



# Russian Heritage

**NEWSLETTER**

Volume XXI, Issue 2  
September 2016

## Fall Meeting Saturday, September 17 at 2:00 pm

**WHO WAS PETER DEMENS?** Peter Demens was an amazing Russian who came to the United States in 1881, built the Orange Belt Railroad across the state of Florida, arriving in St. Petersburg, Florida in 1888. He is given credit for naming our city in honor of the capital of Imperial Russia. Demens is also the author of numerous articles in Russian periodical about life in America at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries. Russian Heritage has sponsored an International Symposium (2000) and two museum exhibits (1995 and 2000) at the St. Petersburg Museum of History devoted to the life of this man.

Saturday, September 17 will be the opening of the new **“Peter Demens and the Two St. Petersburgs Archive”** in Special Collections at the Poynter Library at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. With the donations by Professor Bill Parsons of collected materials and photocopies of original documents, this will be the second largest collection of Demens materials in the world, after the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C. *Come to see exhibits from the “Peter Demens and the Two St. Petersburgs Archive” at the opening on September 17.*

When: Saturday, September 17 at 2:00 pm  
Where: The Poynter Library of the USFSP  
(140 7th Ave. S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701)

**25 YEARS AGO LENINGRAD BECAME ST. PETERSBURG AGAIN!** We will also be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Leningrad returning to its historic name of St. Petersburg in September 1991. Where were you when the Russian city became St. Petersburg once again and what was your attitude towards the changes in Russia at that time? Meet people who have played an important role in the relationships between the two cities and be a part of the discussion about the future relations between the two St. Petersburgs.

Come at 2:00 pm to view exhibits from the archive. At 2:30 pm the official program begins led by James Schnur of the Poynter Library and Bill Parsons, Professor Emeritus of History at Eckerd College and Secretary of Russian Heritage.

*If you use facebook, check us out on the Russian Heritage page. Go to Events, and let us know that you are interested in coming to the event.*

### **RUSSIAN HERITAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Nadia Yevstigneyeva

V. P.: Vladimir Malkin

Secretary: Bill Parsons

Treasurer: Vera Cimino

Board Members:

Evguenia Davenport

Zina Downen

Laura Flesch.R

Vladimir Khokhlov.R

Elona Krasavtseva

Victoria Peppard

Elly Roche

Natalia Scarberry

Zhanna Sidorenko

Lisa Stenov.R

Mary Stenov

# Students from USF to Present Impressions of Russia

Five students from USF in Tampa were awarded travel scholarships by Russian Heritage for study in Moscow in the summer of 2016. Samantha Bandini, Julianna Konsulian, Destiny Bukolas, Jacob Alcala, and John McCardle were the five students who had a chance to study with Russian professors and experience daily life in the Russian capital. On Saturday, October 8, there will be a presentation by the USF students to Russian Heritage members and friends at the Russian American Club (2920 Beach Boulevard) in Gulfport at 4:00 pm. Come to hear their impressions of studying Russian intensively in Moscow and seeing first hand what they have been studying before in the classroom. Tea and snacks will be served.

## Pushkin's *Evgeny Onegin*: Book Discussion November 5, 2016

The first book for our book group discussion is Pushkin's novel in verse *Evgeny Onegin*. New Board Member Evguenia Davenport who teaches at USF in Tampa has agreed to help facilitate this discussion. We encourage all interested participants to begin reading (in most cases it will probably mean re-reading) this classic for our first session on November 5. We have already heard from four people who are now reading translations by Walter Arendt, Douglas Hofstadter, Stanley Mitchell, and A.D.P. Briggs. The plan is to discuss the work in English, and you are encouraged to choose any translation you find, or read it in Russian.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Saturday, September 17, 2016

Come celebrate the new "Peter Demens and the Two St. Petersburgs Archive" AND the 25th Anniversary of Leningrad returning to its historic name of St. Petersburg in September 1991. See page 1.

### Saturday, October 8, 2016

Reports by our student scholarship winners on their summer study in Moscow. The meeting will be at the Russian American Club at 4:00 pm with tea and snacks.

### SPIFFS Folk Fair. October 26—30, 2016

Wednesday, October 26. Set-up day.

Thursday and Friday: 10/27 & 10/28. Student Days.

Saturday and Sunday: 10/29 & 10/30. General Public.

Our singers will perform on Saturday, 10/29 at 11:00 am. The parade will be at 2:00 pm.

Plan to volunteer on the days that are most convenient for you at our meeting on September 17 or October 8.

### Saturday, November 5, 2016

Discussion of Pushkin's novel in verse, *Yevgeny Onegin*, at a place and time to be announced.

### Saturday, January 21, 2017

The Russian Heritage Winter Ball. Official invitations will be coming soon, but *mark your calendars now* for our traditional gala at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club.