

Kind people similar everywhere

Hospitable Italians annually accept Belarusian children from Chernobyl affected regions for recuperation

By Alexandra Velikhova

Valentina Atroshkina, a teacher of Russian language and literature at Belynichy secondary school, is a charming woman. She boasts rich teaching experience, and has given up much of her time in voluntary activities relating to the recuperation of Belarusian children in Italy. She has perfect knowledge of Italian and is known not only to youngsters from throughout Belarus, but also to many Italian families. The latter have freely welcomed boys and girls from the Mogilev and Gomel regions (those most affected by the Chernobyl disaster), with Valentina accompanying the schoolchildren to Italy each year during her official summer holidays.

Ms. Atroshkina first began volunteering eleven years ago, having completed her Italian language course. Besides having graduated from the Mogilev State University, she has independently studied Italian law, in addition to first aid for children, and knows



about the diverse range of teaching and mentoring methods for children.

Not long ago, she brought home a group of schoolchildren from Rosa, in Italy's Vicenza Province.

Eleven boys and girls from Bobruisk, Svetlogorsk and Gomel had recuperated under her guidance, returning to Belarus in high spirits. During their month long stay on the Mediterranean

Sea's picturesque Apennine Peninsula, the children visited Venice, Padua and Vicenza, learning about Italy's rich history and culture, as well as its invaluable treasures of sculpture, painting

and architecture.

"Italians are very similar to us: in spirit, behaviour and mentality," stresses Valentina. "They are quite open, kind-hearted and joyful. It seems they

love everybody. Moreover, we have a similar sense of humour, despite living at different latitudes. Like Belarusians, they are very industrious and carefully preserve their national identity."

"Before the trip, our youngsters had recuperated in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Brentonico and Aldeno — cities in the Trentino Alto Adige Region," continues Valentina. "This time, they lived, studied and recuperated in the Venice Region. This trip has helped them strengthen their knowledge of Italian; whichever book you might use, language can be best mastered by real communication. Our children were so impressed by the local architecture, which reflects Italy's three thousand year history. Such sights embody the power and glory of the Roman Empire while showing Italy as the cradle of the Renaissance."

Valentina's 19 year old daughter Masha is a Belarusian State Medical University student. She actively studies Italian and also volunteers.

Epoch ever remembers its outstanding heroes

Zbigniew Brzezinski calls famous Belarusian deltiologist Vladimir Lihodedov's *Tadeusz Kosciuszko in Old Postcards and Drawings* book 'fascinating and informative'

By Konstantin Overkov

On August 2nd, Valentin Rybakov, the Foreign Policy Aide to the President of the Republic of Belarus, presented the edition to Washington's Library of Congress (the US' National Library). The presentation was organised by the Belarusian Embassy, with the heads of the world's largest library and American Congress staff in attendance, alongside representatives of the Polish and Lithuanian embassies to Washington, the US National Press Club, the Kosciuszko Foundation and various analytical centres.

Tadeusz Kosciuszko — an outstanding military commander and politician who was born on the Brest Region's Merechevshchina estate — unites Belarus with Poland and America. Reviewing the book, authoritative politician Zbigniew Brzezinski calls Kosciuszko



Book about hero

'the hero of two fraternal nations — Poles and Belarusians, who fought not only for their freedom but also for the freedom of Americans'. The former National Security Adviser to President Carter's Administration believes 'his adherence to human rights, social justice and national sovereign-

ty is a sustainable testimony to his historical grandeur'. Of course, this cannot but play a role in the modern relations of our countries...

Vladimir Lihodedov explains his inspiration, saying, "There is perhaps no one else of the kind in history. This Belarus-born man is a hero of several countries. Moreover, he is an honoured citizen of France and the highest peak of the Australian continent is named after him."

The book is unique not simply because it's written in five languages. Kosciuszko's life and deeds have been thoroughly studied and his name remains eternal even far abroad. Mr. Lihodedov shows the path taken by his famous countryman, with amazing photos. Readers are taken on a journey spanning two centuries, showing how Kosciuszko viewed his homeland, the European capitals and American battlefields.

Summer readiness for fully-fledged studies

All Belarusian educational institutions are ready for the new academic year, Education Minister Sergei Maskevich informs President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko

The meeting focused on the readiness of Belarusian universities, colleges and schools

for the new academic year, in addition to personnel training and optimisation of university curricula and structure.

The Minister reported that all educational institutions are completely ready for the beginning of the new academic year. In particular, planned numbers of teachers and professors have been hired, with

the necessary textbooks printed. School uniforms, footwear and writing equipment are available for sale and low-income families will receive financial support to buy these where necessary.

This year, six new schools, 15 new pre-school institutions and two new hostels are to open.

More people eager to study

By Anastasia Yanushevskaya

Belarusian State University enrolls record number of first year students since opening 90 years ago: over 6,000

The University notes that this year has seen the highest enrolment figures to date, with about half of those in full time state-paid education acquiring 300 or more points. Meanwhile, 120 winners of international and Republican Olympiad contests are enrolled on regular state-funded courses. This year, the regions are widely represented at the BSU, with those from the Brest, Grodno, Gomel and Mogilev regions prevailing. Accordingly, the number of Minskians has fallen, standing at 35 percent of the total



BSU's new students

(in regular daytime studies).

The highest points among those enrolled in natural-scientific specialities are in 'Computer Literacy' (340) and 'Informatics' (338). Meanwhile, social-humanitarian and economic specialities are seeing the highest points from those selecting 'International Law' (369),

'Global Economics' (363), 'Linguistics and Country Studies' (360) and 'International Relations' (359).

For correspondence courses, there were 1.7 applicants per place overall, with 'Biology' and 'Economics' most popular, with 2 and 3 applicants per place respectively.