

# HERALD ВІСНИК

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The women of the Lileya Dancers performed “The Girls’ Shawl Dance” during the final concert of the 2018-2019 season of the AUUC Edmonton Branch at the Ukrainian Centre on May 25. A report on the event, with photos, appears on Page 6.

## The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated October, 2019. Announcements of events in October or early November, 2019, as well as articles for the October, 2019, issue, should be in our office by September 10. Thank you for your consideration.

## Raising Concerns about Chinese Food Imports

In mid-July, it was reported that, between 2017 and early 2019, Canadian inspectors had intercepted nearly 900 food products from China over concerns about faulty labels, unmentioned allergens, and harmful contaminants that included glass and metal.

Internal federal records compiled by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and obtained through the access-to-information law (meaning someone went looking for the information), provide an inside look at imports from China that caught the attention of officials for appearing to fall short of Canadian standards — from gum balls with “extraneous” metal, to three-minute chow mein that contained an insect, to spicy octopus feet flagged for a “non-specific hazard”.

Andy Blatchford of The Canadian Press writes that the information “comes at a time of significant public interest in Canada about cross-border food inspections, especially those involving China.”

The Conservatives have been pressing the governing Liberals to take a harder line against Chinese imports. China is Canada’s second largest trading partner.

Recently, China asked Canada to suspend all its meat exports, after Chinese customs inspectors detected residue from a restricted feed additive in a batch of Canadian pork products.

China has also blocked imports of Canadian canola seeds, alleging that they found pests in some shipments.

China’s trade actions on Canadian food shipments, are widely seen as part of attempts by Beijing to pressure the Liberal government into releasing Meng.

Though agency officials “detected problems” with 889 food or food ingredient imports into Canada from China between the beginning of 2017 and the end of February, 2019, only four food ship-

ments, from China were refused entry into Canada.

CFIA investigates concerns to determine if there is a hazard or failure to comply with Canadian standards. When necessary, officials take action — including minor label corrections, recalls, product seizure, entry refusals, and the cancellation of licences.

The issues in the CFIA list do not necessarily correlate to a particular problem with imported food products from foreign countries. The list only provides numbers for China, and does not include comparable numbers for Canada’s other trading partners.

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## Is Huawei in Trouble?

In mid-July, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Huawei, the Chinese technology giant, was planning extensive layoffs — in the hundreds — at its US operations, as a result of its American blacklisting. The layoffs were expected to affect workers at Huawei’s US-based research and development subsidiary, Futurewei Technologies, which employed about 850 people in research labs across the US, including in Texas, California and Washington state. Huawei had roughly 1,500 additional employees mainly handling equipment sales to rural wireless carriers.

There were reports that some of Huawei’s Chinese employees in the US were

being given the option of returning home and staying with the company. Furthermore, several employees had already been notified of their dismissal, while additional planned cuts could be announced soon after.

Futurewei employees were facing restrictions communicating with colleagues in Huawei’s home offices in China following the May 16 Commerce Department decision to put Huawei on its so-called entity list, which blocked companies from supplying US-sourced technology to Huawei without a license.

The blacklisting limited Huawei’s ability to buy critical US components and software for its products, including its smart phones and cellular base stations that are popular outside the US.

The US says that Huawei gear poses a security risk because the giant telecommunications company has to comply with demands from China’s authoritarian government to conduct cyber espionage on its behalf. Huawei denies that charge.

In addition to the blacklisting, Huawei is also contesting a pair of indictments by the US on charges related to intellectual property theft and violations of US sanctions on Iran.

Meanwhile, US officials have been lobbying allies around the world, with mixed success to block Huawei from participating in their 5G network rollouts.

Huawei is the world’s largest maker of telecommunications equipment and the second largest vendor of smart

phones, ahead of Apple Inc. and behind only Samsung Electronics Co. Despite its dominant position in many markets, the company is effectively blocked from selling its gear to major US carriers.

The entity listing poses the most serious threat to Huawei, given its reliance on American chips and other technology. Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei said last month that the measure would cost Huawei \$30 billion in lost revenue this year and next. Huawei had more than \$100 billion in revenue last year, according to its annual report.

The company’s international smart phone sales fell 40% in the month after the blacklisting was announced, but the decline has since moderated.

Huawei smart phones run on Google’s Android operating system and, among other restrictions, the entity listing prevents Google from licensing the software on future Huawei phone models.

Though Huawei is working on its own replacement operating system, it was originally designed for telecommunication networks, and there was no clear plan in mid-July for developing a software ecosystem around the operating system.

Huawei is not the only company to lose. In 2018, the Chinese company bought \$11 billion worth of American technology.

Though the USA claims that its actions are motivated by security concerns, there are those who believe that the true reason for shutting out Huawei is to eliminate a major global competitor in favour of American technology companies.

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## Sauble Beach Land Dispute

Across Canada, there are examples of the colonial mentality, with (mainly) European settlers assuming that any land they wish to claim is theirs for the taking. Indigenous people who have been on the territory for centuries, even millennia, are ignored, as are treaties signed between the Indigenous people and the colonial settlers' authorities.

Even lands specifically set aside as First Nations reservations have been violated so that the privileged settlers could build a golf course or establish some other use. On occasion, blood has been shed as Indigenous people attempted to protect their shrinking territories.

Unfortunately, such cases are not all restricted to the history books. Even today, the colonial mindset rears its ugly head to occupy land that is Indigenous territory, legally as well as historically. This summer, Tanya Talaga, Indigenous issues columnist for the *Toronto Star*, brought an instance to our attention.

(Tanya Talaga is an award-winning journalist and author, and the first Ojibway woman to deliver the CBC Massey Lectures. One of her books, *Seven Fallen Feathers*, a national bestseller that intro-

duced us to seven Indigenous high school students who mysteriously died in Thunder Bay, won the 2018 RBC Taylor Prize.)

This story is of Sauble Beach in Ontario.

"According to the Sauble Beach tourist information website," Ms. Talaga writes, "the community's first settler was John Eldridge, who built a cottage nearby in 1877.

"After Eldridge showed up on the pristine shores of Lake Huron, the story goes, a 'number of people followed and Sauble Beach began to grow steadily to become the community it is today.'"

The story continues, "The Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation, who have inhabited the land for millennia and who have long worked to assert legal ownership of it, have something to say about the idea, all-too-common among colonizers, that history starts with colonization."

The dispute involves "a 2-kilometre stretch of beach" which the Saugeen are trying to reclaim from the town of South Bruce Peninsula.

Negotiations "having hit a dead end, the community is now taking the matter to court". Preliminary proceedings are to start on Septem-

ber 2.

According to Ms. Talaga, "Saugeen will argue that, according to an 1854 treaty between itself and the Crown, recognizing the beach is part of the reserve. The land, after all, was never surrendered."

The federal government agrees with the Saugeen position

"The biggest thing is the disrespect of the treaty," explains Saugeen's lawyer Nuri Frame. "The disrespect of the land that was theirs and that their vast traditional territory was carved back and carved back and opened up to non-Indigenous settlement again and again."

"It's left an open wound in the community. This type of wound has been caused by land disputes across Canada."

Ms. Talaga notes that, "Saugeen Chief Lester Anquot says, 'We are simply seeking recognition of what belongs to us and has, in fact, always been ours.'"

Janice Jackson, Mayor of the town of South Bruce Peninsula, ran on a platform of rejecting a settlement with Saugeen. Her position is, "Just because he claims our beach belongs to his band doesn't mean we should simply hand over the keys."

"But Ottawa and Saugeen agree the keys have never been hers to hand over," the article concludes.

## The Struggle Continues

While the federal government, on the one hand, proclaims its dedication to reconciliation, and even does a few actions in that direction, on the other hand it rides roughshod over Indigenous people, as well as following divide-and-conquer tactics to achieve its ends.

In early July, an Algonquin grand chief was on a hunger strike for several days without eating or drinking before reaching an agreement with the federal government on a project to create a major Indigenous centre in Ottawa.

Verna Poison, head of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council was protesting the fact the Algonquin Nation was not an equal partner in the redevelopment of the building meant to become a centre known as the Indigenous Peoples Space.

In June, 2017, the federal government pledged the use of the building to a group of Indigenous organizations, made up of the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Métis Nation Council.

The Assembly of First Nations supported Poison, but her nation's demand for equal standing was opposed by national Inuit and Métis groups.

Steve Fobister died in

October, 2018, and Simon Fobister in August, 2019. Both men, outstanding leaders of their people at Grassy Narrows, died young, their bodies ravaged by mercury poisoning, without the treatment centre in their community for victims. They had fought hard for such a centre, and had some victories, but got only promises from the federal government.

Now Grassy Narrows First Nation Chief Rudy Turtle, frustrated by the lack of action and worried that the facility may not even happen, will run for the NDP in the coming federal election, in the riding of Kenora in Northern Ontario.

Strengthened by legal victories and legislation, and supported by a growing body of case law that affirms treaty rights, land title and duties to consult, First Nations are seeking more control of forests.

Who gets the right to manage and harvest Crown forests is still largely decided by long-term agreements with major forestry companies.

However, there are changes. In the early 1980s, Indigenous-held tenure made up about 0.05% of Canada's total wood supply, but in 2017, (Continued on Page 12.)

## Status Children Live in Deepest Poverty

The shameful picture of poverty among Indigenous children in Canada is revealed in *Towards Justice: Tackling Indigenous Child Poverty in Canada*, a new study jointly released in early July by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the Assembly of First Nations and Upstream, a non-partisan national think tank.

The study says that Indigenous children are more than twice as likely to live in poverty as other children in Canada, with little improvement over the last decade.

(Status First Nations people are registered members of a band that signed a treaty with the Crown.)

The study tracks child poverty rates using Census 2006, the 2011 National Household Survey and Census 2016 data. The result is a disturbing picture of child poverty in Canada, one where First Nations children are far and away the most marginalized and economically disadvantaged.

Among the key findings:

- **Tier One poverty:** 53% of status First Nations children living on reserve, and 41% of status First Nations

children living off reserve, live in poverty. This is the highest level of poverty — much higher than the national average child poverty rate (18%). Taken together, 47% of Status First Nations children in Canada live in poverty, over two-and-a-half times the national average of 18%.

- **Tier Two poverty:** Recent immigrant children (35%), non-status First Nations children (32%), Inuit children (25%), and Métis and racialized children (22% each) experience the second highest level of poverty;

- **Tier Three poverty:** Children who are non-Indigenous, non-racialized, and non-recent immigrant have the lowest rate of child poverty in Canada, at 12%;

- **Comparing regions:** For Status First Nations children living on reserve in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, 65% (that is almost two out of three!) live in poverty.

In contrast, 29% (less than one in three) of Status First Nations children living on reserve in Quebec live in poverty, mostly as a result of a lower rate among the James Bay Cree (Eeyou Itschee) of Northern Quebec.

These differences have not markedly changed over the 10-year period between 2006 and 2016. Broadly speaking, child poverty on reserves has remained almost unchanged for a decade. Little improvement has been registered for Inuit or non-status First Nations children either.

The case of the Eeyou Itschee (cited above) suggests that income available from revenue sharing, can be a significant and effective part of easing poverty. First Nations children living on reserve have endured chronic underfunding by the federal government since at least 1996, when budgets were locked to inflation and were not adjusted based on need or population growth. However, First Nations and Inuit in northern Quebec are able to benefit from the Hydro Quebec resource-revenue sharing agreement to counter poverty.

The ongoing exclusion of First Nations governments from a fair share in the wealth of their land must end if poverty is to be eliminated.

A large number of studies have pointed to self-determination, supported by changes to the fiscal and jurisdictional relationship between Canada and First Nations, as the foundation for progress against poverty.

## Indian Act Amended

It took years for the legislation to pass, and an extra year or so for the final provisions of S-3 to come into force, but in mid-August of this year the Indian Act was changed to eliminate certain elements of discrimination against women.

Previously, women lost their status when they married non-Indigenous men, while men who married non-Indigenous women kept their status. Now, First Nations women will be treated the same as men under the Indian Act; those who lost their status or were removed from band lists due to marriages to non-Indigenous men can now be registered as First Nations members. Women, and descendants of women who lost their status, dating back to 1869, may now regain their status under the Indian Act.

The Indian Act, (formally, An Act Respecting Indian) first passed in 1876, is an act of Canada's Parliament that concerns registered Indians, their bands, and the system of Indian reserves.

It is still in force, with amendments, and is the primary document which defines how the Government of

Canada interacts with the 614 First Nation bands in Canada and their members. The Indian Act covers governance, land use, health care, education, and many more aspects of life on Indian reserves.

In particular, two aspects of the Act affect all Indigenous peoples in Canada.

The first is that the law sets the rules on how reserves and bands can operate, including the rules for governing Indian reserves, how bands can be created, and the powers of band councils.

The second is that it defines who is, and who is not recognized as an "Indian". The Act defines a number of types of Indian people who are not recognized as "registered" or "status" Indians, and who are therefore denied membership in bands.

The Act is not a treaty; it was unilaterally imposed on Indigenous peoples by the Canadian government, while the treaties were, however unequally, negotiated. The main aim of the Indian Act was, over time, to eliminate status Indians, by compelling (by means subtle and overt) integration into the dominant society.



## Recent BDS Coalition Activities

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS) is involved in a variety of campaigns that are local, national and even international in scope. The goals of BDS are: End the Occupation, Equal Rights for Palestinian Citizens of Israel, Dismantling of the Apartheid Wall, and the Right of Return for all Palestinian Refugees. This article highlights recent BDS work.

### Nakba 2019

There were actions across Canada on May 18 as part of Nakba71, which was also a National Day of Action for BDS. From Sydney, British Columbia, to Fredericton, New Brunswick, peace and solidarity groups took time to remember the 1948 Nakba, when over 700,000 Palestinians were ethnically cleansed from their historic homeland.

In Winnipeg about 60 people attended a showing of *Creation and Catastrophe* at Cinematheque in the city's historic Exchange District. The film screening was sponsored by Canadian Palestinian Association of Manitoba, Canadian Palestine Support Network, Independent Jewish Voices—Manitoba, Mennonite Church Manitoba, Mennonite Central Committee—Manitoba, Peace Alliance Winnipeg, United Church of Canada Region 5, and Winnipeg Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid.

### Campaign Against Air BnB

There is a call requesting people to deactivate their Air BnB accounts because the company lists rentals in illegal settlements in the West Bank. There have been actions at the Canadian head office of the company in Toronto.

### Campaign Against Canadian Banks

We all have to keep our money somewhere, and for many of us it ends up being one of Canada's "big" corporate banks. There is current BDS call against Global Investment at RBC, BMO Bank of Montreal, Scotia Bank and Manulife Financial. All these banks are listed on Bank Track as owning shares in two Israeli banks.

The BDS Coalition has contacted and met with representatives from RBC and Scotia Bank, but received no response from either BMO or Manulife.

The BDS Coalition has created templates for letters that people can send to the banks, asking them not to invest in Israeli banks. Visit the BDS coalition website to copy the letters and sign on to the campaign.

### B.C. Ballet Campaign

The BDS Coalition is looking at proposing an actual boycott of B.C. Ballet, as the ballet has performed in the West Bank at the Cana Danse Festival. An online petition requesting that they not perform had over 10,000 signatures.

### Remax Campaign

Remax operates illegally in the West Bank in Israeli settlements.

### Victoria Liquor Store Campaign/Newfoundland Liquor Store Campaign

A campaign to clearly label wine that it is not from Israel, but from illegal settlements. The BDS campaign in Victoria has actually resulted in labelling wine that is not from Israel as being from its true place of origin, the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

In St. John's the BDS Coalition is following up with the Newfoundland procurement manager of the liquor board about carrying wine from settlements.

### Hydro Quebec Campaign

Hydro Quebec has a partnership/agreement on cybersecurity with Shin Beit. Hydro Quebec has denied organizations access to information on their work with Israel.

BDS Quebec is demanding that Hydro Quebec terminate its agreement to cooperate on cybersecurity with Israel Electric Corporation. This is important because the Israel Electric Corporation is working with Israel's National Cybersecurity Authority on military cyber defences and intelligence services.

Basically a partnership in cybersecurity with Israel means a pact with Mossad and the Israel Apartheid regime. BDS Coalition has created leaflets on this campaign and there is a petition on the BDS website in both French and English.

### Madonna/Eurovision 2019

This was a recent BDS campaign lobbying Madonna not to perform in Israel as part of the Eurovision 2019 concert. Longtime BDS supporter Roger Waters, along with 150,000 people, called for a boycott of Eurovision 2019 and asked Madonna not to perform in Israel. While Madonna did not cancel her performance, BDS activists from Iceland were present in protest.

Madonna appeared on stage at the end of the concert with children holding Palestinian flags.

### Dates from Israeli Settlements

There is a great deal of detailed information on the

BDS website about food items from illegal settlements that end up on our store shelves. For example, packaged dates are an ongoing problem.

The BDS Coalition advises consumers not to purchase dates if there is no country of origin listed on the package.

Watch out for: **Hadiklaim** dates. The company is listed on **Who Profits** (an organization that tracks companies that do business in illegal Israeli settlements). According to Who Profits, these dates come from the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the Golan Heights.

Hadiklaim packages dates under the following names: Golden Valley, Jordan River, King Solomon, Bomuja Blue and La Palma. There is no

## Current Eclectic

country of origin listed on any of the packages. The BDS Coalition has written to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency [CFIA] and asked them to look into these concerns.

### Go, Raptors! No, Occupation!

Puma is the only international sponsor of the Israel Football Association [IFA], which includes teams in illegal settlements on Occupied Palestinian Territories. Palestinian football teams and athletes are calling for a boycott of Puma.

Former Raptors player Danny Green is also a Puma sponsor. People are encour-

aged to Tweet a message to him in support of BDS.

For more information on these and many other active BDS campaigns, visit [www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net), [bdscollection.ca/campaigns](http://bdscollection.ca/campaigns) or the BDS Coalition Facebook page to learn more about BDS Academic, Cultural and Economic Boycotts and to sign any active petitions.

— **Candice Bodnaruk**

(Ms. Bodnaruk represents *Peace Alliance Winnipeg on the BDS Coalition*, a Canadian organization that includes a variety of member groups that support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israeli apartheid.)

## Evictions of Homeless Forestalled in Winnipeg

Public parks are where many homeless Winnipeggers seek refuge, and some erect tents or other structures to shelter them from the city's cold winters and hot summers.

In May, the City of Winnipeg released a Request for Proposals (RFP) looking for a company that could clean up used needles and other waste on city-owned property. The RFP sought a company that would remove all waste from parks, including shelters erected by homeless people, as well as any other waste or personal belongings they may be storing or may have left behind.

It did not take long for homeless people, community advocates and organizations to

come together to speak out in protest of the RFP.

Adrienne Dudek, transitional housing director with Main Street Project explained, "By taking away the physical structure, we're not actually addressing the root cause of why that person created that structure." (May 15, CBC News).

A rally was held outside City Hall on May 22, to pressure the City of Winnipeg to withdraw the RFP. "They should be supporting and seeing what these people need, not ripping away everything they have," said Alexa Legere, coordinator of Mama Bear Clan, a community patrol group in Point Douglas (May 22, CBC News).

After the rally, Make Poverty History Manitoba, the Right to Housing Coalition, End Homelessness Winnipeg, and other concerned organizations and individuals worked on a petition for about a month. Then they presented it, along with an open letter, to Mayor Brian Bowman on June 25.

As an active member of Make Poverty History (MPH) Manitoba, a coalition of organizations and individuals working to affect change (more often at the provincial level), the AUUC Winnipeg Branch signed the open letter. AUUC Winnipeg Branch and other signatories and supporters were thrilled to learn that Mayor Bowman has cancelled the RFP as a result of this action, and has made a commitment to work with community groups to better support homeless people.

— **Emily Halldorson**

## The Scary Chinese Downturn

The USA, under President Trump, among other rash actions, unleashed a trade war on China, one of the world's most vital economic engines, and created a situation in world markets that has investors wetting their pants as they contemplate the looming economic downturn.

Reality being what it is, the world looks to China, rather than the USA for its salvation, and what it sees makes it shudder. China's growth fell to its slowest pace in nearly three decades, officials said in mid-July.

Chinese officials said the economy grew 6.2% between April and June compared to a year earlier. While such economic growth is the envy of most of the world, it represents the slowest pace in China since the beginning of modern quarterly record-keeping in 1992. That marks

a slow down from earlier this year, when growth came in at 6.4%, matching a 27-year low reached during the global financial crisis a decade ago.

While the figures for the second quarter fell within the range predicted by officials in March, there is concern that much of the growth may have occurred early in the quarter.

Trade talks broke down May 10 and U.S. President Donald Trump raised tariffs sharply on Chinese goods. Always seeking to blame China, the slow down is also linked to a "contentious" government takeover of a bank.

A report in *The New York Times* suggests that monthly economic data, particularly for imports, showed that the second quarter started strong but then slowed. What happened, of course, is the American tariff increase.

Because the Chinese are

not to be trusted, the article suggests that the number may also understate the extent of the slow down. Economists widely doubt the veracity of the Chinese growth figure, because it shows far more stability than comparable numbers from the United States and elsewhere.

As though it is a bad thing, the report notes that a few sectors of the Chinese economy are doing fairly well, particularly the construction of infrastructure, much of it paid for with money borrowed by local, provincial and national government agencies.

It is recognized that the biggest drag on the Chinese economy is in trade, which grew powerfully over the past three decades, but has stopped rising in recent months.

Exports dipped 13% in June from a year earlier, and im-

(Continued on Page 8.)



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## Who's the Aggressor?

An Editorial by Wilfred Szczesny

Take out a map or a globe, and locate Iran. Now locate the USA. Notice the great distance between the two countries, separated by an ocean and a continent.

Now locate the place where an American drone was supposedly shot down (Iran, or the Strait of Hormuz, depending on whom you believe): how close is it to Iran, and how far from the USA? If there was an American drone in the area (and there was) who was threatening whom?

Who has imposed economic sanctions on whom, and who has forbidden third parties to deal with whom?

Who has attacked whose military computers?

Who has designated whose military a terrorist group?

Whose actions are affecting the health, and even death, of whose civilians?

The answer to all of these questions is obvious. It is also obvious that the countries of Europe (with the exception of Great Britain) are not supportive of President Trump's attacks on Iran, starting with the US sinking of the nuclear deal, through to the refusal to send ships to act as escorts for oil tankers.

The American propaganda machine has tried to paint Iran as part of an axis of evil, a threat to America.

As we look around the globe, in every part there seems to be another aggressor against the United States, though all the action seems to be far from the USA. How can it be that all those countries, most of them without even the ability to reach the continental United States in any sustained way to wage war, can be such a threat to the USA?

Of course, they can not.

The aggressor is the United States of America, which goes around the world bullying those countries, including its nominal allies, which do not bow deep enough to the will of the USA.

Because it is still an extremely powerful country militarily, with the strength to fight on many fronts (though not always successfully), and serious economic muscle, it has been getting away with behaviour that would not be tolerated from anyone else. That's how bullies work.

However, bullies often meet a challenger; they also meet violent surprise attacks. They also weaken. Nobody is top dog for all time.

In a world where many countries can take a moon shot, perhaps the USA should tread carefully.

## COMMENTARY

### Why Israel Wants Iran Destroyed

Much worried commentary is being written these days about the possibility of a US-led war on Iran. The truth, of course, is there is already a war on Iran. And it is one that very much serves Israeli interests.

The US government is prosecuting an economic war on Iran while intensifying its military posture against the country, increasing land, sea, and air positions on the basis of unsubstantiated claims that Iran might someday develop nuclear weapons, is the engine of violence in the Middle East, and is likely to initiate attacks against US "interests" or those of its proxies.

Such manoeuvres must be understood in the context of the ways that Iran has functioned as an obstacle to US ruling class goals in the Middle East, a view shared by the Israeli ruling class for its own interests.

US and Israeli planners despise Iran principally because it is an independent regional power. It has a strong military and a foreign policy that includes providing material support for armed Palestinian resistance to Israel and for Hezbollah's defence of Lebanon from US-Israeli aggressions, including the joint invasion in 1982 and the US-backed Israeli assault in 2006.

Iran's support was crucial to help Hezbollah resist the US-backed Israeli occupation of the country.

Though in recent years Israel has come close to attacking Iran militarily and suggested in February that the US do so, it appears that for the moment Israel would prefer that the US not bomb or invade Iran because Hezbollah would be able to inflict significant damage on Israel in response.

Instead Israel is hoping that Iran will be subjected to enough socioeconomic asphyxiation that its government

will be overthrown or it will be subjected to even greater outside control than it was under the nuclear deal — a deal that Iran has abided by and from which the US pulled out last year.

Iran now says that, if sanctions continue to prevent it from profiting from its natural resources, it will also withdraw from the accord.

Weakening Iran, with a view toward regime change, has long been a major Israeli preoccupation, highlighted by such Israeli policies as assassinating Iranian nuclear scientists.

Iran hasn't been close to having a nuclear bomb for 16 years and there's evidence to suggest it never had anything resembling one.

Israel's attacks on Syria are partly about Iran. The Syrian government has partnered with Iran in arming Palestinians and Hezbollah. The Syrian Baath Party has its own history — however uneven — of confronting Israel militarily.

Israel, of course, also remains in occupation of Syria's Golan Heights — whatever Donald Trump might say — and Israel has deepened its colonisation there while arming anti-government groups and carrying out fatal bombings of Iranian and Hezbollah targets in the country.

Furthermore, the threats against Iran need to be read against the backdrop of the anti-Iran alliance being forged between the US, Israel and several of the pro-US Middle Eastern dictatorships, notably Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

As Adam Entous of *The New Yorker* points out, the central ambition of Benjamin Netanyahu's government has been "to diminish the Palestinian cause as a focus of world attention and to form a coalition with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates

to combat Iran, which had long supported Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza."

The leaders of both the UAE and Saudi Arabia have said that they regard Iran as a problem. And both the Emirates and the Saudis are "working together behind the scenes with Mossad" — Israel's spy agency — against Iran.

Because the measures being taken against Iran are linked to the Palestinian issue, these machinations must also be seen in the context of the "Ultimate Deal," the proposal for resolving the Palestinian question being put forth by Trump and his son-and-law and adviser Jared Kushner. This "peace package" aims to both permanently extinguish Palestinian national aspirations and neutralize Iran.

**Making Palestine disappear.**

Reports suggest that the proposal involves the "enshrining of Israeli control of disputed territory" as well as denying Palestinian claims to sovereignty, the right of Palestinian refugees to return and offering Palestinians only non-contiguous territory.

The plan involves trying to bribe sectors of Palestinian society into accepting it with funds that the US is hoping will largely come from the US-allied governments in the region. And the UAE and Saudi Arabia, have been pressuring the Palestinian Authority into accepting the ludicrously unfair deal so that the Palestinian issue will disappear and the anti-Iran axis — bringing together the US, Israel and the Gulf states — can be fully consummated.

Another manifestation of this anti-Iran alliance is Israel's support for the attack on Yemen by a coalition involving the US, Saudi Arabia, the UK, the UAE and Canada — a war that is ostensibly aimed at Iran's purported Houthli allies and that has left the country suffering the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Israel has shared intelligence with members of the coalition. The UAE is understood to have bought military equipment from Israel. And

(Continued on Page 8.)

## SEE US ON THE WEB!

AUUC (National)  
auuc.ca

Edmonton AUUC, Trembita Ensemble  
www.ukrainiancentre-edm.ca

Regina AUUC, Poltava Ensemble  
http://www.poltava.ca/

Taras Shevchenko Museum:  
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# Women Strike!

Montreal playwright, performer, and musician Norman Nawrocki was inspired by the Winnipeg General Strike to write a play, *Women Strike*, about immigrant women and how they were transformed and mobilized by those fateful days in 1919. The Ukrainian Labour Temple was known to Norman from his growing up in Winnipeg, and he thought it a fitting venue for the Winnipeg performance of the play on June 13 as part of the MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts.



**Norman Nawrocki.**

Prior to the performance, the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* interviewed Mr. Nawrocki.

**UCH: To start, tell our readers about yourself. You are Ukrainian and have family roots in Manitoba and Winnipeg.**

**NN:** My maternal family emigrated to Sandy Lake, Manitoba, in 1900 from the Ternopolksa Oblast of southwestern Ukraine. They homesteaded there, then spread out to farm and work across the 'Borscht Belt' south of Riding Mountain National Park.

My mother once performed and toured with Ukrainian musicians in the region, while other family members played in obscure country wedding bands.

My father, a Polish émigré, also lived and worked in the same area and, later, in Winnipeg.

My parents lived, worked, and got married in the North End, then moved west. I was born and raised in Vancouver, B.C., but spent my childhood summers in Manitoba, soaking up Ukrainian culture and songs at family gatherings.

Later I moved to Montreal, Quebec. Now I write books, plays, and music, and tour the world as a performing artist/author, either solo or with my bands. I also teach part-time at Concordia University. I am currently working on a new novel based on my family roots in Ukraine and Poland, and visit both countries regularly to continue my research.

**UCH: Welcome to the AUUC's Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple. You have chosen it as the venue for tonight's performance of *Women Strike*. What are your impressions of this place?**

**NN:** My jaw dropped the first time I entered the building. It is so beautiful, so impressive and inspiring, inside and out, on so many levels.

I could feel the spirit of the building itself and the spirits of all who passed through here as workers, performers, audience members – whoever! The performance hall resonates with their footsteps, the echoes of their voices, laughter, music, and the warmth

that 100 years of Ukrainian working people's culture has generated.

The acoustics are also incredible. As is the interior design. The colours are so vibrant! The tapestries add another sense of place, of where our ancestors came from. The stage is incredibly welcoming.

I have toured Canada coast-to-coast, performing in every major city and many smaller towns, in some of the premier showplaces each has to offer, but your space is probably one of the most beautiful venues I have the honour to perform in.

I am grateful to all who conceived and built it, and to all who continue to maintain it.

**UCH: As a place for theatre, how does it compare to other venues you have been in?**

**NN:** It is comparable to some of the finest performance venues in the country, if not better.

It does not have a costly computerized stage — I've been on a few of those — but more importantly, it exudes spirit, atmosphere, history, people's heartfelt, voluntary investment of time, sweat and labour to make it the warm place it is.

This is priceless. You can't buy it anywhere. You can't conjure it up with new design or the latest in sound, lighting and staging equipment.

Larger, fancier, newer venues are simply empty shells waiting to be transformed into something magical by a good piece of theatre or a great show. Your venue itself is already magical. It's already part of the show. A big part.

A venue either has this rare quality, or it doesn't. The Ukrainian Labour Temple has it in abundance, spilling out the door, onto the street and into the blue sky above. What's more, as a proud Ukrainian-Canadian, I feel like I belong here.

**UCH: You have wanted to do a play here for a long time. When did the idea first occur to you?**

**NN:** Back in the 1980s, I was speaking with a former school friend, the late Mike

Gidora, about doing a play about Ukrainian Canadian immigration.

This is a period when I began to research my own roots, especially the musical ones. I was touring Europe with one of my bands, Rhythm Activism, and every time we played our versions of Ukrainian music, people responded enthusiastically.

We evolved into a "cabaret rock 'n roll band," becoming more theatrical as we performed, and when we came through Winnipeg one year, I called Mike, explained my idea, and asked which local venue would be appropriate for the project. He suggested here, and said we would be most welcome at the space.

I had never seen nor visited the Labour Temple until this year, but back then, I had imagined that the theatrical/musical project I envisioned would indeed be performed here.

As it turned out, *Women Strike! 1919-2019 The Winnipeg General Strike* was the lucky first show of mine to set foot on this stage! I could not imagine it being performed anywhere else in Winnipeg.

I even wrote references to it into the script, and of course, most of my characters were residing and working in the

1919-2019 Centenary

# WGS Winnipeg General Strike

immediate neighbourhood.

Where, by the way, my parents once lived, worked, and got married, too, and attended events here.

**UCH: Do you think your roots helped you in writing the play?**

**NN:** As a son of a working class, immigrant Ukrainian/Polish family with roots not only in the old country but also in rural Manitoba and the North End of Winnipeg, most certainly, yes!

I didn't grow up in the shadow of the Labour Temple, nor with family members who ever spoke about the General Strike, but the more research I did into the history of this pivotal event, and my own family history, the more I am convinced that somewhere, somehow, there was a more direct connection between them which one day I will find.

It also helps that I am doing ongoing research for my novel, and the General Strike,

like other radical labour history, will be part of the story.

**UCH: Your play is about immigrant women, why are these characters the basis of your play?**

**NN:** Because women's stories are rarely told.

The nine courageous Winnipeg immigrant working women from 1919 who were involved in the general strike and appear in my play represent a few of the thousands of nameless and faceless "foreign" women from this city's North End who participated somehow in this historic event but won't be found in any history books.

Domestic workers, sweatshop workers, single moms, fearless women all — their stories were never told. They made history as much as the striking men, but because they were women — foreign, alien women — they never got the recognition they deserved.

I wanted to tell their stories. **(Continued on Page 10.)**

— Story photos: Wilfred Schubert



Above and below, scenes from *Women Strike!* at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg on June 13. The 45-minute, one-act play was staged in Brandon the next day. All parts were played by Karam Daoud, Lorraine James, and Merri-Lou Paterson.





# Edmonton AUUC: Season Finale

The performing arts groups of the Edmonton Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians performed their final concert of the 2018-2019 season in our Ukrainian Centre on May 25.

The program was organized by the Trembita Arts School Director, Tamara Krausher, and coordinated by the Trembita Dance instructors, Maria Vorotilenko and Jordan Onyschuk, the Trembita Children's Choir Director, Maryna Lavrynenko, and the Senior Trembita Choir Director, Olesya Nazarenko.

Svitlana Romanova accompanied both choirs, as well as soloists, on the piano.

Part of Calgary's Hopak Choir, directed by Violetta Dmitrova, joined the Trembita Choir for the performance.

Winston Gereluk, once again, did a marvellous job, acting as the Master of Ceremonies for the concert.

The program began with the Tiny Tots Dance Group performing the Central Ukrainian dance "Malitka".

Olesya Nazarenko and Tatyana Shepel performed the song "The Thorns are Blossoming", followed by Paul Greene, who sang the beautiful traditional folk song, "Vzyav by ya banduru" (I Would Take the Bandura).

The Zaychyky dance group performed a traditional Hutsul dance from Western Ukraine, "Hutsul Steps", after which the Children's Trembita Choir performed four songs: "The Happy Geese", "The Ferryman", "Hopachok", and "Singing for Ukraine".

After the Kalyna Dancers performed the Central Ukrainian Dance "Spring Awakening", the Lileya Dancers performed "The Transcarpathian Dance".

The Lileya girls performed,

"The Girls Shawl Dance".

The Junior Boys Dance Group performed "The Carpathian Wood Cutters".

The Trembita and Hopak combined to performed three numbers: "Oh, Beyond the Danube", "Permission for Marriage", and "Sulyiko" (a Georgian folk song).

The Lileya Dancers next performed "A Polissian Dance", after which the combined choirs performed a version of "The Perohy Song".

The Lileya Dancers returned to perform the Western Ukrainian folk dance "Na Hutsulschyny".

The combined choirs returned to sing a traditional Ukrainian folk song, "Oy dyvcheno shumit hai" (Oh, Young Girl, the Trees in the Grove Are Rustling), and finish with "O Canada".

The audience and performers then enjoyed a small lunch.

— Paul Greene

Photos at right, top and down:

- Children's Trembita Choir.
- Trembita Choir.
- Junior Boys.
- Zaychyky.
- Lileya Dancers.



Paul Greene performed "Vzyav by ya banduru".



Olesya Nazarenko and Tatyana Shepel performed a duet.



# The Spice of Life

This collection of recipes appeared in the September, 1990, issue of *The Ukrainian Canadian*, then a magazine. Give them a try.

## UKRAINIAN STYLE MUSTARD

- 1/2 c powdered mustard
- 1/4 c brown sugar
- 1/3 c vinegar
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 peppercorns
- 3 cloves
- pinch of salt (optional)
- 1 tsp oil

Sift the powdered mustard and mix well with the brown sugar

Pour the vinegar into an enamelled pot, add the bay leaf, peppercorns, cloves and salt. Bring the vinegar to the boil.

Strain the vinegar, if desired. Add the vinegar to the mustard and beat with a whisk until there are no lumps. Add the oil and stir thoroughly.

Store the mustard refrigerated in jars. Allow 8 to 10 days for the taste to develop.

## FRUIT MUSTARD

apple or pear puree  
For every 4 tbsp apple or pear puree:

- 3 tsp mustard
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 2 tsp salt(optional)
- 1 1/2 tbsp vinegar
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 whole cloves
- 3 allspice

Bake the apples or pears and strain through a sieve while still hot.

Measure the fruit puree. For every 4 tbsp puree, use 3 tsp mustard, 2 tbsp sugar. Mix the mustard and sugar with the puree. Add salt to taste. Dilute the mustard with vinegar in which has been boiled 1 bay leaf, cloves and allspice.

Before using, allow to stand 3 days in order to mellow.

## QUICK MUSTARD

- 3 tbsp powdered mustard
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- vinegar

Mix the mustard, sugar, salt together. Dilute with cold vinegar and beat until smooth.

## “SALAMAXHA” GARLIC SAUCE

In the mountainous region of Ukraine where the Hutsuls live, this potent garlic sauce is prepared as an accompaniment to boiled potatoes.

- 1 head garlic
- 3-4 tbsp melted butter, margarine or cooking oil

Heat the butter, margarine or cooking oil in a sauce pan. Crush the cloves of garlic. Remove the butter from the heat. Stir in the garlic.

Quickly pour over top of boiled potatoes that have been cut into small pieces.

“Salamakha” is also used as a relish with meats and salt pork or on fresh hot bread. In the spring or early summer green garlic tops may be substituted for the head of garlic.

## ADZHIKA

This spicy condiment from the Caucasus has become very popular in recent years in Ukraine. Olena Hnativna Koretska, Barry Kanasevich’s mother-in-law, has been preparing the relish for many years now, and was very pleased to pass her recipe along to the “U.C.”

- 4-5 large sweet red peppers
- 10 hot red peppers
- 10 heads garlic
- 3 tbsp salt
- 7 tbsp sugar
- 1 c pickling vinegar

After washing and cleaning, blanch the peppers and garlic. Drain well. Grind the peppers and garlic in a meat grinder or food processor. Add the salt, sugar to taste and vinegar. Mix thoroughly. Pack in sterile glass jars. The relish will keep indefinitely if well refrigerated.

## HORSERADISH AND BEETS

- 1 medium horseradish root
- 1 medium beet
- 2 tbsp vinegar
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt

Peeled, finely grated horseradish is blanched in boiling water. Chill thoroughly. Boil the beet in its skin, peel and then finely grate. Mix the horseradish and beet together. Season with vinegar, sugar and salt.

## HORSERADISH AND CRANBERRY SAUCE

- For every 3 tbsp grated horseradish:
- 1 c cranberry boiling water
- 1/4 tsp lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp sugar
- 1 c sour cream
- salt to taste
- 1/3 tsp butter

Peel, wash and finely grate the horseradish root. Pour enough boiling water over top to cover. Add lemon juice, sugar, salt and prepared cranberries.

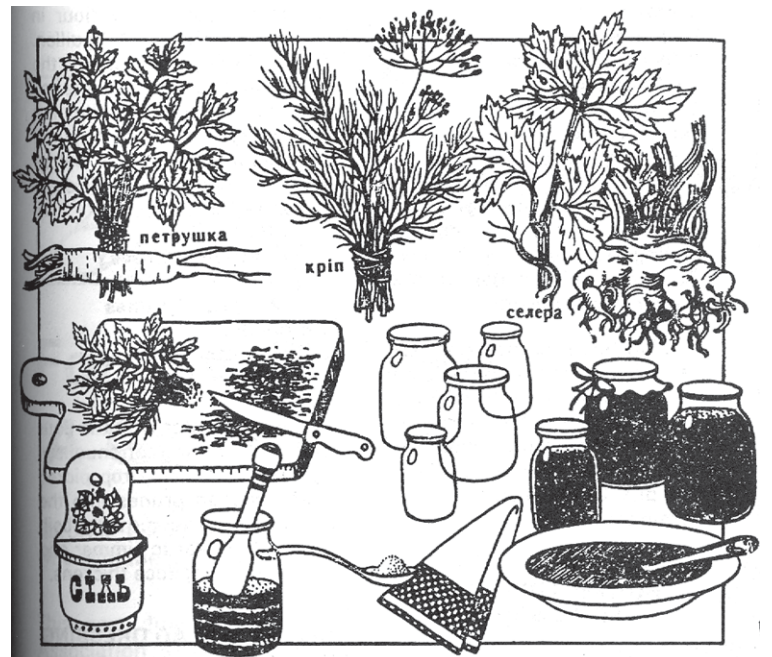
If high-bush cranberries are used, they should be completely ripe and have been stored for 2-3 days in the freezer compartment of the fridge, and then sauteed in butter. Remove the pits before adding to the horseradish.

## HORSERADISH AND APPLE SAUCE

- 1 medium horseradish root
- 1 large apple
- juice of 1 lemon
- 1 c sour cream
- salt and sugar to taste
- ground black pepper

To finely grated horseradish add coarsely grated apple. Mix with the sour cream, season with salt, pepper, sugar and lemon juice.

If desired, the horseradish may be steamed after grating, in which case, the sauce will not be so sharp.



## HONEY SAUCE

- 1 1/2c honey
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1/2 tsp flour
- 1 c bouillon
- 1 c raisins
- vinegar
- salt (optional)
- lemon slices

Cook the honey until it turns “red”, but take care not to burn it. Lightly brown the flour in butter and dilute with bouillon. Pour in honey, vinegar, add the raisins and salt. Bring to the boil and cook. If the sauce has not turned “red” it may be coloured with caramelized sugar. Before serving, place several slices of lemon in the sauce.

## PRUNE GRAVY

- 1 1/2 c pitted prunes
- 3 c bouillon
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 tbsp flour

Cream the butter with the flour until soft. Stirring continuously, add hot bouillon. Drop picked over, washed prunes into the sauce. Allow to come to a boil, and reduce the heat to simmer and cook until the sauce thickens.

## SPECIAL SALAD DRESSING

- 1 tbsp prepared mustard
- 5 egg yolks, cooked
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp sunflower oil
- 4-5 tbsp vinegar
- 1 cucumber/dill pickle
- 1 bunch green onions
- 1 bunch dill

Beat together the prepared mustard, cooked egg yolks, sunflower oil, vinegar and salt. Add finely chopped hard boiled eggs, chopped cucumber (fresh or pickled), marinated mushrooms, finely chopped onions and dill. Mix the ingredients together thoroughly. If the sauce is very thick it may be diluted with vinegar.

## GARLIC SALAD DRESSING:

- 1/3 c oil
- 2 cloves garlic
- vinegar
- salt

Pound the garlic in the salt gradually adding oil. Add the vinegar and beat until a creamy colour.





## Prisoners' Justice Day in Ottawa

— Story photos: Emily Halldorson



On August 10, Prisoner's Justice Day, a vigil was held on Major's Hill Park in Ottawa. "UCH" Editorial Board member Emily Halldorson was among those attending.

Prisoners' Justice Day takes place on August 10 each year. It was first observed in 1975, to commemorate the death of Eddie Nalon in the segregation unit of Millhaven maximum-security penitentiary on August 10, 1974.

On this day, prisoners and concerned individuals participate in a one-day hunger strike to draw attention to injustice within the prison system, and to honour those who have died inside.

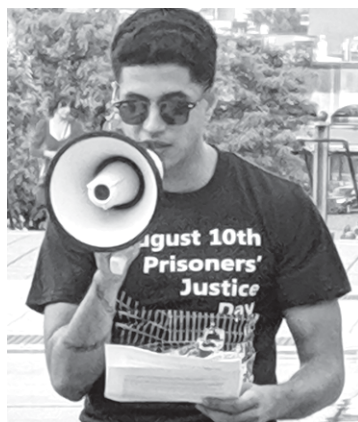
Although Prisoners' Justice Day began in Canada, it has now become an internationally-recognized day of solidarity and action.

On August 10, 2019, events commemorating Prisoners' Justice Day were held in Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, and other cities across Canada.

In Ottawa, two events were held this year. The first enabled former prisoners, families of prisoners and of those who have died inside, and allies to share stories and discuss solutions to injustice, in a private setting.

The second event consisted of a vigil held at Major's Hill Park, near Parliament Hill in downtown Ottawa. At this event, former prisoners and families shared their experiences, and statements submitted by individuals imprisoned at various institutions were read aloud.

Speakers included Laureen St. Amour, mother of Justin St. Amour, who died in custody at Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre (OCDC) in 2016. An inquest held in response to St. Amour's death



Souheil Benslimane was a speaker at the vigil.

resulted in 23 recommendations intended to develop better ways of dealing with people suffering mental health issues in prison. Laureen St. Amour continues to fight for the recommendations of the inquest to be implemented.

Souheil Benslimane, a vol-

unteer with the Jail Accountability and Information Line, also spoke at the vigil, sharing statements from both the male and female units of Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre. Both statements included a list of demands made by the prisoners which, if implemented, would increase the humane treatment of prisoners within the institution, and end injustices. The demands include:

Allowing prisoners to call cell phones. The current phone system limits calls to landlines only. Since many Canadians now use a cell phone as their primary phone number, limiting prisoners calls to landlines only isolates prisoners from their families and friends;

Offering more meaningful job opportunities for prisoners, and paying a fair wage. Currently, federally-sentenced prisoners' wages are capped at less than \$5.00 per day;

Providing more recreational and programming opportunities to increase the health of prisoners and prepare them for successful reintegration into society. Drug and alcohol treatment are limited, which means people often go back to their old lifestyle post-release, and end up re-offending and returning to prison.

Providing low-barrier bail programs to enable prisoners the opportunity to carry on meaningful lives in the community while awaiting trial. The current lack of bail programs encourages prisoners to plead guilty even if they are innocent;

Ensuring that guards and nurses wear their badges at all times, so that they can be held accountable for their ac-



Laureen St. Amour, mother of Justin St. Amour, was among the speakers.

tions.

The demands OCDC prisoners make draw attention to the fact that the thousands of people detained in Canadian jails are not afforded the same basic human rights as other Canadian citizens. Stories like those of Justin St. Amour demonstrate that even when prisoners die, the justice system often fails to make the necessary changes to prevent additional deaths from occurring.

It is easy for Canadians who have never gone to jail, or had a loved one die in prison, to ignore the abuses which happen behind prison walls. While Prisoners' Justice Day draws attention to these issues, it takes place only once per year. Canadians should not forget that these abuses happen each and every day, and loved ones die in our country's jails regularly.

More humane treatment of prisoners, and alternatives to imprisonment, should be a priority in all provincial and federal institutions and within the justice system as a whole.

— Emily Halldorson

## Chinese Downturn

(Continued from Page 3.) ports fell 7.3%. The reason is not only American tariffs, but also the global economic slowdown.

Possibly confusing cause and effect, the article returns to China's internal factors — "a debt-laden financial system that has been shaken by a series of large shocks", and the inability of borrowers paying high interest rates to meet their obligations.

Both of these appear to be governmental policies: borrowing by various level of government to maintain economic activity, and refusing to bail out creditors whose debtors turn out to be bad investments.

China's shadow banking system plays an important role in funding property projects and other private business ventures. Some of them turned out to be overextended — but that's why the interest rates are so high in those mar-

kets.

Andrew Coffier, founder of Orient Capital Research, said that troubles at Baoshang Bank (a small institution in Inner Mongolia which Chinese financial regulators took over on May 24) and in the shadow banking system had rattled financial markets, but seemed to have been contained, at least so far.

Blaming China may give some analysts a sense of satisfaction, but it can not revive the floundering global economy, nor hide the reality that the country is doing better than most (if not all) others. It can not ward off the threatening global collapse.

At least part of the solution has to be restoring economic activity by undoing the damage done by the Trump administration, not only in its economic war on China, but also in its isolationist policies toward the rest of the world.

But then, that's history: every economic boom is followed by a bust, sometimes known as an adjustment, just to put the house in order.

## Commentary

(Continued from Page 4.) Israeli-manufactured ordinance has been used in the attacks on Yemen.

These sales, alongside the obscene amounts transferred between the US and its Saudi and Israeli clients in weapons deals, underscore that the US-Gulf-Israeli aggression against Iran is not only about politics, but also an economic

system in which the ruling classes of each country enrich themselves at the expense of the Palestinians and other disenfranchised and exploited peoples.

The prospect of further lucrative ties to Israel no doubt helps explain why the undemocratic governments of the Gulf are racing to, as The Electronic Intifada's Tamara

Nassar puts it, sacrifice the Palestinians for a marriage with Israel — a ceremony at which the US is officiant.

The political and economic assault on Iran, as well as any military attack against it, should one materialise, is not only a war for Iran's future. It is a war for the entire region.

— Greg Shupak  
The Electronic Intifada  
(Reprinted from *People's Voice*, July 1-31, 2019)

An older couple had a son, who was still living with them. The parents were a little worried, as the son was still unable to decide about his career path, so they decided to do a small test.

They took a ten-dollar bill, a Bible, and a bottle of whiskey, and put them on the front hall table. Then they hid, hoping he would think they weren't at home.

The father told the mother, "If he takes the money, he will

be a businessman; if he takes the Bible, he will be a priest; but if he takes the bottle of whiskey, I'm afraid our son will be a drunkard."

So the parents took their place in the nearby closet and waited nervously, peeping through the keyhole they saw their son arrive home.

He saw the note they had left, saying they'd be home later. Then, he took the 10-dollar bill, looked at it against the light, and slid it in his

pocket. After that, he took the Bible, flicked through it, and took it also. Finally, he grabbed the bottle, opened it, and took an appreciative whiff to be assured of the quality. Then he left for his room carrying all the three items.

The father said, "Damn! It's even worse than I ever imagined..."

"What do you mean?" his wife inquired.

"He's gonna be a politician." the father replied.



## Ukrainian Miscellany

### Ukraine's Energy Issues

On August 16, *Ukraine: Daily Briefing*, citing *Ukraine Business News*, reported that President Zelensky's representative to the Cabinet of Ministers, Andriy Gerus, had written on Facebook that a EU-Ukraine "energy bridge" would not happen.

The report, was that "A French-Polish-Swedish consortium has won a tender for a \$243 million contract to build an EU-Ukraine 'energy bridge' between Ukraine's Khmelnytsky Nuclear Power Plant and Poland. Due for completion by the end of 2022, the project would modernize an existing, but mothballed, 700 km, 750 kV transmission line between Khmelnytsky and Rzeszow, Poland.

"The program would also modernize the power plant's two functioning reactors, raising their electricity generating capacity to 3,200 gigawatts. Electricity sales to the EU would finance the completion of two more reactors at the plant. Companies in the consortium are: Westinghouse Electric Sweden AB, Poland's Polenergia International S.à.r.l., and France's EDF

Trading Limited.

The report did not say who put the project out to tender.

"If a business wants to sell electricity to Europe, it is not necessary to suck blood from state facilities," Mr. Gerus reportedly wrote. "First, build a new generation facility, and then export electricity from it — in that sequence."

Mr. Gerus indicated that, "With Ukraine facing electricity shortages in the 2020s, the country can not afford to export half of the power production from Khmelnytskyi."

A project that is going ahead this fall (so far) is construction of Europe's second-largest onshore wind farm, in Zaporizhia, by the Sea of Azov.

London-based VLC Renewables has reached agreement with LongWing Energy S.C.A. to build the first 98 MW phase of the 500 MW wind farm. Designed a decade ago, the EuroCape project will be second in Europe only to the 600 MW Fântânele-Cogealac wind farm in Romania.

A year and a half ago, US Overseas Private Invest-

ment Corporation approved up to \$150 million in financing and up to \$250 million in political risk insurance for the project. GE Energy Financial Services is also investing in the wind farm.

Vyacheslav Hnatyuk, writing in *Kyiv Post*, provides an overview of Ukraine's energy market. He notes that production in Ukraine is inefficient, using two to three times more resources to produce the same unit of output as many other economies. The inefficiency is increasing, because of aging infrastructure.

"Ideally," he writes, "Ukraine should invest three to four times more in the energy sphere. In particular, that money should be invested in the housing stock, state-owned buildings like university campuses, municipal buildings and infrastructure, and industry."

As an interesting note, Naftogaz has filed a lawsuit with the Tribunal at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, seeking to force the Russian Federation to pay \$5.2 billion in compensation for assets lost in annexed Crimea. Apparently Naftogaz considers those assets lost permanently, certainly a departure from Ukraine's official line.

### Ukraine's Economy

*Ukraine Business News* reported that "Registering the strongest quarterly growth in almost a decade, Ukraine's economy was up by 4.6% year-over-year in the April-June period of this 2019, reports the State Statistics Service."

Ukraine's economy has been growing for the last 14 quarters. The second quarter growth spurt, the highest since the start of 2011, had several factors: record grain exports, a jump in iron ore prices, and a surge in consumer confidence and retail spending.

First-quarter growth was 2.5%.

Ukraine's foreign trade deficit reached \$1.6 billion during the first half of this year, 66% higher than during the same period last year. Exports of goods and services increased by 6%, to \$29.5 bil-

lion, but imports increased by 8%, to \$31.1 billion.

Ukraine's food trade with the EU increased by 23% during the first half of this year, compared to the first half of last year. European Union quotas on exports of nine food products from Ukraine were filled by mid-July.

Ukraine is expecting another record year for food exports to the EU, according to Nikolai Pugachev, Deputy Director of the Institute of Agricultural Economics.

A good start is a deal to increase Ukraine's poultry exports to the EU by 250% signed at the end of July.

The Ukrainian hryvnia strengthened in early August to its highest position against the dollar in three years. Since January 10, the hryvnia has appreciated 10.7% against the dollar, according to Ukraine's Ministry of Finance.

### President Zelensky Under Attack

While on a state visit to Turkey, President Zelensky told the Ukraine-Turkey Business Forum in Istanbul that Ukraine would carry out a land reform this year to create a 40-million-hectares land market. The President added that some Turkish companies already owned land in Ukraine, and he hoped that the number of such companies would grow.

Doubt was cast on the project by financial analyst Serhiy Fursa. Mr. Fursa said that if Ukraine had a real land market, prices could reach \$5,000 per hectare, or even double that, in the next 3-5 years. Mr. Fursa stipulated one condition: fair courts. "The rule of law is still a problem," he said, ignoring expressed foreign interest in buying Ukrainian land.

President Zelensky said that he also intends to legalize gambling, particularly in casinos and five-star hotels to stimulate tourism in the Black Sea region. He invited Turkish business to join in this effort.

Gambling has officially been outlawed in Ukraine since 2009, but many businesses officially registered as lotteries are *de facto* running casinos. Legal loopholes allowed them to start operating in 2012, when the Ukrainian par-

liament relaxed the gambling ban.

On that basis, "political expert" Valery Klochok cast doubt on the President's plan. "Big casinos are unlikely to raise revenues for the state," he told Ukraine's Channel 24, apparently dismissing the state's resources in joining the gambling market.

The *Kyiv Post* reported, and quickly pooh-poohed the hope that "Ukraine will become a haven for foreign business in the next five years."

The paper just claimed, without naming the experts or the false premises, that, "... experts say the situation is not as optimistic as he portrayed it."

In Turkey, President Zelensky announced that the economy will grow by 5%-7% percent annually during his term, and the government will allocate \$20 billion to repair 24,000 kilometres of roads, increase the number of operating airports to 15 and develop and increase the capacity of five seaports. He announced plans for a law to enable public-private partnerships.

The *Kyiv Post* trotted out Ukraine's (outgoing) Infrastructure Minister Volodymyr Omelyan, a Poroshenko era official, who sharply criticized President Zelensky's state-

ments. Mr. Omelyan said that the President "misunderstands the infrastructure situation in the country."

Rather than merely pointing out errors in the President's statement, Mr. Omelyan launched a polemical diatribe on his Facebook page.

The tone of a typical comment was, "Moreover, according to the National Transport Strategy of Ukraine, the country should have 50 airports by 2030. So, we will reduce the number of them?"

Mr. Omelyan said that he sees another, much more urgent problem: Ukraine doesn't have enough aircraft to operate domestic flights. He suggested that the Ukrainian government solve this problem, by supporting the construction of regional aircraft — planes designed to transport up to 100 passengers on short flights — at Antonov, a state aircraft manufacturing company in Kyiv.

Of course, the logical question is why the Poroshenko regime, of which Mr. Omelyan was a part, allowed this shortage to develop.

President Zelensky is also under attack for his quest to end the fighting in Eastern Ukraine, though that was a prominent plank in his election platform.

### On the Corruption Front

Ex-President Poroshenko worked very hard to criminalize his political opponents, with charges of corruption his favourite weapon. Now, it appears, the tables are turned.

Ukraine's former President, Petro Poroshenko, has been questioned as a witness by the State Bureau for Investigations (DBR) in a tax evasion case. After the questioning lasted for more than two hours on August 12, Mr. Poroshenko told reporters that he was ready to answer investigators' questions, but in the studio of the Pryamiy (Direct) television channel. He also said he would be willing to take a lie-detector test.

Earlier in the day, the DBR's director, Roman Truba, said that a polygraph will be used at Poroshenko's next questioning.

"I do not trust the DBR and its leadership. I do not believe that investigators are objective and unbiased," Poroshenko said. "And I am ready to undergo a polygraph test during a Pryamiy live broadcast."

According to Mr. Truba, Petro Poroshenko was questioned as a witness in a case related to alleged tax evasion connected to the purchase of the Pryamiy television channel. This is Poroshenko's second questioning by the DBR in weeks.

While the story does not identify the target of the investigation, Mr. Poroshenko's comments, as well as the use of a lie-detector, suggest it is the former president.

Petro Poroshenko lost a re-election bid in April to Volodymyr Zelensky. A day

after Zelensky's inauguration in May, Andriy Portnov, a former deputy head in the administration of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, returned to Ukraine from self-imposed exile abroad and filed several lawsuits against Poroshenko, accusing him of crimes including economic misdeeds and illegal attempts to retain power.

Further about Mr. Portnov: the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KHPG), whose favourite targets are Russia and former President Yanukovich, reported that, "Andriy Portnov, a former adviser to ex-President Viktor Yanukovich and First Deputy Head of his Presidential Administration, has been awarded almost seven million UAH in damages, purportedly inflicted on his reputation by Ukrainian authorities."

"The ruling, which will presumably be appealed, was passed by Serhiy Vovk, the Pechersky District Court judge who gained notoriety under Yanukovich for the politically motivated prison sentences he passed on two members of Yulia Tymoshenko's government, Yuri Lutsenko and Valery Ivashchenko."

Mr. Portnov only remained in Russia for a while, and then moved to Vienna, Austria, having received a Schengen visa even before the EU sanctions against him were annulled in October, 2015. (To the KHPG, even the EU is part of a conspiracy.) He returned to Ukraine on the eve of Volodymyr Zelensky's inauguration as President, and

(Continued on Page 10.)



## Winnipeg AUUC Launches Capital Campaign

— Photo: Glenn Michalchuk

The Winnipeg Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians formally launched its capital campaign for the Ukrainian Labour Temple on August 16. The capital campaign involves renovations to make the ULT accessible.

The Winnipeg Labour Temple is a national, provincial and municipal historic site, based on its architectural significance and its role as a centre of progressive social movements in the early and mid-twentieth century.

The Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Temple is considered the mother hall of the AUUC. Its construction by the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association marked the beginning of the building of many such Labour Temples — the Labour Temple Movement as it is sometimes referred to. All were centred around the newly arrived Ukrainian Canadian community and the progressive social values it espoused. The Ukrainian Labour Temple Association was the forerunner of today's AUUC.

In an interview with the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, Winnipeg AUUC Branch President Glenn Michalchuk had this to say about the capital campaign:

“After months of preparatory work, construction will soon begin to make the Ukrainian Labour Temple an accessible space. It began as a project to modernize the mother hall of the AUUC. The essential pieces of this modernization are handicap accessibility and fixing problems associated with 100-year-old plumbing.

“Accessibility will mean the



Above, a photo of the foyer of the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg as it is today; below, an architect's concept of the same foyer, after renovations.



— Concept perspective: GW Architecture

installation of an elevator that will provide access to the main and lower levels, and the construction of accessible washrooms on both levels and ramps where required.

“This is significant work that will transform the Ukrainian Labour Temple and ensure it will serve the AUUC and others for generations to come.

“New sump pits, modern washrooms, and sewer line repairs will repair physical problems that detracted significantly from the use of the hall.

“The work is costly, with a budget of approximately \$1.3 million. The AUUC is the main funder of the project. There is also significant support from the Manitoba provincial government, in the

form of a \$75,000 grant under the Building Sustainable Communities Program.

“The launching of the capital campaign ensures that the project will be completed to high standards.

“The core vision of the project was accessibility, as this was the biggest drawback to the use of the ULT by many. Accessibility of spaces is the expected norm today, and the lack of this at the Ukrainian Labour Temple certainly diminished its place as a space all should be proud of, share in, and enjoy.

“Ensuring that accessibility was realized, and remedying the physical problems of old washrooms with the funding available, meant that other aspects of repair and modernizing have been put on hold. One key item that was removed from the scope of the project was restoration of the large windows to their original design, improving the building's exterior appearance and increasing the insulating value of this large glass area.

“We are sure grants could be accessed for this but they would cover only a portion of the cost.

“Replacement of the antiquated sound system and lighting for the stage is part of the project. The responsibility for this is with the AUUC.”

Project architects are GW Architecture and the contractor is MBuilds. Because of the historical significance of the building, all the work is being vetted by the appropriate historical authorities.

Contributions to the capital fund can be sent to the AUUC National Office, 595 Pritchard Avenue, Winnipeg MB, R2W 2K4, and earmarked for Ukrainian Labour Temple renovation. Any questions can be directed to the Winnipeg Branch — for contact information, see page 11.

## Women Strike!

(Continued from Page 5.) And some of my own family members — like my mom, my aunts and uncles — actually worked at some of the jobs described in the play.

**UCH: The play links past and present. Why is this important to it?**

**NN:** I think that these nine radical women from yesterday have much to offer us today as inspirational role models.

The play presents early manifestations of feminism, early anti-racist thinking in Canada, mutual aid in all its forms, concrete, political and emotional.

It shows abused women getting help from other oppressed women, workers sticking together, women challenging sexism everywhere, and the importance of working people watching each other's backs, demonstrating solidarity.

The General Strike inspired these women to do heroic acts, which in turn inspired other women to join them and join the strike.

Since working conditions for many women — especially marginalized, poor, immigrant or migrant workers — still haven't changed today, their fight for justice continues. The play acknowledges this in the hope that these women will inspire others to pick up the torch, so to speak, and keep fighting.

There were two evil brothers. They were rich, and used their money to keep their ways from the public eye. They even attended the same church, and looked to be perfect Christians.

Then, their pastor retired, and a new one was hired. Not only could he see right through the brothers' deception, but he also spoke well and true, and the church started to swell in numbers. A fund-raising campaign was started to build a new assembly.

All of a sudden, one of the brothers died. The remaining brother sought out the new pastor the day before the funeral and handed him a check for the amount needed to finish paying for the new building.

“I have only one condition,” he said. “At his funeral, you must say my brother was a saint.” The pastor gave his word, and deposited the check.

The next day, at the funeral, the pastor did not hold back. “He was an evil man,” he said. “He cheated on his wife and abused his family.” After going on in this vein for a small time, he concluded with, “But, compared to his brother, he was a saint.”

## On the Corruption Front

(Continued from Page 9.) lodged the first of many demands for criminal proceedings against ex-President Petro Poroshenko, as well as many civil suits.

KHPG thinks that the Poroshenko administration was soft on Mr. Portnov, so “the few attempts to hold him to account for his actions were half-hearted and fizzled out”.

KHPG writes, “It is presumably the lack of any court ruling, or even clearly articulated charges, against him, and his undisputed legal skills, that he is now using against the Ukrainian authorities.”

Former President Poroshenko is not alone from his administration facing charges.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) reported that “A Ukrainian deputy min-

ister and his aide have been detained after allegedly taking a bribe worth \$480,000, the National Anticorruption Bureau (NABU) said on Facebook.

The August 14 statement names only the suspect's title, but the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) confirmed that Yuriy Hrymchak and his aide were caught “red-handed” while taking the money.

The SBU stated that the money was part of a \$1.1 million bribe from an entrepreneur that the suspects demanded to “facilitate decision making by persons authorized to perform state functions.”

Yuriy Hrymchak has held the post of Deputy Minister of Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced people since March, 2017, so he was an official

appointed by the Poroshenko Administration.

Mr. Hrymchak and his unnamed aide have been charged with “large-scale or organized fraud”, which is punishable by a prison term of up to 20 years, and confiscation of property.

Charges of corruption run both ways, and not only involving the KHPG. The *Kyiv Post* reported on August 7, that “As President Volodymyr Zelensky's team is announcing large-scale judicial reform, the people who will be entrusted to work on such reform include many tainted officials mired in corruption scandals.”

President Zelensky, on August 7, issued a decree to create a commission in charge of legal reform. The commission will be in charge of constitutional amendments, judicial reform, criminal law reform, legal education and reintegration of Russian-occupied ter-

ritories.

“Apart from a few reform-minded experts,” the *Kyiv Post* reports, the commission includes numerous controversial individuals who face accusations of corruption and other wrongdoing. Zelensky's press office did not respond to multiple requests for comment.”

The legal reform commission includes five judges who have been vetoed by the Public Integrity Council because they do not meet integrity and professional ethics standards. (Their shortcomings are not specified.)

Ukraine is known for its corruption; nor is it the only country where political retribution is standard after-election fare. Nevertheless, it is disconcerting to be constantly wondering whether any given charge is legitimate or just another sally in some tit-for-tat political struggle.



## Status Children Live in Deepest Poverty

(Continued from Page 2.)

Comparing urban areas, poverty rates have fallen for Indigenous children in the western cities of Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, and, particularly, Saskatoon. Nevertheless, more than half of status First Nations children in Regina, Winnipeg, and Saskatoon continue to live below the poverty line.

Poverty rates among Métis children have improved. However, these improvements may be influenced by changes in self-reporting. The population self-identifying as Métis grew by 30% between Census 2006 and Census 2016. It is unclear whether declining poverty rates are due to improved economic circumstances or higher incomes of those newly identifying as Métis.

There is ongoing discrimination against status First Nations children, highlighted in cases brought before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal that resulted in four different compliance orders against the Government of Canada.

The continued challenges of inadequate and insufficient housing, non-potable water, and inferior education and health services, among other matters, points to the urgent need for more money to alleviate the environment of poverty faced by Indigenous children.

The "Executive Summary" of the report says that, "... the existence of such significant child poverty rate differences — where the main characteristic is identity — suggests that we must, as a society, continue to investigate, challenge, and respond to the role of racism as a driver of child poverty in Canada."

"The evidence is clear: poverty rates among Indigenous children are far higher than non-Indigenous children," says Upstream Executive Director Trish Hennessy. "Income and Indigenous status are well-known social determinants of health — the impact of child poverty can affect their life chances. A "Health in All Policies" approach is one part of the solution.

"Child poverty rates on First Nations reserves are deplorably high for a country as rich as Canada," says report co-author David Macdonald, senior economist with the CCPA. "What's worse is that is that these rates haven't shown any improvement since 2005."

Though 2019 is the 30th anniversary of the federal all-party resolution to end child poverty by 2000, this goal has still not been achieved. It might help to remember that children are poor because their parents are poor.

### Child poverty rates by community in 2016

Canadian average: 18%  
 Status First Nations: 47% (53% on reserve; 41% off reserve)  
 Non-status First Nations: 32%  
 Inuit: 25%  
 Métis: 22%  
 Recent immigrant: 35%  
 Racialized: 22%  
 Non-racialized, non-Indigenous: 12%

### Source: Towards Justice: Tackling Indigenous Child Poverty in Canada

## Happy Birthday, Friends!



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

Bill Askin  
 Olga Horon  
 Ann Parfeniuk  
 Shirley Uhryn

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 September celebrants:

Wilfred Szczesny  
 Vicky Vuksinic

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

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

Anne Cain  
 Lucy Labinsky  
 Robert Young

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

Why not renew your subscription now?

## 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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# The Struggle Continues

(Continued from Page 2.) Indigenous peoples held 10.5%, according to a report from the National Aboriginal Forestry Association.

This trend could lead to greater economic independence and reduced poverty on reserves.

Pipelines, and particularly the Trans Mountain pipeline, illustrate the high-handed colonial policy toward Indigenous people, as well as disregard for environmental is-

ssues, when juxtaposed against economic development (and corporate profits in particular).

The federal government decided in 2016 that the Trans Mountain pipeline project would proceed whatever the cost. After the Federal Court of Appeal ruled that the consultations had been inadequate, and so had the environmental impact studies, the government went through another round, but their purchase of the existing pipeline

made it clear that the whole process was a sham — the pipeline project (a second, pipeline parallel to the existing one) would be pushed through because it served the wants of the oil companies and the political interests of the governing Liberal party.

(The mind set can be seen in the action around SNC-Lavalin.)

This time, the federal government has sought to divide and conquer, and some First Nations have bought in to the jobs and economic opportunity argument.

(It was disappointing, but

not surprising, to see the *Toronto Star* parrot all the government's arguments in an editorial, on June 22, which was at least a little misleading on several points.)

Resource extraction still takes precedence over other considerations in the colonial mind.

Tsilhqot'in Nation in Williams Lake, British Columbia, has had to peacefully take action to protect two lakes with cultural and spiritual significance against drilling with heavy equipment by Taseko Mines.

According to the company, the drilling is to prove that the lakes will not be harmed by its proposed open-pit copper and gold mine west of Williams Lake!

The mine was approved by British Columbia in 2010, but rejected twice by the federal government because it would cause adverse environmental effects.

In August, 2018, B.C.'s Supreme Court allowed Taseko to proceed with "investigative work", and the court refused to hear the Tsilhqot'in Nation's appeal of that decision in June, 2019.

## Poltava Summer Dance Camp 2019



Poltava Dance Camp senior participants, aged 12-15 years, worked on strength and conditioning with trainer Brett Matlock.

— Story photos Emery Millette



Poltava Dance Camp junior participants, ages 8 – 11 years old.

The Poltava School of Performing Arts is pleased to announce that the second year of the Poltava Summer Dance Camp was a success!

Held in Regina at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, this year's Poltava Summer Dance Camp ran two different sessions: July 4 to July 7, for Poltava School dancers aged 8 to 11 years old, and July 9 to July 12 for Poltava School and Poltava Ensemble dancers aged 12 to 15.

The days were filled with Ukrainian dancing, ballet barre and technique, Ukrainian cultural education, acrobatics, drama, strength and conditioning for dance, and much more.

Over 30 dancers enjoyed

training and learning, and are excited to return to the Poltava School and Poltava Ensemble in the fall.

"Thank you" to all the dancers, and to Poltava School instructors Emery Millette, Dan Hebert, Julia Pringle, Braden Bidyk, Jassia Wedewer, Natasha Kalmakoff, and Landon Lavoy for making the Poltava Summer Dance a fantastic experience for everyone involved!

We would like especially to thank the AUUC national organization for their generous support, and well as the McDougall Gauley Law Firm, and Dion Tchorzewski.

— Emery Millette



Poltava Dance Camp Junior participants working on their acting skills.

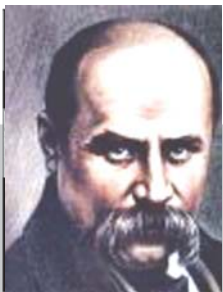


Cultural education for Poltava Dance Camp senior participants with Poltava Ensemble Orchestral Conductor Vlad Osatiuk.

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In the next issue, look for a book report on *Magnificent Fight*, a report on Regina's Mosaic, and a report on the AUUC National Orchestral Workshop.