



OAKLAND-NAKHODKA SISTER CITY NEWS



October 2003

ONSCA ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, November 16



**David Gordon,
Associate Director,
Pacific Environment:
Featured Speaker**

Satisfying Asian Demand for Affordable Energy— Potential Environmental Impacts

David Gordon, our keynote speaker, has spent the better part of his adult life working to make the earth a more gratifying and sustainable place for people to live. Given the energy-hungry lifestyles of the late 20th and early 21st century, much of that work has revolved around oil and gas pipelines, one of which may soon extend to the port of Nakhodka.

David first became involved with environmental protection issues when he served as a board member for the Eugene-Irkutsk Sister City Committee in 1990. Since 1992 David has worked for Pacific Environment, an Oakland based nonprofit whose mission is “Protecting the living environment of the Pacific Rim”; he is now the Associate Director of Pacific Environment. In part, Pacific Environment helps local Russian organizations pursue their own priorities and address environmental issues. For example, since 1995 David has worked with Sakhalin Environmental Watch on issues associated with the development of oil projects on Sakhalin Island.

Oil is often referred to as “black gold.” However, the processes of extracting it from the ground and transporting it are fraught
(c o n t i n u e d o n p a g e 2)

An Added Dimension: Annual Meeting to Include Musical Interlude

As a prelude to David Gordon’s presentation, ONSCA members will have a musical treat in store. Jonnie Pekelny, friend of Board member Sara Frucht, will give a short performance of Russian folk music before David’s talk.

When Jonnie was a baby in St. Petersburg, Russia, her mother Olga read in a child-rearing book that listening to folk music instills musical talent in children. Though Russian folk songs were not popular among big city intelligentsia, Olga went out of her way to collect this music and pass it on to her daughter.

Jonnie grew up singing the haunting, playful and soul filled melodies of the Russian countryside. By the time her family emigrated to the U.S. in the late seventies, she was hooked. Jonnie has since participated and studied various musical traditions – from her classical music education at U.C. Santa Cruz, to her participation in a women’s World Music group. Throughout it all, however, she has maintained a special love for Russian folk music.

ONSCA ANNUAL MEETING (cont'd)

with danger, to both people and the environment. During the Soviet era, plentiful oil allowed the Soviet government to offer “cheap” energy to all users, both commercial and residential. Energy usage was rarely measured, and, due to the lack of a market mechanism, there were no incentives for conservation. Some pipelines were built just after World War II, with scant thought to environmental hazards. All that mattered was building them as cheaply and quickly as possible. With the severe winter climate of the Soviet Union, this was a recipe for disaster.

As a result of the lack of safety standards, the pipelines often leak. Old Soviet pipelines in northern Sakhalin, for example, have leaked significant amounts of oil into surrounding salmon streams. During the Soviet era there were few – if any – grassroots organizations or activists who were willing or able to raise these issues with the government. No one challenged environmental impact reports.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, oil became an even more important commodity, on which the Russian economy and public coffers are today inordinately dependent. International sales represent a major source of revenue. But to sell it you have to transport it, and that requires even more pipelines.

Today Transneft, the Russian government entity responsible for the maintenance and operation of most oil pipelines in Russia, is discussing the possibility of building pipelines near Lake Baikal and across pristine forest areas in Siberia and the RFE.

One proposed pipeline route terminates in Nakhodka, the site of the largest oil storage and transshipment facility in the Russian Far East. While the oil and the pipeline that brings it may help to create

economic benefits for the region, the long-term costs may be too high.

During his presentation David will discuss the history of pipelines in Russia, plans for new pipeline construction, the public health issues that pipelines create, and the potential impact of these issues on Nakhodka, should the pipeline terminus be located there and insufficient measures be taken to respect Russia’s existing environmental laws and regulations.

Bylaw Change Proposed

In addition to Board of Directors elections and a brief report from the Treasurer on the financial status of the Association, ONSCA members will be asked to amend the Association’s Bylaws at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2003.

The section to be amended, Article V, Section 1 speaks to the number of Directors on the Association’s Board. The current wording of that section is:

Section 1. Numbers: The affairs of the Corporation shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by a Board of Directors consisting of no fewer than 11 and no more than 15 members. The Mayor of the City of Oakland shall, *ex-officio*, be a member of the Board of Directors and serve as the honorary chairman of the Corporation, with said membership dues waived.

The Board is proposing that the minimum number of directors be lowered to 7, a number more consistent with the size budget we oversee. No other change to this section is proposed, and the intent is to continue to try to have at least 11 people on the Board.

BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS SAYS GOODBYE TO OLD ONES

At its Annual Meeting Sunday, November 16, 2003, members of the Oakland-Nakhodka Sister City Association will vote on the following seven people who have been nominated to serve two-year terms on the Board of Directors:

Nominated for an additional term: Dottie Barnett, Sara Frucht, and Mary Rees.

Nominated for their first term: Joan Edelstein, Bill Emerson, Carol Robbiano, and Steve Tidrick.

Joan Edelstein

Joan has been a Maternal/Child Nurse for 35 years. She is Professor of Nursing Emerita at San Jose State University, Adjunct Faculty in Nursing at Holy Names College, and Research Nurse for the Vision in Preschoolers study at UC School of Optometry. After completing her doctorate in public health at UC Berkeley in 1985, Joan was the nurse leader to the USSR for a group of US maternal/child health nurses visiting hospitals and clinics. She presented on teen substance abuse to visitors from Nakhodka last year. Her interests and research in maternal/child health worldwide led her to participate in ONSCA.

Bill Emerson

Bill is a retired Berkeley/Oakland elementary school classroom and computer teacher, tech support specialist, carpenter, and amateur digital and film photographer with a BA and MA in geography. His background and experiences with Russia (and the former Soviet Union) include growing up with Ukrainian grandparents, leading a high school student auto camping tour in 1969 through Prague, Kiev, Moscow, Yalta, Kishinev, and Belgrade, and going on an educators' tour of Leningrad, Moscow, and Kiev in 1970. He is interested in visiting Nakhodka and Kamchatka. Bill served on the Board of East Bay Computer-Using Educators for two years in 1990's, and helped host the annual visit of Russian computer teachers and school administrators. In addition, he served for 8 years on Berkeley Schools Technology Committee and helped write first 5-Year Technology Plan. In 1980's, he was active in the Oakland Carpenter's Union local and served as representative to regional council.

Carol Robbiano

Carol is a successful Realtor with Wells & Bennett Realtors in Oakland. She is retired from full time teaching, but still keeps her "hand in" education at College of Alameda with the

Vocational Living Skills Program for developmentally delayed adults. Carol's area of emphasis in her study of History and Political Science at U.C. Berkeley was Russia and the former Soviet Union. She still marvels at her ONSCA-sponsored trip to Nakhodka and its environs to visit and evaluate educational programs.

Steve Tidrick

Steve is an attorney with Boies, Schiller & Flexner in Oakland. A native of Oakland, Steve previously served on ONSCA's Board of Directors in 1995-96, and in that capacity helped establish a newspaper exchange program involving the Hills Newspaper Group and *Zolotoy Rog* in Vladivostok. Steve also helped assemble and manage a 150-person task force in response to the 1991 firestorm in Oakland and Berkeley. Later, he worked in Washington DC for Vice President Gore's "reinventing government" project. Steve has degrees from Harvard College and Harvard Law School, and was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Hope Street Group.

It is with great regret that we say goodbye to the following people who will be going off the Board at this time. The pressures of work and other commitments have led them to make this decision at this time: Kerry Compton, who has served as Secretary to the Board; Maria Distler who has served as Vice President – Development, and as Co-President; Jim Graham, who has served as Program Vice President and many terms as Treasurer; Bonnie Hamlin, who has served as Secretary, Vice President – Communications and President; Jeff Procak, who served this past year as Vice President – Communications; and Natasha Randall, who has served on the Medical Exchange Committee. We are very grateful for the time and energy they have given ONSCA and wish them well.

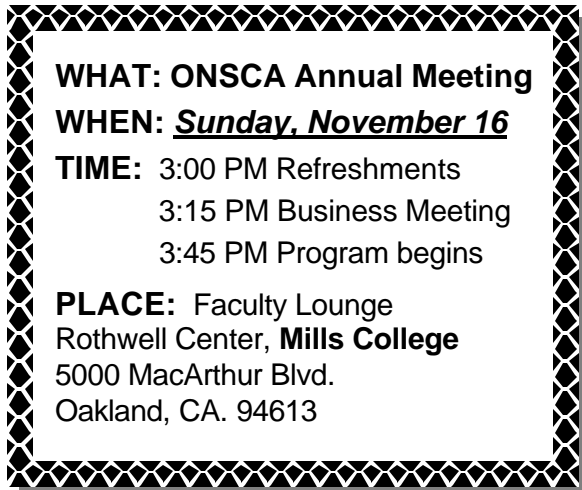
MISSION STATEMENT:

The Oakland-Nakhodka Sister City Association strives to create and foster understanding between the people of Oakland and the people of Nakhodka, Russia. To this end we carry out medical, cultural, educational, civic and commercial exchanges and programs.

Oakland-Nakhodka Sister City Association
PO Box 11375
Oakland, CA 94611-0375
Phone: 510-339-3492
Email: info@oakland-nakhodka.org
Web: www.Oakland-Nakhodka.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



IF THERE'S NO DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL, YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER. PLEASE JOIN!

NAME _____ PHONE - DAY _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE - EVE _____

CITY & ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____

INTERESTS: Travel to Nakhodka _____ Slide show/speaker presentation for my club/church/group _____

Taking Part in Exchanges Focused on: Youth _____ Culture _____ Business/Trade _____ Education _____ Environment _____
Public Health/Medicine _____ Government/Law _____

Hosting Visitors: Provide lunch/dinner _____ Overnight in my home _____ Take guests shopping _____

Provide transportation for guests _____ Invite guests to my business _____

I CAN HELP WITH: Food/Refreshments _____ Outreach/Membership _____ Displays/Signs _____ Newsletter _____

Fund-raising _____ Public Relations _____ Event Planning _____ Grant Writing _____

Mailing: Best time(s) for me are: Daytime _____ Evening _____ Weekend _____

I can speak and/or read Russian and would volunteer to interpret _____ and/or translate _____.

I would consider serving on the ONSCA Board _____. I'd like more information _____.

PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER; MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE DUES ARE ENCLOSED

Student \$10 _____ Retiree \$15 _____ Individual \$30 _____ Family/Joint \$40 _____

Business \$75 _____ Non-Profit Organization \$40 _____ *Sponsor \$100 _____ *Benefactor \$500 _____

*Includes admission to all events and special meetings with delegations from Nakhodka

MAIL WITH CHECK/MONEY ORDER TO: ONSCA, P.O. BOX 11375, OAKLAND, CA 94611-0375