

Free my son, he tells Soviet Union



Natalia and Aleksei Magarik and their son, Chaim, in happier times.

By Loraine McGlash
Staff writer

VLADIMIR MAGARIK has traveled throughout the United States and Europe, speaking, participating in running marathons, bicycling through campuses, leading a hunger strike, seeking out government officials wherever he could find them.

Every action was part of his campaign of diplomatic pressure to bring world attention to the plight of his son in a Soviet prison.

"It's been worth it. It's been effective. His sentence has been reduced by half. They aren't beating him any more. The harassment has stopped," said Magarik Thursday in Farmington Hills.

"We have no way of knowing for sure, but we think the campaign has prevented new arrests for Jewish activities (in the USSR) — at least there hasn't been any new arrests since some of the pressure of the campaign has been felt. We suspect Soviet officials are coming around to believing that their policies of harassment are proving counterproductive."

From the Farmington Hills home of Leonid Makar-Limanov, Magarik talked about his son's arrest, conviction and sentence to three years in a Soviet labor camp. His stop in Farmington Hills, midway into his third tour of the United States in his campaign, was to attend the Solidarity Freedom Concert in Adat Shalom Synagogue.

THE FUND-RAISER was sponsored by the Jewish Community Council Soviet Jewry Committee in honor of the refuseniks, the Soviet Jews who have been refused exit visas, and in support of Magarik's efforts.

Aleksei Magarik, a cellist, is the only remaining Soviet Jewish prisoner of conscience.

"He is in prison because he was a Jewish activist," Magarik said. "Because he was a teacher of Hebrew and he played Jewish music."

Aleksei was arrested in March 1986 on the charge of possessing hashish, which Magarik said was a rather common ruse used by the KGB to connect Jews with drug dealing, his father said.

Aleksei's sentence, in June of that year, was written in Georgian, a language the Moscow native was unable to read.

He was placed with prisoners who were told he was an enemy of the regime. He was beaten on several occasions. He was denied medical



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

"We suspect Soviet officials are coming around to believing that their policies of harassment (toward refuseniks) is proving counterproductive," says Vladimir Magarik, father of an imprisoned refusenik.

treatment. Some of the time he has spent in a punishment cell, designed to inflict torture through cold and isolation. He has been denied both visits and mail from his wife, Natalia, his father said.

"Most prisoners are invalids within a year or two, even the young ones, particularly in the labor camps," Magarik said.

Vladimir Magarik and his daughter, Chana, longtime refuseniks, were granted their exit visas six years ago. They now live in Jerusalem.

"Aleksei stayed behind because he wanted to marry. Now we are three generations of refuseniks: me, Aleksei, and my grandson, Chaim," Magarik said of Aleksei and Natalia's 18-month-old child.

"This is the first tour I've been on without my daughter," Magarik said. "She's always with me, but had to stay home this month to take exams."

On Magarik's visit here, he renewed an old friendship with Makar-Limanov. Both grew up in Moscow, both attended Moscow University, where they majored in mathematics, both were longtime refuseniks.

Makar-Limanov is now a professor of mathematics at Wayne State University. Magarik said he is a math consultant for a firm in Jerusalem "with a very patient and compassionate and understanding boss."

The 1,000 people who attended the concert at Adat Shalom were asked to send cables of support to the Magarik family. They also were asked to send postcards demanding Aleksei Magarik's release to Yuri Dubinin, the Soviet ambassador to the United States.

Joel Gershenson, Soviet Jewry Committee founding chairman, was guest speaker. The committee supports emigration from the Soviet Union and espouses free expression of Jewish religious and cultural rights within the country.

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short Takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

MOVING UP

Detroit-based Hiram Walker Inc. has appointed Bob Bilocerkowicz of Farmington Hills to senior brand manager for Proprietary Liquors.

He had been marketing and advertising manager at James B. Beam Distilling Co. He previously held marketing positions at Sunbeam Appliance Co., American Motors Sales Corp. and Ford Motor Corp.

As senior brand manager, Bilocerkowicz is responsible for the sales and marketing of Haagen-Dazs Cream Liqueur, Irish Mist, Harvey's line of sherries and Babycham.

ASSISTANT VP

Detroit-based Comerica Inc. has appointed Peter Fleming of Farmington Hills to assistant vice president for corporate facilities.

Fleming joined the corporation in 1978 in the administrative training program. In 1984, he was promoted to operations officer.

STOCK SOLD

Farmington Hills-based Douglas & Lomason Co. has entered into a definitive agreement confirming an understanding reached April 9 to sell to Nambu Press Works Co., Ltd. of Kurashiki, Japan, 100,000 shares of Douglas & Lomason common stock at \$26 per share.

Douglas & Lomason is a major supplier to the automotive industry of original equipment seating, hardware and ornamentation. Nambu specializes in the manufacture of seats and other automotive products for passenger cars and trucks in Japan.

Douglas & Lomason and Nambu began a working relationship in 1981 through a licensing agreement. In 1986, the two companies formed a joint venture to provide Diamond-

Star Motors with seating and other products.

BANK OFFICER

Comerica Bank-Detroit, principal subsidiary of Comerica Inc., has appointed Carol Venn of Farmington Hills cash management officer for corporate banking services.

Venn joined the bank in 1984 as a corporate cash management consultant. She previously worked in branch management at National Bank of Detroit.

ON BOARD

City-Suburban Insurance Agency, Inc. of Farmington Hills has joined the Independent Insurance Agents of Michigan (IIAM), headquartered in Lansing.

Mary Williams is president of City-Suburban Insurance Agency. Through her affiliation with IIAM, Williams subscribes to a professional code of business ethics. She receives the benefits of membership in Michigan's largest organization of insurance agencies and 6,000 insurance professionals statewide.

NEW IN TOWN

Beach Bound Ltd., specializing in computer custom-fitted bathing suits, opened May 15 at Hunters Square/Tally Hall, 31005 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills.

Using the Tekmatic System, for which Beach Bound has exclusive rights in Michigan, men and women can be computer-fitted for 50 bathing suit designs in 30 fabrics.

Customers can choose a suit style from ready-made, black prototype suits, be custom measured by video camera, select a fabric and return for a final fitting — all in 1-2 days. Cost for a custom-fitted suit begins at \$48 for a one-piece and at \$60 for a two-piece. Matching shorts, skirts, T-shirts, wraps and accessories also available. Owner Carol Bross of Bloomfield Township says: "We guarantee a perfect fit."

Beach Bound is one of only three shops in the country offering computer fitting with the Tekmatic System. Other shops are in Florida and Maryland.

SUMMER OF \$59

This will be the "Summer of \$59" at the Novi Hilton. Through Sept. 7, the nightly rate will \$59 for guests whose stay includes a Saturday night.

Reservations may be booked any time up to two days in advance of

arrival for a stay of as many as 10 nights.

The special rate applies for either single or double occupancy. It includes continental breakfast. Children stay free in their parents' room.

Hilton's "Million Dollar A Day Thank You," a four-month program of instant travel awards and discounts provided to every guest, every day, was a prelude to the company's special summer rate program.

Rooms at the "Summer of \$59" rate may be booked through the Novi Hilton's reservation office at 349-4000, through travel agents or Hilton's Vacation Hotline, 1-800-HILTONS.

NEW LOCATION

Paul J. Blizman, attorney at law, has moved his office to 26105 Orchard Lake, Suite 206, Farmington Hills. The telephone number is 478-2077.

GROWING FAST

Former Farmington Hills resident Mark Zickel is corporate development vice president for a health care firm named fastest-growing small business in the state for 1987.

Physicians Health Plan (PHP), a statewide health maintenance organization, was given the ranking by Michigan Business Magazine based on a five-year revenue growth that went from \$600,000 to \$70 million. The firm, founded in 1981, has 121,000 members and 1,700 participating physicians.

Zickel has been involved with PHP since 1983 as chief executive officer of PHP of West Michigan. He was promoted to corporate vice president in 1986.

HE'S PROMOTED

John McLoughlin of Farmington was promoted to manager of the management consulting services department at the Detroit office of Price Waterhouse, effective July 1.

NEW LOCATION

Ann Arbor-based Domino's Pizza Inc. moved its regional offices to Farmington Hills from Southfield. The Rosello Regional Office, named after Farmington Hills resident and regional director Ron Rosello, has moved to the Arborium Office Park, 34405 12 Mile, Suite 240.

The Rosello Region comprises all of Michigan, northern Ohio and the South Bend/Fort Wayne area of Indiana. It is responsible for overseeing the operations of corporate and franchise stores in that area.

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