



S·T·★·R·S

AN ANTIQUE MALL

PRESENTS



ANTIQUE
BY DESIGN

Rediscovering the Classics



Neo-classic for
the eclectic in you.



Country for the
unpretentious in you.



Collectibles for the
fun part of you.

The antique event of 1992, showcasing over 120 booths of the Northwest's finest selection of antiques and collectibles.

February 6, 7 & 8, 1992

Early Buying, Thursday — 6 pm to 10 pm, \$10

Friday and Saturday — 10 am to 6 pm, \$5

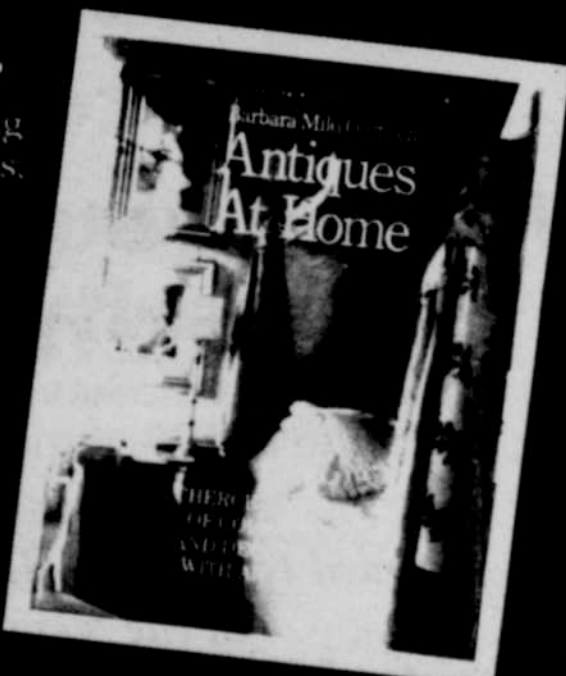
Author of *The Scented Room*

Barbara Milo Ohrbach

will be signing her book.

Antiques At Home

Cherchez's book of collecting and decorating with antiques.



Memorial Coliseum — Portland, Oregon

Produced by Stars & Splendid Co., Inc.

(503) 239-0316



Out in Russia

Activist talks about being gay in the Soviet Union

by Matt Bailey

At a dimly-lit table in an upstairs corner of Hobo's, Roman Kalinin nervously turned a glass ashtray over and over in his hands. Small and boyish at 25, the stylishly-dressed Kalinin on the first evening of his first visit to Portland hardly looked the part of a revolutionary.

But a revolution is what he and a handful of followers have unleashed in the former Soviet Union, a country where gays and lesbians have routinely been jailed for consensual sex and where a third of the populace said in a recent survey that "homosexuals" should be executed.

"We must be more visible if we are to overcome homophobia and fear and ignorance," said Kalinin, who is generally credited with founding and leading the fledgling Soviet gay and lesbian civil rights movement. "I would say our gay and lesbian visibility is about where yours was perhaps 50 years ago."

Continuing to roll the ashtray in his hands while carefully considering questions from the local gay press, Kalinin said he did not expect any immediate improvements for Soviet gays and lesbians just because the old Soviet Union has given way to a new Commonwealth of Independent States.

"You can change the name of the government every day of the week, but it really means nothing to us," said Kalinin through his Portland interpreter, Peter Hartikka. "When the shelves are empty under communism, they are communist empty shelves; when they are empty under the commonwealth, they are commonwealth empty shelves."

Despite the difficulties ahead, Kalinin points with obvious pride to what the Soviet gay and lesbian rights movement has accomplished.

"Actually all of our successes are big successes because we have never had any successes before," Kalinin declared.

At the top of Kalinin's list is publication of the first Soviet gay and lesbian newspaper, *Tema*, which he edits. Last year, the Moscow City Council officially registered *Tema*, giving the newspaper the legal right to exist and do business. It currently circulates 15,000 copies monthly, mostly in Moscow and St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad).

Kalinin is also proud to be co-founder and current president of the Moscow Union of Lesbians and Gay Men and to have been instrumental in organizing last summer's International Gay and Lesbian Symposium and Film Festival in Moscow and St. Petersburg. He is also encouraged by the amount of coverage the gay and lesbian rights movement has received in the Soviet straight press.



PHOTO BY CATHERINE STAUFFER

Among other things, according to Kalinin, activists are working to repeal Article 121 of the Russian penal code under which gays and lesbians can be jailed for engaging in consensual sex.

"Currently, it is more dangerous to be gay in the Soviet Union than it is to sell drugs," said Kalinin, in reference to the lighter sentences often given to drug traffickers.

Lack of information on AIDS and safe sex is also a major problem in his homeland, Kalinin said.

"Officially, there are 700 AIDS cases in the Soviet Union, but we know there are many more than that," he said. "But, about 20 million people are tested for HIV each year against their will or without their knowledge." Generally, only gay people who read *Tema* know much about AIDS or safe sex, he added.

Next summer, Kalinin hopes to help organize a conference of gay American business people in Moscow and St. Petersburg to help establish an economic base for the Soviet gay and lesbian rights movement.

"Right now, there are no gay bars, no gay restaurants, no gay establishments where people can meet," he said. "That has to change."

Kalinin's visit to Portland was part of an American fundraising and public awareness tour of U.S. cities, which also included stops in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, D.C. and New York City. Kalinin plans to return home in January.

Kalinin said he felt a particular kinship with Portland gays and lesbians because of the threat posed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance.

"Groups like the OCA would do well to remember what the Ku Klux Klan did to blacks in your country and what Hitler did to the Jews," he said. "In our country, the communists were once a persecuted minority who went on to become themselves the persecutors."

Money raised on Kalinin's behalf in Portland and elsewhere will be channeled to the San Francisco-based International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission for use by the Soviet gays rights movement, said Terry Bean, a local organizer of Kalinin's Portland visit. Bean said Kalinin's travel expenses were covered by private donation.

SANDRA K. PINCHES, Ph.D.

Individual and couple counseling

Specializing in:

- Relationship issues
- Addiction and codependency recovery
- Spiritual issues and meditation training
- Tai Chi Classes

917 SW Oak, Ste. 420
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 227-7558