



MARIA K.

Stories for Anastasia... Ukrainian-born author now calls Kings Mountain home

Kings Mountain author Maria Igorevna Kuroshchepova grew up in Zaporozhye, Ukraine hearing wonderful stories about family, history and events from her grandfather and other relatives.

A first-generation Russian-Ukrainian immigrant, Maria K. (her pen name) came to the United States as a 19-year-old exchange student in 1994. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology. She and her husband, Gerry, and their pets reside in Kings Mountain while most of Maria's family still lives in Ukraine.

How do you entertain a child who has spent a lot of time in hospitals?

In "Stories for Anastasia" Maria, who comes from a long line of storytellers, provides a charming collection of essays written to entertain her young niece, who needed activities to keep busy while she recuperated.

The essays are non-fiction and are writ-

ten in humorous style. They illustrate that you can find fun and excitement in every day events.

Welcome to Maria's household, where the occupants include some book-crazy, martial arts-trained technology geeks, some homeless animals and a very old house just begging for attention.

Maria says, "Anastasia was born with a serious digestive system condition and spent the first five years of her life in and out of hospitals. What would be an ordeal in the United States was even more so in Ukraine. Anastasia's mom wrote to me asking to send them something to read to her, to keep the mind off all the surgeries and medications. So I started these stories and am sending them one at a time with each letter."

From these letters, "Stories for Anastasia" was born.

The publisher's website is <http://www.strategicpublishinggroup.com/titles/StoriesForAnastasia.html>

Photo contest deadline Saturday

The deadline is Saturday at midnight for participation in "A Day in the Life of Cleveland County" photography contest sponsored by Cleveland County Arts Council.

Your best shots may be taken anywhere in Cleveland County during a 36-hour period, Friday, May 21 until midnight Saturday, May 22. Professional photography skills are not required, digital and 35mm camera shots acceptable.

This is a viewers choice competition and

three prizes will be awarded. There will be an opening reception Thursday, July 1, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and the exhibit will run July 5-29 weekly 9-5:30 p.m. and July 10th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the art center.

Entries must be postmarked or received by June 4 to Cleveland County Arts Council, 111 S. Washington St. Shelby, NC 28150. Entries must be printed on photo quality paper size 8x10 inches. Entries should not be framed or mounted.



Photo by PAULA VESS

Betty Alexander, left, and Jessie Collins, right, Kings Mountain Hospital "Pink Lady" volunteers, chat with Allen Langley after a program at last Tuesday's meeting of North Carolina Hospital Volunteers District III at First Baptist Church.

Hospital volunteers meet

Seventy-two volunteers from seven area hospitals gathered at First Baptist Church May 4 for the annual meeting of North Carolina Hospital District III volunteers.

"You can't tell anyone the number of blessings you get from being a volunteer," said Phyllis Grant of Iredell Memorial Hospital. Her sentiment was echoed by others during a sharing of ideas. Those attending wore their hospital smocks which

presented every color of the rainbow and designated the location of the hospitals.

Kings Mountain Hospital and Cleveland Regional Medical Center volunteers hosted the event and served luncheon. "Volunteers Celebrate Spring" was the theme. Other hospitals represented were Gaston Memorial, Iredell Memorial, Carolinas Medical Center-Northeast, Lake Norman Regional and Catawba Valley Medical Center.

Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphey gave the welcome. Rotarian Alan Langley was guest speaker and talked about Rotary International's efforts to fight polio. J. Annette Wright, president of NC Hospital Volunteers, was recognized as a special guest. Helen Turpish presented entertainment.

The group shared ideas and discussed topics related to the volunteer experience.

Wells reunion

Pictured are officers of the John and Ritter Wells Family Reunion at the annual family get-together Sunday at Dixon Presbyterian Church fellowship hall. From left, Steve Wells and Philip Baker. Standing, Rev. Robert Wells, reunion president. Hilda Moss, left, and Robert Wells talk about family genealogy at Sunday's reunion of the family of the late John and Ritter Wells.

photos by LIB STEWART



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