

ShopTalk

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Editor, Lisa O'Donnell Connors, x4-6803

A Friend of the President

Myra Hatala, an assistant manager in the Ad Ops Department, was a young girl in her twenties when she defected from what was then communist Czechoslovakia in 1966. Her soon-to-be husband also defected at the same time, but she left behind family and close friends, including her friend Ivan Gasparovic who was finishing law school.

Thirty-eight years later, Hatala is a U.S. citizen and has worked at

The Post for 23 years. Her life has had its share of highs and lows, her two brothers and parents eventually joined her in the U.S., and her husband died in the mid-70s. Her friend Gasparovic married her husband's cousin and they stayed in close touch through letters.

Changes were also taking place in her country. The

Slovak Republic separated from Czechoslovakia in 1993. This spring, she was invited to the White House on March 29 for the announcement that her native country had become a member of NATO. Slovakia then joined the European Union on May 1. On June 15, she was back in Slovakia to watch her childhood friend, Gasparovic, become president of the country.

"You feel uncommonly ecstatic and at the same time humbled, when your schoolmate and relative becomes a president of your native



Hatala's companion Charles Hauer, a professor at George Washington University (left) with Hatala (far right) and the new president of Slovakia, Ivan Gasparovic and his wife Sylvia in the President's Palace in the town of Bratislava.



PHOTOS - PROVIDED BY HATALA

Ad Ops Assistant Manager **Myra Hatala** with childhood friend and now President of Slovakia Ivan Gasparovic.

country. And even more so if he happens to be a person of uncommon qualities," explains Hatala. "Ivan Gasparovic is the third president of the Slovak Republic. He served in Vaclav Havel's government, side by side with Alexander Dubcek, first as an attorney general for Czechoslovakia and later as the first head of the Slovak Parliament. He is highly respected in academic circles as the author of the country's Democratic constitution and as a professor."

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New Faces



STEVE ADKINS



MIMI ALEMSEGED



YVONNE ELLIS



BEN GRIGGS



SHAUNE JACKSON-HAYES



JAY KENNEDY



STEPHEN LEBLANC



ALLAN MARTIN



MICHAEL MONCAVAGE



HEIDI MOREAU



SANJAY SHASTRI



MATT SCHUDEL

Steve Adkins joined The Post in April in the position of advertising sales representative for the jobs unit. He was previously an advertising account manager for Valpak Direct Marketing Systems. Adkins has also worked in advertising sales for Tucson's (Arizona) Newspapers, Inc. He holds a BA in political science with a minor in business administration from the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Mimi Alemseged became the new supervisor of The Post's IT data center in Tysons Corner in May. Alemseged came to the newspaper from PSINET in New York where she was the operations supervisor. She has also held information technology positions for KIVEX.com, Tips, Inc. and Unified Industries. Alemseged holds a BS in computer information systems from American University. Her interests include reading, music and spending time with her daughter.

Bob Chambers joined the Circulation Department in May in the position of zone

manager. He previously worked for Giant Food where he most recently was a category manager. Other positions he held for Giant include senior buyer for seasonal merchandise and category buyer for gourmet/natural foods. Chambers earned a BS in business administration with a concentration in marketing from Salisbury State University. In his spare time he enjoys golf and waterskiing. (Photo not available.)

Yvonne Ellis became a telecharge service representative in the Accounting Department in April. Prior to coming to The Post, she was a pre-collection representative for Capital Recovery Services LLC. She has also worked for Blue Cross/ Blue Shield, Aetna U.S. Healthcare and Apria Healthcare. She enjoys collecting key chains from different countries, states and cities.

Ben Griggs was hired in April as an advertising service representative for Advertising's property management unit. He received his BA in American Studies from

Amherst College in May 2003. His interests include photography, sculpture and music. Griggs is also a member of a local rock band called Ambassador Now (www.ambassador-now.net).

Shaune Jackson-Hayes recently returned to Metro's Tab Layout Desk as a layout editor after a two-year stint at the *Detroit Free Press*. She originally worked on the Tab Desk from 1999 to 2002 and previously was a copy editor at the *Kansas City Star*. Hayes earned a BA in print journalism from Howard University and enjoys singing and theater in her free time.

Jay Kennedy was named labor and employment counsel in the Executive Department in April. He came to The Post from Jones Day Associates law firm in the District. Kennedy holds a J.D. from William & Mary School of Law in Williamsburg, Va. and an A.B. in public and international affairs from Princeton University in New Jersey.

Stephen LeBlanc was named mailroom superinten-

dent at the Springfield Plant in May. He is responsible for daily inserting and resource management. LeBlanc was a lieutenant colonel and retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in April after 23 years of active duty. He was a helicopter pilot and was stationed at various bases throughout the U.S. and aboard numerous aircraft carriers around the globe. He was also an attache assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Australia for four years. LeBlanc earned an MBA from the University of Rochester in New York, an MA in strategic studies at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Penn. and a BS in biology from Villanova University.

Allan Martin was named mailroom superintendent for the College Park Plant in May. He is returning to The Post after working at Gazette Newspapers as the director of operations and most recently as the general manager. Martin began his career at The Post in 1975 as a part time worker in the Mailroom and later became a press operator.



**CHERYL
THOMPSON**



DEL WILBER



NATHAN WILLIS



KAREN YOURISH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 1981, he was promoted to crew chief for the Springfield Plant's Pressroom and in 1988 was promoted to pressroom foreman at the former Southeast Plant. In 1990, Martin transferred to the Springfield Plant as pressroom foreman. He went on to become the assistant superintendent in the Springfield Mailroom, then mailroom superintendent and subsequently became assistant plant manager at the Southeast Plant. Martin earned a BS in newspaper production management from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

Michael Moncavage became the manager for client support in the IT Department in May. Prior to coming to the newspaper, he was president and chief technology officer for the Arlington Group, a developer of grants management software in McLean, Va. Moncavage holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BS in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His interests include home improvement projects and swimming.

Heidi Moreau joined the Accounting Department in April as a customer accounting representative. She had previously worked for the *Augusta Chronicle* in Georgia. Moreau is pursuing a BS in criminal justice administration from Park University in Mis-

souri. Her hobbies include fitness and animals.

Sanjay Shastri was hired in May by the IT Department to be the senior basis administrator for The Post Advertising System (PAS) project. He most recently worked for Raytheon Corp. in Vienna, Va. Shastri earned a BS in computer science from the University of Maryland. In his spare time, he enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with his two young daughters.

Matt Schudel joined Metro's Obituary Desk as a reporter in May. He was previously the arts writer for the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* in Fort Lauderdale. Schudel began his newspaper career at The Post as a copy editor for Style and Book World and left in 1985 to become a feature writer at the *News and Observer* in Raleigh, N.C. He is the coauthor of a book about Muhammad Ali, titled *Muhammad Ali: The Birth of a Legend, Miami, 1961-1964*. Schudel graduated from the University of Nebraska and holds an MA in English from the University of Virginia.

Cheryl Thompson was hired as a customer accounting representative in the Accounting Department in April. Previously, she worked for SoftMed Systems as a staff accountant and billing specialist. Thompson also held several positions at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. Her interests include softball and movies.

Del Wilber became a reporter for Metro's City Desk in April. He had been a reporter for the *Baltimore Sun*, covering the police beat since 2001. He was the *Sun's* lead reporter on sniper coverage which was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for breaking news in 2003. Wilber recently received the Al Nakkula Award for police reporting from the University of Colorado. He earned a BA in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Illinois.

Nathan Willis joined Metro as a copy editor in May. He came to The Post from the *Dallas Morning News* where he was a copy editor. Willis was an intern at The Post in 2001 and has also worked for the *Oregonian* in Portland, the *Hutchinson News* in Kansas, and the *Sterling Bulletin* in Kansas. He earned a BS in journalism from the University of Kansas. He enjoys travel, movies and computers.

Karen Yourish was named graphics editor for the Financial Desk in April. She was previously the managing editor for *Arms Control Today* and a graphics editor and reporter for *Newsweek*. She was also a reporter for the *Jerusalem Report* in Israel. Yourish has an MS in journalism from Columbia University in New York. ■

Hatala was part of a small group of guests that were invited to witness Gasparovic being sworn in as president during a formal session of Slovakia's parliament. She joined hundreds of her former countrymen for a day of festivities at the president's palace that Hatala described as "awesome." Two days after the inauguration, she and her companion Charles Hauer had a private lunch with the president and his wife Sylvia at a restaurant. They then walked across the street for coffee and a tour of her friend's new home, the president's palace.

"The whole sequence of events was totally unthinkable for me as a young refugee," says Hatala. "Today I visit the country, and I am living part of my childhood dreams." ■



Hatala is photographed with guards at the palace during the festivities for the president's inauguration.

Weight Watchers Classes

The next series of Weight Watchers classes will be held on Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. in the Northwest Building's 7th floor accounting conference room for 12 weeks beginning July 20. Please call the Health Center to register at x4-7192.

Dell Computer Discount

Employees of The Washington Post Company and affiliates are eligible to receive a discount on the purchase of Dell Computers. The offer includes a five to 10 percent discount on Dimension™ and Inspiron™ products, discounted shipping, and 24 hour Dell hardware telephone technical support.

Here's information on how to place your order:

1) Go to the Dell EPP (Employee Purchase Program) website: www.Dell.com/atg/WashingtonPost



2) When prompted for your member ID, enter:

GS14209248

3) Order your items and checkout.

If you need phone assistance, please call the EPP team at 1-800-695-8133.

If you need further assistance, contact Dell online account manager: Marc Caza-las, by e-mail at Marc_Cazalas@dell.com, or call 1-800-274-3355 ext. 46267.

Post Kids Panda Pictures Deadline

Don't forget to send in your kids' colored panda pictures for the Post Kids Contest that was featured in ShopTalk on June 24. The deadline for entries is Monday, July 26 at noon. Panda entries picked at random will receive fun prizes including KidsPost fun packs and four tickets to a D.C. United game or four orchestra seats to the *King and I* at Wolf Trap on Saturday, Sept. 4 at 8 p.m. (**PLEASE NOTE** – the contest rules originally noted the tickets were for the Friday, Sept. 3 performance.) The winning entries will also

be published in an upcoming issue of ShopTalk. Contest rules and the panda artwork can be found in the June 24 issue of ShopTalk available in the Public Relations Dept. on the third floor, L street side of the Northwest Building, or on the home page of *Intranet*. For more information, contact **Lisa Connors**, x4-6803.

New Post Haste Number

Please note that the new phone number for The Post's information service called Post Haste is (301) 313-2200.

Send A Kid to Camp

Columnist **John Kelly's** Send a Kid to Camp campaign is working toward the goal of raising \$750,000 by July 23. The much-needed funds are used by Family and Child Services of Washington, D.C., Inc. to enable underprivileged area children to attend summer camp at Camp Moss Hollow, a rustic 367-acre site in the Shenandoah Valley near Markham, Va. If you want to support the campaign, donations can be dropped off at Kelly's office in the Newsroom

on the 5th floor of the Northwest Building, or sent (checks only!) through interoffice mail to Kelly's attention in the Newsroom. To make an online donation go to www.washingtonpost.com/camp, or read John Kelly's Washington, Monday through Friday, in Style.

Flood Leaves Post



PHOTO – TIMOTHY WILSON

Jeri Flood, director of consumer marketing, with **Margaret Cromelin**, vice president of marketing, at Flood's Caribbean-themed farewell party in the Northwest Building's second floor auditorium on Thursday, July 1. Flood left The Post on July 2 to relocate with her family to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Marketplace

FOR SALE: Brass chandelier with six candelabra bulbs, new and never used. In original box and packing. Bird cage shape, measures about 18-24" long and 12-15" wide. Excellent for an open foyer, \$100 Call Angela at x4-4848 or (240) 338-4405.

FOR SALE: Washington Post t-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, umbrellas, bags, mugs, books and more! Shop online at: www.washingtonpost.com/store. Enter POST in coupon code during checkout for 10% discount.

FOR SALE: Condo with loft, 2 BR, 2 BA and 1 car garage in Alexandria, approx. 1,400 sq. feet. 12-years old, end unit, top floor condo features 17' ceilings in living room, fireplace and balcony. Master suite with 10' ceilings, sep. shower and tub, and walk-in closet. Community includes pool, sand volleyball court and picnic area. Braddock Road and 395, commute @ 35 min. to The Post. \$410,000. Call Whitney at x4-5792 or (703) 346-6981.

FOR SALE: Two Prince tickets for sale. \$118 for August 14 show. Call Adrienne at x4-7101 or Lisa at x4-7989.

FOR RENT: Beautiful 3 BR 2 1/2 BA house located at 1353 Jefferson Street NW. Brand new kitchen, hardwood floors, washer/dryer, large backyard with deck and sun porch. Near Rock Creek Pkwy and Takoma Park metro. \$2,400 a month plus utilities - available August 1. Please call Angela at x4086 or 703-967-7786.

FREE ADS!

Reach more than 2,000 Post employees with your free ad in Marketplace.

The deadline for ads is Friday at noon and your ad will appear in the next Thursday's ShopTalk. Send your ad via email to ShopTalk@washpost.com or fax to x4-4963. Ads are for Post employees only and must include your name, extension and home phone number. Ads run two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee per issue, please.

Questions? Call Lisa Connors at x4-6803.