

UCC - APC honours 10 with Hetman Awards

(UkrNews)—Ten Hetman Awards were presented at the 13th Annual Gala, organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Alberta Provincial Council and held at St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cultural Centre, Oct. 3.

The Hetman Volunteer Awards were established by the UCC - APC in 1998 to recognize outstanding Albertan volunteer leaders who have made significant contributions to the life of the Ukrainian Canadian community. These awards are presented annually in four categories: youth, adult, senior, and one award is presented posthumously. Each recipient is recognized symbolically in the name of Ukraine's Hetmans, who were outstanding leaders that fought for generations for their country's culture preservation and independence.

The presentations were made by UCC - APC President Daria Luciw along with Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel and Health and Wellness Minister and Deputy Government House Leader Gene Zwozdesky.

Other special guests included MP Laurie Hawn and MLA's, Genia Leskiw, Janice Sarich, Peter Sandhu, Tony Vandermeer and Doug Elniski

Stelmach brought greetings from the Province, Hawn from the Federal Government and Mandel from the City of Edmonton.

Yuri Broda and Dana Murynka served as MC's, while entertainment was provided by the Viter Choir, Shumka Ukrainian Dancers and the Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton.

Taras Uzwyshyn was honoured with the Posthumous Award, which was accepted tearfully by his widow, Audrey.

Taras was an active member and singer with the Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton since it was founded in 1984, until he lost his battle with cancer in 2003. He was one of the founding members and was instrumental in establishing this choir.

Taras also volunteered countless hours in many other organizations where he held executive positions. He was chairman of Camp Bar-V-Nok, Chairman of the Cultural League at St. Andrew's Church, President of Dnipro Choir, CYMK advisor, committee member for the Ukrainian Bilingual Program, principal for summer courses at St. John's Institute, an executive member with the Ukrainian Self Reliance League, member of Verkhovyna, Dnipro, and St. Andrew's Church choirs.

Taras played memorable roles in the Dnipro Choir's performances of "Kupalo" and "Zaporozhets". He also spearheaded the annual carolling groups for St. Andrew's Orthodox Sobor.

Youth awardees were: Katrina Baziuk, Oksana Dacko and Mila Luchak.

Katrina has shown her exemplarily leadership skills through her involvement in the



MC's Yuri Broda and Dana Murynka

church, Ukrainian Bilingual Program, as well as in the Ukrainian dance community. She is the National President of CYMK - Ukrainian Orthodox Youth and an active member of St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and dancer with the Shumka Dancers.

She developed her leadership qualities through her volunteer commitments. At a young age Katrina started undertaking executive positions at the local CYMK chapter. This led to the position of provincial CYMK president in Alberta. Here Katrina's strong leadership and organizational skills began to flourish. In 2009, she became National President of CYMK, while still dancing with Shumka.

Oksana is a dedicated volunteer who strives to assist others while demonstrating pride for her Ukrainian heritage and culture. Oksana volunteers most of her time as an executive member on the Ukrainian Students Society (USS) and with Plast in Edmonton, while taking a full course load at the University of Alberta.

Oksana has served on the USS for 3 years, holding various positions and currently is Executive Vice President. Oksana is also very much involved with Plast. As a "Sestrychka", she leads a group of girl scouts, helping them attain their badges while teaching them valuable life and leadership skills. Oksana also is a co-organizer and counsellor for Plast summer camps.

Mila has always been passionate about her Ukrainian culture. In 2009 Mila volunteered in Ukraine by assisting with the renovation of the Maple Leaf Safe house for teenage girls in the village of Stoyaniv. She also played a key role in raising funds for the Maple Leaf Alberta Projects, which support the Safe Houses in Ukraine. Mila promoted the work of this project by making presentations to various parishes, journalists, and CTV News. Mila also spoke about human trafficking, for which she received Sparkle of Hope pin for bring-



Front Row, Left to Right: Ksenia Fedyna, Katrina Baziuk, Oksana Dacko; Middle Row, Left to Right: Mila Luchak, Premier Ed Stelmach, Audrey Uzwyshyn, Nadia Kryschuk, Daria Luciw; Top Row, Left to Right: Eugene Louis Topolnisky, Jaroslaw Szewczuk, Andrew Ilnycky, Peter Dziezdic, Mayor Stephen Mandel.

ing attention to women's rights.

Mila has been a member of the USS since 2008, during which time she undertook fundraising efforts for the Help Us Help the Children summer camp for orphans in Ukraine. In 2009 she was elected Vice President External and helped organize numerous events. In 2010 Mila was elected as President of the USS.

Adult awardees were: Ksenia Fedyna, Andrew Ilnycky and Jaroslaw Szewczuk.

Ksenia has volunteered within the Ukrainian community throughout her life, contributing in artistic, educational, and administrative capacities. Ksenia has been a member of the Ukrainian Youth Association (CYM) since childhood, and has been treasurer for the past 5 years. She has also been significantly involved in CYM's educational program as an instructor, Educational Coordinator, and Camp Director for the past several years. Ksenia has been an accompanist and assistant to the conductor of the Verkhovyna choir for 25 years and director for a year.

Ksenia has been a member of the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta for 25 years and has served as the treasurer for 20 years.

Andrew has been an active executive member of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Calgary for over 25 years. He served as a member of the Parish Council's Board of Directors for several years, where he was in charge of managing virtually all aspects of the operation of the parish. Andrew has been a member of Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association for the past 35 years, and held executive positions. Andrew has made a huge impact on numerous organizations including Plast, the Knights of Columbus, and most recently the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

Following the tragic loss of his daughter, for the past 16 years Andrew and his wife have organized an annual charitable event, which to date has raised over \$30,000, for the Alberta Children's Hospital Asthma Clinic.

Slavko has been a long time active member of the Ukrainian Youth Association CYM where he has served on the Parent Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the Verkhovyna choir in Edmonton. On two separate occasions he served as president of the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex. From 2005-2008 he served as President of the League of Ukrainian Canadians - Edmonton Branch and a member of the National Executive as Western Vice-President.

He was an executive member of UCC Edmonton, and currently a board member of UCC-APC. Slavko is an active volunteer for the Ukrainian Canadian Social Services and was instrumental in securing the adopted Provincial Holodomor Legislation.

Senior awardees were: Peter Dziezdic, Nadia Kryschuk and Eugene Louis Topolnisky.

Dziezdic was President for five years of the St. Josaphat Branch of the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood of Canada and engages in ongoing Pastoral Care volunteer support at various centres (especially at St. Michael's Extended Care on a weekly basis), to performing chores at St. Josaphat Cathedral and Parish Hall.

Peter volunteered for years in preparing the Ukraine Pavilion for Heritage Days welcoming, greeting, cross-bearing, and ushering at Divine Liturgies, tributes, and celebrations; and is regarded as an ambassador and representative at numerous Eparchial public events.

Dobrodijka Nadia founded the Adult Ukrainian Language School at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor where she has been a voluntary teacher since 1990. She was a board member of the International Heritage and Language Association where she also served on various committees. She has been an active member of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada and 40 years with Edmonton's St. Andrew's Ladies Auxiliary, UWAC branch and Edmonton local council.

While serving on the on the Provincial UWAC Executive Council, Nadia conceived and implemented the Holodomor Education Program involving the purchase and distribution of Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch's book 'Enough' to 668 Alberta Elementary Schools.

Topolnisky, while now retired from his profession as a teacher/librarian, has been an active member in the Ukrainian community for several decades. He is known for his volunteerism at St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral as a Board Member for many years and President of the church choir for 10 years. Eugene is also the events coordinator at St. John's Cultural Centre.

Since 2008 Eugene has been the President of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada - Alberta Branch. Eugene has applied his vast experience and knowledge for enhancing the work and profile of the museum. Eugene is the vice-president of the Alberta Ukrainian Self Reliance League and has also been a board member of the Hope Foundation of Alberta since 1997.



Above: Viter Choir demonstrate the "Bilyi spiv" method of voice projection. Below: The Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton.

