

CINCINNATI • KHARKIV GAZETTE

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PARTING THOUGHTS

By Judith S. Bogart

CKSCP President 1999-2002

As I leave the position of president of CKSCP, I have lots of memories to share, and many thanks to give to numerous people.



Judith Bogart (center) is flanked by Tricia and Anatoli Vokok at the opening of the Ohio-Kharkiv Sister State office in Kharkiv.

This has been a very short three years, during which time CKSCP has grown and prospered. The board grew, and continues to grow, with the addition of top-notch volunteers.

The number of host families for Community Connections (CC) and our other programs has increased so much that now there is a waiting list! Three years ago, Marilyn Braun began serious recruiting, and it paid off big time. The best part is that so many host families recruited their friends, and now have taken an even greater interest in CKSCP. Several will be serving on the board next year.

The highlights of my term in office have been four trips to Kharkiv, frequently accompanied by Helen Mess, without whose help I often couldn't have figured out what was going on! The last trip, this fall, was without Helen, but was a follow-up trip for the program to end micronutrient malnutrition in Ukraine. We had such a phenomenal success that our methods are now being copied by other Sister Cities in Ukraine. I'm happy to report that most of the table salt in Kharkiv now is iodized, and the

general population is aware of the need to use it. Our next steps will be toward fortifying flour with folic acid and iron. That program already promises to be a success.

Throughout the history of CKSCP, our volunteers have developed lasting and meaningful relationships with the people of Kharkiv. More than 1,000 Kharkivites have been to Cincinnati, and more keep coming. CC brings them, as has the Community Partnership program and other private and cultural programs. And as the Ukrainian economy improves, we're likely to see even more come – on their own.

In the next phase of my involvement with CKSCP, I will be trying to replace Marilyn as director of Community Connections, while she and John move into roles to develop follow-up programs for the CC alumni at the American Center. I will be assisted on the financial side of CC by Juanita Mills, and on the hosting side by Patsy Trubow Hollister. We all look forward to an exciting future for CC and its alumni.

My thanks to everyone for your loyalty and hard work on behalf of CKSCP. If I tried to mention everyone by name, I'd be sure to leave someone out, so I won't! Ed Marks, the incoming president, is inheriting both a terrific board and a terrific group of community volunteers.

But I can't bow out without offering my deepest gratitude to David Brokaw, who single-handedly runs the office and lends support to every program. I'm sure we couldn't do the job without him, and I thank him profusely.

Judith Bogart
President, 1999 - 2002



NOVEMBER 2002 IN KHARKIV

by Ed Marks, CKSCP President

My third visit to Kharkiv took place November 17-26, 2002, as a Community Connections 'follow-on' trip. Coincidentally, I traveled with Chuck Downton – recently retired from Procter & Gamble, and a long-time presenter for our business visitors – who was going to Kharkiv for the first time. Chuck presented business roundtable discussions for about half a dozen groups, and together we took part in a number of events.

The American Center is really starting to fulfill its promise. It was created by CKSCP, and dedicated on September 11, 2001 at almost the precise moment that the planes hit the World Trade Center in New York. The 22 Cincinnatians present at that dedication will never forget how CKSCP and the citizens of Kharkiv were promoting democracy in Ukraine at the same time terrorists were trying (but failing) to destroy it half a world away.

At the American Center Chuck and I conducted workshops and took part in a marvelous Thanksgiving dinner conducted by and for all the Peace Corps volunteers now serving in Ukraine – plus a few from western Russia. Also that week at the Center, 52 Kharkivites attended the regular Friday American Video Club (whose leader each week prepares a glossary of new terms and idioms the viewers will encounter). Peace Corps volunteer Emily Ronek began a History Club, in which she and one of the participants discuss an historic event from both the American and Soviet viewpoints. Each of these events gives Kharkivite participants a chance to practice their English, and talk about and with Americans.

In addition, the annual meeting of our counterpart organization – Kharkiv-Cincinnati Sister City Association – took part at the Center. I am pleased to report that Stanislav Grymblat (who visited Cincinnati as part of a group of educators two years ago) was elected president. He will, of course, work closely with Vyacheslav Zhylinkov, co-director with Helen Mess of the American Center.



Here are some of the other events that kept me busy from early morning to late each day of this whirlwind visit:

- Olexandr Novak of the Kharkiv City Law Office and I met to discuss the differences in his operation brought about by a change in the city's administration. We also discussed a possible exchange between his office and the Cincinnati City Solicitor's office.
- I held a workshop with some Kharkiv attorneys who are thirsting to learn about operating private law practices, a new phenomenon in Ukraine. We discussed law office management, partnership agreements, accounting, and client service.
- 15 journalists, who are deeply concerned about the realities of free speech in Ukraine, met with me. Despite the passage of several statutes that supposedly protect the rights of news people to freely cover political and social issues, journalists continue to lose their jobs (and, in a few instances, their lives) for reporting critically on their communities' leaders.
- About a dozen law students attended my seminar on legal ethics. They drank in the discussion like sponges, and asked no-holds-barred questions for over an hour.
- Chuck and I met in several settings with regard to economic development in the Kharkiv region. We began in the offices of the Kharkiv Oblast-Ohio State project talking with representatives of a number of organizations. The following day we had a free-ranging and candid conversation with Bill Pennoyar, who leads the USAID efforts in Ukraine and Moldova. Later in the week, we attended an all-day economic development symposium at the Polytechnic Institute. At each opportunity, we delivered the message that while economic development is not a primary part of the CKSCP mission, we will cooperate and assist in any way we can to bring investments to this part of the former Soviet Union.
- Slav Zhylinkov and I spent several hours working on the organizational structure and accounting for the American Center, and interviewing candidates for manager and secretary at the Center.
- I had the pleasure of again being with members of the Jewish community in Kharkiv, and toured the new Jewish Cultural Center. The Center is guided by Boris

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A GIFT OF GENERATIONS

Everyone who has participated in the Community Connections program comes away with stories to share. Some are humorous, others poignant, and still others eye-opening as participants have learned to appreciate and cherish one another for their similarities and their differences. These experiences have woven a rich tapestry of relationships for the citizens of both cities.

The exchange of gifts is part of that weaving as gifts have enabled participants to share cultural traditions and foster an increased appreciation for the crafts and history of each country.

It was a special gift presentation by a Community Connections visitor 2002 that has given the organization one of its most memorable stories. Nataliya Vartsabyuk presented the CKSCP, with an embroidered runner or towel, that had been made by Natalya's great-great grandmother, Maria Petrivna Strelets. Community Connections director Marilyn Braun accepted on behalf of the organization.

The runner was made by Maria in the early 1860s. Using homespun linen thread, the cloth was woven on a loom and then exquisitely cross-stitched with red, black, blue and yellow embroidery threads. The embroidery threads themselves were purchased at a traditional Ukrainian autumn harvest fair. In addition to its beautiful design, the runner is embroidered in the Cyrillic alphabet with words from an old Ukrainian folk song: "There is a well with cold

water out there in the field."

Used only at weddings as a wall hanging behind the newly wed couple, the runner was passed from generation to generation in the family and had been present at the weddings of both Nataliya and her mother. This cherished piece of cloth was kept with other special linens in a wooden chest. When Germany occupied Ukraine during World War II, the family had buried the chest and all of its contents to protect it from theft or destruction.

Maria died shortly before the 1917 revolution and the runner passed to her son, Lohvin, and then to his two daughters. Marian Lohvinovna Moroz, Nataliya's grandmother, is now deceased and the runner was in the possession of her 76-year-old sister, Tetyana Lohvinivna Holovka. Great-Aunt Tetyana has no children and when she heard that her great-niece had been chosen to come to America, she gave Nataliya the runner telling her it would be a fitting gift to thank Americans for Nataliya's trip of a lifetime.

The runner, which was presented at the final dinner of the Public Health Community Connections group by an understandably emotional Nataliya, has now been given to the Ukrainian Museum in Cleveland on "permanent loan." It will be available for use by Nataliya or any of her family, and by CKSCP, for special occasions. In the meantime, the museum is preserving this remarkable embroidery and has recorded its history to be shared with future generations.

November 2002 in Kharkiv (continued)

Kagan, a noted architect and artist, who visited Cincinnati several years ago. Kharkiv has some 60,000 Jews, compared to about 17,500 in Greater Cincinnati. Most of these families have had no association with their religion since the Soviet revolution of 1917. The rebirth of all religion in Kharkiv is fascinating, and it was wonderful to see the smiles engendered by our gift of books, pamphlets and Chanukah candles.

Of course, the reunions with our old friends were heartwarming. In addition to a get-together at the American Center, I had breakfast with Galina and Kosta Nazarova; dinner and the Opera with Lucy Smirnova, Sergei Yaremenko and Gennadi Yakin; and breakfast with Sasha and Inna Rebriy. Larisa Yevtushenko, Victor Rud and I met at City Hall. All of them send best wishes to their friends in Cincinnati.

And so I am pleased to report on my third trip to a city that continues to dig itself out of three quarters of a century of darkness. Kharkiv's face is changing. It has found its

makeup in the bottom of its purse. The marvelous old buildings are being cleaned, repaired and painted. Slowly, its public places are showing the pride of its people, who clearly enjoy their parks. True, Kharkiv continues to suffer from a slow political recovery, and from the economic drain of a national government that perhaps consumes too many tax dollars in Kiev.

But the faces of the people bear smiles; they walk with a steady step, and show a resolve that was not there just three years ago.

You, the people who have supported the CKSCP's programs in one form or another, can take some of the credit for this. Kharkivites returning from their Cincinnati experiences bring with them what they have learned about the freedom to accomplish their dreams. They tell us this in words, as well as the warmth of their welcoming smiles, and in what they accomplish when they get home. They send a message of thanks.

CKSCP SEEKS ADDITIONAL PRIVATE SUPPORT

Where were you between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11, 2001?

Chances are you were learning that America was under siege by an unknown enemy that was flying airliners into buildings on the east coast.

Twenty-two of us, all of whom had served as host families to Ukrainian interns through the Cincinnati Kharkiv Sister City Project's Community Connections Program, were, during that precise half-hour (4:00 – 4:30 p.m., Kharkiv time), participating in ceremonies to dedicate the American Center in Kharkiv, Ukraine, an event celebrated by the American Embassy to Ukraine, by Kharkiv city officials, and by hundreds of Kharkivites who have been positively impacted by the activities and programs of the CKSCP.

Think about this for a minute. While international terrorists were making a horrific attack on democracy, the CKSCP was making a small but extremely positive statement in favor of democracy in a country that, eleven years before had been part of the U.S.S.R.

Ultimate freedom, democracy, positive foreign relations, and productive international economic development are not going to happen in big, high-profile moments. They will happen over time by a series of small, positive programs and projects including those of the CKSCP. And that is why CKSCP deserves your support.

While the **Community Connections Program**, which has brought in three groups of ten Kharkiv professionals to greater Cincinnati for three or four week internships for several years, is CKSCP's highest profile program, we do much more . . .

Community Partnerships (CPP) is a project to link U.S. and Ukrainian communities in mutually beneficial partnerships to establish education and training programs for local governments in Ukraine.

Domestic Violence Prevention Training Program (DVP) addressed the importance and urgency of the issue of domestic violence in NIS communities through a multi-

faceted sister city approach, resulting in two battered women's shelters in Kharkiv.

Early Intervention Program (EI) with knowledge gained from Cincinnati organizations during a two-week program for Kharkiv physicians hosted by CKSCP and Jennifer Loggie, MD (a former CKSCP board member), doctors in Kharkiv have improved the early intervention facility they have founded in Kharkiv.

Program Against Micro-nutrient Malnutrition (PAMM) a CKSCP/Emory

University pilot project in Kharkiv whose goal is to eliminate throughout Ukraine micronutrient malnutrition through public education and the simple and inexpensive process of fortification of flour and salt.

The American Center in Kharkiv is a facility in the city, conceived and established by CKSCP, which contains classroom space, meeting rooms, computer area and offices. It is a place of information exchange and training where Kharkivites and Americans work together to deal with entrepreneurship, democracy and civil society through formal and informal programs and activities.

"Under Fire: Soviet Women Combat Veterans of World War II" a project conceived and directed by Noel Julnes-Dehner, supported by CKSCP, the Ohio Humanities Council and the Cincinnati Psychoanalytic Institute, has produced a traveling public exhibit featuring the narrative, photographs, poems, journals and other memorabilia by 27 women combat veterans from Kharkiv.

All of these projects are made possible by some federal funding, by corporate and private foundations and by individuals who simply believe, like we do, that democracy and freedom grow one step at a time. And, our steps are making a difference.

We will lose some federal funding in this current fiscal year because only two groups of Kharkivites, instead of

Ultimate freedom, democracy, positive foreign relations, and productive international economic development are not going to happen in big, high-profile moments. They will happen over time by a series of small, positive programs and projects, including those of the CKSCP. And that is why CKSCP deserves your support.

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Support (continued)

three, will participate in the Community Connections Program. The consequences of that reduction by the Department of State means that we will not have enough funding to operate this year without either a cutback in our programming *or* an influx of new funding through individual, corporate or foundation support. We all agree that seeking new sources of private funding is the better alternative and a new committee is underway to develop a plan.

In the meantime, more than ever, we need your support. If you believe that what we are doing has value and, in little steps, makes for a stronger America and a stronger Ukraine, please respond to this appeal as generously as you possibly can!

Yes! I want to help keep these vital programs active between the people of Kharkiv and Cincinnati and wish to make a tax deductible contribution.

\$50

\$100

\$250

\$1,000

Other amount: _____

Name _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Checks should be made out to "Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project" and mailed to: CKSCP, Carew Tower, Suite 4620, 441 Vine Street, Cincinnati OH 45202.

NEW EFFORTS TO HELP CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

by Becky Taylor, RN, MSN

One of the joys of CKSCP activities is seeing visitors take home information and put it to work in Kharkiv. This past fall, two Cincinnati health care professionals visited there as a follow-up to a 2001 visit by health care providers from Kharkiv to Cincinnati. A report follows on the experiences of pediatrician Susan Wiley, MD, and pediatric nurse practitioner Becky Taylor, RN, MSN

In 2001 Anna Kukuza, Nataliya Mikhanovskaya, and Yuriy Sorokolate visited Cincinnati in an individual-sponsored program. The three spent two intense weeks learning how various developmental disabilities were being dealt with here. Anna and Nataliya were in the process of starting an Early Intervention (EI) Center in Kharkiv, but needed guidance on organization and programming. What they saw in the Division of Developmental Disabilities at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, where Susan Wiley, MD, and I work, inspired them.

Ukraine historically has not had advocates for children with developmental disabilities. In fact, the Ukrainian medical community has traditionally advised parents with a disabled child to give the youngster to an orphanage and get on with their lives, essentially forgetting the child.

These women are striving to change that by showing how early intervention efforts can help a child achieve a higher quality of life and give the parents the satisfaction of

helping in a meaningful way. Since the Center began its work, it has provided consultation and intervention assistance to about 1,000 families. What a privilege it was for us to work with these pioneers!

Anna and Nataliya received new grant money to implement training for Kharkiv professionals. They asked us to provide educational programs and consultation with their medical community and early intervention professionals.

In Kharkiv Dr. Wiley and I made a presentation to medical providers and others who would be potential referral sources for them. "The Effectiveness of Early Intervention in the US," looked at early brain development, the philosophy and research supporting early intervention, indicators for referral of young children and legislation. There was lively discussion about the correlation of US experiences and the Ukrainian system which brought to the forefront the efforts and successes of the Kharkiv EI Center. We also provided four days of interactive learning sessions on cerebral palsy, autism, sensory integration, communication, mental retardation, goal setting and team building.

By the end of the week, we were already planning a collaborative training effort for the future. The knowledge and enthusiasm of the EI Center's leaders are a great foundation for inclusion in training more professionals in early intervention techniques.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS,

Since the fall of 2001, our Community Connections program has hosted four more groups of "interns" visiting from Kharkiv. The program, which has been directed by CKSCP Trustee Marilyn Braun and supported by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is a highly successful one, providing quality opportunities for the meaningful exchange of business ideas and professional philosophies. The four groups reported on below spent time at Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky businesses learning about issues over a wide range of subjects. As always, we are deeply grateful to the hundreds of businesses and professional people who participated, as well as to our host families and drivers. Without this group of dedicated volunteers, the Community Connections Program would be impossible to implement.

CC#15 — Arts Management; October 24-November 14, 2001

The diversity of organizations represented by this group was indicative of the Ukrainian love for and appreciation of the arts in its diverse forms. The visitors from Kharkiv include directors of theatrical labs, a youth theatre, a historical museum, a dance studio, art museums, art and music library, cultural centers in outlying areas and even an organization that promotes and preserves traditional crafts such as weaving, embroidery, pysanky (decorative eggs) and woodworking.



Arts Administration intern Stepan Pasichynk trips the light fantastic with one of the puppets at a local puppet theatre. Stepan is the director of the Kharkiv Theatre Lab.

While in Cincinnati, the group toured various museums, meeting with directors and staffs for discussions on management and

funding issues. They observed dance classes, and attended several music and theatrical performances, including a Shakespeare Festival. They also made a trip to Shakertown, Kentucky, to learn how an historic village is funded and operated. Director Marilyn Braun chuckled as she remembered "This group went through my cultural budget – and then some! They had more energy than any group we have had."

Although all of the activities that were conducted were well received, one particularly popular visit for the business ideas they obtained was to the Contemporary Institute of Fine Arts. The visiting Ukrainians enthusiastically listened to Mary McCullough Hudson and Heather Hallenberg's ideas for both funding and promoting the arts.

CC #15 - Arts Management; Oct. 24-Nov. 14, 2001

<i>Lyubomyr Dyakiv</i>	<i>Tamara Oshalik</i>	<i>Margaryta Yurchenko</i>
<i>Olga Fesenko</i>	<i>Stepan Pasichnyk</i>	<i>Anatoliy Yankovskiy</i>
<i>Inna Mishchenko</i>	<i>Larysa Potimkova</i>	<i>Iryna Avvakumova</i>
	<i>Olena Sverzhyna</i>	

CC #16 – Public Health: Substance Abuse Program; February 13-March 6, 2002

Ukraine unfortunately suffers from the same problems of substance abuse as other countries around the world. Because of their concerns about this escalating problem and the ripple effect of difficulties it causes, 10 physicians and social workers from Kharkiv came to Cincinnati for three intensive weeks of meetings and visitations to clinics and other facilities dealing with the ravages of substance abuse.

Ann Perrin of the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, and Evelyn Hess, MD of the University of Cincinnati Medical College (and a member of the CKSCP Board of Trustees), developed an outstanding program specific to the needs of the visiting Kharkivites who are dealing with these issues in their city.

On most days, the program began with a morning panel discussion followed by an afternoon site visit. The program included an overview of substance abuse in the U.S., prevention efforts underway, the success of early intervention efforts,



(Left to right) Betty Avril, Marilyn Braun, Polina Tymoshenko and Judith Bogart at the final dinner before the Public Health delegation returned to Kharkiv.

outpatient treatment programs and facilities, detoxification programs, residential services, programs dealing with HIV/AIDS, and programs dealing with the homeless. Participants met with a multitude of psychologists, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, counselors, social workers, directors of different programs and patients who were then in different programs.

Also of interest to the group was the emphasis on training children and youth to resist substance abuse. Towards this end, the Kharkivites visited a local high school to learn about prevention and early intervention efforts being done with teenagers.

CC #16 - Public Health: Substance Abuses

February 13-March 6, 2002

<i>Zlata Gorshkova</i>	<i>Igor Rushchenko</i>	<i>Polina Tymoshenko</i>
<i>Nataliya Kashyrina</i>	<i>Valeriy Shalashov</i>	<i>Nataliya Vartsabyuk</i>
<i>Valeriy Kuzminov</i>	<i>Oleksandr Shevchenko</i>	<i>Yuliya Yurikova</i>
	<i>Yuliya Svezhentseva</i>	

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

CC #17 - Business Program; May 8 – June 5, 2002

CC#17 – Business; May 8 – June 5, 2002

<i>Denis Sitenko</i>	<i>Volodymyr Fisyura</i>	<i>Oleksandr Vladymyrov</i>
<i>Olena Svitaylo</i>	<i>Dmytro Korovichev</i>	<i>Dmytro Zubarenko</i>
<i>Iryna Aleksanyan</i>	<i>Sergiy Posashkov</i>	<i>Tymofiy Zusmanovych</i>
	<i>Olga Revina</i>	

The Business Program group that arrived in Cincinnati on May 8, 2002, is indicative of how things are changing in Ukraine. The visitors, who arrived equipped with credit cards, cell phones, Palm Pilots and a high level of knowledge about computers, had far more savvy...and electronic gear...than any of our previous visitors.

Although all CC Business Program participants must speak English, the English skills of this particular group were higher than usual, thanks to eight English lessons taught in Kharkiv by the U.S. Department of State.

The participants' special interests were American methods for accounting, banking, insurance, the stock market, marketing, public relations and human resources. As it has done before, the CKSCP program first provided a basic overview of American businesses, followed by internships in each person's special field of interest. Sixty-two area businesses gave time and attention to the program. The group was also able to spend a fun-filled day

at King's Island, where the various rides made memories sure to invoke laughter in all of them for years to come.

If a CC group was to be awarded "best sense of fun", this might be the group to win the prize. At the final "graduation dinner" the ten Kharkivites presented their new American friends with caricatures of themselves that had been drawn in Kharkiv before they left home. The pictures are now in the CKSCP office. They also entertained that evening by serenading the crowd with their own hilarious lyrics for the song "Don't Worry, Be Happy," written to capture the highlights of their four-week visit in the Greater Cincinnati area.



Business intern Iryna Aleksanyan gets a demonstration from Lucy Vinci, manager of the Hyde Park Coldwater Creek store on merchandise display. Iryna owns an upscale dress shop, "Style," in Kharkiv.

CC #18 – Radio/Television Journalists; October 30-November 20, 2002

Eight television and two radio journalists took part in this high-energy program. And as might be expected of a group where most of the participants spend time being filmed, one of the standout memories is how especially good looking they all were!

Election Day was early in the visit and the visitors went to various polling places to watch their hosts cast ballots. Later in the day, at the Board of Elections in Cincinnati they observed returns being tallied through a glass window and various candidates being interviewed by American journalists. "They liked the transparency of our election process. It is different in Ukraine," said Marilyn Braun.



Tetyana Gergel at Voice of America offices in Washington, D.C.

A highlight of their visit was four days in Washington, D.C. Among the things which impressed them was that museums, the zoo, aquarium, etc. are not "silent displays", but rather interactive and educational, and geared toward child development. The visit to the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty headquarters was especially fascinating to the Ukrainians. They remembered the years when these

CC #18 - Broadcast Journalists; October 30-November 20, 2002

<i>Nataliya Drozd</i>	<i>Olesya Kulyk</i>	<i>Natalia Slusar</i>
<i>Tetyana Gergel</i>	<i>Inga Lobanova</i>	<i>Elena Stebeliak</i>
<i>Oleksandr Kukharengo</i>	<i>Victoriya Marenych</i>	<i>Larysa Zadorozhna</i>
	<i>Elena Rajgorodetskaya</i>	

Many of the broadcast journalists that arrived from Kharkiv on October 30 showed up at their first meeting on Halloween morning wearing masks and hats! While



Halloween is not a Ukrainian tradition, they've learned about our holiday from earlier visitors. Also in costume are some of the CSSCP volunteers and interpreters.

programs could only be listed to at night when the channels were not being jammed by the Soviet government.

Back in Cincinnati, a two-day behind-the-camera stint at Channel 9 was a popular event. They were allowed into all working areas of the station and encouraged to talk to whomever they wished. It was a thrilling opportunity and they made the most of it.

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Judith S. Bogart

Project Administrator: David Brokaw

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‘UNDER FIRE’ GOES TO TV

CKSCP’s traveling photo-journal display “Under Fire” is expanding into a TV documentary for Cincinnati’s PBS station, WCET/Channel 48.

“Under Fire” recounts the personal stories of women veterans who served at the front in the Soviet Union’s World War II armed forces. The women were interviewed on topics such as why they had volunteered, combat experiences and their post-war and post-Soviet lives.

Producer Noel Julnes-Dehner first traveled to Kharkiv in 1990 as a member of a CKSCP’s delegation. Seven years later, she returned with Dr. Joanne Lindy of the Cincinnati Psychoanalytic Institute and they interviewed 27 women veterans. Financed by an Ohio Humanities Council grant, they turned their photos and stories into a traveling photo-journal display. The following year the National Endowment for the

Humanities’ magazine cited the display as one of the nation’s most interesting projects of that nature.

In 1999, Noel returned to Kharkiv with Char McEwen. They worked with Larisa Yevtushenko, the Kharkiv International Department and a Kharkiv videographer to videotape the interviews, producing a short pilot piece. Mosfilm director Sergei Linkov, who had recently moved to Cincinnati from Moscow, signed on to expand the project into a full-length documentary.

In 2002, Noel and Sergei taped additional interviews in Kharkiv and collected archival photos and film. Alexander Etlin, a member of the CKSCP Board of Trustees, translated the interviews. Noel is currently seeking additional funding to complete the film’s editing.

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