



UKRAINIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TEXAS

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NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

December 2000

Letter from the President:

Dear Members:

The holiday season and the end of the year are already upon us. UAST has elected a new Board of Directors, and the two most important UAST sponsored events are just around the corner. Since this is our last newsletter for the year, I want to wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

Board of Directors Named

On Sat. Nov. 18th, UAST members met for their annual election membership meeting. The Board announced the establishment of the Dmetro Andrychuk Scholarship Award and the Young Adult Cultural Scholarship. The academic Dmetro Andrychuk Scholarship Award will be considered/awarded every year at Malanka to a deserving student starting with 2002 Malanka. This year's Young Adult Cultural Scholarship was awarded to Larissa Chobany for her participation at the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Camp in Lehighton, PA.

The gathered membership elected our Board of Directors for 2001: Cathy Teinert, Michael Andriaschko, Linda Fielder, Martha Fehrenbach, Andrew Pidgirsky, and Andrew Chobany. We welcome Martha Fehrenbach and Andrew Pidgirsky as two new members of the Board. Andrew Chobany and Cathy Teinert are sharing a single position on the Board, with Cathy serving from January through April and Andrew serving the remainder of her term from May, when she is expecting her baby to be born. This special arrangement was approved by the members present to accommodate the personal needs of these two members who wanted to serve on the board but could not fill the post for the entire year. The Board

members will meet on Dec. 2, before the Christmas Eve Dinner to elect the officers of UAST.

UAST treated the attending members to a fine selection of food. As promised, we had four types of kolbasi, halushky, sauerkraut, and black bread just like you remember back home in Ukraine. All five pounds of kolbasi were consumed, and the favorite was the Hunter kolbasi. It was a very pleasant evening full of conversation and camaraderie.

Some activities.

UAST has had a fairly busy schedule of activities for the year. We traveled to San Antonio to see the Scythian Gold exhibit, paid our tribute to Shevchenko, had a spring picnic with barbeque and games, celebrated our Ukrainian Independence with Honorary Consul General Gregory Buchai, had a booth at the International Festival and The State Fair, and held a pysanky workshop. Our final two events of the year are the Christmas Eve Dinner on Dec. 2 (see page insert for detail information), from 5:30 until 9:00pm at AutoNation/Dodge in Irving and Malanka on Jan. 20 at Vick's (same as last year). In addition to all these events and through the hard work and diligence of the year 2000 UAST Board of Directors, UAST has been able to donate to support worthy Ukrainian activities: \$500 to ZORYA Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, \$250 for the Young Adult Cultural Scholarship, and \$1000 to St. Sophia Ukrainian Catholic Church.

We hope that we have fulfilled the mandate of the Society and represented our Ukrainian culture in a way that would make you proud to proclaim that you are Ukrainian. And finally, we hope to see you and your family at our final two events of the year.

Regards,
Andrew Chobany,
Hetman.

UPCOMING UAST EVENTS

By John Romanko, 1st Vice President/Newsletter Editor

Board Meeting – Scheduled at AutoNation Dodge/Irving
Saturday: 4:00-5:30pm --- Dec. 2.

Special Events – Mark these on your calendar

Sat. Dec. 2 - 5:30-9:00pm - Sviata Vechera
- AutoNation Dodge/Irving

Sat. Jan. 20, 2001 6:00pm-1:00am - Malanka
- Vick's Banquet Hall, Northwest Hwy, DALLAS

March, 2001 TBD - Taras Shevchenko Tribute

March 24, 2001 Pending Confirmation - Pysanky Workshop
- Irving

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Chrystya Geremesz has been extremely busy this past year working in helping set up the only Ukrainian church in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Her efforts culminated in the blessing of the St. Sophia Catholic Ukrainian Church located in The Colony.

Taras Odushkin's parents are now living in the USA. His mother has been visiting him but hopes to shortly join his father who is employed in Oklahoma.

Be on the lookout in December for our new web site. The new URL will be www.UAST.org.

We need your input. Send your news to us!

Ukrainian News in Brief (from The Ukrainian Weekly)

By Linda Fielder – 2nd Vice-President/Membership

UACCH

The Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston celebrated its 25th anniversary on September 30th with a banquet and dance at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Houston. A toast delivered by UACCH President Wsewolod Hirka noted the purpose of the evening was "not only to celebrate 25 years of the club, but 25 years of people's devoted activity". John Romanko and his wife Rose delivered greetings from DFW. John and Rose along with Erich and Sophia Nakonchynj received UACCH service awards in recognition of their contributions to Ukrainian community life in Texas.

Papal Visit to Ukraine

Talks between the Vatican and the Ukraine government are continuing for a visit by Pope John Paul II to Ukraine next year. Bishop Lubomyr Husar, the administrative head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, confirmed on September 19, that the two sides were targeting June 2001 as the most suitable time for the visit.

Ukrainian Corruption

Ukraine was named among the most corrupt countries of the world by an international non-governmental organization that tracks corruption. Transparency International, headquartered in Berlin, put Ukraine in 88th place - tied with Azerbaijan - among the 90 countries that it listed, September 13. The director of the Ukrainian chapter of Transparency International, Mr. Serhii Holovatii, could not give specific reasons for its decline from 67th place last year. Mr. Holovatii pointed out that Transparency International only considers countries that investors are interested in and he suggested that unless Ukraine makes inroads into political corruption that could soon be its future.

New Foreign Minister

President Leonid Kuchma dismissed Borys Tarasyuk, Ukraine's Western-oriented minister of foreign affairs, on September 30 and appointed Anatolii Zlenko to succeed him two days later. Mr. Kuchma said that the situation in the country had changed and that a more diplomatic type was needed.

23 Medals

Team Ukraine completed the Olympics with 23 medals -- 3 gold medals, 10 silver medals and 10 bronze medals. Boxers led the way with five medals - two silver and three bronze, followed by the swimmers with four medals - two gold and two silver. Although Team Ukraine met one of the goals set by the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (NOCU), winning between 20 and 25 medals, it did not meet the second goal of finishing in the top ten because of its lack of gold medals. Instead it finished 21st overall. Ukraine's young Olympic boxers surpassed all expectations and were Ukraine's main contributors to its medal count. They placed in nearly half of the boxing competition's weight categories.

Pascual New Ambassador to Ukraine

Carlos Pascual was sworn in on October 6 as the next U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. He promised continued U.S. support for Ukraine's quest to build a democratic free-market society for its people and to become a part of the European community. The ambassador quoted a recent statement by a senior Ukrainian official who indicated there is "a crises of confidence" in Ukraine and its future will be shaped "by actions and not promises." He departed for Ukraine mid-October and presented his credentials to President Leonid Kuchma during a short ceremony on October 20. He is expected to remain in Kyiv for two years.

Aid to Krasnodon

On March 11 a methane blast at the Barakova coal mine instantly killed 80 miners. Over the last 6 months an outpouring of humanitarian aid from various organizations and 9 countries including the United States has been received by the 7 surviving miners and the 80 families of the deceased. Vira Prynko, representative in Ukraine of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC) headquartered in Philadelphia, delivered \$16,700 a couple of weeks after the tragedy. On September 29, she returned carrying an additional \$27,205 from UUARC, the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The aid has done much to help the families rebuild their lives and move beyond the tragedy.

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UAST - Accomplishments this year

We feel the club has matured and organized itself in such a way that we are able to hold a steady stream of funds and in this state we felt it was time to set aside these funds and give more back to our members. This year we are proud to announce the formation of two Scholarship funds as follows:

- > - - - The Dmetro Andrychuk Scholarship Award and
- > - - - The Young Adult Cultural Scholarship awards.

The 2000 UAST board has available the outline and guidelines for these two awards. The board will review all requests and make a decision if more than one request is received for either the scholastic or cultural scholarship.

The Dmetro Andrychuk Scholarship Award is a monetary award to a college bound senior of Ukrainian heritage who is ready to commit him or herself to higher education. UAST will contribute a minimum of \$200 to the qualified applicant. Generally, to be eligible, the applicant will be a high school senior, a member in good standing of UAST for a minimum of 2 years, submit a formal application and write a short written essay. The essay should answer the following questions: 1.) Why going to college is important to me, 2.) What have I done to promote Ukrainian culture in my community and 3.) How will I continue to promote Ukrainian culture in the future. The selected recipient must provide proof of enrollment into college before the award is distributed. We will award this scholarship for the first time at 2002 Malanka if a qualified applicant is found in 2001.

The Young Adult Cultural Scholarship is a monetary award of a minimum of \$250 per calendar year to a young adult under the age of 21 who has attended an event that will help to preserve and promote the Ukrainian Culture in the community. This includes but is not limited to Bandura Camp, language classes and dance instruction camps. The recipient of this award will request an application and include with the application a short essay regarding their promotion of Ukrainian culture in the community. The winner will be announced at the annual UAST November election meeting.

The only request for a YACS application this year, since its announcement in the September Newsletter, was from Larissa Chobany for her attendance at the Volshky Summer Dance Camp in PA. The board has unanimously decided to award our first YACS for \$250 to Larissa, which will help to defray some of her expenses.

The Texas Cultural Partnership and Heritage Day

By Cathy Teinert – Secretary

The fifth annual Heritage Day at the Texas State Fair of Texas was held October 8th at the African-American Museum. The Texas Cultural Partnership sponsored this event. The Texas Cultural Partnership, since its formation in 1996, has maintained as its primary goal, that of preserving and expanding the ethnic and cultural celebrations that have had a long history and rich tradition at the State

Fair of Texas, some of which extend back over 100 years! These celebrations have included such organizations as the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Norway and descendants of the War Between the States. The Texas Cultural Partnership has continued this tradition by partnering with the State Fair to sponsor over 20 ethnic performance groups to perform during the course of the fair for the enjoyment of all fair going public. Many thanks go to Steve Ogden and Bob Podhrasky, Texas Cultural Partnership Co-chairmen, for their contributions and assistance towards making Heritage Day 2000 a success!

It was a chilly, brisk fall morning when several UAST board members arrived at the African American Museum to set up a display booth. Several other cultural groups were setting up such as the Czech Republic, the Celtic Community, the Irish American Society and descendants of the War Between the States. Each group displayed a banner or flag above their table and set out their wares and crafts to sell. UAST was lucky in that Andrew Chobany brought along two students from Ukraine to help man the tables. One even entertained us with accordion music for several hours! UAST also sold hot coffee, tea and holubtsi in the eating area of the museum. Due to the cold weather the hot drinks went over well. The mood was festive while several groups, including Zorya, prepared to perform: flags and banners waved, twirling skirts and ribbons whirled, the smell of ethnic foods wafted from the kitchen and a full band played music outside. The program included a playing of all the represented culture's national anthems and variety of dance and music performances from 12 noon till after 4pm. What a show! Included were the instrumentalist Romanko Duo and vocalist Mary Ann Boychuk. It sure was a lot of fun, we hope to see more folks out there next year.


Dance Camp

By Larissa Chobany

First I would like to start by saying thank you to the board and members of UAST. You were the ones who made it possible for me to go to the Voloshky Dance Academy. So I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To tell you the truth camp was not at all what I had imagined. I was expecting mostly everyone to be speaking in Ukrainian and very little English. Also I thought that since all the people that were there knew each other that I would not be accepted into a group. When I got there, I was amazed that people did speak English and Ukrainian as a second language. Also everyone made me so comfortable and welcome. I thought that I would have trouble understanding what to do and when to do it. I did have trouble because of the language barrier, but the other dancers interpreted for me. Thanks to the Zorya Dance Group I was at the same level as the older girls at the camp. I am so glad that I went because I learned character and how to perfect my dance steps. I also liked the challenge learning by watching the instructors without instructions. I also picked up key phrases that were very useful. I brought back three dances that I learned and I will teach it to the dancers of Zorya. The instructors that taught me these dances are Natalka Yumasheva (National Artist & Soloist of The Virsky Dance Company), Stepan Zabredowsky (of the National Cultural Institute of Kyiv), and Victor Guzeyev (of The Virsky Orchestra.) If there is anyone with at least two years of ballet training and loves to dance as much as I do I highly suggest The Voloshky Dance Academy.

Michael Andriaschko, President



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THANKS DUE

Our thanks to AutoNation/Dodge Irving for their ongoing support by providing our organization the complimentary use of their Community Room for various meetings. If you need information on an auto, you may contact Chad Gregory at AutoNation/Dodge at the following:

<http://www.autonationdodgeirving.com>

or phone 972-731-3832 to get him directly.



Members are urged to help defray costs for newsletters by purchasing their own advertisement space as shown here. Cost is \$30 for business size (~1/8 page), \$60 for 1/4 page, etc. The ads will appear in 4 issues. Send Camera-ready copy to the editor.



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