

# Ukrainian American Cultural and Religious Center of New England revives Boston's 'Malanka'

by Vsevolod Petriv

DEDHAM, Mass. — After a four-year hiatus, the Boston "Malanka" was revived with style and grace amid a renewed community spirit on February 2 at Moseleys on the Charles. The event was organized and sponsored by a new organization, the Ukrainian American Cultural and Religious Center of New England.

The organization's mission is to establish and maintain facilities for the promulgation of Ukrainian culture, religion and heritage among individuals of Ukrainian descent and the community at large.

It was founded by a group of Boston-based Ukrainian American organizations or their local branches: Ukrainian American Heritage Foundation, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian American Veterans, Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Ukrainian National Women's League of America and Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. Each of these organizations is represented by at least one seat on the board of directors.

Initial funding for the organization was provided by the Ukrainian American Heritage Foundation and the Ukrainian American Youth Association's Boston branch. This funding provided initial operating funds and allowed the purchase of two and a half acres of land located in a suburb of Boston, and one minute from Interstate 95. The land includes a small facility that is currently being used as the headquarters.

The Malanka was this group's first fund-raising activity. The event planning committee co-chaired by Stephen Kostecki, Nicholas Geba and Michael Nosal Jr. organized the Malanka.

A large crowd attended from as far away as New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The pastors of both local parishes — Yaroslav Nalysnyk of Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church and Roman Tarnavsky of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church — were in attendance.

To start off the evening, a full buffet dinner was served. The remainder of the time was spent dancing to a mix of smooth, traditional and lively music provided by the band Na Zdorov'ya from Yonkers, N.Y. The dance floor was never empty and all around the hall people greeted old



A drawing of the proposed new Ukrainian American Cultural and Religious Center of New England.

friends and made new acquaintances.

Each attendee received an informational package provided by the Boston branch of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union managed by Martha Maykut. The packet contained information about each of the founding organizations of the new cultural center and reference material related to the Malanka tradition.

During one of the band's breaks, Evhen Muzyka, president of the Ukrainian American Cultural and Religious Center of New England, took center stage carrying a depiction of the proposed new cultural center drawn by the firm of Carr, Lynch and Sandell Inc. of Cambridge, Mass. This firm was retained by the Real Estate Committee, chaired by Walter Maykut, with members Ihor

Raniuk and Mr. Nosal.

Mr. Muzyka described the organization and what it hoped to accomplish: "Our plans include the construction of a new state of the art facility, displayed here, tonight, for the first time. This facility will provide functionality for people of all ages with youth as its focal point."

He ended his short presentation by asking for the community's support and vowing that this is only the first of many such events. After a resounding round of applause the dancing continued well past the stroke of midnight.

For more information about the Ukrainian American Cultural and Religious Center of New England readers may visit the website [www.ukrainiancenter.org](http://www.ukrainiancenter.org) or e-mail [uke@ukrainiancenter.org](mailto:uke@ukrainiancenter.org).

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A view of the Malanka action, above and below.

