

Of Note



ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA — Russian President **Dmitry Medvedev** (back to camera) discusses the **Open World Program** and its tenth anniversary with

Open World Board Chairman **James Billington** (left) following the May 27 opening ceremony for the **Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library** in St. Petersburg. President Medvedev told Chairman Billington that he will support Open World "dvumya rukami" ("with both hands"). Also pictured is **Vladimir Kozhin** (right), chair of the Yeltsin Presidential Library Organizational Committee. As one of the featured speakers at the Yeltsin Library's opening, Chairman Billington focused his remarks on U.S.-Russian cooperation.



From left: Open World Board Chairman James Billington, Lady Julia Sheinwald, and Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood.

WASHINGTON, DC — British Ambassador Sir **Nigel Sheinwald** hosted an 80th birthday celebration at his residence on June 2 for Open World Board Chairman **James Billington**. Eighty-eight guests attended, including the ambassador's wife, Lady **Julia Sheinwald**, Secretary of Transportation **Ray LaHood**, Sen. **Frank Lautenberg** (NJ), Rep. **Edward Markey** (MA), Supreme Court Justice **Samuel Alito**, Russian Ambassador **Sergey Kislyak**, former Sen. **Paul Sarbanes**

(MD), and former Rep. **Jim Leach** (IA). In his toast to Chairman Billington, Ambassador Sheinwald said, "The purpose of this evening is to make clear our appreciation of Dr. Billington's achievements as a scholar and particularly over the past 22 years as Librarian of Congress." Ambassador Sheinwald made special mention of Chairman Billington's pre-eminence as an authority on Russian culture and history and his "committed and progressive internationalism."

From the Field

BERKELEY, CA — "It seems we've visited every recycling plant and landfill in the area," exclaimed four recycling and waste management delegates from Kazakhstan hosted by the **Center for Safe Energy (CSE)**, in Berkeley, CA, May 9–17. In addition to touring public and private recycling facilities, the Kazakhstanis spent time at Urban Ore, a nonprofit that receives unwanted things and sells them as is for reuse. All four delegates dove into Berkeley's green scene, witnessing for themselves how students and other members of the

community approach new projects. The delegates said that their American experience will help them move forward a project to open a recycling facility in the southern Kazakhstani province of Almaty. On May 4, CSE received the 2009 **Open World National Grantee of Merit Award** for its exceptional hosting, as reported in the previous issue of the *Open World News*.

Open World intern **Elina Karakulova**, a native of Kyrgyzstan, accompanied the delegation and provided this report.



A Kazakhstani NGO leader (far right) meets on May 13 with Berkeley, CA-based filmmakers to discuss the possibility of creating a short film about nuclear waste problems in her country.

Hosting Corner



Members of a delegation from Pskov, Russia, meet with Lisa Signori (far right), chief financial officer of Boston.

BOSTON, MA — Russian State Duma Deputy **Viktor Antonov** and three Pskov City Council members spent April 22–May 2 studying accountable governance in Boston, Amherst, and Plymouth, MA, on an exchange that state Senate President **Therese Murray** and state Sen. **Stan Rosenberg** helped plan and conduct. (Both state senators have long worked on health care and economic issues with officials in Pskov Region.) The Open World delegation spent two days at Boston City Hall reviewing municipal operations, budgeting, and economic development with City Council President **Michael Ross**, city CFO **Lisa Signori**, and other officials. The delegates also had joint sessions on improving health-care accessibility with an Open World delegation of Pskov city health leaders being simultaneously hosted in Amherst. On May 1, Sen. Murray had a working lunch with the entire accountable governance delegation, and U.S. Rep. **Bill Delahunt** met one-on-one with Deputy Antonov. The **Institute for Global Health at the University of Massachusetts Amherst** coordinated both visits.