Under the gracious patronage of

His Excellency The Ambassador of the Russian Federation
and Mrs. Sergey I. Kislyak

The American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation
Board of Directors
welcomes you to the

UNFORGETTABLE YEARS: 1941-1945
A Salute of Arts and Culture to the
70th Anniversary of the Allied Victory in Europe

Thursday, May 14, 2015

The Embassy of the Russian Federation
Washington, DC
Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you on this historic anniversary to this special event titled, “Unforgettable Years: 1941-45.” Tonight, not only do we remember the struggles and sacrifices of the Allies in World War II, but we also pay tribute to the role music and entertainment played in carrying them to victory.

Every year in Russia on May 9, old and young get together to commemorate Victory Day in WWII known in Russia as the Great Patriotic War. For those who lived during those years, the war is truly unforgettable for how it utterly changed their lives. Russia lost 27 million lives in that war and even those who escaped death lost family and friends. On May 9 we in Russia pay tribute to the heroes of the battles and the home front, as well as to the victims of war, without whom victory wouldn’t have been possible.

On this day we also remember our comrades-in-arms abroad. We pay tribute to our American allies, our partners in fighting the common enemy. Today we are gathered to remember this important convergence of American and Russian history.

Over these four years of war, no event stands out as a symbol of humanity and friendship between the American and Russian people more than the Meeting at the Elbe River. We are pleased that Americans also keep the memory of that period alive, and proud that here at the Arlington Cemetery stands a symbol of the Elbe River Linkup—a memorial plaque with a picture of Russian and American soldiers, with the inscription “Spirit of the Elbe.” Through this event, I hope the spirit of the Elbe descends on our audience both here and around the world, with a message of peace and understanding between the people of our two countries.

By honoring the Allied Victory here, we demonstrate the respect and honor due to all those diverse people who fought on the side of the Allies during the war. I would like to thank the American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation for this initiative. I hope that some in the audience remember that this organization marked the 50th Anniversary of the Victory by bringing the famous Red Army Ensemble to the Kennedy Center and the 60th Anniversary with a large photo exhibition in the Senate Building Rotunda. I wish them to continue their noble work promoting better understanding and fostering friendly cultural connections between our peoples, as well as dedicating their utmost efforts to make this evening both educational and memorable.

S. Kislyak
A GREETING FROM

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia

Greetings
70th Anniversary of the Allied Victory

May 14, 2015

As Mayor of the District of Columbia, it is my pleasure to extend greetings to the American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation (ARCCF) in coordinating the commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Allied Victory.

It has been 70 years since millions of people around the globe poured into the streets to celebrate the end of World War II in Europe. It is only fitting as we celebrate the Global Awareness Civility month that we remember the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the Allied Nations.

I applaud the efforts of the ARCCF and its programs, which continue to remind us of our similarities using Arts, Music & Culture as a platform of understanding and common ground.

Tonight’s event “Unforgettable Years: 1941-1945” commemorates the exceptional companionship, unity and indeed friendship seen when the U.S. 69th Infantry and the Soviet Army met at the Elbe River.

I join the residents of the District of Columbia in wishing you a memorable and successful event.

Muriel Bowser
Mayor, District of Columbia
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alexander P. Potemkin

Dear Friends of the ARCCF,

Many of you are, of course, familiar with ARCCF’s unique mission which, in addition to learning about each other through the sharing of our rich cultures, music, and the arts, seeks to mark significant pages from the US and Russia’s joint history. During the last 23 years we have proudly commemorated the 125th Anniversary of the memorable goodwill visit by Duke Alexis to the US, the Bicentennial of US-Russia diplomatic relations, the 150th Anniversary of the Russian Navy’s visits to New York and San Francisco in support of the Union, and many of our rich and vibrant cultural heroes. But there is an even larger page in modern history, a page that touched many of our lives, personally. Tonight we commemorate real American and Russian heroes who opposed a common enemy, fighting side by side, shoulder to shoulder, to defeat a terrible world evil. Seventy years ago this month American and Russian soldiers converged in great numbers and embraced one another in victory and brotherhood. A historic bond was born out of mortal combat and joined us in the spirit of unity.

We celebrated the 50th Anniversary of V-E Day on a grand scale by inviting the famous Red Army Ensemble to perform to a packed house at the Kennedy Center. We celebrated the 60th Anniversary with a major photo exhibition dedicated to our cooperation during the War in the US Senate Rotunda. And last November our Board of Directors agreed without pause to commemorate in May 2015, the 70th Anniversary of the Allied Victory in Europe. Tonight we remember and honor the American and Russian veterans who fought that long and terrible war and brought us through it, at great personal cost, to victory. We want these brave men and women and their families here and in Russia to know that what they did will be remembered long after they and we are gone. We are forever grateful.

My personal memories of Russia’s sacrifices remain strong. I endured the miseries, fears, and hunger of the war years. My father fought through the whole war and miraculously survived the Battle of Stalingrad. He valued his Medal for the Defense of Stalingrad more dearly than any other awards he received during the war. I feel very strongly that this Anniversary must be well-marked by the ARCCF, regardless of recent developments in American-Russian relations. We are meant to learn from history. I am pleased we have this opportunity to remember when Russia and the US united in a common cause for the good of mankind. Together, we as individuals and as nations aspired to peace. I believe we still do.
American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation

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UNFORGETTABLE YEARS: 1941-1945

TESTIMONIALS IN HONOR OF THE
70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIED VICTORY IN EUROPE

We applaud ARCCF’s tribute to US-Russian cooperation and sacrifice during the Second World War. This unity of purpose helped defeat the enemy of civilization and should remain forever in our collective memories. Let us remember this historic bond, and jointly remain forever grateful to those who sacrificed their lives to save mankind.

Dr. Anton Fedyashin
Director

Susan Carmel Lehrman
Founder and Advisory Committee Chair

The glorious victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945) crowns the tragic and heroic epic of World War II, the bloodiest conflict in human history. This victory became an everlasting symbol of the struggle against Fascism, which united peoples of different religions, races and nations, champions of every political and ideological system, from Europe and Asia to North America and Africa.

Tretyakov Gallery Magazine

For the M.I. Glinka All-Russian Museum Association of Musical Culture in Moscow, it is a great honor to take part in an exhibition project devoted to the 70-year commemoration of the Allied Victory in WWII. The War touched all peoples, whose best representatives are outstanding individuals. Therefore, we are honored to present the great Russian composer S.V. Rachmaninoff and the materials related to his wartime impact.

Established in 1912 as a repository for musical materials, the M.I. Glinka All-Russian Museum Association of Musical Culture not only houses historical documents and audio recordings, but also rare musical instruments. Unique in its scope, the Association also functions as a research and educational institute with modern facilities, including concert hall and recording studio. In 1995, the President of the Russian Federation declared the Association part of the Federal Register of Valued Cultural Heritage.

M.I. Glinka All-Russian Museum Association of Musical Culture
Dear friends! This year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great Victory. The "Memory of the Great Victory" collection takes a special place in the holdings of the Presidential Library. It includes more than 21 thousand documents and multimedia resources revealing the heroism of the fighters for freedom and peaceful sky above. We cordially congratulate you on this Great Day!

Yeltsin Presidential Library

The 70-year anniversary of Victory is a great occasion for millions of people. The courage and heroism of the Victors remains a source of inspiration and pride for the new generation, and offers us strength and certainty in the future. The Sacred Victory stands as an example of true patriotism and love for the Motherland, a true triumph and feat of the Soviet people.

Russian State Historical Museum

I would like to greet all the friends of ARCCF on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Victory in WWII. Our nation suffered colossal losses, which in a certain sense are felt even now. We repeat often that there is not a single family that was not touched by the War. Our countries were allies during that terrible time. It is difficult to over estimate that which our nations contributed to the Victory over Nazism. Now, at the new stage of history, the old tragedies of the past are starting to come back. Who, if not the people of our nations, should take up the responsibility for preserving peace on our small planet. War brings suffering to all, and we want peace! We deserve peace!

V.I. Nesterenko
Peoples’ Artist of Russia, Member of Russian Academy of Arts and Member of the American League of Professional Artists

Every human being alive today has been, directly or indirectly, affected by the cataclysm of World War II or The Great Patriotic War. I salute all parents and grandparents who died or suffered for our sakes. I salute Russia’s monumental human sacrifice to stem the tide of Fascism.

Paul Rodzianko, ARCCF Board Member
A Salute of Arts and Culture to the 70th Anniversary of the Allied Victory in Europe

ORDER OF THE EVENING

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION
H.E. Ambassador Sergey I. Kislyak
Jill Dougherty
Master of Ceremonies

LEND-LEASE
Remarks by Ambassador John R. Beyrle
Prelude in G Minor Sergei Rachmaninoff
Yury Shadrin, piano

D-DAY AND THE ELBE RIVER LINKUP
Remarks by Susan Eisenhower
“Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer” Jimmie McHugh and Harold Adamson
The Honorable James W. Symington Dr. Anton Fedyashin
Oscar Hawkins Ballet Arts Academy of Maryland

LIBERATION
Remarks by Rabbi Arthur Schneier
Variations on the Theme from “Schindler’s List” John Williams
Nikita Borisevich, violin Yury Shadrin, piano

“AN AMERICAN SOLDIER IN A SOVIET TANK”
Remarks by Ambassador John R. Beyrle
SONGS OF THE PERIOD

“In the Dugout”
“The White Cliffs of Dover”
“Blue Kerchief”
“Where are you now, my Brothers in arms?”
“I’ll Be Seeing You”
“Katyusha”

PERFORMED BY THE ARCCF “FRONTLINE BRIGADE”

Jerome Barry, baritone
Nikita Borisevich, violin
Autumn Boyle, soprano
Vera Danchenko-Stern, piano
Yury Shadrin, piano
Artem Starchenko, singer and accordion
Viktoria Sukhareva, singer

Please join us following this evening’s program for a Buffet Dinner
GUEST ARTISTS

Jerome Barry
Jerome Barry, baritone, has had a varied career in the Arts. He spent 10 years abroad and has a B.A. and M.A. degree in languages and literature from Tufts University. He has been on the faculty of many universities and has recorded programs on radio, television and CD. He is a veteran of the United States Army and was a first lieutenant, honored for his distinguished service. He is the Director/Founder of The Embassy Series, whose mission is “Uniting people through musical diplomacy.” He is the recipient of the Golden Service Medal from the President of Austria, and the Golden Cross of Merit from the President of Hungary.

Nikita Borisevich
Russian-born violinist Nikita Borisevich is a recognized soloist and chamber musician in the US and Europe. He has performed at prestigious venues such as the Kennedy Center, Moscow Conservatory, and Manuel de Falla Auditorium in Granada, Spain. A multiple awards winner of US and Russian competitions, he graduated from the Moscow Conservatory and is pursuing a Graduate Performance Diploma at the Peabody Conservatory.

Autumn Boyle
Soprano Autumn Boyle hails from the Baltimore area, where she enjoys singing and performing at The Cathedral of the Incarnation, Oregon Ridge Dinner Theatre, Memorial Episcopal Church, the Mt. Vernon Conservancy, Spotlighters’ Theatre, and Maryland Lyric Opera. With the Cathedral choir and consort, she has performed the soprano solos from symphonic and oratorio works. She is also a versatile singer on the musical-theatrical stage. She is a graduate of The Cleveland Institute of Music and teaches at the Maryland Conservatory of Music in Bel Air, MD.

Vera Danchenko-Stern
Pianist Vera Danchenko-Stern graduated with honors from Moscow’s Gnessin Institute of Music in piano, solo performance, chamber music, vocal, and instrumental accompaniment. She then moved to Washington, DC and since 1990 has been teaching the “Singing in Russian” class in the faculty of Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. She has accompanied many world-renowned artists in her concert appearances. In 2005, Ms. Danchenko-Stern founded the Russian Chamber Arts Society, which presents concert series dedicated to Russian vocal music rarely heard in America.
Well known for their many accomplishments in academia and statesmanship respectively, Dr. Anton Fedyashin, baritone, and former Congressman James Symington, tenor, will show their versatility by blending their musical talents in a duet.

Oscar Hawkins, a native of Brandywine, Maryland began his ballet training with Duke Ellington School of the Performing Arts in 1987 and is a graduate of Kirov Academy of Russian Ballet of Washington, DC. He has danced and performed leading roles with Kirov Ballet Company II, Ballet International, Tulsa Ballet, Deutsche Opera, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal, Cirque de Soleil, and Spoleto Festival Ballet. Oscar is currently Artistic Director of Ballet Arts Academy, Director of Dance for Kirov Academy of Ballet's Outreach program and Creator/ Director of The Oscar Talent Showcase Competition.

Yury Shadrin
Russian-born pianist Yury Shadrin has made a dramatic entry into the international concert world. As a soloist with orchestras, as well as in solo recitals, he is widely known throughout South America, Asia, and the United States as a formidable young talent. Born in the city of Perm, Yury Shadrin debuted at the age of nine as a soloist with the Perm Opera Orchestra, after only one year of study. After completing the Special School for Gifted Children in Novosibirsck, he enrolled at the Moscow Conservatory where he studied with world-renowned pianists. In the United States, Mr. Shadrin studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Yale, and most recently at the Peabody Institute. In 2013, he taught as Visiting Assistant Professor of Piano at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

Viktoria Sukhareva and Artem Starchenko
Artem Starchenko, singer and accordionist, leads the award-winning vocal-instrumental ensemble, “White Dew.” Viktoria Sukhareva, operetta singer, has written and recorded songs for TV and film and released an original album titled “Tutta La Vita.” Both have received honors in numerous Russian musical competitions and festivals and performed in major Russian venues and around the world.
Jill Dougherty is a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, DC. Her area of expertise is Russia and the former Soviet Union.

As a CNN Correspondent she reported from more than 50 countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, China and North Korea. Her strongest interest and area of expertise is Russia.

She began studying the Russian language in high school, majored in Slavic Languages and Literature at the University of Michigan, and studied at Russia’s Leningrad State University. She completed her graduate studies at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Jill Dougherty joined CNN shortly after its founding three decades ago. In her career at the network she served as Moscow Bureau Chief and Correspondent; White House Correspondent; Managing Editor Asia/Pacific based in Hong Kong; Foreign Affairs Correspondent; and US Affairs Editor based in Washington, DC.

She left CNN in January 2014 to devote herself to Russian issues. She was selected as a fellow at the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government where she researched and wrote several articles on the Russian media. In September 2014 she was named Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC.

As an expert on Russia, she appears frequently on CNN, has been featured in a TEDx program, and her articles have appeared in Politico, the Huffington Post, CNN.com and other publications.

Ambassador John Beyrle is an American diplomat whose career focused on Central and Eastern Europe, the USSR, and Russia. John is a native of Michigan. He served as a Russian-speaking exhibit guide at several of the major exhibits held in the Soviet Union under the auspices of the United States Information Agency.

He joined the State Department in 1983, served his first tour as a political and consular officer at the US Embassy in Moscow (1983-1985) and then became Deputy Chief of Mission in Moscow (2002-2005). His other overseas assignments included political officer in Bulgaria (1985-1987), Counselor for political and economic affairs at the US Embassy in Prague (1997-99), and member of the US delegation to the Conventional Forces in Europe negotiations in Vienna (1990-93). His Washington assignments included Acting Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for the New Independent States; Director for Russian, Ukrainian, and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council (1993-1995); staff officer to Secretaries of State George Shultz and James Baker; and foreign policy adviser to US Senator Paul Simon. He served as US Ambassador to Bulgaria (2005-2008). A specialist in Russian and Eastern European affairs, he was appointed Ambassador of the United States to the Russian Federation in July 2008 and served until January 2012. Ambassador Beyrle retired from the State Department in July 2012 with the rank of Career Minister, the diplomatic equivalent of a three-star general.
Susan Eisenhower serves as President of the Eisenhower Group, Inc., which provides strategic counsel on political and business projects. Eisenhower was a Founding Director and the first President of the Eisenhower Institute, where she became known for her work in the former Soviet Union and in the energy field. She is currently the Eisenhower Institute’s Chairman of Leadership and Public Policy programs.

Eisenhower has consulted for major corporations and has served on many government task forces, including the NASA Advisory Council, the Department of Energy’s Baker-Cutler Commission on US-funded nuclear nonproliferation programs in Russia, and the National Academy of Sciences’ standing Committee on International Security and Arms Control. She is currently a member of the Secretary of Energy’s Task Force on Nuclear Energy. Eisenhower has authored three books, two of which, Breaking Free and Mrs. Ike, appeared on regional bestseller lists. She has also edited four collected volumes on regional security issues, most recently Partners in Space: US-Russian Cooperation after the Cold War.

Eisenhower has been a fellow at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government’s Institute of Politics and a distinguished fellow at the Nixon Center. She currently sits on the board of the Energy Future Coalition and is an advisor to the US Chamber of Commerce’s Institute for 21st Century Energy and the Air Force Academy’s Eisenhower Center for Space and Defense Studies.

She serves as a regular commentator on television and has provided analysis for CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, PBS, the BBC and all three network morning programs.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier is internationally known for his leadership on behalf of religious freedom, human rights and tolerance. Founder and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation (1965) and spiritual leader of New York’s Park East Synagogue (1962), he was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal for “his service as an international envoy for four administrations” and as a Holocaust survivor, “devoting a lifetime to overcoming forces of hatred and intolerance.” He hosted Pope Benedict XVI at Park East Synagogue in 2008, the first ever Papal visit to a synagogue in the US, and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Recently, Pope Francis bestowed upon him the Papal Knighthood of Saint Sylvester for “his unceasing work to promote peace and mutual understanding.” Patriarch Aleksey II of Moscow and all Russia awarded him the Order of St. Daniel of Moscow for his “leadership in inter-religious cooperation and the strengthening of ties between American religious communities and the Russian Orthodox Church.”

A US Alternate Representative to the UN General Assembly and Chairman of the US Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad, he was one of three American religious leaders appointed by President Clinton to start the first dialogue on religious freedom with President Jiang Zemin (1998). He initiated the Resolution for the Protection of Religious Sites, adopted by the UN General Assembly (2001). He was the Ambassador of the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

Rabbi Schneier was ordained by Yeshiva University which established the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Center for International Affairs. He is the recipient of eleven honorary doctorates, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Asia Society, and the Committee on Conscience of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.
**VICTORY DAY** (День Победы)
By Vladimir Kharitonov and David Tukhmanov

**RUSSIAN:**

День Победы, как он был от нас далёк,
Как в костре потухшем таял уголёк.
Были вёрсты, обгорелые, в пыли —
Этот день мы приближали как могли.

**Chorus:**
Этот День Победы
Порохом пропах,
Это праздник
С сединою на висках.
Это радость
Со слезами на глазах.
День Победы! X3

Дни и ночи у мартеновских печей
Не смыкала наша Родина очей.
Дни и ночи битву трудную вели —
Этот день мы приближали как могли.

**Chorus**
Здравствуй, мама, возвратились мы не все...
Босиком бы пробежаться по росе!
Пол-Европы, прошагали, пол-Земли —
Этот день мы приближали как могли.

**TRANSCRIPTION:**

Den’ Pobedy, kak on byl ot nas dalyok,
Kak v kostre potukhshem tayal ugolyok.
Byli vyorsty, obgorelye, v pyli —
Etot den’ my priblizhali kak mogli.

**Chorus:**
Etot Den’ Pobedy
Porokhom propakh,
Eto prazdnik
S sedinoyu na vishkakh.
Eto radost’
So slezami na glazakh.
Den’ Pobedy! X3

Дни и ночи у мартеновских печей
Не смыкала наша Родина очей.
Дни и ночи битву трудную вели —
Этот день мы приближали как могли.

**Chorus**
Zdravstvuy, mama, vozvratilis’ my ne vse,
Bosikom by probежаться по росе!
Pol-Yevropy proshagali, pol-Zemli —
Этот день мы приближали как могли.

**ENGLISH:**

Victory Day, oh how far from us it was,
Like a dwindling ember in a faded fire.
There were miles ahead, burned and dusty
We hastened this day as best we could.

**Chorus:**
This Victory Day
Air saturated with gunpowder,
It’s a holiday
With temples already gray,
It’s joy
With tears upon our eyes
Victory Day! X3

Days and nights at blast furnaces,
Our Motherland didn’t sleep a wink.
Days and nights a hard battle we fought—
We hastened this day as best we could.

**Chorus**
Hello, Mother, not all of us came back...
How I’d like to run barefoot through the dew!
Half of Europe, we have stridden half the Earth,
We hastened this day as best we could!
OUR UNFORGETTABLE SPONSORS

We would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support of “A Salute of Arts and Culture to the 70th Anniversary of the Allied Victory in Europe” and for their continued dedication to our mission.

Susan Carmel Lehrman

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The Carmel Institute of Russian Culture and History at American University, Washington, DC will set in perpetuity its educational mission through film screenings, musical concerts, educational grants, trips to Russia, museum talks, and symposiums. With almost 15,000 attendees over the past four years, our program will now expand to include direct student exchanges with MGIMO-University and the Higher School of Economics in Russia. We will offer courses on cultural diplomacy and the rich history of mutual enrichment between the US and Russia.

IRC students on Sparrow Hills in Moscow, July 2014.
On April 25, 1945, Russian and American troops finally made contact in the town of Torgau, Germany on the Elbe River. This was the first time these two allied armies, fighting one enemy from opposite sides, united in the heartland of their enemy and knew with certainty that the war was coming to an end.

This “meeting of East and West” was hailed by politicians and newscasters alike as a defining moment, both strategically and symbolically. Against military orders for a more formal meeting, boats eagerly sped across the River Elbe, whose shores were covered in blooming spring flowers and bodies of the fallen. From opposite sides of the river, but in the German heartland, soldiers shouted and waved and flashed the then-universal two-fingered salute of victory.

The ensuing atmosphere of celebration offered not only excellent photo opportunities and a feeling of unprecedented optimism about the alliance, but also represented the new world order where national borders were only nominal and goods and people traveled freely between states. It was a moment of sincere camaraderie and hope, distinguished by dancing, toasts, songs, and kisses.

On the occasion, President Truman said “This is not the hour of final victory in Europe, but the hour draws near, the hour for which all the American people, all the British people and all the Soviet people have toiled and prayed so long.” Since then Elbe Day has become an unofficial holiday in Russia, America, Torgau and elsewhere, to celebrate friendship between distant cultures. The Elbe River Meeting remains as a beacon of light during a time of great struggle.
The Path to Berlin
1941-1945

Capture of Rome
June 4, 1944

D-Day
June 6, 1944

Battle of the Bulge
Dec 16, 1944-Jan 26, 1945

Bombing of Dresden
Feb 13-16, 1945

Elbe River Meeting
Apr 25, 1945

The Capture of Berlin
Apr 22-May 2, 1945
YEVGENY YEVTSUSHenko, POET

It is difficult to find another writer who has done as much for mutual understanding between America and Russia as Yevtushenko. He was inspired in his childhood by the historical encounter of American and Russian soldiers on the River Elbe in May 1945, becoming the first Russian poet to promote the spirit of the Elbe in the harsh climate of the Cold War.

He has been described by the American media as a Russian mixture of Walt Whitman and Bob Dylan. His first reading in America was at Harvard in 1961. When he returned to Russia, he published his thunderous poem, “Babi Yar” against anti-Semitism, breaking a conspiracy of silence in the USSR. Soon afterwards, the great Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich created his famous 13th Symphony based on five of Yevtushenko’s poems. In 1961 Yevtushenko was featured on the cover of TIME. In 1966 he toured 27 American universities, and in 1972 gave an unprecedented poetry concert to a capacity crowd in Madison Square Garden. He befriended many American political leaders and such leading cultural lights as Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg, John Steinbeck, Arthur Miller, John Updike, John Cheever, Edward Albee, Leonard Bernstein, Louis Armstrong, and Stanley Kramer.

During Perestroika, Yevtushenko became, together with Andrei Sakharov, one of the most popular members of Russia’s Parliament due to his opposition to the war in Afghanistan and his support of democracy. In 1991 during the attempted coup d’état, Yevtushenko recited his poetry before 200,000 defenders of freedom. He was awarded the American Liberties Medallion—the highest honor of the American Jewish Committee—and Russia’s “Defender of Freedom” Medal. He has performed in 96 countries and been translated into 72 languages. An honorary member of the American and European Academies of Arts and Sciences, distinguished professor of the University of Tulsa and an honorary citizen of many American cities, Yevtushenko is a living testament to US-Russia concord.
I want to congratulate both Russians and Americans on the 70th Anniversary of our magnificent shared victory over Fascism. But to this joy must also be reconciled the bitter notes of present-day misunderstandings. These misunderstandings are like a field sown with mines which have already begun to explode. And meanwhile in Europe, in Germany, there is the Elbe River, not geographically but historically one of the greatest rivers in the world.

I remember how President Nixon, having invited me in 1972 to the Oval Office before his trip to the USSR, asked me, “How do you think I ought to begin my 20-minute speech on Russian television so that it brings Americans and Russians closer together?” Without a second thought, I answered, “With the spirit of the Elbe.” Befuddled, he turned to Kissinger, who explained it to him. The Elbe was precisely that place where in April 1945, Soviet and American soldiers, wading into the water up to their chests, embraced as brothers-in-arms, drank whiskey and vodka from their flasks and, though they spoke different languages, by some miraculous force understood each other with simple words, gestures, and shining, happy eyes. But now, under the most difficult circumstances in relations between our countries, it seems that we have lost a common human language.

Ignorance of history or its distortion for dubious ends, starting in school, caused one of my American students, from a farming family to later become one of my best pupils. He wrote in a paper on my film Kindergarten, “Thank you Mr. Yevtushenko, for in spite of the fact that your country fought against the US alongside Hitler, you showed me that there are in fact good people in Russia.” Alas, it all comes back to the warning alarms. God forbid they ever again become air raid sirens.

Something like this might happen between Russia and Ukraine if their relationship becomes similar to that between Israel and Gaza. It seems to me that some politicians, hiding their own weaknesses, don’t want war so much as to puff out their chests. But at the beginning, there was a word—not just at the creation of the universe, but at the start of wars too. It is best to keep aggressive words on a short leash. Why not instead of this follow the example of Nikita Khrushchev and John Kennedy, who during the Cuban Missile Crisis showed moral strength in finding a common human language in the name of saving humanity? God save our common mother Earth!
FROM ROOSEVELT WITH LOVE

President Roosevelt signing the Lend-Lease Act
1941. Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Lend-Lease was the most visible sign of wartime cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Not every Russian can speak English, but everyone there knows a few English words, such as “OK,” “thank you,” “love,” and not surprisingly “Lend-Lease,” which were on the lips of every Russian during the war. The Lend-Lease Act’s expansion to provide Russia with food and military materiel to assist in the war was signed on October 30, 1941 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This important legislation recognized Moscow as a vital force in the war against Hitler, warranting interest-free loans of war materiel from the US industrial sector.

In Roosevelt’s famous words, “Suppose my neighbor’s home catches fire, and I have a length of garden hose four or five hundred feet away. If he can take my garden hose and connect it up with his hydrant, I may help him to put out his fire...I don’t say to him before that operation, ‘Neighbor, my garden hose cost me $15; you have to pay me $15 for it.’ ... I don’t want $15--I want my garden hose back after the fire is over.”

Through this Act, not only were Russian soldiers better equipped to fight the Fascist threat using American weaponry and tools, but they were introduced to countless American products, including Caterpillar vehicles, Mars chocolates, and Hormel brand Spam. Over the course of the war, Lend-Lease delivered over 18 million tons of materiel to the Russians, valued at $11-13 billion dollars.

To reach the USSR, supplies had to traverse the treacherous Atlantic Ocean where German U-Boats waited to sink Allied vessels. From there, the cargo ships entered and crossed the Arctic Ocean through Murmansk Run, which posed its own dangers in the form of bitter cold, ice, and fog. Many ships also traveled along the Persian Corridor or the contested waters of the Pacific to Russia’s far eastern ports. During the war, 829 Merchant Marines, 1,944 Navy personnel, and over 4 million tons of supplies were lost on these supply missions. The repercussions of the Lend-Lease Program, as a symbol of cooperation and as a step towards ever greater economic globalization, resounded throughout the history of the war and into modern day.
The Lend-Lease Program left a deep imprint on the memory of the Russian people who witnessed, experienced, and even survived thanks to it. The term “Lend-Lease” entered the Russian language and found its way into conversations about the war, memoirs of the veterans, and history books.

A few years ago a new book was published by the prominent Russian writer Vassily Aksenov, whose childhood and early youth coincided with the war. The title of the book is very revealing. It is difficult to translate but might be read as: “Lend-Lease People.” It is about youngsters of the period who are now called in Russia “the children of war.” The title also might be translated as the “Lend-Lease Generation.” The book is full of the author’s recollections about the Lend-Lease program, including food deliveries to Russia which saved the lives of countless children.

Not far from downtown Moscow stands a unique Museum, the only one of its kind in the world. “The Lend-Lease Museum” was created ten years ago by the historic, Soyuz Lend-Lease Club of Moscow High School #1262, with support from local veterans’ organizations. Their enthusiasm was incredible. Over a short period of time they managed to collect samples of many different types of Lend-Lease products, including an intact American military Jeep and the boots worn by a tank soldier. Among the objects are some very rare artifacts such as a US landing force mini-motorcycle, a “Thompson” machine gun, US machine tools, tires, leather coats, first aid kits, American cigarettes such as Lucky Strike, samples of food products such as Baker’s Cocoa, powdered whole milk, Morell bulk pork sausage, Spam, Vitamin C, and more.

The Museum is open every Friday for visitors. There are also traveling exhibitions, conferences, and lectures on the theme of WWII.

One of the artifacts of the Museum is a framed letter from the US Ambassador to Russia John R. Beyrle: “I would like to thank you and all enthusiasts working in the Museum of the Alliance and Lend-Lease for safekeeping and perpetuating the memory of our union in the fight with fascism in the years of the Second World War.”
In the bitterest moments of war time, Americans and Russians needed something to help preserve their sanity, remind them of their humanity, and most importantly, assure them that they fought for a just cause and that their efforts would prevail. Out of this necessity, World War II proved fertile ground for inspirational music and literature, during and in the many years after.

Along with pictures of their loved ones, soldiers fighting on the battlefronts carried pocket-size versions of their favorite books. As Roosevelt said in 1942, “A war of ideas can no more be won without books than a naval war can be won without ships.” In Russia, people found comfort in the classics, Tolstoy and Pushkin, whose works evoked a heritage of endurance and a depth of feeling that bound them to their homeland. A massive effort by cultural leaders also produced a nearly endless stream of optimistic war novels, most notably They Fought for their Homeland by Mikhail Sholokhov.

Likewise, singers and musicians of both countries, armed only with artistic creativity, talent and showmanship, provided inspiration for war-beleaguered men and women. The United Services Organization of America (USO) was formed at the behest of General George Marshall in 1941 to meet the emotional and spiritual needs of the battle-hardened. Diverse organizations such as the Salvation Army,
Patty, Maxene, and LaVerne entertained the Allied forces, visiting Army, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard bases, war zones, hospitals, and munitions factories.

Young Men/Women’s Christian Association, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board banded together to create educational and artistic programs for soldiers. USO centers cropped up across the US and Europe providing 700 Camp Shows a day.

On the Eastern Front, acting and singing troupes across the USSR spontaneously formed “Frontline Brigades” that performed at battle fields, hospitals, and camps. They performed Associated Press concerts, full-length plays, circus acts, and puppet shows.

The power of these performances was immense. For an American soldier, the sight and voice of Bob Hope or the Andrews Sisters showed him he mattered, and that his country was looking after him, even though thousands of miles away. Likewise for the Russian soldiers. Singers like Lydia Ruslanova, Klavdia Shulzhenko and Leonid Utesov reminded them of the home and heritage for which they were fighting.

American music delivered innate optimism and humor about the war, as in the lively tunes of the Big Bands and jazz singers. On the Russian side, themes of longing, loss and heroism permeated the music of greats like Shostakovich, Prokofiev and scores of Russian composers who wrote numerous immortal songs for the soldier. Despite the different tenors, both American and Russian musical traditions proved worthy bearers of the dreams and memories of their people, helping to elevate morale, pushing them to victory.
Four years of war in Russia created many stories of heroism by people at the battle front. Some of the stories are quite incredible and would seem impossible to believe if they had not been well documented. The following adventure about an American soldier is one of them.

He was a paratrooper sent on a dangerous mission into occupied France before the Allied forces started their invasion. After jumping into Normandy the night before D-Day, he was separated from his unit and captured by the Nazis. He spent half a year in German P.O.W. camps before being transferred to Stalag 3-C camp in Poland. From there he courageously managed to escape and went east until he met the advancing Russian Army making its way towards Berlin. He convinced them to take him in. Later he recalled that the Russians treated him well: they believed his story, gave him food, and trusted him with weapons. He asked to join them and fought side by side with them for several weeks in a Soviet tank battalion before he was seriously wounded by a German bomb attack and sent to a Russian hospital for recovery.

He is considered one of the very few American G.I.s who served with the Russian Army. Russian newspapers and magazines first began reporting the story in the 1970s, and in 2002 a book was published on his wartime experiences entitled “The Simple Sounds of Freedom;” the Russian language translation was titled “American Soldier in a Soviet Tank.” He was recognized for his bravery with medals presented by President Bill Clinton and President Boris Yeltsin at a White House Rose Garden ceremony in 1994 marking the 50th Anniversary of D-Day.

This brave soldier was Joseph Beyrle (1923-2004) from Michigan. His legacy is especially dear to us at the ARCCF, because he symbolizes the personal connection between the US and Russia, and because we are fortunate to receive valuable guidance from his son, the former US Ambassador to Russia, John R. Beyrle, an active Member of our Board.
Of the many notable names associated with the Elbe River Meeting (among them Kotzebue, Silvashko, Gordeyev, and Robertson), one name in particular seems the greatest representative of that momentous day. Joseph Polowsky was born in Chicago in 1916. The son of Jewish immigrants from the former Russian Empire, he worked as a taxi driver until his conscription in 1944. He joined the 69th Infantry Division and went on to fight in battles all across Central Europe. When American troops reached the Elbe, General Dwight Eisenhower and his high command ordered the troops to await further orders before linking up with the Soviet troops. The 69th Division, however, was eager to meet and congratulate their allies, and initiated contact without waiting for further instructions. Amid the wreckage and carnage of the scene at Torgau, Polowsky and his Russian and American brothers-in-arms swore an oath to preserve peace between their two countries.

Nine years after V-E Day, Polowsky organized “The American Veterans of the Elbe River Linkup,” comprised of 50 men, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the occasion. That year, Premier Khrushchev invited them to Moscow for a parallel event, and Polowsky and his group accepted. They were the first American visitors to Russia since the war. This reunion was repeated three years later with representatives from both countries in both Washington and Moscow. Polowsky remained a peace activist for the rest of his life, petitioning the US to declare April 25 a Day of World Peace, as well as campaigning against the nuclear proliferation of the Cold War. In an interview shortly before his death in 1983, Polowsky said, “As long as one person remembers...the memory of the Elbe River Linkup isn't dead and is not going to die.”

Dedicated to the memory of Joseph Polowsky in both countries, a book was printed in English and Russian entitled, “Yanks Meet Reds, Recollections of US and Soviet Vets from the Linkup in WWII.” His memory is also preserved in the 1988 song, “At the Elbe,” by Fred Small.

Tonight’s event honors Joseph Polowsky’s undying belief in the power of cooperation and peace.
ARCCF CONGRATULATES

SUSAN CARMEL LEHRMAN
our distinguished board member
for founding the first Institute at American University,
The Carmel Institute of Russian Culture and History

and

DR. ANTON FEDYASHIN
our distinguished advisory board member
on his new position as Director of
The Carmel Institute of Russian Culture and History
We wish them every success!

THE BLAVATNIK FAMILY FOUNDATION
IS PROUD TO SUPPORT

THE AMERICAN-RUSSIAN CULTURAL COOPERATION FOUNDATION

BLAVATNIK FAMILY FOUNDATION
"I do believe that the final victory will be ours."
Sergei Rachmaninoff, World’s Great Composer, Pianist, Conductor

Rachmaninoff’s first tour of the USA in 1909 was extraordinarily well received and made him a household name. After fleeing the Russian Revolution and settling in the US in 1918, his fame and popularity continued to soar.

In the States, his professional engagements as a concert pianist induced in him a chronic melancholy and greatly diminished his creative output. He longed for his muse, a homeland that was no longer recognizable and understandable to him. The home he bought in Beverly Hills was outfitted with all the trappings of his Russian manor, including servants and traditional Russian celebrations. Here, he also befriended and became a patron of the inventor and Russian émigré Igor Sikorsky, whose revolutionary helicopters were the first deemed appropriate for both military and commercial use.

With the outbreak of war in 1941, Rachmaninoff was overwhelmed with affection and compassion for Russia and undertook grueling concert tours across the US to raise money for the war effort. In 1942, he donated approximately $100,000 through the Soviet Embassy to the Red Army, accompanied by a note that read, “From a Russian as a contribution in the ongoing struggle with the enemy. I want to believe and I do believe that the final victory will be ours.” This donation bought the Red Army the equivalent of two fighter planes.

Rachmaninoff’s powerful music was performed at the battle fronts and helped raise the spirits of the Russian troops. The most famous of the performers was Emil Gilels whom Rachmaninoff considered his heir. Russians declaimed that “Gilels is playing at the front, to remind us what the war is worth fighting for: Immortal music!”

Rachmaninoff lived to witness the victory at Stalingrad, but sadly died less than two months later at the age of 70. By the time of his death he had made his indelible mark upon the music world. With his dying breath, the world lost the last representative of the Russian Romantic tradition and a faithful patriot of the Russian soul. In his words, “Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music.”
REMINISCENCES OF A WWII KID

By Dmitry Urnov

World War II inspired such a strong sense of unity between the allies that present-day Americans and Russians may find it hard to imagine what that felt like. Russians like myself, born in the mid-1930s, who lived through the war, will never forget the way the Americans were there for us, and in a very practical sense: Willys military jeep vehicles, Studebaker trucks, Douglas airplanes. Given how much hunger there was in my country during the war, what symbolized American support the most for the common Russian folk were tins of canned pork, or Spam. One can get a sense of how genuinely treasured Spam was by watching Sergei Chukhrai’s film “Ballad of a Soldier” or Andrey Tarkovsky’s “Ivan’s Childhood”—it appears in both. I still have vivid memories of the tins gleaming gold. The contents of the tin had an indescribably mouth-watering smell, and one would eat it slowly, savoring first the meat and then separately, over some potatoes, the fat. Even empty tins were not tossed out – they were kept for everyday household use.

My father would bring home from his work at the Society for Friendship with Foreign Nations (VOKS) a glossy magazine, America, printed in two sizes (full-size and pocket), and the newspaper Your British Ally. I read them as a child. Mornings in our household began with listening to newscasts in English. Our Russian-made radio was not built to receive shortwave transmissions, so my father asked at work for an American radio which he brought home, and with bated breath we would listen to the “Voice of America” and the BBC.

During the war we did not know how extensive the partnership was between our two countries. Only after the war there appeared in the press reports about a joint effort between the A.S. Yakovlev Design Bureau and the American Republic Aviation Corporation. Republic Aviation was headed by a Russian-Georgian émigré Alexander Kartveli. Together with his colleagues he designed for the US Air Force a fighter aircraft, the P-47 Thunderbolt, which played a decisive role in the war over the Pacific. Several aircraft were sent to Russia, to the Yakovlev Design Bureau.

An American motion picture about WWII pilots, released after the war, cast two actors who looked very much like Kartveli and Sikorsky to play the parts of American aircraft designers. For the Russians, names of American planes, cars, and household items became part of the everyday lexicon. My generation of war survivors would thus never forget how strong and impactful the American-Russian bond was during World War II.

The author, age 6 on the left, with his cousin Andrey, age 5, and his favorite toy, a stuffed elephant, one of the few things they could bring along when the family was evacuated from Moscow ahead of the Nazi assault on the city. Photograph taken April 15, 1942.

Dmitry Urnov (b. 1936, Moscow) Russian literary scholar in English and American Studies. Advisory Board member of the American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation.
The countless images of Lend-Lease convoys give the impression of a massive arsenal of tanks, planes, and weapons being shipped to American allies overseas. While such equipment was a major part of the Lend-Lease aid, the goods that made it to Russia were of a much more diverse nature.

For Russians, the most vivid remembrances about Lend-Lease are connected with Studebaker trucks, which served as the launching platforms for the famous Katyusha rockets, and Jeeps which were used for a variety of purposes, including scouting, officer transport, and rescuing the wounded.

Food, of course, was an absolute necessity and took the form not only of familiar military rations like Mars chocolate bars, flavored beverages, and tins of Spam, but sugar, cooking oil, dairy products, and even specially ordered Russian "tushonka"—a kind of canned stewed meat, which conveniently satisfied soldiers' hunger at the battlefronts. Non-perishable items like beans and grains were shipped in the hundreds of millions of pounds.

Photographic supplies were also sent over via Lend-Lease. Almost 300 cameras, 30 projectors, and millions of feet of film boosted the Soviet Army's ability to document its valiant repulsion of German troops. Many of the iconic photos of the Eastern Front, the stark evidence of the Nazi's atrocities and the Holocaust, may very well have been taken with American equipment.

Other notable aid took the form of metalworking tools and chemicals for the production of alloys and advanced explosives, writing paper, rubber tires, raw fabrics, fuel, electrical generators, and tobacco products. This diversity of material attests to the fact that this war was all-consuming and that by 1941 Russia was already in need of many basic necessities.

American aid to the Soviet Union between 1941 and 1945 amounted to 18 million tons of materiel at an overall cost of $11-13 billion dollars (over $130 billion in today's dollar), and 49 percent of it went through Vladivostok, a major Pacific port for the Russian Far East.
The United States and Russia - Looking Forward

A tribute to those who respect culture, can also respect those with whom they disagree, and strive to learn from history:

As we move on from a century of war and tragedy, let us seek to learn from the past—and celebrate the arts and culture that bind our two nations, and—even with the conflicts and challenges we are currently experiencing—continue to respect and search for understanding.

I respect the work of the ARCCF, The Carmel Institute of Russian Culture & History at American University, Susan Carmel Lehrman, H.E. Ambassador Sergey I. Kislyak, Alexander Potemkin, the Board Members and staff of ARCCF, and all those who work to promote respect, understanding, and the joy of music and art. Thank you!

Joseph D. Duffey, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Culture, 1977
Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities
Director, United States Information Agency, 1994-1999

He who knows only one nation...knows no nation - S M Lipsett
Alexander Bourganov is one of Russia’s most important artists and is a good friend to the ARCCF. His works are well known worldwide and are located in several European museums. He is a Fellow at the Russian Academy of Fine Arts, a Professor at the Cultural Institution (Moscow), and bears the distinguished title “People’s Artist of Russia.” In 2001, Moscow granted his studio the status of State Museum “Bourganov-Centre.”

ARCCF commissioned and placed two important artworks by Mr. Bourganov. A tribute to Russia’s greatest poet, Alexander Pushkin, stands on the campus of George Washington University in Washington, DC. A reciprocal tribute to America’s great poet Walt Whitman was erected in concert with the Russian Peace Foundation on the campus of Moscow State University and dedicated by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in October 2009. Mr. Bourganov’s statue of President John Quincy Adams stands in front of the US Embassy in Moscow. At the request of ARCCF, he created especially for our event a bronze statue capturing the historic moment of Russian and American soldiers shaking hands at the Elbe River.

Alexander Bourganov was born in Baku (Azerbaijan) in 1935. He graduated from the Moscow State Artistic and Industrial College.

“We saw a burst of lilacs and the river swift and wide, And rest and welcome waiting for us on the other side, And Yanks and Reds laughed out loud to be alive at the Elbe.”

From the song, “At the Elbe” by Fred Small
OUR SINCEREST THANKS TO

Tedd Determan

Alla Fabrik

Marina Gendel

Vitaly Kislov Jr.

Vitaly Kislov Sr.

Natalia Kuptsova

Kamilla Linder

Erik Ronhovde

Marina Stiajkina

Paata Tsikurishvili

Oleg Vinogradov

Natella Voiskunskaya

Спасибо • Spasibo • Thank You
Former United States Congressman James W. Symington has served as Chairman of the Board of ARCCF for 23 years. Under his leadership and guidance ARCCF has sponsored landmark examples of cultural diplomacy, fostering understanding between the peoples of Russia and the United States through mutual appreciation of art, history and culture. It has been a labor of love for Mr. Symington. Though he has chosen to step down from this position, we are pleased that he will remain on our Board and continue to share his knowledge, talents, and vision with us in our future endeavors. Please join us for the ARCCF Annual Gala next fall to pay tribute to this truly remarkable American.

For advance reservations or information please call 202-496-5306 or email ARCCFrsvp@gmail.com