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Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia

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Newsletter of the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia:

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Edited by Adam Goodberg



Silk and Spice Come to Town with *The Silk Road Ensemble*

On November 6, *The Silk Road Ensemble* led more than 380 Madisonians on a musical and cultural jouney through Central Eurasia. This CREECA-sponsored event filled the Monona Terrace auditorium.

Silk Road is a network of musicians with influences from Iran and Azerbaijan to Russia and Uzbekistan. All are renowned for their skill, but play for their love of music.

The group is led by Shahyar Daneshgar, a researcher and lecturer at Indiana University who studied at the Teheran Conservatory of Music and holds a doctorate in Central Eurasian Studies.

Mr. Daneshgar especially noted the accomplishments of renowned





Left: Mr. Daneshgar, along with Hakan Toker and Munish Sharifov at Van Hise Elementary. Right: Avner Shakov on percussion and Mr. Assadollahi on garmon.

garmon player Rahman Assadollahi, who took first prize at the 1995 All-European Accordian Championship. The audience thanked Maestro Assadollahi with a standing ovation for *September 11*, an emotional solo he composed with ties to Bach's *Toccata and Fugue in D*.

On November 5, members of the ensemble visited Van Hise Elementary School and introduced young listeners to Silk Road music.

"My daughter loved it," said Professor Uli Schamiloglu. "I saw teachers there swaying to the music, too. They thought it was a rare opportunity that a group like this would become available for them."

The ensemble hopes to return to Madison in late summer of 2005.



From Director Ben Rifkin



Dear Friends of CREECA:

It is with great pleasure that I write you as director of CREECA for the 2004-2005 year. This has been a year of significant transition for CREECA. We are all grateful to our previous director and associate director, Professor Bob Kaiser (Geography) and Dr. Rita Krueger (History). As many of you know, Bob completed a 3-year term as our fearless leader and is now enjoying a well-deserved break from the administrative responsibilities of running our Title VI center; Rita has begun a new position at Temple University and we wish her the very best. I hope that by now many of you have met our new staff: We are very lucky to have Dr. Jennifer Tishler (PhD in Slavic Languages, UW) as our new associate director and we are grateful to her husband, Bill Tishler, for his help with the on-going revision of our website. We are also delighted to welcome Lara Kain (Masters in Public Administration, Evergreen) as our new half-

time outreach coordinator who comes to us with great ideas for bringing information about our region to the K-12 community, business, the media, and other sectors in Wisconsin. We are proud to have new staff members Mike Baumann (expecting BA'05, Russian) and Adam Goodberg (BA'02, Russian) running our website and our events calendar, respectively. All of our work would ground to a halt without the support of our crack financial specialist, Maki Raymo. Mike and Bill have revamped our website and will continue to bring improvements in this area. Adam has been hard at work at this newsletter, in which we are hoping to bring you increased content about the CREECA community and the CREECA world regions.

The new academic year has gotten off to a big start for us: we've had some very high profile events already, including a Teach-in on Chechnya and a dazzling concert of folk music from Central Asia on November 6th. We of course look forward to seeing you at our annual End of Semester Party featuring the music of our own Russian Folk Orchestra (directed by Viktor Gorodinsky), but until then – please check your e-mail* and nearby bulletin boards for posters advertising many other CREECA lectures and discussions. If you have any ideas for events that you would like to see on our campus, please let us know. We appreciate hearing from our CREECA Friends so that we can do our very best to meet your needs for fresh discussions as we explore our three regions – Russia, East Europe and Central Asia – and their rich cultures from a range of disciplinary perspectives.

Sincerely

Benjamin Rifkin

*What?! You're not getting our e-mail postings?! Remedy the situation by signing up online at www.wisc.edu/creeca.

CREECA is a Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center. It was established in 1993 to unite the efforts of two longstanding University programs—Russian and East European Studies (REES), and Central Asian Studies. CREECA consists of roughly 100 members including many nationally and internationally known experts in their fields.

C R E E C A Teacher Workshop

In June the Pyle Center hosted CREECA's annual Teacher Training Workshop. This year's course, co-sponsored by the Center for European Studies and the Global Studies Program, focused on "International Cooperation in the 21st Century."

Seventeen middle and high school teachers from around Wisconsin attended the five-day workshop and created curriculum modules on international cooperation for use in their classrooms. Some of these lesson plans have been posted on CREECA's web site, which contains links and materials adaptable for teachers worldwide: www.wisc.edu/ creeca/outreach/k12-teachers/k12.html.

In their lesson plans, the teachers incorporated material learned from UW faculty, scholars from other universities, and professionals from different fields. Each presenter spoke on aspects of international cooperation:

"Humanitarian Intervention and the War in Iraq" Michael Barnett - UW-Madison, Int'l Studies

"The Superstructure of Governmental Organizations and NGO's" Mark Pollack - UW-Madison, Political Science

"The US, the EU and Foreign Policy" Denis Chaibi - EU Fellow, Yale Center for International and Area Studies

"International Organizations: EU/NATO" Mark Pollack - UW-Madison, Political Science

"How International Organizations Have Affected Democratization in Eastern Europe" Jason Wittenberg – UW-Madison, Political Science

"International Law and Human Rights" Bruce Cronin - City College, CUNY

"The Politics of Int'l Economic Organizations" Orfeo Fioretos - UW-Madison, Political Science

"Health and the Transition from Communism" Elizabeth Hachten – UW-Whitewater, History

"Civil Society and the Fight Against Impunity" Jeanne Sulzer – Int'l Justice Program Director, International Federation for Human Rights

Workshop participants also attended a session on internet resources for curriculum development led by Jo Ann Carr from UW's School of **Education and Center for Instructional Materials** and Computing.

Each year, CREECA offers a five-day workshop on a topic relating to critical issues in Russia, East Europe or Central Asia. Past workshops have focused on the aftermath of Chernobyl, the post-Soviet transition, the folklore of Central and Eastern Europe, and religious institutions and religiosity in the post-socialist world.

The 2005 workshop, scheduled for June 19-24, will focus on cross border environmental challenges facing Russia, Central Asia, and the European Union. For more information please contact Outreach Coordinator Lara Kain at (608) 265-6298 or outreach@creeca.wisc.edu.



2004 Workshop Participants

As a federally funded National Resource Center, CREECA has a mission to bring the university's resources and faculty expertise to teachers and students throughout Wisconsin. This fosters increased awareness of Russia, East Europe and Central Asia outside the campus community.

CREECA offers an extensive library of feature films, documentaries, slides, recorded lectures and talks (available online), and other media from and about the regions. We also distribute books and brochures on funding opportunities for instructors in addition to helpful instructional texts. All of our library items are available for borrowing, free of charge. Please contact Lara Kain for more information.



Bulletin Board

Serbo-Croation Table

3:30 Fridays at Rathskeller

Srpskohrvatski sto/stol is up and runing again.

Join us as we practice our Serbo-Croatian and chat about the languages and cultures of former Yugoslavia.

This semester we will have movie nights, music events, a potluck and much more!

mantic@students.wisc.edu

For Information on Chernobyl:

www.foccus.org

Friends of Chernobyl Centers, U.S., Inc.

www.chernobyl.com/info.htm

Information about the future of Chernobyl and nuclear sites. www.chernobyl.info

The international communications platform on the longterm consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

http://www.kiddofspeed.com

A scientist's daughter explores abandonded Chernobyl on her speedbike.

CREECA LIBRARY:

Recent Acquisitions:

Nochnoi Dozor (Night Watch), 2004 DVD Top grossing Russian film of all time Brigada (The Brigade), 2002, 2003 DVD Russian Mafia TV Series, Seasons 1+2

Alisha Kirchoff (Slavic) is spending the 2004-2005 year in Vladimir, Russia on a National Security Education Program grant. Follow her travels online at: http://creeca.blogspot.com:

"This is a place where there truly is visually recognizable beauty in every day life. It's the kind of beauty words can never fully justify. Everything from the chickens pecking the ground in front of a little wooden country house to a babushka crossing herself in front of a church before she goes in to pray. One thing Russia has taught me is that there is something worth noticing and appreciating every day in our lives... we just need to take the time to look."

--4 October 2004

JOIN RUSSIAN TABLE!

Native Russian speakers and students engage in friendly discussion. Main goals are to develop and maintain speaking ability through discussions, films, trips and dance parties.

Michelangelo's Cafe 114 State St. 5:00PM Wednesdays russiantable@yahoo.com

POLISH TABLE

Thursdays at 8pm, Ratheskeller Nov 13th, Dec 4th, Dec 18th. Katarzyna Modzelewska kmodzelewska@students.wisc.edu

Central Asian Language Table

Speak Uzbek, Kazak, and Tatar.

Lakefront Cafe Memorial Union Fridays @ Noon uschamil@facstaff.wisc.edu.

RUSSIAN FOLK ORCHESTRA

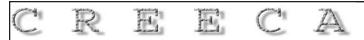


Rehearsals: 7-9PM Thurs. 1418 Van Hise

www.wisc.edu/creeca/rfo/rfo.htm Email: vfgorodi@wisc.edu

Next Concert:

Evening, Dec 16 at Hilldale Mall



Faculty News

MARK BEISSINGER (Political Science) has been selected to be a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research (NCEEER).

DAVID DANAHER (Slavic) received the William H. Kiekhofer Award for Distinguished Teaching, UW-Madison, in Spring 2004. He was invited to lecture at Brown University and the University of Texas-Austin on "Dissent and the Literary Mind: The Relevance of Vaclav Havel." He gave the keynote talk at the Perspectives on Slavistics conference at the Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium, titled "Cognitive Poetics and Literariness: Metaphorical Analogy in Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*," Professor Danaher was also awarded a Fulbright Lecturing Fellowship to Prague for the spring of 2006.

HALINA FILIPOWICZ (Slavic) co-edited *The Great Tradition and Its Legacy: The Evolution of Dramatic and Musical Theater in Austria and Central Europe* (Berghahn Books, 2003), which was released in paperback in October. Professor Filipowicz is also a co-recipient of publication grants from the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City, and the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America for another project, an anthology of North American scholarship on Polish literature (1990-2005) that she is co-editing for the publishing house of the Polska Akademia Nauk in Warsaw. This year Professor Filipowicz published several articles in English and in Polish, including "Is There a World beyond Krasicki and Gombrowicz?" *The Polish Review* 49.2.

SCOTT GEHLBACH (Political Science) won the Mancur Olson Award for best dissertation in the field of political economy, given by the Political Economy Section of the American Political Science Association.

JUDITH KORNBLATT (Slavic) will be the keynote speaker at a symposium on Isaac Babel to be held in Amherst, Massachusetts in December, 2004. She will also have an article on Solov'ev's visions of Sophia and the Wisdom icon in a commemorative volume for the 25th anniversary of the death of Georges Florovsky. Professor Kornblatt continues to serve as Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities in the Graduate School, although she will be on leave from that position in Spring 2005 in order to accept a resident fellowship at the Institute for Research in the Humanities to work on a book on Sophia in Russian culture. She continues to speak on her latest book, *Doubly Chosen: Jewish Identity, the Soviet Intelligentsia, and The Russian Orthodox Church* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2004).

BENJAMIN RIFKIN (Slavic) has two articles in press, one in the *Modern Language Journal* (winter 2005) on learning outcomes in foreign language study, and another on curricular design in the *ADFL Bulletin* (also winter 2005). At the annual conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Professor Rifkin and Dr. Dianna Murphy will present UW-Madison designed software.

PAUL STEPHENSON (History) gave the first lecture in a series entitled "Identities in the Medieval Balkans," at Ohio State in the spring of 2004. His lecture bore the same title as his recent book, *The Legend of Basil the Bulgar-slayer* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), which is slated to appear in a Greek translation (Enalios Publications, Athens). The book was also the subject of a radio documentary produced by the BBC World Service for broadcast in Bulgaria. The book was a finalist for the Criticos Prize in Greek history and culture, and the Longman-History Today Book of the Year Award.

Please send announcements to Jennifer Tishler

Grad Students

New Students in REECAS MA Program



Caroline Baker majored in Russian with a certificate in Near-Eastern Studies at Princeton and is now focusing on Central Asia. In addition, Caroline is learning to play rugby on UW's women's team. She thinks Wisconsin's weather will be the perfect thing to get her in the mood to study the former Soviet Union.



Karina Silver and her husband Dan moved to Madison in 2003 because of its terrific reputation. She finds the city especially pleasant because of its similarity to Latvia. Karina is also a student in the LaFollette School of Public Affairs. She researches domestic abuse and has an internship with the Office of Justice Assistance, in addition to working with Domestic Abuse Intervention Services.

One-Man Art Show at Union

Graduate student **Damian Wampler** (REECAS)
recently hosted a photography exhibit, "Journeys through East Europe and Central Asia," at the Memorial Union. The show drew from his Peace Corps service in Krygyzstan and time spent in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Slovakia. Damian is also the campus representative for the Peace Corps, and his photography can be accessed online at:

www.wamplerimage.com/



Erik McDonald (Slavic) won the J. Thomas Shaw Prize for the best paper by a graduate student at the annual conference of the Wisconsin chapter of AATSEEL on October 16 for his paper entitled "Sources of the Comic in Gogol's *Marriage*."



Undergraduates





UN Internship

Slavic Major Nikolai Isayev signs a historic accord (above, left) to become the third consecutive Russian Table President to apply for a CREECA Certificate. Nikolai, also known as DJ Beatnik (http://hometown.aol.com/spetsnaz27) has infused Russian Table with new energy, hosting movie showings and dance parties.

"Russian Table is instrumental in developing Russian language speaking ability for students as well as informing the general public about all things Russian," Nikolai said. "We have a pretty good outreach to the community."

Nikolai spent the summer of 2004 at an internship with the United Nations Development Programme in Moscow. As an assistant in the Governance Unit, he was in charge of daily minutes, briefs, report digests, and communications with Russian government officials.

"The experience was exhilarating," he said, "And exhausting. My most poignant memory was as assistant mediator in a roundtable discussion on the AIDS epidemic in Russia, where an often-difficult dialogue had to be reached between the United Nations and Russian officials. This particular experience let me use the necessary skills to provide a persuasive argument for something so important as AIDS to the Russian Government."

Polish Donation Boosts Slavic Studies

The Slavic Department is delighted to announce that it has received an extraordinarily generous gift from Ms. Leona Lapinski Leute honoring her parents, Emily and Michael Lapinski. The Emily and Michael Lapinski Scholarships in Polish Study for UW-Madison undergraduate and graduate students will help those studying Polish language, literature and culture on campus and in study abroad programs in Poland. The application forms for the Lapinski Scholarship will be posted on the websites of both the Slavic Department and CREECA by the end of November 2004; the annual deadline for applying for this scholarship will be February 15 for the following academic year. For more details, see the website announcement or your friendly neighborhood Polish instructor. The Slavic Department is extremely grateful to Ms. Leute and her family and we are delighted to honor her parents with the continuing legacy of this generous scholarship as we celebrate the enduring lure of the study of Poland, its language, literature and culture. CREECA congratulates the Slavic Department on their remarkable gift.

Opportunities



3-5 March 2005 Ohio State University

Proposals in the form of 1 paragraph abstracts should be sent to csees@osu.edu by 31January 2005.

Graduatestudets are particularly encouraged to submit.

<u>Information</u>: http://slaviccenter.osu.edu

(614) 292-8770

Fall Internships with the **U.S. State Department**

Applications due 1 March 2005 www.careers.state.gov/student/

David L. Boren Graduate Fellowships

National Security Education Program http://nsep.aed.org/

Applications due 29 January 2005

CALL FOR PAPERS

The European Project: Opportunities and Challenge 9th Graduate Student Conference February 18-19, 2005

Master's and Doctoral candidates in the humanities and social sciences are encouraged to submit abstracts that examine the ways in which Europe is responding to new challenges in the 21st century. Two papers will be selected to receive 'best paper' awards and will each receive a \$250 award.

Postmarked or by email by December 1, 2004 www.georgetown.edu/sfs/cges/gradconference.html

Travel to KYRGYZSTAN! UW's Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity will be travelling to Central Asia for two weeks next summer: www.uwhabitat.org

Foreign Service Exam

April 23rd, 2005 Register Online: www.careers.state.gov/officer Between Jan. 23 and Mar. 23

ACTR's National Flagship Initiative for Russian

A new program for American learners of Russian to attain "superior" proficiency. The program is open to undergraduate and graduate students in any field who have achieved "advanced-level." Heritage speakers are welcome to apply.

Application deadline is January 18, 2005. Darya Shakhova, Program Officer flagship@americancouncils.org FLAS
Information
will be available
soon.
Stay calm!

The Balalaika and Domra Association of America Present...

The BDAA CONVENTION 2005

July 17 - 24
Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel
Madison, Wisconsin
For information visit http://www.bdaa.com/



Recent Events

Slavic Dept. AATSEEL-Wisconsin Report

The annual conference of the Wisconsin chapter of AATSEEL opened with a keynote address in the afternoon of Friday, October 15, followed by conference panels on Saturday. The conference was honored to host a distinguished speaker, Professor Emeritus Gary Rosenshield (UW-Madison), who presented a keynote lecture entitled "The Muslim as Ideal Christian: Dostoevsky, Islam, and Notes from the House of the Dead." The conference offered a strong lineup of panels on 19th- and 20th-century Slavic literatures and second-language acquisition in Russian. Presentations generated rich and productive discussion.



Mikhail Fedotov, Russia's former Minister of Press and Information, 9/16



Ted Gerber, Robert Kaiser (above), and Uli Schamiloglu held a teach-in on Chechnia, 9/22



N. Kydykova, Volunteer Coordinator, Habitat for Humanity Kyrgyzstan, 10/11



Atis Lejins, Founder of the Latvian Institute of International Affairs, 10/12

Chernobyl News

JOURNEY TO CHERNOBYL STUDY TOUR Part I: The Tour

Norma Berkowitz, President of FOCCUS



On June 19 a disparate group from 3 countries departed on a Journey to Chernobyl study tour organized by Friends of Chernobyl Centers U.S. (FOCCUS) in collaboration with CREECA and the Wisconsin Teacher Enhancement Program. Five social science and natural science teachers were awarded UW-Madison stipends.

The goal of the trip was to promote an understanding of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the complex issues of its aftermath. The study program integrated several components: lectures, visits to Chernobyl sites, and meetings with government and human service agencies. Tour members appreciated local culture through museum visits and entertainment by local groups.

Five Ukrainian Community Centers established by UNESCO and supported by FOCCUS hosted the group. These Centers have two missions: psychosocial rehabilitation and community development. They conduct public education to teach citizens how to live more safely and effectively on contaminated land. A major issue is the helplessness and feelings of victimization fostered by adverse economic conditions and a lack of opportunities for a better life.

The Centers also foster citizen involvement and civic organizations that will improve the quality of life. We visited resettlement villages, communities with high populations of resettled people, and orphanages. Community projects are also directed toward improving local infrastructure, and also medical, library and educational facilities.

We also studied the current understandings of the health impacts of the Chernobyl disaster. Researchers at the Radioecology Center in Slavutich supported findings that DNA has the ability to repair itself following radiation exposure. Still, 18 years after the accident there is little consensus on health impacts. Unknown is the impact of continuous low level exposure on millions of people living on contaminated land.

The site of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was almost overwhelming in its size and complexity. American construction workers introduced us to the logistics and finances involved in reconstructing a protective shield over the remains of reactor #4, which contains over 200 tons of fissionable material. The current shield is deteriorating and poses real dangers to thousands of closely monitored workers and to surrounding areas.

Our studies culminated with a seminar at the American Embassy in Kyiv. The U.S. Department of Energy has been involved in Chernobyl activities since 1996 and works with the European Union. They also work to minimize the risk of illicit trafficking of nuclear material and to account for nuclear material at research institutions.

A major emphasis is working on the construction of a new shelter over the damaged reactor on the Chernobyl site. The current cover is deteriorating. (www.wisc.edu/creeca/chernobyl)

Contrary to some expectations, we found signs of hope, in spite of the struggle. There was a sense of resilience in the people we encountered, especially those who moved back to their homes on contaminated land. Tour participants are now busy informing their community about what they learned and teachers are planning how to use this material in the classroom.

To arrange for a presentation/discussion contact Norma Berkowitz at <u>njberkow@wisc.edu</u>

C R E E C A Chernobyl News

JOURNEY TO CHERNOBYL STUDY TOUR Part II: A Reunion

Margit L. Gundlach, Elm Lawn Elementary, Middleton, WI

In July my daughter Tatiana and I completed the Chernobyl study tour. Our secondary mission was to search for my mother's family in western Ukraine. I had known them only through letters and photographs. My cousin Anastasia and I were just young mothers when the Soviet-Afghanistan war broke out and our correspondence ceased. Twenty-five years had elapsed without a word.

Tatiana and I boarded the Kyiv train to Ternopil at 10 p.m. We awoke to a pastoral setting of fields, haystacks and small houses. It was dawn when we arrived with the awareness that we were no longer tourists, but pilgrims. Our first greeting came from a man asking, "Girls, do you need a taxi?" I explained our mission to the cabbie, Vladimir. Using my resurrected Ukrainian, I gave him my relatives' last known addresses. He assured us we would return to the station if unsuccessful.

It was 6 a.m. when Vladimir walked into their courtyard and said, "Lady, I bring you company from America!" I asked the woman if she was Anastasia Zhuk. I found the strength to say, "I am Margit Lesyszyn Gundlach, your cousin from America. And this is my daughter, Tatiana." We hugged Vladimir and thanked him for his kindness and wisdom.

Then Tatiana and I were swept away by relatives! There was my cousin Anastasia and her husband, Misha, and their two sons Andrej, 23 and Volodya, 26 and his wife Oksana, 23. Their two young daughters were away visiting their other grandmother.

Three generations lived together in one house. The busy, but not hectic, people were content to balance modern and traditional life. Misha walked the cow to pasture before working on the house. Andrej went to work at a bazaar in Ternopil. Volodya remained home as part of the remodeling team. Oksana prepared breakfast. Chickens strutted in the family courtyard between our legs as we explored another building that revealed the kitchen, pantry, storage and a pit toilet.



From left: Oksana Zhuk, Margit, Anastasia Zhuk

Tatiana and I spent a pampered morning watching Volodya and Oksana's wedding video. We were driven to Ternopil to see the town square, to worship in a Ukrainian Catholic Church and to taste *kvas*, a fermented drink made from bread.

Then we drove to my uncle's homestead in Kobillya. Without telephones they were unaware of our visit. My uncle Ivan, 79, and his granddaughter Hallya, age 11, sat at a table by a window. We were greeted by the aroma of baking bread. Aunt Anastasia, 77, hobbled in from her garden and clapped her hands with delight when she saw us. Just as we were leaving Gregory, their youngest son, rode up with his horse and wagon. Mission accomplished for our first journey home!

When I decided to join this tour with my daughter, I was certain that we would be taught a great deal about Chernobyl. I also knew we would search for family, without any guarantees! I had decided to take my mother and father, who died in Madison in 1995 and 1996 back to their homeland in some symbolic way. In memoriam I planned to bury two wooden Ukrainian eggs, which had belonged to them. In the end there was no burial. Instead I delivered the eggs to my aunt and uncle.

Isn't it ironic that Chernobyl, with its litany of consequences and separations, brought two family members from the other side of the world to a reunion with those remembered but not lost?



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webmaster@creeca.wisc.edu

CREECA End of Semester Party! Special Musical Guests: The Russian Folk Orchestra

Thursday, December 9th Room 206 Ingraham Hall 1155 Observatory Dr. 7:00-9:00PM

Investments in the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia are always appreciated. If you wish to join in supporting CREECA, please send your contribution to:

University of Wisconsin Foundation P.O. Box 8860 Madison, WI 53708-8860

Please indicate that it is intended for CREECA. For more information about making a gift to CREECA, please contact Chris Glueck at the UW Foundation at the above address or at (608) 265-9952.