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AUUC Winnipeg Branch Celebrates 100 Years

— Story photos: Wilf Schubert



On May 12, AUUC Winnipeg Branch marked the centennial of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians with a concert and banquet, with some 280 people attending.

AUUC Winnipeg Branch celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians with a concert and banquet at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on May 12. I was privileged to attend this impressive occasion.

I have noticed that events like this tend to have a certain similarity, whenever and wherever they are held. One enters a hall which has been attractively decorated, with nicely set tables holding nicely prepared centrepieces. There is an informative display

showing the history which is being marked.

A series of speakers pays homage to the institution whose history is being celebrated. Among those speakers are representatives of several levels of government, whose remarks are interchangeable from one time and place to another.

Politics being what it is, many of the speakers rush off to the next of the several gatherings on their schedule for the day, where they will deliver the same speech, with appropriate new details filling in the blanks.

Many accounts have been written by politicians, public speakers, and others bemoaning the dreariness of what is dismissively called “the rubber chicken circuit”.

No doubt these paeans to misery reflect a certain reality; however, it is not the reality of special AUUC celebrations, because these celebrations, though they conform to the general model, are raised above the norm by the spirit injected by the celebrants. The love and pride which inform these AUUC events are reflected in the creativity, innovation, and imagination which embroider the template, transforming it into a unique pageant.

A hint of the rich adventure on which the approaching guest was about to embark on

that day in Winnipeg was seen before entering the building at Pritchard and McGregor: the large banner mounted over the entrance, proclaiming the centenary in bold colours on ribbon wings of yellow and blue.

The dining hall was indeed nicely appointed, white table cloths, centrepieces and all. At each space was a high-quality printed program, and a tin of mints decorated with images of the Ukrainian Labour Temple and the centennial logo.

One’s eyes were captured by the imposing display, high and wide, with exhibits spanning a hundred years and ranging from photos and other graphics to musical instruments, embroidered costumes, and a cornucopia of other artifacts.

The concert started just a few minutes past the scheduled 4:30 p.m., with the first appearance of the Yunist Dance Ensemble. The group of six women and two men, in their presentation of “Welcome — Bread and Salt”, revealed a troupe which has progressed significantly since I last saw them at the AUUC National Convention in October, 2016.

This opening was followed by five — yes, five! — speakers. That sounds deadly; probably enough to kill any

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The Next Issue

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

Israel Shoots Canadian Medic in Gaza

In its print edition dated May 16, the *Toronto Star* reported that Tarek Loubani, an emergency physician in London, Ontario, was recovering after a bullet pierced his right knee and lightly wounded his left leg, when he was shot by Israeli snipers firing into a crowd of Palestinian protesters on May 14.

The report by staff reporter Fatima Syed, with files from The Canadian Press, said that, “At least 58 Palestinians were killed and more than 2,700 wounded in the bloodiest day the region has seen in recent years.”

After Dr. Loubani was shot, he was assisted by a paramedic friend. An hour later, the friend was shot and killed while attending to another victim under fire.

The Canadian government was “very concerned that Canadian doctor and humanitarian worker Tarek Loubani was shot yesterday in Gaza.”

In a communication to the “Star”, Adam Austen, a spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, added that MP Omar Alghabra and consular officials had been in touch with Dr. Loubani’s family.

Both Dr. Loubani and his friend were clearly distinguishable as medical personnel, and not legitimate targets under international law.

The report noted that, “Amnesty International said the Israeli military appeared to be killing demonstrators who posed no threat”.

In addition, it was reported that “Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East condemned the shooting of Loubani.”

Weeks earlier, on April 27, *Middle East Eye* reported that, “Amnesty International has called for a global arms embargo against Israel, accusing its forces of committing war crimes in the Gaza Strip.”

“MEE” reported Magdalena Mughrabi, deputy regional director at Amnesty International, to have said, “For four weeks the world has watched in horror as Israeli snipers and other soldiers, in full-protective gear and behind the fence, have attacked Palestinian protesters with live ammunition and tear gas. Despite wide international condemnation, the Israeli army has not reversed its illegal orders to shoot unarmed protesters.”

In a second article in the same May 16 issue of the “Star”, this one by Fares Akram and Karin Laub of The Associated Press, it was reported that, “The high casualty

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Nation to Nation?

On the matter of relations with Indigenous peoples, as on so many other issues, the government of Canada led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau talks a far better game than it plays.

While the talk is of reconciliation, respectful nation-to-nation relations, and support for the rights of Indigenous people, when push comes to shove, all of that gives way to support for corporate profits.

A fine example of this is the government's determination to push through the Kinder Morgan pipeline over the objections of the Indigenous people over whose land it would run.

In an article by Mike De Souza on May 16, the *National Observer* reported that, "Canada and an American energy company want a First Nation in British Columbia to pay for their legal fees following 'significant' delay and prejudice to a stalled pipeline expansion project."

The company is Texas-based Kinder Morgan, which made this request in a submission to the Federal Court of Appeal on May 14. Counsel for Canada's Attorney General, Jody Wilson-Raybould, made a similar request in a separate submission on May 11.

The submissions were in response to an extraordinary motion submitted on May 2 by

the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, requesting that the court compel the government to release uncensored copies of federal documents cited in a recent investigation by the *National Observer*, including the release of secret cabinet documents.

In essence, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation is seeking to establish that the government of Canada, which was required to consult and accommodate the First Nations, did so in bad faith, that it had decided to proceed with the pipeline project even before the consultations began.

The *National Observer* investigation used information, provided by an unnamed whistle-blower, showing that a high-ranking official instructed public servants to find a way to approve the project, even though the government was supposed to be consulting and accommodating First Nations at that time.

Neither Kinder Morgan nor the government denies that instructions were given, but they both claim the behaviour is "irrelevant" because it doesn't reflect the "actions" taken by Trudeau's government in its official meetings with the affected First Nations.

Other First Nations have supported the Tsleil-Waututh Nation's motion in separate court filings. The Coldwater

Indian Band, the Stk'emlupsemc'te Secwepemc (SSN), the Squamish Nation, and the Upper Nicola Band say that the documents show that the government believed its approach was "legally sound" before it had even shared a report with the affected First Nations explaining how it planned to accommodate their concerns.

Several First Nations have asked the court to overturn the approval because, they alleged, the government failed in its legal duty to consult them, as required under Canada's Constitution.

The government of Canada and the government of Alberta have been trying to coerce the government of British Columbia to drop its opposition. The government of Canada has been offering to compensate Kinder Morgan for any delays beyond the company's May 31 deadline.

The new Tsleil-Waututh motion could cause months of delays, even if rejected by the court.

When asked how the request for the Tsleil-Waututh to pay legal fees fits with efforts to promote reconciliation, the federal Natural Resources Department said,

"No relationship is more important to our government than the one with Indigenous peoples. It is standard practice for Government of Canada to request that it be awarded costs...."

Inquiry's Fate Uncertain

As this issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* goes to press, there still is no word from the government in response to the request, made in early March, for an additional \$50 million and two more years to allow the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls to do a more complete job in meeting its mandate.

With the final report due before the end of the year, the Inquiry has also had no official response to its Interim Report, published in November. The Interim Report called for the creation of a special police task force to address unsolved cases. It also asked for funding to ensure that families can participate in the inquiry, and expansion of a special mental health program to meet needs created by the processes of the Inquiry.

In mid-May, Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett said that the federal government would announce its decision on an extension "within a week or two". The Minister expected that information on which recommendations in the Interim Report the government plans to fulfil would be announced together with the decision on the extension.

The NIMMIWG has been plagued with problems almost from its announcement, with its first public hearings delayed in the fall of 2017. Continuing problems included a series of staffing changes, including one of the inquiry's five commissioners, a succession of executive directors, the lead lawyer, and others.

There has also been criticism of the process almost from the beginning. Many Indigenous people who wanted a public inquiry felt that a process was imposed on them without enough consultation. There

was dissatisfaction with the original inquiry format, which could have been avoided through more consultation with Indigenous groups.

Sheila North, Grand Chief of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, said that, "People started feeling disrespected and disregarded," because of lack of information about when hearings would take place or how to access "aftercare" for people traumatized anew through their participation in the hearings.

In May, the Native Women's Association of Canada issued a very critical assessment. Executive Director Franeyne Joe, mentioned two main problems: it's too wide and undefined, and the administration has been slow and uncommunicative. Nevertheless, Ms. Joe supports an extension of the Inquiry, hopefully with a more transparent budget and improved cooperation with community groups.

Not all Indigenous leaders agree. Melanie Omeniho, President of Women of the Métis Nation, for example, opposes any extension in favour of implementing changes that have already been recommended, such as reforming police and justice systems, and filling gaps in statistics on missing and murdered Métis women and girls.

Without a response from the government, Chief Commissioner Marion Buller says, the Inquiry will just continue its work, with expert hearings on human rights under way in Quebec City, and continuing sessions on government services, racism and policing until late June. The Forensic Review Team is preparing to audit police files on specific cases. Work on the final report is in progress, with a first draft expected in August.

Government's Deeds Belie Its Words

In April and May there have been several articles in the *Toronto Star*, discussing Prime Minister Trudeau's relationship with Indigenous peoples and infrastructure projects.

One of the first was the April 24 article "Pipeline asserts jurisdiction over Indigenous lands" by Deborah Cowen and Shiri Pasternak.

In their article, the authors say, "Kinder Morgan is nothing less than reconciliation on trial."

They point out that, "In the face of extraordinary Indigenous resistance to the Trans Mountain project, and without a trace of the tears that fell for reconciliation, Trudeau asserts that this infrastructure is 'in the national interest and it will get built.'"

The authors note that, Revelstoke, a town built on unceded Secwepemc land, was named for the man who secured the funding through his family's bank. Secwepemc territory is now at the centre of another infrastructure project that is shaping the balance of power in Canada. Secwepemceluw in the south central interior of British Columbia is the largest contiguous

length the proposed Trans Mountain pipeline will traverse.

The article goes on to expand on the theme and reveal some of the modes of resistance.

The May 17 article by legal analyst Azeezah Kanji notes that, "The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) states that governments must receive the 'free and informed consent' of Indigenous communities 'prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands and territories and other resources.'"

The article says that Canada refused to endorse the declaration for a full decade after its promulgation, but Canada now claims to be committed to complete implementation.

However, the federal government's statement of principles for implementing UNDRIP falls short of requiring Indigenous consent, requiring only consulting and cooperating, with the aim of securing Indigenous consent. Correct Canadian law says, in essence, "You don't consent? Too bad."

In another context, our feminist Prime Minister would be

accused of rape — or at least sexual assault.

Ms. Kanji says, "Projects such as the Muskrat Falls dam, the Site C dam and the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion are being shoved through against the ongoing resistance of peoples who inhabited these lands long before European colonizers presumed to assert their sovereignty over them."

The article discusses the consequences of the three projects.

"At Muskrat Falls in Labrador, for instance, construction of Nalcor Energy's mega-dam on unceded Innu and Inuit territory has almost been completed, despite sustained Indigenous (as well as allied non-Indigenous) opposition. The dam threatens to produce mass flooding and to poison the waters Indigenous communities depend on for food with neurotoxic methylmercury, according to a study from Harvard University.... Canada has arrested the Indigenous land and water protectors, including elders, who are non-violently resisting it"

The article cites Amnesty international about Cite C: "In

(Continued on Page 5.)

Ontario to Share Resource Revenue

The Canadian Press reported in early May that the government of Ontario had signed agreements to share revenue from mining and forestry with First Nations. The agreements are the first of their kind in the province.

Under the agreements, the province will share 45% of its revenue from forestry stumpage, 40% of the annual mining tax and royalties from active mines at the of signing, as well as 45% from future mines in relevant areas.

The deals were developed in collaboration with First Nations partners — Grand Council Treaty #3, Wabun Tribal Council, and Mushkegowuk Council — and could benefit

39 communities across them.

The First Nations will have full control over the allocation of their share into initiatives that support economic development, education, health and other priorities.

Premier Kathleen Wynne said her government has been working on the agreements for some time.

It is not clear from the report whether the First Nations would actually receive cash, or only be allowed to direct its allocation.

It is also not clear whether entry of the agreements into force are conditional on passage of enabling legislation in Provincial Parliament or on other requirements.

Current Eclectic

Rabid Reactions to Venezuelan Election

To understand international reaction to Venezuela's presidential election, it is enough to consider this passage from a statement on May 21 by the editorial board of *The New York Times*: "Some of those who voted for Mr. Maduro apparently did so in the fear that their food rations would be stopped if they didn't; others were the remaining Chavista faithful still loyal to the socialist upheavals led by Mr. Chávez from 1999 to his death in 2013 and by Mr. Maduro since."

The socialist upheavals in question are the determination of the Bolivarian revolution to use the country's resources for the benefit of its population. This decision, limiting the freedom of international and transnational corporations to exploit the residents of Venezuela and the country's riches, was and is unacceptable to those corporations, and therefore, to the countries where human freedom is defined as the right of corporations to exploit freely.

Since 1999, the United States of America and its lackey states in the Americas (including Canada, unfortunately) have been waging a war of attrition against Venezuela in an effort to achieve policy change initially, and then regime change.

As has happened in many countries, the difficulties caused by economic sanctions have been followed by encouragement of the domestic opposition to try to overthrow the government by extra-parliamentary action.

Even before the elections were held, countries of the European Union and the Lima Group indicated that they would impose additional sanctions if President Nicolás Maduro won a second term as president of Venezuela.

Within hours of the election, 14 countries recalled their ambassadors. Canada was among them, and announced that it was reducing its diplomatic relations.

The BBC, The New York Times, and other publications within the sphere of the Atlantic Council reported on the hardships facing people in Venezuela: historic economic collapse marked by soaring prices, widespread hunger, rampant crime, a failing health system and a large-scale exodus of its citizens. All of them also spoke of the projected tightening of sanctions, but none of them attributed the hardships to the sanctions. Instead, they all blamed President Maduro's policies.

In case anyone has any doubt about the aim of the "free" world in Venezuela,

The New York Times editorial Board made it clear in a statement on May 21. The statement said, "The question is how to get rid of Mr. Maduro before he completes the destruction of his country."

An opposition leader was optimistic — regime change has been achieved in other times and places by sanctions, he said.

Neither the "NYT" nor the rest of the commercial press internationally sees the flaw in the statement "The devastation he and his leftist firebrand (note the "leftist firebrand") predecessor, the late Hugo Chávez, have visited on Venezuela is hard to fathom, especially as the country has the world's largest oil reserves." The oil reserves have limited value when the sanctions include restrictions and bans on sales internationally of that oil.

The BBC reported that Russia, El Salvador, Cuba and China congratulated President Maduro on his election win.

An interesting commentator on the BBC, aired on the CBC at 2:00 a.m., did note that the poor Venezuelans continue to support the Bolivarian revolution. Another commentator on the same broadcast called programs helping the poor "vote buying". These programs cost money, she said and the government in Caracas will eventually be unable to pay for them.

The article by Glenn Michalchuk, beginning on Page 4, has some interesting information about the election, including a thought about possible military intervention.

Arms Race Continues

A report by The Associated Press in Mid-May, said that President Vladimir Putin had announced that the Russian military would soon receive new nuclear weapons that are far ahead of any foreign designs.

Speaking at a meeting in Sochi, President Putin said that delivery of the new Avangard hypersonic vehicle will begin next year. The new Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) will enter service in 2020. The Avangard and the Sarmat were among an array of new nuclear weapons Putin presented in March.

During the March announcement, the Russian leader said that the Avangard has an intercontinental range, and can fly in the atmosphere at a speed 20 times the speed of sound. The Russian leader added that the weapon can change both its course and its altitude en route to a target, making it "absolutely invulnerable to any air or missile defence means."

Putin noted that Avangard is designed using new composite materials to withstand temperatures of up to 2,000°C resulting from a flight through the atmosphere at hypersonic speeds.

"It heads to its target like a meteorite, like a fireball," he said in March.

The Sarmat is intended to replace the Soviet-designed Voyevoda, the world's heaviest ICBM, that is known as "Satan" in the West, and which carries 10 nuclear war-

heads.

Putin said in March that Sarmat weighs 200 metric tonnes and has a higher range than Satan, allowing it to fly over the North or the South Poles and strike targets anywhere in the world. He added that Sarmat also carries a bigger number of nuclear warheads, which are more powerful than the ones on Satan.

Putin said the new ICBM accelerates faster than its predecessor, making it harder for the enemy to intercept in its most vulnerable phase after the launch. He also said Sarmat could carry an array of warheads capable of dodging missile defences.

Speaking on May 18 at a meeting with the top military officers in Sochi that wrapped up a series of such conferences with military leaders this week, Putin said that "These unique weapons systems are years and, perhaps, even decades ahead of any foreign analogues. ... They have rendered many expensive, I would say highly expensive foreign systems, useless and out-dated."

Putin emphasized that two other new systems unveiled in March — the Kinzhal hypersonic missile and the laser weapon called Peresvet — have already been put into service with the units of Russian Southern Military District, which are developing tactics of their use. Mig-31 fighter jets carrying the massive Kinzhal missiles flew over Red Square during the Victory Day parade earlier in May.

Prospects in Korea

As the "UCH" goes to press, there is growing concern about prospects for the projected meeting in June between President Trump of the USA and President Kim Jong Un of the DPRK.

For a while after the Olympics, opponents of relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were getting somewhat nervous about the friendly relations that seemed to be developing. Instead of the insults that had been flying between the two leaders, Donald Trump was saying nice things about the Korean leader, who was doing nice things, like releasing prisoners and promising to do away with his nuclear weapons.

Then things started to deteriorate. President Trump took the USA out of the nuclear agreement with Iran, after having withdrawn from the agreement on global warming. President Kim was threatening to withdraw from the

bilateral meeting.

When the USA and the Republic of Korea went through their annual (at least, that's what they said) military exercises, President Kim called it a provocation, and threatened to cancel the meeting with President Trump.

Nevertheless, negotiations continued to set a time and place for the meeting, and an agreement was reached.

The USA insisted that the DPRK had to give up its nuclear weapons before negotiations began. At first the response from the DPRK was that it would not disarm unilaterally. Then it said that would publicly destroy its test site, as it could resume at any time, and had all it needed for the time being.

There is still some jockeying as the meeting approaches, but the negotiation has not been called off.

The destruction of test facilities is still going ahead, but journalists from the ROK are, for the moment not invited, supposedly because of the earlier military exercises.

Betting on the outcome, all in all, seems very iffy.

Naqba Marked in Winnipeg

There were naqba commemorations around the world in solidarity with the displaced Palestinians. Some of the actions were in Canada.

About 200 people gathered at Broadway and Osborne in Winnipeg on May 15 to mark

the 70th Anniversary of the expulsion of Palestinians from their traditional lands. The demonstration lasted about an hour and coincided with the evening rush hour at one of the busiest intersections in the city.

— Photo: Elizabeth Carlyle



Rana Abdulla was one of the organizers of the naqba demonstration in Winnipeg. The signs had the names and populations of Palestinian towns and villages wiped out in the naqba.

Hundreds on foot and in their cars saw the demonstration, and were given leaflets explaining the situation. The action concluded with remarks from the supporting organizations.

The Winnipeg demonstration was one of several to be organized in Canada. Other cities marking Naqba were Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal. The actions were particularly impactful this year given the killings of unarmed Palestinians by the Israeli military at the Gaza border.

In Gaza, the Great March of Return began in late March and ended on May 15. It was to commemorate the displacement of Palestinians by the state of Israel in 1948, and assert their right to return to the lands taken from them. The March elicited brutal violence from Israel, resulting in the death of more than 100 Palestinians, and injuries to thousands more, including children and medical personnel.

— Glenn Michalchuk

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**Blaming the Victims**

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

What a strange world we inhabit, in which some countries are allowed to behave in generally unacceptable ways, while other countries excuse that behaviour by blaming the victims.

Israel shoots unarmed children and medics. Does the international community react with shock and horror to condemn the slaughter? Not to any great extent. The government of Israel claims the right to self-defence at a border defended by barbed wire and a ten-foot fence, and blames Hamas. At the United Nations and in other international fora, representatives of the USA, Great Britain, and some other countries echo Israel's position, blaming the victims for daring to object to a blockade which is making their lives miserable. Only a few countries, like Turkey and South Africa, show displeasure by making diplomatic moves.

In a rare show of independence, motivated by a Canadian medic's being among the wounded, Canada's representatives called for an investigation — how bold!

What other country could expect to be forgiven for carnage represented by numbers like: Palestinians injured or killed — close to 3000, by some reports (cited by the *Washington Post*); Israelis injured or killed — 0?

Another example of blaming the victims is action against Venezuela. The USA and its allies (shamefully among them, Canada) have undertaken to achieve regime change in that country, because the government acted to turn its resources (especially oil) to the benefit of its own people. In support of the profits of international corporations, the USA has imposed harsh sanctions which are depriving the country and its people of food, medicine and other needs. Once again, instead of laying the blame for the resultant misery where it belongs — on the sanctions imposed by the USA — the blame is being put on the victims. It is charged that the policies of the President of Venezuela are to blame, and by extension, the support he gets from the people.

Canada is marching in lockstep with the USA in its attack on the people of Venezuela. Among the reasons is Canada's fear of American sanctions. However, another factor has become rather important in recent decades — the determination of the government of Canada to support Canadian transnational corporations as they seek to rob people around the world of their of their resources.

Alas, Palestinians and Venezuelans are just two of many victimized people.

COMMENTARY**Venezuelan Election**

The first part of this article appeared in the May, 2018, issue of the "UCH". We begin this instalment with a few paragraphs that appeared earlier.

The new unified exchange rate will be regulated by the state through "auctions" in conjunction with transnational foreign exchange centres and suppliers.

Under this new system:

1) to access foreign currency, individuals and business owners will have to register with the government website handling transactions;

2) individuals and business owners will have a limit on the total amount of foreign currency that individuals or company directors can purchase — 1680 euros for individuals, 340,000 euros monthly (or 30% of declared net monthly profits) for business owners and directors of corporations. Arrangements will be made to allow businesses and individuals to repatriate their savings and assets, and as a mechanism for Venezuelan migrants to send remittances back to their families (the hope of the government is to implement this reform);

3) foreign exchange centres within Venezuela will be able to sell foreign currency to private buyers.

The other significant action the Venezuela government initiated in February was the launch of its petro currency, which is one of the new forms of crypto currencies. It is backed by Venezuela's oil reserves and gold bullion. Its aim

is to circumvent US economic sanctions.

In making the announcement of the petro currency activation, Maduro said: "The petro will be ... used as a platform for the growth of a more just and favourable financial system for national development. Currency will be transferred securely and directly in order to avoid blockades and embargoes".

In response, the US government warned that any financial institutions found to be dealing in the petro will be considered to have violated the Trump administration's sanctions on Venezuela.

Alongside this, China and Russia play an important role in supporting the Venezuelan economy through loans and credits. Internationally, they are now the main financial supporters of the Venezuelan government.

Another measure that took place last year, and was directed at all working people, was the increase in the minimum wage by 65%.

The coming elections — the West clamours for "democracy"

Who has provoked political crisis in Venezuela? Maduro and the PSUV? That is certainly the spin in the major Canadian and western media. The media lays the political crisis in Venezuela at the feet of Maduro and the PSUV though it never explains this. What it asserts over and over is some simple phrases about Maduro — the dictator against an opposition fighting for democracy.

In the context of the coming elections it describes the date for presidential elections as "Maduro calling a snap election". The basis for this assertion is that, in the past, the election of the President was held in December of the election year. But these are hardly

normal times in Venezuela.

It is really the opposition parties that have played fast and loose with the democratic process using it to effect change that suits their agenda.

While elements of the political opposition are suggesting Maduro is manipulating the presidential election the facts tell a different story.

It was the "democratic" opposition that tried the tactic of a "snap election". In 2016, the opposition political parties, under the umbrella of an organization called the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD), took control in the National Assembly. What did they do? Did they advance a legislative agenda to deal with crisis in Venezuela? No, MUD set about effecting regime change.

The MUD-dominated National Assembly sensed it had momentum from the elections, and decided the time was right to oust President Maduro and the PSUV.

The "democratic opposition" took various provocative actions. One was to swear in several deputies who had been elected to the National Assembly but were barred by the Supreme Court from taking their seat due to findings of election fraud. The seating of these deputies would help ensure their majority in the National Assembly.

Next, self-declaring that the election of a majority of MUD delegates was authority to oust Maduro, the MUD used their (manufactured) majority in the National Assembly to begin a campaign to recall the President.

However, the National Assembly was blocked when the courts declared these actions illegal and placed it in contempt. It was then further blocked by the convening of a Constituent Assembly.

MUD decided to boycott elections to the Constituent Assembly, putting all its political eggs in the basket of the National Assembly. In so doing, MUD sidelined itself from the political process, as the Constituent Assembly elections resulted in the election of delegates not associated with the extremism of MUD.

(Continued on Page 8.)

FROM OUR READERS

Thank you for keeping us informed about events in Canada and in Ukraine, as well as providing perspectives on things that deal with people's well-being around the world,

Audey Moysiuk
Vancouver BC

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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.

Artist Donates Painting to the Museum



This print was an earlier gift to the Museum.

Ukrainian Canadian artist Andrei Sinitar has donated his beautiful acrylic painting “Wedding/Vesillya” to the Taras Shevchenko Museum. The painting depicts a traditional village wedding in the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine, where the artist was born and raised.

A graduate of Kyiv State Art Institute, Mr. Sinitar has had his paintings displayed in many Ukrainian and international exhibitions and art shows since 1979. The galleries include the National Art Museum of Ukraine, the Lviv Historical Museum of Ukraine, the Bokshaj Uzhghorod Transcarpathian Art Gallery, the Chernivtsi Art Museum, the Ternopil Art Museum, the National Union of Artists of Ukraine, the Taras

Shevchenko Museum of Toronto, and the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation.

As well, his works can be found in numerous private collections in Ukraine, France, Italy, Finland, Canada and the USA.

The Ministry of Culture of Ukraine purchased Mr. Sinitar’s painting “Visiting Grandfather”. The artist’s works have been selected for a number of art albums and catalogues published in Ukraine and Canada.

His painting “Immigrants” won many compliments and much appreciation from visitors during the “Promised Land – 125 Years of Ukrainians in Canada” exhibition, held in the Shevchenko Museum in 2016.

Mr. Sinitar is a member of



By seeing artist Andrei Sinitar against the background of his work, it is possible to see the size of his creations, which tend to be large.



Ukrainian Canadian artist Andrei Sinitar has donated his beautiful acrylic painting “Wedding/Vesillya” to the Taras Shevchenko Museum. The painting depicts a traditional village wedding in the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine.

the Canadian Union of Artists and the Ukrainian Canadian Union of Visual Artists.

During the 45 years of his artistic career, Andriy Sinitar has participated in 82 major solo and group art exhibitions.

“My theme is my beloved homeland, its nature and people, its traditions, songs, fairy tales and legends. It is its contemporary life and its ties with the past.

“Developing my own style, I use new forms of expression. I connect a composition

with colourful ornaments and abstract rhythms and textures.

“My paintings depict celebrations, humour, warm shades of earth, the gold tones of harvest, and the love of my beautiful beloved land,” says Mr. Sinitar.

The donated painting will take a worthy place in the Taras Shevchenko Museum collections and, I am sure, will win a lot of admiration from numerous Shevchenko Museum visitors.

— Lyudmyla Pogoryelova

Government’s Deeds

(Continued from Page 2.) 2016, the Liberal government issued permits for the Site C hydroelectric dam in north-eastern British Columbia — even though the government’s own environmental assessment found that it would result in “severe, permanent, and irreversible harm to a unique ecosystem on which the Dunne-Za and Cree peoples depend to exercise their constitutionally protected Treaty rights.”

The article notes that, “The existing Trans Mountain pipeline has already leaked at least 82 times since 1961, and a report from Simon Fraser University determined that the likelihood of an oil spill from the expanded version would be 99 per cent — imperilling delicate environments....”

Another article on May 17, Chantal Hébert, covers much the same ground about Kinder Morgan, but introduces much else in arguing that, “A month after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stepped in to resolve the impasse between British Columbia and Alberta over the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline, his government has little to show for its efforts.”

“NDP Premier John Horgan’s government has now referred the issue of whether the province has the power to regulate the amount of diluted bitumen oil that transits through its territory to BC’s top court.”

“In ... litigation launched by seven Indigenous groups the Federal Court of Appeal has yet to pronounce on whether Ottawa lived up to its duty to consult the First Nations....”

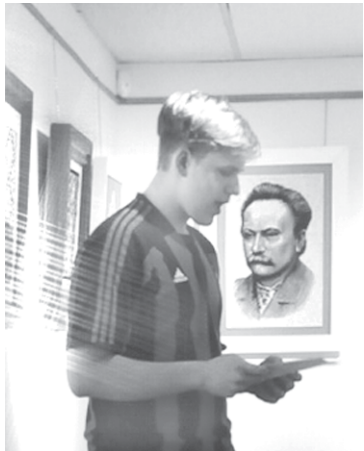
“Over the past month the anti-Trans Mountain movement has been picking up steam at home and abroad. This includes activity by Former US Vice-President Al Gore, a mayoral run in Vancouver by MP Kennedy Stewart, who was arrested for his activity, as was Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, and a growing coalition of environmental and Indigenous groups in Quebec.

Federal legislation to affirm Ottawa’s constitutional authority to see the Kinder Morgan project may not get through the Senate before the summer recess.

Such federal legislation could open the federal government to more provincial litigation. The Quebec government, for one, has signalled its support for British Columbia in its bid to have the courts affirm that the constitutional authority of the federal government to pursue infrastructure projects that it deems in the national interest does not nullify the provincial right to legislate to protect the environment.

German Students Visit Shevchenko Museum

—Photos: Wilfred Szczesny



Darius Luja, one of the visiting students, presented a report on Ukrainian immigration to Canada as part of a school project.

On May 17, sixteen students from Reuchlir Gymnasium in Ingolstadt, Germany, near Munich in Bavaria, visited the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto, accompanied by their leader, Markus Schirmer, a couple of other teachers and two students from Toronto. The group was given a tour of the institution by Shevchenko Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, heard the report from Darius Luja, who has some Ukrainian background, and received additional information about Ukrainian Canadians from Andrew Gregorovich.



Sixteen German students, several teachers, and two students from Humberside Collegiate visited the Taras Shevchenko Museum in late afternoon on May 17. After a few days in Toronto, they were bound for Vancouver, their only other Canadian stop. In accordance with their request, the tour’s focus was Ukrainian immigration to Canada

IWD Celebration in Edmonton



An International Women's Day celebration was held at the Ukrainian Centre in Edmonton on Sunday, March 11.

Following a decision of the Celebratory Committee honouring the 100-year anniversary of the AUUC, a committee was created to plan the International Women's Day celebration. The committee consisted of Chairperson Malena Alsarado, Lionel Fruhbrott, Naomi Rankin, Corrine Benson, Ana Alfaro, Maria Luisa Paraque, Norma Vida, Alberto Genis and Nelly Rosenda.

The Committee chose Lucy Alfaro to MC the program.

The celebration was divided into two sections. The first section was a meal prepared by Salvadorans, Mexicans, Chileans and Guatemalans.

The second half began with the International Women's Day message presented by Hadia Osman.

The Opening Ceremony was performed by a Canadian Native guest, and then artistic presentations began.

The Notre Dame des Bananes Labour Choir sang two songs honouring the women of the world.

Transport Minister Brian Mason gave greetings on behalf of the provincial government.

A tribute was given to Berta Caceres of Honduras by Ana Alfaro. Berta Caceres was a strong political woman who worked for a better life for her people, and independence from the American gendarmes.

The speakers stated that this celebration was key in hon-

ouring the women who have played a big role in productivity on Earth, the struggle for a peaceful, safer world, and the creation of a peaceful safe life for the children. In the capitalist system they are not honoured as they should be.

Ana Chalu, from Chile, read a poem in Spanish honouring the women of Chile and the struggle against the American fascist control of Chile and other Latin American countries. It is time to stop the CIA murdering machine.

Two Chilean singers, Mario Allende and Pepe Farinas, honoured the women of the whole world.

Wilmer Cobas, a Venezuelan singer, sang about women's role in the struggles against the CIA and American fascism, to save their independence and their socialistic society, which was won under the leadership of Hector Chavez.

A tribute to Ursula Franklin was given by Naomi Rankin.

A tribute honouring Patricia Verdugo was presented by Norma Vidal, and a Peruvian dance group performed a Peruvian dance.

A tribute to Palestinian Syrian women was presented by Naomi Rankin.

Monica Herrera, a Mexican singer, honoured Mexican women with a song, and a tribute to Miroslava Breach of Mexico was presented by Alberto Genis.

Closing remarks were made to continue the recognition of women worldwide and their contribution to a better, peaceful, loving world.

— Paul Greene



Top, a view of the large audience. Below and right, performers at the International Women's Day event in Edmonton.



Literature, crafts and other exhibits were on display by people from various countries in the Americas and beyond.

Story photos: Ana Alfaro



Centennial Celebration in Winnipeg

(Continued from Page 1.) celebration. However, MC Glenn Michalchuk, AUUC National President Bob Seychuk, Kevin Lamoureux, MP, MLA Cathy Cox (Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage), and Winnipeg's Mayor Brian Bowman were quite disciplined, and completed their segment before the audience got bored.

The Winnipeg Mandolin



Manitoba's provincial government was represented by Member of the Legislative Assembly Cathy Cox, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage.



Kevin Lamoureux, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg North, represented the federal Government.



Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman spoke on behalf of the city.



Ember Kaminski and Madeline Werestiuk of the Yunist School of Dance stole the show with a "Kozachok" and "Tropotyanka".

Orchestra, conducted by Annis Kozub, followed with its first offering, "Ukrainian Suite". The orchestra was, as usual, precise, whether playing the lyrical or the very energetic passages. Particularly impressive throughout this evening were the wind instruments and the powerful bass section, with mandocellos, a violoncello and two basses.

The Festival Choir, conducted by Vasylyna Streltsov and accompanied on the piano by Anna Khomenko, was in good voice for *Slava pioneram* (Glory to the pioneers), written by John Weir, and "Verkhovyna", singing the praises of a region of Ukraine.

The choir usually appears on the stage, but on this occasion it was on the floor, beside the orchestra. With each performing group appearing at least twice, this arrangement helped with the flow of the program.

The Yunist School of Dance has only two students this year, but these little girls are learning the lessons of future greatness. They appeared at this point with the lively dance "Kozachok", and toward the end of the concert with "Tropotyanka". As usually happens with the little ones, their earnest charm stole the show.

The women of the Yunist Dance Ensemble followed with "Zapletu vinochok" (I'll make a wreath). This graceful dance was well done. It was a special treat as, for the first time in my recollection, the dance was accompanied by the choir and orchestra.

The orchestra followed with "Gabriel's Oboe". The solo by Sherry Bonness was even more delightful than I recalled.

The Festival Choir returned to perform three numbers; "Bandura", "Oy lopnuv obruch", and "Tuman khvilyamy lyahaye" (The mist is settling in waves). Walter Mirosch performed his solo passages in a bass which belied his status as a senior.

The women of the Yunist Dance Ensemble followed



The Yunist Dance Ensemble opened the concert with the traditional presentation of bread and salt, with a segue into a longer dance.



with "Maryna", in which they danced around a particular bush. Once again, they were accompanied by the choir and orchestra.

The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra was on its own once more for "A Festive Dance", the finale from "Transcarpathian Sketches". The orchestra acquitted itself very well in this challenging piece of music.

Now it was the turn, once more, of the choir. The humorous song "Susidka" (Neighbour) was followed by the "Reve ta stohne Dnipr shyrokey" (The mighty Dniro roars and bellows), a well-loved song based on a poem by Taras Shevchenko. Perhaps like no other, this song establishes the Bard of Ukraine in the Romantic school of art. Lionel Steimen ably acted as the choir's MC for this portion of the concert.

Following the second appearance of the Yunist School of Dance, the Yunist Dance Ensemble closed the concert with the obligatory fast-paced "Hopak", perhaps Ukraine's most popular dance.

Continuity of the concert was provided not by a Master of Ceremonies but by a two person dramatization written by Brian Richardson and Kevin Longfield. Ethan Lapkin played a young fellow in search of his Ukrainian heritage — with the aid of a magnifying glass, à la Sherlock Holmes. Katherine McClennan played the knowledgeable guide, who led him, (Continued on Page 12.)



AUUC National President Bob Seychuk, in his greetings, gave a thumbnail sketch of AUUC history, and pointed to the future.



The women of the Yunist Dance Ensemble presented the graceful "Zapletu vinochok"



The Festival Choir, conducted by Vasylyna Streltsov and accompanied on piano by Anna Khomenko, sang seven songs in three sets — in addition to singing with the orchestra in support of the dancers.



In addition to impressive performance of its own challenging pieces, the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra, conducted by Annis Kozub, joined with the Festival Choir to accompany the dancers.

Venezuelan Election

(Continued from Page 4.)

MUD suffered further setbacks in regional elections, losing in almost all areas of the country. It suffered another setback when several of the elected regional governors who belonged to the MUD alliance swore allegiance to the Constituent Assembly despite orders by MUD leadership that to do so would result in expulsion from the alliance.

So where does that leave the opposition in the present election?

The decision of the election date actually came as a result of negotiations between the PSUV and parties other than those in MUD, or who have abandoned MUD for a variety of reasons.

The setting of the May 20 election date came with the signing of a document governing the conduct of the elections by all those parties participating. The document outlines measures to ensure a fair election, including international observation — one of the key

requests of the international community. Among the many other things it covers is the registration of Venezuelan voters living abroad, access to all forms of media (including state media) and so on.

Most importantly the advance of the election date to May will create certainty for Venezuela.

The economic changes being pursued in Venezuela signal that there is an economic strategy to deal with the US-led sanctions. To do this, and other things, in the economy, Venezuela needs political stability.

The method of the opposition has been to destabilize Venezuela — through violent protests, alignment with foreign powers, and refusal to engage in political dialogue. One of the reasons for MUD's opposition to the coming elections is that it is fractured as a political coalition united around regime change. One of the main tools US imperialism was using to cause political havoc and effect regime change has come undone.

The May election will further push the MUD section of the "opposition" to the fringe of Venezuelan politics if Maduro is successful. Certainty and stability in governance will undoubtedly open space for taking further measures to address the economic problems.

The elections, the people and unity on the left — a unity borne of necessity

As recently as the municipal elections in December, 2017, the Venezuelan Communist Party (PCV) and Homeland for All (PPT) supported candidates to the left of the PSUV. However, the election for President really puts the fate of the Venezuelan revolution on the agenda. In February, both left parties agreed

to support Maduro as the presidential candidate of the PSUV.

On February 26, the Venezuelan Communist Party (PCV) and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) entered into an agreement concerning the May 20 presidential election. In exchange for the PCV endorsement of Maduro's candidacy, the PSUV and PCV entered into an agreement on a social, economic and political program for Venezuela. The program includes demands for workers' rights and collective leadership of the revolutionary process.

On February 21, the Homeland for All (PPT) agreed to support Maduro's candidacy. It too reached a co-responsibility agreement with the PSUV.

The unity of left forces reflects the fact that Venezuela has only two options: face the difficulties and continue down the road of independence, and economic and political sovereignty in the interests of the majority of the people, or step back from this path, as advocated by the main challenger Henri Falcon.

Henri Falcon's program is outlined in a *New York Times* op-ed piece he wrote on March 6. Falcon broke with MUD to be a candidate and in the "Times" op-ed presents his credentials to US imperialism. He is the candidate who will impose neo-liberalism and open Venezuela to the west.

Unlike the unity platforms of the PCV, PSUV and PPT, he writes not one word against the damage caused by US sanctions. He lays the blame on Maduro, reduces the ques-

tion of democracy to asserting platitudes, and equates economic recovery to opening the country to "bi-lateral and multilateral agencies" and political rights to "freeing political prisoners".

Venezuelans oppose foreign interference and manipulation of the internal situation. For example, 56% of Venezuelans oppose US sanctions. 71% believe there should be dialogue between the government and those opposed to it, and such dialogue should focus on seeking solutions to the country's economic problems.

The right in Venezuela point to 2002 as an example of how the people reject economic pressure as a tool of the opposition. A massive strike in the country's oil sector was organized by opponents of then President Hugo Chavez to bring pressure on him to resign. The strike brought oil production to a standstill and caused double digit inflation, but backfired in terms of turning people against Chavez.

Two years later Venezuelan voters answered by resoundingly backing Chavez in a recall referendum.

This election will be a test of the revolutionary forces in Venezuela and their links with the masses of the people. It will determine the social and economic course of Venezuela.

A victory for Maduro may be the trigger for bigger schemes being planned by US imperialism. The new director of the CIA made a visit to several countries in Latin America that could be used for military intervention.

—Glenn Michalchuk

Who, What, When, Where

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will present **Celebration 100**, a concert celebrating the history of the AUUC through song, music and dance, at 7:00 p.m. on Friday June 8, at North Vancouver Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Avenue in North Vancouver. Over 75 performers. **General — 30.00; Children — \$23.00; Groups of ten — \$27.00 each.** Call the Box Office at 604-984-4484.

* * *

Vancouver — AUUC Vancouver Branch will present **Celebration 100 Dinner**, at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre 805 East Pender Street, on Sunday, June 10. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., Tribute at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m. **Adults — \$32.00; Children (12 and under) — \$25.00**

* * *

Regina — AUUC Regina Branch is hosting the **Mosaic Poltava Pavilion** at the Regina Performing Arts Centre, 1077 Angus Street, from May 31 to June 2. Passports can be purchased at the RPAC. **Adults — \$15.00; Seniors/Youth — \$10.00.**

* * *

Toronto — Taras Shevchenko Museum, 1614 Bloor Street West continues to exhibit **Matchstick Embroidery by Marian Varkholik** until June 12. The Museum is open Monday Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m., noon to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, and by appointment on weekends and holidays. Admission is free; donations are appreciated

* * *

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.

VE Day Marked in Winnipeg

For several years running, the Russian community has organized a commemoration of VE Day in Winnipeg. On May 9, about 150 people gathered at the main war memorial in Winnipeg to pay tribute

to all who died in the war to defeat fascism.

Glenn Michalchuk, President of AUUC Winnipeg Branch, was asked by the organizers to speak. He began by saying that the progressive

—Photo: Glenn Michalchuk



Ukrainian Canadian community stood with them in marking VE Day. He noted that it is important to recognize the significance of this date and the great sacrifice made to defeat fascism by all who fought.

He pointed out that, "The greatest debt is owed to the people of the Soviet Union, who bore the brunt of German military might and, through their sacrifice, were the main force in the defeat of fascism".

Mr. Michalchuk concluded his remarks by noting that there are powers that want to erase the history of the Second World War. He referred to the present attempts to demonize Russia and make it the enemy. On this point, he said that people must unite to prevent war in the same way they united to defeat fascism.

— Winnipeg Bureau

Sustaining Fund Donations

Bill Hrynchyn, Calgary AB	\$100.00
Mary Semanowich, Winnipeg MB	
<i>In memory of Audrey Skalbania</i>	100.00
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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE "UCH", WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.



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Ukrainian Miscellany

Ukraine Gets Missiles

The National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine reported in April that tests of the Vilkha missile system were carried out in the south of the Kherson region.

Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov informed reporters that all stages of the tests were successful. At each stage, various parameters of the tactical and technical characteristics of the missiles were checked for compliance. In particular, the precision of hitting the specified targets at the maximum and minimum ranges, the power and efficiency of destroying the target with the missile's combat element, multiple destruction

of long-distance targets, etc. were checked.

Mr. Turchynov noted that according to the decision of the State Commission, the missile system would be put on armament, and this year its serial production would begin.

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, military leaders, experts, and military attaches from seven countries who expressed their interest in acquiring new, powerful Ukrainian weapons, were present at the tests.

Oleksandr Turchynov reported on the ongoing work on the implementation of the national missile program, among the priorities of which, in particular, is the creation of new powerful cruise and anti-air-

craft missiles for our army.

In addition, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) reported at the end of April that the United States had delivered American-made, Javelin anti-tank missile systems to Ukraine.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert had said in December that US military assistance to Ukraine was intended to bolster that country's ability to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to deter further aggression.

Since 2015, the US has provided Ukraine with \$750 million in nonlethal aid, including Humvees, night-vision equipment, and short-range radar systems.

On May 1, Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko confirmed that the US anti-tank Javelin missiles had been delivered to Ukraine's Army.

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.

President Poroshenko stated that the weapons were delivered to the Ukrainian Army, and have significantly strengthened the deterrent effect of Ukraine's battle-readiness, and European security.

President Poroshenko expressed gratitude for President Trump's just decision in support of Ukraine, in defence of freedom and democracy. He said that Washington not only fulfilled an agreement, but also demonstrated leadership and an important example.

President Poroshenko said, "I count on the strong position of all of Ukraine's partners — in the first place the countries of the G7: the price of Russia's continuing aggression against Ukraine must continue to grow for the Kremlin."

Cooperation with Turkey

Ukraine and Turkey are becoming fast friends. They are planning a joint project to build an An-188 military transport aircraft. The military transport aircraft project involves full compliance with NATO standards, both in terms of equipment and in terms of tactics.

The two countries have completed the tenth round of free trade talks.

Ukraine wishes to export high added-value products, the products involving the latest technologies, because the latest technologies are being used actively in the food and processing industry.

Fascism, and the 1%, Rule

Following the events of 1991, the struggles among emerging oligarchs led to the election of several presidents before President Yanukovich finally took power. This result was not acceptable to the corporate giants in NATO, because President Yanukovich, though far from hostile to the West, was too slow in opening Ukraine up to foreign investment. Furthermore, he was too friendly with Russia, a rival power which was also protecting its domestic market.

Within Ukraine, in addition to rival groups of oligarchs, President Yanukovich faced the growth of right-wing militias, financed by some of the oligarchs (and very probably, supporters in the West), whose purpose was to separate Ukraine from Russia.

The leading governments in NATO, assisted by the right-wing militias, engineered regime change in Ukraine. However, they underestimated the strength of the opposition to this change in Russian-speaking areas of the country, whose population had seen the fate of Russian speakers in countries like Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, when right wing nationalists took power.

Using the rebellion in the east as its excuse, supported by its international and domestic backers, the government has increasingly treated its opponents as traitors.

On May 8, state security forces of Ukraine forced their way into the home of Petro Simonenko, leader of the Communist Party of Ukraine, destroying the front entrance and contents over strenuous objections to the vicious and unlawful attack. At the same

time, the offices of the Communist Party of Ukraine were also unlawfully attacked and occupied.

The attack on Petro Simonenko and the CPU was the latest in a long series of violent attacks on the Communist Party of Ukraine, its leaders and its members, which started with the coup d'état in 2014.

Memory of the Soviet role in defeating the Nazi invader in World War Two, known as the Great Patriotic War, is methodically being eradicated. The symbols of the Soviet era cherished by the people are banned. Streets, buildings and other installations paying homage to the towering figures of the Soviet era are being renamed, or even demolished, to obliterate the memory of the Soviet Union.

It must be noted that the CPU has not been the only target. Deposed President Yanukovich's Party of Regions is gone, and any other centre of serious dissent is viewed as an enemy of the state.

The current government of Ukraine, installed by a *de facto* alliance between NATO powers bent on yet another regime change and right-wing militias, has happily done the bidding of its sponsors. Both the international and the domestic powers have warned the Ukrainian government that, just as it was installed, it can be uninstalled.

To satisfy its international supporters, now its financial captors, the government is riding roughshod over the country's parliament, enacting legislation to enable foreign capital to dominate Ukraine's economy.

To satisfy the demand of its armed and powerful militias, the government has integrated them into state institutions and increasingly bowed to their fascistic dictates. Nazi collaborators are lauded as heroes, and celebrations are organized, and commemorative medals and stamps are issued in their honour.

Fascism in Ukraine has increasingly approached the status of state ideology, as dissenting views are branded with the title "traitorous".

Increasingly the labour, democratic, civil, social and political rights of the Ukrainian people are being obliterated, as social institutions, now including religious institutions, are rededicated to "national unity".

From the Atlantic Council through the International Monetary Fund and NATO to the World Bank, the institutions designed to defend and promote the interests of the rich and powerful — the global 1% — are applying their full leverage to use Ukraine as their catspaw to achieve regime change in Russia.

A movement is building to move the United Nations into direct confrontation with Russia by establishing a United Nations "peacekeeping mission" in eastern Ukraine.

Such a force, which is being energetically promoted by the government of Ukraine, would assume the task of suppressing opposition to Ukraine's government by its Russian-speaking citizens. It would also release the government of Ukraine from its obligations to those citizens under the Vienna Accords.

Victory Day Marked

A report in *Sputnik*, updated on May 9, presented information about marches to commemorate the participants of World War II who fought against Nazi Germany, which were held world wide.

In Kyiv, Ukraine, participants in the Nobody is Forgotten, Nothing is Forgotten action, called "Immortal Regiment" in the report, laid flowers at the Eternal Flame in the Park of Eternal Glory in Kyiv.

The column of participants went from the Arsenalna subway station to the Park of Eternal Glory, where many laid flowers. Flowers were also laid by members of Ukraine's parliament from the Opposition Bloc faction.

Nobody prevented participants in the action from laying flowers at the memorial.

However, the organizer of the action, Elena Berezhnaya, was detained in Kyiv because of the St. George's ribbon (banned in Ukraine since 2017) she wore. The press service of the Ukraine's Interior Ministry reported that seven people had been detained for using Soviet symbols during the event on Victory Day.

At the same time, flash mob participants in the centre of Kyiv, opposing the march, carried portraits of the heroes of the popular computer game World of Warcraft.

Earlier in May, the Kyiv city administration registered the application of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), which intended to organize to prevent the Immor-

tal Regiment march. The nationalists said they intended to patrol the streets to disrupt the procession.

The commemorative march was also held in the Ukrainian city of Kremenchuh, in the Poltava region. Ukrainian nationalists joined the procession holding portraits of fighters of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

In April, 2015, President Petro Poroshenko gave OUN-UPA and its members the status of "fighters for independence" of Ukraine.

Moscow condemned this decision, noting that "Ukraine is the country where neo-Nazis have gone from words to action and killed thousands of civilians", and that "such actions must be adequately assessed at the international level."

The Ukrainian Insurgent Army was formed in October, 1942, as the military wing of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists. UPA operating mainly in Western Ukraine, fought against the Soviet troops, collaborating with the Nazis. After the end of the Great Patriotic War, it continued to act against the Soviet authorities, using extremist methods. The victims of the UPA militants were representatives of the intelligentsia, local authorities, Young Communist League members, and Communist Party activists.

<https://youtu.be/oJfjKEWqPIo> is the link to a youtube view of the Kyiv parade Victory Day parade.

Israel Shoots Canadian Medic

(Continued from Page 1.)

toll triggered a diplomatic backlash against Israel and new charges of excessive use of force against unarmed protesters. At the Security Council, the UN's special Mideast envoy said that there was "no justification for the killing."

Turkey expelled Israel's ambassador, the report said, and several European countries called for an international investigation.

Israel said it has the right to protect its border against militants throwing stones, flying burning kites and burning tires. Some Israeli military also reported pipe bombs and grenades. The US ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, came to Israel's defence.

The report noted that "The protests were led by Hamas, but fuelled by the growing despair among Gaza's 2 million people who face worsening poverty, unemployment, 22-hour-a-day power cuts and sweeping bans on travel and trade."

In addition, "The protests were also driven by anger over the relocation ... of the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to contested Jerusalem."

The article noted that "Even before the latest round of bloodshed, Gaza's health system of 13 public hospitals and 14 clinics run by NGOs had buckled under persistent blockade-linked shortages of medicines and surgical supplies." The bloodshed had magnified the shortages.

In the course of May 14, one hospital received about 500 injured people, over 450 of whom had gunshot wounds.

To understand the level of threat posed by anything thrown by the Palestinians, consider the structure of the so-called fence.

On May 16, the New York Times explained that, "The fence is actually two parallel barriers built by the Israelis: a

formidable one of barbed-wire within Gaza and a 10-foot-high metal 'smart fence' packed with surveillance sensors along the Israel demarcation line. A restricted buffer zone as wide as 300 yards is between them. Israel has warned that people in the zone without authorization risk being subjected to deadly force."

However, in May, the Israelis were shooting people on the Gaza side of the barbed-wire fence, about the length of three football fields away from the Israeli "smart fence side."

Nickolay Mladenov, the special UN envoy to the region, told the Security Council on May 15 that, "There is no justification for the killing, there is no excuse." Mr. Mladenov added that Israel had a responsibility to calibrate its use of force."

Another report in the *Toronto Star*, this one by Loveday Morris and Hazem Balousha of *The Washington Post*, in the May 15 edition, mentioned the six weeks of demonstrations called the March of Return. The report said that the USA had defended Israel's action but Turkey and South Africa had recalled the ambassadors from Israel.

Genevieve Boutin, a Canadian who is UNICEF's special representative in the West Bank and Gaza said that over 1000 of the wounded in Gaza were children.

On May 18, the United Nations Human Rights Council announced that it would establish a commission inquiry into violence on the Gaza border.

The March of Return was to culminate on May 16 with a commemoration of the *naqba* (catastrophe), the time in 1948 when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians lost

their homes and villages to allow the formation of Israel. Of Gaza's population of about two million, over 1.3 million are descendants of the refugees from the *naqba*.

Many Canadian Jewish organizations as well as other Jewish organizations around the world have acted as mouthpieces of the Israeli government, blaming Hamas for Israel's murder of children. Exceptions have included Independent Jewish Voices in Britain, and the United Jewish People's Order in Canada.

In its statement dated May 15, IJV said, "Since our last statement on 6 April, each week has seen more protests by Gazans at the border with Israel and more killings of largely unarmed protesters by Israeli snipers using live ammunition. As of the morning of 15 May, Naqba Day, more than 100 Palestinians have been killed and thousands injured. The position has been aggravated by the provocation of the cer-

emonial opening of a new American embassy in Jerusalem, hammering another nail into the coffin of an already moribund peace process.

The IJV Steering Group reiterates our horror at these events and the flagrant disregard for the human rights of the Palestinians and the norms of international law. ...

"We further call upon the UK Government to condemn the actions of the Israeli authorities, to demand an independent enquiry into the use of force on the Gaza border, to make clear that the UK embassy will remain in Tel Aviv and to redouble all diplomatic efforts to bring the occupation to an end."

The UJPO consistently upholds the right of Jews and others to criticize Israel without being labelled anti-Semites. In "Uri Avnery's Column" in the *UJPO News* for spring, 2018, we read,

"And that is exactly what happened last Friday, the first day of the campaign: snipers were posted along the line, with orders to shoot the "ring-leaders" - anyone who stood out. 18 unarmed demonstrators were killed, almost a thou-

sand were shot and wounded.

"If anyone thought that the democratic world would stand up and condemn Israel, they were sadly wrong. Reactions were feeble, at most. What was revealed was the incredible hold the Israeli government and its Zionist organization has over the world's political establishments and communication outlets. With few exceptions, the atrocious news was not published at all, or as minor items.

"But this cannot go on for long. The Gaza protests will continue, especially on Fridays (the Muslim holy day), until May 15, the Naqba ("Catastrophe") Day, which commemorates the mass flight/expulsion of half the Palestinian people from their homes."

Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

- Sandy Gordey
- Paul Greene
- Nick Kereliuk
- Sophie Sywolos
- Mike Uhryn
- Virginia Witwicki

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

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

- Natalie Mochoruk

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

The **Vancouver Seniors Club** extends best June birthday greetings to:

- Mary Fedosenko

Hope you have a great day!!

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

- Lida Braun
- Leonard Whatmough

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

For Information, see Page 11.

AUUC Centenary Greeting Ad sizes at Various Prices

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(up to 10 words) \$20.00

Name and city

(up to 15 words) \$25.00

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Share Your Centennial Message!

This is a special year in the life of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians — this year the AUUC celebrates its 100th birthday! To mark this rare year, the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* is providing a special opportunity to our readers to help you celebrate!

In the month of October, 2018, the “UCH” will print centennial birthday messages from our readers to the AUUC, to its members or to anyone else who is special to you!



The AUUC has a special place in the life of many of our readers, and in the lives of their families and friends. Many of our readers share their AUUC experiences when they get together.

If the AUUC has a special place in your life, share that knowledge with your friends with a centennial greeting in the October 2018, issue.

It's really easy to send a special message on this occasion. Just decide what size ad you want (see the various sizes on the facing page), and follow the instructions at right on this page.

There are many options: surface mail, fax, e-mail. Just let us know the size and clearly write the message you want to send.

Payment? Enclose a cheque or money order with your request — or let us send you an invoice. What could be easier?

Don't be left out — act now to make sure your message will be included in our October issue!

This is a rare opportunity. Unless you expect to live another hundred years, this is your one and only chance to mark an AUUC centenary. You'll kick yourself if you miss it!

Ukrainian Canadian Herald AUUC Centennial Greetings

Remember your family and friends with a message! We invite you to express AUUC Centennial greetings through an ad in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, in the October, 2018, issue. One line (name and city) on two columns is only \$10.00. A five-line ad as shown is only \$35.00. See the diagram on page 10 for sizes. will be charged as multiples of.

Deadlines: September 10, 2018, for October, 2018.

Send your request to:

AUUC Centennial GREETINGS MESSAGE
595 Pritchard Avenue,
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4
Phone 1-800-856-8242, Fax: (210) 589-3404
e-mail: auuckobzar@mts.net

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

Please indicate the desired ad size:
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\$25.00 (Three-line greeting — up to 15 words)
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Other

Greeting in: English _____ Ukrainian _____

Request sent by:
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MESSAGE:

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

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JOIN US!

Join the AUUC community! Each Branch has a unique schedule of events and activities. To discover what we have to offer, contact the AUUC in your area:

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National Executive Committee AUUC
595 Pritchard Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4
Phone: 800-856-8242 Fax: (204) 589-3404
E-mail: mail@auuckobzar.net Web site: auuc.ca

VANCOUVER BRANCH

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

CALGARY BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre
3316-28 Avenue SW
Calgary AB T3E 0R8
Phone: (403) 246-1231
E-mail: Calgary.hopak@shaw.ca

EDMONTON BRANCH

Ukrainian Centre
11018-97 Street
Edmonton AB T5H 2M9
Phone: (780) 424-2037 Fax: (780) 424-2013
E-mail: auucedm@telus.net

REGINA BRANCH

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

WINNIPEG BRANCH

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

OTTAWA BRANCH

c/o Robert Seychuk
24 Attwood Crescent
Ottawa ON K2E 5A9
Phone: (613) 228-0990

TORONTO BRANCH

AUUC Cultural Centre
1604 Bloor Street West
Toronto ON M6P 1A7
Phone: 416-588-1639 Fax: 416-588-9180
E-mail: auuctorontobranch@gmail.com

WELLAND BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple
342 Ontario Road
Welland ON L3B 5C5
Phone: (905) 732-5656

Centennial Celebration in Winnipeg

(Continued from Page 7.) and the audience, through the program, with a bit of sternness and a bit of humour, and a bit of other stuff in between.

With that, a brief break before dinner was announced. Yes, it was chicken, but the moist and tender chicken

breasts, accompanied by various sides, including cabbage rolls and perogies, were the furthest thing from rubber chicken. From beginning to cheesecake dessert and coffee, the meal served by Ludwick Catering was a culinary treat.



Actors Katherine McLennan and Ethan Lapkin provided the continuity in the concert, with a dramatization written by Brian Richardson and Kevin Longfield.

Of course, aside from the food, dinner is only as good as the company in which we eat it. Former and present politicians tend to be good dinner companions, as they tend to be sociable and skilled in conversation.

It was my good fortune to share a table not only with Bob Seychuk, but also with City Councillor Ross Eadie and former Member of Parliament Judy Wasylecia-Leis (attending with her husband). Conversation at our table was stimulating and informative.

Both Mr. Eadie and Ms. Wasylecia-Leis have long-standing relationships with the AUUC in Winnipeg, as was reflected by the flow of well-wishers to our table.

At the end of the banquet,



AUUC Winnipeg Branch President Glenn Michalchuk officially bade the diners welcome following the opening dance.



The women of the Yunist Dance Ensemble performed "Maryna". The tree around which they danced is visible in the background.

MC Glenn Michalchuk made closing remarks, in which he thanked the many people who had contributed to the success of the celebration.

Mr. Michalchuk left the last word to the diners, many of whom availed themselves of the opportunity to make personal statements about their

experiences in the organization.

So ended a well prepared, well-executed, and well-enjoyed celebration of the centenary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians in the very cradle of that organization.

— Wilfred Szczesny



The Yunist Dance Ensemble ended the concert with a "Hopak". This energetic dance, which highlights the dancers' virtuosity, is a crowd-pleaser on stage, but is also a frequent feature during social events, with guests displaying their prowess.

WMO May Concert

On Saturday, May 6, the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra's annual May Concert, was held at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg. Although the Orchestra performs at many events each year, throughout the city and beyond, this concert is the best opportunity to enjoy a full-length show highlighting their musical talents and the diversity of their repertoire.

In recent years, the Orchestra has grown, attracting both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian members, and they continue to play both traditional and modern selections.

Highlights from the evening included "A Jazzy Gesture", written by Myron Shatulsky

for the Orchestra's clarinetist Dean Doerr, to showcase his abilities, and the final movement from "Transcarpathian Sketches", orchestrated by former Toronto Mandolin Orchestra conductor Eugene Dolny.

The Orchestra's performance of the theme from the 1966 Spaghetti Western *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* highlighted their ability to adapt to unusual pieces. The performance included a whistling solo by Nancy Walker and vocal sound effects performed by the whole orchestra.

True to tradition, the evening included a guest performer. Singer-songwriter Jess Reimer performed four

selections, accompanied by mandolin player Jeremy Hamm and banjo player Jaxon Haldane. Jeremy, who plays in the WMO, and Jess live in rural Manitoba, and their connection to the prairies came across in their upbeat bluegrass and folk-influenced music.

Special thanks to Karin Woods, our informative and entertaining host for the evening, and to Justin McGillivray for filling in as audio technician at the last minute.

Also appreciated are those who volunteered or brought goodies which were enjoyed at the intermission.

This annual concert is a long-standing tradition which is also recognized as part of the *Mayworks Festival of La-*

— Story photos: Emily Halldorson



Guest performers were singer-songwriter Jess Reimer, accompanied by mandolin player Jeremy Hamm and banjo player Jaxon Haldane. Their connection to the prairies came across in their upbeat bluegrass and folk-influenced music.

bour and the Arts, a month-long annual celebration which explores the lives of working people, and their struggles and aspirations, both past and present.

This year, the AUUC is hosting four events recognized

by *Mayworks*, including *AUUC at 100: 100 years of our contribution to Canada*, and tours of the Ukrainian Labour Temple as part of both *Doors Open* and the *1919 Strike Tour*.

— Emily Halldorson



The annual May Concert of the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra is the best opportunity to enjoy a full-length show highlighting their musical talents and the diversity of the group's repertoire.

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