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ULT a Doors Open Hit in Winnipeg

— Photo: Dennis Lewycky



The Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg has been a destination for visitors during Doors Open for many years. This year, there was a substantial increase in the number of visitors who toured the building, took in some performing arts presentations, and enjoyed some food. A report on the event, with pictures, appears on Page 5.

Centennial Celebrations

AUUC Welland Branch is well on the road to its October 15 celebration of the centennial of its Ukrainian Labour Temple, one year ahead of the celebration of the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg project drew the attention of progressive Ukrainian Canadians across the country, making Winnipeg the core around which the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association grew and coalesced into the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association, and ultimately into the Association of United Ukrain-

ian Canadians.

Nevertheless the Welland ULT, which has a designation as a historical site, is an important institution. For one thing, it is evidence that, one hundred years ago, Welland was a thriving industrial town; for another, it establishes that the work force in the area included a significant number of Ukrainian workers.

Furthermore, it shows that the Ukrainian Canadians of the first wave of immigration were not mere passive residents of their community. They had enough interaction to feel the need for a permanent place to gather for their various purposes.

It is also known from news reports and other accounts, of course, that the labour temples, including the Welland Ukrainian Labour Temple, served as centres of support for the activity of working people in their community, whether it be assistance to workers on strike, food and shelter for working people victimized by economic downturns or space shared with other working people who needed a place to meet.

These aspects of the history of the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg have been well documented and recorded in books and other media. However, the branches of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party existed in many localities cross Canada. It was their

members who took the lead in building the network of labour and farmer temples which eventually stretched from coast to coast. Their motives were similar across Canada, and therefore, their activities were, too.

The centennial of the ULT in Welland is a reminder of the noble dreams of the community, and its energy in pursuing those dreams. It recalls for us the variety of activities which evolved in the Ukrainian Labour Temples; activity which arose from the human needs of the participants, and was also seen as a means to attract new members and supporters.

The celebration on October 15 in the Welland ULT will shine with the specifics of the activity of the AUUC Welland Branch in the course of 100 years, including the traditional banquet/concert which is characteristic of Welland Branch gatherings. Underlying those specific activities will be a sociopolitical philosophy encouraging solidarity with all working people in their struggles for a better life.

Next year, the entire Association of United Ukrainian Canadians will celebrate, marking the centennial of the formation of the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association and the construction of the ULT in Winnipeg which was completed in 1919.

(Continued on Page 6.)

The Next Issue

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

NEC AUUC Meetings in Toronto

On the weekend of June 24-25, the National Executive Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians travelled to Toronto for a series of business meetings.

The NEC met with the Resident Executive Committee of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation. The two executive bodies discussed matters of mutual interest. Some of those matters were resolved; others were left for further consideration.

Of particular interest to the NEC was the Museum’s intention concerning relocation. A process, with timelines, was established to provide to the NEC the information it requires.

The NEC also met with the financial advisors who manage AUUC funds. Much of that meeting was devoted to reviewing and signing the documents required to formalize a business relationship as well as reviewing guidelines.

The final meeting was with the AUUC Toronto Branch Executive, among other reasons, to discuss the future of the Branch. With a shrinking Branch eating into its reserves to cover the costs of operating the AUUC Cultural Centre, a central topic was arrangements to most effectively meet the needs of the Branch while keeping the widest range of options and preserving the interests of the whole of the AUUC.

The meeting established an agreement on a process to be followed over the near future.

The National Executive Committee was grateful for the opportunity to hold these fruitful discussions over a weekend.

Best Summer Wishes

Many readers of the “UCH” will be enjoying summer holidays over the next couple of months. We wish you and your families a pleasant and relaxing time.

We also wish you a safe holiday, and remind you to exercise the extra little bit of care that a relaxed season sometimes requires. You and your loved ones will very possibly be in new surroundings, engaging in unaccustomed activities. Water safety is paramount in many situations in summer. Avoiding the temptation to overdo some fun activity is also important.

Keep others safe: remember that more children will out in public for more hours every day, so that extra bit of care when driving may be the difference between a happy summer and a disaster.

We look forward to being in touch again in September, for another season of activity.

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Trouble in Thunder Bay

It seems like forever that Thunder Bay has been the centre of nasty stories. A recent one, in mid-June, reported that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services had shut down three of the city's foster homes following snap inspections.

The three homes were operated by Johnson Children's Services (JCS), an operator

of for-profit homes, under contract to Tikinagan Child and Family Services. Tikinagan, working with 30 First Nations in northwestern Ontario, contract group homes in Thunder Bay to provide safe housing to children from remote First Nations.

Young people in their mid-teens, and sometimes younger, live in Thunder Bay, and other

centres, hundreds of miles from their families because the schools, health services, counselling, or other services they need are not available in their own communities.

JCS is designed to work with youth who have serious emotional and behavioural problems. The surprise inspections were carried out after the death in early May of Tammy Keeash, a 17-year-old from the North Cariboo Lake First Nation, who was

living in a JCS residence while seeking mental health care.

Other recent deaths of youth in residences include: Amy Owen, 13, of Poplar Hill First Nation, who committed suicide in April in Ottawa; Amy Scott, 16, of Fort Albany First Nation, who died in a group home house fire in April in Orleans, Ontario; and Kanina Sue Turtle, 15, a suspected suicide in Sioux Lookout in October, 2016.

Police found the death of

Tammy Keeash consistent with drowning, but provided no information about the circumstances of her drowning. With the additional death of Josiah Begg in May, and six other deaths by drowning of Indigenous people in Thunder Bay between 2000 and 2015, the charge has been made that the police in the city are just not bothering to thoroughly investigate the deaths of Indigenous people.

The death in 2015 of Stacey DeBungee (41), of the Rainy River First Nation, has led to a systemic racism review of the Thunder Bay Police Services by the Office of the Independent Review Director.

Indigenous leaders in northern Ontario, all 77 of the leaders, representing Grand Council No. 3 and Nishnawbe Aski Nation, covering almost all of northern Ontario from the northwestern Manitoba border to James Bay are demanding that the RCMP investigate the river death.

The chiefs say that the Thunder Bay police have shown that they are unable to carry out competent and credible investigations of the deaths.

Reports were published on June 23 that York Regional Police were investigating the deaths of Tammy Keeash and Josiah Begg, at the request of Ontario Chief Coroner Dr. Dirk Huyer. The York Regional Police are to be assisted by the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service.

The Indigenous leaders in the area are maintaining their position that the RCMP should be investigating, because of the responsibility of the government. **(Continued on Page 6.)**

More Stalling on Grassy Narrows

The government of Ontario has recognized that mercury pollution in the English-Wabigoon River system has severely harmed the health of the people of Grassy Narrows and Whitedog reserves. The government has also promised to clean up the pollution.

However, at the end of May and the beginning of June, it was reported that, instead of getting to work to remove the health hazard, the province had taken yet another in a series of steps to do anything except what is needed — a clean-up.

There seems to be little disagreement on the history. Between 1962 and 1970, the paper plant in Dryden, then owned by Reed Paper, dumped 10 tonnes of mercury into the river. The mercury contaminated the fish which were an important part of the diet of the Grassy Narrows First Nation and the Whitedog First Nation who live about 100 kilometres down river.

When Minimata disease, the

result of mercury poisoning, appeared in these two communities, and the mercury pollution was discovered, scientists recommended that the pollution be cleaned up. The position of the province was that the river system would clean itself up.

Back in 1979, when Reed Paper wanted to sell the plant, the government made a deal with Reed Paper, and the buyer of the plant to indemnify them and subsequent owners against responsibility for the pollution. This was done to facilitate the sale and keep the jobs in Dryden.

The argument that the river system would clean itself up was used from 1984 to November, 2016

After it became obvious that the river system was not going to clean itself up, the government agreed that a clean-up would have to be done. However it did nothing, except occasional studies on how to do the work. It was supposedly

concerned that using the wrong method would just make the situation worse by stirring up the mercury which was settled quietly at the bottom of the river.

Though various experts suggested methods which would accomplish the task at hand, the government continued to use this concern as an excuse for inaction, as well as resorting to other stalling tactics.

In the meantime, evidence has emerged that additional mercury has been leaking into the soil, and researchers have identified a possible source — a separate mercury disposal site on the plant property.

In 2011, the government's Ministry of Environment ordered two former owners (Weyerhaeuser and Resolute) to monitor that disposal site. The companies argued that they did not have to do so, because of the 1979 agreement. In July, 2016, the Superior Court of Ontario ruled in favour of the companies. The

province has appealed; the decision is pending.

In the meantime, as May ended, Ontario's Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change announced that it intended to implement an order against Domtar, current owner of the property, to compel Domtar to take certain measures to determine whether mercury was still leaking into the Wabigoon River.

Not surprisingly, Domtar is planning to oppose the order in court, probably on the same grounds as Weyerhaeuser and Resolute. It can be expected that, until the question of the order against Domtar is settled, nothing will be done.

Certainly, the provincial government will not rush in to spend the estimated \$85.7 million over 10 years to clean up the mercury in the river system, especially given the possibility that assuming the responsibility could leave the government vulnerable to lawsuits for the damage that has been done to generations of Indigenous people who relied on the river system to provide a staple of their diet.

Shameful Record on Indigenous Children

It was reported at the beginning of June that the federal government had spent \$707,000 since January, 2016, on legal fees to fight an order by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) that discrimination against Indigenous children be ended. This information was provided by the Office of the Attorney General in response to an inquiry on April 10 by Charlie Angus, the NDP Member of Parliament representing Timmins-James Bay.

The CHRT ruling in 2016, following a prolonged legal fight, found that the government was acting illegally by failing to equitably fund health and social services to Indigenous children living on reserves.

On May 26 of this year, the CHRT criticized the government of Canada for its failure to act, which may have contributed to the deaths last January of Jolynn Winter and Chantell Fox, 12-year-old girls of the Wakekepa First Nation, who committed suicide.

The Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and the Ministry of Health denied a request from the northern community for funding for emergency mental-health care after a suicide pact involving the community's young people was discovered.

Compare the money spent on legal fees to fight the CHRT ruling with the up to (!) \$382.5 million over three years (or an average of \$127.5 million annually) committed (but not yet disbursed) to pay for services highlighted by the CHRT over a year and a half ago.

Over the years, apparently, funding for Indigenous children's needs has fallen victim to jurisdictional disputes between federal and provincial governments and various departments. This problem was to have been resolved by adoption of "Jordan's Principle", according to which services were to be provided by whichever service was first on the spot, with settling of

accounts to be negotiated, later. In other words, "no child should be denied treatment while bureaucrats fight over costs" to quote *The Globe and Mail*. However, the CHRT has criticized the government of Canada for applying an excessively narrow definition, focusing on children with "multiple disabilities".

Statistics show that funding for services of all sorts for Indigenous people living on reserves is far below expenditures in the same areas in off-reserve communities, even though the price of goods and services in remote areas, especially in northern regions, is much higher than in more accessible areas.

In a June 23 article in the *Toronto Star*, Charlie Angus wrote, "It is time to dismantle the colonial construction of both Indigenous Affairs (sic) and Health Canada." He also wrote that it was necessary to "tackle the obstructive role played by the Justice Department".

He proposed four steps to accomplish this.

The first step was to establish a children's ombuds-

person, independent of government. The second step was to do a "full, independent, and public audit of Indigenous Affairs and Health Canada", with the ultimate aim of returning decision-making on child development to the Indigenous people. The third step was to establish the true cost of child services, so that adequate funding can be ensured. The fourth step was to change the "Justice of Canada Act" to include Section 35 of the Constitution, which spells out the rights of Indigenous people.

On June 24, *The Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star* both reported that the federal government was going to court over the most recent non-compliance orders from the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

Both articles reported that the issue is the order that claims for health services be processed within 12 to 48 hours, without case conferencing.

The "Star" story presented the government's position, that in some cases "it could be potentially dangerous, unsafe or unwise (to make) a deci-

sion too quickly. All quotations in the story were attributed to Dr. Jane Philpott, Minister of Health.

The "Globe" was more sceptical, citing Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, "who said it is 'ridiculous' that the ministers are interpreting 'case conferencing' to mean discussions involving doctors when the tribunal was referring to discussions among bureaucrats about who would pay."

The "Globe" ended its story with a quotation from Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous Affairs, saying, "I totally understand the people who think this is red tape or it's a delaying tactic", but insisting that it is really an effort to avoid unintended consequences caused by not "bringing together all the health providers who are involved in the case".

Given the history, there is more than a little basis for scepticism.

(Note: All the doctors mentioned in this story are medical doctors.)

Ukrainian Miscellany

Presidents Poroshenko and Trump Meet

In Washington on June 20, for the first time, Ukraine's President Poroshenko met President Trump of the USA. The Ukrainian President and his supporters treated the meeting as a big deal, and particularly as it preceded President Trump's anticipated meeting with President Putin at the G20 meeting in early July; the American president and public, not so much.

A readout from the White House Office of the Press Secretary on June 20 reported that "President Donald J. Trump met today with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine to discuss support for the peaceful resolution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine and President Poroshenko's reform agenda and anti-corruption efforts."

The Office of the Press Secretary also released a transcript of remarks by President Trump of the USA and President Poroshenko of Ukraine, made at the Oval Office shortly after 11:00 a.m.:

"PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's a great honor to be with President Poroshenko of the Ukraine — a place that we've all been very much involved in. And you've been seeing it and everybody has been reading about it.

"And we've had some very, very good discussions. It's

going to continue throughout the day. And I think a lot of progress has been made. And it's a great honor to have you, Mr. President. Thank you. Thank you very much.

"Would you like to say something?"

"PRESIDENT POROSHENKO: That's a great honor and a great pleasure to be together with you, Mr. President — one of the most reliable supporters and partners — strategic partners for Ukraine.

"We're really fighting to bring freedom and democracy with your very strong support in security and defense — support of our defense, support of my 45 million nation, of the country who is the biggest in the European continent. And I'm absolutely confident that Ukraine is a story of success. I'm proud to have you, Mr. President, and United States as a co-sponsor to this story of success.

"And we very much admire of your leadership, of your very effective steps, because today includes two historic days — five months of your presidency and — when we launched the first peace plan — peace plan of Ukraine. And I'm absolutely confident that our effective coordination will bring the peace to our nation, to our land, and can support our territorial integrity and sovereignty.

"PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you. It's a great honor. Thank you very much. Thank you."

The contrast in tone between the two leaders' comments couldn't be much sharper.

At about 1:50 p.m., Press Secretary Sean Spicer appeared at a press briefing in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room. The questions ranged over many issues, but the transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary reflected only this exchange concerning Ukraine:

"Q: Sean, following up on the President's meeting with the Ukraine President. Would the President like to see Russia get out of Eastern Ukraine? And does he see Moscow as the aggressor in this conflict?"

"MR. SPICER: I think we've been clear that, yeah, I mean, obviously that's part of the reason that there are sanctions, is because until they are out of Eastern Ukraine, we're going to continue to have sanctions on Russia. And we believe that that is Ukraine's — a part of Ukraine and so, therefore, until — those sanctions will remain. It was something that obviously came up in discussion with the President today, and we'll continue to advocate for that.

"Q: And does the President support the Senate sanctions that have now been moved to the House?"

"MR. SPICER: I think we're going to wait and see **(Continued on Page 7.)**

Promoting Canada-Ukraine Trade

With the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement in place, the government of Canada has become actively involved in promoting trade between the two countries.

One program being promoted is U CAN Export, announced by the Canada Ukraine Trade and Investment Support Project (CUTIS Project).

CUTIS Project bills itself as "a 5-year (2016-2021) Canadian development assistance initiative designed to lower poverty in Ukraine through increasing exports from Ukraine to Canada and investment from Canada to Ukraine."

Cutting through the verbiage, the purpose of CUTIS Project is to create jobs in Ukraine. This it will do, in partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development and the Export Promotion Office, by providing Ukrainian businesses with the information needed to export their goods to Canada and attract Canadian investments.

"An active educational campaign on specifics of exports to Canada and benefits of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement is planned." It will include "practical trainings, seminars, webinars, and other events throughout Ukraine".

In addition to searching for business partners in Canada, CUTIS Project will inform

Ukrainian businesses about Canadian standards and regulatory demands, and assist them in complying with the Canadian standards. This will include bringing Ukrainian testing laboratories to certification by Canadian regulatory agencies in five priority export sectors.

Other assistance will also be provided to Ukrainian companies.

U Can Export is one form of this assistance.

CUTIS Project has issued a call for Ukrainian small and medium businesses to enter U CAN Export in five priority sectors: IT services, clothing, shoes, furniture, and chocolate and confectionery.

(While the sectors were supposedly selected after a thorough study of markets, the obvious question would be whether the choice of chocolate and confectionery is in any way related to the history of President Poroshenko's accumulation of wealth.)

The three-year U Can Export program is accepting inquiries at three levels. The comprehensive level is for a limited number of small and medium-sized firms who are most promising and ready for export trade. To be accepted, companies must meet certain criteria: they must be financially sound and registered in Ukraine; they must be in one **(Continued on Page 7.)**

"Canada's Unwavering Support"

The USA has the gun lobby; Canada has the Ukrainian lobby. Both have a firm grip on their respective country's government. The press release which follows, with Defence Minister Sajjan reporting to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, is one example of why we wonder which is the tail and which is the dog.

June 21, 2017 – Ottawa – National Defence / Canadian Armed Forces

Canada and Ukraine have a long history of friendship, common values, and shared ambitions for the future of our peoples.

Defence Minister Harjit S. Sajjan today had a fruitful conversation with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in Ottawa. He reiterated Canada's unwavering support to Ukraine, both in helping to preserve and protect Ukraine's sovereignty in response to Russian aggression and in providing assistance to Ukraine to implement

key reforms.

Minister Sajjan underlined that both the recent signing of the Canada-Ukraine Defence Cooperation Arrangement (DCA) and the renewal of Operation UNIFIER until March 2019 are critical parts of Canada's multifaceted support to Ukrainian territorial integrity and sovereignty, security, and stability.

While the DCA is focused on providing a framework for cooperation on important defence-related issues, Operation UNIFIER is part of broader Government of Canada efforts to advance democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Ukraine through development, financial, humanitarian, and non-lethal military assistance.

Supporting the security of other nations and their ability to contribute to security abroad is one of the eight core missions of *Strong, Secure, Engaged*, Canada's new Defence Policy. Canada's as-

sistance to Ukraine and Ukrainians is fully aligned with the new Defence Policy.

Quotes

"The Government of Canada is committed to Ukraine and the Ukrainian people as they work to build a more secure, stable, and prosperous country. The illegal seizure of Ukrainian territory by Russia is not something Canada can accept or ignore. Canada will continue providing support to the Ukrainian people, as we have since January 2014, as long as our assistance is needed."

Harjit S. Sajjan, Defence Minister

Quick Facts

· As part of Canada's response to requests from the Government of Ukraine, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), with support from Global Affairs Canada, is providing military training and capacity building to Ukrainian Armed Forces' personnel to support Ukraine in its efforts to maintain sovereignty, security, and stability.

· Since the start of the **(Continued on Page 7.)**

Ukraine's Health Care Reforms

In its *Ukraine: Daily Briefing*, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress has been reporting on health care reforms in Ukraine.

On June 7, it reported:

"Writing for the Atlantic Council, Melinda Haring stated, 'For nearly a year, Dr. Ulana Suprun has been pressing for a complete revamp of Ukraine's health care system, and she is finally close to seeing it replaced by a brand-new set of policies. She's got a firm deadline: the current parliamentary session ends on July 14. If she can't get the bill passed in the next six weeks, Suprun, the acting minister of Ukraine's Ministry of Health, believes health care reform will likely be postponed until after the 2019 presidential election. [...]"

"Ukraine's sclerotic health care system hasn't been reformed since 1991 and its problems are manifold. Stories of fraud, misdiagnosis, and poor care abound. [...]" More

than 90 percent of Ukrainians are afraid they'll be financially ruined by an emergency. She wants to change that. [...]"

"Suprun and her team have designed a system that reforms palliative, emergency, and primary care simultaneously. The new National Health Service would be an independent body in the executive branch under the Cabinet of Ministers, much like the National Anticorruption Bureau of Ukraine. [...]"

"She's also been working on changing medical education. Her bill will introduce medical licenses for individual doctors. Currently a doctor needs just a diploma to practice; only medical practices are licensed. [...]"

"After lawmakers refused to take up health care reform on May 18, a special parliamentary working group studied the issue and simplified the number of bills from four to two; in the end, President **(Continued on Page 7.)**

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Let Us Not Be Misled.

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

There was much anxiety in many quarters following the election of President Trump and the British decision to leave the European Union. Subsequently, many commentators have taken great comfort from those recent election results in Britain, France, Germany and other countries, in which the anticipated move to the right appears not to have happened.

It may be, however, that the sense of relief is premature. There are several reasons why this may be the case.

One of those reasons is illustrated by the situation in Britain. While Theresa May suffered severe losses in the election, the result is that she has partnered with a party even more to the right to stay in power. One can expect that Prime Minister May will have to propose, or at least support, some retrogressive legislation to keep the support of the Conservative party's coalition partner.

Another reason for caution is illustrated by the situation in Canada. During the election campaign, Justin Trudeau successfully projected an image of an anti-Harper. To some extent, he continues to do so. Unfortunately, on issue after issue, the difference appears large on symbolism and image, but small on substance. Military expenditures, support for immigration, reconciliation with Indigenous people — whatever the issue, Prime Minister Trudeau proves the adage that the Liberals run from the left, but govern from the right.

A third reason is that it may not matter very much. President Trump's position on trade, for example, may cause another leader to adopt trade restrictions, whether out of the need to counter the damage caused by Trump's actions, or just to keep the support of one's own constituency by avoiding the appearance of weakness.

It may be better, in most cases, to have a liberal elected, rather than a conservative or an ultra-conservative, but the record is not clear that electing a liberal will result in progressive governmental directions.

Rather than breathing a sigh of relief that "the good guys" won and relaxing, the concerned electorate must act each day in a way to encourage the liberal to pursue progressive directions in governing. In particular, the public must look beyond the theatrics or posturing to insist on substance in pursuit of a progressive direction. Marching in Pride parades and promising to make Indigenous people equal partners is all well and good, but not if the defence budget is boosted significantly while the needs of Indigenous youth are opposed in court.

Let us not be misled.

From Our History

The article which is excerpted below appeared in *The Ukrainian Canadian* on April 1, 1968, as part of the AUUC 50th anniversary celebrations.

How It All Began The Story of the First Ukrainian Labour Temple By Peter Krawchuk

"*Robochy Narod*" (The Working People) of February 20, 1918, carried the announcement that "The V. Vinnichenko Drama Circle of Winnipeg will present "*Suyeta*" (Vanity), an educational four-act comedy by the famous Ukrainian playwright Ivan Tobilevich at the Grand Opera House, cor. Main and Jarvis, on March 16."

A few days later (Feb. 27) "*Robochy Narod*" again carried the announcement, but with this added information: "Remember that the proceeds from the play are assigned for the 'LABOUR TEMPLE' in Winnipeg."

This announcement... appeared several times.

The March 6, 1918, issue of "*Robochy Narod*" carried an editorial which gives full information on how this great and noble decision came to be made. ...

"For a long time Ukrainian Labour organizations in Winnipeg crowded into strange and inadequate quarters; for a long time now Ukrainian workers have gathered for meetings, plays, concerts and other activities in strange halls; our press, "*Robochy Narod*", crammed into tight, rented corners; and year after year Ukrainian workers have paid out thousands of their hard-earned dollars in rent to landlord-owners of the various properties.

....
"The time has come, however, when the understanding of the importance of organization and consciousness of working class interests among Ukrainian workers, including their own organization, have grown by leaps and bounds.

... We will say only that Ukrainian workers in Winnipeg can be justifiably proud of the fact that they are marching in the front ranks of the entire Ukrainian movement in Canada.

....
"On Friday evening (March 1, 1918 — Ed.) the members of the local social-democratic branch, the V. Vinnichenko Drama Circle and a fairly large group of readers of '*Robochy Narod*' met together and decided to start working toward the building of a Ukrainian Labour Temple. Having decided this, they immediately donated over \$3,700 from among themselves in declarations, and \$1,000 in cash toward the building fund.

"This first auspicious beginning toward the new centre was made by a group of people conscious and aware of their responsibilities, full of faith and hope that the great mass of Ukrainian workers, in Winnipeg and beyond, would accept this project with joy and would eagerly and quickly come forward with financial and other help toward the building of their own Labour Temple. There is not the slightest doubt that the Ukrainian workers of Winnipeg will give their hundreds, fifties, twenties, tens and fives for this important endeavour — their own stronghold, their fortress in defence of their working class interests, just as their comrades did at the meeting in the Royal Theatre, and that in a few months Winnipeg North would be graced by a beautiful Ukrainian Labour Temple

"They are already coming

forward to help..... Ukrainian comrades have been coming to the editorial offices of "*Robochy Narod*" every day, bringing their generous contributions to the fund, promising at the same time to lend their physical help in the building.

....
"We call on you to act quickly to fulfil our common task and call on others for help as well. ...

"We build beautiful palaces for big business — let us build a Ukrainian Labour Temple for ourselves as well."

Ukrainian workers from right across the Country responded to the appeal issued by "*Robochy Narod*" — pledges and money came in for the projected building....

In the issue of the paper for March 23, 1918, a listing of 329 names of Winnipeg donors to the building of the hall was published. At that time the fund stood at \$5,422.00 in declarations, \$2,023 in cash. The collection from the meeting brought in \$185.19 and the play "*Suyeta*" \$55.90. This brought the cash on hand to \$2,264.09.

The same issue of the paper also carried the following announcement:

"The building committee for the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg has taken the step of buying a site for the hall. It is situated on the south-west corner of Pritchard and MacGregor Sts. — one block from Selkirk Ave. The property takes in two lots, 66 by 115½ feet in size. Total cost is \$2,350.00.

"A better and more advantageous property for the Ukrainian community of Winnipeg could not be found; that is the general opinion. As soon as it will be possible, work on the foundation will be started.

"All who have declared specific sums, as well as those who wish to make a donation to this project, will please come to the editorial offices of "*Robochy Narod*", 873 Main St., to make their contributions.

"Contributors from the province should also send their money to the newspaper. Ukrainian workers, particularly in Winnipeg, are urged to

(Continued on Page 6.)

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

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Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra Annual Concert



The attendance at the annual concert of the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra reflects the continuing popularity of the performing collective.

On the evening of May 13, the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra of the AUUC Winnipeg Branch held its annual Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra in Concert (previously known as Festival of Mandolins).

Founded in 1920, the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra is the oldest continuously performing mandolin orchestra in Canada and the second oldest in North America.

Current conductor Annis Kozub celebrated his 19th season with the orchestra.

The concert started with the 24-member orchestra performing “Kolo”, a Ukrainian piece which was orchestrated by Myron Shatulsky, former conductor of the orchestra. Other pieces included in the setlist were “On the Eve of Ivan Kupalo”, “Crossing the Briney”, “A Playful Interlude”, “Tumbalalaika”, and “Send in the Clowns”.

Special guests Jessee Havey and Nathaniel Good of the group called Nation of Two performed songs that drew on traditions of Appalachian mu-

sic, themes of social significance, and experiences of their own unfolding journey as partners in music, marriage and life. Their performance included songs such as “Half a World Away” and “Spirit and Mind”.

The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra ended the night with selections from Ben McPeck’s *Five Pictorial Sketches for Mandolin and Orchestra*, commissioned by The Shevchenko Musical Ensemble in Toronto.

— Justin McGillivray



Guest artists Nation of Two performed songs that drew on traditions of Appalachian music, themes of social significance, and experiences of their own unfolding journey as partners.

— Story photos: Justin McGillivray



Conductor Annis Kozub celebrated his 19th season with the orchestra.

Doors Open Attendance Up at Winnipeg ULT



Glenn Michalchuk points out the features of the ULT to a group of visitors.

On May 28, the doors of the Ukrainian Labour Temple were opened to the public as part of Heritage Winnipeg’s Doors Open event.

Almost 200 people visited

the ULT, which was about double the attendance of last year. The visitors represented a cross section of society – young and old, newcomers and long-time residents, men and



Robyn Smith (left) shares the history of the Ukrainian Labour Temple with two guests.

women, those of Ukrainian, Indigenous and other ethnic heritage.

The visitors were entertained by: the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, conducted by Annis Kozub; the Festival Choir, conducted by Lina Streltsov and accompanied by Anna Khomenko; and the Yunist Dancers and two student dancers, directed by Justin McGillivray. The guests could also purchase perogies and refreshments. (Most of the heritage sites participating in the Doors Open event provided neither entertainment nor food.)

Most of the visitors had never been in the ULT, and said that they fully enjoyed the tours that were provided by AUUC members. The tours took about a half hour, and went throughout the building. Of particular interest to the guests were the dressing rooms and the old costumes used in dramatic representations on the stage.

The guests were told how the ULT was built, how the AUUC was started, and what the building meant to the early immigrants to the city.

Some of the visitors had been involved in activities at the ULT when they were young, but they had not been to the ULT recently. They said that they were very impressed with the condition of the building and all the activities that

are now held in the ULT.

Tour guides were Kim Boss, Robyn Smith, Tim Gordienko, Glenn Michalchuk and Dennis Lewycky.

The food was prepared by Steve Hunter and served by Emily Halldorson and Tusia Kozub.

(Continued on Page 8.)

— Story photos: Dennis Lewycky



The Yunist Dancers were directed by Justin McGillivray.

Centennial Celebrations

(Continued from page 1.)

The ULTA played a significant role in the Winnipeg General Strike in 1919, and the centenary of that event will be celebrated in 2019. In preparation for the 2018-19 celebrations, the AUUC has selected a logo to be applied to materials from letter paper to bags and items of clothing designed to mark the anniversaries.

At the moment, the logo is undergoing minor modifications to perfect it.

A budget has been set at the national level to assist Branches with a wide range of projects, ranging from a gala concert to a historical slide show, and a wide variety of other projects.

Future issues of the "UCH" will feature special articles as part of the celebration.

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Morindie Bagan
Clara Capowski
Anne Kawchuk
Mary Tropak
Marian Ursuliak

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

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

Mary Blonar
Mary Brown
Pat Moschenross
Dorothy Oreskovich

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

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

Anne Hunka
Christine Whatmough
Brenda Zynomirski

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

From Our History

(Continued from page 4.) Temple."

We see that in the beginning there was just enough collected to buy the property

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:

AUUC NATIONAL OFFICE

National Executive Committee AUUC
595 Pritchard Avenue
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E-mail: mail@auucobzar.net Web site: auuc.ca

VANCOUVER BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
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E-mail: auucvancouver@telus.net
Website: www.auucvancouver.ca

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Ukrainian Labour Temple
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AUUC Cultural Centre
1604 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M6P 1A7
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auuctorontobranch@gmail.com

WELLAND BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
342 Ontario Road
Welland ON L3B 5C5
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needed for the building of the temple. With this small sum, but with a great deal of faith in the mass support of the Ukrainian community, the initiators took on the task of building the first Ukrainian the first Ukrainian Labour Temple in Canada, which became an important centre of Ukrainian national culture, education, community activity and the Ukrainian press.

The newspaper "*Robochy Narod*" published columns of names of contributors in every issue, while the building committee called mass meetings in Winnipeg and in surrounding communities such as Elmwood and Transcona where the project was discussed and money collected.

On April 20, "*Robochy Narod*" ran an editorial entitled "We Ask Your Help in Building the Ukrainian Labour Temple."

"Now that beautiful spring days are upon us it is time to start with the building. For this, however, money is needed, and all that the building committee has at this time is around \$2,000.00.

"It is impossible to start building with such a small sum. Every effort must be made to raise, in the shortest period of time, a sum of money adequate to make a payment (about \$25,000) and then proceed with the building ..."

This appeal was again answered by wide circles of the Ukrainian community.... And before spring had advanced very far, the first soil was turned on the site of the hall.

"*Robochy Narod*" of May 25, 1918, carried the following news item:

"Yesterday, that is Friday, Winnipeg comrades began to dig the basement under the Ukrainian Labour Temple, in which the print shop of the paper will be established.

"All local comrades must pitch in and help with the work!"

On June 1, 1918, "*Robochy Narod*" published a large appeal from the Building Com-

mittee of the Ukrainian hall....

Besides calling for further financial support, the appeal outlined the importance that the Ukrainian Labour Temple would have for Ukrainian workers in Winnipeg in the following words:

"The Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg, which we, comrades, will build this year at cost of some \$50,000.00, will be not only a home for our print shop and our valuable paper "*Robochy Narod*", not only a meeting place for the Ukrainian workers of the city and a concert hall for our holidays, concerts and plays — it will be a true Temple of Labour for the entire mass of Ukrainian workers in Canada, a centre and well-spring of cultural activity, education and truth, which no one from among our repressors and exploiters has given us to date. It will become the FIRST UKRAINIAN WORKERS' UNIVERSITY, propagating words of truth and science, which alone can liberate us from the chains of slavery that have bound us to this day, and raise us to great heights of spiritual and material happiness...."

On July 15 "*Robochy Narod*" published a large sketch of the Ukrainian Labour Temple — how it looked at that time of building.... The text explained that this was how the work on the building was progressing, that the walls were up and the basement nearly finished.

August 17 saw the following large announcement on the front page of the paper:

"Workers of the city of Winnipeg! Tonight, at 7:00 p.m. the corner of Pritchard & MacGregor Sts. will see the laying of the FOUNDATION STONE in the Ukrainian Labour Temple and the immuring within it the names of all those who contributed toward the building of this temple."

The issue of August 21 carried a report of the proceedings.... About 1,000 people attended the meeting for the laying of the cornerstone. The meeting lasted some four hours with various speakers and donations being made toward the building. Declarations and cash contributions amounted to \$1,200. It was close to 12:00 midnight when M. Nimelovich performed the historic act of laying the cornerstone of the new hall.

Three days later, the paper informed its readers that it would be moving its print shop and offices into the building.

It must be noted here that the mobilization of both moral and material support for the building of the hall was greatly helped by tours made by Mathew Popovich and M. Kniazewich. They held countless meetings in a whole

(Continued on Page 7.)

Thunder Bay

(Continued from page 2.)

At the same time as the Thunder Bay police force is under pressure from the Indigenous people throughout the area who have lost confidence in the professionalism of the force in dealing with Indigenous people, an additional stress has been charges of breach of trust and obstructing justice brought against Chief Jean-Paul Levesque after a five-month investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police at the request of the RCMP.

Presidents Meet

(Continued from Page 3.) what happens in the House before we weigh in on that package. It's not just the package; I think there's some other areas of that package that we need to work with the House and Senate on if it comes back — depending on how it's handled in the House — that we have to address. But, as is usually the case, we won't have a statement of administrative policy until it advances through the House."

What could Mr. Spicer's incoherence possibly reflect?

There is no question what the lack of energetic follow-up reflects — a greater interest in many other issues.

Many American and other non-Ukrainian media mentioned that the meeting of the presidents happened "right after the US Department of Treasury added 38 more organizations and individuals to the sanction list".

While Ukraine and its supporters treated this as a sign of support from Donald Trump, others tended to specu-

late that it was an effort to forestall further legislation in Congress.

The *Euromaidan Press* was fairly typical of pro-Ukrainian coverage.

That publication noted that the President Poroshenko met with President Trump, as well as Vice-President Mike Pence, Pentagon Chief James Mattis and Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, and noted that this meeting happened before the meeting with President Putin.

The report mentioned the breadth of the discussions, which included commercial, as well as political themes. The report noted the newly added sanction, but noted that the State Department considered them "consistent with the U.S. commitment to seek a diplomatic resolution to the crisis in Ukraine and to facilitate Crimea's return to Ukraine". (Translation: "We're not going to war about it — at least, not now.")

Euromaidan Press also reported American promises to help repatriate "at least 44 peo-

ple imprisoned in Russia and occupied Crimea on political motives, and at least 128 people who are held in prison in occupied Donbas."

Euromaidan Press reported, too, that there were meetings with Vice-President Pence and with U.S. Secretary of Defence James Mattis.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, in its daily briefing, reported that President Poroshenko said, "I am fully satisfied with the results of the negotiations and grateful to President Trump, Vice-President Pence and the Secretaries I met for a very strong support of our state." The additional meetings would appear to be the source of President Poroshenko's satisfaction, as it was in those sessions that the greatest support for Ukraine was expressed. The measures progressing through Congress must also be giving Ukraine some hope that Donald Trump will not be in control of decisions concerning Ukraine.

Canada's Support

(Continued from Page 3.) training in September, 2015, the CAF has delivered more than 110 courses to over 4750 Ukrainian soldiers, covering all types of training.

· Canada has provided a broad range of assistance (development, financial, humanitarian, non-lethal military) to Ukraine, totalling more than \$700 million since January 2014.

· Canada has contributed over \$16 million in non-lethal military equipment to Ukraine's armed forces, and will contribute an additional \$7.25 million over the next two years.

· Under the extension of Operation UNIFIER until March, 2019, Canada will continue to deploy approximately 200 CAF personnel in Ukraine.

· In addition to the Canadian Government's recent decision to renew Operation UNIFIER, the Canada-Ukraine Defence Cooperation Arrangement further exemplifies Canada's commitment to Ukraine. It identifies areas of mutual cooperation such as defence policy; defence research, development, and production; and military education.

· Canada also participates on Ukraine's Defence Reform Advisory Board (DRAB). The DRAB has been established to provide high-level expertise and recommendations to senior political leadership carrying out planning, organization, implementation, and control of institutional reforms of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

From Our History

(Continued from Page 6.) number of communities, explaining the need for such a building and calling for financial support.

On September 18, the Executive Committee of the Ukrainian Labour Temple reported in "*Robochy Narod*" that \$20,000 had been raised for the hall. The information was accompanied by a further appeal for contributions, so that the doors of the hall could be opened within the next couple of months.

Other communities got caught up in the fever generated by the building of the hall in Winnipeg. The Ukrainian community in Port Arthur and in Regina began to collect money to build halls in those cities.

At the end of September, 1918, however, the Canadian government stepped in. It stopped the publication of "*Robochy Narod*" and banned the Social-Democratic Party in Canada. This, of course, stopped the building temporarily, until the situation improved.

Mathew Shatulsky writes about this period in his book *Fifteen Years of the ULFTA* published in Winnipeg in 1933. "All meetings were forbidden, even the Building Committee of the Ukrainian Labour Temple was unable to meet and discuss what to do about the unfinished structure. All ties with the centre were broken, as well as with the organized workers across Canada.

"The building of the hall had progressed to such a point that it couldn't be left as it was, nor could it be finished. The walls were up to the roof, but the roof was missing and there was no money to put it up.

The print shop of '*Robochy Narod*', which had already been moved to the basement of the building, was leaking water every time it rained, because that part of the building was not completely finished either.

....

In November of 1918 the first World War came to an end. The situation began to improve slightly. Slowly the Building Committee re-established itself.

On March 22, 1919, the first number of the paper "*Ukrainski robotnichi visti*" (Ukrainian Labour News) came out in Winnipeg. The first page of the issue carried a photo of the Ukrainian Labour Temple...."

The second page of the issue carried an announcement — report on the temple. It said,

"Four weeks have passed since the completion of the Ukrainian Labour Temple."

With the opening of the doors of the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg, the cultural, educational and community life of the Ukrainian workers in Winnipeg burgeoned and bloomed. The Ukrainian Worker's Theatre, which was formed, presented plays two and three evenings to accommodate the eager spectators — the proceeds went toward the payment of debts on the Temple.

Truly, the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg became the hearthstone of cultural activity and education for the progressive Ukrainian community not only for Winnipeg, but the whole of Canada. This it has continued to be for 50 years!

Health Care Reforms

(Continued from Page 3.) Petro Poroshenko gave Suprun's reforms his full support. "The working group worked to optimize the [bills] and to communicate to the MPs what's actually in them," said Suprun.

"On June 6, the legislation was added to the parliamentary agenda, and a vote is expected on June 8, followed by a second, final vote later in June. Suprun thinks the new legislation will pass. But she is also counting on international donors and western capitals to visibly support passage of the reforms."

On June 21, the UCC reported:

"As part of the reforms of Ukraine's health care system, Ukraine's Ministry of Health launched the pilots of eHealth in Kyiv, Cherkasy and Dnipro on June 19. The launch of the next electronic eHealth services — registration of primary care physicians and patients — is planned for July, the Ministry of Health stated."

The next day, June 22, the report said:

"The Ministry of Health of Ukraine reported that 25 medical institutions in 15 cities have registered for Ukraine's eHealth system. The first step of the service — registration of primary care institutions — began on June 19. Following the registration of medical institutions, the registration of doctors and then patients will begin. In the future, eHealth will allow for the establishment of a single electronic

medical card for Ukrainians, which will assist with diagnoses and the administration of medical services, the Ministry of Health stated.

"Acting Health Minister Ulana Suprun stated, 'The Ministry, together with the public, business, and the international community is fulfilling its obligations in implementing health care reforms. I once again call on Ukraine's Members of Parliament to adopt the necessary draft legislation as quickly as possible, so that we no longer have to delay reforms.'

"Canada is supporting the establishing of Ukraine's eHealth system. Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine, Roman Waschuk, stated, 'We support reforms in Ukraine, including health care reforms and we are counting on the cooperation of the government, Parliament, business and the public, so that Ukrainians will soon be able to access world-class health care.'"

While the Acting Minister of Health was calling for the adoption of "the necessary draft legislation as quickly as possible", it seems, work was proceeding as though adoption of legislation (in spite of some opposition in parliament) was a mere formality, less important than the demands of all the international supporters of reform.

See the June, 2017, issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* (Page 9, "Ukraine's Health Care System") for more information.

Promoting Trade

(Continued from Page 3.) of the five priority sectors; they may have up to 500 registered workers; they must have experience in exporting/supplying products to retailers OR domestic sales of over 5 million hryvnias annually; more than 50% of their ultimate beneficial ownership must be Ukrainian; they must have English-language fluency; they must be prepared to share the cost of marketing travel to the USA or Canada.

Benefits offered to companies in this category include: participation in specialized exhibitions and other marketing activities in Canada and the US on a shared cost basis; individual consulting and support from experienced industry consultants from Canada and Ukraine on accessing the

Canadian market and promoting your goods/services; organization of business meetings in Canada with potential customers; shared-cost participation in trade missions to Canada; and access to educational programs and materials.

There was a July 16 deadline for applications.

The other two levels of participation were "educational/consultational" (for other companies in priority sectors, interested in entering the Canadian market) and informational (for a wide range of companies interested in the Canadian market).

The government of Canada supports U CAN Export financially through Global Affairs Canada.

Doors Open Attendance Up at Winnipeg ULT



Annis Kozub conducted the Mandolin Orchestra

— Story photos: Dennis Lewycky



Guests line up to get their perogies and drinks.



Justin McGillivray took to the microphone for an announcement.

(Continued from Page 5.)

At the end of the day, those involved in planning the event felt it was a very successful day of sharing AUUC and ULT history with others in the community. Not only could people enjoy the history of the building, but they could also get a good impression of how much our Ukrainian ancestors brought to Canada.

— Dennis Lewycky

Moving? Please don't forget to send us your new address.

Victory Day... Den Pobedy

Victory Day is a May 9 holiday that commemorates the victory of the Soviet Union over Nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic War, also known as World War Two.

On Sunday May 7, at St. James Civic Center in Winnipeg, it was commemorated by the children of the Winnipeg Russian School, Erudit, along with the Jewish Child and Family Services Women's Choir and the AUUC Ukrainian Festival Choir.

The event was under the direction of Katia Shishkin, director of the school, pianist Anna Khomenko and conductor Vasilina Streltsov. The choirs performed musical selections, recitations and dances to commemorate Victory Day.

The audience was treated to selections from soloists Laura Varga (Kiev Opera singer) and Viktoriya Savchenko.

The women's choir performed "Eli, Eli" a prayer of the Holocaust and Buchenwald Alarm Bells which tells all people in the world to always guard the peace.

The song "Victory Day... Den Pobedy" concluded the program. This powerful song draws not upon the bravery of youthful soldiers, but on the private memories of ageing,

greying veterans. Its poignant combination of joy at a stunning victory and sadness at great loss is just as relevant today as ever.

It was a unique event, with the participation of the different communities blending all their voices to highlight the singing of "Victory Day song... Den Pobedy".

— Walter Mirosch



The Festival Choir of the AUUC Winnipeg Branch found the celebration a wonderful experience.

— Story photos: Joyce Krenz



The celebration of Victory Day in Winnipeg on May 7 culminated with the combined choirs singing "Victory Day... Den Pobedy".

Who, What, When, Where

Calgary — 2017-2018 Season begins in September, 2017. Activities include: Calgary Hopak Ensemble Choir; Calgary Hopak Ensemble Orchestra; Calgary Hopak Ensemble Dancers; Calgary Hopak Ensemble Dance School. For more information, contact 403-289-8480 or 403-246-1231.

* * *

Toronto — AUUC Toronto Branch will host its annual Canada Day/Shevchenko Day event at the AUUC Cultural Centre, 1604 Bloor Street West, starting at noon on July 1, with Canada 150 as this year's theme. The program includes the traditional floral tribute to Taras Shevchenko, a Canada 150 gift basket, picnic-style lunch, live entertainment and sing-along, Canadiana trivia contest (with prizes!), Canada 150 souvenirs, and more. Admission: \$12.00/person; \$5.00/person under 12. Bring your family and friends to enjoy a milestone Canada Day/Shevchenko Day at our hall.

* * *

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

Sustaining Fund Donations

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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.



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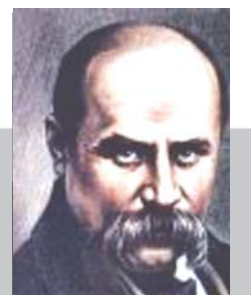
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