



Christmas and The New Year, 2024 into 2025

Here we are at the turning of the seasons. Major changes are happening. What will tomorrow bring? The weather report says snow.

Last winter we were in Armenia, we spent Christmas and New Year's there before returning home for another 3 month stay. An unexpected high spot in Armenia was our host's family invited us to join their New Year's party. Our host's father is an opera singer, so we enjoyed some very good music! An extremely wonderful time was had by all.

During a frantic 3 months home from Mid-March through May, we gave our welding machine a good workout and built arbors for our newly acquired grape vines. We also built a security door for the back of the house as our door there has a large glass window in it. We didn't have time to put in the mosquito screen to make it into a summer screen door, but we got it to the point it makes a secure door.

We applied for residency again, but were denied again.

At the beginning of June, it was now time to leave Russia again for 3 months, only this time it would be different. We had rented a seaside apartment in the country of Georgia, but this was during the time the USA was interfering in their elections. Someone in Georgian immigration decided that Jerry was a risk and they refused him entry for being an ex-American. So, on very short notice we went back to Armenia. First to stay in a hotel for a short time, and then to an apartment we'd rented.

Only, when it came time to go to the apartment, the landlord said it wasn't ready so he put us in a larger 2 bedroom apartment for a week or so. While this was an old and run down apartment, it wasn't bad. It would have been nice to have had a fan in the afternoons but there was none.

Time passed and then we received notice from home that there was a special application period open to apply for residency. We hopped on a plane with no luggage (it's a short, low cost flight from Armenia to Sochi), went to Krasnodar, and filed our paperwork in the short time that we could stay. A few days later we received word from the landlord that our apartment was ready in Armenia. We went back to Armenia, packed up our things, and went to...

... not the apartment we'd rented. Instead we were taken to one next to it. This one didn't have the private yard or air conditioning that the one we rented had. We could see why the place we rented wasn't ready, they were adding a second floor to it! So, the landlord was advertising a place that was under construction.

This apartment was small and the windows opened directly (as in no sidewalk) onto a street and parking area. It was noisy and dusty from cars all day, in the evening kids would have ball games in the parking area... noisier than the cars with balls bouncing off the window bars.

We were notified that we had finally been granted "quota", permission to receive residency. We needed to go back to Russia briefly to receive this paperwork, but for some unknown reason, Jerry was denied a return visa to Armenia. So, that trip was postponed until we could return to Russia using our regular visa-free time and we could stay home longer. We let the Armenian landlord know we would be staying longer and he immediately increased the rent...a lot! We called the landlord where we had stayed the previous winter and he had no problem welcoming us for the remainder of our stay.

On Sept. 12th, we returned home and did the needed paperwork. We had some interviews with MVD and RT News (links below) regarding our desire to live in Russia, the problems we were having following new laws, and then with the help of RT we were granted permission to stay in Russia longer for our residency paperwork to be processed. Since then, we've been working on our greenhouse (weather permitting), bedroom (painting ceiling and walls, building a closet, installing tile and laminate flooring), and getting ready to do more work on our office (painting, ceiling trim, floor, shelves, etc.).

Our special visa and town registration had different dates on them from all the confusion and rush when we were filing our residency paperwork. Our town registration ran out on Dec. 4th, and our visa to be in Russia was to run out on the 10th. So, we got called in to the police department and were given new registration papers good until the end of January. This was at the same office where we got our original registration papers back in 2018.

BUT...

While we were walking from the police department through the resort area to buy another 5 liters of #58 spring water, we received a call that the governor signed our temporary (3 year) residency papers! They said the papers would be sent to town here from Krasnodar soon, then we'll have an appointment to hand over our passports. They lagged for about a week with computer issues. On the 18th we handed in our passports and got them back later that day with stamps that say we're residents for the next 3 years with no need to leave the country. The date coincided with the anniversary of buying the land for our house back in 2018. Sometime before the end of the 3 years we will apply for permanent residency followed by citizenship. We also got visa stickers which allow us to travel in and out of the country as we might need.

The holidays are approaching.
We wish you well in the upcoming year, both in spirit, in mind, and in body.
Always, all the best!

Jerry & Sharon

We have a Telegram blog at:
https://t.me/Becoming_Russians

Interviews with MVD and RT News:
<https://мвд.рф/news/item/55835518/>
<https://russian.rt.com/russia/article/1374466-semya-ssha-dyurand-kvota-rvp-krasnodarskii-krai>

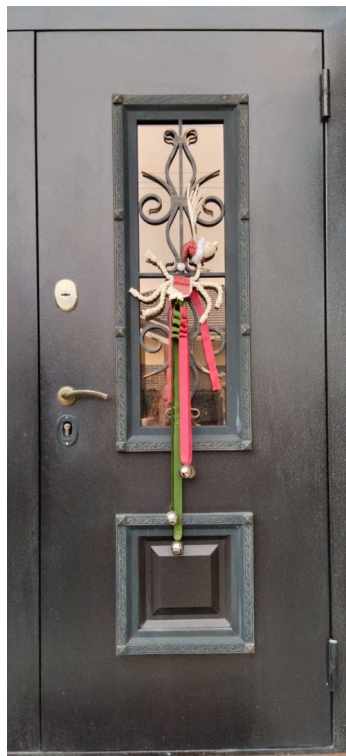
Photos of our travels are available here:
<https://durandinterstellar.com/photos/>

Photos of our house construction are available here, newest at the bottom:
https://durandinterstellar.com/photos/Our_New_Home/

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We have a USA phone number (voice and SMS) and we both have Russian phone numbers, WhatsApp, Skype, Telegram, Signal and VK, so if anyone wants that contact info, just let us know.



Home, Sweet Russia