

## Making a Difference

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Library of Congress's stately Ceremonial Office provided the setting for an April 2 meeting hosted by Open World Board Chairman **James Billington** and attended by Reps. **Alcee Hastings** (FL) and **Robert Aderholt** (AL) of the Commission on Cooperation and Security in Europe and a Russian delegation headed by Supreme Commercial Court Chief Justice **Anton Ivanov**. In addition to reviewing the progress of judicial reform in Russia, the meeting participants discussed plans for Open World and the Supreme Commercial Court to jointly sponsor exchanges for Russian commercial court judges, whose jurisdiction is roughly comparable to that of U.S. bankruptcy judges. The Library of Congress was one of the stops on a U.S. trip

undertaken by Chief Justice Ivanov to discuss Russia's new consumer-bankruptcy legislation with American judges, bankruptcy officials, and scholars. Among those accompanying him was alumna **Alexandra Makovskaya**, a senior staffer to the Supreme Commercial Court at the time of her 2003 Open World visit to Washington, DC, and now one of the Court's justices.

More than 200 Russian commercial court judges have already participated in Open World, most on rule of law exchanges hosted by U.S. bankruptcy judges. Chief

Justice Ivanov commented during the meeting that these visits have benefited the Russian judiciary.



*Dr. Billington (far right) welcomes Russian Supreme Commercial Court Justice Anton Ivanov (center) to the Library of Congress as, from left, Rep. Alcee Hastings (FL), Justice Dmitry Dedov, and the interpreter (partly obscured) look on.*

## From the Field

**ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA** – Psychology instructor **Tatyana Smolina** of St. Petersburg is one of seven part-time alumni representatives employed by the privately funded **Open World alumni initiative** to communicate with and support the program's 12,000-plus Russian past participants. Smolina handles outreach to the nearly 2,000 alumni in the **Northwest Federal District**, which encompasses the Arkhangelsk, Kaliningrad, Murmansk, Novgorod, Pskov, and Vologda regions; the Karelian and Komi republics; and St. Petersburg. She stays in touch with "her" alumni mainly by

phone, asking them how they have benefited from and applied their Open World experience, assisting them with projects when possible, linking them with fellow alumni and visiting U.S. hosts and colleagues, and sharing information about Open World alumni events and other opportunities. Smolina herself has firsthand experience with Open World, having traveled six times on the program as a facilitator—a role that her expertise in cross-cultural psychology makes her especially well suited for. She reports that she is always fascinated by the moment when delegates first meet

their host families and key presenters, saying, "I really value this wonderful opportunity to see how attitudes change from both sides."



*Tatyana Smolina at the Library of Congress.*

## Hosting Corner

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Center has chosen 15 organizations to host delegations from Open World's "expansion countries" of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Tajikistan during the 2009 program year. The themes are accountable governance, education, environment/energy, rule of law, and social issues. Programs will include a recycling/waste management exchange hosted by the **Center for Safe Energy** (CA); a Kyrgyzstani

judicial exchange hosted by the **Minnesota State Supreme Court** through the **Russian American Rule of Law Consortium** (VT); and a disability-rights exchange hosted by **Keystone Human Services International** (PA).

The 2009/2010 **Russian Cultural Leaders Program** grants have also been announced. We expect nearly 50 talented and influential artists, dancers, and jazz musicians to participate this

year in residencies with the **Sundance** (UT) and **Telluride** (CO) **Film Festivals** (national grantee **CEC ArtsLink**), the **University of Iowa International Writing Program**, the **Brubeck Institute** (CA), and the **University of Louisville** (KY) **School of Music**, among other institutions. The six-year-old program is generously supported by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.