

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

**ON THE DEATH OF INSTRUCTOR EMERITA LYDIA B. KALAIDA**

The Department of Slavic Languages sadly notes that our longtime colleague, teacher, and friend – Lydia Kalaida – passed away on July 5, 2012. She was born on December 19, 1923 in New York as the daughter of Boris and Natalia Kalaida. Separately they escaped from the future Soviet Union in 1921 by riding on boats from the Crimea through the Black Sea to Istanbul in Turkey. There they met, married, and lived before coming to New York City in 1923. Lydia had an extensive background in music. In 1946, she completed a BA degree in music at Queens College in New York and in 1947 an MA degree at the State Teaching College at Columbia University. From 1948 to 1960, Lydia was associated with the State University Teachers' College at Cortland, New York, where she taught courses on music and elementary Russian. In summer 1950, she studied art history at London University in England. While on sabbatical during the academic year 1954 to 1955, she studied music at Fountainebleau Conservatory in Paris where she also took piano lessons from the internationally known Nadia Boulanger. Even though Lydia was born in America, grew up here, and lived most of her life here, Russian remained her “native” language. In 1960, Lydia received a position as instructor in the Department of Slavic Languages at the UW-Madison and taught Russian until her retirement as senior instructor in 1994. She also created and taught a course on Russian culture. In 1961, Lydia's parents moved to Madison where they lived with her. Her father, Boris, died in 1963 and her mother, Natalia, died in 1986.

In 1961, Lydia founded the UW Slavic Choir, which she directed for many years. Each fall, she would invite about thirty students to participate in the choir, which would sing songs in several Slavic languages. Perhaps the main performance each year took place at the December meeting of the Slavic Club when the choir presented a special Christmas program. The choir also sang at retirement homes, charitable groups, churches, hospitals, and other organizations. Lydia's Slavic choir achieved a notable place in the culture of Madison. As a teacher of upper-level Russian language courses, Lydia was so demanding that students who completed her courses learned excellent Russian. Lydia headed tour groups to the Soviet Union for UW students during vacation breaks several times from 1985 to 1992. She took students to Leningrad and Moscow, acquainted them with Russian art, and guided them through old Russian cities in what is called “The Golden Ring.” In summer 1986, Lydia served as a lecturer and tour leader to the USSR for the Smithsonian Institute.

Lydia had many friends not only among neighbors, but also among students who had taken courses from her over the years and who had kept in contact with her. She was a member of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. She enjoyed working in the garden behind her home on Madison's east side. She was a connoisseur of Russian cooking and enjoyed introducing students and friends to the pleasures of Russian food. Lydia coordinated a group of eight people of Slavic origin who taught a course on Slavic cookery at UW-Extension in fall 1976 and in spring 1977. She also published a book called “Slavic Cookery,” which appeared in its seventh edition in 2011. Those who were fortunate enough to have been invited by Lydia to celebrate “Paskha,” the Russian Orthodox Easter, were enchanted by the delicious dishes she had prepared. Visitors to Lydia's home soon learned that she also loved dogs and usually had one and often two dogs living with her.

Lydia's friends and colleagues will miss her for many reasons.

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

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