



GAZETA

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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT:

by Ed Marks, CUP President

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!

We have a lot of new "stuff" to tell you about in this issue of *Gazeta*.

First, of course, many of you are receiving this electronically. That's an innovation, adopted to make it easier to communicate more quickly - and, candidly, with less expense. As our world changes and most people look to electronic sources for information, we have become another of your organizations to make this migration.

Welcome to a new name! We have formally changed our corporate name to *Cincinnati-Ukraine Partnership*. Why?

With all our successes in Kharkiv, other areas of Ukraine have asked for the same kinds of help. While our primary work will remain with the people of our beloved sister city, Kharkiv, we felt it would be less limiting to expand our scope by this name change. In recent months, we have had groups in Cincinnati from Poltava, Donetsk, and various other parts of the country.

Why are we doing this? As government programs dry up, we are looking for other programs from which we can earn a surplus to be committed to the various programs that we have already begun and the commitments that we have made in the city of Kharkiv.

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Dinner with journalists from Donetsk.

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And in that regard, there is another welcome. When it was started over 15 years ago, this organization called itself Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project. Many people were misled by the word *project*, which seems to connote a one-time-only transaction. Therefore the primary efforts of this organization will be handled under the name Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City *Program*.

Let's say a big "Welcome", as well to our new treasurer, Alan Brown. Phil Foster, who has served this organization so well for the past five years, found that the pressure of his work at Fifth Third Bank, his maturing family, and the other commitments he has made in Northern Kentucky, where he lives, made it difficult for him to commit the necessary time to each of them, and CKSCP was one of the deletions. We thank Phil for his service, his

ideas and his commitment – and at the same time, welcome Alan with open arms. Alan and Christie have hosted several times and have enthusiastically contributed their energy to a number of CKSCP projects.

We say "Welcome Home" to the delegation that took part in ceremonies for the 350th anniversary of the founding of Kharkiv. Steve Hirschberg's article appears elsewhere in this *Gazeta*.

Finally, we say welcome to the many new members of our organization.

But there is still room for more. As CUP's Events Committee enhances our opportunity to learn more, to eat more, and to enjoy more, let's remember to bring friends. The more folks who become involved in citizen diplomacy through programs such as ours, the better our world will become.

RECENT INTERNS FROM NEW CITIES

By Judith S. Bogart

CKSCP hosted two groups of Community Connections interns this spring. In late February, 10 print journalists from Donetsk spent three weeks learning about American newspapers and magazines. Then, in May-June, 10 business people from Poltava were our guests for four weeks.

The journalists spent their time visiting local publications, where they asked lots of very good questions and learned everything from First Amendment rights to how we sell advertising. Over one long weekend, they journeyed to Washington, D.C., to look at national reporting and visits to American heritage sites. Our visit in Washington was arranged and hosted by

former CKSCP board member, Bob Webb.

They were a bright and eager group who absorbed everything enthusiastically. Many thanks to an outstanding committee, all the board members and journalist hosts who made their visit special, and to their home hosts: Bobbie and Stan Bahler, Irene and John Devine, Fran Goldman, Char and David Jackson, Anita and Ed Marks, Regine Ransohoff, Mary Ann

Barnes and Tim Boyle, Crystal Dahlmeier, Sonia and Bob Derge, Carolyn and Mike Eagen, Kathy and Larry Smiley and Maryan and Art Tebbutt.

Our business guests from Poltava also were a special group who represented banking, human resources, retail sales, electronics, computer sales and maintenance, gas



"Thanksgiving in February" at the Eagen's [L to R]: Dmytro Dobrovolsky, Anita Marks, Char Jackson, Jan Sherbin, Valentyna Postnova, Ihor Zots, Alexander Etlin, and Mike Eagen.



storage, engineering, carton manufacturing and light machinery manufacturing. The committee who put together all their individual programs had a big challenge and did a very professional job. The group's evaluations all were "rave" reviews.



Community Connections business group from Poltava.

Many thanks to the business hosts and to another group of volunteers who provided that special experience – home hospitality.

They were Christie and Alan Brown, Melissa and David Dallas, Lorraine and Don Freeland, Darlyne Koretos, Teri and Donn Mettens, Sandy Mingua, May and Charles Westheimer, Marilyn and Allan Childress, Janet Crawford, Patsy and Peter Hollister, Cathy and Steve Rabe and Betsy and Kazuya Sato.

UNDER FIRE

By Noel Julnes-Dehner

CKSCP has unveiled a major project that has been in the works for several years. "Under Fire" is a documentary about women who served in combat – yes, in combat – in the Soviet army during World War II. In the documentary, you can hear from women veterans, in their own words, about their experiences. The veterans tell extraordinary stories, hardly told before now.

"Under Fire" aired Tuesday, November 9th on WCET-TV, channel 48.

Here are some background and insights from Noel Julnes-Dehner, who produced the documentary, and her teen daughter Holly, who accompanied her to Kharkiv to assist with the interviews.

Victory! Pobyeda! The documentary "Under Fire: Soviet Women Combat Veterans, WWII" has been finished.

"Under Fire" captures the powerful first-person accounts of five Soviet women who were only young girls when they stepped into a man's world, risking their lives in combat. Four of these decorated veterans now live in Kharkiv, and one is right here in Cincinnati.

The documentary has been an ongoing project of CKSCP since 1990, when I was a member of the Sister City delegation that traveled to Kharkov, USSR. In charge of

filming the city, I requested interviews with WWII veterans. Because Kharkov had been liberated twice from the Nazis, I reasoned that the experience of war would be important in understanding our new sister city. Much to my surprise, we met women wearing medals earned in combat.



"Forward! For the Motherland! For Stalin!"
–Maria Tolokolnikova.

Not one of the books I had read prior to the trip had mentioned that in the Soviet Union almost a million women and girls had served in the armed forces, the largest mobilization of women and girls in history.

When I returned to the United States, I researched the Library of Congress and discovered that very little had been written about women, combat and the realities of war. I vowed to tell these untold stories.

In 1996, with the assistance of Kharkiv's International Department, I hired a

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(“Under Fire” continued from page 3)

photographer in Kharkiv and returned with Cincinnati psychotherapist Dr. Joanne Lindy. We interviewed 27 women. An Ohio Humanities Council grant turned this research into a traveling photo-journal display, and the magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities chose this collection as one of the nation’s most interesting projects.

In 1999, I returned to Kharkiv to videotape 10 women veterans. Larisa Yevtushenko of the International Department did a wonderful job of recommending the videographer and organizing the interviews. I then showed those video clips to Sergei Linkov, who had just moved from Moscow to Cincinnati with his wife Natasha.



“So what? I slept alongside men, fed lice with men.” –Taisiya Martynenko.

Sergei, an award-winning director, was a teenager in Russia during the war, and he immediately signed on to direct the actual documentary. In 2002, Sergei, my 16-year-old daughter, Holly, and I journeyed to Kharkiv and taped broadcast-quality interviews.

CKSCP people especially helpful in completing the documentary were Dave Brokaw, Sasha Etlin and his translations, as well as Jan Sherbin and her help with the offline edit.

“Under Fire” will also be shown at the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, D.C., and was featured at the Ojai Film Festival in California.

THE MAKING OF “UNDER FIRE”

By Holly Julnes Dehner

Ukraine was an experience that opened up doors to the past, and to my future. If it weren’t for my mother’s passion for “Under Fire,” I honestly can say that I might never have known that there were women combat veterans of WWII. While in Ukraine, I learned much about the brave women who fought for their country, and I learned about my mother and myself. I learned that the devotion these women had to their families and to

their country was one of such magnitude that they were willing to die for them. The stories the women told me brought back their memories of horror, victory, and love. I could not even begin to picture what war was like for these women, but the medals were all the proof I needed to know about their courage.

I learned to see my mother in a different light. To put in words what my mother meant to these women is impossible. She was somebody who cared about their history, not



(L to R): Noel Julnes-Dehner, Holly Julnes Dehner, and Natalia Zakrzhetskaya.



just WWII history, but their emotional history and stories. I saw my mother take charge; I saw her frustrated; I saw her cry. I was able to view her as a person beyond the role of a mother.

I learned about myself, too. Originally, I thought my purpose for traveling to Ukraine was to better understand the profession of a director, as I thought that would be my career path. Instead, I learned that I didn't want to be a director, but a teacher. I wanted to take these

stories I heard and share them with others who don't know about the women of WWII. I want someday to become an elementary school teacher and teach the children of a past they might never have known if it weren't for my mother. She is the one who opened the doors of history for me; I too will open the door of history for children so that they can understand the Soviet women who were "Under Fire."

LAW DIRECTOR VISITS

By Edward G. Marks

The past few months have seen the beginnings of a long term relationship between the law departments of Kharkiv and Cincinnati.

During the springtime, Oleksandr (Sasha) Novak, city law director and advisor to Kharkiv City Council, came to Cincinnati for a week-long visit. Accompanying him was Kostyantyn (Kostya) Ampilogov, special assistant to the Kharkiv mayor.

Much of their time was spent with the head of Cincinnati's law department, City Solicitor J. Rita McNeil. During their visit they had an opportunity to learn about the structure of Cincinnati's law department, and to observe both civil and criminal hearings in the courts of our community.



(L to R): Kostyantyn Ampilogov, Oleksandr Novak, and Alexander Etlin.

In August, City Solicitor McNeil reciprocated, visiting Kharkiv as part of our official delegation during the 350th anniversary celebration. She was warmly welcomed by Sasha and Kostya, who not only shepherded her through City Hall there and introduced her to the heads of a number of departments, but also served, along with their spouses, as extraordinary home hosts.

What are the values of such city-leader exchanges?

- Ideas already have begun to flow from Kharkiv to Cincinnati and from Cincinnati to Kharkiv, about better ways to perform professional tasks.
- While specific legal principles differ dramatically between Ukraine and the U.S., the leaders of each of our communities can learn of changing populations, and discuss different ways of dealing with such challenges. After all, sooner or later these trends seem to travel around the world.
- Understanding the trends in professional matters is enhanced, with each side having a better opportunity to observe.
- It's just plain fun to get to know folks on the other side of the world.

That's what the Cincinnati-Kharkiv relationship is about!



UKRAINIAN VISITORS LEARN ABOUT U.S. ELECTIONS AND AMERICAN NGOs

By Marilyn Braun

In keeping with CUP's mission to expand grant opportunities in Ukraine, CKSCP welcomed three women and two men from cities and regions outside of Kharkiv on August 27 for a nine-day NGO Development Program. The group was funded by a grant from the Academy for Educational Development's (AED) Open World program.

Tanya, Anna, Maryna, Volodymyr and Sasha were welcomed by host families, Bob and Sonia Derge and Kathy, Larry and "AJ" Smiley. All were quickly made to feel at home and a whirlwind week of constant activity began.

The group toured the city, spent time at the Museum Center and the Air Force Museum, and attended a Pot Luck supper in their honor at the International Friendship Park. They "shopped till they dropped" for family and friends, making trips to the malls and the supermarket a pastime at every free moment. One evening was spent cooking and serving dinner for the folks who gather at the City Gospel Mission each evening. The visit concluded on Labor Day weekend with eight hours of roller coasting at Kings Island – a special treat for the group's sky diver, who was prevented from testing his sport in the U.S. by insurance rules. A Final Banquet was hosted by Tom and Helen Mess on the patio of their home.

AED requested that a segment of the program be devoted to U.S. elections and the election process. Board of Elections Director John Williams described this process and then took the group on a tour of the facility. Mike



(L to R): Oleksandr Murakhovskyy, Anya Opanasyuk, Tetyana Kulyk, Maryna Nechyporenko and Volodymyr Kondzolka in front of the Wright-Patterson Airforce Base in Dayton.

Burns and Cheryl Hilvert, City Managers from Indian Hill and Montgomery, spoke about governance in their suburban communities. Both Mike and Cheryl spoke from experience as they had provided professional training in Kharkiv and in Cincinnati for Kharkiv government people in 1993.

The professional program got underway with the United Way providing an overview of American NGOs: fundraising, strategic planning, marketing/PR, administration and the use of volunteers were discussed. The following appointments matched the interests of the Ukrainian visitors: Shriner's Burns Hospital, the Hamilton County Business Center, DCI, Family Service, MainStrasse Village Association, The Point, the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Goodwill Industries and the Voice of America Museum and Park. Last minute

requests were made for meetings with Rotary Club and with the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. They and all the other wonderful professional hosts we have asked to meet with our visitors cleared their calendars to accommodate our visitors. Sometimes this means arranging weeks ahead of time,

and sometimes the meeting takes place late in the day, and on short notice.

To all who have contributed over the years to help our Ukrainian visitors see and understand life in a democracy, work in a market economy and life with an American family, we say THANKS. You have made a difference in the lives of hundreds of visitors.



The Ukrainian visitors in the Voice of America (VOA) Museum.



MY AUGUST 2004 VISIT TO KHARKIV

By Steve Hirschberg

Ever since I boarded a bus to leave Kharkiv in May 1995 I longed to return. It wasn't the lovely parks or the handsome old buildings in the center of the city that drew me back. It was the warm, friendly and genuine people that I had encountered. So, when the Executive Committee of the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Program (on which

I serve as secretary) asked whether I would be interested in participating in a small delegation to help Kharkiv celebrate its 350th anniversary, it didn't require much reflection for me to say "when do we leave!"

Our delegation arrived at about 1:00 in the morning, after a marathon voyage that took us by air from Cincinnati to Detroit, Detroit to Amsterdam, Amsterdam to Kyiv, and finally a seven-hour bus trip to Kharkiv. I wondered how the city had changed in the nine years since I was there to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War, as citizens of the former Soviet Union refer to World War II.

The physical changes included a lot of new color in the gray streetscapes that I remembered from my first visit. The central part of the city now boasts its share of privately owned and colorfully decorated restaurants, shops, Internet cafes and fashion boutiques. Many of the attractive yet worn and neglected old buildings in the city center have been renovated and painted in greens, yellows, blues and other hues. The clattering vintage trolleys still ply the streets of Kharkiv. But now, there are daily traffic jams as the streetcars share the roads with scores of shiny Skodas, BMWs, Volkswagens and other vehicles.

During my previous stay in Kharkiv, my



August 2004 Delegation - (L to R): Steve Hirschberg (CKSCP Secretary), Iryna Timchenko (KCSCA Board Member), Viktoriya Potykina (Kharkiv City Intl. Dept.), and Edward Marks (CKSCP President)

capable and obliging young interpreter shyly asked if I would give him one of my yellow legal pads, since such items were apparently unavailable. Also during that trip, I received a transparent plastic bag containing a large, rock-like hunk of chocolate. It was produced in a factory that had a number, rather than a name. Now, chocolates of every

imaginable variety are attractively boxed and piled neatly on the shelves of supermarkets that rival anything we have at home.

Today, Kharkivites stride down the streets chatting away on their cell phones. The young women are as astonishingly lovely as I remembered. But there seem now to be so many more of them; they are stylishly and alluringly attired in the latest fashions.

For the big birthday celebration, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma came to Kharkiv. He spoke at a gala in the city's opera house. The program also included impressive and beautifully choreographed performances by dancers and singers. For me, the showstopper was a breathtaking break-dance routine by a group of children dressed in colorful costumes.

For the anniversary, Liberty Square, the largest city square in Europe, was festooned with yellow and blue Ukrainian flags. A huge sound stage was erected for musical performances. The city also put on a glorious fireworks display for revelers who packed the immense cobblestone plaza.

It was reassuring to experience the same warmth and hospitality that I had encountered nine years ago. Our hosts went out of their way to do everything possible to make our visit a pleasant one. For example, one night when a

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(“My August 2004 visit to Kharkiv” continued from pg 7)

thunderstorm hit Kharkiv, our interpreter, Irina Timchenko, directed us to stay down in a subway station while she climbed the stairs to street level and got soaked flagging down a taxi to take us to our hotel.

Kharkiv still has its share of problems. Many residents find it difficult to make ends meet.

Visitors are still advised to drink bottled water rather than the product from the tap. Many of

the depressingly ugly Stalinist apartment towers remain. Kharkiv wants to attract more tourists

but it needs more hotels, a better airport and other infrastructure improvements. In addition, in Ukraine in general, it still takes bribes to get things done. But the people of Kharkiv continue to

make advances; and the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Program is doing what it can to help.

“It was reassuring to experience the same warmth and hospitality that I had encountered nine years ago.”

KHARKIV REFLECTIONS AFTER 15 YEARS

By Bud Haupt

In August, it was my privilege to be among the delegates representing Cincinnati at Kharkiv’s 350th Birthday “bash”. And what a party it was! Parades, fireworks, ribbon-cuttings, gala stage extravaganzas with casts of hundreds, colorful floral displays and banners everywhere, and on and on. It certainly rivaled anything I’ve experienced in this part of the world

It was my fifth visit to Kharkiv and, as one whose Kharkiv experience dates back to the beginnings of our project, I was asked to reflect on some of the changes that I have witnessed over the 15-year history of this remarkable sister-city relationship.

One thing that has **not** changed over the years is the length to which our Ukrainian hosts have gone to make our visits both enjoyable and memorable. Our first delegation’s visit



Bud Haupt and Mayor Stepan Sokolovskiy during the March 1989 delegation to Kharkiv.

to “Kharkov” (note the Russian spelling) in 1989, actually began in Moscow and ended in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg.) Our English-speaking guides from Kharkov city hall treated us to escorted tours of Red Square and the Kremlin in Moscow and to the Hermitage museum and Nevsky Prospect in Leningrad, as well as to scrumptious meals in the best restaurants available.

And...our transportation into and out of Kharkov from these cities was by air! (A convenience we hope to see reestablished in the near future.)

Regardless of the quality of the hospitality they received, most first-time Western visitors to the USSR prior to 1991 were immediately struck by the stark reality of life under the Soviet system. My experience in 1989 was no exception. Most memorable was the complete absence of color,



except for the ubiquitous red banners extolling the virtues of communism, which spanned the streets or adorned the facades of large buildings. It was reminiscent of that unforgettable scene from *The Wizard of Oz* when Dorothy stepped out of her Kansas bedroom (filmed in black and white) into the Technicolor world of Oz, albeit in reverse, of course. This starkness extended to the drabness of the people's clothing, the lack of variety of the vehicles in the streets, the complete absence of outdoor advertising and/or shop windows displaying merchandise, as well as the omnipresence of persons in uniform, who seemed to be everywhere. There was little or no evidence of landscaping, flowerbeds, or lawn care, even in public park areas (or the zoo, for instance), let alone in the vicinity of the many high-rise residential complexes.

The dramatic contrast occurred, however, once one stepped across the threshold of a Ukrainian friend's apartment. Immediately, the drabness gave way to conviviality, smiling faces, and lively conversations. In fact, it was such experiences that endeared the people from that part of the world to me.

Today, thirteen years after the demise of Soviet Communism, it is clear that a remarkable transformation has taken place. Kharkiv has clearly entered the Technicolor world. Neon-illuminated shop-windows laden with merchandise abound, as do sidewalk cafes featuring bright red, green, and blue umbrellas (most advertising Ukrainian beer), amidst lavishly landscaped public areas, with an abundance of floral displays. On this trip, for the first time, I entered

several huge two-story "supermarkets", (one bearing the name "Target", although apparently not connected to the Target we know), which offered a quantity and variety of merchandise comparable to anything one might find in Cincinnati. I was told that close to twenty such stores (on a scale of a Meijer's or Bigg's) now exist in Kharkiv. And the latest count of McDonald's in Kharkiv stands at eight, including three with drive-thru windows. I confess to having a hard-time with the notion that the number of McDonald's restaurants in a former Soviet city is a proper measure of that city's progress since the end of Communism.

It is obvious that Ukraine's transition to a market economy has not been a totally smooth

one, and that many people are struggling to make ends meet under the new system. At the same time, however, the clear evidence of expanded opportunity and increased access to world markets that has occurred over the past decade can only lead to a profound sense of optimism regarding Ukraine's future.

At the end of our stay in Kharkiv, we spent two days in Kyiv. This visit left me with the impression that Kyiv has reemerged as one of Europe's truly classic capital cities, definitely on a par with Vienna, or Budapest. But the best news of all is that neither Kyiv nor Kharkiv has lost its European flavor. Both cities have exciting downtowns that function as the central gathering place and both "really rock" after dark. Wouldn't it be nice if Cincinnati could say the same?

"...the clear evidence of expanded opportunity and increased access to world markets that has occurred over the past decade can only lead to a profound sense of optimism regarding Ukraine's future."



CLAY, COLOR & FIRE REUNION



Volodymyr, Katya and the "Kharkiv Column".

April of 2004 saw a return of the seven ceramic artists from Cincinnati's seven sister cities. During the summer of 2003, Volodymyr Shapovalov of Kharkiv and six other ceramic artists came to help us decorate the Friendship Pavilion at the Theodore M.

Berry International Friendship Park. In 2004, Volodymyr, his daughter, Katya, and his six colleagues returned to finally see their work installed at the Friendship Pavilion.

CUP/CKSCP BOARD MEMBER IS A "LOCAL LEGEND"

CUP/CKSCP would like to congratulate Dr. Evelyn Hess on being recognized as a Local Legend. The Local Legends program is a partnership between the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM), which asks U.S. Senators and Members of Congress to nominate outstanding women from their states. Dr. Hess is Professor Emeritus at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center Department of Internal Medicine Division of Immunology & Allergy.



Evelyn Hess

She has also served on the CUP/CKSCP board since March 1995 as Chair of the Medical Committee. In 2003 she was sent by CKSCP to Kharkiv to visit medical training facilities, hospitals and clinics, as well as give seminars and lectures on immunology, rheumatology, and HIV/AIDS.





FRIENDS OF CUP/CKSCP

Thanks to the following individuals and organizations that have contributed over the past months. Every effort has been made to assemble a comprehensive list. We regret any omissions.

Raymond and Alice Abrams

Elizabeth Belz

Robert and Lois Bigley

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BE A PART OF THE CUP/CKSCP!

We share ideas and experiences with our friends in Ukraine in areas of mutual interest and opportunity, such as democracy, business, individual liberties, education, environment, housing, government, volunteerism, etc.

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