



- Happy Birthday Maria H. Procyk, 3 years old.
- Blast from the past: Mary Ann Grimm (L.U.C.) with friend John Mysiwiec, Fr. Robert & Elaine.
- Visitors from Uzhorod, Ukraine: Fr John with wife Pani Myroslawa and cantor Wasyl.
- Visitors fro Chicago (Bandriwsky's) and Georgia (Family of Moroz Family)
- Mnohaya Lita Pani Olya Czmola.
- Fr. Ivan from Uzhord distributing communion on the Feastday of Birth of Theotokos → → →

№ 37  
 SEPTEMBER 10 2017

SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
 УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ



№ 37  
 ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІПТРИЇ  
 UNDER THE PROTECTION OF MOTHER OF GOD



CHURCH BULLETIN  
 September 10 Вересня – 2017  
 ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК



Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn (+Sep. 11, 1976) From the book "Archbishop Ambrose Senyshyn and his vision of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in America" by Bishop Basil H. Losten, 2016.

Patriarch Josyf Slipyj (+Sep, 7, 1984)



## CHURCH BULLETIN

September 10 Вересня 2017

ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



Saint Nicholas Church  
Церква Св. Миколая  
(Під Опікою П.Д.М.)

ПОР'ЯДОК СВ. ЛІТУРГІЙ

4:30 PM +Андрій Петришин – 40 д. і п.  
(Родина)

**September 10: 14 S. aft. Pent.–14 Н. по ЗСД**

10:00 AM +Патр. Йосиф і Метр. Амброз і пан.

12:00 PM +John & Mary Colomon  
(Allen & Nadine Burkholder)

Monday, September 11 Вересня, Понеділок

9:00 AM +Katherine M. Chort (Marianne)

Tuesday, September 12 Вересня, Вівторок

9:00 AM +Катерина Лехновська (М. Маланяк)

Wednesday, September 13 Вересня, Середа

9:00 AM В нам. Ігора, Марії Луїси і родини

**Exalation of the Holy Cross - Воздвиження**

Thursday, September 14 Вересня, Четвер

9:00 AM +Paul & Helen Nowadly (Elaine)

Friday, September 15 Вересня, П'ятниця

9:00 AM +Ярослава Борачок (Анна Мельник)

Saturday, September 16 Вересня, Субота

10:00 AM +Іван і Марія Правак (Родина)

4:30 PM +Julia & Michel Michalow  
(Michelle & Michael)

**September 17: 15 S. aft. Pent.–15 Н. по ЗСД**

10:00 AM +Любомир і Галина Стасюк (М. Л. С)

12:00 PM For Parishioners – За Парохіян

Eternal Light Burns For

+Joan Biernat

Requ. by: Walter Jagodzinski

Вічне Світло в честь П. Д. М.

Горить за здоров'я

Ігора Гусака і родини

Next Bible Meeting, Mon., Sep. 18 at 6:00 PM  
(Bible, Liturgy, Tradition, Icons, Questions...)

Наступні Біблійні зустрічі  
у пон. 18 Вересня о 6:00 по обіді

### SITCH DINNER MEETING

Sunday September 24, 2017

At Joseph Hriczko Post, 29 Clemo St., Buffalo

After 12:00pm Liturgy

For the reposed and living members of our  
organization at

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church

Fillmore & Oneida Sts., Buffalo, NY

**COCKTAILS** at 1:00PM

**DINNER** at 1:30PM includes refreshments

Meeting to be held after dinner.

Dinner cost is \$10.00 for members and  
\$15.00 for guests

Membership dues of \$5.00 for the 2017 year  
must be current and may be paid at the door.

For reservations call:

Maria Malaniak – 668-5105

Reservation deadline is September 17, 2017  
Reservations are a must and liable. Thank you

→ → → Since the 2017 school year has started,  
and a new school is occupying the building  
(School 40) across the street, please do not park  
in the school lot on school days if you come to  
Liturgy. We have been verbally told that we may  
park in the lot on Sundays. If for some reason  
that changes, we will let you know. ← ← ←

Ukrainian Treasures & More



Judie Hawryluk

79 Southridge Dr  
West Seneca NY 14224

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Proud to Support

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church



Buszka Funeral Home

Director Peter D. Stachowski

2005 Clinton Street at S. Ogden, Buffalo New York 14206  
(716) 825-7777 [www.buszkafuneralhome.com](http://www.buszkafuneralhome.com)

Сердечна подяка усім спонзорам!



DNIPRO

ДНІПРО

Ukrainian Cultural Center

562 Genesee St. Buffalo, NY 14204 856-4476

[www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com](http://www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com)

Kitchen open Friday 5-9 pm

Live Music first Friday every month

Book your private party now

### Ad in the bulletin

If you want to advertise

Your business in the bulletin

Business card - \$100 for a year.

Бізнесова карточка

\$100.00 дол. – 52 рази до року.

Wilhelmina E. Klimeczko

Janine R. Klimeczko

Michael A. Klimeczko

Licensed Directors

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Orlowski-Pietszak Funeral Home

www.Pietszak.com

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thoughtful Personalized Service

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Buffalo

2400 William St.  
Cheektowaga

Thanks are extended to all Sponsors!

Become a member of Ukrainian FCU and save money with lower rates on loans, make money with higher interest on your savings, and save time with our convenient online services!

**PERSONAL & BUSINESS FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
SAVINGS & CHECKING ACCOUNTS | SHARE CERTIFICATES | MONEY MARKET | IRA | LOANS | MORTGAGES | VISA CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS | MONEYGRAM | INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC WIRE TRANSFERS | ONLINE SERVICES |  
|NOTARY PUBLIC | TRANSLATIONS |SCHOLARSHIPS|  
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ОЩАДНІ ТА ЧЕКОВІ РАХУНКИ | СЕРТИФІКАТИ | М.М. | ПЕНСІЙНІ РАХУНКИ | ПОЗИКИ | КРЕДИТИ НА НЕРУХОМІСТЬ | ПЛАТІЖНІ КАРТКИ VISA | MONEYGRAM | ГРОШОВІ ПЕРЕКАЗИ | ЕЛЕКТРОННІ ПОСЛУГИ | ПОСЛУГИ НОТАРІУСА | ПЕРЕКЛАДИ | СТИПЕНДІЇ

<p><b>Buffalo Branch</b> Ukrainian Home Dnipro 562 Genesee Street Buffalo NY 14204 (716) 847-6655 <a href="http://www.rufcu.org">www.rufcu.org</a></p>	<p><b>Amherst Branch</b> Ellicott Creek Plaza 2882 Niagara Falls Blvd Amherst NY 14228 (716) 799-8385 <a href="http://www.rufcu.org">www.rufcu.org</a></p>
<p><b>Business Hours</b> Closed <b>Wednesdays</b>, Зачинені по середах Mon., Tuesday, Thursday   9:30 am - 5 pm   Пон., вівторок, четвер Friday / П'ятниця   9:30 am - 7 pm   Saturday / Субота   9 am - 1 pm  </p>	<p><b>Business Hours</b> Closed <b>Mondays</b>, Зачинені по понеділках Tuesday - Thursday   9:30 am - 5 pm   3 вівторка по четвер Friday / П'ятниця   9:30 am - 6 pm   Saturday / Субота   9 am - 1 pm  </p>

Membership subject to eligibility. Federally insured by NCUA.

Щоб довідатися більше інформації про це що діється в громаді, Просимо відвідати веб-сторінку.  
<http://www.ukrainiansofbuffalo.com>  
Is the the web-page to find More information and events In our Ukrainian Community.

**EURO DELI AND GIFTS**  
[www.eurodelisausage.com](http://www.eurodelisausage.com)



**LUNCHES & SANDWICHES SERVED DAILY**

For All of Your Old World Favorite Products, Just Around The Corner. Stop In & Take a Look.

*Many Varieties of:*  
Bologna • Salami • Fresh Polish Sausage • Head Cheese • Garlic Sausage • Smoked Fish  
European Beer • Kefir/Butter • Condiments • Pierogi (Homemade) - *Many Varieties*  
Smoked Sausages • Bacon (Bozek) • Canadian Bacon • Blood Kishka (Homemade)  
Polish Hams • Caviar • Kvas Drink • Cheese • European Chocolates • Pickles/Tomatoes

4166 Union Rd.,  
Cheektowaga, NY (In Airport Plaza) 630-0130

2321 Millersport Hwy.  
Amherst (Getzville Plaza) 688-1495

Are you listening to "Good Samaritan"  
Ukr. Radio Program on WJL 1440 AM  
Every Sunday at 2:00 PM?  
Thank you for your donations!  
We welcome your comments.

\*\*\*

Чи ви слухасте нашу радіо передачу  
«Милосердний Самар'янин»  
Неділя, 2 год. на WJL 1440 AM?  
Сердечно дякуємо за пожертви!

Please include our Church  
in your charitable donations!

\*\*\*

Просимо підтримувати Рідну Церкву  
талантами, часом і жертвами.

**Cell Phones - Мобільні Телєфони:**  
Please turn off or silence your cell phone  
before entering the church. Thank you!

\*\*\*

Просимо вилучувати ваші мобільні  
телєфони підчас Святої Літургії.

**DONATIONS TO ST. NICHOLAS**

IMO of Lucas, Verostko & Chort Families  
Timothy Hogue & Marianne Chort - \$3,000.00  
(From the letter: Dear Father Marijan,  
Hope all is well with you, your family and your parish. Enclosed is the annual donation in loving memory of our dear departed from the Lucas, Verostko and Chort families, in thanksgiving for their lives. We are grateful every day. May God bless you... Marianne)

**Многая Літа! Many Happy Years!**  
Birthday wishes to the following parishioners  
who celebrate a birthday in September  
(Sorry for omission in the last bulletin)  
Stefan Korol 11

→ Spaghetti Dinner ←  
Sponsored by Branch 97  
Ukrainian National Women's  
League of America

\*Proceeds to benefit UNWLA charities:  
Ukrainian War Victims Fund,  
UNWLA Scholarship Fund,  
support for a Ukrainian orphanage  
and nursing home\*

Sunday, October 15, 2017  
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Church hall  
3275 Elmwood Ave., Kenmore, NY

Tickets:  
\$10 Adults \$5 Kids 6-12 years-old  
(From UNWLA Br. 97 members or at the door.)  
Basket raffle and music.  
For info, call 716-984-4886

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America  
(Buffalo, NY Branch)  
School of Ukrainian Studies "Ridna Shkola"  
Ukrainian American Youth Association (CYM)  
INVITE YOU TO  
THE BUFFALO SCREENING  
of the  
MULTI-AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILM  
**RECOVERY ROOM**  
A story about hope, resilience and compassion  
in a time of war



Canadian Medical Missions to Ukraine  
Directed by Adriana Luhovy  
Produced by Yuriy Luhovy and Zorianna Hrycenko

Saturday, September 30, 2017  
6:00pm  
Ukrainian Cultural Center Dnipro  
562 Genesee St, Buffalo, NY 14204  
[www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com](http://www.UkrainiansOfBuffalo.com)

THE PRODUCERS WILL BE PRESENT  
Admission: \$10  
Proceeds towards offsetting production costs  
of the 75 min documentary  
The film is under the patronage of  
the Ukrainian World Congress

ЮВІЛЕЙНИЙ РІК ПРИСВЯЧЕНИЙ  
ПАТРИАРХУ ЙОСИФУ СЛІПОМУ



2017 – COMMEMORATIVE YEAR OF  
PATRIARCH JOSYF SLIPIYI  
One Hundred Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Birth  
(February, 1892)  
Centennial Year of Priestly Ordination  
(September, 1917)  
Fiftieth Anniversary of First Pastoral Visit to  
The United States (summer, 1968)  
Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Transfer of his  
Body from Rome to Lviv (August, 1992)  
The Ukrainian Museum and Library of  
Stamford announces the Opening of  
a Commemorative Exhibit in his memory  
on September 29, 2017 *(by invitation)*  
Open to the Public  
until Thanksgiving Day, 2017  
Museum hours:  
Wednesday thru Friday 1-5 pm  
Saturdays *(for group appointments)*

Пластова Станиця Бафало  
запрошує всіх  
на традиційне  
**Печення Бараболі**  
в неділю 17-го вересня  
на оселі Новий Сокіл.  
Початок у 1-шій год. пополудне.

Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church



200 Como Park Blvd  
Cheektowaga, NY 14227  
Phone 684-0738  
[www.holytrinitybuffalo.com](http://www.holytrinitybuffalo.com)  
follow us on Facebook

**“VYSHYVANKA”  
Ukrainian Dance**

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Ukrainian Band “My Razom”  
from Rochester

8:00 - 12:00 Midnight

Ethnic Kitchen - 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Bar Open 7:00 – 12:00 Midnight

PRIZES for best  
Ukrainian Embroidery Outfit

Pre-Sale Tickets (\$20.00 per person)

At Door (\$25.00)

Fr. Yuriy @ 716/684-0738

Halyna Antonyshyn @ 716/662-3532



Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory for ever!  
Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на Віки!

- KITCHEN is now closed for the summer.
- Thank you for your patronage.  
Thanks are extended to all volunteers!
- Coffee Hour - Usually Every Sunday after Liturgy  
in Church Hall, so please join us downstairs. Thank  
you!

Until we meet next Sunday...

**TOP'S GIFT CARDS:**

Please help  
us raise money  
for our Church by  
purchasing Top's  
Gift Cards from us. If you buy in Tops anyway,  
why not help. You do not lose or gain anything  
by doing this, but our Church will benefit greatly.  
We receive back 5% of your spending. To take  
advantage of this program, see Mary Bodnar or  
call 655-3810, or call the rectory. Thank you and  
God Bless!



Please note: You can purchase gasoline  
with this card at Tops Gasoline Station.

\*\*\*

У нас успішно продаються Карточки з крам-  
ниці "Топс". Купуючи їх ви помагаєте церкві.  
Для Вас не робить різниці чи ви платили  
грішми чи карточкою, але церква дістане від  
„Топс” 5%. На \$1,000 церква одержить \$50. Що  
б закупити слід звертатися до п. Марії Боднар,  
або до канцелярії. Дякуємо!

CHURCH BULLETIN is published weekly.  
Deadline for information is Friday Evening.  
ЦЕРКОВНИЙ ВІСНИК видається тижнево.  
Інформації подавати до П'ятниці вечора.

**SAINT NICHOLAS UKRAINIAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**УКРАЇНСЬКА КАТОЛИЦЬКА  
ЦЕРКВА СВЯТОГО МИКОЛАЯ**

(ПІД ОПІКОЮ ПРЕЧИСТОЇ  
ДІВИ МАРІЇ ОДІГІТРИЇ)

Parish E-Mail: [stnbuffalo@gmail.com](mailto:stnbuffalo@gmail.com)

Web Page: <http://www.stnbuffalo.com>

Dioc. Web: <http://www.stamforddio.org>

308 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo, N. Y. 14206

Rectory: (716) 852-7566

Fax: 855-1319 ~ Kitchen: 852-1908

Confession: Before Liturgies

Сповідь: Перед Св. Літургіями

Baptism: By appointment

Хрещення: За домовленням

Marriage: Contact 6 months in advance

Вінчання: Голоситися 6 місяців скорше

Religion classes – Релігійна Програма

Saturday - Субота

Ministry to the sick – Опіка над хворима

Family members should call the Rectory

Родина повинна повідомити священика

**IN EMERGENCY CALL ANY TIME**

**В разі потреби завжди можна закликати**

V. Rev. Marijan Procyk, pastor

Rev. Robert Moreno, visiting priest

Please call if you are hospitalized,  
homebound and need a priest.

Просимо закликати якщо ви у ліжниці  
або приковані до ліжка!

**Sunday, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017**

Noon to 7 p.m.

# Ukrainian FESTIVAL

Presented by St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church



3275 ELMWOOD AVE., KENMORE, NY 14217

(ELMWOOD AVE BETWEEN SHERIDAN DRIVE AND THE I-290 YOUNGMANN EXPRESSWAY)

Ethnic Ukrainian food (Pyrohy/Pierogi, Stuffed Cabbage, Sausage) and Beverages. Chicken Barbeque, Religious/Ethnic Vendors, Baked Goods, Theme Baskets, Raffles and More...

The League of Ukrainian Catholics, North Anthracite Council invites everyone to the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual LUC Convention to be held October 6,7,8, 2017 at the Genetti Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

For further information call:

→ **570-759-2824** or **570-489-1256** ←



## Ліґа Українців Католиків

Організує 78 Конвенцію 6-8 Жовтня. Просимо перечитати інформації по англійськи. Більше можна довідатися від Елейн або інших членів Ліґи.

Боффало є найсильнішим відділом в організації. Просимо ставати членами Ліґи.

Членська вкладка для родини - \$14.00

## LUC CONVENTION



Arrangements have been made with Father Mark Leasure, pastor of St. George Carpatho Rusyn Orthodox Church, Taylor PA [a suburb of Scranton] for Conventioneers 2017 to experience the myrrh flowing icon of the Blessed Mother on Saturday afternoon, October 7. Known also as the "Kardiotissa", the sacred image drawn on wood has been exuding a fragrant myrrh for over three years and during this time has attracted thousands of pilgrims to the church. Transportation from the hotel to the church will be made available.

## In Memoriam! Вічна Пам'ять!

Упокоївся в Господі Св. Пам  
+Богдан Дусанівський  
Родині складаємо співчуття,  
а йому хай буде Вічна Пам'ять!

Fell asleep in the Lord  
+Bohdan Dusanivsky



(Dec 7, 1924 - September 5, 2017)

Beloved husband of the late Sofia (nee Meusz); devoted father of Oksana (Richard, Jr.) Wisniewski, Alexandra "Lesia" (late Larry) Kinsella and the late Wasyl Dusanivsky; loving grandfather of William Wisniewski and Natalie Wisniewski; also survived by nieces, nephews and cousins, in US and Canada.

Memorials may be made to ZUDAK or UUARC. Online condolences: [www.Pietszak.com](http://www.Pietszak.com).

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends. May he rest with the Lord in Peace!

**Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamiat'!**

## +Bohdan Dusanivsky

Husband, father, dido, brother and son, born on December 7, 1924 in Denysiw, Temopil'ska obl., Ukraine to Ilko and Anna (Makohin) Dusanivsky.

He immigrated to United States from Germany in 1948 to North Carolina where he obtained various jobs - those being roofing and tobacco picking.

He came to, Buffalo in 1950. This is where he met & later married his wife Sofia (Meusz) on Sep. 13, 1952.

Together they raised three children. He worked as a tool dye maker for the J.H.

Williams Company until they closed in 1982.

He was a devote and very active member of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church be it working on picnics, bar tending, in the church office as well as Friday night bingo from (1963-1985).

He was also the president of the Ukr. Senior's Club and a member of the Choir Burlaky.

Son Wasyl Dusanivsky passed away 35 years ago, 1982. No explanation. No closure. His life change drastically.

His wife Sophia passed away on Jan. 10, 2017.

Those left to mourn: Daughters — Oksana (Richard, Jr.) Wisniewski and Alexandra (Lesia) (late Larry) Kinsella; Grandchildren - William (Billy) and Natalka Wisniewski; Other family members in the US and Canada. May he rest in peace. Eternal Memory! Vichnaya Pamyat!



## Щоденні молитви

(Продовження з попереднього числа)

### Вечірня молитва (тричі перехрестившись)

Господи Боже наш, все, у чому я згрішив (згрішила) сьогодні, словом, ділом чи думкою, Ти, як благий і чоловіколюбець, прости мені. Сон мирний і спокійний даруй мені, ангела Твого хоронителя пошли, щоб він охороняв мене від усякого зла, бо Ти єси охоронець душ і тіл наших, і Тобі славу возсилаємо Отцю, і Сину, і Святому Духові нині, і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.

## Молитви на різні потреби

Молитви на різні потреби - це наші прохання до Бога про благословення на кожен час, потребу чи справу в житті.

### Молитва перед їжею

Христе Боже, благослови їду і пиття рабам Твоїм, бо Ти святий еси, завжди, нині і повсякчас, і на віки віків. Амінь.

### Молитва після їжі

Благодаримо Тебе, Христе, Боже наш, що наситив нас Твоїми земними благами. Не позбав нас і небесного Твого Царства, але так, як Ти прийшов був, Спасе, поміж учнів Твоїх і мир дав їм, прийди й до нас і спаси нас. Амінь.

### Молитва перед навчанням

Милосердний Господи, допоможи мені в навчанні, яке розпочинаю задля мого спасення і на Твою славу. Амінь.

### Молитва після навчання

Дякую Тобі, Боже, за допомогу, подай мені силу, терпеливість і розум для продовження навчання задля мого спасення і на Твою славу. Амінь.

### Молитва за батьків

Всемилосердний Боже! Дякую Тобі за моїх батьків та за всі добра, які ти мені подав через них. Вони виховали мене, навчили мене любити Твої святі заповіді та бридитися гріхом. Я люблю їх і хочу їх завжди шанувати і слухати. А Ти, Господи, допоможи мені Твою ласкою, щоб я цю постанову виконав (виконала).

Благослови їх, Господи, всяким добром та довгим і щасливим життям, хорони від злого, дай їм силу перемогти всі труднощі. Дай, щоб вони на старості своїх літ діждалися потіхи від своїх дітей, а передусім від мене; а по смерті прийми їх і мене до Небесного Царства. Амінь.

### Молитва за померлих

Упокой, Господи, душі спочилих рабів Твоїх: родичів і добродійників моїх, і всіх спочилих християн, і всяку душу, що спочила, і Твоїї ласки й милосердя потребує, прости всі гріхи їхні вільні й невольні і даруй їм Царство Небесне. Амінь.

З Молитовника Дитини  
«Бог Завжди зі мною»

From last Bulletin: (Photo No. 31)



№ 32. From the archives: Anybody you know? З архівів.



## Remembering my dido

(by Mishko)

Although what's hemmed and stitched below is designed as a cathartic goodbye, it is, at its genesis, a beautiful story. And as I enter the second half of my life, with the animated flare and inhibited exuberance of a once-colorful youth drifting further away, I've stumbled across, uncovered and blew off the dust to consume this story once last time. As a result of this, what I've discovered and learned has created a paradigmatic shift—and that must be my first best friend teaching me one final lesson.

I had to be no more than four or five years of age. I had no real stresses, and was surely not unloved or in need of anything of importance. I was emotionally satiated. However, at that age a child starts to develop an acute sense of death's meaning—a physical finality with a distinct summation of a sad, hollow emptiness. What triggered this thought 32-years ago I quite don't remember. However, I knew precisely why I feared death: it meant that I would someday lose my Dido Petryshyn. I'd lose my fishing and gardening buddy. I'd lose my partner in riling up Baba. I'd lose my single greatest influence, and the one person I could not stand to disappoint. He meant the world to me. This was no secret. And everyone—and I mean *everyone*, friends and family alike—has been well aware of this fact.

So, when my young mind began to contemplate larger ideas in bed at night, I would often shed my pain through tears at the thought of death—my dido's death. During these moments, I would even try and barter with God. Like a master Arabian tradesman, I would offer up everything I had or could control. The offering was somewhat substantial for a seven year-old kid: stuffed animals, toys, even behaving in *Ridna Schkola* and being nicer to my sister were on the table. All I wanted in return was for God to not take my dido away, because I wouldn't know what to do. Simply, it would hurt too much.

Decades have passed since those nights. But, when I found out that he'd passed away, I felt like the seven-year-old Mishko—a little boy who wouldn't see his Dido again.

The story could end right at this point, and I would tend to believe that you, the reader, would wholly understand how much I love him and what he's meant to me. However, the above is a bit selfish and almost ego pacifying. I'm no longer the young version of me in bed bartering with God with tear-engulfed eyes, but the one who will soon to be entering his 40s. And solely because of that, this is where the actual story begins.

When arriving to Buffalo for the funeral, there was one place I had to go almost immediately—a place that is *home* for the entire family: Baba and Dido's house. The importance of this *home*





most beautiful things I have ever seen. My dido was my Dido—a man I admired and loved *dearly*. To my Baba, he was her husband, a father to her children, a grandfather to their grandchildren, and a great-grandfather to their great-grandchildren; but most importantly, he was her best friend and soul partner, and together they beat all of the odds thrown at them and built a loving home for all of us.

cannot be understated here. We're not talking about the physical attributes of the house itself, not in the slightest. Rather, we're talking exclusively about two people and their love of 72 years.

There I was again, walking up the steps into my Baba and Dido's home, like I had done hundreds of times before, completely cognizant that things would no longer be as they were. Within seconds of opening the door and peering my head inside the kitchen, I saw my Baba's eyes. And then, for the first time, I understood what love between two people could mean. She didn't need to voice a single syllable or shed another painful tear. Her eyes told me everything I needed to know: this was love. In her loss, I saw love. Pure. Absolute. Universal. And even in sorrow, it was one of the

achieve even the smallest degrees of love, let alone happiness. For millennia, some of the most sophisticated and brilliant minds have theorized the meaning of the two and how to intertwine them as *one* in the physical, with little-to-no success outside of causing tiresome debate ad nauseam. But I'd just seen a yearning for something more in my Baba's heartbroken eyes, and I'm forever changed because of that moment. My perspective changed. New priorities started to take hold, and the fickle ones quickly began to erode.

Even if I never achieve anything close to resembling what my Baba and Dido had in building that *home*, I will be forever filled with the happiness knowing that I was able to see two of the greatest people do it together, as one.



And for that, I am so grateful that my first best friend had one final lesson to share.