

# U.S. FRIENDS OF SOVIET PEOPLE



## BULLETIN

**FALL 2009** 

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## **AUTUMN MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Sunday, September 27, 2009 1:00 – 4:00 PM

LBGT Center • 208 W. 13th St., Room 110 • New York, NY (off 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., #1, 2, 3, A or E trains to 14<sup>th</sup> St.)

The meeting will start promptly at 1:15 PM with a short, 15 min. film on the October Revolution

Please come and take part in our meeting on September 27.

#### Agenda:

Forthcoming meeting of International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People in Toronto, Canada, on October 10-11. The meeting will take up important questions of the future of the International Council and its organ, Northstar Compass. Those interested in attending please contact USFSP immediately.

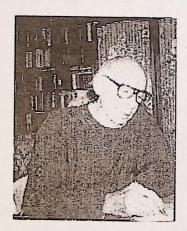
Discussion of the continuing crisis of capitalism and what we can learn from the history of the Soviet Union about the socialist alternative. In the 1930, while the whole capitalist world was suffering from the Great Depression, the Soviet Union abolished unemployment and was successfully moving ahead with its Five-Year Plans (see enclosed brochure). The discussion will include a report back on the March for Jobs on September 20 in Pittsburgh prior to the G-20 Summit in that city.

#### Inside:

The Soviet war memorial in Berlin

In Memoriam

## Philip Stein 1919-2009



Phil was a painter and long time member of the CPUSA. He worked under the great Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros from 1948 to 1958, and became an accomplished painter in his own right. Phil was a supporter of the Soviet Union until the end of his life and a long-time reader of NSC.

### Credo of U.S. Friends of Soviet People

U.S. Friends of Soviet People is dedicated to supporting struggles to restore socialism in the Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. USFSP is the U.S. affiliate of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People. The International Council carries on the traditions of the "Hands Off Russia Committees", that were established internationally in 1918 to help protect the young Soviet Republic from foreign intervention. The aim of all Friends of Soviet People is international co-operation in building socialism and solidarity with the anti-imperialist forces of the world who are struggling against U.S. imperialism – the main enemy of humanity.

USFSP acts as a unifying force to help consolidate and coordinate the anti-imperialist forces of the world with the ongoing movement to restore the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as socialist states. We act as a united front, but are not a forum for ideological debates. The peoples of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe themselves will choose

their paths towards socialism.

## The Soviet war memorial in Berlin

by Maksim Kondratyev

BERLIN'S famous Treptower Park is located in the eastern part of the German capital. This park has a special significance for Russians. The Soviet Warrior Monument was unveiled in the park in 1949. The monument itself is an outstanding work of art, and one of the biggest cenotaphs that have ever been built in the history of humankind.

Treptower Park was opened in 1876. Today hundreds of tourists visit the park on a regular basis to enjoy its views and the sight of the renowned burial mound with the gigantic bronze soldier on top. The Soviet warrior, the liberator, who slashes a Nazi swastika with his sword, is ready to sacrifice his life to the sake of a German child.

The colossal 13-metre high statue of the Soviet soldier with the rescued German girl in his arms was designed by architect Yevgeny Vuchetich.

One of the theories says that the monument represents the image of soldier Nikolai Masalov. Masalov indeed saved a German girl during the siege of the capital of the Third Reich in the spring of 1945. The event happened on 30th April. Here is what Marshall Chuikov wrote about it:

"There were about 50 minutes left before the attack. It was quiet, absolutely quiet. The sound of a crying child broke the silence all of a sudden. It seemed that the child was crying somewhere under the ground. Masalov said that he probably knew where the child was hiding. "Allow me to

rescue the child, I know where he is," he said.

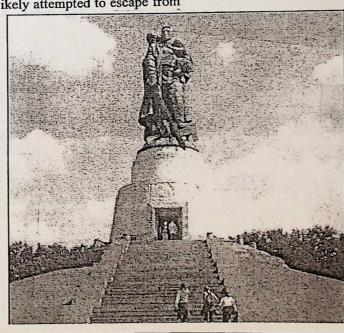
"It was extremely difficult to crawl to the bridge. Bullets were flying everywhere; land mines were exploding here and there. Sergeant Masalov was crawling forward pinning himself against the asphalt road.

He heard the child's voice again. The girl was calling for her mother. The soldier stood out and crossed the barrier of the channel. Several minutes later everyone heard Masalov saying: "Attention, I am with a child here. Cover me up!"

Hundreds of shells and mines provided the covering fire for the Soviet warrior who was carrying the little girl out from the zone of death. The girl's mother most likely attempted to escape from Tiergarten, but SS officers started shooting her in the back. The woman hid herself underneath the bridge to rescue her daughter and died there soon. Masalov handed the girl to nurses and was ready to start the attack."

The monument to the Soviet Warrior was made in Leningrad and delivered to Berlin by boat. A special agreement signed between the USSR and the Federal Republic of Germany in 1990 said that Germany would take care of monuments and burial grounds of Soviet warriors on its territory. The monument was carefully disassembled for restoration works in the autumn of 2003 and replaced in the spring of 2004.

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