

THE CITIZEN

THE VOICE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

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A Russia Journal supplement

June 27, 2002

Charity at the Marriott

A wonderful award ceremony for kids, honoring winners of a children's painting contest, took place at Moscow's Marriott Grand Hotel on May 31st at 2 p.m.

For the second year in a row, the Marriott Grand Hotel held a contest of children's paintings from various regions of Russia, as well as from the C.I.S., the Baltic states and even from Finland and Laos.

A panel of prominent painters, art critics and art teachers chose winners in three age categories. Some of the

winners and their parents were invited to Moscow to attend the awards ceremony.

Last year, film and theater actors, musicians and TV anchors came to the Marriott Grand with their children, and the children of Mikhail Kazakov, Yelena Proklova, Tatyana Dogileva, Olga Groznaya and Maria Golubkina brought their paintings. These paintings were also assessed by the panel.

This year's theme, "I Love..." brought in more than 1,000 works.

On the eve of International Children's Day, the ground floor area of the hotel around the fountain rang with joyful music, cheerful voices, singing and laughing. The entertainment program featured clowns and puppets and included various games and ballroom dances.

The winners received prizes of painting supplies — easels, paint boxes, brushes. Special prizes and memorable souvenirs were handed over to participants by the companies that co-sponsored the event — Avon, Reader's Digest, Pepsi, KPMG, Cadbury, Air France, Rosmen, Rossiya, and Soyuz-Video.

The children were treated to classic kids' favorites prepared by the Marriott Grand's chefs: mini-hamburgers, little sandwiches, mini-pizzas, cakes and sweets of all kinds, including ice cream, waffles, candies, fruit and milkshakes.

Children from the House for the Deaf and Blind in Sergiev Posad attended the ceremony and received special prizes.

Framed pictures of the winners were displayed in the



The competition at the Marriott brought many children and their parents to Moscow.

Photo supplied by the Marriott Grand Hotel

event is aimed at helping to save the Far Eastern leopard.

This wide-ranging campaign was supported by the British-based Amur Foundation, which was started with a single purpose — to support ecological programs aimed at saving Far Eastern fauna. Only about 30

species of Far Eastern leopard and 400 species of tiger are believed to exist at present.

For further information, please call Valentina Starova or Elvira Tarasenko at 937-0016/0073 (Marriott Grand Hotel).



Hotel

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Framed pictures of the win-
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Grand from May 31 through
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On October 25, a charity
auction organized by the
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ciation with the charity foun-
dation of the Russian National
Orchestra will take place at
the Marriott. The fundraising



Photo supplied by the Marriott Grand Hotel

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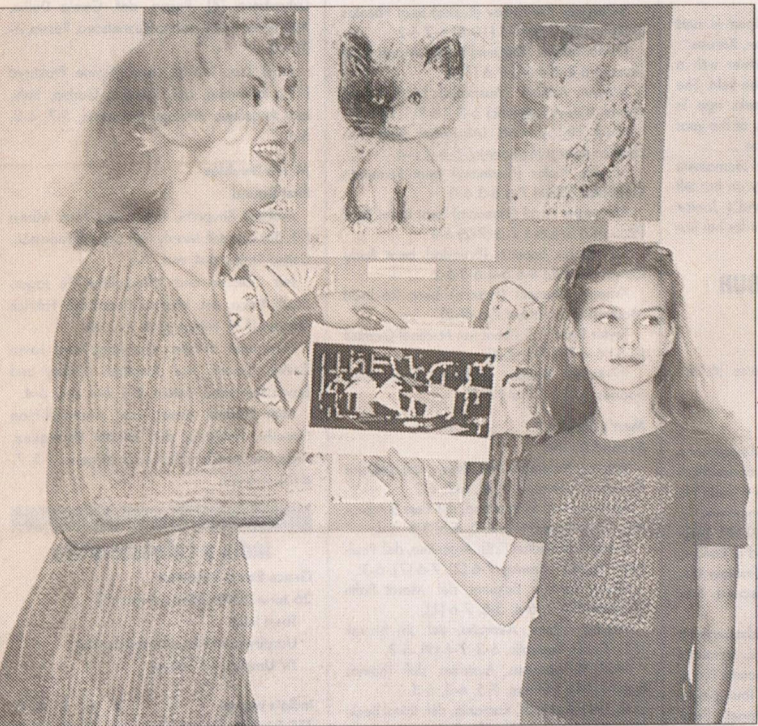


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**Angel Coalition calls on President Putin
to respond to U.S. State Department Trafficking
in Persons Report criticizing Russia's poor
performance, by initiating a new 10-point
prevention/education action plan**