



**For Immediate Release**

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**Contacts:**

Renée Alexander

[Institute on Aging](http://InstituteonAging.org)

415.816.5759

[renee@grassrootspr.com](mailto:renee@grassrootspr.com)

**Institute on Aging Grants 100-Year Old Russian Immigrant's Birthday Wish**  
*Hornblower to host brunch cruise plus political discussion with Dr. Andrei Tsygankov*

San Francisco, CA - He's no Batkid, but 100-year-old Georgy Sobolev is getting his ambitious birthday wish granted next weekend, thanks to the Institute on Aging.

For his 100th birthday, San Francisco resident and Institute on Aging client Georgy Sobolev said he'd like to take a Hornblower cruise on the San Francisco Bay and have an in-depth political discussion, in Russian, about the future of democracy in his home country. The spry Russian refugee turned 100 on December 28 and, thanks to the [Institute on Aging](http://InstituteonAging.org), he will board the Hornblower at 11am on Sunday, January 25 and embark on a two-hour brunch cruise around the Bay with [Dr. Andrei Tsygankov](http://Dr.AndreiTsygankov.com), Professor of International Relations and Political Science at SFSU and author of two books and numerous articles exploring Russian politics and foreign policy. A press conference is scheduled for 10am that morning.

"We have been honored to support Mr. Sobolev's independence for the past five years," says Angela Fazio-Landrum, who assists with his medical and home care coordination as a Clinical Supervisor for the Institute on Aging's Multipurpose Senior Services Program.

She is not surprised that he has such an ambitious wish for his hundredth birthday. "His caregivers describe him as 'playful and charming' and say he is a man 'who does not give up.' He told us the secret to his long life is his daily walking habit, which allows him to meet new people in the community and talk about the badge his family gave him for his hundredth birthday, which says, 'I am 100 years young'."

Sobolev immigrated to the US with his family in 1994, at the age of 80, and has been an active member of the San Francisco community since. A WWII veteran of the Russian Navy, he survived grave wounds in 1941 during the battle of Sebastopol and, after the war, served as Chief Operating Officer of numerous naval ports throughout the Soviet Union, including St. Petersburg. He is the recipient of several Soviet Russian and US Government awards and the author of an autobiography as well as articles in American-Russian periodicals.

When approached by the Institute on Aging in late December on Mr. Sobolev's behalf, Hornblower and Dr. Tsygankov were immediately eager to help grant his wish. Hornblower offered to host Sobolev and his small entourage, and Tsygankov replied, "The honor would be all mine to meet Georgy."

Tom Briody, President and CEO of Institute on Aging, says, "We work hard every single day to make growing older better for Bay Area seniors. Mr. Sobolev is a shining example of what can

happen when seniors have the support they need to thrive, at home. Helping him celebrate 100 years of living life to the fullest is not only an honor, it is the quintessential fulfillment of our mission."

Media are invited to interview Mr. Sobolev and Dr. Tsygankov at a 10 am press conference on the main deck of the Hornblower before she sets sail from Pier 3 on the Embarcadero. A translator will be provided, and Mr. Sobolev is open to questions on a wide variety of topics, including politics, immigration, aging, and drinking. (ie - "When I have vodka, I can have only one shot. But then I become another man, and he needs his own shot.")

For more information about Mr. Sobolev or the Institute on Aging, or to confirm your attendance at the press conference, please contact [renee@grassrootspr.com](mailto:renee@grassrootspr.com). For more information about Dr. Tsygankov, contact [andrei@sfsu.edu](mailto:andrei@sfsu.edu).

### **About the Institute on Aging**

Founded in 1985, Institute on Aging (IOA) is one of Northern California's largest community-based nonprofit organizations providing comprehensive health, social, and psychological services for seniors and adults with disabilities. IOA's mission is to enhance the quality of life for adults as they age, by enabling them to maintain their health, well-being, independence, and participation in the community. Long considered one of the most innovative and diverse organizations of its kind, Institute on Aging currently serves more than 8,000 (unduplicated) seniors and adults with disabilities each year through programs designed to alleviate isolation, and enable older adults to continue living independently in the community. IOA's services support individuals in San Francisco, Marin, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

### **About Andrei Tsygankov**

Andrei P. Tsygankov is Professor at the Departments of Political Science and International Relations. He teaches Russian/post-Soviet, comparative politics, and international politics. He is a graduate of Moscow State University (Candidate of Sciences, 1991) and University of Southern California (Ph.D., 2000). He has published widely in western and Russian academia and is the author of *Russia's Foreign Policy: Change and Continuity in National Identity* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006) and *Whose World Order? Russia's Perception of American Ideas after the Cold War* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2004), along with many articles. He has spoken at various forums in Berkeley, Stanford, World Affairs Council, and other venues in the Bay Area and outside. He is a regular contributor to *Russia Profile's* weekly Russia experts' panel. Most recently, he took on the responsibility of serving as program chair for the International Studies Association (ISA) conference, 2006-07. ISA has well over 3000 members in North America and around the world and is the most widely respected and known scholarly association in this field.

### **About Hornblower Cruises and Events**

Hornblower Cruises & Events offers an only-in-San Francisco experience complete with welcoming service, gourmet cuisine, and stunning views of the most celebrated sites. Treat yourself to free-flowing champagne and a buffet, prepared on board, on their weekend Champagne Brunch Cruise or dance and dine as the city lights sparkle from the Bay Bridge to the Golden Gate on their Dinner or Supper Cruise. Whatever you choose, Hornblower Cruises & Events is an unforgettable way to explore San Francisco.

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