

On behalf of the Russian Advisory Board of the City of West Hollywood, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations to **Nelia Perelman** as the recipient of the **Outstanding Educator Award** in the Russian-speaking community of the Greater Los Angeles area. This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a high level of achievement, leadership, talent during COVID-19 Pandemic, and is, in short, a hero.

The Russian Advisory Board of the City of West Hollywood decided to recognize Nelia Perelman and her work because she has demonstrated an outstanding level of service to the community, and is, in short, a great example to many. Her dedication to her work and helping people is exemplary and inspiring.

### **Nelia Perelman**

From 2009 until 2018, Nelia was instrumental in locating people and assisting in translating interviews of men and women, all former members of the Soviet forces in World War II, because she knew them personally through her English instruction classes with the Los Angeles Veterans of World War II organization, based in West Hollywood, and by knowing them on a one-to-one basis. All this she did as a volunteer, without pay, and often having to navigate the political issues that sometimes occurred among different fractions of that vast group of proud men and women who were members of Various Veterans' Associations. In 2013 she assisted in getting many of them to Long Beach for a special End of World War II in the Pacific tribute on the Queen Mary. Nelia also assisted many veterans in their communication with city officials and members of the public at many City of West Hollywood Victory Day and Veterans Day events.

Always a teacher, she would constantly encourage members of the community to speak English and would help them without any compensation. I believe some of the Veterans, those who are still around, would second this assessment of her work, as would other community members and their families. Thanks to her unflinching determination, we know that there are people around whose souls were touched by Nelya. Many WWII Veterans from the former Soviet Union also managed to navigate around with Nelya's help.

Nelya's work did not stop there. In 2017-2019 she continued to teach English at a school and church in the San Fernando Valley. Nelya's enthusiasm and dedication to her profession helped many during the pandemic as well. I think only some health issues, transportation difficulties and, of course, the pandemic, have slowed her ability to continue lessons at that location. But there is no doubt that Nelya is subtly helping those in her apartment complex whenever they need assistance with L.A.'s primary language in their day-to-day communication.