

## Korczak in Kazan

From 16 to 23 november 2013 I was together with Dora, my wife, in Kazan at the invitation of Prof. Dr. Roza Valeeva (Валеева Роза). She is Professor at the Federal Kazan University and a great admirer of Janusz Korczak. At the University there is a special group of Korczak-students. In this week there were several special events.

First there was a conference for teachers and students of the Teacher Training College. On Tuesday morning the conference was opened with several lectures. I gave a report on the plenary session about "Korczak and Creativity". The audience were excited when I picked up a guitar and I went singing with the whole room during my speech. Anyone could experience at firsthand what creativity can do.

In the afternoon I gave a workshop about the role of music in the development of children. Of course we did a lot of music. Not only by talking but of course by doing.

The other day we had a roundtable discussion. I told about education in the Netherlands and we shared our problems and ideas, and our inspiration about Korczak.

At Thursday and Friday we had a special contest of the Korczak students-volunteers from Kazan and some regions of the Russian Federation. Volunteers gave presentations of different activities they organize in their region. In the evening we had a Korczak Candlelight on the occasion of the 135th birthday of Janusz Korczak. We shared our inspiration and of course we did a lot of music together. On Friday we went to an orphanage in the countryside where we did several activities with the children with singing and making music.

We had a good time in Kazan and were impressed by the way the ideas of Korczak are alive and brought in practice.



Arie de Bruin  
(chairman Janusz Korczak Stichting Nederland)