



# International Center of Worcester

June, 2007

## Annual Report,

for the Fiscal Year

June 1, 2006 - May 31, 2007

prepared by

**Royce Anderson**  
Executive Director

[www.IntCent.org](http://www.IntCent.org)

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*The International Center of Worcester thanks the following for their support of its programs and activities:*

- ∅ the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), U.S. Department of State*
- ∅ U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)*
- ∅ the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress*
- ∅ Astrakhan State University, Astrakhan, Russia*
- ∅ contributing members of the International Center of Worcester*

## Mission Statement

*ICW's mission is to encourage mutual understanding and friendship between residents of Central Massachusetts, the international community and international visitors.*

ICW fulfills its mission through "Citizen Diplomacy:" promoting personal contact between residents of central Massachusetts and citizens of other nations through social, cultural, educational, and professional programs.

## A Message from the President

This, my final year as President, has been a continuation of our being challenged by contrasting periods of very low International Visitor activity and then periods of extremely busy activity. Without a consistent flow of granted programs, the ICW has struggled with how to accurately plan for the future.

In Washington, diminishing State Department IV funds, the stringent visa regulations, and the world view toward the U.S. have resulted in fewer programs being offered nationally during this year. Consequently, this has been an equally difficult year for our office staff. I want to thank Royce and Nadia for putting in more time than they were paid for and for working super hard when programs arrived close together. Also, our lead office volunteers, Anna DeMulder for programming and Vita Aronson for membership, were outstanding. They, along with the cadre of student volunteers, were extremely helpful in the office and in Visitor programming. Ken Johnson was also indispensable when Visitors were in town.

Thank you, all.

On a more positive side, ICW has generated an exciting new area of "Fee for Service" programming from Astrakhan, Russia which involves very solid follow on activity with Clark U. and WPI. Also, as we have adapted to the new USAID Community Connections guidelines, we are now scheduled for back to back programs in August and September. Our last year's October Challenge Grant was very successful, too, thanks to all of you, our members, who so generously contributed. And we look forward to more Open World Programs in the fall.

This is where you, our members, serving as home hosts and community resources, are so important. YOU are the necessary heart of ICW.

It has been a pleasure for me to work with Nadia, Royce, the members of the Board of Directors, Anna, Vita, and Ken. I will miss everyone as well as you, our members. It has truly been an honor and a pleasure for me to serve as the President of ICW. I am firmly committed to the mission of ICW, and will cherish deeply the many friends I have made from here and from around the world through participation in ICW activities. My very best wishes go to all of you, and you can be sure that I plan to be here serving as a "Citizen Diplomat" for many years to come.

-- Nancy Kimball, President

## Overview of 2006-2007

As Nancy mentions above, this fiscal year, compared to last year which was relatively slow for ICW, has alternated between slow periods and periods of frantic activity. Government funding for Citizen Diplomacy programs continues to suffer as the image of the US in the world continues to deteriorate and the numbers of international visitors coming to the US decreases. For example, total visitors coming to the US under the Dept. of State's International Visitor Leadership Program has decreased by 20% since 2000.

The International Center of Worcester, however, has managed to survive under these decreases. In the last Federal Fiscal Year (October 1, 2005 through September 31, 2006) we had 35 visitors through the International Visitor Leadership Program compared to 26 the previous year. This was due in part to the efforts of our Program Officer, Anna DeMulder researching and bidding for programs, and also in part to the reputation for excellent programming that ICW has earned over the years.

Compared to past years when ICW hosted two or three groups of 10 visitors through the Community Connections Program, activity in this program has decreased. Formerly sponsored by the Dept. of State, this program ended in June, 2005 and ICW received its last group in May-June 2005. This was followed by a long period of inactivity during which the Program was being taken over and reorganized by USAID. ICW received its first group under USAID in April 2006 after almost a year's hiatus. This past fiscal year, ICW hosted only one Community Connections group: 10 business people from Tbilisi, Georgia, November 1 – December 6, 2006.

This drop in activity with the Community Connections Program has had the greatest impact on ICW's budget. This program pays the greatest share of staff salaries and office overhead. It has, therefore, been a difficult year for us during this transition of the Community Connections Program from the Dept. of State to USAID.

On an encouraging note, ICW has already been approved for two Community Connections Program groups for next fiscal year, 2007-2008. But overall numbers of visitors coming to the US through this program will remain lower than in previous years. The number of groups that ICW receives will depend partly on availability and also on how competitive we can be in writing proposals for these groups.

ICW staff continues to work primarily on a volunteer basis. Last year, staff pay was reduced from two full-time positions to one half-time position. It is important to recognize, however, that Royce Anderson and Nadia Anderson have continued working virtually full-time on a volunteer basis in spite of cuts in pay. Also, we have had more volunteer help in the office this year than in recent memory, which has been a huge help for us.

The ICW website has been totally renovated and continual updates make it the best source for information about ICW. We increasingly depend much more on electronic communications,

which are more efficient than paper communications. Much of the detail is there that was placed in our previous Annual Reports. We refer the reader to our website for full information.

## Programs

Citizen Diplomacy programs in which ICW participated this year are summarized below.

### **International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP)**

The International Visitors Program is a professional exchange program funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the US Department of State. Typically, programs are for two weeks and visitors travel to Washington, DC and several additional cities such as Worcester for several days each. Program Officer Anna DeMulder was responsible for programming these groups and prospecting for new groups.

- July 3, 1 visitor from Italy, Local Government.
- July 27, 4 Russian mayors.
- August 2-4, 7 visitors from Kosovo, Local Government,
- August 9: 19 visitors, Citizen Participation in Democracy English speaking, from 19 countries. Program included a membership pot luck dinner and cookout at the home of ICW members Alicja Rudnicka-MacGillivray & Peter Ferensowicz.
- December 11, 16 medical doctors from Iran.
- May 4, 4 University Rectors from Georgia. Program at UMass Medical School.

In addition to hosting groups, ICW participated in activities sponsored by the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) in Washington, DC. ICW is one of 91 “Centers for International Visitors” (CIVs) around the US who are members of NCIV and design professional programs for leaders in various fields selected by U.S. Embassy staff around the world.

- February 15-17, ICW staff Royce Anderson and Nadia Anderson, and ICW members Ken Johnson and Vita Aronson attended the NCIV Annual Meeting in Washington DC.
- June 13-15, Ken Johnson attended the NCIV Regional Meeting, in Rochester, NY.

### **Community Connections Program**

The Community Connections Program is now in its second year of being sponsored by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by World Learning, a program agency in Washington, DC. ICW was invited again to submit a proposal to be “pre-qualified” to host Community Connections groups and was accepted with a 100/100 rating. Once ICW is pre-qualified as a hosting organization, it is invited to submit separate proposals for groups of 10 visiting professional. Each program is managed as a separate project.

ICW hosted one group this year: 10 business people from the Republic of Georgia, November 1 – December 6. As part of the program members of the group were the guests of honor at a pot luck dinner given by ICW members and held at the Multicultural Center at Clark University. The Georgian visitors provided a cultural presentation of Georgia with videos, dance, music, and song.

During this year ICW submitted two proposals for groups that were turned down. We were also invited to submit proposals for two groups in the upcoming year that have been accepted:

- August 1 – 21, 2007, 10 public health professionals from Kazakhstan on the theme of Infection Control and Blood Safety.
- September 5 – 26, 2007, 10 people from the Ukraine on the theme of Industrial Waste Management.

## **Open World Leadership Program**

The Open World Leadership Program is administered by the Open World Leadership Center in Washington D.C. It is the only professional exchange program that is funded directly by Congress. It is administered by the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. ICW has been participating in this program since its inception in 1999.

ICW hosted one group under this program during this past fiscal year. It was a “special project,” which means that ICW was selected by the Open World Leadership Center to identify a topic and recruit delegates who would make up a group of 5 municipal government officials to come to Worcester. This meant more work for us, but more prestige in being selected as a nominating organization and developing an ongoing relationship with a town of our choosing: the city of Kaluga, Russia. We have been approved to follow up on this program by hosting another delegation from Kaluga during the upcoming fiscal year.

Activity this year under this program included:

- September 28, Nadia Anderson visited Kaluga during her trip to Russia to meet with our organizers there.
- December 9-17, 5 delegates and 1 Open World facilitator came to Worcester on a “Special Projects” on the theme of transparency in local government administration.
- ICW submitted a proposal and has been approved to host another group from Kaluga in October, 2007 on the theme of Elementary and Secondary Education as a continuation of the Kaluga program in 2006.
- ICW also submitted a proposal that was accepted to host two groups of Russian judges from Moscow and Kazan, June 9-16.

Although we hosted only one group this past fiscal year, we will be hosting three Open World groups in the upcoming 2007-2008 fiscal year as mentioned above: the two groups of judges and

the group from Kaluga. This is a significant achievement since, typically, only one group per year is granted to each host organization.

## **Fee For Service Programs**

ICW continues to develop its first major “fee for service” program with the University of Astrakhan in Russia. The program was entirely funded by the University of Astrakhan and ICW is organizing programs for them and helping them establish ties with US universities and organizations. Astrakhan is located on the Volga River Delta on the north shore of the Caspian Sea. This is an area of economic growth, and the University of Astrakhan has been developing rapidly as a major center for international education, scientific research, and management training.

Activities this past year include:

- Royce Anderson helped the University of Astrakhan submit an application, which was approved, to be an affiliate of Harvard University to teach Professor Michael Porter’s “Economics of Competitiveness” course under the Harvard Business School’s Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness.
- Nadia Anderson organized a trip for Linda Looft and Fred Looft, of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, to go to Astrakhan in August to negotiate a potential relationship between WPI and the University of Astrakhan.
- September 26 - October 13, Royce and Nadia Anderson traveled to Russia, meeting in Astrakhan with Thomas P. Massey, Dean of the College of Professional and Continuing Education (COPACE) at Clark University, to negotiate a program to open a Clark University branch campus in Astrakhan.
- December 9-17, 2 faculty members from Astrakhan came to Worcester to meet with Clark University, COPACE and with WPI; and also to take a training program at Harvard University.
- ICW negotiated an agreement to be the representative of the University of Astrakhan in the U.S to look for funding and other opportunities.
- In February, Royce and Nadia Anderson visited several agencies in Washington DC to explore possible sources of funding for Astrakhan programs.
- ICW is working with Clark COPACE to complete the process of establishing a branch campus in Astrakhan to offer several Clark professional masters degree programs.
- A faculty member from Astrakhan is spending the summer of 2007 in Worcester to work on the program with Clark University and other programs.

## **Pushkin Sister City Program**

ICW continues to nurture the relationship between Worcester and the town of Pushkin, Russia. The year 2007 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Worcester-Pushkin relationship. It is also the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first diplomatic relations between the US and Russia. The year 2010 will be the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town of Pushkin (Tsarskoye Selo). The City Administration of Pushkin is already gearing up for these celebrations and would like to create some programs with Worcester and its other sister cities to recognize these historic landmarks.

Activities this year included:

- October 4-7, Royce and Nadia Anderson visited Pushkin. During the trip they:
  - ¶ met with the new manager in the Pushkin City Administration of Pushkin for their twin cities programs.
  - ¶ met with the Pushkin artists who exhibited their works in Worcester during their 2-week program in November, 2004. One of these artists, Sergei Artemyev, is now painting a portrait of former Worcester Mayor John Anderson to be hung in the Worcester City Hall.
  - ¶ met with the Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Pushkin, which was founded over 10 years ago through the cooperation with Worcester.
  - ¶ organized a meeting and reception with the Alumni Association in St. Petersburg, which was originally formed through the efforts of ICW staff and its Community Connections alumni. About 30 Alumni attended the meeting, including participants in previous Community Connections, Open World and other programs.
- Met with Worcester Mayor Lukes about ICW and Pushkin. She agreed to exchange letters of greetings with Pushkin's new Mayor.
- The ICW Annual Meeting, June 21, will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Worcester-Pushkin relationship.

## **Twinning, Worcester England**

Although the relationship between Worcester and Worcester, England remains inactive and not officially supported by ICW, there has been contact with them. They have sent us copies of their newsletters and the new liaison for their Twinning Committee, Fred Stone, has contacted us. They would like to renew the Twinning relationship and can host groups from Worcester who want to visit England. The main obstacle is to find someone here in Worcester who would like to pursue this and will commit the time to be the liaison with England.

## **ICW Organization**

This year we have had five regular staff in the office, more than ever in the past:

1. Executive Director, Royce Anderson, paid half-time, working full-time.
2. Project Manager, Nadia Anderson, volunteering full-time, occasionally paid from program budgets.
3. Program Officer, Anna DeMulder volunteering 10 hours per week.
4. Membership Manager, Vita Aronson, volunteering several days per week as needed and available, also helping with member activities.
5. Office Assistant, Shunya Kitazawa, a Clark University graduate who volunteered three days per week during this past year.

Ken Johnson continues as the ICW Webmaster, improving and continually updating our website. Major landmarks have been to convert the website to the Dreamweaver software and also to create a Russian language version of the website. Our website has become an important tool, not only to communicate information, but to recruit new programs.

Our longtime bookkeeper, Catie Flynn, resigned to take a full-time position in Boston. In June, 2006, we hired a replacement who then had to resign in August due to personal issues. Catie Flynn filled in by coming in on Sundays while we looked for new bookkeeper. We finally hired Erin-Anne Gachuma, who has been working with us since January.

We have been lucky to attract some excellent student interns this year. Royce Anderson attended 3 college volunteer fairs, one at WPI, and 2 at Clark University.

- Clark senior, Amanda Breniser, worked 10 hours per week with us during the fall, 2006 semester, mostly helping with the visiting group from the Republic of Georgia.
- Clark freshman, Ifrad Islam, worked with our ICW Webmaster Ken Johnson on our website, primarily to help convert it to the Dreamweaver software.
- Clark University sophomore, Duc Nguyen, worked with us 10 hours per week, mostly with our Program Officer, Anna DeMulder on data input and development of our eCIV database, which is the State Dept. database that contains local ICW information as well as Washington-based data.
- Clark University senior, Sarah Cassidy, worked 10 hours per week with Nadia Anderson on programs and office operations.
- Clark University junior, Abigail Lintz, worked 10 hours per week with Royce Anderson, mostly on advocacy toward our elected Congressional Officials and also on programs.

Our Newsletter continues to be a major challenge, with only one edition being published this year. It was useful as a promotional handout distributed at the NCIV National Conference and also sent to our mailing list of local business and professional resources. But we have used our website as a more flexible and current source for ICW news and information. As we move more into the digital age, we will depend more on electronic media that are more efficient and more economical. ICW members Manny Zax and Phyllis Estus are the main force in editing and publishing the ICW Newsletter. Manny also produces the fliers we send our members for special events.

### **Promotion and Community Outreach:**

We have continued in our effort to reach out to the local community and gain a higher profile.

- Funded by an NCIV grant, we have updated our ICW brochure and printed over 1,000 copies.
- Royce Anderson made a presentation about ICW and Citizen Diplomacy to member businesses at a "Hospitality Host" breakfast meeting of the Convention and Visitor Bureau of Central Massachusetts.
- ICW became a member of the Corridor 9 Chamber of Commerce and have attended several of their networking meetings and training seminars. Chamber members have been a good source for business internships for the Community Connections Program.
- As a benefit of the Corridor 9 Chamber membership, ICW published a free advertisement in the Community Advocate newspaper.
- ICW has updated its complimentary promotional spot, which is now running for the third year on local NPR radio station, WICN.

- Nadia Anderson has prepared a Powerpoint presentation about ICW. It will be demonstrated at the 2007 ICW Annual Meeting and will be used primarily to promote ICW to local businesses.
- Royce Anderson was invited to write an article for *Worcester Medicine*, a publication of the Worcester District Medical Society. The article is on the involvement of the medical profession in Citizen Diplomacy and is part of a special issue dedicated to international medicine.
- ICW is a member of the Worcester Cultural Coalition and is active in its activities promoting culture in the Worcester area.
- Royce Anderson participates regularly in the Executive Director luncheon seminars organized and sponsored by the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.
- In addition to our Newsletters and special mailings for events, we continue to communicate with members and friends of ICW through our email distribution list. These “ICW Flashes” provide news of upcoming events and requests for volunteers.

## Membership

The number of ICW members has remained essentially level during this past year. We ended up the fiscal year with 109 individual and family memberships, representing a total of 164 individual members.

Membership has been managed by Vita Aronson, who has been keeping the membership records and sending out the mailings for membership renewals and reminders.

### Membership Activities

We had fewer all-member events this year than we would have liked, due primarily to the fewer number of visitors for whom such events could be scheduled. These events included:

- June 15, ICW Annual Meeting.. Speakers were Linda Looft from WPI and Gil Pontius from Clark University on their experiences with ICW programs. Business included election of the new Board of Directors and presentation of the Annual Report. A reception followed the meeting.
- August 9, ICW Pot Luck Dinner. ICW members met at the beautiful country home of Alicja Rudnicka-MacGillivray and Peter Ferensowicz to greet 19 visitors from 19 countries (see above “Multi-Regional Project”)
- December 3, Pot luck dinner and cultural presentation by group from the Republic of Georgia with over 80 people attending.

There were other events through the year for homestay hosts and Board members, not publicized to the general membership. Some members and home hosts also offered home hospitality to guests.

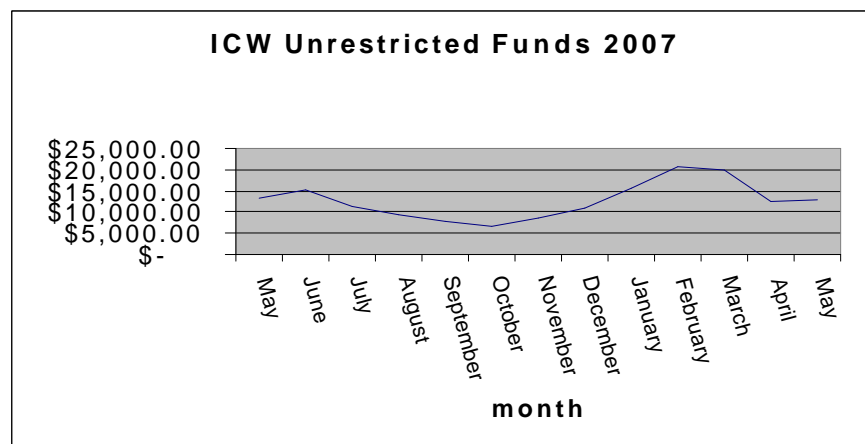
## Financial

This year will be a break-even year for ICW. This is a major achievement compared to last year's deficit budget where we lost \$7,109 (instead of a projected loss of \$10,949).

Year-end budgets are not yet prepared as of the time of this writing. When all figures are in and all accounting adjustments have been made, the year-end budget and report of financial position will be presented to the ICW Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and the full Board. These figures will also be publicly available through our Annual Report to the Massachusetts Attorney General and on our own ICW website.

In the meantime, the following graph of ICW "unrestricted funds" tells the story of our financial position this past fiscal year, June 2006 through May 2007. Unrestricted funds represents the cash held by ICW that is not committed to specific program activities. ICW handles funds that can be spent only on designated program activities. As such, these moneys are not "ours." Unrestricted funds, however, are those that are ours and can be spent as the staff and Board sees fit.

As can be seen in the accompanying graph of Unrestricted Funds for fiscal year 2006-2007, we ended up the year in approximately the same position as we began. Declines in unrestricted funds reflect periods of lower activity, when we drew on funds to support ICW ongoing operating costs. Increases reflect periods of program activity where we received an influx of funds as contributions to operations.



### October Challenge:

Part of the upturn in the above graph is the result of a Board fundraising event, the "October Challenge." An anonymous donor gave \$2,000 on the condition that an equal amount could be raised by ICW. Through a mailed membership solicitation, we were able to raise \$2,160 from 43 donors, adding a total of \$4,160 to ICW funds.

**Thank you to all donors and to everyone who contributes their time, energy, and resources in support of Citizen Diplomacy and the ICW mission!!**

## List of Officers, Board Members, and Staff at year end, May 31, 2007

### Executive Committee

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| President       | Nancy Kimball    |
| Vice President  | Kathy Rentsch    |
| Treasurer       | Dennis Ravenelle |
| Secretary       | Nan Johnson      |
| Member-at-large | Henry Rose       |

### Board of Directors

#### Term Expiring in 2009

Maureen Irish  
Thomas Massey  
Dennis Ravenelle  
Richard Varney

#### Term Expiring in 2008

Nan Johnson  
George Netch  
Henry Rose  
Cynthia Wood

#### Term Expiring in 2007

Phyllis Estus  
Nancy Kimball  
Kathy Rentsch  
Lynda Young

### Staff

Royce Anderson, Executive Director  
Nadia Anderson, Project Manager  
Anna De Mulder, Program Officer  
Vita Aronson, Membership Manager  
Ken Johnson, Webmaster  
Erin-Anne Gachuma, Bookkeeper