



Russian Heritage

NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 2017

RH Programs Announced for Fall

The first RH meeting of the fall season will be Saturday, September 9 at 4:00 pm at the Russian American Club in Gulfport (2920 Beach Blvd). Our presenter will be Kelli Stuart, the author of *Like a River From Its Course*, a historical fiction novel set in World War II Soviet Ukraine.



Kelli Stuart is a storyteller at heart. She graduated from Baylor University with a degree in English professional writing, and a minor in the Russian language. Stuart lived for a short time in Kiev, Ukraine, where she met a woman named Maria Ivanovna, the survivor of a World War II Nazi slave labor camp. Immediately drawn into the fascinating history of the former Soviet Union, Stuart spent ten years researching the effects of World War II on Ukraine. She interviewed over 100 Ukrainian veterans and partisans, and their stories shaped her novel.

The novel is available at Amazon.com. If you don't have a chance to read it before September 9, copies will be available at the meeting for purchase and for signing.

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“Remembering Yevgeny Yevtushenko”: October 14, 2017

Celebrated Russian poet **Yevgeny Yevtushenko** died on April 1, 2017 in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the age of 84. He was one of the best known poets in Russia and around the world, having read his poetry in 94 countries and all 50 states in the US. He appeared in the Tampa Bay area at least 9 times in the last 30 years and several times was sponsored at least in part by Russian Heritage. He came to our Old Russian New Year Gala in 2000. Yevtushenko will be buried in the writer's settlement of Peredelkino near Moscow.

The program “Remembering Yevgeny Yevtushenko will be held on Saturday, October 14 at 4:00 pm in the auditorium of main library in St. Petersburg (3745 9th Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713). Yevtushenko's poetry will be read in Russian and English, and scholars and poets will remember the poet. If you have favorite poems or remembrances, please respond to this email, or to the contact section of our website.



RUSSIAN HERITAGE DIRECTORS: 2017—2018



Vera Cimino is the former treasurer for RH and now has been elected to the Board. She has a strong administrative background and works for AAA as a travel consultant.



Zina Downen has been a member of Russian Heritage for many years and has served many terms on the Board of Directors. She comes from Siberia and is successfully engaged in business enterprises with her husband John Downen here in the United States.



Kato Hetschinof grew up in a Russian American family before going to Moscow to work for the last 25 years. Now back in St. Petersburg, Florida, he looks forward to celebrating his experiences on the RH board.



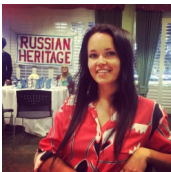
Marina Mendez is a PhD candidate in Political Science at USF and is already teaching courses there in Government and East European Politics. She is doing research on recent Russian immigration to Florida.



Victoria Peppard is in her second year on the board of RH. She has been active for many years in preparing the RH Yolochka Party and works as an official interpreter and translator.



Elly Roche has been a member of the Russian American community for many years. She is an accountant and now serves as the Treasurer for the Russian American Club in St. Petersburg.



Natalia Scarberry works as an advertising designer for Home Shopping Network. She is from St. Petersburg, Russia and has been promoting the two St. Petersburgs programs. She is also involved in many local art projects.



Zhanna Thomas is creative designer from Odessa who produces stylish clothing and fancy set designs. She is well connected to many groups in the Russian American community.

THE 43rd SPIFFS INTERNATIONAL FOLK FAIR (OCTOBER 26—29, 2017)

Plans are underway for the SPIFFS Folk Fair. If you are interested in volunteering in the Russian tent to welcome the students and interact with the general public, get in touch with any board member.

If you would like to participate in the Russian singing group that will be performing on Saturday before the parade, the first of three practices will be on Saturday, September 2 at the Russian American Club. Call Mary Stenov (727-867-6013) for more information.

“The 100th Anniversary of the Russian Revolutions of 1917”

Several events are planned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. On November 7 a Forum will be held at Eckerd College at 7:00 pm in Miller Auditorium. More details on this program and similar events at USF in Tampa and USFSP will be given in future editions of this newsletter.

Creation of New Russian and Post-Soviet Studies at USF

The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on the Tampa campus of USF, Eric Eisenberg, has authorized the creation of a new Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies. This is a positive step forward for Russian Studies in the Tampa Bay area. Golfo Alexopoulos, Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of History has been appointed founding director (effective in August). Golfo has been a supportive member of Russian Heritage, and she is looking forward to working with us on a commemorating the anniversary of the Russian Revolution on the USF campus this fall.

Russian American Club Sponsoring Sunday Gatherings

The Russian American Club is opening its doors on Sunday afternoons for informal gatherings from 1pm to 4pm. This is a chance to come together to speak Russian, play games, sing songs and enjoy the company of like-minded people. Some Sundays have a theme, but often they are just an opportunity for informal get-togethers.

DON'T FORGET THE WINTER BALL ON JANUARY 27, 2018. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Below are the opening lines of the poem “Babi Yar” by Yevgeny Yevtushenko written in 1961, describing an event that features prominently in the novel by Kelli Stuart (see page 1), as well as in the poetry of Yevtushenko....

Бабий Яр

Над Бабьим Яром памятников нет.
Крутой обрыв, как грубое надгробье.
Мне страшно.

Мне сегодня столько лет,
как самому еврейскому народу.
Мне кажется сейчас —
я иудей.

Вот я бреду по древнему Египту.
А вот я, на кресте распятый, гибну,
и до сих пор на мне — следы гвоздей.

Babi Yar

No monument stands over Babi Yar.
A drop sheer as a crude gravestone.
I am afraid.

Today I am as old in years
as all the Jewish people.
Now I seem to be
a Jew.

Here I plod through ancient Egypt.
Here I perish crucified, on the cross,
and to this day I bear the scars of nails.