

# Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



Monday, January 23, 1984 O&E

(F&A)

## Appeals to Soviet Union go on and on

By Lorraine McClish staff writer

For more than five years a translated Soviet citizen working as an automotive engineer in Farmington

Hills has been trying to get his wife and son out of Russia.

So far, the Soviet Union government has ignored his appeals. But Simon Levin keeps trying and is thankful for the help of U.S. Senator

Donald W. Riegle Jr. and Carl Levin (no relation), his employers at Carter-Weber in Farmington Hills, and several organizations including the Union of Council for Soviet Jewry and the Detroit Soviet Jewry Committee.

"I'm thankful to all who tried and all who are still trying to help," Levin said.

But, he adds, "I'm still looking, still searching, still wondering what more can be done and who to talk to next."

WHEN LEVIN was granted permission to leave the Soviet Union, he left with the blessings of his wife Tretyakova Tamara (known as Tamara) and his parents. A few months later his son Mark was born.

His wife and son were granted permission by the U.S. government to enter this country in 1981, but as for permission to leave the Soviet Union, Levin says, "We just appeal, and appeal and appeal again. The standard procedure (there) is to leave you very uncertain, leave you hanging. Reasons for denying the request are just not given."

The first thing that happened to both Levin and his wife when they applied for permission to leave the country was that they both lost their jobs.

"That is also standard procedure," Levin said.

Levin's request was granted, "for nobody knows what reason," he said. Meanwhile, his wife has become a "Refusenik," which makes her a marked woman.

### Separated from his wife and son, Soviet refugee struggles to find ways that will bring them together

SHE IS visited by the Soviet police periodically but, other than that, is not harassed, for which Levin is grateful.

Even so, Refuseniks are not allowed to attain jobs and Levin is not able to send her any money.

"My father helps her as he can," Levin said. "I can send clothes for Mark, small packages; that's about all. The duty on clothes for her or any other meaningful present would be prohibitive."

Levin has been denied a request to re-enter the country as a tourist to visit his wife and meet his son. Levin talks with his wife and son for about 15 minutes every two weeks.

MARK IS in preschool now, a school Levin describes as a "cultural and behavior class," and is taking classes in figure skating.

Tamara is attending American cultural sessions, an afternoon affair offered by the U.S. Consulate for Refuseniks who are waiting to join their

families in this country.

"But the phone conversations," Levin said, "are mostly confined to keeping current on how the appeal is going; who she talked to last and who she should talk to next; who I've talked to and what did they say."

"And all of it is taped. We know all foreign calls are taped. Even calls from one city to another in the country are taped, so we are sure hers are."

"IT ISN'T easy to get from one city to another, or even call a relative in another city. That's the way a totalitarian government has of preventing the beginning of any organization between people who might have a similar problem; something Americans seem to have a difficult time understanding," he said.

Stating that Sen. Riegle is one who does understand, Levin pulled a copy of a letter from a thick file that carried the history of his and his wife's appeals. The letter, addressed to Soviet

President Yuri Andropov and signed by Riegle, states:

"As one American political leader who has consistently called for improved relations between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S., and who has continued to argue for closer contact and cooperation between our nations, despite public reaction against the Korean jetliner incident, it is vital that small but significant human gestures occur which illustrate the humane attitude the Soviet government has toward individuals of the least rank who are suffering because families have not yet been reunited."

"I know the 9,000,000 people of Michigan would deeply appreciate a gesture by the Soviet government toward these families, and it would be a strong signal that good will can prevail between our nations on fundamental issues that affect the lives of everyday people."

The letter is dated Nov. 16, 1983. It has not been answered.



RANDY BOHST/Staff photographer

Simon Levin talks about his frustration in seeking permission for his wife and child to join him in this country. The struggle has been continuous for the automotive engineer employed by Carter-Weber in Farmington Hills.

## 3 Troop 179 Scouts take Eagle Awards

Boy Scout Troop 179, sponsored by Central Church of Christ and led by Dr. John Richardson, saw three of its members earn the Eagle Award this month.

Honored by an awards ceremony attended by Farmington Hills Mayor Charles H. Williams and State Rep. Wilbur (Sandy) Brotherton were Scouts Stephen Davis, John Suh and Tim Wight.

Davis, a native of Farmington, entered scouting in 1978 as a Cub Scout in Longacre Elementary School's Pack 45. As a Webelos, he earned the Arrow of Light, Cub Scouting's highest honor.

In 1979 he joined Troop 179, where he has a perfect attendance record for two of the four years he has been a member.

He attended scout summer camp for three consecutive summers, went on his troop's Philmont Scout Ranch Expedition in 1981, and is planning to go again this summer. He has served his troop as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader, quartermaster and librarian, and was elected by his fellow Scouts to the Order of the Arrow.

FOR HIS Eagle service project, he refurbished the log cabin playhouse on the grounds of the Farmington Community Center. He restored the latch and hinges on the door and the shutters on the windows to their original condition, along with the leveling and repainting of the entire cabin. The project involved about 110 man-hours.

At Power Middle School, Steven received awards for superior grades, outstanding attendance, and citizenship. Now 18, he attends Farmington High School where he is on the debate team and is in the mathematics and computer program.

He likes to ski and has entered competitive races. His other hobbies include steel shooting, archery, fishing, and camping, activities he enjoys with fellow Scouts and his family.

Davis is an avid traveler and, at age 10, with his aunt and cousin, took a cruise on a Russian ship to Cuba and Mexico. He plans a trip this winter to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

After he completes high school, he plans to attend college to prepare himself for a career in veterinary medicine.

JOHN SUH was born in Seattle, where he lived until he was 3 when his family moved to Taylor. Two years later, the family moved to Plymouth, where he joined a Cub pack at his elementary school. After living in Plymouth for five years, the Suh's moved to their present home in Farmington Hills.

Suh progressed through the ranks of the Cub Scouts and the Webelos to earn his Arrow of Light, Cub Scouting's highest honor.

In Troop 179 he has been involved in the troop's many activities. One of the highlights in his scouting career was his backpacking adventure in the summer of 1982 to Philmont Scout Ranch, near Cimmaron, N.M.

In Troop 179, John has been assistant patrol leader, patrol leader and troop

scribe. He now serves as senior patrol leader, is an Order of the Arrow member and a member of the troop leadership corps. He has earned eight skill awards and 21 merit badges.

Suh's Eagle project was building a two-foot-wide oval brick walkway around a memorial garden on the grounds of the Farmington Historical Museum. The walkway contains 656 bricks, is 24 meters in circumference, and creates an attractive addition to the museum's grounds.

JOHN'S HOBBIES are music and camping. He is a former member of the Farmington High School marching band and diving team.

Suh is a National Honor Society member, was the sophomore class president last year, and is now junior class president.

Other honors include winning a gold medal in the Michigan Science Olympics, several awards in piano competition, and earning a first-division rating as a member of a saxophone quartet. He sings tenor in Men's Glee Club, which earned high ratings in both regional and stage competition.

Suh is employed with Plaza Veterinary Hospital and does general maintenance work in and around the hospital. He plans to pursue a career in engineering.

TIM WIGHT was born in Dearborn, where he began playing with the Dearborn Hockey Association when he was 6 and was captain of his team when he was 8. He was involved in the YMCA Indian guide program, where he became interested in camping and doing the crafts that developed his artistic ability. In 1979 Tim and his family moved to their present home in Farmington Hills.

He has a Farmington Observer newspaper route and uses his earnings to pay for most of his personal belongings. He was recognized as "Carrier of the Month" for his dependable service.

In March 1980, Tim joined Troop 179. He is now troop quartermaster. He has held positions of patrol leader, assistant patrol leader, and bugler. He is a member of the Leadership Corps and a member of the Order of the Arrow. He plans to go next summer with his troop to camp and also to Philmont Scout Ranch.

FOR HIS Eagle Scout project Wight planned and organized the preparation of a nature trail through the grounds of the Farmington Community Center. He directed fellow Scouts and others in building a fence that had deteriorated, making signs to guide people through the grounds, cleaning out a major trash deposit along the nature trail, and the constructing of a 330-foot wood chip path through the wooded section of the grounds to open up an area for the viewing wild life and vegetation.

Wight's hobbies include participation in virtually every kind of sport, especially water skiing, snow skiing at which he won has both a gold and a silver medal; football (he played on the



Stephen Davis



John Suh



Tim Wight

## Youth in concert

Metropolitan Youth Symphony will appear in concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23, in Southfield High School, Lahser and 10 Mile.

Two hundred young musicians representing 40 metro-area communities will present a symphonic program which will include Bach's "Double Concerto in D Minor," Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony No. 8 in B Minor" and Chopin's "Polonaise."

Young musicians from Farmington who will be playing in the concert are Catherine Wetendorf, Debbie Schurgen and Kellene Smaltes. Farmington Hills youth in the symphony are Brooke Beresh, Jason Biederman, Derek Cheuk, Howard Collins, Rebecca Goldberg, Janet Lee, Jennifer Litvin, Michele Marchese, Jennifer Schack, Victoria Schack, and Brian Vosko.

THE SYMPHONY for high school age musicians will be conducted by Thomas V. Course, department chairman of instrumental music in Birmingham Public Schools.

The Concert Orchestra of those in 8th grade through junior high school will be conducted by Douglas Bianchi, director of instrumental music at L'Anse-au-Loup High School.

The string orchestra composed of the youngest musicians will be led by Judith Culler, music educator in Highland Park Public Schools.

Tickets at \$3 each will be available at the door. Metro Youth Symphony concert schedule for 1984 will include appearances in Orchestra Hall, Sunday, March 4, and Southfield High School, Sunday, April 15.

## Antique toys now on display

The Plymouth Historical Museum is featuring a display called "Toys From Yesteryear" through Sunday, Feb. 19. The toys are from the Detroit Antique Toy Museum, an affiliate of Detroit Historical Museum. They range from the 1890s to the 1930s and include from toys wind-up toys, trains, dolls, tin toys and antique games.

Also on exhibit are miniature rooms and doll houses.

The Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main, Plymouth, is open 1-4 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is \$1 for adults; 50 cents for youth and 25 cents for children.

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