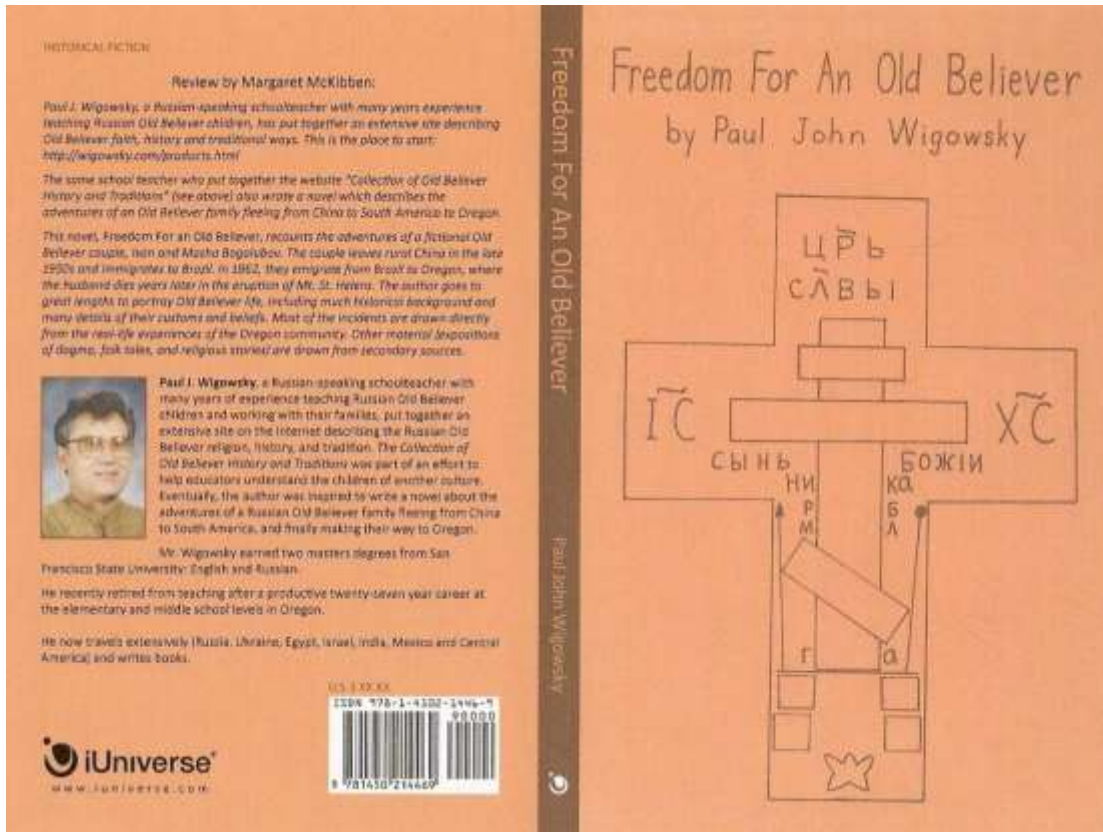


Paul J. Wigowsky – Teacher at 91 Elementary / Middle School, Woodburn, OR



Worked with Russian Old Believers (students/parents) from 1976 – 1984 and then afterwards Old Believer students were mainstreamed into regular classrooms. In 1982, I wrote a book about the Russian Old Believers for the benefit of teachers, parents, and students.



Original Version of book



<https://ninetyone.canby.k12.or.us/> Ninety-One School (Canby School District)



Russian Old Believer students in a Kindergarten-1st grade Readiness Class with Paul J. Wigowsky and Nida Wigowsky (teacher's assistant) - 1976



1977 - 1978





1979 – 1980



EXTENSION SERVICE
Clackamas County

Oregon
State
University

JANUARY 1979

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A Special Year... from Carolyn Studer

Carolyn Studer, Extension Agent
Family Living

OLD BELIEVERS HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

Mr. Paul Wigosky will present a program, January 15, 1979, 7:30 p.m. at the Ninety-One School in the Whiskey Hill community of Clackamas County. The program will be the history, traditions and culture of the Russian Old Believers. It will be similar to the one Mr. Wigosky did for the ACWW Chairpersons.

The OSU Extension Service, Clackamas County, thanks Mr. Wigosky and the five girls who accompanied him from Ninety-One School District. They enriched our lives and broadened our understanding by sharing with us the knowledge of their culture.



Here are our friends...
from left to right

MARIA MAMETIEFF

KSENIA KAYA

PAUL WIGOSKY

NATALIA CHASCHIN

ELENA KRIVOSHEIN

IRINA TIPIKIN

The resource books that were recommended at our training meeting are not available in the city libraries of Clackamas County, but can be requested through the State Library system. Please call the Extension Office if you want more information.

The books are: The Eastern Orthodox Church by Ernst Enz
The Russian's World by Geneva Gerhart
Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles & Tales by Serge A. Zehkovsky
Russian by Atron Pressman, University of Massachusetts

Thanks to LaRita Heckman, Redland Study Group, for providing this picture and to Linda Wanner, Night Owls and Nancy Fenton, Dover, ACWW County Council Chairpersons for the entire program.

CS:s



Agriculture, Home Economics, 4-H Youth, Forestry, Community Development, and Marine Advisory Programs
Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Clackamas County cooperating

Old Believers shared at N



Ksenia Kaya, left, and Irina Tiplikin, Russian students show examples of stitchery.



Paul Wigowsky tells the history of the Old Believers.

By JOAN HUMBERT
EC Family Editor

The Russian Old Believers hunted tigers for zoos in China, comprise one-fourth of the Woodburn population and the girls marry when they are 13 or 14 years old. This was some of the information in a program given by Paul Wigowsky, a teacher of Russian ancestry at Ninety-One School in Hubbard, and five Russian girls. They brought some of the traditional music and color of the old world to the school's P.T. meeting Monday night.

The students, members of the Old Believers sect, which numbers 2,500 in the Woodburn and southern Clackamas County area, told about some of the wedding traditions and their clothing and sewing. The girls learn the Russian embroidery technique when they are seven or eight years old. Wigowsky said that sometimes the girls stay home from school to do stitchery. There are 94 Russian students in the Ninety-One School, according to Superintendent Floyd Lapp. The girls are encouraged to marry at a young age before they become interested in American boys, says Wigowsky.

The Russian population in the Ninety-One District was in the news last spring when the daughter of Natalie Egoroff refused to attend school. Mrs. Egoroff was threatened with 30 days in jail by District Judge Robert Mulvey if she failed to enroll her children in school. The family finally moved to the Monitor School District.

Lapp and Wigowsky say that better understanding between the elders of the Russian church and the school administration came out of the incident and that the elders agree that the children should remain in school through eighth grade, the legal requirement.

Also attending the presentation were members of the Extension Association of Country Women of the World. The 49 ACWW groups in Clackamas County are studying the Old Believers this year as its special project. Each year the members pick a different ethnic group to further their understanding of another culture. Last year they studied the American Indians. Linda Wanner of Canby and Nancy Penton of Estacada are co-chairwomen of the project.

Wigowsky distributed copies of a book he has compiled of the Old Believer's history and tradition to those attending.



1980 – 1981



1981 - 1982



First grade teacher Paul Wigowsky gives his students their spelling lesson. Wigowsky, 91 Grade School's bilingual teacher, is instructing solely in English this year.

91 begins 'mainstreaming' Old Believers

For the first time since Russian Old Believers' children started attending 91 Grade School in the 1960s, these children are being mainstreamed.

Except for daily half-hour oral development lessons with Vera Dubenko, a bilingual aide, the Russian children are being instructed solely in Eng-

lish from the time they enter the first grade.

"It (mainstreaming) works better because they are forced to speak English," said bilingual first-grade teacher Paul Wigowsky.

The school started mainstreaming these students because they have a strong grasp of English and no longer

need explanations in Russian to understand their English school work, explained Wigowsky.

He attributes the students' extensive knowledge of English to their older brothers and sisters who have gone through American schools.

"It's an interesting phenomenon. The kids are

Americanizing themselves. We don't force them to Americanize," said Wigowsky, who is in his seventh year of teaching at 91 Grade School.

In past years, Russian students went through a preparatory program before they entered the first grade. Now that program is no longer necessary.

Through the third grade, Russian students receive extra assistance in reading comprehension. But by the fourth grade, they are completely mainstreamed.

Wigowsky said clothes are now the only difference between the American and Russian students.