

HERALD BISHNIK

KBITEHЬ, 2017p. HOMEП 293 PIK XXVII

APRIL 2018 NO. 293 VOL. XXVII Price \$2.25

Malanka in Regina

— Photo: Mark Greschner



The 20th annual Malanka celebration was hosted by the Regina Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and supported by the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance on January 13. Over 300 guests enjoyed an evening of excellent food, beverages, fine performances and plenty of dancing.

A story with additional photos is on page 7.

The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated May, 2018. Announcements of events in May or early June, 2018, as well as articles for the May, 2018, issue should be in our office by April 10. Thank you for your consideration.

Celebrating 100 years of the AUUC in Winnipeg

The Winnipeg Branch of the AUUC will be holding a gala evening on Saturday, May 12, at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, the home of the Winnipeg Branch, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians.

The evening will begin at 4:30 p.m. with a concert featuring the performing arts groups of AUUC Winnipeg Branch: Festival Choir, Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, (Continued on Page 12.)



File photo: Wilfred Schubert
AUUC Winnipeg Branch President Glenn Michalchuk, Member of the “UCH” Winnipeg Bureau, spoke about celebration plans.

Easter Sunday and April Fool’s Day on the same day?

In This Issue

CORRECTION

The photo credit on Page 7 of the March, 2018, issue should have read “—Story photos Jerry Dobrowolsky.” Terry Harasym is the photographer who shot the picture of his father William Harasym which is used on the plaque. We regret the error.

Naftogaz Wins in Arbitration

Ukraine’s Naftogaz and Russia’s Gazprom submitted a dispute between them to arbitration by the Stockholm Court of Arbitration in Sweden. At the end of February, it was announced that the tribunal had ruled in favour of the Ukrainian natural gas agency on most major issues.

The award of US \$4.63 billion in damages to Naftogaz means that Gazprom owes about \$2.56 to Naftogaz, after residual payments for gas delivered in 2014 and 2015 are settled. The court found that Gazprom deprived Ukraine of revenue by failing to deliver agreed volumes of gas through Ukraine’s pipelines.

Naftogaz originally submitted a claim for \$15 billion, plus interest, for under-deliveries and underpayments. Gazprom filed a counterclaim for \$50 million arising from an award by the same tribunal in May and December, 2017.

In the earlier ruling, the tribunal invalidated take-or-pay provisions, rejecting a \$5.6 billion Gazprom’s claim.

Naftogaz’s minimum annual obligation was reduced from 41.6 billion cubic metres to 4 bcm, saving Naftogaz over \$2.1 billion. The amount owed by Naftogaz for natural gas

delivered in 2014 and 2015 was also reduced by \$1.8 billion below the originally contracted price.

Gazprom and Russia immediately questioned the fairness of the award, and signalled an intent to challenge the decision, for which there is limited possibilities.

(Continued on Page 9.)

Lost: Almost 40,000 Full-Time Jobs

Once upon a time, not so long ago, the monthly labour force surveys issued by Statistics Canada, would begin with information to the effect that “In (month) compared to (previous month) Canada (gained or lost, number) jobs, having (gained or lost, number) part-time jobs and having (gained or lost, number) full-time jobs.” That basic information was up front, with details following. No more; over time, the information has become much harder to find.

Go to the *Labour Force Survey* for February, 2018, issued by Statistics Canada in early March, and you will

learn that, “Employment was little changed in February (+15,000).” Then it continues with a year-over-year report. When we are told that there was a growth of 15,000 jobs, puny as that is, the question that comes to mind naturally is, “What kind of jobs?” This particular report makes us work for the answer.

The section “Highlights” tells us that New Brunswick and Nova Scotia had more jobs, while Saskatchewan had fewer. No numbers are attached here. “There was little change in the other provinces,” the report says. The (Continued on Page 3.)

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PUBLICATIONS MAIL 40009476
POSTMASTER: IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO
KOBZAR PUBLISHING CO. LTD
595 PRITCHARD AVENUE
WINNIPEG MB R2W 2K4

Budgeting for Reconciliation

As is usual with governmental budgets these days, things sound better than they are. We can, however, learn what the government wants to project as its image.

In the last federal budget, delivered on February 27, we can see that the government wants to seem keen on reconciliation with Indigenous people.

So we see a pledge of another \$4.8 billion for job training, health, children's services, housing and clean drinking water for Canada's Indig-

enous people. Mind you, the money will be spent over the next five years, so some of it depends on the Liberals being re-elected. If it is to be spent mostly in the last year, it may actually be a zero promise.

This promise comes after Ottawa's Liberal government already ear-marked an unprecedented \$118 billion in long-term spending for First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities in its 2016 and 2017 budgets. How much of that earlier sum has been spent?

The biggest chunk of the new money — \$2 billion over five years (or \$400 million a year) — is slated to fund a revamped Indigenous jobs training program that will focus on helping people find high-quality, well-paying employment instead of prioritizing quick re-entry into the work force. The government is promising to help 15,000 Indigenous workers find jobs.

The question is, "How many jobs are actually needed, and will the work be available?"

Another \$15 billion will go to Indigenous health services over five years, or 3 billion annually. This includes \$498 million to increase access to critical care and establish 24-hour nursing services in remote communities, as well as \$200 million for addictions treatment. Nurses is good, doctors would be better.

The budget also includes a \$14 billion infusion of cash (over how many years?) for First Nations child and family services, an area where the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has repeatedly ruled that the federal government is discriminating against Indigenous children by underfunding services. The new funding is aimed to support single mothers and children in foster care, while also improving services in Indigenous communities so fewer children are removed from their homes and placed in foster care.

More than half the 29,000 children in private foster care are Indigenous, despite the fact that First Nations, Métis and Inuit children make up less than 8% of children in Canada. Perry Bellegarde, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said that this money means that the fed-

eral government has "fully implemented" its obligations under the orders from the Human Rights Tribunal. Maybe.

"That's huge for our people," he said, adding that the skills program will result in a "huge return on investments for the future," since Indigenous people represent the fastest growing segment of the population. "It's moving in the right direction. We see that. But the needs are huge."

Other measures for Indigenous people include another \$173 million on top of the \$18 billion already pledged to eliminate all drinking water advisories on reserves by March, 2021, and an additional \$144 million for the government's ongoing strategy to repair and construct new housing units for Indigenous

people.

Another \$612 million is ear-marked over the next five years to support Indigenous communities in negotiations with Ottawa to reach new treaties and self-determination agreements, as well as support First Nations' institutions, administrative capacity, and financial management

Since taking power in 2015, Justin Trudeau's Liberal government has placed reconciliation between Ottawa and Canada's Indigenous people in the upper rung of its priorities. Last summer, the government dissolved the department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, and replaced it with two new entities: Indigenous Services and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs.

Indigenous People and Motherisk

A review of Motherisk by former justice Susan Lang deemed the testing "inadequate and unreliable" for use in legal proceedings. It estimated that, of 16,000 individuals tested at the request of Ontario's child welfare agencies just from 2005 to 2015, more than 9,000 tested positive for drugs or alcohol.

However, Motherisk's flawed hair testing was used for decades, affecting thousands of child-protection cases across Canada, where the results were used as proof of parental substance abuse. Commissioner Judith Beaman found that the reliance on the testing in decisions to remove children from their families was "manifestly unfair and harmful" and was imposed on "the poorest and most vulnerable members of our society, with scant regard for due process."

After reviewing nearly 1,300 Ontario child protection files, Commissioner Beaman concluded in her final report that 56 families were "broken apart" when Motherisk's faulty testing played a significant role in decisions to remove children from their caregivers.

Although Indigenous individuals make up less than 3% of Ontario's population, Indigenous families, who are over-represented in the child protection system, were involved in nearly 15% of the files reviewed by the commission.

In a letter to Attorney General Yasir Naqvi of Ontario, Gordon Peters, Deputy Grand Chief of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, which represents 20,000 First Nations citizens from seven communities in Ontario, said that Ontario's review of tainted child protection cases failed to fulfil its promise to Indigenous people, who were disproportionately impacted by the faulty hair testing.

Calling the Motherisk Commission's final report a "mas-

sive disappointment", Mr. Peters labelled the review a "secretive" process that looked at only a fraction of the thousands of known child protection cases involving faulty drug and alcohol hair-testing. He charged that the Motherisk Commission "made unilateral decisions and selective omissions" and "ignored Indigenous communities and families," contrary to its mandate.

"The Commission, in our view," he wrote, "conducted its work in a manner that entrenched colonial policies and systems which serve little purpose but to remove First Nations children from First Nation families and communities."

Deputy Grand Chief Peters said in an interview that the discussions the commission had with his people were largely one-sided. "When you get down to the important matters of making decisions," he said, "we have absolutely zero role." Mr. Peters is now calling for a review of every Motherisk case, with immediate notification of all affected children and parents, but that is unlikely to happen.

Commissioner Beaman said that the commission "made every effort to identify and review all the cases involving Motherisk testing where children were permanently removed from their families and were still under the age of 18". The commission also reviewed cases upon request.

The Commission produced 32 recommendations aimed at preventing a similar tragedy.

In only four cases was the Commission able to return lost children to their parents, partly because finalized adoptions are virtually impossible to undo. The community was not pleased when told by the Commission that legal remedies in these cases would be difficult to achieve. "If you steal a child under faulty pretences, that child has to come back," Mr. Peters said.

Clam Fishery Awarded

A monopoly on the multi-million-dollar Arctic surf clam industry, long held by fisheries giant Clearwater Seafoods, ended when a company made up of First Nations members from Quebec and Atlantic Canada was awarded a new licence for Arctic surf clam.

The lucrative offshore licence was given to Five Nations Premium Clam Co., which is headed by the brother of a Liberal Member of Parliament. Fisheries Minister Dominic LeBlanc said that the new licence will boost Indigenous participation in the industry, and spread economic and social benefits across eastern Canada.

"This is a powerful step toward reconciliation," Mr. LeBlanc said.

"The inclusion of participants from each Atlantic province and Quebec will allow the benefits of this lucrative fishery to flow to a broad group

of First Nations, and will help create good, middle-class jobs for Indigenous peoples in each Atlantic province and Quebec."

Last year, the government announced it would add a fourth licence comprising 25% of the total allowable catch of Arctic surf clam, and that the successful applicant would be an Indigenous entity and majority Canadian-owned.

Five Nations Premium Clam will partner with Premium Seafoods to harvest, process, and market the catch.

Edgar Samson, whose brother is Liberal MP Darrell Samson, is listed as president for both companies.

Chief Arren Sock of the Elsipogtog First Nation in New Brunswick said he applauds the government for "its commitment to reconciliation" and for the jobs the fishery will create in his community.

The '60s Scoop

The '60s scoop is the process by which, mostly in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, Indigenous children were taken from their families and placed for care with non-Indigenous foster families. Some of the children were adopted, and some were taken as far as Australia and New Zealand. Decades later, thousands of them have not been located.

Many of the children were not told of their history, and only learned of their heritage as adults, if at all.

In October, 2017, The federal government announced that it had reached an \$800 million settlement (including \$50 million for a new Indigenous Healing Foundation) to compensate about 20,000 First Nations survivors of the so-called '60s scoop. Negotiations started after a class ac-

tion suit was filed against the government and a court in Ontario ruled that the children involved had been denied their language and culture, and lost their Indigenous identity, as a result of the policy. In mid-March, 2018, the National Indigenous Survivors of Child Welfare Network arranged a day of solidarity involving demonstrations in eight Canadian cities to oppose the settlement. The Network was displeased that the settlement was reached without adequate consultation, resulting in the omission of many Indigenous victims. Left out are Métis and non-status people.

The office of Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett said that the government is committed to negotiating to resolve any ongoing litigation and the pro-

posed settlement is a first step.

A report by The Canadian Press indicated that another issue was the allocation of \$75 million to four legal firms to administer the settlement.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, during hearings in Québec, learned of a pattern of children's disappearance in the 1950s and 1860s when they were taken from their homes for treatment in hospitals remote from their homes. Michèle Audette, a commissioner at the NIMMIWG said that she would use her powers as commissioner to seek answers from the Quebec government about what happened to the children.

Another aspect of removing Indigenous children from their communities which is entering the conversation is Motherisk.

Current Eclectic

President Putin Re-elected

As we go to press it is the day after the presidential election in Russia, and the morning papers are reporting the result. Electronic media, of course, were reporting on the election most of March 18.

The reportage, which is strange in some ways, is very similar across various media.

The Globe and Mail is rather typical in reporting that the victory of President Putin for another six years was no surprise. “The Globe” says that “Vladimir Putin strides to victory in Russian election”, that “Mr. Putin cruised to an easy victory” and “Russian President Vladimir Putin won a landslide re-election victory”. He was “bolstered by a barely contested election that gave him another six-year term in the Kremlin.”

Mr. Putin was “Competing against a field of mediocre candidates — and with his most prominent critic, anti-corruption campaigner Alexei Navalny, barred from running”.

In spite of having eliminated any serious competition, for some reason President Putin felt the need to stuff ballot boxes. “The Globe” writes, “Less scrupulous methods also seem to have been employed. Videos posted online appeared to show officials stuffing ballot boxes in several of the country’s farther-flung regions. There were also widespread reports of companies and government departments pressuring their workers to vote. The CBC was reporting through the night something about ballots that

were pre-marked with a vote for Mr. Putin.

Communist Party candidate Pavel Grudinin looked set to finish a distant second with about 15%.

Part of the Western party line seems to be that President Putin was less concerned about the vote than he was about having a good turnout.

The paper reports that, “Despite the Kremlin’s efforts, official turnout was 63.7%, slightly down from the 65.3% recorded in the 2012 presidential election, and short of the Kremlin’s reported target of 70%.”

Can it be that they are not terrified enough to jump when he says?

Mr. Navalny called on his supporters to boycott the election. The numbers suggest that most of his supporters ignored that direction.

The big concern is that President Putin will pursue the political line he has already established, instead of bowing to the West.

The Globe and Mail, at least, does not seem very enthusiastic about six more years of a defiant Russia.

“Russian President Vladimir Putin ... signalled on Sunday that Russia would not change course, despite its escalating confrontation with the West,” “The Globe” writes.

“We’re not going to be led by the current, short-term considerations,” he continues. “We will think about the future of our great homeland, of our people.”

The report said that “Many of those who voted for the 65-year-old Mr. Putin said they did so because of the Crimea annexation, and the feeling of restored pride in Russia that it gave them.

“Crimea is part of Russia and it always has been,” said Mikhail Ryabov, a 43-year-old computer programmer who cast his ballot in southeastern Moscow. Mr. Ryabov said that Mr. Putin was the best leader the country had seen since Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin”.

Sunday (election day) was the fourth anniversary of Mr. Putin’s putting his signature on Russia’s annexation of Crimea, a move that made him a villain in the West, but which is widely popular in Russia, where the fracturing of the Soviet Union is still a fresh wound.

Inevitably the really burning question was raised: “With Mr. Putin ensconced in power for another six years,” the *Globe* predicted, “speculation in Russia will turn immediately to whether this is his last term as President, as the country’s constitution mandates, or whether Mr. Putin will seek a way to remain in power beyond 2024.” That seems like a bit of a self-fulfilling prophecy.

We are not enthusiastic about six years of speculation on this issue.

Poland Re-Writes History

Poland’s government has adopted a law making it illegal to attribute any culpability to Poland for acts during World War II. That includes, for example, any claim that there was collaboration with the Nazis.

While it is true that many Poles risked their own lives to protect their Jewish neighbours, it is also true that many other Poles were just too happy to assist the Germans by denouncing their neighbours, and some even participated in crimes.

An effort to shut down this truth makes possible the dan-

ger of new injustices to the range of people who want to study and discuss the period of Nazi occupation as well as those who have a historical memory of the uglier side of truth.

If the Polish government needs evidence that its WWII history is mixed, no doubt Israel can supply it.

Poland seems to want to sweep the anti-Semitism of its history under the rug.

It is not too great a leap from there to Ukraine’s position of embracing its collaboration with the Nazis and glorifying it as anti-Communism.

Troops Going to Mali

In mid March, it was announced that the Canadian Armed Forces will be sending peacekeeping troops to Mali.

Pressure had been growing on the Liberal government to live up to its pledge to provide up to 600 soldiers and 150 police officers for a UN peacekeeping mission. When the pledge was made, the French government, led by President François Hollande, urged Canada to send its soldiers to Mali.

In November, during a peacekeeping summit in Vancouver, the government announced it would provide the UN with six helicopters, two transport aircraft, pilots and support crew, and a 200-strong force.

Military sources have suggested that the deployment will be centred on a helicopter task force and support crew.

Mali has been suffering an Islamist insurgency since 2012, with an unknown number of civilian deaths and displacement of residents, especially in the country’s north.

Mali has been a very dangerous mission for UN peacekeepers and foreigners. Multinational peacekeeping forces have suffered over 155 fatalities since the mission began in 2013.

The Conservative defence critic in Parliament is questioning the government’s decision to send peacekeeping troops to the West African nation.

It was confirmed the day after the initial announcement that Canada will send an aviation task force to Mali as part of a United Nations peacekeeping mission.

Defence critic James Bezan asked, “Why did it take them so long to make this announcement, and is this in Canada’s national interest or is this in the Liberals interest?” Mr. Bezan suggested that the government was tak-

ing this decision “because of all the criticism they’ve received for breaking the promise of deploying 600 troops and 150 police officers on UN missions.”

The government source said the task force will be in Mali for up to twelve months. An official announcement on the deployment was expected after the “UCH” press deadline.

At the end of December, Canada had a total of 43 peacekeepers deployed around the world — a historic low, and 19 fewer than in November

Mr. Bezan, the MP for Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman, said the Conservatives want to see Canada involved in more peacekeeping, including in Ukraine, but the deployment must be in the national interest (like Ukraine?). He also said that “in some cases it may be preferable to fight under Canadian instead of UN command.

“We know that this is incredibly dangerous,” Mr. Bezan is reported as saying. “We support our troops and know they are completely capable of doing it. But we are hesitant about putting our troops in harm’s way under UN command.”

Mali has been in turmoil since a 2012 uprising, when soldiers overthrew the president. An Islamic insurgency followed, and then a French-led war that ousted the jihadists from power in 2013.

Insurgents remain active, and inflict relatively heavy casualties on the UN peacekeeping force in the region.

According to François Audet, who studies Canadian humanitarian policy and international relations at the Université du Québec à Montréal, there are four million people requiring aid in the country. Many of them are inaccessible to civilian aid workers because the areas they are in are too dangerous.

Lost: Almost 40,000 Full-Time Jobs

(Continued from Page 1.) section “Employment little changed in most provinces” gives net numbers for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, and reports little change in Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia. All of that sounds very neutral, but is it?

(Preparing the next paragraph was as tedious as reading it will be; skip it if you wish.)

To learn more about job changes in Canada, we go to Table 3 in the report, which gives detailed information by province. There we learn that Newfoundland and Labrador lost a total of 1400 jobs, 1200 of them full-time work. Prince Edward Island was up 500 jobs, net, having gained 500 full-time jobs and lost 100 part time ones. Nova Scotia was up a net 2800 full time jobs, having gained 4900 full-time positions, but lost 2000 part-time jobs. New Brunswick was up jobs 5,100, of which 3,900 were full-time and 1,200 were part-time. Quebec was down 2900 jobs, have lost 3200 full-time positions and gained 200 part-timers. There were 15,700 (net) new jobs in Ontario, representing a loss of 2500 full time jobs and a gain of 18,000 part time jobs. Manitoba was down 500 jobs, having gained 200 full time jobs and lost 700 part-time positions. Saskatchewan was down 2,900 jobs, having lost 3,200 full-time jobs and gains only 300 part-time ones. In Alberta the number of jobs

was up 2,300, with 10,500 full-time-jobs lost and 12,800 part-time jobs gained. Finally, we reach British Columbia, which dropped 3,400 jobs by losing 28,500 full time jobs and gaining 25,200 part time ones. These numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred, explaining apparent errors, such as the British Columbia numbers.

What does “little changed” mean to StatsCan? If it means changes compared to the total size of the work force, an argument can be made for the wording. If it means the effects of the changes on children and their families, maybe counting all jobs as equal should be reconsidered. In Ontario, “little change” means the loss of 2,500 full-time jobs, and a gain of 18,000 part-time positions. In Alberta, 10,500 full-time jobs were lost, and 12,800 part-timers were gained. In British Columbia, it means the loss of 28,500 full-time jobs in exchange for 25,200 part-time ones. To us, that is more than “little change”.

Table 3 does not summarize the provincial numbers into an all-Canadian result. We have to do the arithmetic to learn what an increase of 15,000 jobs (net) means. After doing all the adding and subtracting, we discover that the final number represents a loss of 39,500 full-time jobs and a gain of 54,800 part-timers between January and February. That is definitely not “little change” for almost 40,000 Canadian households.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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595 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2K4
Phone: (800) 856-8242; Fax: (204) 589-3404
E-mail: mail@auuckobzar.netUkrainian Canadian Herald editorial offices are located
at 1604 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 1A7
Phone: 416-588-1639; Fax: 416-588-9180
E-mail: kobzar1@on.aibn.comSubscription price: \$30.00 annually (including GST)
\$40.00 Foreign subscriptions.
Advertising rates available on request.

PUBLICATIONS MAIL REGISTRATION No. 40009476

Signed articles represent the viewpoint of the author, and do
not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**Much Flash, Little
Substance**

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

What it actually was is cultural appropriation, and cultural appropriation of a particularly sad sort. Not only did the man wear something which was culturally inappropriate, he did it in a way and in circumstances which made him seem the clown.

It seems that some media commented on the Bollywood styles sported by the Trudeau family. He was told that the Indian costumes would be worn, if at all, only for a wedding. Why he would choose, nevertheless, to look like a stereotype from a romantic fantasy defies understanding.

India is a large and strong country. Collectively and individually, Indians do not fear that they will be assimilated, that their culture will be eradicated, or that their voices will be drowned in a sea of colonial exploitation. India stands as an equal among countries, and Indians do not feel threatened by the Trudeau buffoonery.

Fortunately for Prime Minister Trudeau, other rather serious issues emerged during his trip to India, diverting attention from the ridiculous spectacle he made of himself and his family. Questions like the low productivity of the trip, the possible breaches of security, and the failure to resolve some contentious issues between Canada and India have overshadowed issues of cultural appropriation.

While the government and people of India may not be concerned about what Prime Minister Trudeau wears, Canadians should be. His display in India suggests a man capable of striking theatrics but showing limited understanding, a person of much flash, but little substance. That would go far in explaining the self-proclaimed feminist who doesn't provide child care, the proclamations of reconciliation coupled with court action against Indigenous Peoples' needs, the expressions of concern about the widening income gap accompanied by new corporation-friendly trade agreements, and so much more.

It would also help explain the uncritical support of the USA aggression against Venezuela, the support of fascism in Ukraine, the support of the counterproductive efforts to isolate the DPRK, and much more.

Canadians should be concerned that the Prime Minister's full hair tops an empty head. We need a leader whose expressions of laudable aspirations are accompanied by effective actions for the attainment of those ideals.

COMMENTARY**Canada: the Wrong Side
on Venezuela**

They have done it for decades to the DPRK and Cuba, since the overthrow of the shah in Iran, for several years in Ukraine, at least ten years in Russia, and since the 1998 election of the late Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, to mention just a few of the countries which have been targeted.

The "they" is the United States of America and its allies in the various regions.

The "it" is the application of a particular strategy aimed at regime change.

In brief, the strategy is to: isolate the government of a country politically by demonizing it; impose economic sanctions against the country, supposedly to punish the leadership but actually inflicting hardship on the people; mobilize violent opposition against the government, using a variety of stimuli, which could include promises of money and/or ascension to power and/or other inducements; and, finally, to insert armed forces, whether foreign or domestic, into the country on the pretext of coming to the aid of a suffering populace.

The motive is usually transparent to anyone who cares to look: control of resources and/or access to markets.

In an article in the *Toronto Star* on March 15, Linda McQuaig reveals how this strategy has been applied to Venezuela.

After some introductory remarks, Ms. McQuaig writes:

"Anyone following the international media coverage would conclude that the Venezuelan government is terribly autocratic and that Western nations, led by the US, have stepped in with sanctions out of concern over human-rights abuses there.

"A closer look suggests a different scenario Washington is waging economic war against a nation that dared

to rise up and reject US control over its ample oil reserves."

She writes, further, that "Chavez enraged Washington by nationalizing Venezuela's oil and redirecting the wealth to health care, education, housing and food for the poor."

That deals with the demonization and the motive.

Ms. McQuaig also reveals the way violent opposition to the government has been fomented. She writes:

"Venezuela's wealthy elite, angry about losing their privileged position, vowed to overthrow Chavez — and briefly did in a violent 2002 coup, with the help of, Washington, before being repelled two days later when hundreds of thousands of pro-Chavez demonstrators from poor neighbourhoods took to the streets of Caracas."

Later, she adds, "Frustrated, the opposition has adopted increasingly violent tactics — including a bizarre attack last year when rebels dropped grenades from a helicopter on the country's Supreme Court."

The note about the 2002 events is an interesting rarity, as the violent coup was overthrown by mass action in support of Venezuela's Bolivarian (as it has been called) revolution.

It has not been widely publicized in the Americas, but Ms. McQuaig writes about a visit to Venezuela by Alfred de Zayas, a UN-appointed expert who "met with dozens of opposition activists as well as church and human rights groups".

Mr. De Zayas "concluded that the Maduro regime has made 'major mistakes including excessive force by the police'".

He also "found that popular support for the Chavez revolution remains strong. And he accused anti-government

demonstrators of having 'attacked hospitals, nursery schools, burned ambulances and buses in order to intimidate the people.'"

He asked, "Is this not classic terrorism?"

Part of isolating the government is failing to report the terrorist acts of its opponents.

Ms. McQuaig points out that President Obama targeted individual Venezuelans with sanctions, "but the Trump administration's sanctions are much broader, taking punishing aim at the country's entire economy."

Mr. de Zayas, the UN expert, "also explained that the sanctions ... are aggravating the suffering of Venezuelans, and he called for them to end."

Ms. McQuaig disposes with the hypocrisy of Canada's official position in one succinct paragraph: "And so we continue to inflict sanctions on Venezuela, citing the lofty goal of defending human rights — even while we actively trade and sell arms to full fledged dictatorships, such as Saudi Arabia."

Linda McQuaig has a very interesting conclusion to her article: "What's going on in Venezuela is a bitter class war, with millions of poor people committed to defending a revolution carried out in their name, and Canada taking the side of the wealthy well-armed opposition."

Indeed, it is a class war, and international multi-billionaires will intervene in support of their class. Not only will they continue to supply the opposition while undermining the government, but at some point they will also send in the marines.

A *Toronto Star* article on December 26, 2017 quoted Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, this country's warmonger-in-chief, as saying, "Canadians will not stand by as the government of Venezuela robs its people of their fundamental democratic and human rights, and denies them access to basic humanitarian assistance."

How long will it be before Canada, acting in concert

(Continued on Page 5.)

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

Venezuela Open Letter to Canadian and US Governments

(Continued from Page 4.)

with the USA and the Lima Group (Canada plus eleven Latin American countries, set up to be more compliant with USA policies than the Organization of American States) invokes the “duty to protect”?

The groundwork is certainly being laid. The *Toronto Sun* reported, also on December 26, that “Canadian officials said they have met with the UN’s Secretary-General and the country’s international partners to discuss a strategy for restoring order.” In 2018, American newspapers and the international press agencies which are part of the Atlantic Council have been stepped up publishing articles about the dire straits faced by Venezuelans, which the publications blame on the policies of the government.

There is growing opposition to the attack on Venezuela, both in the USA and in Canada, as well as around the world. An example is the petition launched at the Revolutions Conference in Winnipeg last year and printed in the November, 2017, issue of this paper.

Glenn Michalchuk, a member of the Editorial Board of the “UCH”, reports that the petition has attained official status.

Late last year Winnipeg MP Robert Falcon-Ouellette agreed to sponsor the petition calling for an end to Canadian sanctions and interference in Venezuela. As sponsorship by a member of Parliament is essential to have a petition registered on the Government’s e-petition site his support was critically important. It is important to note that his sponsorship was not an indication of support. Rather, it was his commitment to the democratic process and allowing Canadians to be heard on this issue.

In February, 2018, the petition achieved the required 500 signatures to become official, meaning that the Canadian government must reply to the demands in the petition. The petition remains open for signatures until March 27 and it is the hope of the organizers that it will continue to attract signatories.

Another expression of popular opposition in Canada and the USA to the two governments’ stance is the open letter printed on this page, along with the impressive list of signatories.

There have been many demonstrations against policies attacking the popularly supported government of Venezuela. They are only reported if there is violence.

We will continue to keep our readers informed about developments around the issue of sanctions on Venezuela.

We urge the United States and Canadian governments to immediately remove their illegal* sanctions against Venezuela and to support efforts at mediation between the government of Venezuela and the nonviolent segments of the political opposition.

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals in the U.S. and Canada, support hemispheric relations based on respect for the sovereignty of all peoples of the Americas. We are deeply concerned by the use of illegal sanctions, whose effect falls most heavily on the poorest and most marginal sectors of society, to coerce political and economic change in a sister democracy.

Polls in Venezuela show that the large majority of Venezuelans oppose sanctions, regardless of their opinion of the Maduro government. Sanctions merely complicate efforts by the Vatican, Dominican Republic, and other international actors to mediate a resolution to the deep polarization in Venezuela. Moreover, sanctions undermine efforts of the democratically elected government and Constituent Assembly to address critical economic issues and determine their own political destiny.

Despite the high-minded rhetoric of officials in Washington and Ottawa, it is not a genuine concern for democracy, human rights, and social justice that drives the belligerent interventionist posture towards Caracas. From former U.S. president Obama’s admittedly untrue presidential decree that Venezuela represents a national security threat to the United States, to UN Ambassador Nikki Haley’s declaration that Venezuela is “an increasingly violent narco-state” that threatens the world, the use of hyperbole in diplomatic situations seldom contributes to peaceful solutions on the world stage.

It is no secret that Venezuela, unlike Mexico, Honduras, Colombia, Egypt, or Saudi Arabia, is targeted for regime change by the U.S. precisely because of Venezuela’s leadership in resisting U.S. hegemony and the imposition of the neoliberal model in Latin America. And of course, Venezuela holds the largest oil reserves in the world, attracting more unwanted attention from Washington.

The U.S. and Canada tried and failed to use the Organization of American States (OAS) to build a bloc to hypocritically evoke the Democratic Charter against Venezuela. Recently, Luis Almagro, the rogue Secretary General of the OAS, went so far as to publicly support the swearing in of a parallel Supreme Court unconstitutionally appointed by opposition legislators and allowed them to use the OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., for their ceremony — without the approval of any OAS member state. Almagro has thereby delegitimized the OAS, emboldened the most extreme and violent elements of the Venezuelan opposition, and side-lined efforts at mediation.

The U.S.-Canadian sanctions represent a cynical use of coercive economic power to attack a nation that is already dealing with hyperinflation and shortages of basic commodities. While said to be in the name of advancing democracy and freedom, the sanctions violate the Venezuelan peoples’ basic human right to sovereignty, as outlined in the UN and OAS Charters.

We call on the political leaders of the United States and Canada to reject overheated rhetoric and to contribute to the search for real solutions to Venezuela’s political and economic problems. We urge the U.S. and Canadian governments to rescind their sanctions and support the mediation efforts pursued by the Chancellor of the Dominican Republic Miguel Vargas, the President of Dominican Republic Danilo Medina, former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, the Vatican, and supported by a growing number of Latin American nations.

*** Chapter 4 Article 19 of the OAS Charter states:**

No State or group of States has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other State. The foregoing principle prohibits not only armed force but also any other form of interference or attempted threat against the personality of the State or against its political, economic, and cultural elements.

* * *

Signers:

United States

Noam Chomsky

Danny Glover, Citizen-Artist

Estela Vazquez, Executive Vice President, 1199 SEIU

Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton, Archdiocese of Detroit

Jill Stein, Green Party

Peter Knowlton, General President, United Electrical Workers

Dr. Frederick B. Mills, Department of Philosophy, Bowie State University

Dr. Alfred de Zayas, former Chief, Petitions Dept, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Medea Benjamin, co-founder, Code Pink

Dan Kovalik, Counsel, United Steelworkers Union

Clarence Thomas, ILWU Local10 (retired)

Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, President, National Lawyers Guild

Chuck Kaufman, National Co-Coordinator, Alliance for Global Justice

James Early, Articulation of Afro Descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean

Gloria La Riva, coordinator, Cuba and Venezuela Solidarity Committee

Karen Bernal, Chair, Progressive Caucus, California Democratic Party

Kevin Zeese, Margaret Flowers, co-directors, Popular Resistance

Chris Bender, Administrator, SEIU 1000, retired

Mary Hanson Harrison, President Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, US Section

Alfred L. Marder, President, US Peace Council

Tamie Dramer, Executive Boardmember, California Democratic Party

Greg Wilpert, journalist

School of Americas Watch (SOAW) Coordinating Collective

Gerry Condon, President, Board of Directors, Veterans for Peace

Tiana Ocasio, President, Connecticut Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

Leah Bolger, Coordinator, World Beyond War

Alexander Main, Senior Assoc for Intl Policy, Center for Economic and Policy Research

Kevin Martin, President, Peace Action and Peace Action Education Fund

Dr. Robert W. McChesney, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Berthony Dupont, Director, Haiti Liberté Newspaper

Marsha Rummel, Adlerperson, City of Madison Common Council, District 6

Monica Moorehead, Workers World Party

Kim Ives, Journalist, Haiti Liberté

Cindy Sheehan, Cindy’s Soapbox

Claudia Lucero, Executive Director, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America

William Camacaro, Venezuela activist

Baltimore Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter Veterans For Peace

David W. Campbell, Secretary-Treasurer, USW Local 675 (Carson, CA)

Alice Bush, retired Northwest Indiana Division Director SEIU Local 73

Teresa Gutierrez, Co-Director International Action Center

Claire Deroche, NY Interfaith Campaign Against Torture

Eva Golinger, journalist and writer

The Cross Border Network (Kansas City)

Antonia Domingo, Pittsburgh Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

David Swanson, Director of World Beyond War

Matt Meyer, National Co-chair, Fellowship of Reconciliation

Rev. Daniel Dale, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), CLRN Board of Directors

Daniel Chavez, Transnational Institute

Kathleen Desautels, SP (8th Day Center for Justice*)

Michael Eisenscher, National Coord. Emeritus, U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW)

Dr. Paul Dordal, Director, Christian Network for Liberation and Equality

Dr. Douglas Friedman, Director International Studies, College of Charleston

Fr. Charles Dahm, Archdiocesan Director of Domestic Violence Outreach

Blase Bonpane, Director, Office of the Americas

Larry Birns, Director, Council on Hemispheric Affairs Task Force on the Americas

Dr. Sharat G. Lin, former president, San Jose Peace and Justice Center

Stansfield Smith, Chicago ALBA Solidarity

Alicia Jrapko, U.S. coordinator, International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity

National Network on Cuba

Diana Bohn, Co-coordinator, Nicaragua Center for Community Action

Joe Jamison, Queens NY Peace Council

Jerry Harris, National Secretary, Global Studies

(Continued on Page 8.)

Spring Concert in Toronto

On Thursday, March 15, the Shevchenko Museum and AUUC Toronto Branch co-sponsored Spring Concert at the AUUC Cultural Centre. Attendance was disappointingly small, but the people who braved the threatening weather were treated to an energetic evening of well-performed music.

Kalendar opened the con-

cert with a song performed as they walked the length from the south to the north end of the auditorium. Once the group was in place, Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Shevchenko Museum Director who sings with Kalendar, bade the assembly welcome. She also made a few remarks about the style of singing and the age of their material.



Moskitto Bar is composed of: Ahmed Moneka, on vocals and various drums, who comes from Iraq; Ukrainian Yura Rafaliuk on tsymbaly; Fethi Nadjem of Algeria on violin; and Tangi Ropars of France on button accordion.

At this appearance, Kalendar consisted of three women and a man. As usual, they sang in the style that has been called *narodniy holos* in Ukrainian, which may be translated as “folk voice”, as well as *dikiy holos*, which may be translated as “wild voice”. Lyudmyla chose to call it “village voice”.

Whatever it is called, it is well-suited to outdoor performance, whether during work in the fields, around a campfire or during an evening gathering in someone’s yard.

Kalendar started its set with a number of *vesnyanky*, which means “spring songs”. These songs typically call for the end of winter and the arrival of a season of nature’s awakening and high fertility. For example, the first song prayed, “Please, God, start spring.”

In the group’s selection were several wedding songs. An interesting point about these is that they are often sad, because the wedding marks the separation of the woman, usually quite young, from her family. It also marks the

woman’s passing from the relative ease of youth to her new phase of life, facing new hardships as a wife and mother.

A particularly sad song, a parable about the reality of a woman’s life, told the story of two doves who hoped to be

married. Instead, a hawk comes along, kills the male, and takes the female away.

As young people also sing, there were also songs reflecting flirtatious and other youthful behaviours.

The second half of the con-

(Continued on Page 11.)

—Story photos; Jerry Dobrowolsky



The Kalendar quartet presented a program of *vesnyanky*, wedding songs, and other music in the traditional *narodniy holos*.

Sarasvati and AUUC Share IWD

—Story Photos: Dennis Lewycky



The audience at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg on March 4 was attentive both during the Monologues and during the panel discussion.

As part of the Ukrainian Labour Temple speakers series, Sarasvati Productions Monologues were performed on Sunday, March 4, before an appreciative audience. This was the third year of the collaboration between Sarasvati Productions and the Association of United Ukrain-

ian Canadians.

The event was introduced by Tusia Kosub of AUUC Winnipeg Branch. She noted that the first Women’s Day celebration was held in 1908, during a garment workers’ strike in New York. Then the Socialist International proposed and held an Interna-

tional Women’s Day in 1911. The AUUC started observing the commemoration in 1923, long before 1975, when the United Nations declared International Women’s Day.

This year the Monologues followed an *I AM UNSTOPPABLE* theme. The artists and the productions were:

* *I am a Warrior* by Sue Higgs, performed by Cheryl Soluk (A women’s self-consciousness about her body is transformed by other women in a drama class in this Monologue. Out of a poetically embarrassing situation she learns more about herself, exposes her hidden talent, and connects with a group of women.);

* *Sweet an Nice* by Althea Cunningham, performed by Lorraine James (The nar-

rator uses a mango and its characteristics to reflect on her home in the Caribbean. In this way she adapts, and understands her new life as she now is living in Canada.);

* *I am Unstoppable*, created and performed by Joanna Hawkins (In this unique silent Monologue, the actor uses her body to express the tension she felt being unable to speak and wanting to communicate. She then signs a presentation to the audience that no one can understand, and in that way the audience can empathize with her.)

The performances were followed by a panel discussion on *WOMEN IN POLITICS: Why we Need Equal Voices*. Speakers included:

* Judy Wasylycia-Leis, former MLA, MP and mayoral candidate;

* Bernadette Smith, MLA for Point Douglas Constituency;

* Cindy Gilroy, City Councillor for Daniel McIntyre Ward

Each of the speakers reflected on some of their experiences of being a women

in politics. They noted that there were occasions when they knew that they were being ignored or undervalued, while men in the situation were acknowledged. They agreed that the current movement was a necessity, giving voice to women, and that it was important for men to also stand up and support the women.

The discussion shifted to the #MeToo movement and how women are fighting back against the sexual harassment and abuse to which they have been subjected. The panellists noted how they deal with inappropriate touching or innuendo: basically by confronting the behaviour when it happens.

Discussion with the audience then followed. There was a consensus that it is important to educate boys and girls to address sexual abuse or disrespectful behaviour. The speakers and the panellists agreed that addressing a range of gender relations would take time, but that everyone had a responsibility to challenge abuse.

— Dennis Lewycky



The panel discussing “Women in Politics: Why we Need Equal Voices” was composed of (left to right): Judy Wasylycia-Leis, Bernadette Smith, Cindy Gilroy.



Shown making a comment during the discussion is Wendy Land (in pink).

Story photos: Mark Greschner

Malanka in Regina

The 20th annual Malanka celebration hosted by the Regina Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and supported by the Poltava Ensemble of Song, Music and Dance was held on January 13. Over 300 guests enjoyed an evening of good

food, beverages, fine performances and plenty of dancing.

By all measures the evening was a tremendous success that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Sasha Lapchuk, as Chairperson of the Regina Branch,

started the evening by bringing greetings on behalf of the Regina AUUC and the Poltava Ensemble.

Guests then proceeded to enjoy cocktails and appetizers (pickled herring, Kiev garlic cheese and *kutia*). This was followed by an incredible meal catered by Joe's European Deli and Catering with help from the AUUC verenyky crew, headed by Gerry Shmyr and Emily Laslo.

All tables were adorned with helium-filled balloons.

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

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

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

In all, some 80 performers graced the stage and delighted all in attendance.

The evening featured door prizes, as well as the Malanka Raffle. (After purchasing raffle tickets, one would place the ticket or tickets in the box in front of four theme baskets that one would like to win.)

Basket themes included "Happy New Year", "The Man Cave", "What a Girl Wants", and "Toys, Toys, Toys". The raffle was extremely popular last year, and proved to be a hit again this year.

Of course no evening in Regina would be complete without a dance, and at this Malanka it was to the music of Slow Motion Walter. The music had young and old up on the dance floor all night.

Later in the evening, the traditional "Kolomeyka" brought the crowd out to participate in, and witness, the boundless energy of the younger (and some more experienced) dancers as they showed off their best moves.

Everyone in the assembly counted down to, and then rang in, the New Year with colourful hats and noise-makers.

The Regina AUUC is grateful to all the volunteers and sponsors who facilitated an enjoyable evening, and in particular the Malanka Committee: Cindy Greschner, Sasha and Wanda Lapchuk, Shawn and Jennifer Swicheniuk, Zoya Shmyr, Erin Stepenhoff, Dion Tchorewski, Dave Wilson, Jennifer Wilson, Lynne Lapchuk, Renee Boyd, Kris Wanner and Noah Evanchuk.

— Sasha Lapchuk



The Poltava Ensemble perform the ever popular "Hopak".



The Poltava Ensemble perform the Kuban Dance "Tersky Tanets".



The Lileya Dancers of the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts present Volynskiyi Patterns.



Vocal Soloists Valeria Honchar and Guennadi Ostrikov perform the Ukrainian folk song "Tsvite Teren".



The Sailors' Dance is an ever-popular number by the Poltava Ensemble.



The evening would not be complete without Slow Motion Walter performing for one and all.



An incredible meal was provided by Joe's European Deli and Meats and no one went away hungry.



GR55635 – The Pre-Poltava Dancers of the Poltava School of Ukrainian Performing Arts present "Kozachok".



Even the youngest patrons enjoyed participating in the ever popular "Malanka Basket Raffle".

Open Letter to Canadian and US Governments

(Continued from Page 5.)

Association of North America
MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles
Charlie Hardy, author, *Cowboy in Caracas*
Dan Shea, National Board, Veterans For Peace
Houston Peace and Justice Center
Dr. Christy Thornton, Fellow, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University
Code Pink Houston
Workers Solidarity Action Network.org
Rochester Committee on Latin America
Patricio Zamorano, Academic and International Affairs Analyst
Cliff Smith, business manager, Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, Local 36
Michael Bass, Convener, School of the Americas Watch-Oakland/East Bay
Joe Lombardo, Marilyn Levin, Co-Coordination of United National Antiwar Committee
Dr. Jeb Sprague-Silgado, University of California Santa Barbara
Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC)
Dr. Pamela Palmater, Mi'kmaq lawyer Chair in Indigenous Governance Ryerson University
Lee Gloster, Steward IBT 364, Trustee, N. Central IN Labor Chapter, N. IN Area Labor Federation
Celeste Howard, Secretary, WILPF, Portland Branch (Oregon)
Mario Galván, Sacramento Action for Latin America
Hector Gerardo, Executive Director, 1 Freedom for All Jorge Marin, Venezuela Solidarity Committee
Ricardo Vaz, writer and editor of *Investig'Action*
Dr. T.M. Scruggs, University of Iowa, Professor Emeritus
Dr. Mike Davis, Dept. of Creative Writing, Univ. of CA, Riverside; editor of the *New Left Review*
Dr. Lee Artz, Dept of Media Studies; Director, Center for Global Studies, Purdue University Northwest
Dr. Arturo Escobar, Dept. of Anthropology University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Cheri Honkala, Director, Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign
Suren Moodliar, Coordinator, Encuentro5 (Boston)
Dr. Jack Rasmus, Economics Dept., St. Mary's College, Moraga, California
Alice Slater, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
Rich Whitney, Co-chair, Green Party Peace Action Committee
David Bacon, independent photojournalist
Dr. Kim Scipes, Department of Sociology, Purdue University Northwest
Jeff Mackler, National Secretary, Socialist Action Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)
Henry Lowendorf, Co-chair, Greater New Haven Peace Council
Judith Bello, Ed Kinane (founders), Upstate Drone Action
Dr. Daniel Whitesell, Lecturer in the Dept. of Spanish & Portuguese, UCLA
Dr. William I. Robinson, Sociology and Global and International Studies, UC-Santa Barbara
Emmanuel Rozental, Vilma Almendra, Pueblos en Camino, Abya Yala
Ben Manski, President, Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution
Frank Pratkanis, Baltimore-Matanzas Association/Maryland-Cuba Friendship Coalition
Dr. Hilbourne Watson, Emeritus, Department of International Relations, Bucknell University
Dr. Minqi Li, Economics Department, University of Utah
Christina Schiavoni, PhD researcher, Boston
Dr. Robert E. Birt, Department of Philosophy, Bowie State University
Topanga Peace Alliance
Judy Somberg, Susan Scott, Esq., Co-chairs, National Lawyers Guild Task Force on the Americas
Audrey Bomse, Esq., Co-chair, National Lawyers Guild Palestine Subcommittee
Daniel Chavez, Transnational Institute
Barby Ulmer, Board President, Our Developing World
Barbara Larcom, Coordinator, Casa Baltimore/Limay; President, Nicaraguan Cultural Alliance
Nick Egnatz, Veterans for Peace
Dr. Marc Becker, Latin American Studies, Truman State

University

Dr. John H. Sinnigen, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

Dr. Dale Johnson, Professor Emeritus, Sociology, Rutgers University
Sulutasen Amador, Co-coordinator, Chukson Water Protectors
Mara Cohen, Communications Hub, Trade Justice Alliance
Dorotea Manuela, Co-Chair Rosa Parks Human Right Committee
Efia Nwangaza, Malcom X Center - WMXP Community Radio
Dr. Chris Chase-Dunn, Sociology, University of California-Riverside
Dr. Nick Nesbitt, Comparative Literature, Princeton
Timeka Drew, coordinator, Global Climate Convergence
Jack Gilroy, Friends of Franz & Ben www.bensalmon.org
Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, Social Justice Committee
Victor Wallis, Professor, Liberal Arts, Berkeley College of Music

Canada

Jerry Dias, President, UNIFOR
Mike Palecek, National President, Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Harvey Bischof, President, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
Mark Hancock, National President of the Canadian Union of Public Employees
Robyn Benson, National President, Public Service Alliance of Canada
Stephanie Smith, President of the British Columbia Government and Service Employees' Union
Dr. Pamela Palmater, Mi'kmaq lawyer Chair in Indigenous Governance Ryerson University

Linda McQuaig, journalist and author, Toronto
Raul Burbano, Program Director, Common Frontiers
Miguel Figueroa, President, Canadian Peace Congress
Rights Action (U.S. and Canada)

Joe Emersberger, writer, UNIFOR member
Heide Trampus, Coordinator, Worker to Worker, Canada-Cuba Labour Solidarity Network

Nino Pagliccia, Jorge Arancibia, Marta Palominos, Frente para la Defensa de los Pueblos Hugo Chavez

Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign – Vancouver

The Hamilton Coalition To Stop The War
Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC)
Maude Barlow, Chairperson, Council of Canadians
Canadian Network on Cuba

Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) – Vancouver

Dr. William Carroll, University of Victoria, Canada

Andrew Dekany, LL.M., Lawyer

Dr. Leo Panitch, Professor Emeritus, York University, Toronto

Canada-Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights (CPSHR)

Alma Weinstein, Bolivarian Circle Louis Riel Toronto

Maria Elena Mesa, Coord, Sunday Poetry and Festival Internacional de Poesia Patria Grande, Toronto

Dr. Radhika Desai, University of Manitoba

Other

Sergio Romero Cuevas, former Mexican Ambassador to Haiti
Observatorio de Derechos Humanos de los Pueblos, Oaxaca, Mexico

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will serve a **Perogy Lunch** from **11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** on Sunday, **April 22**, at the **Ukrainian Cultural Centre**, 805 East Pender Street.

* * *

Winnipeg — The **Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra**, under the direction of Annis Kozub, will perform its annual **May Concert** at **2:00 p.m.** on Saturday, **May 5**, at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue. To reserve tickets, email auucwinnipeg@gmail.com. Tickets: **\$20.00**.

* * *

Winnipeg — The **Winnipeg Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians** is holding a **Gala Banquet** to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the AUUC under the theme “**100 years of our contributions to Canada**” at the **Ukrainian Labour Temple**, 591 Pritchard Avenue, on Saturday, **May 12**. Doors will **open at 4:00 p.m.**, with a **concert at 4:30 p.m.**, and **cocktails and dinner to follow**. The Concert will feature the performing arts groups of the Winnipeg Branch: **Festival Choir, Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, Yunist School of Folk Dance, Yunist Dance Ensemble**. The program also includes a **dramatization by Brian Richardson and Kevin Longfield**. To reserve tickets (**\$25.00** each) contact: Gloria at **204-467-5043**.

* * *

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.

Politics in Ontario

With less than three months to go before the Ontario provincial election, the Progressive Conservatives selected a polarizing leader in a bitterly contested leadership race, rejected the electoral program set by the previous leader, are making promises that can only be fulfilled by shredding social services, and appear, now, to be on the way to becoming the government.

It is tempting to say that, if Mr. Ford becomes Premier of Ontario, the citizens will deserve what they asked for, but it would be wrong to do so.

This situation has arisen because the current premier is famous for delivering less than she promises and selling off public assets to do so, and because the leader of the third party, which may become the official opposition, is a social democrat who constantly finds herself to the right of the Liberals. With Cicero, we say, “*O tempora, o mores.*”

Ukrainian Miscellany

Naftogaz Wins in Arbitration

(Continued from Page 1.)

Failure to pay would undermine Russia's efforts to return to an investment-grade credit rating, as well as opening Gazprom to further litigation. Observers expected that Gazprom, which has the

means, would stall, but eventually pay.

In the meantime, Gazprom reportedly refused to supply Naftogaz with natural gas, leading the Ukrainian company to sign a one month deal for 60 million cubic metres of gas with Poland's PGNiG.

Naftogaz CEO Andriy Kobolyev was reported as saying that the company's efforts to diversify supply has been proven to be correct. He also took a swipe at Nord Stream 2.

PGNiG President Piotr Wozniak expressed an interest in extending the contract. He said that PGNiG can ensure stable and secure supplies because of its diverse sources, including domestic production and "regular deliveries of liquid natural gas (LNG) from Qatar and the USA".

Meanwhile, Ukraine's President Poroshenko wasted no time in taking the attack. He immediately called on Ukrainian officials, including Mr. Kobolyev, to develop a plan of action in the event that Gazprom fails to pay.

Less than two weeks after the February 28 decision against Gazprom, Ukraine's government began seizing Gazprom assets in Ukraine, including shares and other property from: Gaztransit, Gazpromzbut Ukraine, Institute Southerngiprogas and the International Consortium for the Management and Development of the Gas Transit System of Ukraine. The Government has also asked all embassies to conduct inventories of attachable Gazprom property. Ukraine has bilateral treaties with 27 countries that would allow seizure of Gazprom assets. The procedure could be completed by the end of this year.

In addition to seeking supplies elsewhere, Ukraine also acted to reduce domestic demand, including asking residents to reduce home heating temperatures by one degree.

If reports are to be believed, Ukraine has been importing gas from EU countries to ship it back to the EU, as well as meeting its own needs.

Seeking to keep Russia as dependent as possible on ship-

Note: Readers may detect inconsistencies in the spelling of some words transliterated from Ukrainian, particularly names. Our general rule is not to change spellings that appear in quotations, but to use our preferred spelling outside of quotations. —Ed.

ping its gas through Ukraine, President Poroshenko and his allies have waged a relentless battle against Nord Stream 2 and other options by-passing Ukraine.

Nord Stream 2 and other options have been the source of serious disagreement in Europe.

Five energy companies from Germany, France, Britain and the Netherlands are involved with the \$11 billion, 1,225-kilometre pipeline which is on schedule for completion next year. The private project is backed by Russian state-owned Gazprom and has the strong backing of the German and Russian governments.

Some of the most vocal critics have been the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, whose hostility to Russia may reasonably be

called phobic. The United States is opposed to Nord Stream 2, partly because it is unhappy about its failure to penetrate Russian markets and partly because it is interested in increasing its natural gas exports to Europe.

The European Commission also opposes the project, but says there are no legal grounds to prevent the private investment from going ahead.

Poland and Lithuania, which vehemently oppose Nord Stream 2, have built terminals for liquefied natural gas, or LNG, hoping to benefit by shutting Russia out of the European market.

Both European opponents and the US hide their economic motives behind "hope that a diversified supply will help reduce Russia's ability to use gas as a ... weapon".

Trade with Germany

Ukraine Business Journal reported that, trade between German and Ukraine increased by 22.4% last year. Ukraine's exports grew a bit faster than imports, according to numbers reported by the German-Ukrainian Industrial Chamber of Commerce, or AHK.

Topping the growth of Ukrainian exports to Germany were: food (up 69%), steel (up 57%), and chemical products (up 39%).

Recording the greatest growth in German exports to Ukraine were cars (up 38.5%) and mechanical engineering (up 30%).

To Reintegrate the Donbas

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko chose a meeting of the Military Cabinet to sign the law on the peculiarities of the state policy on ensuring the state sovereignty of Ukraine in the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

In addressing the meeting of military personnel, President Poroshenko expressed the opinion that Russia's "goal is still the whole of Ukraine". He spoke of "the plans elaborated in the top offices of the Kremlin", foiled by "the resistance organized from the first days of the aggression by the Ukrainian people, volunteers who ruined the plans".

The law is largely symbolic, asserting as a law of Ukraine, and therefore "legally determined" that Russia is an aggressor state.

"This law," the president stated, "substantially strengthens the legal basis for the use of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other forces for the defence of our state."

To us this sounds like a strange assertion. Whether or not Russia is an aggressor state is not a matter of Ukrainian law but a matter of facts as mediated by international law.

Another of the Ukrainian President's assertions concerning this law seems

equally beside the point. According to him, this Law establishes the basic parameters for the protection of the civil rights and freedoms of the civilian population. Not only can President Poroshenko not enforce any such parameters on his opponents in the Donbas, he can not even impose such parameters on the right-wing militias on whose support he depends.

President Poroshenko stressed that, "It is very important that this law provides a legal mechanism for the return of these territories, inter alia, in a political and diplomatic way."

There would seem to be only two possible meanings for "Legal mechanism" and "political and diplomatic" in this context. One would be for Ukraine to meet its obligations under the Minsk accords, in which case the only remaining problem (though it could be a difficult one) would be to rein in the right-wing militias.

The other would be to succeed in generating United Nations agreement to send an international occupation army, under a peacekeeping fig leaf, to fight Ukraine's battle.

The second option appears to be the preferred one. Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that, "A UN peacekeeping mission,

deployed throughout the occupied territory of Donbas, including the areas near the temporarily uncontrolled sections of the Ukrainian-Russian border, should become an effective tool for the restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

More directly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine has called for the deployment of "a UN peacekeeping mission; to force Russia to stop its aggression, human rights violations and support for terrorist activities, to halt the occupation of Crimea and invaded territories of Ukraine's Donbas, as well as to compensate for the damage caused in full."

In the meantime, the European Commission announced 24 million euros in humanitarian assistance to address the needs of conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine. At the same time, the European Commission and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs are organising "a high-level conference in Brussels to raise awareness about the humanitarian consequences of the conflict in eastern Ukraine".

The announcement said that, "Supporting all those in need, wherever they are, is a priority for the EU. Our new aid package will provide essential assistance such as food, health care and education for children."

Food Exports to the EU

In 2017, Ukraine's exports to the European Union in the agri-food sector grew by 34% (37%), making Ukraine the fourth largest exporter of food to the EU. As reported by the European Commission this growth exceeded the increase of any other country, edging out Indonesia by 6%.

The magazine *Business Ukraine Journal* reports this as an indication that the free trade portion of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, which was fully implemented in the second half of 2017, is bearing fruit.

The Association Agreement aside, the EU continues to apply significant quota restrictions on Ukrainian agricultural

products. Additional challenges are created by complex and rigorous EU standardization and other regulations.

"BUJ" suggests that Ukraine's improved position shows that Ukraine's exporters are successfully adapting to EU market conditions.

Figures released by the Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture show that agricultural exports rose by 16.3% (16%), reaching US \$22.6 (17.9) billion, last year.

(The numbers in parentheses appeared in a related article in the March, 2018, issue of the "UCH". The numbers are from sources other than the original governmental reports, so we can not account for the differences.)

Anticorruption Court

In mid-February, the international Monetary Fund was still pressuring the government of Ukraine to pass an acceptable bill to establish an anti-corruption court. On February 19, following a visit to Ukraine by an IMF delegation, Resident Representative Goesta Ljungman issued a statement stressing the importance of moving "expeditiously with parliamentary consideration of the draft law on the anti-corruption court, while ensuring that the necessary amendments are adopted ... to make the approved law fully consistent with program commit-

ments and the recommendations of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe."

The draft bill passed first reading in the Supreme Council on March 13. It is expected that the amendment demanded by the IMP will be made on second and third readings.

The IMF has suggested that failure to create an acceptable (to the IMF, that is) court could jeopardize release of additional funds to Ukraine.

Ukraine's government indicated earlier this year that it expects the legislation to be passed by the end of May.

Uliana Kravchenko: a Poet of Protest

Ukrainian literature is rich in writers of world distinction — Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Panas Myrnyi, Mikhailo Kotsyubinsky, Wasyl Stefanyk. These are but a few of a far lengthier list.

Ukrainian literature is also rich in women writers. First on that list are such prominent names as Lesya Ukrainka, Olga Kobylanska, Marko Vovchok — but there are many others who are not as well-known — Uliana Kravchenko, Natalia Kobrynska, Yevhenia Yaroshinska, Dniprova Chaika (pseudonym), Liubov Yanovska, Hrytsko Hryhorenko (pseudonym), Olena Pchilka. These do not include the many contemporary women writers who have made a place for themselves in Ukrainian literature.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of a whole group of women writers of the late 19th, early 20th centuries — Natalia Kobrynska, Yevhenia Yaroshinska, Olga Kobylanska and Uliana Kravchenko in particular — was their concern for the emancipation of women. Not only did their writing reflect this, their biographies show that they also actively participated in the movement, addressing meetings, sponsoring petitions and generally cam-

paing for the right of women to education, to work, to participate fully in community life.

Among these, Uliana Kravchenko was noted for her militant poetry in the cause for women's liberation and had a tremendous impact on the women's movement of her day. As time went by, this remarkable woman's talent as a writer gained ever greater recognition, and was widely acknowledged when Ukraine and the Soviet Union marked the centenary of her birth in April of 1960. New editions of her poetic works were published and translated into the languages of the many peoples that made up the USSR as well as in countries beyond its borders.

Uliana Kravchenko (her real name was Julia Juliyivna Schneider) was born April 18, 1860, in the town of Mikolayiv, western Ukraine. Her father was of German ancestry and an Austrian official in the district of Zhidachiv. He married the daughter of a Ukrainian priest, Julia Lopushanska, who was a very talented singer of Ukrainian and Polish folk songs and a natural storyteller, who early planted in her young daughter's mind a love for reading and literature.

Uliana was but ten years old when her father died so that

the influence of her Ukrainian mother remained the main influence on her life and thoughts, combined with a deep and lasting love for the Ukrainian people and land.

Uliana finished her schooling in a teacher's seminary in Lviv, where her love for the world classics of literature expanded, as well as her interest and enthusiasm for the Ukrainian literary figures, and particularly the poetry of the young Ivan Franko.

This enthusiasm led to a great desire to meet the poet, but she was prevented from doing so by her uncle, her mother's brother, Omelian Lopushansky who, being an Austrian official, didn't want his niece to be compromised for having ties with a socialist writer and propagator of revolutionary ideas. It was only later that she was able to bring about a meeting which developed a friendship that lasted throughout the lifetime of Ivan Franko, and which influenced her work greatly. Their correspondence is considered a literary treasure in our time.

Finishing her studies in the seminary, the young teacher found work in a small town, Bibra, in the Lviv District. The conditions of her work and life were intolerable, though her approach to teaching and working with children was a labour of love.

It was here that she started writing both stories and poetry, sending her work to the Lviv literary magazine "Zorya", of which Ivan Franko was a co-editor. Her first verse, "Zhadai mene mylyi" (Remember Me, Dear One) was published in that magazine and started the correspondence between its author and Ivan Franko, who went out of his way to teach and inspire the talented young girl whose contribution to Ukrainian literature lasted 60 years of her life.

Franko also saw to it that her first book of poetry was printed, preparing it for publication himself and advancing the money for its printing, as well as for her second book.

At the same time, he saw that her work was used in publications such as "Zhyttia i volya" (Life and Freedom) and other literary and anthological journals of the period.

Her ideas, revolutionary for her time, and the fact that she corresponded with Franko, who was considered a dangerous element, lost her the teacher's position in Bibra and she moved on to another school, in the village of Stoky, where conditions of work were even worse. In her letters to Franko, she describes the school as a building with peeling walls, a leaky roof, windowless, floorless, and cold, all of which, she confessed, "was playing havoc with my health".

Franko used his influence to

get her another position, as teacher of a girl's school run by nuns in Lviv. It was here that she formed her close ties with the progressive literary figures and theatre of the time, and here that she gained inspiration for even greater output in her own work.

However, her position in this school did not last long either. She was released because she used the phonetic principle in teaching the Ukrainian language as well as acquainting the students with the work and ideas of Ivan Franko and Mikhailo Drahomanov.

This was the beginning of 40 years of teaching from place to place, leaving Lviv to wander across the length of Western Ukraine, and finally settling in Peremyshl in 1920.

After the reunification of Western Ukraine with greater Ukraine in 1939, the 80-year old poetess actively participated in the community and literary life of the new society, and was elected by the people of the district as Deputy, as well as becoming a member of the Writer's Union of Soviet Ukraine. She wrote for the Soviet press and her articles and poetry were published in the leading literary journals.

The first book of *Selected Works* by Uliana Kravchenko was published in Kiev in 1941, and a later edition of her *Selected Works* was published in Kiev in 1958.

She died in 1947.

* * *

Uliana Kravchenko's poetry early showed a strong social content, a deep love of humanity (and particularly her own Ukrainian people), as well as a deep love of her country. Her first little book of poetry *Prima vera* (Early Spring), published and edited by Ivan Franko in 1885, was also the first book of poetry written by a woman published

in Western Ukraine. The book was a step on the part of the poet in asserting her rights as a woman on behalf of herself and the women of her period on an equal basis with men. In her first poem "Prima Vera", after which the book is titled, she asserts this in her words dedicated to the women of Ukraine, where she likens their life to that of the first flowers of spring that have bloomed too soon;

Prima Vera! Greetings, O my sister!

The first warm rays of sun are barely glowing,

Having turned your pale face to their lustre...

Do beware, for stormy winds are blowing!

Prima Vera, O my dearest sister!

The same destiny awaits us both together!

Spring is near, though winter strong resists it,

Your sweet bloom will fade in barren meadow.

This small example of her work is permeated with deep feeling for the fate of womankind and the understanding that the life of a writer has to reflect the life of the people.

Her second collection, *On a New Path*, was published in 1891 and continued the great promise shown in her first book. In its ideological content and poetic mastery it was a definite step forward. The social motifs, the protests against tyranny and oppression are much stronger here.

But that is not all. The poet calls on all the oppressed to rise against this tyranny and free themselves from bondage.

Uliana Kravchenko was a prolific writer. Book after book left her pen — not only poetry, but stories, articles, biographical sketches. She has earned her place among the greats of Ukrainian literature.

ON A NEW PATH

By ULIANA KRAVCHENKO

The time has passed when life's heavy burden, the bondswoman bore in far greater measure; gone also the time, when you, like a child, were naught but a plaything awaiting man's pleasure;

gone also the day when for the first time, you spread youthful wings, like an eaglet in flight, freed from the yoke that bound, though your progress was blind and still without goal, a target for enemy spite.

The time of slavery and wandering is past... Surrender your reproaches, active be! Be strong and conscious of your human rights, gather the sheaves, the harvest's there to reap! Your family's, your own fate, you'll decide, Within your hands the happiness you seek. Just be the first to stand on that cold precipice of life, where brilliant slogans fall from singing lips...

Though gentle, tender, like that Antigone from those far distant and mute times of yore, but just like her, within your bosom deep conceal your strength in your invincible core:

to fight for truth. And as she made Creon, resolve to turn your life to goodness more. Stand up for truth, see beauty in each day, in a harsh world you be a warming ray!

—Translated by Mary Skrypnyk.

REMEMBRANCE

By ULIANA KRAVCHENKO

Earth was resplendent in her new spring dress,
The duckweed bloomed, the golden lotus shone,
The sower cast his seed in fallow warm,
And bright enchantment filled the woods afresh.

Through flowering groves I walked along with you,
Remember still your words: "The tears will cease,
From wealth's oppression man will be released,
Will strive united, work and live in truth.

And people, brothers all, will happy be,
For freedom calls! As in that fresh-sown field
Within our hearts we're planting truth and love!

Prepared to live, to fight without surcease...
Our battles will one day bring peace,
The darkness lifts — a new sun shines above!"

* * *

How far that springtime fair now lies behind me,
How many failures had to be lived through,
And yet, when lotus blooms upon the fields anew,
My feeble spirit wakes and battles to be free.

Your words re-echo in my mind and heart and sing,
Those heroic, great words: "The tears will cease,
From wealth's oppression man will be released,
Will banish from the earth both hate and suffering ..

The memory carries me on spreading wings,
Lifting my thoughts on high like snowy doves
To light upon your brow in soft caress.

For I believe that dream of happiness:
That mankind will find peace, and joy, and love,
Just as it found my youthful heart, that day in spring.

— Translated by Mary Skrypnyk.

Spring Concert in Toronto

(Continued from Page 6.)
 cert was presented by the four-piece incarnation of Moskitto Bar, "an amazing quartet from Ukraine, Iraq, France and Algeria, playing a mix of all those influences and even more to create a music that you never heard before," as their publicity says. The group stood in sharp contrast with Kalendar.

The group started its set with two numbers that showed strong Middle East influences, the first without a vocal, the second with voice.

For their third number, the group did variations on the Ukrainian song "Dobryi vechir", which is a staple at Malanka celebrations. In this piece we learned that all four musicians sing, and they all sing in Ukrainian and other languages. We also learned in this number that they like to do Ukrainian music at a very fast pace.

In the course of their program, Moskitto Bar sang med-

leys that included Ukrainian, Arabic, and French lyrics, as well as a piece from Columbia. Several times, listening to music like their koloneyka, we found ourselves thinking, "Regina's Poltava Ensemble would love this!"

The set ended with variations on a Ukrainian polka, leaving the audience calling

for more. The Shevchenko Museum has hosted Moskitto Bar before, and given the group's reception, can be expected to call on this musical option again in the future.

Spread over an hour and a quarter, the concert was a delightful entertainment.

The attentive but informal atmosphere was encouraged by the bar, which was open throughout, the urn of hot water for tea, and the generous table of snacks which Ms. Pogoryelov put together.



The small but appreciative audience was treated to an hour and a quarter of delightful entertainment.

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Anne Husar

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

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

Joan Kowalewich
 Audrey Skalbana

Enjoy your day with family and friends!

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

Rose Kwiecinski
 George Sitak

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

Sustaining Fund Donations

Helen Hrynchyshyn, Vancouver BC	\$100.00
Lawrence Kleparchuk, Vancouver BC	70.00
Bill Uhryn, Parkland County AB	70.00
Marceline Holyk, Godfrey ON	10.00

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Celebrating 100 years of the AUUC in Winnipeg



(Continued from Page 1.) Yunist School of Folk Dance and the Yunist Dance Ensemble. Interspersed with the performances will be presentations of vignettes relating to the AUUC. The vignettes are written by Winnipeg playwrights Brian Richardson and Kevin Longfield, working with

the local AUUC Centennial Committee for historical input.

Following the concert will be a formal dinner, which will be addressed by AUUC National President Bob Seychuk. He will address the gathering on the significance of this anniversary and the work of the AUUC. Branch President Glenn Michalchuk will also address the function.

Representatives from the three levels of government have been invited to attend to

share in this significant anniversary and to present greetings at the banquet.

AUUC Winnipeg Branch President Glenn Michalchuk told the "Herald": "The entire Branch has been working very hard since last fall planning for the evening. We are going all out to make it a big success, inviting those who have past associations with the Hall and Branch to attend, as well as our friends and family, and those who know the Hall and

the Association for its progressive work in the community.

"The Ukrainian Labour Temple is closely associated with activity related to the community and progressive politics, so it is natural that the evening should reflect this.

"You can feel the enthusiasm of those working on various aspects of the evening. It has done a lot to generate a sense of pride and optimism in our future."

— Winnipeg Bureau

Family Night at Calgary AUUC

The rumbling of footsteps on the stairs and the squeals of delight were the sounds that greeted me on Saturday, March 3, at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Calgary. The ohhhs and ahhs could only mean one thing — the cakes were arriving. One by one the kids revealed their special home-made or store-bought delectable delight. Which cake would be the first one selected? Who had designed the ladybug cake?

And so, another Family Night was about to begin.

Trista Bailey, our wonderful Dance School Director, had organized such a fun-filled evening for dancers, parents and guests.

First, each class presented a dance from their repertoire for our viewing pleasure. The Hopak Orchestra under the direction of Violetta Dimitrova, provided the musical accompaniment.

Then, children quickly changed into party clothes and enjoyed a marvellous ham meal, complete with perogies, salads, and other side dishes. This meal was cooked and served by Mal Smandych, Lisa Smandych, Lisa McCluskey and Trista.

While the children and guests enjoyed their supper, the Hopak Dance School instructors — Natashia Jeanson, Christopher Monaghan, Liza Makarova, and Jenna Dudar, quickly set all 48 cakes on stage. They expertly taped down the 100 "cake walk steps" that snaked

through the hall and over the stage.

DJ Kenny (Ken Jong) turned on the music, and the party began in earnest.

With Duff Bailey calling out the numbers, kids squealing

with joy, and parents watching over the cake selection, the "cake walk" had begun.

To quote one of the youngest participants, "This is the funnest thing we do!"

It should be noted that all



The cake walk is "the funnest thing" during Family Night at AUUC Calgary Branch.



Nora was the first winner; Claire liked the colourful cake more.

— Story photos: Darlene Hrynshyshyn



The macarena was one of the dances enjoyed during the evening.

participating children "won" a cake. Thank you MC Duff!

DJ Kenny played all the favourites, like the bird dance the macarena, and the limbo.

Diane Gereluk instructed the youngsters in the butterfly and the kolomeyka. Even the parents got involved! Oh,

what a night!

Thank you to Brendan and Nykol Kruger for manning and organizing the bar. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated parents who ensure that Family Night remains a fun-tastic tradition at the hall.

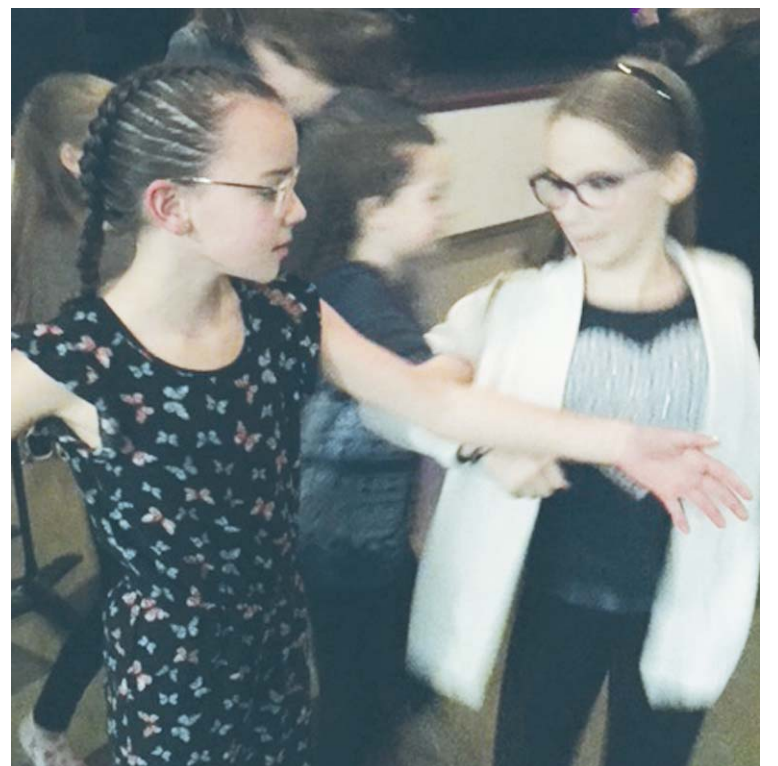
See you all next year!
—Darlene Hrynshyshyn



Keegan was pleased that no one else had chosen the bunny cake.



Precise foot placement is very important to improve one's chances.



Fly, Butterfly! Fly!



Nykol helped the girls with some bird dance lessons.

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