

Open World in the Field

LOUISVILLE – On Feb. 18, four rising Russian jazz stars kicked off a two-week Open World residency at the **University of Louisville School of Music** by attending a master class with piano legend **Chick Corea**. The National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master not only led the jazz clinic for the visiting quartet and about 100 other musicians, but also jammed onstage with the Russians, surprising everyone when he took up the drumsticks before going to the keyboard. In addition to listening to and performing with the Russian musicians, Corea shared anecdotes and words of encouragement with them. Said delegate Stanislav Dolzhkov of the experience, “After playing with him I felt an urge to develop further musically, to strive to reach higher levels of musicianship.” Acclaimed saxophonist and recording artist **Mike Tracy**, the director of the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program at the University of Louisville School of Music, conducted the visit with assistance from the World Affairs Council of Kentucky & Southern Indiana.



Chick Corea (left) jams with jazz delegate Stanislav Dolzhkov in Louisville, KY. (February 2008)

Making a Difference

LENINGRAD REGION/MARYLAND – On Feb. 9, U.S. District **Judge Richard Bennett** of Baltimore, an Open World host, state judge and Maryland first lady **Catherine O’Malley**, and **Pamela Harris**, Court Administrator for the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland, left for their Russian sister state of Leningrad Region on a reciprocal visit involving several Open World alumni. In Tosno, the Marylanders had talks with alumni judges and others taking part in a pilot project on domestic violence prevention, visited a victims rehabilitation center and the police department, observed a domestic violence trial, and met with the city’s chief prosecutor (also an alumna) and her colleagues. The Americans and Russians compared investigative and courtroom procedures and planned future partnership activities on domestic violence prevention, which Open World hopes to support through exchanges.

“Living with an American family and being ‘inside’ American life is just as important to introducing Russians to our free-market democracy as the professional part of the Open World Program. I believe homestays are critical to obtaining the best experience through an Open World program. Place a Russian delegate into a family for a week and you have a visiting friend, but place a Russian delegation in a hotel for a week and they are just tourists interacting among themselves on a business trip.”

–Christine Steele, of Friendship Force of Central Arizona



Christine Steele (left) with two Open World participants in her Mesa, AZ home. (December 2007)

Hosting Corner



Portland, ME Mayor Ed Suslovic (third from the right) and Assistant City Manager Patricia Finnigan (second from left) meet at Open World with staffers and Director John O’Keefe (far left). (February 2008)

PORTLAND, ME – Open World Executive Director **John O’Keefe** met with **Portland, ME Mayor Ed Suslovic** in Open World’s Capitol Hill offices on Feb. 12. Their discussion focused on the flourishing relationship that Portland has developed with its Russian sister city, Arkhangelsk (the capital of Arkhangelsk Region), and how Open World supports it. The two partner cities have developed a friendship that enables both sides to share experiences and exchange advice for mutual benefit. Portland’s recent Arkhangelsk Open World delegates have participated in our rule of law, accountable governance, and education programming through exchanges hosted by the Archangel Committee (the Portland-Arkhangelsk sister-city organization), the Maine/Arkhangelsk Rule of Law Partnership Committee, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine, among others. Mayor Suslovic, U.S.

Bankruptcy Judge Michael Deasy, Raymond Pelletier and Neale Duffett of the Archangel Committee, and several other delegates will travel to Arkhangelsk this April on a sister city/rule of law trip. During their visit they will meet with Open World alumni and conduct programs on municipal government, rule of law, and media relations with local government and judicial officials. Their visit coincides with Arkhangelsk’s “America Week,” an event dedicated to American history and culture.