



LETTERS FROM OUR FRIENDS

Bill Lightcap, USA



- **Dear friends!**
- Today Marina gave me the wonderful news about your forthcoming 20th Birthday Party for our English Club.
- As ill health and old age have finally caught up with me, my old friends, associates and members have slipped my mind, so I truly appreciate the great task that you have undertaken in behalf of ALL past and present members. So many of us have enjoyed our many interesting and educational sessions.
- I sincerely hope that the next 20 years will be as fruitful.
- **THANKYOU!** ... personally and for all who have benefitted from our efforts.
- Marina will be back for a short stay in March but I'm afraid that my own happy days in Tver are at an end.
- To Katya, Irina and Neil and all those, involved in making the Club a success, I can only say "Thanks for the memories..." and I hope that new members will also enjoy happy times here as well.
- I'll close here, sending you all a great big "Thank You!" for making that 20 years of my life the happiest that I ever experienced.
- With kindest regards and deepest appreciation from your true friend Bill.

Sean Shinnors, Buffalo, USA



- Dear friends,
- Thank you for your e-mail Christmas message and your thinking of me.
- I think of my second home, Tver, daily and plan to be among you all in February of next year. And, I trust that I will meet with the English club. (My mother was an English professor so I have a bias. I was an English major in college but then switched to Russian Language and Literature.)
- Best wishes to you all, and well done for 20 years!
- A toast to you all at your upcoming party!

▪ Sincerely, Sean

▪ Sean M. Shinnors
President, Buffalo Tver Sister Cities, Inc.

Vicky, Sri Lanka



- **Dear Buffalo club Tver,**
- Merry Christmas!! Tver must be so beautiful with Christmas decorations and snow now.
- It's sad that I'm away from you to celebrate, but you're always in my heart.
- I wish you a prosperous new year with health, wealth and happiness.
- Srilanka is hot these days, about +30 degrees, even though it's warm and cozy
- I really miss the snow.
- If I were in Tver I would have made a snowman, gone for skating several times and enjoyed the winter with my friends.
- But unfortunately I won't be seeing any snow this Christmas. But I'd really like to visit you someday.
- Miss you all & love you all.
- Your friend **Vicky**
- Colombo, Srilanka

Ed & Gerry Szemraj, USA, BUFFALO



- Dear friends!
- It was nice to hear from you after such a long time.
- We are doing well. Only Edward has difficulty walking. He uses a walker.
- Right now we are getting ready for Christmas. Gerry is decorating our Christmas tree.
- Together we are writing our Christmas cards, which we will send to all of our friends.
- We want to wish all of the members of the Buffalo club a Merry Christmas.
- **Ed & Gerry Szemraj**

Carol Kowalik-Happy, Buffalo,



- Dear friends! Merry Christmas to everyone!
- I am a public librarian at Olean Public Library. Since I was in Tver, I have received a Master's degree in Theology and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science.
- On January 1, 2014, I was married to Frederick Happy. He is from Canada and we met while I was going for my first Master's degree.
- We kept in contact on and off for years and after 17 years, we finally got married. We had a son on July 30th, 2014. His name is Frederick Stanley (Stanley after my dad). Fred (my husband) was just able to move to the US yesterday after a year and a half of going through the immigration process.
- This is my Christmas present this year - to have my whole family together and not have to send Fred back to Canada after a few days.
- My husband works with people who have developmental disabilities and autism. He has a Master's degree in Behavioral psychology.
- Fred's grandfather was born in Orenburg, Russia. Once Freddie (our son) gets a bit older, we hope to take a trip over and visit Tver too, but I don't know how long that will be.
- I have attached a few photos. I hope everyone in the Buffalo club is doing well.
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!



Carol

Tatiana Fedotova-Kim, England, Durham



- Dear friends from Buffalo Club, happy 20th Anniversary and many happy returns!!! You've got a mission. And your mission is great – to learn English as a life education.
- I miss you all very much! Here's my current life: I live in Durham [with my husband]. It's a university town in Northern England, between York and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Durham is a historical town, like York, and has a famous Cathedral build in 1093!
- Durham University is the third oldest in England, after Oxford and Cambridge. DU is one of the best in the UK, and among the 100 best in the world. In 2015 our Chemistry Department, where my husband works, overtook Oxford and became the second in UK!
- Our University is divided into colleges, where students live and have social life, sports teams, a theatre, etc. I work at the University as a mentor.
- My job is to look after students, help and advise them if they have problems.
- Normally, students in England study far from their homes and parents, to become independent. Many students in Durham are from other countries. Foreign students need advice about British rules and way of life.
- Most important, mentors advice students how to look for jobs, how to write CV and behave at an interview. So life is nice here and people are friendly. But my real friends are in Russia and I miss you.
- From England with love, **Tatiana Fedotova-Kim**

Adolfo Deras, Mexico

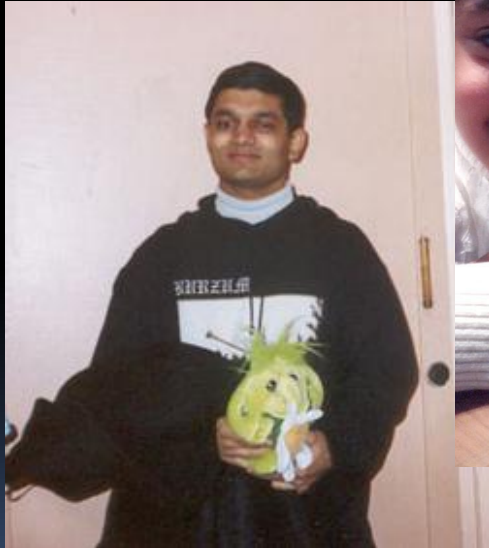


- Queridos amigos :
 - Soy miembro a distancia del Buffalo English Club desde hace muchos años..
 - Creo.
 - Asi que me da mucho gusto poder compartir con los demas miembros un saludo de fin de ano y navideno para todos.
 - Les mando un abrazo desde Mexico D.F., que extendo tambien por el vigesimo aniversario del club.
-
- **Adolfo**

Arun Sony, India



Tver Arun Sony



- Dear friends,
- That's very excellent that you are successfully celebrating 20 years of - BUFFALO CLUB-.
- May god keep our group members healthy, wealthy in coming new year!
- My wishes to all members, may god fulfill all their wishes.
- I want to know at present how many members are there in our club, pls send me group photo.
- Also want to know how many old members are there from mine time.
- I really want to say at present I am seriously missing Tver city, and their styles and habits, and way of living.
- In India we are living in completely different style.
- No matter life is more safe and secure in India. also while I was in Tver I was too much missing India.
- If you have seen I am still using Tver city name in mine e-mail, so there is great love and respect in my heart to Tver and Russia. The same view is from all students who have lived in Tver
- GOOD LUCK TO ALL.
- Tver Arun Sony, India

Ashish Dadwal, India



- Hi, friends! Hope you are well. After my graduation, life took a lot of different turns.
- I went to U.K and then shifted to India along with my parents as my grandparents were alone.
- I joined the Ministry of Health, Maldives and worked there for two years then joined W.H.O. (The World Health Organization).
- Got married, had a son. My younger sister, who is a computer engineer, also got married and shifted to Chicago,U.S.
- As I said earlier that life took different turns, I got divorced and havent seen or spoken to my son in 3 years and its really painful.
- Workwise, I am satisfied.
- Presently, I am working with Johns Hopkins in India.
- I spent a great deal of my time in Russia and love the country.
- Lets hope that in the New Year,2016, We are able to meet.
- Wish all of you a very Happy New year and Merry Christmas!
- **Ashish Dadwal**

Katya Martz-Mistrova, USA, CALIFORNIA



- My Holiday Greetings to the Buffalo English club. Congratulations on your anniversary.
- 20 years is a great number for any club, since as we know, some clubs disappear after only a couple of years of existence.
- So, it's great seeing you guys thriving and reaching out to me. Your club will always hold a special place in my heart.
- We had so many fun meetings and events. I have about 30 photos of all the rehearsals and performances, and it's been always my favorite photo album to go through with my friends.
- GORNITSA of the Gertsen library was a great place to get together and participate in creating a fun, yet educational environment. I absolutely loved it!!! I felt like being a kid in a playground again, being present in the moment and forgetting about everything else in life.
- I believe as adults we often get carried away with everyday life responsibilities, and as a result become more serious, boring and less creative. So, please continue having interesting events and inviting more people to join.
- Thanks to your club it helped me really begin the process of adapting to the U.S. culture and language.
- As you can see from this letter, my English is way better than it used to be, yet not at the point where I'd like it to be. I have now been living in the US for 14 years, and still learn new words while reading books and listening every day speech. My writing is still a struggle for me, even though I only read books in English and correspond with clients at work mostly through emails.
- I guess, organizing my thoughts and expressing them in a clear and concise way was, is, and always will be my weakness, no matter what language. I consider one of my greatest achievements is to be able to read "Great Gatsby" by Scott Fitzgerald in English and only looking up one word that I was unfamiliar with.
- Once again, happy anniversary and I look forward to wishing your club a happy 30th, 40th, and 50th anniversary!
- **Katya Martz**

Keith Mazzucchelli, Australia



Dear friends of the English Club Buffalo,

Congratulations on your twentieth anniversary!! I hope you all have a lot of fun at your party! It is a very good milestone to reach in the life of the club and it's certainly worth celebrating well!

It is lovely that Natasha remembered me and got in contact with me. I visited your club in 2001 or 2002 and I remember someone trying to teach me a Russian tongue-twister (скороговорка)!

I live in Sydney, in my native country Australia. It is a very beautiful city and its environment, its geographical location, on Sydney Harbour and in between the Pacific Ocean and the Blue Mountains, and its climate are all also very beautiful. However, right now I am in Western Australia, in the capital city, Perth, of that state. I came here because my parents, brothers and sister live in Western Australia and I wanted to celebrate Christmas, New Year's Eve, some birthdays of my relatives and my fiftieth birthday together with them.

I work part-time as a translator for the government of the state I live in, translating documents from Russian, German and French into English. I also receive a pension from the government of Australia, because I suffer from several medical conditions.

I am friends with a Russian girl I keep in contact with over the Internet and I have known her for three years. She's clever, funny, pretty and a very good person. It's wonderful that we are able to talk with each other in Russian and in English. I go to an Anglican (Church of England) church, I am part of a men's fellowship group which is made up of people from the church, I am a member of a choir called "Sydney Sings" and I also play badminton.

I wish all of you a very happy New Year and Merry Christmas!

Keith Mazzucchelli

Valery Simonov, KLIN, RUSSIA



- Dear members of the English speaking club in Tver, dear Friends!
- On behalf of the the English club in Klin please accept our warmest and kindest congratulations on the coming Merry Christmas and New 2016 year.
- We wish you good luck, good friends and success, especially in English.
- Thank you for your great efforts to keep your English club going this year. I would like to make a toast.
- "May nothing distress you, May you have enough wealth to meet your needs, make each day a better day than yesterday!"
- Respectfully yours, Embrace all
- Valery Simonov

Brian Melcher, USA, Arizona



- Dear friends! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Greetings to everyone in Tver. I hope this finds you all well.
- It's another year gone by – and about 10 years since I last traveled to Russia. Wow, it's been a real long time.
- But I've been keeping up with my travels and photography – in December last year I went to Death Valley after it had rained, which is an unusual event for a desert. There was snow up on the high mountain tops, which made for wonderful photos. I have been there in summertime when it reached 129 degrees Fahrenheit. Hot, hot, hot!
- In June this year I hiked into Havasupai Falls near the Grand Canyon. There was a group of about 14 of us. Havasupai Falls is a beautiful waterfall, and while it was hot (over 100 degrees), the water temperature is low-70s year round, so it was nice and cool.
- Then in late August and into early September this year I traveled to the Canadian Rockies, by the cities of Edmonton and Calgary. So beautiful and majestic. Even though it was August it was cold – it seemed like it was the beginning of winter, reaching freezing and starting to snow in some of the higher elevations. I got to walk out on a glacier – very, very cold! Then in Calgary, they hosted the Winter Olympics some years back, in 1988, and I visited a few of the locations where the games were played.
- My brother's oldest kid turned 15 a few months back, which means she now has a learner's permit to drive. My brother's wife cannot believe her oldest child is about to have a driver's license. It's a "I can't be that old!" moment for most mothers, my sister-in-law included. In most US states someone at age 16 can get a driver's license with parental permission and having completed a driver's education class. Without parent's permission, they would otherwise have to wait until age 18. And then to get the license, regardless of age, they need to take and pass a test – a written exam and an in-the-car driving test.
- I saw a "Google Street View" car a few months back. It was going around town nearby where I work. ...but I don't think I show up in any of their "Street View" pictures. And then earlier this year I saw the "Bing" car (Microsoft's searching engine), while driving out to LA. I saw it make a U-turn on the Interstate then drive alongside me for a while before it exited. And again, I don't show up in any of their street view pictures that I can tell. Wouldn't that have been interesting!?
- As for me, I'm still living here near Phoenix, Arizona. Where it gets hot in the summer time, but the winters are relatively mild. Usually. This year it's been a bit cold and rainy. Well, cold for southern Arizona. But that makes for snow in northern Arizona, which means lots of people skiing. And makes for wonderful photo opportunities... I might have to go for a drive this weekend.
- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope your holidays are merry and full of joy! Brian

Fred Jacob, Africa, Zambia



Dear friends!

Поздравляю Буфало с юбилеем!!
Двадцать лет пролетело уже! Мне было
очень приятно проводить кусочек этого
не забываемого времени с вами. Я
уверен, что лучшее еще впереди! Желая
вам здоровья, счастья, радости и новых
побед.

С Наступающим праздником!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

FRED

Leisy Oswald-Miller, Japan



- Hello friends in Tver!! I think about the Buffalo English Club often! I loved the time I spent with every one there. It was so much fun. I also miss Russia every day. I miss the cmetana and chorney xleb!!
- I am sorry I didn't write earlier. We were on a long vacation to cambodia and Vietnam! I actually met many Russians in Cambodia and was able to speak to them in my not so great russian :)
- My family and I now live in Japan! In a suburb outside of Tokyo. I have FOUR children :) Zeb is 8, Ike is 6, Metta is 3, and Mack is 1. We live here on an American Air Force Base. I love Japan so much! The people are wonderful and there is so much to see and do. I do not, however, like the food very much! Lots of fish and sushi! :(
- There is a small Russian population in Tokyo and we have found a few Russians restaurants! It makes me so happy!! they even have their very own detsckii cad in tokyo!
- I have a blog that you are welcome to read! it follows the adventures of my family! www.kentandleisy.blogspot.com
- Please let me know if you have any more questions! I hope your holidays have been wonderful! I miss you all. Thank you so much for your friendship and love :) Hopefully one day I can return and visit!! Tver is one of my favorite places in all of the world!
- love you all!
- -Leisy