

# Family

from page 1H

"We were in Russia May of 1992 and my impression was that the country was in a great depression," Loren Sohn said.

Seeing food lines on television is a lot different from standing in one, Susan Sohn said.

## Watching history

They were in the old Soviet Union shortly after the country began to shed communism and was amid a struggle to establish democracy. The sights were endless and colored by historical significance. For instance, the Sohns were there during the first Russian Orthodox Easter that could be celebrated openly since the Susan Sohn said. Amazingly, a three-story picture of Jesus was erected in Red Square, she said.

When asked how she liked living in the United States, Raya said: "We didn't have no moms when we were in Russia."

Masha especially likes the family's Siamese cat, Sushi. Dasha likes to swim.

"I like having a mama and papa," Dasha said. "And I say: 'I love you' and 'goodnight.' I say my prayers and I pray for my family."

Susan Sohn has been making public presentations on how to adopt children from Russia and she invites anyone who would like more information to call her at 553-3961.



Mom and daughter: Dasha Sohn gives her mom, Sue, a hug.

# Auction supports epilepsy facility

The first Super Sports Auction will be Thursday, Nov. 18, at Gino's on the Grill in Farmington Hills.

The event will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and the auction. Tickets for this event, which benefits the Epilepsy Center of Michigan, are \$55 per person and include choice of Montgomery Inn ribs, chicken dijon or rainbow trout.

Authentic items to be auctioned off include the game shoes

autographed by Detroit Lion Lomas Brown, a signed Joe Dumars Detroit Pistons game jersey, a hockey stick and T-shirt autographed by Detroit Red Wing Bob Probert, a signed Larry Bird photo plaque, tickets for a Red Wing suite at Joe Louis Arena and Red Wing, Pistons and Detroit Grand Prix tickets.

George Blaha, announcer for the Detroit Pistons and Michigan State Spartans football team, will be evening's auctioneer and master of ceremonies.

Seating is limited. To reserve a place, call the Epilepsy Center at 351-7979.

Founded in 1948, the center is the state's only non-profit organization focusing solely on epilepsy by providing medical, counseling and informational services to people with epilepsy and their families. The center also conducts laboratory and clinical research into

new treatment options for epilepsy, which affects more than 50,000 people in Michigan.

A common neurological disorder, epilepsy is marked by sudden, brief changes in brain function that result in seizures of various types. Most people with this condition are otherwise normal and healthy and, with regular use of medication, many can live completely free of seizures.

# Traditions from page 1H

As more women entered the professional and business arenas and it became evident that women's admission would be mandatory.

"We made an effort to be quick, be the first one in town to take women," Richardson said.

Jody Soronen, executive director of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, is the current Exchange Club president. In addition to being the first woman president, she, along with Joy Schmidt, who runs a consulting business, ended the 64-year male dominance when they joined nearly six years ago.

The chamber sees for Farmington had traditionally been a member of the Exchange Club," explained Soronen.

Soronen was quick to admit there were no problems when she joined.

"I knew most of them so there were no difficulties, no awkwardness, nothing of the sort," she said. Richardson agreed that the men are very accepting of the women in the club.

"We're always on the lookout for new members and obviously that includes men or women," noted Soronen. The club currently has about 60 members.

Soronen wrote the newsletter for two years and last year was the first vice-president who is also the program chair and must find a speaker each week during the meeting year, September through June.

Speakers include a wide variety of people and topics, from the post office to the Secret Service to drug abuse prevention and tax preparation. The first speaker this year was U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township.

"We invited the other service clubs and we had about 100 people there," Richardson said. "We're going to make this an annual event now."

While the club still meets on Wednesday afternoons, most of the members do need to return to work. They meet at the Elks at noon and the meeting ends promptly at 1:30.

Stevens described meetings as

**'We still pray before we eat the meal and we salute the flag at the end of the meeting.'**

Dr. John Richardson

"a group that gets together, enjoys each other, shares a story at the club, listens to a speech, exchanges ideas and away they go."

Although there is no longer time for a game of cards or golf on Wednesday, golf still figures in big time. Each year, on the last Wednesday in June, they sponsor a benefit golf outing which is the primary source of revenue for their donations. That, along with money collected from canisters at various locations, is donated to numerous groups nationally and locally.

The focus of the National Exchange Club is to prevent child abuse. The funds raised are used to promote programs to rehabilitate abused children and their parents.

Stevens said the Farmington club puts a lot of emphasis on local concerns, including supporting the Farmington Goodfellows, Youth Assistance, Families in Action scouts, Salvation Army and many other community organizations.

While much has changed during the club's 70 year history, the dedication to and respect for religion, America and the privilege of citizenship with ensuing responsibilities has remained steadfast.

"We still pray before we eat the meal and we salute the flag at the end of the meeting," said Richardson. "Americanism is one of our prime projects."

**GIVE A DAF LAG TOWAVE** is one of those Americanism projects. So, next Memorial Day, when more than 1,500 children are proudly waving the stars and stripes at the parade, think of the Exchange Club and their 70 years of service to Farmington.

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