

UPF meeting in St. Petersburg

Maria Nazarova - December 10, 2017



The organizer of the meeting of eco-activists Natalia Chigrina, head of the Universal Peace Federation, North-west chapter, invited the participants to create special New Year gifts for themselves and their families. "Today is December 10, and we have 21 full days left until the end of the Year of Ecology. As psychologists say, during this time you can manage to develop a new habit. So give new eco-friendly habits to yourself and the world,» suggested Natalia.

The Year of ecology in Russia, what was it for the ecological movements of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region? What was it like for our whole country? These and other topics were discussed by the participants in their speeches and discussions.

The participants of our meeting use different creative approaches in their efforts to convey their appeals to people's consciousness in an interesting, accessible and understandable form; for example, by the efforts of eco-speakers at various events, and by creating their own programs. Many, like Mstislav Zhilyaev, head of the "Pure Vuoksa" volunteer movement, set up signs during their eco-projects that insist on protecting the forest, taking out garbage, etc.

Eco-speakers have learned from their own experience that you cannot convey to others what you yourself have not deeply realized and lived through. "You cannot become an eco-speaker without accumulated experience. First, you need to experience everything yourself. You cannot talk about some eco-habits, if you do not believe in them. It is much easier to share about separate collection of garbage, if you have practiced it yourself,"- told Karina Ivchenko, head of the "Eco-speakers," project of the public organization "No more littering." Karina held an exciting quiz, at which the participants of the meeting had an opportunity to share about their eco-habits and decide what else they could do to change daily lives, improve their ways of behavior, take care of Mother Nature, and preserve it for future generations.



Konstantin Krylov, Secretary General of the Universal Peace Federation, Eurasian chapter, spoke about the Songhak Prize (Peace Prize), which is awarded to volunteers and environmentalists. "What worldview is behind this award? It is awarded to human rights activists and fighters for the better future of mankind in harmony with nature. We are looking for candidates in our country to receive this prize, which is higher than the Nobel Prize," Konstantin said.

In conclusion, the organizer of the meeting, Natalia Chigrina, held a small master-class in making a stylish eco-bag from a large kerchief or a piece of cloth.

It is so good to be surrounded by people who "think environmentally" and help others to make a choice in favor of a conscious life, conscious consumption, and bring something useful and positive to our world.