

Making a Difference

MOSCOW, RUSSIA – During his July 6–8 visit to Moscow, **President Barack Obama** attended the closing session of the “Civil Society Summit” hosted by the **Eurasia Foundation**, the **New Eurasia Foundation**, and the **Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)**. Among the some 75 attendees were nine Russian Open World alumni and nominators, and three American Open World presenters, all leaders in public health, community development, human rights, youth, education, media, or the environment. One of the Americans,

Santee/Crow elder **Scott Frazier**, an expert on indigenous water-resources issues and education, has served as a presenter for Russian environmental delegations hosted for Open World in Bozeman by the **Montana Center for International Visitors**. **Alfred W. Brann, Jr.**, a professor of pediatrics at the **Emory University School of Medicine** in Atlanta, has received multiple honors for his work in the United States and internationally on improving reproductive health and perinatal care. He has collaborated with the **Future of Russia Foundation**, the **Claus M.**

Halle Institute for Global Learning of Emory University, and the **Rotary Club of Atlanta** on developing and conducting Open World exchanges for Russian health care leaders. The third American Open World resource expert at the summit, **Colorado College** history professor **Mark Johnson**, led discussions on the political aspects of environmental issues with Russian Open World delegates hosted by the **Colorado Springs Committee for International Visitors**.

In the Field

NEW YORK CITY – Three Russian documentarians taking part in Open World’s Cultural Leaders Program had a serendipitous encounter with film icon **Spike Lee** (pictured) during a June 29 session on filmmaking at **New York University’s Kanbar Institute of Film & Television**, where Lee is a prominent faculty member. Like Lee, the three Russians take on social issues in their films, and each delegate presented and fielded questions about one of their works during a June 30 public screening at **Anthology Film Archives** in the East Village. Delegate **Aleksey Barykin**, who believes in using film to strengthen human values, presented the uplifting *The Song You Do Not Hear*, about deaf teens in Kazan expressing themselves through signed singing of pop music.

Aleksandr Gabrilyan’s gritty featured film, *Without War*, follows Russian soldiers on border patrol in Chechnya. **Oleg Vizzhachy**, whose films often have a multicultural or international dimension, screened *Shakhtarnberdyr*, which tells the story of Tajik Muslim migrant workers restoring an Orthodox church in rural Russia. The three filmmakers, along with a fourth delegate, film festival curator **Claudia Chupina**, began their exchange by attending the weekly **Flaherty Film Seminar** in Hamilton, NY.

International Film Seminars hosted the visit. National Grantee: CEC ArtsLink.



Film icon Spike Lee (second from right) joins (from left) Moscow filmmaker Oleg Vizzhachy, facilitator Aleksandr Soloviev, and Kazan filmmaker Aleksey Barykin at New York University’s film school.

Hosting Corner



Natalia Kunzer (standing, left), of Open World grantee Rotary International, addresses Russian and U.S. Rotarians interested in Open World, including alumni and hosts, in Novosibirsk on June 15.

NOVOSIBIRSK, RUSSIA – Open World’s partnership with Rotary International was highlighted at the **Russian Rotary District 5010 Assembly and Conference** and the annual **United States-Russia Intercountry Committee Meeting** held in Novosibirsk June 11–15. A number of U.S. Rotarians involved in Open World, as well as 10 Russian alumni, were among the 100-plus attendees at the events. Those present heard how Open World has helped launch more than 30 Russian Rotary clubs—mainly through Rotary-hosted Open World delegates getting inspired to start clubs back home.

Open World’s **Lewis Madanick** asked several of the U.S. Rotarians who traveled to

Novosibirsk what their participation in Open World meant to them. Veteran host **George Mahl** of the **Rotary Club of Harahan (LA)** noted how many productive relationships he has formed with his delegations, and **Kurt Harper** of the **Rotary Club of Wichita (KS)** reported developing long-lasting ties with Open World guests. **Dr. Dorothy Steinert**, now of the **Rotary Club of Santa Barbara (CA)**, described how her work with Open World delegates has deepened her commitment to providing medical/dental services to the needy through her non-profit **Medicine Arm in Arm**. National Grantee: Rotary International.