

CINCINNATI

KHARKIV

U O P K I B

# GAZETA

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**WINTER 2003-2004**  
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## **REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

*by Ed Marks, CKSCP President*

What an exciting time this is! And CKSCP is as exciting and excited a group as there is! But the crux of my message is that your financial support is more critical this year than ever.

Over the past months, the hard work of all CKSCP's volunteers over the past few years suddenly is coming to fruition in a big way. The little organization you have supported with your efforts, your contacts and your dollars has drawn attention from the diplomatic corps, from civic officials, and – most important – from our friends in Kharkiv as never before. Let me join the other contributors to this issue of *Gazeta* to discuss a few of these successes – and the not-always helpful results they have wrought.

One of CKSCP's primary sources of income has been from our participation in three Community Connections programs each year. Ten residents of Kharkiv in their chosen fields – journalism, education, restaurant-hotel management, medicine, law and business, for example – have come to Cincinnati for three-week and four-week visits here. Hundreds of Kharkivites have made the trip, and most of them tell us that their experiences have altered their lives for the better.

The U. S. State Department, which underwrites Community Connections, has commended CKSCP for operating some of the most successful of these programs anywhere, but it finds that the pool of candidates in Kharkiv is drying up, and therefore the time has come to move

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Stanislav Grymblat, KCSCA President; Helen Mess and Vyacheslav Zhilinkov, Co-Directors of The American Center; and Ed Marks, CKSCP President, in Kharkiv.

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## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

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to other communities. While we were successful in securing C/C groups from two communities other than Kharkiv in the coming year, that's a one-third reduction in the number of interns coming to town through us, and that will have a significant financial impact on CKSCP.

Therefore, financial contributions from our members this year will be more important than ever.

Early in June, Cincinnati commercial real estate expert Jay DeWitt took a side trip to Kharkiv while in the FSU, and was met with enthusiastic interest in two separate presentations he made there on real estate investment – an infant industry in Ukraine. Jay continues to work with two different educational institutions there, and if our plans come to fruition he will begin to teach a college-level course via video conference, with the class meeting at CKSCP's American Center. How's THAT for exciting!



Chief Prosecutor Yevgen Shevchenko with Hamilton County Prosecutor, Mike Allen at a picnic this summer when a group of Kharkiv Prosecutors came to Cincinnati for a week.

***“...financial contributions from our members this year will be more important than ever.”***

In June Helen Mess, Judith Bogart and I traveled to Kharkiv (via Kyiv), where we successfully enlisted several bakeries to enrich the most popular breads with vitamins and minerals. The U. S. Centers for Disease Control (which sponsors the program under which we were there) asked CKSCP to work on this pilot program for the entire country, and we are hopeful that improved health in Kharkiv will prove its value, with no negative effect on that city's marvelous breads.

In Kyiv, we were met at the U.S. Embassy with amazing warmth. We discussed the most recent successes at The American Center, and finally secured not only interest and commendations from Embassy staff members, but also a commitment to provide limited funding for activities there. We also learned of *Windows on the World*, a program which places research books, tapes and other information into libraries across Eastern Europe. We are hopeful that The American Center will be the first non-library location for *Windows*, adding yet another dimension to the amazing activities there.

In July, CKSCP assisted the Hamilton County Prosecutor's office, which hosted a week-long visit from the Chief Prosecutor of Kharkiv and a number of his colleagues. It was an important educational experience for both sides, and preliminary plans are being discussed for a visit by our prosecuting attorneys to Ukraine.

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## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

(continued from page 2)

Joining the prosecutors was Vice Mayor Alexandr Nechyporenko, part of the ‘new breed’ of political leaders in Kharkiv, whom several of us had met when we were in his city in June. I was honored with the chance to spend a day with him wandering through Kentucky, showing him some of the sites about which he had read as he studied our early history. It’s always a delight to explain American history first-hand, but perhaps one of the most important parts of the CKSCP experience is letting our friends experience our system first-hand. Picture the two of us – me at 5’9”, Sasha at 6’3” – wandering through an antique mall, and helping the owner by translating a Russian inscription on an aged presentation sword . . . walking down the main street of Danville, Kentucky, with Americans saying hello to us both as though we were old friends – we call it Southern Hospitality, but Kharkivites aren’t really familiar with that kind of cordiality among strangers. We stopped for a cup of coffee; the waitress was immediately interested in his accent, and then in his family.

And as we walked back to the car, he said to me: “I think I am beginning to understand what freedom really means.”

That’s a message we hear from many of our visitors. Home-stays are extraordinary in allowing them to *live* the freedom we take for

***“And as we walked back to the car, he said to me: ‘I think I am beginning to understand what freedom really means.’”***



Dr. Olena Trush and Judith Bogart, shortly after they successfully persuaded several major bakeries in Kharkiv to participate in a pilot program.

granted. Walking in our parks, shopping in our groceries, picnicking with our neighbors, celebrating with our families – these are the things that make a difference in the world. This is how each of you has helped *show* our Kharkiv partners what freedom really means.

They take it back with them, they teach it to *their* families.

So as you read the other articles in this issue, please know how grateful we – and our Kharkiv families – are for everything you do.

And when you find the contribution envelope we’ve enclosed with this packet, please fill it with whatever you are able to send. This year, your dollars are more important than ever; it’s only with those dollars that we can continue to teach them first-hand what freedom means.

## KHARKIV OFFICIAL DELEGATION VISITS CITY

Mayor Volodymyr Shumilkin led a 21-person delegation visiting Cincinnati. Among the delegates were members of the Kharkiv City Council, other government officials, leaders of nongovernmental organizations, business

representatives, and the folk music trio, Kupava. Highlighting the visit was a ceremony at the new Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park, at which Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Luken and Mayor Shumilkin signed an agreement to continue the sister city relationship. The agreement updated the original Cincinnati-Kharkiv agreement, signed in 1989 when Kharkiv was part of the former Soviet Union.

The delegation experienced Cincinnati elections and attended a City Council meeting at which a mayoral proclamation designated November 3<sup>rd</sup> as Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project Day. Various delegation members visited



Mayors Volodymir Shumilkin and Charlie Luken sign the new agreement renewing our sister city relationship, at the new Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park on the banks of the Ohio River.

colleagues and sites of professional interest, and Kupava performed before several audiences. Thanks go to all members of the planning committee, members of the CKSCP board and the hundreds of other Greater Cincinnatians who participated in Mayor Shumilkin's first official visit to Cincinnati.

During 12 of the 14 years of the Cincinnati-Kharkiv sister city relationship, Ukraine has been making an historic transition from a Soviet/communist republic to a democratic, independent nation. Cincinnatians have played an important role in this transition by working closely with people in Kharkiv in dozens of areas, such as education, religion, business, culture, etc. Some 3,000 people have traveled between the two cities on sister city related visits, and many have participated in sister city activities in their home cities.

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## KUPAVA PRESENTS BANDURA CONCERTS

Kupava, a folk music trio, gave several concerts while its members were in Greater Cincinnati in connection with the "official" Kharkiv delegation visit. Sharing the beautiful and deeply evocative music of traditional Ukrainian culture, Kupava moved its audiences with skillful and heartfelt performances of songs ranging from the ancient to the more contemporary. Their banduras,



60-stringed lute-like instruments, provided a rich accompaniment for the group's voices.

After one of the performances at which they received a standing ovation, the performers said they could "tell by the look on their faces what the music meant" to their audience. Whenever they performed, it was an evening of cultural exchanges, and friendship.

## CLAY, COLOR AND FIRE

Clay, Color and Fire: an International Mosaic Collaboration (CCF) was a project made possible by the collaboration of the Cincinnati



Vladimir Shapovalov working with some of the tiles that now decorate columns at the International Friendship Park along the Ohio River.

Park Board, the School of Art at the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning (DAAP), and the Sister Cities Association

of Greater Cincinnati (SCA). Inspired by a public art project in Chicago, Jan Brown Checco developed the idea, raised the funds to pay for it, and sparked the collaboration of Cincinnati's Park Board, UC's DAAP, and SCA. The project brought together seven international ceramicists from Cincinnati's seven sister cities for a summer of making tiles. Many people, such as Workshop Manager Kirk Mayhew, a dedicated group of assistants/apprentices, host families, and numerous other volunteers assisted Jan in this endeavor. CCF included not only the design and molding of thousands of ceramic tiles, but also

the sharing of artistic techniques and ceramic history between people and cultures.

In November 2003, Jan was awarded the prestigious Post-Corbett Award for masterminding CCF.

Volodymyr Shapovalov was one of seven ceramic artists from Cincinnati's seven sister cities to come to Cincinnati to take part in CCF. Originally from Russia, and after receiving a degree in mathematics, Volodymyr has found a home in Kharkiv, Ukraine. He is currently teaching ceramics at the Kharkiv National Design and Art Academy. Since 1989, Volodymyr has been member of the Union of Painters of Ukraine, and he has held individual exhibitions in Lviv [Ukraine], Kharkiv, and Novosibirsk [Russia].

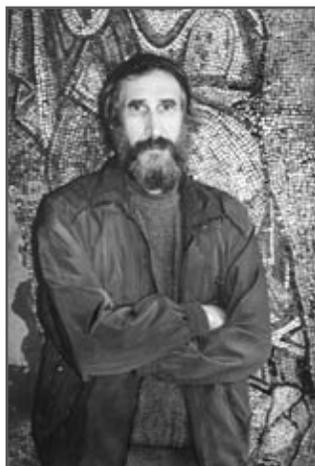
The beautiful art can be viewed at the Friendship Pavilion at the Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park on the banks of the Ohio River.



Vladimir Shapovalov with Anita Marks, Ed Marks, Lilly Narusevich and Dal'vik Khaykin.

## CLAY, COLOR AND FIRE (JUNE 27-AUGUST 3, 2003)

Volodymyr Shapovalov  
Ceramicist  
Kharkiv, Ukraine



- Received a degree in Mathematics from Novosibirsk [Russia] National University
- Currently teaches ceramics at the Kharkiv National Design and Art Academy
- A member of the Union of Painters of Ukraine since 1989
- In 1989, took part in an exhibition of applied art of the USSR in Dayton, OH
- Has held personal exhibitions in Lviv [Ukraine], Kharkiv, and Novosibirsk
- In 2002, won the prize for original technology at the Symposium of Ceramics in Slovyansk, Ukraine

## UKRAINE TRIP

by: Evelyn V. Hess, MD, MACP, MACR

I have been a Member of the Cincinnati Kharkiv Sister Cities organization for about the last eight years and have chaired its Medical Council for the last six years. During that time, I began to understand and certainly to know a great deal about Ukraine and in particular, Kharkiv. I watched with envy as many of our members paid visits to Kharkiv. Unfortunately, with my somewhat busy and erratic schedule, it was difficult to arrange a visit. However, I had the opportunity to meet and spend some time with Dr. Mykola Klymenko, the Dean of the largest medical university in Kharkiv while he was on sabbatical here in our medical school. Then, I knew that I would love the opportunity to visit his city and study their health care system.

Accordingly, in September 2003, the opportunity came with the great help of CKSCP. I arrived safely in Kharkiv on Sunday (9/14/03) courtesy of Delta and Austrian Airlines. I was surprised how small the airport was but was overwhelmed by the wonderful welcome from Dr. Klymenko and the members of the Sister Cities program and the American Center. I was quickly taken to my hotel, checked in and immediately taken to a youth AIDS program in Gorky Park. There were hundreds of young people, booths with information about HIV and AIDS, an excellent rock band; I was persuaded to go on stage and say

a few words, telling them that they must do all they can to avoid HIV and AIDS. Whether my counsel will have any success, personally I rather doubt it. After an excellent dinner, I sorted myself out in my very comfortable hotel room.

The next day, we visited with the Kharkiv Chief

Medical Officer and staff. We talked about tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, other infectious diseases and for the first time, I realized that many of the powerful medicines available in the United States are not available to the people of the Ukraine.

It was a beautiful day and Dr. Klymenko wanted me to have the opportunity to see a little of his city. We visited the wonderful and very moving War Memorial and I heard about the casualties and damage to the city during the 1941-45 war which has left a deep scar. I also heard about the ensuing problems with the communist regime and the major changes

that have occurred now that the Ukraine is an independent republic.

The next five days were very busy as I was taken to the various medical and scientific institutes in Kharkiv. These included the Cancer Institute, the Cryobiology Institute, the Public Health Institute, hospitals and the medical school of which Dr. Klymenko is the Dean. At this institution, he and I had a wonderful time addressing nearly 300 medical students.



World War II Memorial in Kharkiv.

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## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Through the USAID-sponsored (Agency for International Development) US-Ukraine Foundation Community Partnerships for Local Government Education and Training Project (CPP), Cincinnati and Kharkiv have exchanged knowledge and practices in a number of areas of local government activities. In September 2002, two representatives from the Cincinnati Water Works traveled to Kharkiv to work on



Debbie Metz, of the Cincinnati Water Works, and a Kharkiv water-supply professional celebrate a successful exchange on water treatment.

water treatment and billing operations for the water utility. In November 2003, the water treatment specialist from the 2002 group, Debbie Metz, returned to Ukraine to work with communities in the southern region of the country.

In addition to water treatment and billing, Cincinnati and Kharkiv have conducted CPP exchanges in the areas of parking and traffic management, municipal finance, and energy conservation in public facilities.



Water Treatment Plant in Kharkiv.

*(Dr. Hess's Ukraine Trip continued)*

A surprising number of the students do read and can speak English. I gave Dr. Klymenko a University of Cincinnati Medical School hat and scarf. Many of the students spoke with me afterwards about any chances they might have of coming to the United States.

I was very impressed on my visits to the various institutes; all of the faculty, physicians, scientists, are well informed, love their work and work long hours. Many of the buildings are old; in fact, some are really obsolete. There is a shortage of funds for buildings and equipment although I was very impressed with the nearly completed medical school facility. There is a national health system but of course like every country, those with very large incomes are able to get more expensive medical care and can go to the top of the queue, so-to-speak. The main problem for everyone is the non-availability of our newest and usually most expensive biologic treatments and antibiotics. I visited the major HIV/AIDS Clinic and most of our present powerful medications are not available. Because of this, the majority of the AIDS patients eventually die. There is also a major problem

with tuberculosis. Most of the major surgery subspecialties appear to be available and the various trauma units are of a high standard. Everywhere I went, I gave talks and lectures and I was extremely impressed by the high standard of the translation into Ukrainian. The main problem came with slides – projection of slides was not very good. Powerpoint is not yet in use.

On my last evening, we had a reception at the American Center and I spoke with a large group of university students, all of whom spoke excellent English. It was a stimulating exchange with these young people. I was impressed with the facility itself although it is rather dark and a little more help is needed to brighten it up. It is truly a powerful tool in fostering US-Ukrainian friendship and facilitating the exchange of people from our two countries.

I left on September 21st loaded with gifts of all kinds. I am sorry to say that the Ukrainian Customs would not allow me to take home a beautiful icon from my Kharkiv friends. Overall, it was a wonderful experience and I want to thank the Cincinnati Kharkiv Sister City Project for giving me this opportunity.

# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

## CC #19 – BUSINESS PROGRAM; MAY 14 – JUNE 11, 2003

Ten businesspeople from Cincinnati's sister city of Kharkiv, Ukraine, finished their Community Connections program on June 11<sup>th</sup>. They visited Tristate companies in their fields and also met with experts to discuss universal business principles such as ethics, law, accounting, and human resource management. Four of the Ukrainian businesspeople represent fields that are new in their country – supermarketing, personnel recruiting, investment and Internet advertising. The others work in construction, building materials sales, writing implements manufacture, security products, gasoline distribution, control systems for industry and the space program, and compressed air treatment equipment. Besides making advances in their own businesses, they need to assist development of a wide variety of business support systems such as a stock market and credit cards for consumer purchases.

A highlight of their visit was the May 17 dedication in Cincinnati of the new

International Friendship Park. The idea for the park emanated some time ago from the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project. The 20-acre park is meant to be a peaceful area celebrating friendship among the world's cultures.



A group of Kharkiv business people represented their city when Cincinnati's newest park – dedicated to international friendship – opened. Second from right is Ed Marks, president of the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project, which hosted the Kharkiv visitors.

### CC#19 – Business Program; May 14 - June 11, 2003

*Yuriy Deyneko*

*Oleksiy Omelechko*

*Nataliya Yakovlyeva*

*Petro Tarasov*

*Oleksandr Pshechenko*

*Andriy Kirt*

*Oleksandr Semikin*

*Gennadiy Zmiyevskiy*

*Volodymyr Zinchenko*

*Oleksandr Schyslyonok*

## OPEN WORLD PROGRAM

Fifty Ukrainian journalists will be in the United States December 7-17 as a part of an Agency for Educational Development program. Five will be in Cincinnati December 9-16. The purpose of their trip is for them to study how the media cover the political process. Ukraine, as well as the United States, will be choosing a new president in 2004. The participants are quite interested in how American media will handle this process.

Their program here will be modeled after a previous Community Connections journalist program in 2001. Members of the CKSCP board participating in this exchange are Owen Findsen and Frank Clark. Marilyn Braun and Betty Avril are designing the program.

## THE AMERICAN CENTER IN KHARKIV



Ed Marks, Helen Hess, and members of the Kharkiv-Cincinnati Sister City Association (KCSCA) and MAUP (Interregional Academy of Personnel Management)

There has been an explosion of activity at the American Center in Kharkiv. With the hiring of full-time staff, we have seen a great increase in events held there, as well as the numbers of Kharkivites who make use of its resources.

There are club meetings, seminars and group activities on a daily basis. Along with the history club, video club, and English club, which have been active for some time, we now have new groups forming. These include a youth leadership program, debate club, drama and dancing club, psychology courses and a youth group focusing on issues of sexual health. In addition, there is a language study group for teachers of English which focuses on methodology and practice. Other groups of alumni of U.S. programs such as Muskie and ACCELS meet regularly. In all,

around 500 Kharkivites use the center and participate in events each month. The numbers are still growing.

There are events for fun, too. In the summer, a jazz concert arranged by the American Center drew hundreds of enthusiastic fans. A Halloween party for all ages drew over 100 children. Prizes for best costume were awarded, and a great time was had by all. Last year's Thanksgiving banquet for Peace Corps volunteers from all over Ukraine was a great success, and another celebration therefore took place this year.

This Center, the first of its kind in the FSU, has exceeded all expectations, and is recognized by many as a real success story. It was started as a non-governmental, non-profit organization by the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project (CKSCP). Its purpose is to anchor the explosion of activities between the two cities, and to provide information and resources about and from the U.S. for Ukrainians as well as training in many different areas. The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine has endorsed this pioneer project, and helps with materials and resources. Other non-governmental organizations, such as the Kharkiv-Cincinnati Sister City Association, CKSCP's counterpart in Kharkiv, partner with the American Center in its activities. There seems to be no limit to where we can go from here!

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## CKSCP TAKES LEAD IN UKRAINE PROJECT

Early last summer, CKSCP representatives made their fourth trip to Kharkiv to work on micronutrient malnutrition in Ukraine. During the first three trips, a task force on iodine deficiency had been formed and the goal of 50 percent of the citizens of Kharkiv using iodized salt had been surpassed. The trip in 2003 was the first to focus solely on the subject of fortifying flour with iron and folic acid. The purpose of this trip was to gather information

about attitudes toward flour fortification among city leaders and bakers, and to find a major baker who would be willing to fortify flour on a trial basis. The team met with unqualified support and cooperation and is ready to make recommendations for next steps. Judith Bogart directs this project, which is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

# 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.*

Joyce W. Asfour

Betty C. and Werneth J. Avril

Elizabeth Belz

Barbara and Leonard H. Berenfield

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Deborah L. and Roger D. Billings, Jr.

Judith S. Bogart

Kenneth B. [Ken] Bordwell

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Ann A. and Jerome S. [Jerry] Lafferty

Beatrice C. Lampkin

Edward T. Lenihan



Judith Bogart, Helen Mess and Ed Marks at a picnic outside Kharkiv, along with some of the 35 Community Connections alumni who hosted them for the day.

Sandy and Robert R. Lowery  
Patricia and Boris Lushniak  
Marlene Penny Manes  
Anita S. and Edward G. Marks  
Julie and Guennadi Maslov  
Noelle Kennedy Masukawa and Teruo Masukawa  
Jenni McCauley and Siegfried E. [Sig] Sieber  
Helen C. and Thomas J. [Tom] Mess  
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Tyrone K. Yates  
Margaret C. Ziolkowski and Robert W. Thurston

**In Honor of**

Evelyn V. Hess Howett in honor of  
Marilyn Braun  
Megan E. and Kenneth D. [Ken] Milar in  
honor of their parents  
Alice M. and Burton Perlman in honor of  
Ed Marks  
Brian A. Westfall in honor of Sasha Etlin  
and Jan Sherbin

**In Memory of**

Lucinda C. Beckham in memory of  
Marvin G. Beckham, Sr.  
Anita S. and Edward G. Marks in memory  
of John Cranley, Jr.  
Anita S. and Edward G. Marks in memory  
of Dr. Ken Donnelly  
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of Marcia Weiland



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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 513-241-8833 or send in the coupon below.

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