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## Winter Newsletter 2009

# Holiday Greetings

As I look out the window at the fallen snow and think about the human warmth that comes from the year-end holidays celebrated by almost every culture in the world; I appreciate every one of our ICW members, volunteers, and friends. You, as Citizen Diplomats, bring human warmth with every personal contact with international visitors -- thawing the fear, suspicion, and conflict that freeze possibilities for peace, friendship, and understanding through the world.

We see the impact of our programs on virtually every visitor, sending them home with a totally changed image of Americans and a renewed energy to make positive changes in their countries. We see a parallel impact on those who interact with our visitors. These results are multiplied exponentially through word-of-mouth here and abroad and through ongoing communications with visitor alumni.

Our work is especially important in these difficult economic and political times. Citizen Diplomacy is a tangible and effective way for all to contribute to a better world. Your support and, especially, your personal involvement are crucial. ICW's goals for the upcoming year include increasing the number of international programs we do, finding new homestay hosts for our visitors, and expanding our outreach to local business and professional organizations.

With your help, we can achieve these goals. We wish you all the warmth and happiness that this holiday season offers and we look forward to working with you in the new year.

All the best,

Royce Anderson, Executive Director



## Thank You Homestay Hosts!

As this successful and interesting year comes to an end, we are greatly looking forward to starting the next one. The one challenge that we face when planning our programs for international visitors is providing homestay visits for our guests. We have already been in the position of turning away programs that we are otherwise capable of implementing because we do not have enough families to place the visitors.

Opening your doors to our international visitors and helping them experience American ways of life are acts that are worth more than



Russian visitors and homestay hosts at the Farewell Dinner

words can express. We should like to thank you for these acts of kindness shown by you as a homestay host and wish you and your family happy holidays.

We hope to host more international visitors in the coming years and hope that you will consider helping again. If you have not hosted before, we strongly encourage it and believe it to be an extremely rewarding experience both for the host and the visitor.

Thank you! Gracias! Merci! Danke! Arigatô!  
Faleminderit! Xièxie! Grazie! Dziękuję!  
Спасибо!

## Success Stories

ICW was recognized by the Community Connections Program in Washington, DC for some of the success stories of our alumni. Two visitors from Russia who took part in the program on “Tolerance, Community Relations and Minority Rights” in May-June 2008 have used the skills they learned to better their community and country. Natalia Solnceva has developed an ethnic tolerance program for Russian students and a training program to help foreign students adapt to life in Russia. Her accomplishments recently earned her a Potanin Educational grant, awarded for outstanding scientific and educational achievements of young educators. Maria Ruzina, Program Director of Children of the City, a St. Petersburg-based charitable fund, has developed a program to create intercultural dialogue projects for students to address the problems of ethnic intolerance and prejudice.

Two visitors from Kazakhstan who took part in the program “Infection Control and Blood Safety” in August 2007, Dr. Marat Daumenov and Dr. Galymzhan Abish, played key roles in establishing two new Medical Equipment Sterilization and the Blood Safety Centers in Shymkent, southern Kazakhstan. Drs. Daumenov and Abish became the first Directors of these Centers. The opening ceremonies were of such importance that President Nursultan Nazarbaev visited Shymkent to take part in them on January 7, 2009.

More information about these success stories and our other programs can be found on our ICW website, [www.intcent.org](http://www.intcent.org).



## **THOUGHTS FROM AN INTERN**

### **by Charity Enimil**

*Charity is a graduate student at Clark University and has been an ICW intern during this academic year.*

Being part of the family at the International Center has been one of my best moments here in the United States. We are all expected one way or another to have some basic idea or knowledge about office work; organizing events, writing and sending formal e-mails and letters, proposal writing, use of Microsoft tools, etc. I did have the knowledge but my time spent here at the ICW has given me a broader understanding. As an international student from Ghana studying Professional Communication, I saw this internship as one of the best ways of practically experiencing what my program entailed in terms of communication, management, and marketing and ICW gave me the 'icing that I needed to top the cake.'

I was also given the opportunity to experience Thanksgiving for the first time when Jim Welu, a member of ICW and director of the Worcester Arts Museum, gave me and my fellow intern Lin Lin, also an international student from China, and her friend Henry a night to remember by inviting us to his home. He hosted us and about twenty other friends for a Thanksgiving dinner. It was a night of multiculturalism, with people from Russia, Puerto Rico, China, Italy, USA, Ghana, and Peru, exchanging ideas, food, and experiences. Royce Anderson, Executive Director of the International Center of Worcester, treated us to some music using his guitar skills to warm us all up after a satisfying dinner of roasted turkey, pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce, etc and a dessert of homemade ice-cream. For us, as international students who have never celebrated thanksgiving, this will be seen as memorable day.

I would like to thank everyone including,

Royce Anderson, Nadia Anderson, Jim Welu, Sharon Olander and everyone else for making my time here with the ICW a success, wishing you a Merry Christmas and a successful New Year.

Thank you! Medase!

### **Russian Artist Paints Mayor's Portrait**

An original portrait of former Worcester Mayor John Anderson was delivered this month to ICW by Victor Afanasenko, the Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Pushkin. It will be presented to Mayor Konstantina Lukes on December 15 by the delegation of Pushkin police and fire chiefs visiting under the Open World program, and it will be hung in City Hall in a ceremony sometime in January.

John Anderson was Mayor of Worcester during the beginning of the negotiations to establish the sister city relationship with Pushkin. The painting is the work of Sergey Artemyev, a well-known artist from the Pushkin region who participated in the 2-way ICW artist exchange in 2004 and 2005. He offers the portrait as a gift to the City of Worcester.

### **CreateAthon**

ICW has a new look! We are proud to announce the launch of our new logo and website. ICW was selected as one of eight non-profits to benefit from the marketing efforts donated by local ad agency Smith & Jones of Sturbridge, MA. For the last seven years, Smith & Jones has joined agencies throughout North America in a 24-hour creative blitz called CreateAthon. On September 17-18 of this year, Smith & Jones created 26 projects for eight non-profit agencies including the new logo and website design for ICW.

This new look will help ICW increase their appeal in the community in the hope of at-



tracting new members, business contacts, and homestay hosts. Please check out the updates to our website [www.intcent.org](http://www.intcent.org) and twitter account [www.twitter.com/intcentworc](http://www.twitter.com/intcentworc). You will also find this new look in all our upcoming published materials.

## Regional Meeting

Executive Director Royce Anderson and Office Manager Sharon Olander attended the NCIV Northeastern Regional Meeting in Cleveland, OH, August 5-7, 2009. The Cleveland Council on World Affairs hosted this conference. The Regional Meeting is a professional development program sponsored and funded by the Officer of International Visitors, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State. They enjoyed a beautiful Opening Reception at the Great Lakes Science Center, several plenary sessions on themes such as fundraising, business involvement, and programming, and a nice evening of home hospitality with local hosts.

Royce Anderson chaired a session at this meeting titled "Getting Down to Business: Involving the Corporate Community in Your Organization." The session was well attended and sparked a great deal of discussion. This is part of the ongoing national effort to involve businesses in Citizen Diplomacy.

## Member Events



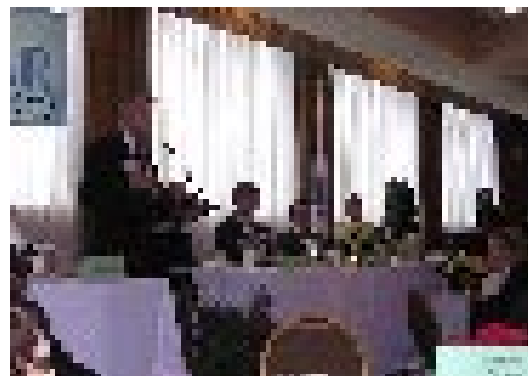
ICW Members and Russian visitors at the fall pot-luck dinner at the home of Jim Welu

ICW hosted a potluck dinner on Sunday, **October 4th** at the home of ICW member, Jim Welu. Special guests were the 10 delegates from Russia participating in the Community Connections program on "Healthy Lifestyles." The visitors provided a short cultural presentation. It was also a night of Homestay Host Appreciation to honor families who have hosted visitors and also to recruit new hosts. Members and friends of ICW were able to enjoy delicious food and Jim Welu's homemade ice cream.

## Programs

**December 12-20, 2009**, ICW is hosting four 4 public safety officials from Pushkin, Worcester's Russian sister city, funded by the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress. The delegation includes Pushkin's Chief of Crime Police, Chief of Road Police, the Fire Chief, and the Deputy Fire Chief. The theme is "Public Safety and Community Policing" with an emphasis human rights and public relations. The program includes meetings with the Worcester Police and Fire Dept., the Worcester District Attorney, the Mayor, City Council, and the Public Schools. Visitors are staying in the homes of local families in order to experience American culture first-hand.

**December 1-6, 2009**, ICW hosted Victor Afanasenko, Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Pushkin, Russia. During this time he was the keynote speaker at two local business events: the Worcester Chamber of Commerce's "Breakfast Club" and a



Victor Afanasenko speaking at the Worcester Chamber of Commerce's "Breakfast Club"



Worcester Rotary Club luncheon. Mr. Afanzenko spoke on the importance of international business involvement, the current global recession, and some recent international initiatives and opportunities for organizations. He also met with Gordon Lankton of the Russian Icon Museum and Richard Kennedy of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Afanzenko was featured on the special insert of the Worcester Telegram and Gazette on Thursday, December 3rd.

**November 18, 2009**, ICW helped design a program for 11 delegates from Germany under the invitation of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program titled "Workforce Development in Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency in the U.S." Visitors visited Mount Wachusett



Russian visitors giving a cultural presentation for ICW members and friends

Community College (MWCC), where they learned how the College has converted its central energy and heating plant to use entirely locally-available bio-fuels (wood and plant materials gathered from local sources). Visitors met with MWCC President Daniel M. Asquino, and were also giving a tour of the College by Edward R. Terceiro, Jr., Resident Engineer, and MWCC Acting Deputy Commissioner for Fiscal Affairs, Mass. Dept. of Higher Education.

**October 1-22, 2009**, ICW hosted a group of 10 Russian healthcare professionals on a Community Connections program on "Healthy Lifestyles" sponsored by USAID. Topics included substance abuse prevention and treatment; reproductive health, and HIV prevention; sexual, nutritional, and physical education in schools; enforcement of drug and alcohol laws; and media and government's role in promoting healthy lifestyles. By being exposed to American healthy lifestyle campaigns, participants gained inspiration, knowledge, and contacts to help them facili-



Chinese delegation with Office Manager, Sharon Olander in downtown Worcester

tate healthy lifestyle changes upon their return to Russia. The program focused on how to engage private and public sectors in healthy lifestyle campaigns and how to facilitate their collaboration. Cultural activities included a trip to Boston and New York City, a music festival, a Native American powwow, the Worcester Art Museum and a show at the Hanover Theatre. The visitors stayed in local homes. Thank you to everyone who hosted a visitor.

**October 21-24, 2009**, ICW hosted 2 delegates from Uruguay on a program on "Education in the U.S." These visitors from the Uruguayan Office of Education were invited by the United States Department of State's



International Visitor's Leadership Program. The program exposed them to the US experience in K-12 education, vocational studies, educational planning, administration, teacher training, and technology. It also gave participants the opportunity to learn about the U.S. evaluation system, including supervision of teachers in the public system, curriculum development, evaluation, and quality in education. ICW arranged a day of meetings at Harvard University's Education Department and a meeting with Paul Reville, Massachusetts Secretary of Education. The delegates also visited Worcester Public School's Central Administration, Worcester Technical High School, and the University Park Campus School.

**October 19 and October 21, 2009**, ICW hosted 18 delegates from the State Information Center in Beijing, China as part of a program organized by the Institute for Transitional Economies in Medford. The program was designed to introduce participants to comparative models of economic transformation, business opportunities and government linkages in the high tech/telecommunications sector, and the role of technology parks in promoting economic growth in the United States. The group met with professors from the Department of Economics and the Graduate School of Management (GSOM) at Clark University. They met with the Provost and the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), visited the Devens Enterprise Commission, and met with the City of Worcester's Dept. of Economic Development. They also met with Julia Dvorko, ICW Board Member and Central Massachusetts Regional Program Director for the Massachusetts Export Center; and Richard Kennedy, President of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. ICW treated participants to a wine and cheese reception at the Traina Center at Clark University cosponsored by the College of Professional and Continuing Education (COPACE) and

the Graduate School of Management (GSOM).

**July 14, 2009**, ICW hosted the Executive Director of OXFAM in the Netherlands on a program entitled "Community Foundations, NGO Development, and Public Policy." She was invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. The program gave her opportunity to experience and exchange views about peace building, conflict management and development cooperation in fragile states. She met with the staff of Congressman Jim McGovern, paid a visit to the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, and met with faculty and graduate students at Clark University's Department of International Development, Community and Environment.

### **Sister City Pushkin's 300th Anniversary, June 2010**

This coming June, 2010, Worcester's sister city Pushkin (Tsarskoye Selo) will celebrate the 300th anniversary of its founding by Peter the Great. ICW is planning to organize a group of people to travel to Pushkin as the official delegation representing Worcester. Several people have expressed an interest in going. If you would like to join us, contact the ICW office.

### **Office Update**

For the fall 2009 semester ICW has two Clark University interns: graduate students Lin Lin from China and Charity Enimil from Ghana. Lin is in the Graduate School of Management, specializing in finance. Charity is in the Masters of Communication program at the College of Professional and Continuing Education. All interns are supervised by Office Manager Sharon Olander.



## **Memorial in New Jersey a Gift from Russia**

by Ken Johnson

While in New York City, ICW webmaster Ken Johnson and his Russian friends from St. Petersburg, Valery Grigoriev and Ivan Duplenko, travelled to Bayonne, New Jersey to visit the memorial pictured here. It was a gift from the Russian people to the United States, dedicated in a ceremony on September 11, 2006, the 5th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. Conceived and designed by Russian sculptor, Zurab Tsereteli, it is dedicated to the “struggle against world terrorism” shared by all peace-loving nations.

The monument, 100 feet high, is made of steel and sheathed in bronze. In the center is a jagged tear in which hangs a 40 foot high stainless steel teardrop. Etched into the 11-sided stone base are the names of the nearly 3,000 people killed in both the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center and the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. It is located in Harbor View Park on a man-made peninsula formerly known as Military Ocean Terminal. The site has a direct view of the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island and Lower Manhattan where the twin towers of the World Trade Center stood. The design was conceived when the artist Zurab Tsereteli, struck by the outpouring of grief he observed, formed the image of a teardrop in his mind. Shortly after the attacks, Tsereteli visited ground zero and looked to New Jersey’s waterfront for an appropriate site for a monument. Bayonne was an arrival point for many New York City evacuees on 9/11 and a staging area for rescuers.



Memorial to the “struggle against world terrorism” in Bayonne, New Jersey, a gift from the Russian people in memory of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.  
Sculptor, Zurab Tsereteli.



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