

Dear Brothers and Sisters, members of our Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ. As your Executive Director I wish to inform you of several forthcoming organizational employee changes.

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On behalf of our membership I express our sincere gratitude to Fay Malins, who has served our organization and membership since December 1998, when she was hired to help with our ISKRA Publication. In February 2003 Fay assumed the responsibilities of secretary/receptionist. In 2007 she added accounting clerk to her job description, and has diligently fulfilled tasks and requests by our organization's Executive Committees. Fay has also, above and beyond the call of duty, been of great assistance to your Executive Director, to ISKRA Publications, as well as our newsletter and website, and to the many committees and groups operating within the USCC, including preparing for, attending and reporting at every convention since 2003.

We all thank Fay for her 19 years of service to our organization and membership. We also thank her husband John, her daughter Sara and husband Paul and family for sharing Fay with her USCC family. We all wish Fay the very best in her retirement.

Stepping into Fay's role will be Beth Novokshonoff who has been in training with Fay since September. Moving back from Vancouver in the fall of 2016, she and sister Lindsay have contributed significantly to our organizational affairs, especially but not exclusively to our Grand Forks communities. In particular they have been most helpful in organizing the Grand Forks portion of the 70th Annual Union of Youth Festival, assisting the Grand Forks Ladies Committee, the Community Choir, and Heritage Club in Grand Forks.

Beth brings many skills to her new responsibilities, acquired while working for Slocan Forest Products and Ike Barber for 25 years, with Terminal Forest Products for four years, being active with the Lower Mainland Doukhobor choir (formally known as the UYD) since 1986, and as well volunteering with and assisting Russian hockey players since 1989. It is ironic that Beth will be seated in the same chair she occupied 35 years ago when she was employed as ISKRA Youth Editor, among other responsibilities including that of assistance to your Executive Director when he worked at the United Nations in the 1980s. So, on behalf of our membership, welcome back to the future Beth!

And finally, on a sad but congratulatory note we wish to thank Ellie Davidoff for her service to our membership, particularly in the Kootenays, as our secretary in our Brilliant office. Ellie is a familiar face to many in our organization, especially the youth. With the support of her husband Michael, family and friends, Ellie was instrumental in resurrecting our youth choirs and more recently the Union of Youth Council. She has also been a driving force for many other activities at our Brilliant Cultural Centre, including Talent Nights, and other special events, such as the fund raiser for Haitian earthquake relief. Ellie also helped to restart the preschool program at the Brilliant Cultural Centre and played a major role in co-ordinating a successful 70th Annual Union of Youth Festival. During her busy if brief period of employment, Ellie has also been of great assistance to your Executive Director, our organizations Kootenay membership, and to those within and outside of our organization that make use of the Brilliant Cultural Centre.

We all thank Ellie, her husband Michael, and her ever-growing family for sharing their wife, mom, and grandmother with us. We wish you the very best Ellie and look forward to you continuing your good work with all our youth!

We are indeed fortunate to have such wonderful and capable women in our organization, who devote themselves to their families and to our larger organizational family. Thank you Ladies, for being who you are, and the example you provide!

Last but not least, we would like to draw the attention of ISKRA readers to the ad for secretary at the BCC in this issue and ask that you share this employment opportunity with your friends!

JJ Verigin
Executive Director USCC