



# UKRAINIAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TEXAS

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UAST & ZORYA Web Site: <http://members.aol.com/andchob/zorya.html>  
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## NEWSLETTER

Quarterly September 2000

### Letter from the President:

Dear Members:

It was gratifying to experience such a heartwarming celebration of our Ukrainian independence with so many of you who attended the August 26 event. We extend our heartfelt thank you to Honorary Consul Gregory Buchai and his wife Nadia for joining us and enlightening us on the duties of the Honorary Consul and on the Houston Ukrainian community efforts. It was particularly interesting to hear how the Houston Ukrainian community was able to assist several groups of Ukrainian sailors who found themselves stranded and unable to return home. We were honored with the presence of a sizeable contingent from Houston and promised them that we would return the favor by attending some of their functions. We were also very pleased to welcome Father Vasyl Savchyn of St. Sophia's Ukrainian Catholic Church, and we thank him for adding a spiritual tie to the evening's celebration with the Lord's Prayer.

We have a very busy fall season ahead of us, and I hope many of you will be able to attend our upcoming functions. Our very next involvement will be at the State Fair of Texas, under the sponsorship of the Texas Cultural Partnership. This is a fairly new organization which has been participating at the fair for the past five years. They are attempting to showcase the various ethnic groups through food, music, dance, and information. Last year, UAST participated in a limited way in the musical portion of the Heritage Day Celebration. This year, we will again participate in the musical portion with the Romanko Duo, Mary Ann Boychuk, and Chrystya Geremesz. In addition, we would like to sell some holubsti and have an information table where we can sell pysanky, have a pysanky demo, have a signup sheet for upcoming events, and provide information on Ukraine and our cultural society. We will need your help to sit at the information and food tables. No cooking is necessary and no special skills are needed. Just sit and visit with the public as they come by to admire our wonderful information table and try our delicious holubsti. The Heritage Day Celebration at the State Fair is on Sunday, October 8, from 10 am to 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendars and come out and pitch in. We really need everyone's help.

The upcoming November meeting is a very important annual event for the Society. It is at this November meeting that we elect our board members. The five board members then convene and elect the officers for the Ukrainian Society. These officers are the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The term of office is one year from January 1, 2001, to December 31, 2001. I mention this because I hope more members will be interested in participating in our Society by serving on the board. Yes, it does require work and sacrifice, but it is a worthwhile sacrifice. Over the past several years we have developed a fairly consistent program, which our members seem to enjoy. We start the year in January with Malanka, followed in March by our Tribute to Taras Shevchenko. In late spring or early summer we host the UAST Picnic. During July we are at the Dallas International Festival, and in August we celebrate Ukrainian Independence. October is Heritage Day at the State Fair, and November is our Election meeting, which we jazzed up last year by having a vodka tasting after the election. Finally in December, we have a Christmas Eve dinner. Of course, the annual program will vary as opportunities present themselves. We really need your help in this area, and we hope you will step forward to make a difference for UAST. Change brings new ideas, and, while we have a consistent program, it would be nice for an infusion of new ideas.

One final word about two upcoming events, both sponsored by our fellow Ukrainians in Houston. Ukrainian Day at College Station on Friday, November 3, and UACCH's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, September 30 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. If enough members are interested, we could arrange a bus trip to Houston. If not, I encourage you to drive down and attend these events.

Hope to see you at our next event!

Regards,  
Andrew Chobany  
President

## UPCOMING UAST EVENTS

By John Romanko, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Newsletter Editor

**Board Meetings** – Scheduled at AutoNation Dodge/Irving  
Saturdays: Noon – 3:00pm, --- Sept.16; Oct 21; Nov. 4; and  
Dec. 2.

### Special Events – Mark these on your calendar

- Oct. TBD - Evening Out
- Oct. 8 10:00am-6:30pm - State Fair Heritage Day  
- Dallas State Fair Grounds
- Sat. Nov. 4 - 5:00-7:00pm - General Membership/Election /  
Meeting  
- and Vodka Tasting  
- AutoNationDodge/Irving
- Nov. TBD 6:00-10:00pm - Polka Night
- Sat. Dec. 2 - 5:00-9:00pm - Sviata Vechera  
- AutoNation Dodge/Irving
- Sat. Jan. 20, 2001 6:00pm-1:00am - Malanka  
- Vick's Banquet Hall, Northwest Hwy, DALLAS
- March, 2001 Date/Time TBA - Pysanky Workshop  
- Irving

## MEMBERSHIP HAPPENINGS

By Linda Fielder – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President/Membership

Members - When renewing your membership with UAST please fill out the membership form and mail it with your check to UAST. This will ensure that your membership is promptly and accurately updated.

After a long struggle Tessie Skordinski, grandmother of Christina Soderberg and mother of Martha Fehrenbach, passed away July 3rd, 2000. Her funeral was held in New Jersey. She bestowed upon her family a legacy of Ukrainian traditions, family values and religious beliefs. Let us remember her in our thoughts and prayers.

Christina Soderberg celebrated her 25th birthday July 22nd. Happy Birthday and Best Wishes Christina! Liz Harper sends her regards to UAST and Zorya members from Tucson. She tells me there is a UAST (Urainian American Society of Tucson) in Arizona. She is hoping to find someone there to help her start up a junior dance group. Seems they had one a while back but members moved away and it broke up.

One member of UAST attends SMU and lives near the University. If anyone can provide her with a ride to UAST functions please let me know.

Congratulations on the birth of David Adriel Romanko, born at 12:36am on August 9th, 2000. He weighed in at 9lbs.5oz. and was 19 3/4 inches long. The proud parents and grandparents are Terry and Martha Romanko and John and Rose Romanko respectively.

For those of you who are behind with your renewal please send your check in so we can keep you on our mailing list. If you lost your membership application please let me know. My e-mail address has been changed to lafielder@surfbest.net.

### Ukrainian News

Most of us are familiar with the Marine Corps War Memorial modeled after the famous photograph of the flag-raising on Iwo Jima. However, few of us know that Sgt. Michael Strank, the eldest (at 25) of the 6 flag-raisers was of Ukrainian descent. Michael's parents were Ukrainian immigrants from the Priashiv (Presov) region of Czecho-Slovakia (now in eastern Slovakia). Michael served valiantly through the war earning numerous medals and citations including the Purple Heart until he was mortally wounded on March 1, 1945.

- and Win - AutoNation Dodge/Irving  
Canada's minister for international cooperation, Maria Minna, announced that Canada will provide \$10.4 million in funding for projects in Ukraine to support scientists, increase exports and control corruption.

President Clinton made a short 6 hour stop in Kyiv, June 5th, during the last leg of his final European tour. He spent several hours meeting with Ukrainian President Kuchma expressing US support for recent Ukrainian financial incentives for those efforts and the Chernobyl economic reform initiatives and pledging additional US closure. A \$78 million US grant was the 1st pledge in a new round of fund-raising initiated by the Ukrainian government for the power plant shut down. Later, more than 50,000 people stood for hours on St. Michael's Square to hear President Clinton give a straight-forward and uplifting speech on the need to proceed with political and economic reform and to assure the nation that the US would remain a close and reliable friend.

On the 4th of July with US military aircraft flying overhead and President Clinton aboard the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, Operation Sail 2000 entered New York Harbor. Among the approximately 180 registered tall ships and military vessels was the Ukrainian schooner, the Bakivschyna. Although the 89-foot schooner is unremarkable in either its appearance or technology it attracted considerable attention due to obstacles it had to overcome to reach the east coast. International incidents and storms initially plagued the voyage. Failure of directional and communications equipment caused it to end up thousands of miles off course missing opening ceremonies in Puerto Rico and Miami. Lack of Funds was also a persistent worry. By the time the vessel finally reached Norfolk, Virginia on June 5th, its luck had changed. Donations of money, goods (including deisel fuel and radio equipment), fine weather and large crowds helped boost the crew's moral. Captain and crew were amazed at the outpouring of support and attention they received in Norfolk, Chesapeake, Wilmington and Baltimore.

From parades to all sorts of celebrations the Bakivschyna was welcomed not only by Ukrainian Americans but by all Americans including schoolchildren. On July 9th after 4th of July festivities in New York the ship departed for New London, Connecticut and then onward to Portland Maine. At the end of July the ship and crew were returning to Philadelphia where they were invited to attend Ukainian Independence Day celebrations.

More detailed information about the above can be found in the Ukrainian Weekly summer issues published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc.

### Local Happenings:

St Sophia Ukrainian Catholic Mission held their first Ukrainian liturgy, Sunday, August 27, 2000 at their new location in Colony Park. Much hard work was put into building the altars and preparing the church for its first liturgy. Many of you had a chance at the Ukrainian Independence Day celebration to meet Father Vasyl Savchyn and welcome him to the area. Liturgy is being celebrated at 10:00 AM on Sundays. For additional information please contact Chrystya Geremesz at 214-368-2055 or Janet Bogdon at 972-618-3852.

### Did you know :

- that Larissa Chobany attended the Ukrainian Folk Dance Workshop in Pennsylvania.
- That Cathy Teinert completed a sprint distance Triathlon in Louisiana after foot surgery disabled her last season. She is now up and again and enjoys competing for fun at several events during the year.

Let us know of any milestones in **your** lives!

### Board Contacts:

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Michael Andriaschko	<a href="mailto:entouch2001@home.com">entouch2001@home.com</a>	972-306-8407

### Current Books of Interest:

1. Return to Ukraine by Ania Savage, (printed by Texas A & M Press) is an easy reading book that is difficult to put down.
2. Borderland written by Anna Reid, a history of Ukraine with fact and the author's own experiences was published

### Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston

Congratulations to UACCH on their upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Celebration. It will be held on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12802 Northwest Freeway (Hwy 290), Houston, TX  
 Social 5:30pm, Dinner 6:30pm, Entertainment 8:00pm  
 Price: \$20 per person and children 13 and under free.  
 Hotel room discounts are available.  
 For more information call Eugene A. Kuchta  
 At home: 713-789-0239 or At work: 713-744-2863

*Michael Andriaschko, President*



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### Can you help?

Two male college students from Ukraine were employed by two separate youth camps in Texas under the sponsorship of Camp America. CA is based in London and provides foreign nationals as staff for camps in the USA. They were former high school Exchange students with one in Minnesota and one in Connecticut. They both had attended the International Christian University in Kiev.

Roman is a 19 year old who is a resident of Nova Vizhva, Starovizhiusky District, Ukraine. Maxym, a 22 year old, is a resident of Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine.

They hold J-1 visas which expire about October 1, 2000. They have filed an application with the INS for a B-2 visa with the statement that they be "allowed to remain in the States for the purpose of taking the SAT test". After a school acceptance, another visa change would be requested to change the status to a Student Visa, F-1. The young men would like to attend a college in the spring in the USA. Our source states that Congressman Ralph Hall's staff of Rockwall is monitoring this requested Visa change.

Depending upon the visas processing, these two will need some inexpensive housing and jobs which will allow them to earn money for education. Presently, they have no transportation and will need public transportation in order to get to work and to school.

Contact: James D. Cole                      972-771-2653(Metro)  
 1591 North Hills Drive                      [colejam@juno.com](mailto:colejam@juno.com)  
 Rockwall, TX 75087

*None of the above information has been verified by the Editor. James Cole has more detailed information.*

**Ukrainian Day at George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A & M University, College Station, TX**

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2000.**

**Preliminary plans include a week long display of Wilton Tift's photographs of Ukraine; a possible Thursday evening panel discussion on education, culture and technology in Ukraine with Dr. Thompson from Rice University, Dr. Panchok from the University of St. Thomas and Dr. Lytvynchuk from the University of Houston. Ukrainian Week will culminate on Friday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> with a reception from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm: a reception, a cultural display and program of Ukrainian songs and dances. If you want to participate, contact :**

**Greg Buchai  
Honorary Consul of Ukraine  
713-650-4727 – office  
281-242-2842 -- home**

A van can be arranged from Dallas if enough show interest in the Ukrainian Day at College Station Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> as above. Contact Andrew Chobany (972)235-4920.

**A&W  
GRAPHICS**  
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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.



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