



UKRAINIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TEXAS

UAST, 1520 Kelly Lane, Royse City, TX 75189

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June, 2005 Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 2-2005

President's Message

One of the items on the May 2005 UAST Board Meeting agenda was finalization of revisions to the UAST By-Laws. These By-Laws were initially drawn up at the time UAST was formed in the 1980's. Since that time, there have been both changes in the law governing non-profit corporations and changes in the way UAST conducts its business. The Board agreed that these changes should be reflected in UAST By-Laws.

In order to change the By-Laws, we must have 25% of the membership, either in person or by proxy, vote at the November Annual Meeting and two-thirds of these must vote in favor. I know that many members cannot attend for one reason or another. To facilitate this vote, we will be sending you copies of the By-Laws with the changes indicated by crossing out current language and inserting in bold the new language. We will also send you a proxy on which you can indicate if you approve of the revised By-Laws. This proxy will constitute your vote at the Annual Meeting with regard to the By-Laws. You should receive your copy at least 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

It is important that you return the proxy to UAST in the envelope that will be provided. We need your participation in this vote and your voice on the changes. Thanks in advance for facilitating this process.

Helaine Nelson

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Articles/information contributors to this March 2005 UAST newsletter are Helaine Nelson, Chuck Neubecker, Andrew Chobany and Viktor Baryshev.

UAST Events Calendar 2005

June 10,11,&12 – Texas Folklife Festival – see more below

August 21, 2005

Ukrainian Independence Day: this celebration will be right after church (approx. 11:00 to 11:30 a.m.) 5600 North Colony Blvd., The Colony, TX. See Dallas MAPSCO 554E

October

Date to be announced: State Fair Heritage Day with Texas Cultural Partnership.

November

Date to be announced: Annual Meeting of the Membership

January 2006

Jan. 7, 6 pm: Sviatia Vechera (Holy Supper)

Jan 14, 8:00 pm: Malanka, Ukrainian New Years Eve party (old calendar) at A. W. Harris Faculty Club, Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas.

Current Information available on Internet

Yahogroup allows a group to send out emails/notices/bulletins of interest to a particular group. It has guidelines to which everyone must adhere. One such group, "E-poshta" which has been in existence since 2001 is broaderbased, widespread and more structured.

E-Poshta provides a free, interesting, almost weekly posting, to you of an "Independent Internet Newsletter." It contains information in English on Ukrainian matters from Canada, USA, Britain and Ukraine. You will find well-written articles from many sources. It is easy to quit the list. At the very end of the e-Poshta email, you will find various contacts including starting and stopping the emails. To join the list send an email to:

myroslava_eposhta-canadaus-subscribe@yahoo.com

☆☆☆☆

Biggest Event for Zorya

(Reported by Andrew Chobany, Zorya Director)

Zorya's biggest event  will be this month as follows:

June 10th 9:30 pm, June 11th 1:00&5:00pm, June 12th noon

at the Folklife Festival located in downtown San Antonio on grounds of the Institute of Texan Cultures in Hemisphere Park.

For directions: phone – 210-458-2390 or

www.texasfolklifestival.org – click on star and then "Get Here".

This year will be the 30th year of our dancers' participation. It will also be the last consecutive year, as in subsequent years, we will be alternating years with the Houston Ukrainian dance group. The Zorya dancers have been preparing for the past three months. The New Braunfels Sokolyks have also been rehearsing and will be at the Festival with Zorya. DeeDee Allen and Mary Hunchik have been working on costume changes.

Contributions to UAST (specify costume on check) to cover the cost of this costume updating are requested. ☆☆☆☆

Ukraine Issues Continue to Need Support

By Helaine Nelson

The non-violent Ukrainian student demonstrations of last year as well as their supporters in the US and other countries show what can be done when pressure is placed in the right place in the right way. The Texas group that made their support known to President Bush in Crawford, TX is an example of effectively making a point.

With President Yushchenko in office, the potential for improved US-Ukrainian relations is very real. However, some of the most important and most effective steps toward that relationship need the support of the same people that rallied last fall. The voices that President Bush heard in Crawford and around the US now need to be heard in support of measures that will truly make a positive difference for Ukraine. The May 6 International Herald Tribune pointed out the following steps that Bush could take to better a relationship with Ukraine and support President Yushchenko, both of which are in the US's interest:

--Ask Congress to repeal the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which requires an annual review of most-favored nation trading status. Passed in 1974, the amendment limited trade with Communist-bloc nations because of their restrictions on emigration, and is still applied to Russia, Ukraine and the other states that replaced the Soviet Union.

--Coordinate with the European Union to grant Ukraine market-economy status, which Russia obtained three years ago. Market-economy status allows for trade in goods without quantitative restrictions. This is an important steppingstone to World Trade Organization membership.

--Support Ukraine's bid to enter the WTO, which would provide new markets for Ukrainian goods, increase the flow of foreign investment and encourage economic reforms.

--A medium-term objective would be to consider full NATO membership for Ukraine. Bush has said he supports the idea and he backed an offer of intensified dialogue on membership issues with Ukraine.

--As a long-term objective, the US can lobby large EU members (like Britain) to support Ukraine's membership in the EU.



Singing in the Rain..... by Helaine Nelson

If you didn't venture out to the Spring Picnic on May 28 simply because it was pouring rain all afternoon, you missed a great time. More than thirty hardy UAST members showed up in spite of the weather (I know the motivating force for some of us was "what will I do with 50 hamburgers, 4 packs of hot dogs and 20 brats?"). There were several first timers to this annual event as well as those who have been involved with UAST for more than twenty years.

The rain didn't daunt the children, some who even tried the pool in the 69 degree weather. But rain and kids go together—little ones splashed in puddles while older ones played a spontaneously created ball game and exercised the playground equipment. Several brave men carried on a bocce ball game until the downpour forced them under the picnic shelter.

Thanks need to go to Andrew Chobany, who champions the picnic each year when the UAST events calendar is being finalized. It is Andrew who organizes, sets up and most of all— keeps watch over the picnic shelter from early morning on picnic day so UAST will have the premium spot in the park.

There is something about the rain that makes food taste better and the conversation more intense. So although we hope for a clear day next May, remember—sunshine or no sunshine, the UAST Spring Picnic will take place. Grab your sunglasses, a dish to pass, and that umbrella just in case and join us.

Local Happenings:

Lyuda Chuba, a student of TCU in Fort Worth and a Zorya dance member has left for Washington for an internship and some college credit hours this summer. She will at some time work at the Ukrainian Embassy while in Washington.

Congratulations to Larissa Chobany who graduated from High School. She will be attending the University of North Texas this fall. Her aspirations include study in International Relations. She hopes to work at the Italian Embassy. Larissa and her family were in Rome and were present for Pope Paul II's last blessing in the square.

A Memo/Alert from our Membership Chairman, Andrew Chobany:

Please check the expiration date of your membership on your address label. If past due, make your check to UAST and mail to: UAST, 1520 Kelly Lane, Royse City, TX 75189 for renewal. If the date is not correct, please send a copy of the check or fax us and we will correct your records.

Miles Jesu Orphanage

Report by Chuck Neubecker

On May 8, 2005 I visited the Miles Jesu (Latin for “Soldier of Jesus”) orphanage for boys in Bortniky, a village about 1 ½ hours southeast of Lviv. It has been in operation for a few years. The orphanage visit was independent of the main purpose of this visit to Ukraine, which was to take part in the first International Management Seminar hosted by the Institute of Non-Profit Management of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

The orphanage visit was a very moving experience. There are 14 boys there at present and several adult staff members, who are Miles Jesu members. The boys range in age from 8 to 16 years old, but look younger than their ages since they were severely malnourished prior to entering the orphanage and in poor health. Most previously lived on the streets of Lviv, either alone or with a parent or other youths. It boggles the mind to think of anyone living on the streets anywhere – much less a very young child in a cold country. Some of the orphans have both parents dead, but others have one parent alive but unable or unwilling to care for them. So the boys have basically been “street children” and are now living in a domestic, caring environment for the first time in their young lives.

Their daily routine is to rise at 6:30am, have religious services, breakfast, then off to a public school only a short walk away. After school they return to the orphanage for meals, sports, and study hall. Lights out at 9:30pm. Some of the boys have difficulty adjusting to a scheduled existence after years of living on the streets so they run away from the orphanage. But most stay in the orphanage since for the first time in their lives they have personal security, regular meals, warm clothes, a roof over their heads, and are in a loving environment. The boys I saw seemed happy and reasonably adjusted despite suffering from traumatic early childhood. I was impressed by their behavior towards each other – they actually treated each other like brothers, even though only two were biological brothers. They help the staff in preparing and serving meals – one small stove for the whole group. They also have a garden and small farm for growing vegetables.

The present orphanage building is very small, poorly built, and crowded. Another larger sturdier building next door, that had been abandoned, is being substantially rebuilt and will be ready for occupancy later in 2005. The orphanage then will be able to increase the number of orphans to 50 provided they have enough staff members to care for the additional boys and the funding. Unfortunately due to present economic and societal problems in Ukraine, there will be no problem in finding the additional orphans.

Miles Jesu is a Catholic organization primarily of lay people with some clergy and has as its mission to help the poorest of the poor worldwide. In Ukraine they operate the boys orphanage, are starting a girl’s orphanage in Lviv (now have 4 girls), and run a soup kitchen in Lviv that feeds 300 people per day. They also donate a lot of cold weather clothes to the needy. They help persons of all faiths or no faith. More information on Miles Jesu and their Ukrainian activities can be obtained from the website www.milesjesu.com/missions/missions-boystown-bortniky.html or by calling 773-262-0861 or writing:

Miles Jesu
PO Box 267989
Chicago IL 60626-7989



Chuck Neubecker seated, with boys at Miles Jesu Orphanage.



Boys will be boys, even in Bortniky, 1-1/2 miles se of Lviv.
(Check out the two finger “horns” on the right side.)

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