



Sister City Association of Bloomington-Normal

Vladimir
Canterbury

Communicator Spring 2016

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Presidents Letter by Elaine Cousins

Dear VCSCA Members,
What better way to get to know a country than through its language and literature. Language and literature open windows into other cultures. Here are two opportunities for VCSCA members to open windows into Russia and the way in which a Vladimir sister city member is opening a window for her English language students. If you like to read, how about joining a Russian literature – in English of course -- reading group We will choose a book to read as a group and then engage in a lively discussion with a local faculty member. For more information contact Elaine Cousins. Elaineec@umich.edu or 662.7017



Perhaps you have read that learning a new language is good exercise for your brain or perhaps you have always wanted to learn Russian, but never had the opportunity to do so. Now is your chance! Olya Vladimirova Cochran is going to offer a beginning Russian class at Heartland Community College this summer and several sister city members have already indicated an interest in joining the class. If you are interested, send an email to elaineec@umich.edu and indicate all the possible times you could attend a class. Olya will try to schedule it at a time that works for the majority if not all of us.

Tatyana Semenova is an English teacher in Vladimir and a member for the Vladimir sister city group. Her students conducted a survey of American and British youth and adults thoughts about relationships with Russia. The results are being analyzed and a Power Point presentation is being prepared for a student research conference. Here are the questions that Tatyana's students proposed:

When was WW2? How did the USA and the USSR become allies? In what spheres did they cooperate?

When and where was anti-Hitler coalition formed? What countries belonged to it? When and where was D – Day organized? What happened on that day? What was the role of the anti-Hitler coalition in bringing the end of WW2 nearer? Do you think that such type of cooperation between the USA and Russia is possible now? In what spheres or events is it possible? Tatyana will be sending us a copy of the students' presentation so that the results can be shared. It will be interesting to see the variety of responses from people of varying ages in Canterbury and Bloomington/Normal.

I look forward to all of our Russian visitors this spring and summer and hope to see many of you at festivities being planned for our members to meet and get to know our Russian visitors.

A visit to Canterbury, England to celebrate the Three Cities Association's 30th Anniversary

In October 2015, delegates Elaine Cousins and Steve Green of Bloomington visited Canterbury along with a group from Vladimir, that included Elena Rogacheva, Tatyana Semenova, Marina Semenova, Nikolai Esaulov, Irina Lapshina, and Vladimir Musatov to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Canterbury "Three Cities Association." Canterbury Three Cities Association members involved in the celebration were Rodney Wood (President), John Kemp, David Clarke, Ken Hando, Johanna Blow, Marjorie Lyle, Nick and Jill Leader, George Conyne, Vicky Davis, Linda Quinn, and John Bruckin – all of whom send their very best regards to the Vladimir Canterbury Sister City Association and especially to those they have met in the past.

The group shared an exciting week of sight seeing, shared story telling, wine tasting, dining, and planning for future activities. Among the highlights of the week were touring the historic Canterbury



Elena Rogacheva, member of the sister city in Vladimir playing the piano

Rodney Wood, President of the Three City Association



Lord Mayor of Canterbury planting a tree in the Three Cities Garden in Canterbury as part of the 30th anniversary celebration



Our London visit.

Cathedral and attending an Evensong Service with their wonderful boys choir, a wine tasting, a tour of the seaside village of Herne Bay complete with a fish and chips lunch at the home of Linda Quinn, a whirlwind tour of London led by Vicky Davis, a Russian Orthodox Services on the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral, a lecture by George Conyne who teaches history at the University of Kent in Canterbury, two very special group dinners, and a tour of interesting small villages around Canterbury led by Nick Leader. One of the villages visited was Fordwich whose Town Hall dates back to 1544 and was where the stone from Caen in Normandy was unloaded for rebuilding Canterbury Cathedral in the 11th century.

Mennonite College of Nursing Transcultural Nursing Exchange at Vladimir Medical College in Vladimir, Russia

Illinois State University Mennonite College of Nursing will again send a group of nursing students along with a Mennonite College of Nursing faculty member to Vladimir, Russia in May 2016. Our exchange institution, Vladimir Medical College, will receive the group May 12th and will host them through May 25th. Vladimir Medical College always offers a wonderful experience for our students and faculty by providing a program of practical nursing experiences where students are able to see a variety of healthcare facilities and speak with those in charge of the facilities as well as nursing staff and physicians. Students are able to observe a health care system that differs from the system they are currently learning as well as different practices and services provided. They always return to their ISU program with a new perspective and opened mind. The program also provides our students with rich cultural experiences such as excursions to Suzdal, Murom, Moscow and of course tours of the beautiful Vladimir. They share meals with the students and faculty of Vladimir Medical College and local families to experience traditional Russian cuisine. They take in incredibly diverse experiences during their two week stay. Though we send a relatively small group of just six students each May, they come back and share their experiences with their peers and therefore the entire college benefits from this exchange.

Mennonite College expects to receive student and faculty visitors from Vladimir Medical College again this fall 2016. Specific dates are yet to be determined.

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Web site address

<http://www.vcsistercity.org>

KNR Students Visit Russia

This spring, a second year of Academic Exchange took place between the Institute of Physical Cultural and Sport from Vladimir State University (VSU) and the School of Kinesiology & Recreation Illinois State University (ISU). Beginning on April 10, 2016, two faculty members and two students from VSU spent 12 days as part of an academic exchange with ISU. They toured campus and surrounding communities, attended classes, visited Chicago and Springfield, visited fitness centers, took in a performance of Gamma Phi Circus, and absorbed American culture.

Thanking us for our hospitality
Andrei Gadalov, Director,
Institute of Physical Culture
and Sport
Vladimir State University



The visiting KNR group from Vladimir and members of the VCSCA at the farewell dinner.

Then, starting on May 5, 2016 Dr. Karen Dennis of ISU will be taking four students from ISU to visit St. Petersburg, Vladimir, and Moscow, Russia. The bulk of the time they will be part of an academic exchange at VSU. President of ISU, Larry Dietz and his wife will be joining the crew from ISU in Vladimir (and also joining up with a second group from ISU's Mennonite College of Nursing who will be on an overlapping academic exchange with Vladimir's Medical College of Nursing).

August Visit of Vladimir Musatov

From August 19-29, Vladimir Musatov, one of the founding members of our 3-way Sister City relationship with Canterbury and Vladimir will be visiting. Watch for announcements of opportunities to get together with Vladimir while he is here.

Special Education Visit

Last spring the VCSCA hosted an Open World group of special education professionals from Vladimir. In response to their positive visit, we were invited to send the hosting special education teachers to visit Vladimir and also attend a professional conference on special education. Unfortunately due to funding and scheduling constraints of the delegates, none were able to accept the invitation. We will try again in the future if we can find a time when school is not in session here, but is in session in Vladimir. In lieu of attending the special education conference, our special education teachers were invited to submit a professional paper to the conference. A follow up benefit to the Vladimir delegates was that Sharon Doubet, professor of special education at Illinois State University, has helped one of delegates obtain research materials that were available here but unavailable in Russia.

Open World Delegation of Vladimir Agriculturalists Visit June 4 - 12

Our application for an Open World Agriculture group was accepted. We expect five Russians plus their facilitator and translator June 4 - 12. Margaret Ann Hayden is working on developing a program of visits to agriculture agencies/companies as well as agricultural tours. Actually 10 Russians from Vladimir applied and all were accepted. The other five will be going to Indiana. This certainly speaks well for our sister city organization in Vladimir. Open World is sponsored by the US Congress and the delegates spend two days in Washington DC prior to coming to Bloomington/Normal.

The Open World Leadership Center, an independent government agency of the United States Congress, sponsors and funds the Open World program, which brings emerging leaders from mostly Eurasian countries to the United States in order to give them firsthand exposure to the American system of participatory democracy and free enterprise. The program allows leaders in the Eurasian countries and their US counterparts to engage constructively in a manner that complements the US Congress's efforts on timely issues such as accountable governance, the environment, health, and rule of law. The principles of accountability, transparency, and citizen involvement in government are the concepts emphasized by the Open World Program.

Fifty Plus News and Views

The April issue of Fifty Plus News and Views contains an article about our Vladimir Canterbury Sister City Association. This free publication can be found in doctors' offices and other places around town. Be sure to look for it or read it online at <http://50plusnewsandviews.com>

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