

ALL ABOUT U.S.

A NEWSLETTER FOR AMERICAN CENTERS, CORNERS & SHELVES IN RUSSIA

October - December 2013



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AMERICAN HOLIDAYS AND DATES AT THE ACC.



TOMSK: COLUMBUS DAY. Schoolchildren who came to AC that day learnt a lot of interesting things about this great sailor and his historic expeditions to the New World, and how this holiday is celebrated in the USA nowadays. Having listened to several presentations in English, kids answered the questions of Columbus Quiz and solved other thematic tasks, recited poems and regaled on a festive cake. And in the evening the AC hosted a meeting with Mikhail Mamontov, a head of Tomsk branch of STAR Travel agency, and Anastasiya Sukhovetskaya, a recent participant of “Work and Travel” program. They spoke about this program that gives students a great opportunity to “discover America” for themselves, answered numerous questions from the audience.

YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK: COLUMBUS DAY AND HALLOWEEN.

In early October special Book Exhibition devoted to Columbus Day and Halloween was opened at the AC. Visitors could get acquainted with books, magazines, postcards, movies and find out more about those interesting holidays history, traditions, symbols, menus and costumes.



On October 23th the English Club was held by “Exxon Neftegas Limited” employee Swindoll Mike and his wife Mia. The meeting was dated to Halloween. The guests told about the history and traditions of the holiday, the way they celebrate this holiday in their country in the United States and in their family, accompanying it with pictures from the family archive. Those who visited the event were invited to try their hand at traditional carving of Jack-o-lanterns pumpkins. Foreign guests showed how to do it and then everybody got down to work with pleasure. All were different and of course very interesting.



MOSCOW: PAMPKIN CURVING AND HALLOWEEN FASHION SHOW. The AC staff was excited to host over 100 children and adults for our annual Halloween contest. They carved pumpkins, did a skeleton treasure hunt, created their scariest monster cookies and participated in a fun fashion show.





PERM. HALLOWEEN: THE BALL OF SHADOWS. The first part of the event was dedicated to major facts about Halloween. The American volunteer Robert Bates read and gave comments on the Halloween presentation, prepared by the AC staff. Participants learnt the origin of the holiday, key-symbols, Halloween traditional and modern celebration – patrons re-discovered some “new old facts” about Halloween and were invited to ask questions. The second part of the Ball of Shadows included one-hour workshops in two separate halls and a joint “Ball” performance – demonstration of

what we’ve learned. Patrons got chances to practice historical ballroom dance with the help of the Student Ball creative association and its leader – choreographer and dancing coach Svetlana Efimova. In the final part of the event all participants had some tea with sweets and watched clips from Tim Burton’s “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street” and “Corpse Bride”. We continued our Ball of Shadows with quizzes and costume contest. There were quizzes about Halloween and its celebration, historic dances and fencing. Despite the dark thematic of the celebration, the atmosphere on the Ball of Shadows turned to be warm and friendly. The AC staff received lots of thanks and kind words from their patrons.



NIZHNIY NOVGOROD: HALLOWEEN CONCERT. On October 31, Halloween was celebrated at the AC. This year the party was organized on a broader scale as the high-school students, who took part in the Autumn School, held in connection with the English Language Department were invited.

The hosts of the celebration were dressed up as vampires, witches and zombies. You could hear such popular songs as “Thriller, Memory” (from Cats), “This is Halloween” and others. All guests participated in the game «12 days of Halloween». And of course a bright and creative performance from the tutors took place. Additionally, students organized a special Halloween-themed sweets sale and this fact added even more joy to the whole event. The AC thanks all the participants and creative organizers for helping to celebrate this day.



AND ALSO...



NOVOSIBIRSK: SPOOKY HALLOWEEN PARTY.



TOMSK: PARTY FOR KIDS.



VOLOGDA: HANDWORK EXHIBITION.



ARKHANGELSK. Celebrating Halloween and Thanksgiving Day with FLEX Alumni. This fall FLEX Alumni of 2012-2013 arranged several meetings for middle and high school students devoted to American holidays Halloween and Thanksgiving Day. Maria Tarasova, Eugeniya Lapin, Diana Panova and Ilya Kulebyakin prepared colorful entertaining presentations in English. They talked about origin, traditions and customs of the holidays and then held a contest for the participants. At Halloween meeting the speakers were dressed in hilarious costumes which cheered up the school students.

Children took part in contests with great pleasure; all the guests got AC souvenirs.

YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK. THANKSGIVING DAY: ENGLISH CLUB. On November 27th the English Club dated for Thanksgiving Day took place in the AC. The American employee of the Exxon Neftegaz Limited David Carroll and his wife Celesta made the story about the holiday. The guests told about holiday history, traditions, about the way they celebrate Thanksgiving Day in their family in Houston (TX). Their personal photos and video also accompanied all these. Everybody was interested also in life of the speakers, and David and Celeste told about Houston, about the family and their traveling. The meeting ended with tea drinking and everybody could taste traditional pumpkin bread which kindly Celesta Carroll baked and shared the recipe.



PERM. THANKSGIVING DAY CELEBRATION. The audience on the 25th of November was quite various: pupils, students, professors and adults of different professions. Moreover, there were guests from different parts of the world: AC's long-time volunteer Robert Bates from the USA, regular patron Nana Ifeanyi from Nigeria and new friend Zachary Vowles from Australia. Patrons watched a video material about the history of Thanksgiving and took part in a special quiz: there were tricky questions based on the information they've got from the video. Two most active

visitors won small presents with the AC logo. The headliner of the celebration was Ms. Elena Chazova, ACTR/ACCELS program alumna. She told about her recent experience of going to the US and attending the educational program for teachers. Her trip was unusual: luckily she and her colleagues got chance to celebrate Thanksgiving in March. The hostel keepers imitated a Thanksgiving dinner for the Russian guests, with traditional dishes, songs and greetings. Andrei Khokhryakov, AC coordinator, prepared a presentation 'Giving Thanks and Gratitude' so everyone learned to whom we give thanks and why it is important, what we could do to express gratitude (such as words, calls, gifts, cards etc). He also touched some cultural differences in giving and getting thanks. Finally it was so pleasant to chat with a cup of tea or coffee and sweet stuff on the Thanksgiving celebration!

TOMSK. THANKSGIVING WITH TEACHERS AND KIDS. AC and TELTA (Tomsk EL teachers' association) sum up the essay competition, which was held under AC program «New approaches to effective academic writing». On Thanksgiving Day the contest jury thanked those 55 students who took part in this competition and handed over certificates and prizes to the winners. The students, visited the AC on that day, could watch an interesting slide deck about Thanksgiving history prepared by the AC staff, and listen to short stories about modern celebration told by Andy Ward and Mathew Petty. Later on, they were watching a funny Pilgrims cartoon, listening to traditional songs and regaling upon the pies, which were recognized as "real Pumpkin pies" by our American friends. The holiday at the AC was celebrated by the group of pupils from Kaftanchikovo village too. Children got ready their own festive program, listened to a presentation about Thanksgiving history and traditions and also watched some cartoons.



KIROV. THANKSGIVING FOR GENERAL PUBLIC.

Both regular visitors and new faces – students, schoolchildren, teachers and retirees came to AC to participate in the event. Elena Kosolapova, one of the regular AC visitors, made a presentation about historical roots of the Thanksgiving and its modern traditions. Samantha and Rene, teachers of English at VyatSU, added interesting details to the story. Then guests watched a few videos in English about



traditional Thanksgiving food – Pumpkin Pie and Turkey. And at the end there was a quiz with prizes, tea with... a turkey (a vegetarian, fruity one!) and what is the most important, a great deal of share time in English.

YEKATERINBURG. THANKSGIVING DAY WITH WAMPANOAGS AND PILGRIMS. More than 50 primary school children visited the AC on November 28. Kids learned about the history of Thanksgiving and its symbols, the Wampanoag people, the pilgrims of England, Squanto and a settlement of Plymouth. MRP-2013 program alumna, an ESL teacher Tatiana Katkovska shared her experience of visiting the Plymouth plantation Museum while she was on her program in the US. She demonstrated many pictures of the Wampanoag and pilgrims villages, told children about their customs and traditions in making homes, hunting, growing corn and vegetables, cooking and eating. Splitting to the teams of Indians and Pilgrims children enthusiastically participated in thematic activities. They showed sheer excitement while watching a video of Thanksgiving Parade in New York. At the end of the event kids made a Fairy Turkey. Everybody not only attached a feather, but also thanked his /her close ones – friends, parents, and teachers. That was our pleasure to hear many kind words addressed to the AC staff in gratitude for an interesting and informative event.



IRKUTSK. CHRISTMAS PARTY OF ENGLISH STUDENT CLUB. On the 14th of December AC was happy to announce the Christmas Party of English Student Club Pantheon. The students declared this event the last for the year 2013 and decided to make a tea-party together with games-party as well. They had found many board games and games involving active movements of the participants and played them very affectionately. While playing, they spoke only English. After the active part the students played a games of “What if..” and “Is there someone who has ...”. There were around 20 Russian participants and one Vietnamese student. The meeting lasted 2 hours and after the play-part was over, the students decided to really practice the language and talked about Christmas traditions of different countries. The Vietnamese student helped a lot, telling about their traditions as well. In the final hours of the meeting they played Christmas riddles and had a tiny tea-party.



BRYANSK. CHRISTMAS DISCUSSION CLUB. On the 22nd of December the holiday season began with the meeting of Discussion club at the AC. “Christmas in America” became the main issue. The audience participated in some quizzes about history and traditions of this holiday with pleasure. Everybody liked “Trivia Game. American Christmas Traditions”. Players received a certain number of points for the correct answer for a question or they lost them, having answered incorrectly. The winner of the game got a bag with a logo of the American centers and corners in Russia. The American guests Scott and Diane cooked traditional Christmas cookies, sang Christmas Carols, shared the family traditions.

NIZHNIY NOVGOROD. CHRISTMAS CRAFTS CLASS. There is a tradition that children prepare hand-made gifts for Christmas. So December 16-20th the AC welcomed groups of school students to attend Christmas Crafts Workshops! More than 50 guests from different schools realized that the library of today is not just about books - it is some kind of a maker space! At first all the new guests were introduced to the AC and its collection of books. Then they tried their best to answer the questions of the Christmas Quiz, and were happy to get some souvenirs. After that they finally got down to making their own paper Santa Clauses. It was not as easy as the students expected but in the end all of them could enjoy the cute tiny figures of Santa Clause.





MOSCOW. CHILDREN’S CLUB AND GINGERBREAD HOUSE. On December 14th the AC held a meeting of Children's Club. The topic was December holidays, and the little patrons learnt more about five holidays celebrated in America by representatives of different cultures: Christmas, New Year's Eve, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and Eid al-Adha. Children got some basic information about the history and symbols of the holidays, did some crafts, searched for words and objects on a picture, watched a cartoon about a snow postman, and had a lot of fun. And on December 25th the AC in Moscow suggested all its patrons and guests to take a part in fascinating and absorbing activity of building gingerbread houses. More than 30 people of all ages were absolutely involved in this captivating business.



The most challenging thing was to glue the walls with the frosting which was too quick to harden. Another thing was to decorate your house and that's where inspiration came down: chimneys with artificial smoke, fairytale roofs covered with M&Ms and



marshmallow and lots more! As a final note of the evening one of our volunteers played the guitar and sang, and that was a reason for some couples to swirl in waltz.

SARATOV. CHRISTMAS MASQUERADE BALL. On December 22, the boys’ choir from Musical-Aesthetic Lyceum from Engels opened the program of the ball. The boys performed several carols and created a magic atmosphere of a traditional Christmas. The ball was masterly orchestrated by “Suita”, a studio of historical dances, and Tatiana Stupina, the studio’s head. Professional dancers from the studio performed dances in pairs and in groups. All through the evening, Tatiana involved every guest of the ball in historical dances, teaching them or reminding them the moves of the waltz,



the quadrille and the gallop. The culmination of the ball was the final challenge for couples taking part in a competition of dancing teams. The winning couple was chosen based on their score and the audience’s appreciation of their pantomime performance. The winners and the other two couples were awarded memorable prizes. At the end of the ball, the guests voted on the best costumes. The best gentleman’s costume was a highland dress, and the best woman’s costume was that of Merida from the animated film Brave. The ball concluded with a

waltz. All the guests enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to future dance parties at Saratov AC.

ARKHANGELSK. FLEX ALUMNI ABOUT CHRISTMAS. On the 24th of December four Flex Alumni of 2012-2013 prepared a colorful presentation about Christmas holidays in the USA for 6th grade school student. Kids learned more about the history of the holiday, the most interesting traditions of it, its celebration in America, the most popular carols and so on. Children enthusiastically took part in funny quiz.



ACC FOR YOUTH.

NIZHNIY NOVGOROD. On October 3rd, the LUNN students of American Studies gave a warm welcome to the freshmen class of 2013. The event was kicked off by the faculty. The teachers humorously told the audience how they see students who tend to think that they "don't need any education". The newcomers, in their turn, presented their groups, also in a funny and creative way. That Freshmen Party was all about singing, dancing and sharing American culture and traditions. All the guests could participate in a "Disney Riddle" competition, as well as learn how to dance "Hakuna Matata". All in all, both the students and staff were enthusiastically engaged in the event, and fun and laughter was shared all around.



TOMSK. The AC presented its resources and services to freshmen of Tomsk state university. AC staff and students' teacher Elena Sergeeva told in details about the center's book collection, magazines and video collections, USG exchange programs and upcoming events of the AC. Students fulfilled a series of tasks on independent search of different resources on open access book shelves. Now they know well that they can check out books by American authors in the original, watch movies and documentaries in English, consult about education in the USA and various English proficiency tests, take part in AC events devoted to American history and culture.

MOSCOW. In October the Teenagers' Club was devoted to the most exciting city in America – New York. The event gathered 28 teens and young adults from 12 to 17 years old as well as their parents who were also interested in learning more about this city of great attractions. During the Club meeting kids were divided into two teams and had to compete not only as teams, but also personally. After the presentation, during which children found out about famous buildings, highest skyscrapers, the richest and the most famous people, who helped the city in the Great Depression, and even about typical and favorite food of New Yorkers, the participants had a chance to use their knowledge in competition, where they were searching for sports, unscrambled and matched the food-words, completed the text about NY Police, recognized famous buildings and skyscrapers and found all NYC boroughs on the map. At the end children took part in the Brain Teaser. For the team-work as well as individually children were getting badges and according to the number of them the winner team and three first kids- winners were chosen and awarded with small prizes. Taking pictures after the meeting has become a wonderful tradition of the Teenagers' Club: this time the young patrons had an opportunity to be the Statue of Liberty themselves!



BRYANSK. Within a week of foreign languages at Snezhetskaya school, pupils of the 5th form visited the AC. The meeting with children took place in a form of information lesson. Interesting books for children in English, the illustrated Oxford dictionaries, encyclopedias Britannica and Encarta, and also the unique atlas of the world of National Geographic publishing house were submitted to their attention. They listened to the audio book by Sven Nordqvist's fairy tale "Findus at Christmas", with great pleasure participated in a quiz "50 interesting facts about the USA" and played twister.



SARATOV. On November 13th, the AC held the first workshop of its project "Public Speaking Club". The 18 members of the club (senior high-school and university students) discovered the basics of the art of public speaking with the help of the guest speaker - Vadim Snarkovich



(member of the Saratov Oblast Public Chamber). First of all, they got to know each other and made short presentations about each other. Then they talked about the speech anxiety a lot of people have when they have to speak in front of an audience and how it can hamper effective communication of ideas within a group. After that they learned the basic public speaking positions that help every speaker feel at ease when delivering a speech. Finally, the participants and the guest speaker collectively selected the best speaker of the meeting, Olga Baranova, who was awarded a small trophy.



ARKHANGELSK. This year the Regional Science library for the second time joined in celebration of the 6th Annual International Games Day arranged by American Library Association. The program was full of exciting events and activities for the youth: performances by the folk group



"Northern lights" and the Shadow Theater, workshop on hip-hop dances and crash course in drawing a horse, simultaneous chess game, desktop games and intellectual games. The members of the "Mad Laboratory" demonstrated fascinating scientific experiments. All library departments were involved in organization. AC invited all young visitors with parents to play board games "Apples to Apples", "Taboo" and "Scrabble" in English.



YEKATERINBURG. December 5th is International Volunteers Day. An essay contest devoted to volunteerism attracted young people to share their thoughts and experience on the topic "To be Volunteer is..." Most essays came were just great. Young authors not only reflected upon volunteerism as a social phenomenon and its applicability in the modern world but also told about their personal participation in social projects, analyzed deep impact that community service had on their souls. Some of the participants regularly visit the orphanage to play with the kids, some fight the rubbish in local parks, and the others make gifts for hospital patients who don't have relatives.

In the near future a 9th-grader Kirill Perekhoda will give orphanage pupils a master class on origami to be held in the AC. He finished his essay with the words: «My life changed when I started to volunteer. I found new friends, became more positive and learned about many interesting things. I've learned how to create hand-made things, how to communicate with people effectively and the most important - I've learned how to help people to be happy». It's a good sign that students from the towns of Polevskoy and Bogdanovich took part in the contest along with those of Yekaterinburg. Everyone got awards! Besides, a team of young volunteers of the school #17 participated in the contest final event. Kids told about community service activities they do and those examples of excellent volunteer projects made great impression on our special guest – Andrew Winner, who also shared his personal experience in this field and presented community service how it is done in the US. The event inspired the journalists of "Uralskiy Rabochiy" newspaper not only to write about our contest but make a research about volunteerism in the Urals <http://газета-уральский-рабочий.рф/society/9602/>

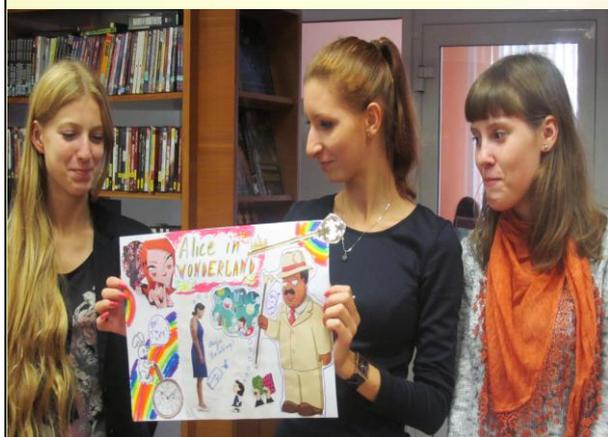
AMERICAN LITERATURE IN FOCUS.



MOSCOW: WIZARD OF OZ. On October 19th the AC held a Children's Club meeting. More than 40 children explored the wonderful country of Oz and helped Dorothy and Toto to free its inhabitants. The little patrons searched for fruit, drew trees, read poems, made up stories, riddled the riddles and made up their own ones, drew a kind fairy and watched a cartoon about the adventures of a nice girl from Kansas. They also found out where Kansas is and what it is famous for. At the end of the meeting children got small prizes for their great job.



NOVOSIBIRSK: WHO WAS MARK TWAIN? On October, 20th a group of Novosibirsk Book Club members presented a program dedicated to a great American writer Mark Twain. The program included a short biography of the writer and a brief overview of his well-known masterpieces. The key point of the program was some vignettes based on Mark Twain's books *The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer* and *A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court*. The vignettes were brilliantly performed by the club members.



YEKATERINBURG: BOOK-QUEST.

An unusual series of events was prepared for local school children by the AC staff, more than 150 kids from six schools participated in the BOOK-QUEST. Their tasks included not only giving names, connected with a library topic to their teams but answering difficult questions in a few categories (Biographies, Classic literature, Dictionaries, etc.),



recognizing characters by their description and authors by a short video. All answers could be found in the books and movies of the AC's collection, using tips given at the beginning of the event. Students had to demonstrate all their resourcefulness, erudition and faculty of retention since all answers should be given orally, without any notes, in English. «We haven't only recollected the details of our favorite books but also found stories we would like to read in the future» – told the Book Researchers team. At the end of the event every team created a poster devoted to the favorite English book.



AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AT THE ACC.

TOMSK. On November, 6 Sarah Ziebell and Anna Poplavko (Information Resource Office, U.S. Embassy Moscow) run a workshop on working with 3 D printer in the AC. This workshop is a part of a pop-up road show by US Embassy which introduces Russians to US libraries experience where new laboratories have been created recently in which visitors can participate in experiments with new technologies; develop their creative potential realizing interesting conceptions. Sarah and Anna not only spoke about this program but also demonstrated all the steps of creating physical objects on the equipment they brought with themselves: creation of a 3D model in a special program with the help of photos, its editing, and printing it out on a 3D printer. Unfortunately, the printer was damaged during transportation, but specialists from Tomsk Center of 3D technologies saved the situation. They repaired the failure quickly, which allowed holding the event according to the planned scenario. The presentation had a great success among visitors who were attracted to the AC by the desire to learn more about this wonderful technical novelty. They stayed for a while after the presentation asking a lot of questions to Sarah, Anna and employees of the Center of 3D technologies, feasting at intricate three-dimensional models appearing right in front of their eyes.



NOVOSIBIRSK. On November 12, 2013 an American diplomat Justin Reynolds gave a talk at the AC. Mr. Reynolds spoke about regional differences in the United States. The USA is one of the largest countries of the world. The south and the north, the east and the west states are very different by climate, nature, population, historical and cultural heritage. Justin Reynolds touched upon also some linguistic and socio-cultural differences and showed interesting slides. Then he answered a lot of questions of the audience.

NIZHNIY NOVGOROD. On November, 13 the AC hosted the "Maker spaces: Transforming Our Libraries" presentation. In this presentation Sarah Ziebell, IRO at the Embassy, herself a librarian, and Ivan Tabanin, IRC at the Embassy, provided an overview of the maker movement and how it is having an impact on the look and feel of American libraries and shared emerging best practices for incorporating maker activities into library services. Over the past year, several American libraries have begun to transform themselves through the creation of makerspaces. Makerspaces are places within libraries that offer people the opportunity to experiment together with new technologies and crafts. The guests could see the 3D-printing process, which is one of the most popular trends in American libraries now.



TOMSK. On November 14th meeting with the representatives of the U. S. Embassy in Moscow Kristin Hawkins (Minister Counselor for Political Affairs) and Andrea Brouillette-Rodriguez was held at the AC. Kristin talked on today Russian-American relations, and Andrea spoke about the U.S. education system. Both topics attracted unfeigned interest of the audience, the listeners asked a lot of questions. In conclusion the diplomats and other participants of the event noted that the meeting was very interesting and informative.



MOSCOW. On November 18, the AC was pleased to host a lecture by William Muntean, Senior Trade Officer, U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Mr. Muntean monitors Russian trade relations, including the Eurasian Economic Commission. He spoke about Russian-American economic cooperation, paying special attention to the topic of the development of small- and medium-size enterprises. He talked about starting a new business, working out business plans, developing new ideas. He also highlighted the importance of governmental assistance and international cooperation for economic development. The lecture was organized as an open discussion, with patrons asking their questions.

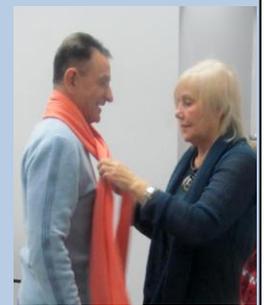


KIROV. On December 5 Sarah Ziebell and Anna Poplavko (the US Embassy in Moscow) told about “The Maker Movement” and the effect it had on the American libraries modern image. They gave many examples of the “Makers” strategy successful experience in libraries activities. The visitors got acquainted 3D Printer, one of the most prominent instruments for creating 3-dimensional prototypes, available in American libraries. This meeting became one of the series of outreach workshops carried by the US Embassy in Moscow, the goal was to show American libraries innovatory experience, where visitors can participate in new technologies experiments and develop their creative potential by bringing different interesting ideas into action. Two TV channels covered the event.



ALUMNI EVENTS

YEKATERINBURG. TRAINING ON PUBLIC SPEAKING IMAGE FOR ALUMNI.



On the 20th of December alumni participated in a master-class “Professional Image and Public Speaking” held by Tatiana Stafeeva, the Head of the Ural School of Image and Style, an experienced professional image maker. Alumni learnt the strategies of impression management and creating a positive image in a professional setting, do’s and don’ts in clothing style, color, fabric pattern, etc., hair style and make-up for greater chances to be successful at presentations, talks and different situations when personal image can improve the outcome. In the run-up to the holidays and corporate parties the trainer paid attention to holidays attires. Every participant got personal recommendations from the trainer. Alumni mentioned great importance of the information and knowledge they got during the training for their personal and professional development.



SARATOV. “TEACHING SCHOOLCHILDREN HUMAN RIGHTS” PROJECT. The AC’s project involves a number of entertaining educational activities to be held in Saratov AC and Saratov Children’s Creative Activity Center. The activities are coordinated by local USG alumni and volunteers from



“Sinegoria” (Saratov NGO). In November 2013 – February 2014, secondary school students representing 36 Saratov schools were involved in this project. In November–December 2013, Elena Gulyaeva (Legislative Fellows Program alumna), Maksim Malyugin (FLEX alumnus), and representatives of the AC together with volunteers from «Sinegoria» visited over 30 schools in Saratov. There they gave presentations on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, its history, its significance in the formation of a democratic society. Each presentation was followed by quizzes and games to consolidate gained knowledge of the Declaration articles. The participants had to answer questions about the influence of the Declaration of Independence of 1776 and the Bill of Rights of 1791 on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Winners of the quizzes were awarded memorable prizes.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT THE ACC

TOGLIATTI: "the Language of Success" project. The AC started the English language courses for adults, level for beginners as a part of a citywide project supported by the Foundation of Mikhail Prokhorov, which was attended by 5 libraries of the city. The aim of the project is to teach people at the age of **45+** foreign languages. This is especially relevant and useful to those people approaching retirement age, who need the knowledge of English for their trips abroad or for a new job. The project will last until June 2014. The courses are held every week. The first sessions were entirely devoted to



English phonetics, at which the participants got acquainted with the English vowels and consonants, the alphabet and some rules of reading. The practice of written and spoken speech began with the section "Introduction. Acquaintance", the classes were held in an interactive way, where the students from the very first lesson began working with speech situations, prepared and practiced their dialogues on the theme section, and met with such grammatical categories as the indefinite article, the noun.

The group consists of 14 people, they are engineers, technologists, but there are also teachers, and medical staff, accountants, retirees. **50 %** of the group had **never studied English**. Each session takes place with the use of computer equipment and the projector. On the screen are shown lexical and grammatical material of the lesson, situational dialogues with translation and the sound. The content of e-books is an additional material for self-study at home or in the library - English audio courses, songs, dialogues.

YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK: the English club meeting. The topic was "America through the eyes of a Russian Traveler". The speaker was Konstantin Savva, a journalist of television and radio company "Sakhalin". Traveling is an integral part of his life. He has already traveled across the USA, Greenland and other countries. His first speech was about America. During the journey Konstantin managed to get in touch with the culture of the indigenous people of the America, video acquainted listeners with the ceremony "tipi", creativity and songs of the tribe "buffalo". He accompanied his story with personal photos, tried to show the route with the help of Google map, answered a lot of questions of the guests. The meeting was held in English. Konstantin Savva suggested holding one more meeting about traveling on which he will tell about Greenland. Everybody liked this idea and in future it will be provided.



BRYANSK: the lecture "Communication etiquette in the English-speaking countries". The lecture was delivered by Irina Barynkina in the AC. It was a question of such linguistic concepts as "collocation" and "connotation", of the conflict of cultures and extra linguistic communication. The speaker illustrated the performance by examples of the use of phraseological combinations, being typical to the English-speaking countries, and their Russian equivalents. The history of emergence of these or those set phrases was told. Besides, the special emphasis was made on some rules of behavior in a certain situation.

It was very useful event for the youth: it is necessary to know and follow the standards of behavior existing in this or that country. Studying foreign languages, it is useful to know cultural traditions and customs of other people.

NOVOSIBIRSK: English teacher from Pennsylvania to her colleagues. On December 2 Jennifer Depto, Senior English Language Fellow for Siberia, spoke to a group of local school teachers who came to the AC to discuss new approaches to teaching English and share best practices. During her talk Ms. Depto answered numerous questions of Novosibirsk EL teachers.



YEKATERINBURG: children translate a book. In the frame of a project "International Translation Day" alumni-teachers and their pupils translated a juvenile book about Amelia Earhart, by Kate Boehm Jerome from English into Russian. Amelia was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, a courageous pilot who disappeared mysteriously during an around-the-world flight in 1937. The project has caused a real excitement among the students; instead of twenty young translators required they turned into thirty five. Each student translated a small piece of the English text, which was then edited by a teacher and then went into the combined product. Some folks have volunteered to illustrate the book. Despite the different performance techniques, all the figures turned out to be more than appropriate and disclosed various aspects of life of the famous female pilot. Every participant got a copy of the book, a certificate and small gifts from the AC. Other copies of the book went to different school libraries so that pupils there would also have opportunity to discover the name of Amelia Earhart. And now the readers of the International Department can borrow not only the original book of Kate Boehm Jerome «Who was Amelia Earhart", but also its translated version!



These are just a couple of comments participants left in our Comments Book:



"I enjoyed every minute of participating in the project. I studied the biography of a great and very interesting woman. I was proud to contribute to a Russian copy of the book about Amelia Earhart and now citizens of Yekaterinburg can learn about this amazing woman, her bright life and what she meant for American people" -

Daria Kuleshova, grade 9, school #13. "Thank you for a unique experience for the knowledge and the ability to use it!" -Irina Makhneva , 3TP-2001, EL teacher at school #76.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK.



TOMSK. International Education Week was celebrated in the AC and so the presentations by Vladimir Terentyev were hosted. He graduated from TPSU and now is a graduate student in Harvard University. With deep knowledge of the subject he lectured on TOEFL test, Statement of Purpose and American Universities. Lectures and workshop, dedicated to the different sections of TOEFL exam attracted profound interest by the



audience. Vladimir by himself has passed this exam for many times, so he deeply studied exam specifications, it`s peculiarities. Also he held preliminary courses on this theme in Russia and China. Besides the theory all workshop participants got to know diverse examples and fulfilled practical tasks.



Dear colleagues and friends!



Season's Greetings to you and your families! May you have a very successful 2014! Wishing you creative inspiration, evergreen optimism and ... only good news! See you in the New Year!