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Interview with Mr. Anatolij Kubrik, the parishioner of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Holy Ascension of Maplewood town, New Jersey, USA

Alison McCarthy graduated from Seton Hall University and was part of the oral history project.

An interview with Anatolij Kubrik, Anatolij was born in Kyiv, Ukraine in 1938. Anatolij lived in the Ukraine with his mother, father and brother until 1944. When shortly after World War II began, the Germans invaded Ukraine and captured his family forcing them to do agriculture work on a farm in Germany. In addition to his family, there were also three other people the Germans captured and forced to work on the farm.

Along the way, the train his family was on stopped in Romania. Anatolij shared an anecdote about his father drinking wine off the floor of a home in Romania. He acknowledges that at the time, he was very young, so much of what happened during this time seemed normal, due to that youth. Following the war, Germany was divided between four countries, Anatolij and his family were in the British section. In 1950s President Truman allowed for non-communists with Russian passports to come to the US, Anatolij and his family resettled in New Jersey.

After immigrating to the US, at 12 years old, his family lived in Newark, NJ. There Anatolij began middle school in the US. He was put in an immigrant only classroom where they all took several ESL classes a day in hopes of quickly learning English. After three years, he was ranked second in the class and was the Salutatorian. Anatolij went on to captain the soccer team at Westside High School and play left-wing on his college team where they became co-champions.

Anatolij is now a retired civil engineer, he is fluent in Ukrainian, English and German. He attended Newark College of Engineering at NJIT. He has four children with his first wife and met his current wife in Kiev when he went back to visit relatives in 1994. He has two grandchildren who live in Arizona. When discussing the current state of affairs in Ukraine, Anatolij acknowledges that despite the circumstances (annexation of Crimea) he does not believe Ukraine and Russia will go to war.

References

Kubrik, Anatolij (2018, May). Interview with Anatolij Kubrik [Interview]. Alison McCarthy, Seton Hall University.

Interview 1 (24:50). May 1, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFKVhc5ps0w&t=73s>

