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Be a Part of the Project

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

If you would like to join us, please call 241-8833 or send in the coupon below. Please indicate your areas of interest.

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GAZETA

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Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Gala gathers good friends, good food...and good stories



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Talk with any Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project (CKSCP) volunteer, exchange delegate, grant partner or host family and they are sure to have at least one thing in common -- wonderful stories.

In many ways, the fact that so many people have so many tales about their experiences through CKSCP is the project's ultimate success story -- and the reason it recently enjoyed its 10th anniversary and is today considered to be one of the most admired Sister City initiatives in the world.

So, what better way to celebrate 10 years of friendship between Cincinnati and Kharkiv than with a little story swapping among friends?

163 people thought that was an excellent idea and attended a CKSCP Anniversary Gala of "bolshoi" proportions at the Gregory Center downtown on June 22, 2000, to celebrate 10 years of friendship, exchange and stories between Cincinnati and Kharkiv.

Former Cincinnati Mayor Roxanne Qualls, who visited Kharkiv as part of an official CKSCP delegation in 1995, served as Master of Ceremonies. Volodymyr Kiyko, Vice Mayor of Kharkiv, presented greetings from our counterparts at the Kharkiv-Cincinnati Sister City Association (KCSCA) and welcomed the crowd with a warm Kharkiv-style toast. CKSCP Board Member Rabbi Robert Reiner gave the blessing.

The first-ever meeting of CKSCP (before it was actually CKSCP) was convened in 1986 by founder Bud Haupt around his dining room table. And many of the stories since inspired by CKSCP have had a

similar origin. In true CKSCP fashion, there was excellent food at the Gala. Black bread with chicken liver pate, cucumber salad, Chicken Kiev with braised cabbage, baked potato squares and cookies and tortes provided delicious culinary reminders of our Ukrainian ties. Visual reminders of our friendship with Kharkiv were presented in a fine art exhibit featuring original works by photographer Guennadi Maslov and painters Alexander and Nora Osipov.

Everyone attending the Gala received a printed book of original stories, tales and anecdotes submitted by CKSCP members who had either visited Kharkiv or hosted visiting Kharkivites here. As part of the Gala entertainment, a few of these stories were brought to life when Jerry Handorf and Russell White of Madcap Productions performed their interpretations of these special memories.



Kharkiv Deputy Mayor Volodymyr Kiyko (left) honored us by attending the 10th Anniversary Gala in June 2000. He is pictured here with Janet Crawford and Sasha Etlin.

"Over the past decade, thousands of people in Cincinnati and Kharkiv have been touched by the

Anniversary

continued from page 1

exchange activities of CKSCP,” said CKSCP president Judith Bogart. “We felt the best way to celebrate the impact the Project has had on our lives was to compile a collection of personal anecdotes that convey the variety, flavor and richness of these experiences. Reading them, you truly gain an appreciation for the extent and quality of the friendships formed between people in our two cities.”

Not surprisingly, many of the stories describes incidents that tickle the funny bone. According to CKSCP founder Bud Haupt, “Learning to laugh together is one of the surest ways to bridge the gaps of cultural and linguistic differences.”

And perhaps Helen Mess described it best with a story that proclaims, “They are just like us!”

Time and again, the Project has shown this simple truth to be a life-transforming revelation. And it is through our shared stories of friendship, understanding, laughs, learning and love, that we together will write the history of the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project well into the next decade.



Oleksandra Tytarenko, Community Connections Business Program Participant, talk with CKSCP board member Owen Findsen.

Gala THANKS!

CKSCP thanks these organizations and individuals for their generous gift of financial support, in-kind services and time donated to the 10th Anniversary Celebration:

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The 10th Anniversary Gala Steering Committee. Back row, left to right: Patsy Trubow, Chair, Marilyn Braun, Janet Crawford, Barbara Brady. Front Row, left to right: Peter Hollister, Judith Bogart, Dave Brokaw, Cathy Rabe

FRIENDS of CKSCP

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

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Calendar of Events



2001

August 12-26
USAID/U.S. Ukraine Foundation-sponsored Public Housing/Energy Management Program (in Cincinnati)

September
Grand Opening of American Center (in Kharkiv)

September 5-18
Community Connections Host Family trip (to Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Prague)

October 10-19
Domestic Violence Prevention and Training Program Police/Legal Exchange (in Cincinnati)

October 24-November 14
Community Connections Arts Management Program (in Cincinnati)

November 19-December 1
Kharkiv School #6 sister school exchange with Mariemont High School (in Cincinnati)

2002

February 13-March 6
Community Connections Public Health/Substance Abuse Program (in Cincinnati)

March
Domestic Violence Prevention and Training Program Non-government Organizations Exchange (in Cincinnati)

May 2-29
Community Connections Business Program (in Cincinnati)

To get involved as a volunteer or host family, please call or e-mail David Brokaw, Project Administrator at 513-241-8833 or cinkhars@queencity.com. Your participation is appreciated!

Bits & Pieces

Craving Ukrainian Specialties?

The New Dilly Chili restaurant has decided to test borsch and Russian Chicken Soup on its menu. Owner Emilia Vinokur says that if there's enough interest, she may be able to expand to piroshki and other Russian dishes. New Dilly Chili (formerly the New Dilly Pub) is on Kemper Rd., in Sharonville.

There is good news for patrons of Naom Moxsin's food store, formerly located in the Marathon gas station at the corner of Reading and Summit in Roselawn. Naom has opened his own store, Yummee-Yummee, in the 7500 block of Reading Rd. in Roselawn near the corner of Section. He carries groceries you'll recognize from your trips to Kharkiv, so stop buy, wish him well - and pick up some of your favorite Ukrainian specialties.

- by Jan Sherbin



THE AMERICAN CENTER IN KHARKIV

Activities Expanding At First-Of-Its-Kind Cultural Facility

The future of the American Center in Kharkiv, which opened in August 2000, is rich with possibilities.

This gathering place and training center for alumni of various CKSCP programs is drawing attention as a business and cultural center with a variety of important offerings. The United States Embassy (located in Kyiv) is helping to furnish materials about the United States and educational opportunities for interested Kharkivites. U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual has visited the Center and expressed excitement about its possibilities for the future. Pascual has promised his support and plans to attend the formal opening of the Center in September. Also supportive of the Center are the city of Kharkiv and the Kharkiv oblast (region).

The center has hosted seven seminars for alumni of CKSCP programs and others, with an average participation of 15-20 per event, on topics such as

civil society in Ukraine, government reform, business development and taxation and land reforms in Ukraine. In early April, the U.S. Embassy hosted a seminar on the Rule of Law and various human rights issues. Future seminars will cover topics ranging from chef training to business and law, presented by guest speakers from Cincinnati.

Each Saturday, the Center hosts a meeting of the Lovers of the English Language Club. University and high school students, professionals of every variety, alumni of various CKSCP programs, and anyone else who is interested - all gather to socialize, play English word games, and share their interest in learning the language. Soon, they'll be able to watch American videos and peruse a collection of books and other materials.

English language lessons for a nominal fee are given twice a week at the Center. This is quite a boon for Kharkivites, as private lessons tend to be very costly, and few can afford the luxury. Most participants at this time are students of the nearby Law

Academy, but the program will expand as more teachers are recruited.

The opening of an American Center is located at 12 Chaikovskoho St. (28-22-27). It is a cooperative effort between the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project (CKSCP) and its counterpart, the Kharkiv-Cincinnati Sister City Association (KCSCA). Directors of the center are Helen Mess of CKSCP and Vyacheslav (Slava) Zhilinkov of KCSCA. The project is made possible by a State Department grant generated out of savings from the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project's highly successful Community Connections professional training program under the direction of CKSCP's Marilyn Braun.

As the American Center in Kharkiv grows in scope and activities, it will touch the lives of a growing number of Americans and Ukrainians and will serve to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between them.



Bogie Bulletins

By Judith S. Bogart, president

In this column I will do my best to list activities not covered in The Gazeta in which CKSCP is and will be involved. It will, however, be a challenge. Ours is one of the busiest Sister City projects in the world, and it's hard to remember everything our hard-working volunteers and overworked staff member have going. But, here goes:

- ✳ We're pleased to welcome the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to the Project. They have established a Sister Library program with Korolenko Library in Kharkiv, one of the biggest libraries in Ukraine. Mary Ann Gabel, childrens librarian, Roselawn branch.
- ✳ A number of host families are planning a trip to Kharkiv in September. We will spend a week visiting our former guests and then spend a few days in Kyiv and Prague. In preparation, several members are taking Russian lessons.
- ✳ Our medical committee developed a special project to bring several physicians from Kharkiv to Cincinnati to study early childhood intervention at the Cincinnati Center for Developmental Disorders at the Children's Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Jennifer Loggie, a member of our board led the project.
- ✳ And speaking of the medical committee, we are working with UNICEF and the Emory University School of Public Health to make Kharkiv a model for the rest of Ukraine in alleviating the problem of iodine deficiency in that country. Helen Mess and I traveled to Kharkiv in June to gather information for the project.
- ✳ Kharkiv recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the reopening of their synagogue, a project we initiated very early in our relationship with our sister city.

These activities are but a small sample of the work being done by the CKSCP. We welcome new volunteers and supporters. Please call the CKSCP office if you are interested in these or any other projects you read about in The Gazeta.

You can also learn more on our web site at:
www.queencity.com/kharkiv



Program Against Micronutrient Malnutrition

CKSCP's Program Against Micronutrient Malnutrition (PAMM) is involved in education and other efforts to eradicate iodine deficiency in Ukraine.

Iodine is an essential mineral for human development and growth. Iodine deficiency disorders affect infants before they are born, and can profoundly affect children's and adults' lives.

The most serious form of mental retardation from IDD is cretinism. Iodine deficiency is the most common preventable cause of mental disability in the world, and it is a serious problem in Ukraine. Over 20 million people around the world suffer from varying degrees of mental retardation caused by a lack of iodine, including 6 million with cretinism.

In June 2001, Judith Bogart, Helen Mess traveled to Kharkiv to gather the latest information on the state of iodine deficiency in Ukraine and to explore legislative inroads. They met with local political leaders, the Kharkiv Minister of Health, heads of health clinics, salt distributors, and the director of the American Center, where a kick-off event will be held in September.

CKSCP is a partner with Emory University on a USAID Grant, "Strengthening Micronutrient Partnerships." Our role in the project is to develop strategies to increase the amount of iodine available in the Ukrainian diet, including informing women and children in Kharkiv about iodine deficiency disorders and how to get iodized salt, activating the political and civic infrastructure in Kharkiv to support salt iodization on the national level, and developing the capacity of the appropriate Kharkiv organizations to monitor iodized salt as well as the iodine status of the population.



OUR ROLE IN THE PROJECT IS TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF IODINE AVAILABLE IN THE UKRAINIAN DIET

Children born to iodine deficient mothers are at risk of iodine deficiency disorder (IDD). These children may have permanent mental and physical retardation before birth, or learning disabilities when they get older.

Prevention generally involves the addition of iodine in the manufacture of table salt, which is the practice in Western Europe, North America and other parts of the world where IDD has been eliminated.



Hotel & Restaurant (CC #9)

Liudmyla Danylenko
Liudmyla Folomeieva
Oleksandra Hrydynska
Larysa Kim
Larysa Kulakova
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Overview of American Business

(CC #11)
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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
PARTICIPANTS



Children's
ART EXHIBITS

*Greetings from Kharkiv:
Growing Up in Ukraine*

In January, 2001 the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County hosted an exhibit of drawings by students of the Kharkiv Arts Lyceum, a school for artistically gifted children in Cincinnati's sister city of Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Kharkiv native Guennadi Maslov arranged for the drawings to come to Cincinnati. "You can look at the world through the eyes of these 6- to 14-year-olds," he said. "They are growing up in a land so similar while so different from the universe of our own childhoods."

The works depicted varied topics familiar in their lives, such as the tale of the Firebird, a drawing of its artist's apartment; ancient churches; modern discotheques, circus shows and Christmas processions. A variety of media were featured including drawing, painting and collage.



LOOKING for friends.....

This June, an exhibit of drawings by students of Cincinnati's St. Ursula Kindergarten was shown in Kharkiv as a part of International Festival of Children's Creative Activities. "Looking for Friends" was the theme of works combining drawing and text.

We would like to thank the Kharkiv City Council International Department for their help in making these exchanges possible. We are looking forward to more cultural exchange programs and would appreciate your input and suggestions. Contact Guennadi Maslov by e-mail at jgmaslov@earthlink.net.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Our Community Connections program, directed by Marilyn Braun and supported by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, hosted six groups of interns in the past year. They spent time at Cincinnati-area businesses exchanging ideas from management technique to marketing. We are grateful to the hundreds of businesses who participated and to the many host families without whom this program would be impossible to implement.

HOTEL AND RESTURANT PROGRAM

Ten hotel and restaurant professionals from Kharkiv visited Cincinnati from September 22 to October 13, 1999. During this time, they became familiar with our hospitality industry. Their program began with an overview of the hotel/restaurant business in Cincinnati. They met with people knowledgeable about finance, marketing, public relations, health issues, and strategic planning.



Olena Stronova, Yana Soldatenko (partially blocked), Oleg Peregon, Nataliya Holovanova and Volodymyr Kravchenko participated in the Community Connections #13 Print Journalism program which included meetings the offices of Cincinnati's community Press.

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

From February 16-March 8, 2000, educational administrators of universities and other institutions of higher learning in Kharkiv visited the area. This was the first time the Community Connections program hosted educational administrators. Virtually every institution of higher learning in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky participated in the event, sharing their resources and expertise with the Kharkiv group. In the first week areas of common interest for the group were covered, including curriculum reform, governance, finance, student and faculty recruitment and retention, partnerships, alumni associations and technology. During the second and third weeks, the educators were placed in Greater Cincinnati's colleges and universities to pursue individual interests.

OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN BUSINESS

The ten business people who participated in the June 14-July 13, 2000 Community Connections program got an overview of American business followed by internships corresponding to their own professional areas of interest. Visits for the group included a bank, the Federal Reserve, a brokerage house, the Chamber of Commerce, advertising/PR firms, a discussion with a CPA about American accounting standards and a trip to the Georgetown Toyota plant. The group also spent a day in marketing and sales training with P&G and took part in numerous social, cultural and sporting activities.



Community Connections #12 (City Services) participants Konstantyn Petrenko, Serhii Andreev and Mykola Shevchenko with host family member Irene Devine.



Dmytro Ternovoy takes a break from his activities as a participant in the Community Connections #13 Print Journalism program, which took place February 21 - March 14,

CITY SERVICES

From October 18-November 8, 2000, ten Kharkivites representing a variety of public services for their city visited Cincinnati. Their professional programming included a trip to the coal-fired Zimmer power plant, a day at the Rumpke sanitary landfill, a visit to the composting site and a trip the city's recycling center. There were tours of public and private housing, and one day was devoted to the Metropolitan Sewer District's wastewater removal and treatment program that serves over 800,000 people. The group learned about billing procedures, meters, pipe and valve repairs, elevator repair, public-private cooperation and a host of other issues that have to do with the delivery of these public services.



City Services Group at the Rumpke Recycling Center during Community Connections #12.

JOURNALISM

The journalists from Kharkiv who visited Cincinnati February 21-March 14, 2001 had a variety of interesting experiences. In addition to spending a day at City Hall where they learned about local government structure, politics and the reporters who cover that beat, they attended a City Council meeting. As the week progressed the visited a variety of area media, listened to a panel discussion of public relations versus the media, and took part in a roundtable discussion on First Amendment rights with a local attorney, a professor of Constitutional Law and a TV news anchor. The second week the group visited Cincinnati's African-American newspaper, the Herald, attended a journalism class at the University of Cincinnati and met numerous reporters. The group also took a weekend trip to Washington, DC for a closer look at how government-supported and non-profit o institutions work with a free press. The weekend included a visit to the Newseum. During the final week the group split up for individual programs catered to each person's special interests.



Interpreter Aleksandr Rebriy and CKSCP volunteer Bill Rigs celebrate another successful Community Connections #13 program at a party held in February.

BUSINESS

Our latest group of business people visited Cincinnati May 2-30 this year, serving internships in companies similar to the ones where they work in Kharkiv. The program began with an overview of American business, including a day at Procter & Gamble where they participated in a marketing and sales game. They also visited a bank, the Federal Reserve, a public relations/marketing/advertising firm and met with a CPA who discussed American accounting procedures.



Community Connections #11 Business Program participants (from left to right) Rabbi Robert Reiner and Sue Reine, host family, Oleksandr Rapoport, participant, and Jerry Fink, bridge player and cultural host.

SHARING RESOURCES, SHARING EXPERTISE

