the small groups, once formed and in session, carried on a lively and productive discussion.

It was a busy Convention, with numerous reports among its agenda items. This began



Edmonton delegate Paul Greene opposed seating the National Committee.



Bob Seychuk was re-elected National President.

with the President's Report. In his report, National President Bob Seychuk discussed in some detail the changed financial circumstances of the AUUC. He also discussed at some length a letter sent to the National Committee in May, 2015, signed by four Alberta Branch Presidents.

The report spoke of the problem of declining membership, and suggested some measures to reverse the trend.

Questions of governance related to the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation and the AUUC itself were broached. A discussion of legacy led to several proposals, including the addition of the post of Past President to the National Executive Com-

Unless otherwise indicated, photos for this story are by Dennis Lewycky.

mittee and increasing the National Committee by an additional member.

President Seychuk ended his report with a strong statement against any thoughts of eliminating the national level of leadership or "Balkanizing" the organization.

A motion approving the addition of the Past President as a voting member of the NEC was passed, with Blyth Nuttall and Eugene Plawiuk requesting that their opposition be recorded. Enlarging the National Committee by one was also approved.

AUUC Edmonton Branch President and delegate Andrew Thompson requested that his abstention on the vote to receive the President's Report be recorded.

The Treasurer's Report, presented by Kathy Schubert, and the Audit Committee Report, given by Vera Seychuk, went



Welland delegate George Sitak reported on activity in his Branch.

— Photo: Wilfred Schubert



Elected at the Convention were: (Seated left to right) Shirley Uhryn, NC member; Dianna Kleparchuk, NC member; Debbie Skrabek, National Recording-Secretary; Lorna Clark, NC member; Gloria Gordienko, National Audit Committee; Kathy Schubert, National Treasurer; (first row standing, left to right) Larry Kleparchuk, NC Alternate; Michael Parasiuk, NC member; Vera Seychuk, National Audit Committee; Wilfred Szczesny, National Vice-President; Bob Seychuk, National President; Luda Dabeka, NC Alternate; Bob Ivanochko, NC member; (back row, standing left to right) Tim Gordienko, NC Alternate; Eugene Plawiuk, NC Alternate; Andrew Thompson, NC member; Glenn Michalchuk, National Vice-Recording Secretary; Eugene Semanowich, National Audit Committee; Emily Halldorson, NC member. Absent: Gerry Shmyr, National Past President; Nykol Kroeker, NC Alternate.



Treasurer Kathy Schubert was re-elected to her post.

through with less controversy.

President Seychuk's reports from the Lands Development Committee and the Investment Committee, both of which he chairs, generated interest but not controversy.

The Constitution Committee report presented by Wilfred Szczesny was received, and the recommended constitutional amendments were adopted, as was the proposal that a Constitution Committee be constituted

as a standing committee.

The Convention also adopted the "AUUC Declaration on the 125th Anniversary of Ukrainian Immigration to Canada", also presented by Wilfred Szczesny. (The Declaration, which was read at the Convention Banquet and Concert that evening, appears on Page 1 of this issue.)

Mr. Szczesny, Editor-in-Chief of the "UCH", also presented the *Ukrainian Cana-*

(Continued on Page 3.)



AUUC Edmonton Branch President Andrew Thompson was elected to the National Committee.

## AUUC Declaration

(Continued from Page 1.) the hungry development process.

As generations of Canadian-born members swelled the community, along with later generations of immigrants who brought new skills and potential, Ukrainian Canadians assumed new roles in Canadian society, often, and increasingly, assuming leading roles in all aspects of Canadian national life. Ukrainian Canadians were integrated into the fabric of Canada.

Integrated, but not entirely assimilated (though many individuals are), the Ukrainian Canadian community has retained a distinctive identity enriching the mosaic that is Canada. From foods that now are standard fare in Canada, to magnificent cultural festivals drawing tens of thousands of spectators and participants, the Ukrainian fact is part of the consciousness of Canada and Canadians.

Truly, we have much to celebrate as we commemorate this anniversary.

We should never forget, however, that our history is not all sweetness and light, goodness and positive achievement. The life of Ukrainian immigrants and their descendants has often been extremely hard and brutal conditions have often bred brutal behaviour. Domestic violence was not unknown in our community, and sectarian violence is a part of our history. If Ukrainian Canadians exemplified some of the loftiest human ideals and highest Canadian values, we have also shown some of the basest characteristics, and adopted some of

the most reprehensible beliefs.

While celebrating our communal history and achievements, we do so with humility, in the knowledge that Ukrainian Canadians are no better, and no worse, than the scores of other communities in Canada.

Great events often come with great pain. So it was with the mass migration from Ukraine to Canada.

In Ukraine, divided between the Austro-Hungarian and the Russian empires, the pain was caused by inadequate land allotments which, after centuries of subdivision, could no longer support the peasant population, while industrialization was not sufficiently developed to absorb the land-hungry masses. The pain continued as families and friends were torn apart, and it did not end with the arrival of the new land and the tremendous challenges ahead.

In Canada, too, there was pain as the indigenous population was dispossessed of its ancestral lands and relocated to reserves which were inadequate to sustain their traditional ways of life — and victimized by policies, many continuing to this day, which have been labelled genocidal, designed to eliminate them as a distinct group.

On this proud and happy anniversary, we remember that Ukrainian Canadians, for the most part unwittingly, contributed to the problems inflicted on aboriginal Canadians, and undertake, as we celebrate ourselves, to be part of the movement to correct that historical tragedy.

# 46th AUUC Convention



Edmonton delegates (left to right) Eugene Plawiuk, and Andrew Thopmson, and NC member Blyth Nuttall, and NC member Emily Halldorson are the picture of concentration.



NC member Lorna Clark (left) and Richmond delegate Janice Beck exchange a document, while Toronto delegate Pat Dzatko looks on.



NC member Michael Parasiuk and Edmonton delegate Andrew Thompson discuss a point while NC member Dianna Kleparchuk and Vancouver delegates Larry Kleparchuk and Dan Fung await the call to order.



Office assistant Sharon Dentry and Registration Committee members Lucy Nykolyshyn (Regina delegate) and Olga Shatulsky (Winnipeg member) share a table, with Winnipeg member Myron Shatulsky in the background.



NC member Blyth Nuttall makes a point, while Welland delegate George Sitak and NC member Emily Halldorson study the document, and Winnipeg delegate Eugene Semanowich and NAC member Gloria Gordienko look on.

(Continued from Page 2.) *dian Herald* Report, which was received. The motion to restore the "UCH" to eleven 12-page issues was adopted.

The Convention also received a report from the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation, presented by Resident Executive Committee nonvoting member Wilfred Szczesny. The Convention adopted a motion to approve the Museum's Board of Directors, elected at the Museum's 20th Annual General Meeting, as well as another motion directing the AUUC National Committee to negotiate a new agreement with the Museum REC.

Lily Stearns, President of the Canadian Society for Ukrainian Labour Research, was given voice to deliver the greeting and report of the CSULR. The report was received, and a motion calling for the CSULR and the NC consult about CSULR funding was adopted.

National Committee member and committee Chair Dianna Kleparchuk presented a report from the Performing Arts Committee, and National Treasurer Kathy Schubert, Administrator of the Manor, presented a report from Ivan Franko Manor. Both reports were received.

The Convention's work included consideration of many resolutions, some received from AUUC Branches and others generated by the Committee, presented by the Resolutions Committee. (Texts of some of these resolutions will be printed in future issues of the "UCH".)

Resolutions which were adopted included: a resolution opposing the Trans-Pacific Partnership and CETA; a motion calling for Canada to get out of NATO and another opposing the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia; a motion on Grassy Narrows; a motion concerning the Métis and Louis Riel; a motion directing that Canadian public institutions pursue policies to "render First Nations equal partners in Canada; a motion ordering consultation with AUUC Winnipeg Branch on the future of the Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple; a motion calling for the formation of a coordinating committee

Referred to the NC were a



Performing Arts Committee Chair Dianna Kleparchuk was re-elected to the National Committee.

## Elected at the 46th AUUC National Convention

### National Executive Committee

Past President — Gerry Shmyr  
 President — Bob Seychuk  
 Vice-President — Wilfred Szczesny  
 Treasurer — Kathy Schubert  
 Recording Secretary — Debbie Skrabek  
 Vice-Recording Secretary — Glenn Michalchuk

### National Committee Members

Lorna Clark  
 Emily Halldorson  
 Bob Ivanochko  
 Dianna Kleparchuk  
 Michael Parasiuk  
 Andrew Thompson  
 Shirley Uhryn

### National Audit Members

Gloria Gordienko  
 Eugene Semanowich  
 Vera Seychuk

### National Committee Alternates

Ludmila Dabeka  
 Tim Gordienko  
 Nykol Kroeker  
 Larry Kleparchuk  
 Eugene Plawiuk.

— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny



Emily Halldorson assisted with the smudge ceremony. She was re-elected to the National Committee.

Edmonton Branch delegate Paul Greene), a welcome from AUUC Winnipeg Branch, delivered by NEC member and Branch President Glenn Michalchuk, a moment of silence for members who died since the 45th AUUC National Convention, a Credentials Committee report (delivered by National Committee member Dianna Kleparchuk), and so on.

The Convention ended with the traditional closing remarks by the newly elected (in this instance, re-elected) National President, and a session for official photographs of Convention participants.

In between, there were other traditional events, including the election of National Committee members and the National Audit Committee (see the box on this page), and the Convention banquet and concert, about which there will be a report in the next issue.

With the positive energy shown at the Convention, there is no reason to doubt that the AUUC is in for some good experiences in the near future.

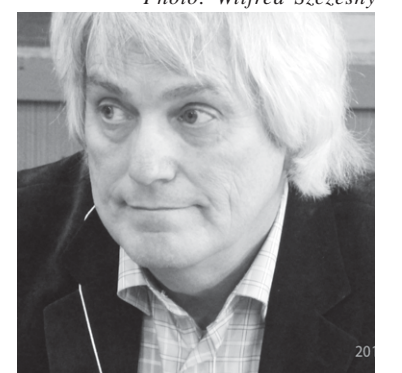
— Photo: Wilfred Szczesny

motion suggesting ways to celebrate the AUUC centennial, and a motion concerning financial reporting to Branches; Defeated were a resolution calling for endorsement of the LEAP Manifesto, and another calling for abolition of the Indian Act.

The list of resolutions which were discussed reveals a Convention which considered more social policy issues than has been usual in the current century. The resolutions list, like other aspects of the Convention, show a heightened awareness of First Nations issues, which will be the topic of an article in the December, 2016, issue of the "UCH".

The Convention was preceded by socializing in a hospitality room at the Humfrey Inn, where arriving delegates could meet their fellows in an informal setting

The 46th AUUC National Convention itself started with routine items: singing "O Canada" (led by AUUC Ed-



AUUC Welland Branch President Glenn Michalchuk was re-elected Vice-Recording Secretary.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN  
**HERALD**

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not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.

## Optimistic Convention

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

What a difference a few million dollars can make!

What a pleasure it was to attend a convention, at long last, at which a positive attitude was not a cause for scorn, at which discussion was not about the best way to end it but rather the best way to build it, at which the existence of a future was assumed.

The 46th AUUC National Convention was almost euphoric because of the new financial situation. Implementation of new programs and resuscitation of lapsed ones was the order of the day. Talk of an orderly exit gave way to strong affirmation that the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians still has an important role to play, both for its own members and for the broader Canadian society.

Not so long ago, the idea of investing in the future of the AUUC was pooh-poohed as unrealistic idealism, the road to ruin. However, as it happened, AUUC Toronto Branch and the Ukrainian Labour Temple Foundation dared to invest in the AUUC, and their role in keeping the AUUC afloat was recognized in the Treasurer's report to the Convention.

The AUUC now has to tackle its other problem — declining membership. This problem has two aspects: the aging and death of existing members, and the failure to attract and retain significant numbers of new members. Nothing can be done about the first issue, but solving the problem of attracting and retaining members will make aging and death merely a natural fact of life.

The solution to new members is in programming. That means finding those activities which attract people, but it is not as simple as it sounds. There are many choices, and the dangers lie in failing to find the most promising and in failing to focus on just a few of the many options.

The money is, after all, just a few million, and will be soon be dissipated if the a scattergun approach is adopted. The National Committee must identify key areas for expansion, and remain focussed on them. May we make some suggestions?

One area for concentration is performing arts. The former glory of the AUUC can, and must, be restored.

Another area is social activism. We would suggest activity on seniors' issues, including health care issues, for obvious reasons. We would also suggest peace activities, including matters of national security, and a range of issues involving living and working conditions.

Let the 47th AUUC National Convention be optimistic about membership!

## First Wave Ukrainians and Treaty 6 and Métis Indigenous Peoples

The text below is adapted from a substantially longer paper. We present it as part of the commemoration of the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada.

### Why is this history so important?

This discourse is about the relations between the Cree, Métis and Ukrainian peoples who encountered each other in the former Northwest Territories in 1891 and beyond. Why is this history so important? There are numerous reasons, but a key one is that that congenial relationship is evidence that peaceful coexistence is possible on Earth.

### Treaty 6 People, Métis and Ukrainians

When the Cree and other First Nations negotiated and signed Treaty 6 in 1876 at Fort Pitt and Fort Carlton, the intent was to preserve a reserve land base in perpetuity. The treaty terms also allowed the people access to their original territories for the purpose of hunting, fishing and gathering.

The Métis people at that time had no particular land bases that they could call their own, but they were dedicated to convincing the national government to acknowledge that their land rights existed.

The Ukrainian immigrants settled on land that had been the expansive domain of the Cree and other indigenous peoples prior to 1876.

Near Edmonton, in old Strathcona, where the Papaschase Cree reserve was located, there was political pressure to take back that land for settlers and a right-of-way for the Calgary to Edmonton railway. Frank Oliver, in charge of the immigration office in Edmonton, was the lead government official in committing fraud that led to the Papaschase Cree people losing their reserve in Strathcona (1890-94).

### Patterns of Oppression/Discrimination: Cree, Métis and Ukrainians

At the time of the First Wave, Cree, Métis and Ukrainians all faced discrimination while Treaty 6 was intended to protect the Cree and other indigenous peoples, the

terms of the early Indian Acts had the opposite effects. Traditional religious ceremonies were prohibited. Leaving the reserve for whatever purpose required a permit from the Indian agent. Selling grain from the land required another permit from the Indian agent.

The Métis people were in status limbo. While land for colonies did not come for many years after the resistance of 1885, scrip (a voucher that could be converted to cash) was offered as compensation for purported interest in their original lands. They were not recognized in the federal constitution. That came vaguely in 1982, when the Canadian constitution was repatriated, and more specifically in 2016, when the Supreme Court of Canada recognized the legal status of Métis people. The nebulous nature of Métis status left the people squatting "illegally" on Crown land and road allowances.

Ukrainian people have been subjected to discrimination. Like that of the indigenous peoples, there was overt and subtle pressure to be assimilated, to lose their identity. From early days, the Cree people had an awareness of what was happening to both groups. The Cree said: "We get along best with the Ukrainians."

The Ukrainians were soon labelled as "bohunks", something pathetically derogatory.

At one point, as part of a strategy for rapid assimilation, authorities were considering residential schools, like those for indigenous children, for the Ukrainian children.

After arriving in Canada, some Ukrainian families were placed in settlement camps, sometimes for many months, until homesteads could be lined up; this meant blatant exploitation of labour and unnecessary hardship.

At first the children of immigrant families were reluc-

tantly admitted to school systems. Considering that the language of the children was Ukrainian, they were probably regarded as a burden to the school system.

As part of the whole colonization regime, Ukrainian names were often applied to settlements, ignoring the fact that indigenous peoples had long before used their original names for those places.

### The unique harmonious relationship between the Saddle Lake Cree people and the area Ukrainian immigrants

Some Ukrainian settlers who homesteaded near Cache Creek and Saddle Lake reserve, communicated with the Cree people through sign language and broken Cree and English.

Saddle Lake Cree were friendly toward the immigrants and taught them how to hunt, fish, trap and pick berries that were edible.

Immigrants from Ispas, Bukovina, Ukraine worked for the Sacred Heart Catholic Mission at Saddle Lake, where they learned Cree and English. Some worked as farm hands, so they learned regional agrarian practices.

Some immigrants attended the Sacred Heart Catholic church at Saddle Lake. Following settlement in the Saddle Lake reserve area, some of the young Ukrainians got married in the Sacred Heart Catholic church. Some deceased Ukrainians were buried in the Catholic cemetery.

During the early days of contact, some Saddle Lake adults were involved with Ukrainian farmers cleaning barns and loading grain stooks for transport to threshing machines.

In later times, some of the settler farmers near Saddle Lake reserve would bring their garden produce and baked goods to the farmers' market on the Saddle Lake re-

(Continued on Page 8.)

## 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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## Tak bulo! That's How It Was!



A capacity audience, having enjoyed the catered buffet dinner, sat down to watch *Tak bulo! That's How It Was!*, the Edmonton AUUC commemoration of the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada,

On Saturday, September 24, following a catered buffet banquet, AUUC Edmonton Branch staged “*Tak bulo! That's How It Was!*”, a commemoration of the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada. Staged at the Ukrainian Centre to a capacity audience, this was an ambitious and varied presentation which did the Branch proud.

As is becoming increasingly common in the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, “*Tak Bulo!*” began with recognition that it was being held on Treaty Six land.

For this purpose Chief Charles Wood of the Saddle Lake First Nation, accompanied by his wife, Mary, pronounced a blessing bilingually, in Cree and English, for the success of the gathering.

This ceremony was followed by the sound of a railway steam whistle as Ivan and Marusia, played by Bill and Shirley Uhryn, entered the room. Representing all the Ukrainian immigrants of the first wave, the couple took their place on stage to serve as a unifying element in a very diverse program.

The Poltava Dance Ensem-

ble’s “*Pryvit!*”, the first of five dances performed by the group, was billed as a “traditional Ukrainian welcome”. The reality is that such a welcome was in the tradition of no Ukrainian village, though elements of it were. The bread and salt, the spirit of generosity and friendship, the inclusiveness — these were, and are, all part of a traditional Ukrainian welcome. But few hosts could present those underlying elements in such an elegant package of imaginatively choreographed and masterfully staged dance.

For some fifteen years,

AUUC Edmonton Branch has been riven by internal conflict, from which it may finally be emerging. The strife has devastated the Branch’s once magnificent performing arts. In my opinion, the decision to invite the Poltava Ensemble to participate in “*Tak bulo!*” was a key to the success of the project.

In each of its appearances, the Poltava group showed why it is one of the best in Canada. Each dance had its unique character, distinguishing it clearly from all the others.

The “Sailors’ Dance” the third on the Poltava list, was performed with breathtaking energy and precision by the male dancers, who were the epitome of manliness.

In their turn, the women in the troupe’s fourth appearance, danced “*Vesnyanka!*” (a spring dance) with the freshness and energy typical of the

season.

Poltava Ensemble’s final dance, concluding the performing arts component of the evening, was the “Hopak”, a rousing number that — for obvious reasons — usually generates a standing ovation.

After the “*Pryvit!*”, the assembly was entertained by Strings of the Heart. In their first appearance, the duet of Olesya Nazarenko and Marina Barsukova, accompanied by Svetlana Romanova on the piano, performed “*Misyats na nebi!*” (Moon In the Sky), “*Tsvete teren!*” (The Blackthorn Blooms), and “*Oy u hayu pry dunayu!*” (In a Grove near the River).

In their second appearance, after the intermission, the women sang “*Oy u veshnevomy sodochku!*” (In a Cherry Orchard) and were then joined by Walter di Tomass in “*Chom ty ne prey-*

(Continued on Page 7.)

— Story Photos: Mark Greschner



The Trembita Kalyna Dancers, a young but growing group, performed “*Molodi hutsulyata!*” (Young Hutsuls).

## Toronto AUUC Opens Its Season



AUUC Toronto Branch opened its 2016-2017 season with a well-attended and well-enjoyed banquet.

On Sunday, September 25, AUUC Toronto Branch held its Season Opening Banquet.

The decor exuded a classy look of black and gold, with paper pinwheels and spirals suspended from the ceiling.

The round-table linens were a complementary combination of off-white and burgundy, accented by calla lily centrepieces — a tone set for a regal occasion.

To honour the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian Immigration to Canada, an archival photo display of Toronto Branch members and past activities and events surrounded the room. This display was created by Jerry Dobrowolsky.

Also in celebration of the significant anniversary, the event culminated in a visit to the neighbouring Shevchenko Museum to see the exhibit *Promised Land*.

It was truly a day of nostalgic reunion, as guests from as far away as Welland and Guelph, and those affiliated with not only the AUUC, but also the Federation of Russian Canadians and the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble were among the 75 participants.

While the guests socialized and anticipated the meal to come, they were charmed by the melodic accordion tunes played by musician Albert Iaboni.

As usual, the Ukrainian-style meal, catered by the celebrated Baby Point Lounge, was enjoyed by all.

Following the delicious meal, the audience was entertained by the talents of Albert, Peter Krochak and Hunter Zepp. Peter performed a couple of Ukrainian vocal solos as well as providing keyboard accompaniment; Albert sang a collection a classic 20th century tunes with the accordion; and Hunter blended it all with the background sound of the tambourine.

Inspired by these talented musicians, the audience rose to the occasion by participating in an accompanied sing-along of five Ukrainian songs,



Albert Iaboni (left) and Peter Krochak provided entertainment, with Hunter Zepp on background tambourine.



Connie Prince was Master of Ceremonies

including “*Vzyav by ya bandura!*” and “*Rozprya-haite khloptsi kon!*”.

As many proceeded to the Museum to see the exhibit, many others (who had already seen it) lingered, enjoying their conversations and the continuing background music. Most of the museum visitors also returned and continued the party!



Natalka Mochoruk led the sing-along.

If the success of this opening event is any indication of the coming year, it’s going to be a good one!

— B. Dobrowolsky

## Shevchenko Museum Holds AGM

The Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation held its Annual General Meeting at the AUUC Cultural Centre in To-

ronto on Saturday, September 10. It was a full day, attended by the Board of Directors and a smattering of others.

The meeting was opened

by Andrew Gregorovich, Foundation President, who extended words of welcome. After the agenda was adopted and all attending members of

the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians were given the right to speak, AGM officers were selected. Chosen were: Dianna Kleparchuk (British Columbia) — Chair; Andrew Gregorovich (Toronto) — Vice-Chair; Bernardine Dobrowolsky (Toronto) — Recording Secretary; Wilfred Szczesny (Toronto) — Vice-Recording Secretary.

In addition to the minutes of the 19th AGM, held virtually through Go-to-Meeting on March 7, 2015, Resident Executive Committee reports were presented by President Andrew Gregorovich, Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Lands Development Committee Chair Bob Seychuk (who also presented a report from the Investment Committee), and LDC Consultant Grant Morris.

A moment of silence for departed members preceded the reports.

The lunch break was followed by a presentation by Andrew Gregorovich, who spoke about the history of

Ukrainian immigration to Canada (including a “prehistory” involving several known individuals) and contributions by Ukrainian immigrants and their descendants to Canada.

Also presented in the afternoon, by Nancy Stewart, was the treasurer’s report. The Audit Committee report delivered by Jerry Dobrowolsky confirmed that the books were in order.

After consideration of the Resident Executive Committee Note to Board Members, elections to the Board of Directors were held. Elected were Larry Kleparchuk (Vancouver); Shirley Uhryn (Edmonton); Debra Skrabek (Calgary); Bob Ivanochko (Regina); Lily Stearns (Winnipeg); Clara Babi (Welland); and Bob Seychuk (Ottawa).

Elected to the Resident Executive Committee were: Lyudmyla Pogoryelova — Museum Director; Andrew Gregorovich — President; George Borusiewich — Vice-President and Vice-Recording  
(Continued on Page 9.)



Selected to the Board of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum were: (seated, left to right) Shirley Uhryn, Edmonton; Bill Harasym (Past President); Lyudmyla Pogoryelova (Director); Andrew Gregorovich, President; Nancy Stewart, Treasurer, Bernardine Dobrowolsky, Recording Secretary; (standing left to right) Jerry Dobrowolsky (Auditor); Debra Skrabek (Calgary); Bob Seychuk (Ottawa); Wilfred Szczesny, non-voting REC member; Larry Kleparchuk, Vancouver; Bob Ivanochko, Regina; and Lily Stearns, Winnipeg. Not shown are: Pavlo Lopata, REC Member; Larissa Stavroff, non-voting REC member; Clara Babi, Welland; and Auditors Vera Borusiewich and Bill Malnychuk.

## Shevchenko Museum Opens “Promised Land”

Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Director of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum in Toronto, reports that about 100 people squeezed into the Museum on the afternoon of Sunday, September 11, for the wine-and-cheese reception officially opening the exhibition “Prom-

ised Land — 125 Years of Ukrainians in Canada”. The visitors were not disappointed.

The two main features of the exhibition are a display of photos of pioneer life, located mainly on the first floor, and an exhibition of contemporary paintings on the theme of Ukrainian immigration by eleven living Ukrainian Canadian artists, mainly on the second floor. In addition, participants could view a brief documentary film featuring William Kurelek, read panels of information about the waves of immigration, and examine some of the permanent exhibits.

The official opening ceremony took place on the second floor of the Museum, which is, unfortunately, not wheelchair accessible, and is difficult to reach for many people with age or mobility issues.

MC Larissa Stavroff, newly elected to the directorship of the Museum, bade everyone welcome and commented on the significance of the event. Then she introduced Andrew Gregorovich, President of the Shevchenko Museum Board.

Mr. Gregorovich spoke about the history of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, including in his remarks information about the known Ukrainian individuals who came to this country before 1891. Mr. Gregorovich also listed a number of contributions by Ukrainians to Canada, and achievements of Ukrainian Canadians. For example, he



Lyudmyla Davidowich of the Consulate of Ukraine spoke during the ceremony.



Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo, Member of Provincial Parliament, spoke about her family’s immigrant experience.



Darya Dychkowsky of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, was among the speakers.



Entertainment was provided by Moskitto Bar, a trio of Ahmed Moneka from Baghdad, Iraq, on drum, Yura Rafaluik from Lviv, Ukraine, on tsymbaly, and Tangi Ropars from Brittany, France, on button accordion.

said that “wheat was the first Ukrainian immigrant to Canada”, and explained how the strain called Red Fife travelled from Ukraine to this country.

Lyudmyla Davidowich of the Ukrainian Consulate spoke, as did Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo, Member of Provincial Parliament, Darya Dychkowsky of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, and Shevchenko Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova.

After Ms. Stavroff closed the formal program with a round of thanks to the many people who had contributed to the success of the event, participants returned to the main floor for more wine and cheese, and entertainment by Moskitto Bar. The trio (composed of Ahmed Moneka from Baghdad, Iraq, on drum and voice, Yura Rafaluik from Lviv, Ukraine, on tsymbaly, and Tangi Ropars from Brittany, France, on button accordion) kept their audience captivated for about a half hour.



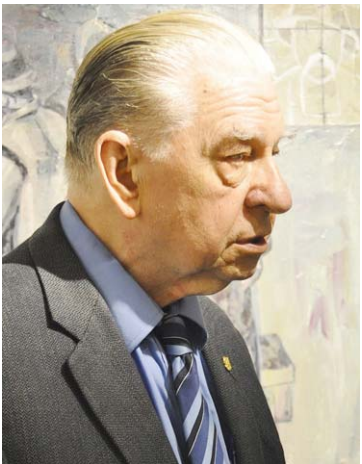
The last speaker of the program was Shevchenko Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova.

“Promised Land” continues to November 30 at the Taras Shevchenko Museum, 1614 Bloor Street West. Museum hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday to Wednesday and Friday, noon to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, and by appointment on weekends and holidays. There is no admission charge, but donations are gratefully received.

— Wilfred Szczesny



Larissa Stavroff served as MC at the display opening.



Andrew Gregorovich, President of the Shevchenko Museum Board, spoke about Ukrainian immigration to Canada, and its significance for this country.

# Tak bulo! That's How It Was!



In recognition that the event was being held on Treaty 6 land, Chief Charles Wood with his wife, Mary, pronounced a bilingual blessing.



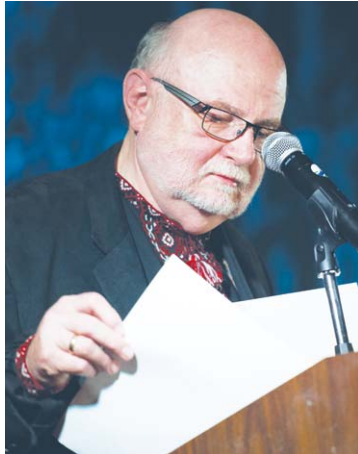
Bill and Shirley Uhryn, as Ivan and Marusia, provided an element of continuity to the varied program.



The Trembita Choir appeared twice on the program, conducted by Paul Greene



The presentation included a workers' demonstration, complete with police action, to depict the social activism of the early years.



Jars Balan of the CIUS, had a unique approach to presenting the four waves of immigration.

Continued from Page 5.) *shov?*" (Why Didn't You Come?).

Jars Balan, after Chief Charles Wood, the first speaker on the program, followed Strings of the Heart. Mr. Balan, who is Coordinator of the Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Centre at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, addressed the first and second Ukrainian immigrations on his first appearance, and the third and fourth immigrations in his second.

He took an interesting approach to his task: instead of writing something and reading it, he selected and read a passage from the literature of each immigration. One selection was from Myroslav Irchan, a member of the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association who left Canada in 1929 to live in Ukraine, where he was executed in 1937. Another selection was from a Ukrainian Canadian priest who wrote glowingly of the residential schools which produced well-behaved and disciplined aboriginal children, so much nicer than the uncontrolled Ukrainian Canadian youth.

In a nod to labour activism in the Ukrainian Canadian community in the early years, a scene was staged depicting a demonstration which was attacked by police and which ended in arrests.

In its two appearances, the Trembita Choir was conducted

by Paul Greene. Its first set included "Dumy moyi" (My Thoughts, words by Taras Shevchenko). It also included "This Land Is Your Land", which was sung first in Ukrainian translation and then reverted to the English words. The second set was one song: "Slava pioneram", a tribute to the pioneers.

AUUC Edmonton Branch children's groups opened the second half of the presentation. First was the Trembita Kalyna Dance Group, with "Molodi hutsulyata" (Young Hutsuls). They were followed by the Children's Choir, conducted by Marina Lavrinenko, who did a selection of children's songs.

Myrna Kostash followed the children's groups, speaking on "125 Years in Canada: Time to Reboot the Narrative".

Ms. Kostash, who first came to our attention with the publication of *All of Baba's Children*, continues to challenge idealized views and uncritical conformity in our evaluation of ourselves and our community. (Her comments at "Tak bulo", will be printed in a future issue.)

The final featured speaker at "Tak bulo" was Larisa Sembaliuk-Cheladyn, whose topic was "The Evolution of Ukrainian Embroidery in Canada".

Also addressing the audience were: Bob Seychuk, National President of the AUUC; Dave Wilson, Chair of the Poltava Ensemble; and AUUC Edmonton Branch President Andrew Thompson. As they followed the final "Hopak", these three speakers were a bit of an anticlimax.

Are the criticisms to be made of "Tak bulo"? Sure. But to do so would be an insult to the excellent effort, the successful effort, so many people made to stage a commemoration worthy of the occasion. Those people have earned our congratulations.

Particular recognition is due to Shirley Uhryn, prime mover and shaker for this project, who can justly be proud of her achievement and that of her colleagues.

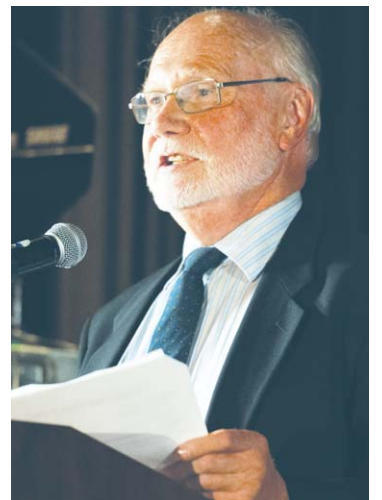
— Wilfred Szczesny



Myrna Kostash presented a thought-provoking perspective on the celebration.



Larissa Sembaliuk-Cheladyn's theme was the evolution of Ukrainian embroidery in Canada



AUUC National President Bob Seychuk addressed the audience.



Dave Wilson, Chair of the Poltava Ensemble, thanked AUUC Edmonton Branch for the invitation to participate.



AUUC Edmonton Branch President closed the concert with words of thanks.



Strings of the Heart sang five number in two sets.

# Festival Choir Launches CD

Choirs have been singing at Winnipeg's Ukrainian Labour Temple for most of that historic building's life. Mixed choirs and youth choirs, men's and women's choirs, children's and seniors' choirs have filled the stage, and their sound has filled the Hall.

Since 2005, the Festival Choir of the AUUC has been carrying on this choral tradition. Its eighteen members, "rich in years" and in folk-

singing experience, make an impressive sound. "They may look old, but they sound so young," says conductor Vasilina Streltsov.

After the choir's performance at Winnipeg's annual "Doors Open" in May (when visitors tour the city's historic buildings), a "troika" of its singers — Walter Mirosh, Nancy Kardash and Victor Krenz — took the recorded performance to a sound stu-

— Photo: Victor Krenz

dio, where the engineer deemed the raw material CD-worthy.

"We hadn't planned to record our performance with any kind of high-end equipment," said project instigator Walter Mirosh, "but we had sung well, and when I heard how good we sounded on my recorder, I knew we had to make something to give to our choir members and supporters to remember us by."

With additional selections from past performances and input from the production "troika", the Festival Choir's CD was born.

At first talk of a CD, the family of Constantine "Kosty" Kostaniuk, who died in 2015 at age 99, asked to commemorate their father by covering the cost of not only the CD's production, but also the celebration of its launch.

Kosty had been a dedicated musician, beloved choir member, and lifelong AUUC activist. His daughter Carmen

(Continued on Page 9.)

# Ukrainians and Indigenous Peoples

(Continued from Page 4.)

serve. (Anecdotes that illustrate the empathy and compassion between the Cree and Ukrainian peoples)

Cree neighbours of settlers gave shelter in storms, helped deliver babies, prepared natural medicines and exchanged pelts for blankets.

One author stated that the indigenous people would give freely or trade in Hudson's Bay blankets, knives and spoons for potatoes, butter and eggs. The family was very kind to anyone who passed by, to share a meal and spend the night; this applied to indigenous peoples and other passers-by.

An immigrant family that had made it to Fort Edmonton had used up all their money. Therefore, they could not hire a boat to transport them to where they hoped to homestead. The father built a raft which ran aground as heavy snow began to fall. Cree people noticed their plight, and took them into their home (an old shack). There they were given some tea and dry biscuits to eat, and they gradually thawed out. They had been saved by strangers.

A Ukrainian woman living outside Fort Edmonton, had walked into the settlement to look for work. On her way home, she got lost. An indigenous person found her, and walked her back to the settlement.

A Ukrainian farmer and his wife would allow Cree people from Saddle Lake and Goodfish Lake reserves, in the event of inclement weather, to camp in their yard, and even sleep in their kitchen.

When driving cattle to water during very cold winters, a Ukrainian was asked by the indigenous neighbours to come in and get warm. The settler said they were very friendly and always called him "cousin".

It was the plan of the federal government to transform Cree people on the reserves from hunters, fishers, trappers and gatherers into farmers. The Cree people were not enthused about this assimilation scheme, so the Indian agent leased Saddle Lake reserve land to Ukrainian farmers.

Into the 20th century — an extract from the literature tells of an indigenous person selling whitefish to Ukrainian housewives in Edmonton, further evidence of mutual congeniality.

(Reflections of a Saddle Lake Cree elder's association with nearby Ukrainian neighbours)

(Continued on Page 11.)



Winnipeg's Festival Choir has produced their own CD of Ukrainian folk songs. Artwork by choir member Victor Krenz.

## 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*, either in the December, 2015, or the January, 2016, 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.

**Deadlines:** November 10, 2015, for December, 2015.  
December 10, 2015, for January, 2016.

**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

**Issue requested:**  
\_\_\_\_\_ December issue (deadline November 10)  
\_\_\_\_\_ January issue (deadline December 10)

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



— Photo: Victor Krenz



In memory of their father, Kosty Kostaniuk's daughter and long-time choir member Carmen Ostermann presents a donation from the Kostaniuk family to underwrite the production and launch of the Festival Choir's CD.

# Festival Choir CD

(Continued from Page 8,) Ostermann, speaking for herself and for sister Sonia and brother Tim, said, "Because of Dad's love and participation in the choir, we felt we would like to make a small contribution financially so that all the choir could receive this gift. Thank you for keeping our Ukrainian heritage alive."

The CD was launched in grand style on Sunday, September 25. Choir members, family, friends and supporters enjoyed a relaxing afternoon

of visiting, delectable refreshments and, of course, music.

Conductor Streltsov, with piano accompaniment by Anna Khomenko, led everyone in a typical vocal warm-up and then in the singing of "Last Night I Had the Strang-

est Dream". The Festival Choir performed a song from their CD before being presented with their copies.

As guests mingled, picked up copies of the CD, and took their time leaving, one was heard to say, "This was a good thing to do, and a good way to spend an afternoon together."

— Nancy Kardash

## Who, What, When, Where

**Vancouver — Heart of the City Festival Concert and Dinner** will be held at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 East Pender Street, at **3:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **November 6**. General Admission: **\$25.00**. For tickets, call **(604)254-3436**.

\* \* \*

**Vancouver — Mini-Bazaar:** Crafts, Baking, Perogy Lunch, Cultural Display will be held **11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** on Saturday, **November 19** and Sunday, **November 20**, at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 East Pender Street.

\* \* \*

**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 — Malanka - Ukrainian New Year** will be celebrated 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.** Tickets: **\$50.00**. Reserve this date now.

\* \* \*

**Calgary — Calgary Ukrainian Hopak Ensemble** will stage **Winter Concert: Celebrate the Season** at **2:00 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** from **6:00 p.m.** on Saturday, **January 14**, at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 3316-28 Avenue SW. Reserve this date now, for an evening of fun.

\* \* \*

**Winnipeg — AUUC Winnipeg Branch** invites you to a **Fall Concert and Supper** at **4:00 p.m.** on Sunday, **November 6**, at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue. Music, song and dance will be followed by a delicious perogy supper. Adults - **\$20.00**; 18 years and under, students - **\$15.00**; 5 years and under - **free**. Tickets in advance available at **Svitoch** (621 Selkirk Avenue) or by calling **Gloria at 204 467 5043**. Only a limited number of tickets available at the door.

\* \* \*

**Winnipeg — AUUC Winnipeg Branch** invites you to **Film Night**, featuring *this river*, at **7:00 p.m.** on Thursday, **November 24**, at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue. **Free admission**, donations to AUUC accepted. **The film will be followed by a discussion**, attended by individuals involved in the making of the film.

\* \* \*

**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.



The Festival Choir performed one of the CD songs — the popular folk song "Susidka" — with gusto! As their conductor, Vasilina Streltsov, said, "They still sound so young."

— Photo: Victor Krenz



Along with the chance to relax in friendly company, guests were treated to sumptuous refreshments on tables rich with Fall colours, attractively arranged by Isabel Mirosh, Lucy Nykolysyn and Jean Romanoski.

## Shevchenko Museum AGM

(Continued from Page 6.) Secretary; Nancy Stewart — Treasurer; Bernardine Dobrowolsky — Recording Secretary; Pavlo Lopata —

member; Larissa Stavroff and Wilfred Szczesny — nonvoting members. Bernardine Dobrowolsky was confirmed as the Foundation's repre-

sentative to the National Investment Committee.

Elected to the Audit Committee were Jerry Dobrowolsky, Bill Malnychuk and Vera Borusiewich.

Election results will be sent for endorsement by the AUUC National Convention.

After it was agreed that the next AGM will be a virtual meeting in March, 2017, the meeting was adjourned.

Participants had an opportunity to visit the Taras Shevchenko Museum, just five doors from the AUUC Cultural Centre, to preview the "Promised Land" exhibition, officially opened with a wine-and-cheese reception on September 11 (See the report on Page 6.)

The day ended with a generous Ukrainian banquet catered by Baby Point Lounge. Diners were pleasantly surprised and impressed by the entertainment — a trio from KalynDar which included Lyudmyla Pogoryelova.

— Wilfred Szczesny



To the delight of the diners, KalynDar entertained at the Museum AGM banquet.

# 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* will publish an 8-installment series of articles discussing aspects of the Ukrainian Canadian experience. In this issue, we examine the experience of the years of the Cold War following World War II.

## The Third Wave of Ukrainian Settlement in Canada

To understand the role of the third wave in the history of Ukrainian settlement in Canada, it is first necessary to look at the conditions that gave rise to it. The impetus for the third wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada (and other countries) was the great upheaval of the Second World War. The particulars of the third wave, its class make-up and its politics, arise from the conditions particular to the divide between social and economic systems that arose following the establishment of socialism in Russia and Ukraine following the First World War. The Second World War intensified the anti-Soviet spirit of the right-wing Ukrainian “nationalist” forces within Ukraine and abroad.

### Victory in Europe

On May 7, 1945, the Allied Powers accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany, ending World War II in Europe.

The great struggle to defeat fascism in Europe welded together countries of dissimilar political and economic systems. On the one hand there was the socialist Soviet Union, based on working class political power and social ownership of the productive forces of society. On the other hand were the capitalist countries of the United States, Britain, Canada and France, based on multiparty political systems wedded to private ownership of the productive forces and the subordination of labour to the interests of capital.

The spirit of unity and fraternity was short lived and was soon to be consumed by the chill of the Cold War.

### The Nazi Devastation of Ukraine

The Nazi occupation of Ukraine devastated the country. Edgar Snow in *The Pattern of Soviet Power* (Random House, 1945) describes it this way:

“A relatively small part of the Russian Soviet Republic itself was actually invaded, but the whole Ukraine, whose people were economically the most advanced and numerically the second largest in the Soviet Union, was devastated from the Carpathian frontier to the Donets and Don rivers, where Russia proper begins. No single European country suffered deeper wounds to its cities, its industry, its farmland

and its humanity.” (p. 73)

Toronto historian Orest Subtelny in his *Ukraine: A History* (University of Toronto Press, 1994) describes the human loss:

“Even a cursory listing of losses reflects the terrible impact that the Second World War had on Ukraine and its inhabitants. About 5.3 million, or one in six inhabitants of Ukraine, perished in the conflict. An additional 2.3 million had been shipped to Germany to perform forced labor.” (p. 479).

### The social, political and economic roots of the Third Wave

When World War II ended, Germany held millions of foreigners (forced labour, prisoners of war, political prisoners). More than two million of these were Ukrainians, the majority of them young girls and boys torn from their families to serve as slave labour in Germany. Most of these returned to the Soviet Union during the repatriation process that followed the war. However, about 220,000 refused to return to a Soviet Ukraine. They became the Ukrainian displaced persons (DPs), forming the largest political emigration in Ukrainian history.

Those who refused to return did so mostly from political motives. These were émigrés with the political objective of opposing socialism in Ukraine and, more broadly, the Soviet Union. The ideology of these émigrés lay in the various right-wing nationalist movements that arose in the first decade of the twentieth century. Only one generation separated the émigrés of the 1920s from the DPs of the 1940s, and the social and political connection between these two emigrations was a close one.

In September, 1939, 20,000 to 30,000 Western Ukrainians moved to the German occupied part of Poland. This group was mostly comprised of intelligentsia and students involved in “nationalist” organizations dedicated to establishing an anti-Soviet Ukraine.

Members of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) were especially numerous in the first group to seek shelter under Nazi protection. The Ukrainian Central Committee (UCC), founded in Krakow, Poland, in November, 1939, and the Ukrainian National Alliance (or UNO by its Ukrainian name), founded in Berlin in

1933 and aligned with the OUN, became major “nationalist” organizations operating in Germany and Poland during World War II.

The Nazis viewed these organizations as important for their objectives in Ukraine, both pre- and post-invasion.

### The Immigration of the Third Wave

Between 1947 and 1957, over 35,000 Ukrainian refugees made their way into Canada. These refugees had fought repatriation to the Soviet Union after the war. The fact that the western allies (U.S., Britain, France) suspended repatriation within a year of the war’s end signalled a change in postwar relations between the western allies and the Soviet Union.

The largest number of Ukrainian displaced persons resided in the American zone of occupation in Germany. Their militant “nationalism” and anti-communism was undoubtedly of interest to the United States as it built its postwar strategy to undermine the threat posed by the resurgence of Communist Parties in liberated Europe.

The militant Ukrainian “nationalists” of the DP camps were one piece of this strategy. The lengths to which the U.S. was willing to go can be seen in its rescue of Klaus Barbie, in 1947, from the hands of the French security services because of the value he represented in intelligence terms.

Massive migration out of the DP camps did not begin until 1947. The Canadian government by order-in-council (6 June, 1947) provided for the “immediate admission to Canada of 5,000 individuals from the displaced persons’ camps in Europe”.<sup>1</sup>

It is important to note that, before any movement of Ukrainians out of the camps, there was one significant exception — the movement of captured members of the Galician Division to Britain. This took place despite the objections of the Soviet Union, and its demand that they be returned for their role in aiding the Nazi aggression.

Of those transferred to Britain, 500 were immediately allowed to join their families in

<sup>1</sup> “Immigration to Canada” *International Labour Review* LVI no. 3 (September 1947) cited in *The Refugee Experience: Ukrainian Displaced Persons after World War II*.

what was to become West Germany. Others were allowed to move to Switzerland, the south of France (where there was a large colony of Ukrainian “nationalists”) and to fascist Spain. Members of the Galician Division were to make their way to Canada by 1951.

Between July 1, 1947, and December 3, 1951, Canadian immigration statistics indicate that 29,701 Ukrainian immigrants arrived from Europe. Of these, 25,772 were identified as refugees. The others (more than 3,400) did not qualify as refugees as they were re-immigrants from Western Europe. In this number were former members of the Galician Division who had been biding their time in Britain.

Postwar Ukrainian immigration to Canada continued beyond December, 1951, as refugees who had previously immigrated to the countries of Western Europe and Latin America now wished to come to Canada. Between 1945 and the end of 1955, Canadian immigration authorities registered the arrival of 34,399 Ukrainians. These immigrants were largely destined to settle in the industrial cities, mines and bush country of Ontario (47.1%) and Quebec (20.6%).

### The Cold War

The war against Nazi Germany had united two opposite social, economic and political systems into one united front for the defeat of fascism. The Cold War, however, soon supplanted the victory over fascism. In terms of Canadian policy, the Ukrainian immigrants from the DP camps would be useful in the disruption of the Ukrainian left in Canada, the left in general and the progressive movements that were responding to the conditions after World War II.

Their anti-communism fitted perfectly into the ideology of the Cold War.

The role played by the ideology of the third wave of immigrants is not some fanciful interpretation of the left. Those on the right freely admit it. In *Searching for Place: Ukrainian Displaced Persons, Canada and the Migration of Memory*, Lubomyr Luciuk aptly identifies the role Ukrainians of the third wave were to play:

“When Canada’s civil servants and gatekeepers somewhat reluctantly allowed for an immigration of Ukrainian

and other east European displaced persons into the country, they did so more for economic and political reason than an expression of humanitarian good will. They also had certain expectations about the role these militantly anti-communist and anti-Soviet political refugees would play in undermining the influence of the Canadian left.”

As the first wave of Ukrainians from the DP camps began to arrive, the Cold War was moving into high gear. In 1949, the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported on the work of the Ukrainian Workers League (UWL) and its anti-communist campaign, in an article titled “Call for Alertness: Ukrainian Meet Warns of Communist Menace”.<sup>2</sup> The *Free Press* story reports on the UCC’s adoption of a UWL resolution calling for “...all loyal Canadian citizens to be on guard against the destructive activities of Communist elements carrying on subversive work...”

The UWL was part of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee (UCC, known as the Ukrainian Canadian Congress since 1989). The UCC was formed during the war by the Canadian government to unite various right-wing and “nationalist” forces in the Ukrainian Canadian community as a counter-force to the Ukrainian left.

In the postwar period, its brand of Ukrainian “nationalism” would bolster the Cold War rhetoric and policy of successive governments. In turn, its ranks would be bolstered by the influx of new Ukrainian immigrants bringing with them the “nationalist” fervour and ideology of the DP camps.

### Method to the madness

Clearly the aim of organizations such as the Ukrainian Workers League was to inflame opinion against organizations on the left and, in this case, the Ukrainian left and its organized representative, the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians (AUUC).

In 1948, the AUUC had 32 Branches with about 1,000 members. The progressive Ukrainian community had distinguished itself during the war for its anti-fascist stands (the Spanish Civil war and mobilization in the war against Nazi Germany). The size and strength of the Ukrainian left posed a significant problem to the politics of the Cold War.

In the wake of WWII, Canada, the U.S., Britain and the countries of western Europe experienced a growing people’s movement centred around left organizations, with

(Continued on Page 11.)

<sup>2</sup> *Winnipeg Free Press*, December 12, 1949, pg. 3. Cited in *Press for Conversion*, March, 2016.

# 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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## Ukrainians and Indigenous Peoples

(Continued from Page 8.)

His father was always fixing wagons and sleighs and shoeing horses for indigenous peoples and other neighbours; the Cree people never left without having a meal.

He worked in the village of Vilna from March, 1968, to March, 1971. He took room and board from 1969-71 with a Ukrainian widowed family. He got along well with all the ethnic people of the village and the surrounding homesteads. They were cordial and

friendly. For recreation, he fished, golfed and bowled with many of them. As a young Saddle Lake adult, he also served as scoutmaster for the Vilna youth.

(The Strynadka family and its integration with the Goodfish Lake (Whitefish Lake) Cree)

Some of the First Wave Ukrainian immigrants chose to marry indigenous Cree or Métis women. This seemed to be a natural outgrowth of their congenial association.

Hrihory Strynadka, (1847-1918) decided to immigrate to Canada.

His descendant Nick K. Strynadka (1915-1940) mar-

ried Dora Bull (1915) of the Goodfish Lake Cree community. Their son was Arnold Strynadka (1940-2011).

When Nick died at age 25, the Cree community rallied around the bereaved family and helped them along through a critical period. When Arnold expired in 2011, he was honoured with a traditional Cree ceremony, and buried in the Goodfish Lake reserve cemetery.

John Strynadka, who passed most of his life in Edmonton, was born in 1910 and died in 2012. During the post-Cold War period, he led protesters, who were opposed to the U.S. testing cruise missiles in the North West Territories and Alberta. When he died, his library, which included many indigenous titles, was donated to the Faculty of Native Studies.

Harry, a cousin to Arnold, proudly spoke about his knowledge of Chief Reuben Bull, a traditional leader of Goodfish Lake and founding member of the Indian Association of Alberta.

— Roy Lynn Piepenburg

## The Third Wave

(Continued from Page 10.)

left-wing parties forming governments in several countries. The anti-communism of Ukrainian “nationalism” would serve very well the need to push back against progressive politics.

### A dark chapter for Canada

Formed in 1943 by direct order of Adolf Hitler, the SS Galicia Division was formed of 13,000 troops (more than 40,000 volunteered). It saw action against the Soviet army, and was dispatched to help put down partisan-led uprisings in Slovakia and the Balkan states. The Galicia Division has been implicated in mass executions of Ukrainians, Jews and Poles. The Nuremberg Military Tribunal declared the SS (and by implication the Waffen SS of which the Galician Division was part) a criminal organization.

After the war, some 3,000 members of the Division — actually prisoners of war — were moved to Britain to avoid demands by the Soviet Union that they be returned to face punishment for their actions in the war.

The Ukrainian DPs allowed into Canada before 1950 did not include members of the Galician Division. Efforts by the right-wing of the Ukrainian Canadian community to bring them to Canada began in October 1947.

Repeatedly sections of the Ukrainian “nationalist” communities petitioned their Members of Parliament to allow members of the Division to enter Canada. In June, 1950, the Liberal government of Canada, led by Louis St. Laurent, gave its approval. Surely, it said, no one would object to bringing in these “refugees from Soviet communism”, especially as the

<sup>3</sup> Canadian Jewish Congress Papers cited in “Old Wounds: Jews, Ukrainians and the Hunt for Nazi War Criminals in Canada

Cold War had broken out into a “hot” war in Korea, and Canadian troops were under fire fighting the communists of North Korea and China.

The Government’s decision was immediately denounced by the *Montreal Gazette* which exposed the Nazi history of the Division. Jewish Canadian leaders denounced the decision, as did the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, which wrote to the Minister noting: “All of them (Division members) were volunteers who responded to the call of the ‘Fuehrer’ to come and defend the ‘Greater Germany’ and the ‘New Order’ when Germany was on its last legs.”<sup>3</sup>

The AUUC offered to assist the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) with information on the Galician Division. However, the chill of the Cold War prevented any cooperation. The CJC, concerned about the AUUC’s position on the Ukrainian left and having just purged itself of the left-wing United Jewish People’s Order, refused any cooperation with the AUUC.

Unmoved by the opposition to its decision, and refusing to consider the decision of the Nuremberg court that the SS was a criminal organization, the Liberal government admitted members of the Galician Division to Canada.

It was not until the Deschênes Commission was established in 1985 by Brian Mulroney that Nazi war criminals in Canada again became an issue and focus was once more turned to the Ukrainian immigrants of the postwar period.

### The Past informs the Present

The end of the Cold War did not diminish the role of Ukrainian “nationalism” as a political tool. The same politics are at the centre of the civil war in Ukraine and the confrontation between the West and Russia over that country.

— Glenn Michalchuk

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Marth Ursuliak

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

The **Toronto AUUC Senior Citizens Club** extends best birthday wishes to November celebrant:

Anne Magus

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

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

Alex Babiy  
Mike Kereluk  
Katie Mackenzie

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

## “Mosaic” Celebration in Vancouver

On June 26, in celebration of the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, the Dovbush Dancers, under the direction of Debbie Karras with the assistance of Janice Beck and Caitlynn Schell and the mentorship of Serguei Makarov, mounted their first full scale production.

The evening was called *Mosaic*, and the vision was to honour and share the diversity and beauty of Ukrainian dance, costume and music, alongside a retrospective of the history of Canadian Ukrainian pioneers.

In North Vancouver’s Centennial Theatre, the audience was a buzz of anticipation. The lobby featured displays of Ukrainian arts and crafts and photos of the artists, and the energy was high as the crowds entered the auditorium.

The show opened to a full house, with the audience being greeted by the gracious and knowledgeable Master of Ceremonies, Libby Griffin. Two beautifully painted floral panels by the very talented Oksana Gaidasheva graced the stage.

The dancing began with “*My z Ukrainy*” (We are from Ukraine), a traditional welcome dance, choreographed by Pavlo Virsky, that features beautiful costumes and the varied dance styles of the different regions of Ukraine.

The feeling of joy and community among the dancers, in conjunction with the flawless execution of the steps, set the tone for the whole evening.

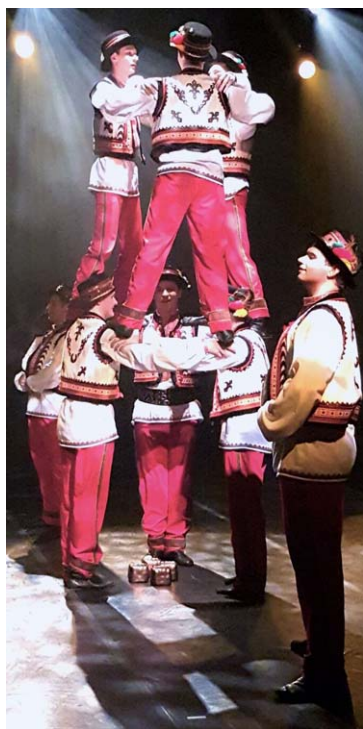
When the bread and salt were presented with such genuine generosity of spirit, it felt like a timeless moment that has been shared by people throughout generations.

The audience truly felt welcomed and a connection was made.

With enthusiastic applause, the evening continued, and the audience was led through a journey of history, dance and music. This included the fabulous guest performers; Vostok, singing haunting traditional melodies in beautiful a cappella harmonies; The Wheat in the Barley, with crowd pleasing traditional folk melodies; and the talented Tropak and Druzhba Dancers, gracing the stage with a variety of dances ranging from the high energy to the lyrical.

The dances chosen for the program also reflected the diversity of Ukrainian regional culture. Choreography included pieces from Volyn, Transcarpathia, Bukovina, Hutsulshyna, and Poltava, as well as character dances and a men’s dance and a women’s dance.

“*Kolomeyky*”, a Western Ukrainian dance suite, ended the first half of the show, dedi-



Kolomeyky.

cated to the first immigrants to Canada, most of whom were from this part of Ukraine.

A video presentation, narrated by Libby Griffin, paid tribute to the history of Ukrainians in Canada.

Another highlight of the program was the opening number of the second act, “*Na hutsulsky poloniny*”, which Dovbush learned in Kyiv in 2013. This piece has a special connection to the dancers, as the rituals it showcases have a direct connection to Oleksa Dovbush, the group’s namesake.

Backstage, the Dovbush Dancers were in a flurry of organized chaos. Rehearsals for the show had begun at noon that same day, and the dancers had already danced the full show before the audience arrived.

Costumes were meticulously laid out on racks and tables in the order of quick changes, discarded costumes being hung by a team of dedicated volunteers.

Dancers breathed heavily as they left the stage, jumping up and down in nervous anticipation as they prepared to re-enter.

Dancers, between dances, either slumped in exhaustion, quickly reviewing their next dance or frantically changed costumes, from boots to head pieces. Dressers checked that all hooks were fastened and every hair was in place.

Everyone had an eye on the progress of the show, so that not a cue would be missed.

Time flew by, and it seemed as if the show has just started when it was time for the finale — the “*Virsky Hopak*”. This wonderful dance is a showcase of the richness and strength of the Ukrainian spirit. The dancers all gathered in a huddle, pinky fingers linked.

“This is it,” someone whispered. “It’s time for the Hopak. Let’s do it!” The dancers got into starting position, like race horses at the gate, and with the opening crescendo they exploded onto the stage in a burst of energy, high spirits and brilliant colours.

Having had the privilege of being both an audience member and a performer, I have to say that you can really feel that the connection runs both ways. The dancers are as touched by a supportive audience as an audience member can be touched by a performer, and this audience was amazing. As the hopak began, the audience started cheering and clapping, and by the end of the dance the whole auditorium was on its feet in shared experience.

Dance and music can really connect people in a magical way and I believe, for this



Bukovinsky tanok.



My z Ukrainiy.



Virsky Hopak.



Na hutsulsky poloniny.

reason, that the Ukrainian community will continue into the future, building understanding and bringing people together.

A video is being produced of the Dovbush Dancers show *Mosaic*. To purchase your copy of this DVD,

please visit <https://squareup.com/store/auuc-vancouver>. To contribute to our *Go Fund*, a campaign to help finance the project, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/Dovbush>

— Toresa Ewanuick

### JoKe TiMe

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director what the criterion was which defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

“Well,” said the Director, “we fill up a bathtub, and then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup

and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub.”

“Oh, I understand,” said the visitor. “A normal person would use the bucket because it’s bigger than the spoon or the teacup.”

“No,” said the Director, “A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?”



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