

In the Field

NEW YORK CITY – Three weeks ago, four judges from the Georgian Republic unexpectedly found themselves in a Manhattan courtroom listening to the father of actress Uma Thurman testify against an obsessed fan accused of stalking her. The compelling proceedings were just one highlight of an Open World exchange that took the delegates from courtroom to courtroom to observe all the steps in the U.S. jury-trial process. More drama—and insights—came during the two days that the Georgians watched Manhattan Supreme Court Trial **Judge Bonnie Wittner** preside over jury selection in a manslaughter case. The Georgians owed their excellent access to Manhattan courts to their judicial

host, New York State Chief Administrative **Judge Ann Pfau**, and to coordinators **Barbara Zahler-Gringer**, the state court system's counsel for administration and operations, and **Alan Murphy**, chief clerk of the Manhattan Supreme Court's criminal division. Talks with Manhattan Supreme Court **Justice Ronald A. Zweibel**, defense attorney **Harvey Fishbein**, and prosecutor **Robert Hettleman** gave the delegates three different expert perspectives on the jury-trial system. All four Georgians sit on the **Tbilisi City Court**, which is expected to handle the first jury trials held in their homeland since 1921, once implementing legislation is enacted.

National Grantee: Russian American Rule of Law Consortium.

Hosting Corner



From left, Open World alumnus Ernest Belokorov, Open World's Yelena Yefremova, and Portland, ME Mayor Ed Suslovic during Arkhangelsk, Russia's citywide celebration of "America Week" last month. Mayor Suslovic led a Portland sister-city/rule of law delegation that included Open World hosts Neale Duffett and Raymond Pelletier, and federal bankruptcy judge and frequent Open World contributor Michael Deasy. The delegation met with numerous alumni judges and government officials during their working visit, including the new regional governor.

Making a Difference



Host Norma Berkowitz (left) of FOCCUS receives a commendation from the Slavutich (Ukraine) Mayor's Office for her organization's work.

MADISON, WI – In early June, **Norma Berkowitz**, professor emerita of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Social Work and founding president of the nonprofit Friends of Chernobyl Centers, U.S. (FOCCUS), will host an exchange on public health for five local and NGO officials from

Ukrainian cities affected by the Chernobyl disaster. Berkowitz is a co-editor of **Chernobyl: The Event and Its Aftermath** and the author of **Humanistic Approaches to Health Care: Focus on Social Work**, originally published in Russian for a Russian audience. Her Madison-based nonprofit assists UNESCO-established community centers that have provided services to thousands of Chernobyl victims over the past 12 years. The June visit will be FOCCUS's second Open World exchange. Berkowitz says that her delegates "will be returning home with a specific strategy for planning and implementing public health programs based on community involvement and active citizen participation, as well as specific evaluation procedures to assess the effectiveness of their programs."

National Grantee: National Peace Foundation.



Zaida Arguedas, deputy executive director and senior director of global democracy programs at the League of Women Voters (LWW) in Washington, DC, (center) visited LWW's first group of Azerbaijani delegates from April 30 – May 5 in Baku. The eight Azerbaijani accountable governance delegates were hosted in Baltimore, MD and Springfield, MO in April of this year (see Issue 6). Arguedas reports that Open World alumni Nurida Turabova (left) and Ramin Nuraliyev (right) were eager to show her the Central Election Commission (pictured) and to discuss some of the current issues and projects in which they are engaged.