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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# Host a Civic Leader from Ukraine!

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

**Local Communities: Attracting Investments**

**Delegation from Ukraine (Crimea Region)**

**August 12 - September 2, 2010**

The Foundation for Russian American Economic Cooperation (FRAEC) in Seattle, WA ([www.fraec.org](http://www.fraec.org)) will be hosting a delegation of 10 civic leaders from Ukraine (Crimea Region) in the Seattle area this summer on a three-week exchange program sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The civic leaders will be studying local economic development issues in our region, and how communities can attract investments to support sustained economic growth. The group will be in Seattle from August 12 - September 2, 2010, and we are currently seeking home hosts to provide housing for program delegates during their stay.

Home hosts provide a separate bedroom, along with breakfast and dinner each day for their guest. FRAEC covers all other participant expenses, including a daily stipend for lunch and other incidental expenses, medical insurance, a Metro bus pass, and an international phone card. Program delegates will spend weekdays in group training activities; evenings and weekends are yours to share together with your guest. **Home hosting dates are August 13 – September 1, 2010.**

If you are interested in hosting a member of our August delegation, or would like to find out more about the program, please contact me at (206) 770-4003 or by email at [curtis@fraec.org](mailto:curtis@fraec.org). Hosting is a wonderful cultural and learning opportunity for both you and your guest, and we'd love to have you join our hosting program!

Many thanks,

Curt

Curtis Cortelyou  
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**(Delegate Profiles on Following Pages)**

## Delegate Profiles

**Name:** Almira Ablyalimova  
**Position:** Head of Economics Department, Bakhchisaray Regional Administration  
**City:** Bakhchisaray, Crimea, Ukraine  
**Age:** 35

Almira Ablyalimova is a Department Head for the Economics Department of Bakhchisaray Regional Administration. Economic development and strategic planning are her daily bread. Almira also deals with land issues and attraction of investments into the region. This is her first visit to U.S. While in the U.S., she is open to experience any activities and events a host family will suggest and give her a chance to experience. She is interested in history and likes reading. Provided the opportunity, Almira enjoys seeing exhibitions of all kinds. Almira is fluent in Russian and Tatar (Crimean), speaks good Ukrainian but no English. This is how she describes herself to a host family: "I am a tolerant, organized and honest person". Almira has a 13-year-old son Selim. She is allergic to cats and dogs.

**Name:** Olena Babenko  
**Position:** Director of Investment Center  
**City:** Saky, Crimea, Ukraine  
**Age:** 43

Olena Babenko holds the position of Director of her city Investment Center. The main challenges that Ms. Babenko faces in her daily work are a lack of qualified personnel, the dependence of the tourist industry on the economic situation in the country, and less than imperfect tax laws. This is her first visit to the U.S., though Olena likes to travel. Among her interests are theatre and art galleries, philosophy, studying English and practicing Yoga. Olena is married and has a 22-year-old son Oleksiy. To her host family she describes herself as an honest, friendly, calm and tidy person. Olena speaks Russian and Ukrainian, she speaks a little bit of English and German.

**Name:** Anton Plaksun  
**Position:** Specialist on Investment and Marketing, LLC "Gektas"  
**City:** Simferopol, Crimea, Ukraine  
**Age:** 28

Anton Plaksun is a Specialist on Investment and Marketing. The organization he works for deals with development of local communities and the education of Crimean youth. This is his second trip outside Ukraine. Anton likes to read and surf the Web. He enjoys sports and spending time with friends. Anton likes to meet new people and to learn new ideas. He describes himself as a calm person with a sense of humor. He speaks Russian, Ukrainian and some English.

**Name:** Mykhailo Gordyeyev  
**Position:** Project Manager, NGO "Fund Sevastopol"  
**City:** Sevastopol, Crimea, Ukraine  
**Age:** 30

Mykhailo Gordyeyev is a Project Manager for NGO Fund Sevastopol. This organization is involved in improving the environmental situation and energy efficiency in the region, as well as attracting new investments and creating a free economic zone. In his free time Mykhailo works in his garden, plays basketball and musical instruments, and surfs the web. While in Seattle, he would like to have a chance to attend an NBA game and to visit a big construction site, for instance, the construction of a bridge. This is his first trip to the U.S. He is married and has a 6-year-old daughter, Olga. Mykhailo speaks Russian, Ukrainian and English. He describes himself as a balanced and calm person.

**Name:** Olena Nykytenko  
**Position:** Head of Investment Department, Yalta City Council  
**City:** Yalta, Crimea, Ukraine  
**Age:** 41

Olena Nykytenko is Head of the Investment Department of the Yalta City Council, and has a wide range of interests regarding investments. While in the U.S., she wants to learn what role investment plays in the life of every American. Olena has traveled extensively, but this is her first visit to the U.S. To her host family she describes herself as a calm and tolerant person without bad habits. Olena is married and has two sons: 20-year-old Oleksiy and 2-year-old Danylo. She speaks Russian, Ukrainian and good English.

**Name:** Mykhailo Okrugin  
**Position:** Head Specialist, Ministry of Economics of Crimea  
**City:** Simferopol, Crimea, Ukraine  
**Age:** 36

Mykhailo Okrugin is a Head Specialist of the Department of Investments Policy and External Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Economics of Crimea. This is his first trip to U.S., and he would like to learn as much as possible in order to use his new knowledge in his work. Even on the fun side, he is interested to learn and would like to have a chance to experience a marketing or “image making” event e.g. a wine festival. In his free time, Mykhailo likes to play guitar and go hiking. He also plays soccer and table tennis. He speaks Russian, Ukrainian and good English.

**Name:** Sergii Oster  
**Position:** Head Specialist of Investment Department, Yalta City Council  
**City:** Vynogradne, Crimea, Ukraine  
**Age:** 33

Sergii Oster is the Head Specialist of the Investment Department of the Yalta City Council. He has been to eighteen countries in different parts of the world, but this is his first trip to North America. He speaks Russian, Ukrainian and good English. He enjoys walking and at the same time has a strong interest in cars and would love to visit “car exhibitions” while in Seattle. Sergii enjoys working on house-improvement projects. Sergii is married and has a 6-year-old daughter, Yelizaveta. He is a smoker.

**Name:** Kateryna Roshchyna  
**Position:** Head Specialist, Sevastopol City Administration  
**City:** Sevastopol, Crimea, Ukraine  
**Age:** 28

Kateryna Roshchyna works for the Sevastopol City Administration. She is responsible for working with investors and local exporters, preparation of city enterprises for international exhibitions, helping local enterprises to enter the European market, and establishing collaboration between Sevastopol enterprises and partners from other countries. This is her second trip outside of Ukraine. In her free time, Katerina likes to read, to hike, and to spend time with her family and friends. Katerina visits church and plays sports. Kateryna speaks Russian, Ukrainian and English. In her words, she is a well balanced, calm, disciplined and tidy person who enjoys communicating with people.

**Name:** Sergiy Varavin  
**Position:** Director, Shcnolkin Industrial Park  
**City:** Shcholkin, Crimea, Ukraine  
**Age:** 47

Sergiy Varavin is Director of the Shcnolkin Industrial Park, and hopes to learn many useful ideas while in the U.S. Sergiy is concerned with both economic development and its environmental impact on a developing area.

This is only his second trip outside of Ukraine. Sergiy is a hunter and loves dogs. In his own words he is a calm and down to earth person who enjoys interacting with people. His English is very limited but his Russian and Ukrainian are excellent. Sergiy is married and has two daughters: Ganna, 23, and Olga, 19.

**Name:** Olena Zhuravlyova  
**Position:** Department Head, Sevastopol Chamber of Commerce  
**City:** Sevastopol, Crimea, Ukraine  
**Age:** 34

Olena Zhuravlyova is Head of the International Relations Department in the Sevastopol Chamber of Commerce. She speaks Russian, Ukrainian, English and Turkish. She visited the United States once before in 2001. Olena is married and has a 7-year-old son, Oleksandr. Olena loves children. She is a joyful and curious person, ready to offer help. She enjoys R&B music, dancing, movies and books. She also has an interest in psychology, pedagogy, design and photography.

*The Foundation for Russian American Economic Cooperation (FRAEC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Seattle, WA, was founded in 1989 to foster expanded economic and cultural ties between Russia and the United States, with a special focus on the Russian Far East and U.S. West Coast. Over the past 20 years, FRAEC's mission has evolved to focus on both economic and community development in Russia and other FSU countries. In addition to serving our members, FRAEC spearheads strategic programs that have a direct and measurable impact on issues of vital importance to U.S.-Russian relations. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.fraec.org>.*