



# Russian Heritage

## NEWSLETTER

Volume XIX, Issue 6  
Summer 2015

### NEW LEADERSHIP FOR RUSSIAN HERITAGE



**Nadia Yevstigneyeva** was elected president of Russian Heritage for 2015 – 2017 at the annual meeting held on May 2 at Eckerd College. The new officers and board members are listed in the box on the right. *Now meet the newest members of the RH Board.*

**Vera Cimino** is the new treasurer. She has a strong administrative background and works for AAA as a travel consultant

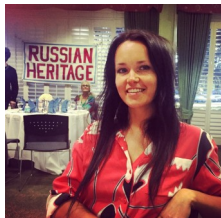


**Zhenya Nichols** is a new member of the RH board who has been active in the Russian-American Community Center of Florida in Orlando.



**Victoria Peppard** is in her first year on the board of RH but has been active in preparing the RH Yolochka Party and works as an official interpreter and translator.

**Dagmara Kulik** (no photo) is also a director for the Russian American Club in Gulfport and serves as a link between the two organizations.



**Natalia Scarberry** works as an advertising designer and also as a volunteer docent at the Dali Museum.

#### RUSSIAN HERITAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Nadia Yevstigneyeva

V. P.: Vladimir Malkin

Secretary: Bill Parsons

Treasurer: Vera Cimino

Board Members:

Laura Flesch

Vladimir Khokhlov

Dagmara Kulik

Eugene Lel

Zhenya Nichols

Victoria Peppard

Natalia Scarberry

Peter Sidorenko

Zhanna Sidorenko

Mary Stenov

Nadia Velez

[www.russianheritage.org](http://www.russianheritage.org)

### September 20 Meeting To Present Student Projects and Russian Groups in the Tampa Bay Area

Our first meeting in September will offer an opportunity for members and friends of Russian Heritage to learn more about Russian interests and activities in the Tampa Bay Area. First on our program will be presentations by students and faculty at USF describing their programs, including a report on USF students who studied in Moscow this summer. The second part of the program will be short reports from groups who have close connections to Russian culture. More details on this program will be presented in the September Newsletter. The meeting will be held at the Triton Room at Eckerd College. The meeting begins at 5:00 pm with a pizza supper at 5:30, followed by our program. The cost of the supper and program is \$7 for adults and \$4 for students and children.

#### Other Upcoming Events: (SAVE THE DATES!)

**The SPIFFS Annual Folk Fair: October 29—November 1, 2015.**

**The Old Russian New Year's Celebration: January 16, 2016.**

## REMEMBERING THE END OF WWII

*This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII. It is an important anniversary since not many of the participants in this war will survive much longer. Many celebrations were held this year. Of course, the largest festivities took place in Moscow on May 9, but there were also events in Washington, D.C., Orlando, and in the Tampa Bay area. In St. Petersburg an event was held at the Holocaust Museum on April 18. Below are highlights in English from a report by Victoria Peppard, followed by the full text of her remarks in Russian. There was a second event at the Glazer Children's Museum in Tampa on Sunday, May 31: an exhibit of children's drawings, "Peace to the World". See photos on page 3. President Nadia Yevstigneyeva and Board Member Zhenya Nichols are shown with the participants in the contest.*

### Passing on the Memories to the Next Generation in the Holocaust Museum

Typically Victory Day comes somewhat quickly, but vividly and intensively, especially here in America. You watch the morning Russian TV broadcast, pause for a moment of silence, and remember close ones at an evening supper. But this year it is different. The farther we are from the events of the war, the more we understand how important it is to honor the memories, to preserve and pass on not only the facts and figures, but also the feeling of reverence and thanksgiving for those who fought, who perished, or who just survived this horrible time.

It is now clear that the "children of the war" will not be with us much longer. It is absolutely necessary to organize a meeting to hear their stories and to bring our children and grandchildren so that the memories can be passed on to the younger generation. The place chosen for this meeting was the St. Petersburg Holocaust Museum where such evidence of the barbarity of Fascism is displayed. The museum opened its doors to us.

On April 18, 2015 we set up in the museum a small shrine of memory: children's drawings on the themes of war, peace, and the friendship of Soviet and American soldiers; portraits of family members who perished in the war and their awards; an eternal flame from electric candles; and the quiet background music of the songs of the war years....

The first to arrive were the "children of the war": Elena Druzhinina who survived the German occupation of the Ukraine; Maria Kiseleva, who lived through the siege of Leningrad; and Lia Volson, saved by a miracle from death in a Fascist ghetto. The following are some of the most memorable episodes of their stories.

Elena spoke about the massacres of the local populations in the Cherkask Oblast interspersed with warm words about a young German translator who warned her about coming dangers.... Maria told about the beginning of the war in Leningrad and how some of her closest relatives were able to survive by eating the glue obtained from the Hermitage Museum.... Lia Volson lost all 50 members of her large family in the ghetto. She survived only because her mother bribed a Romanian police officer to get her daughter outside of the ghetto. After wandering for four days in the winter in the woods, she was found by a partisan and taken care of by a family from Odessa....

The reminiscences of the eyewitnesses were interspersed with poetry and songs of the war years. The three hours spent with three generations of heirs of the great victory gave us the unforgettable feeling of thanksgiving to the victors of WWII and pride at their achievements! We give a special thanks to all who participated in preparing and carrying out of the special event.

### Эстафета памяти в музее Холокоста

Обычно праздник победы приходил не то чтобы вдруг, но как-то сразу ярко и с интенсивно! Особенно здесь, в Америке. Смотришь утренние передачи по российскому телевидению, склоняешь голову в минуту молчания, вспоминаешь близких за семейным ужином. В этом году все происходит по-другому. 70 мирных лет!!!! И чем дальше от нас события "сороковых пороховых", тем больше понимаешь, как важно сберечь память о них, сохранить и передать не только факты и цифры, а чувство преклонения и благодарности перед воевавшими, погибшими да и просто пережившими это страшное время.

И оказалось, что единомышленников вокруг немало. Мы, Женя Никольз, Виктория Пеппард, Инна Полутская, постучались в двери музея Холокоста в Сан Петербурге. Почему в музее Холокоста? Пришло

понимание того, что даже дети войны уже не будут с нами долго. Что обязательно нужно организовать с ними встречу и послушать, привести наших детей и внуков и передать эстафету памяти молодому поколению. Из уст в уста. А в музее, где собраны свидетельства варварства фашизма, страданий их жертв и силы духа не покосившихся, такая встреча будет незабываемой. Музей нам открыл свои двери.

18 апреля рано утром комнату, где обычно проходят заседания, мы превратили в небольшой храм памяти: детские рисунки на тему войны, мира, дружбы советских и американских солдат, портреты родственников, погибших на войне, их награды, вечный огонь из электрических свечек, тихий фон песен времен Великой Отечественной.....

Первыми пришли на встречу наши дорогие "дети войны": Елена Дружинина, пережившая немецкую оккупацию на Украине, Мария Киселева, выжившая в блокадном Ленинграде и Лия Волсон, чудом спасшаяся от гибели в фашистском гетто. Воспоминаний каждого отдельную встречу. Вот самые запомнившиеся эпизоды: рассказы Елены о расправах с местным населением в Черкасской области чередуются с теплыми словами о молодом немецком переводчике, который подсунул в дверь записку: "Лена, уводи корову, ее хотят зарезать". Это бы означало голод для всей семьи. А как было больно вспоминать восмидесяти шести летней рассказчице об односельчанах евреях, которых немцы расстреляли возле силосной ямы за селом! Она помнит стоны и шевелившуюся землю над заживо подгребенными. Земли было мало: привезли только одну машину. Напрасно дети ждали в кустах, чтобы помочь. Автоматчики не уходили три дня!

Мария Киселева рассказала, как для ленинградцев началась война; как некоторым из ее близких удалось выжить благодаря тете, привносившей из Эрмитажа клей для реставрации картин; как она, девочка, оттолкнула мужчину, тянувшего за ее пайкой хлеба и как она его увидела на следующий день замерзшим на улице.

У Лии Волсон в гетто погибли все пятьдесят членов ее большой семьи. Ее мама, подкупив румынского полиция, вытолкнула дочку за ворота гетто. Несколько дней четырех летняя Лия бродила по зимнему лесу, пока ее не нашел лесник партизан. Она выжила, ее удочерила семья из Одессы. Лия Волсон воспитала свою дочь и стала бабушкой. На встречу в музей Холокоста Лия пришла, чтобы передать молодому поколению уверенность, что жизнь сильнее смерти, что преодолеть можно самые жестокие испытания и не перестать любить жизнь. И еще, чтобы мы помнили о том, что несет человечеству фашизм.

Воспоминания очевидцев войны перемежались со стихами и песнями военных лет. Мы пели под аккомпанемент аккордеона и гитары. А еще мы пили чай. Даже те, кто не смог прийти на встречу, постарались поучаствовать: передали торт и бутерброды, собирали подарки гостям, свидетельницам войны и записали на диск песни и военные видео, передали видео камеру, чтобы мы смогли записать встречу.

Три часа, проведенных на нашей встрече трех поколений наследников великой победы, подарили нам незабываемые чувства благодарности победителям Второй Мировой и гордости за их подвиги!

А всех, кто принимал участие в подготовке и проведении Встречи, мы благодарим за их вклад в наше общее и нужное дело: Ирину Фролову за помощь в оформлении зала, Kiev Deli за вкусный домашний торт, Euro Food and Deli за бутерброды, La Casa Del Pane за ароматный свежий хлеб, семьи Печниковых и Пузановых за детские рисунки ко дню Победы, Анну Крупицкую за запись музыкального сопровождения встречи, и Галину Попову за аккомпанемент на аккордеоне и гитаре.

**Виктория Пеннард**

### ***"Peace to the World" Exhibit at the Glazer Children's Museum in Tampa until August, 2015***



## THE HISTORIC POST CARD PROJECT: THE TWO ST. PETERSBURGS

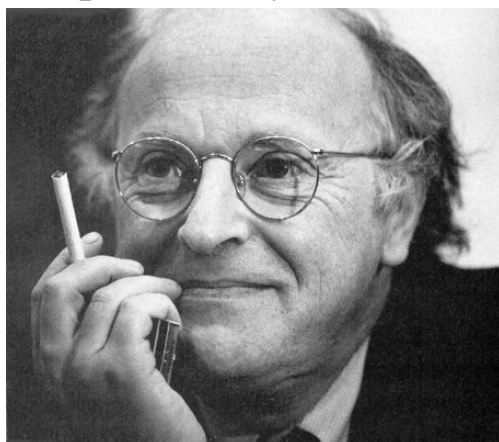
Over the years Russian Heritage has supported many efforts to bring attention to relations between St. Petersburg, Florida and St. Petersburg, Russia. The “Historic Post Card Project” is a recent example of this effort, now being organized by Professor Bill Parsons.

A starter collection of these cards already exists, but a broader selection of cards is being sought at this time. If you have historic post cards, especially from St. Petersburg (Leningrad), Russia, that you would be willing to donate (or sell) to this project, please contact Professor Parsons on line: [parsonwh@eckerd.edu](mailto:parsonwh@eckerd.edu); or by phone (727-867-9148). If you wish to sell your cards, offers of \$1, \$3, or \$5 will be made, depending on condition and value of the cards.

Perhaps the best reason to consider making your cards available now is that they will become part of a permanent archive of materials devoted to “Peter Demens and the Two St. Petersburgs”, and you will be given credit as the donor. We will plan an exhibit of these materials early next year. If you know people who might be interested in this project, please share this information with them.

### CULTURAL NEWS...

#### Joseph Brodsky Monument



A Monument to Joseph Brodsky will be set up by the Muruzi House in 24, Liteyny Avenue in St. Petersburg, Russia. It was decided to decorate the wall of the house where the poet and his parents lived from 1955 to 1972.

The Brodsky Museum was opened on May 24, 2015, which marks the 75th anniversary since the poet's birth. Restoration works are under way in the in the former apartment of the poet. The museum will be financed by private investors. The exposition will be dedicated to the life of this outstanding poet in the Soviet Union and to the literary era of the 1960s-1990s in general. Brodsky died in 1996, having lived his last 24 years outside of Russia.

### Monument to Characters of Master and Margarita Novel Unveiled in Moscow



A sculpture of the characters of the novel Master and Margarita has been set up in Mikhail Bulgakov's House Museum. The bronze monument is about 6 feet high. It was first exhibited in the Russian Museum, and then appeared at premiere of the musical Master and Margarita in St. Petersburg. The monument was created by the famous Russian artist Grigory Pototsky. The mystical characters were crystallized as cross-hairs, which is mysticism as such, according to the monument author.





## BBC to Make Another Screen Version of War and Peace in Russia

The BBC has started shooting a new screen version of Leo Tolstoy's novel War and Peace in Russia, Lithuania and Latvia. Andrew Davies has written the film script and the young British film director Tom Harper will produce it.

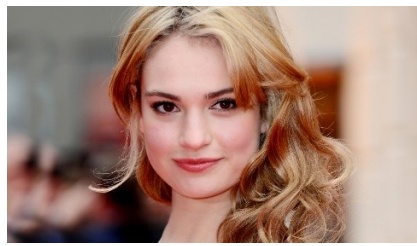
The role of Andrey Bolkonsky will be played by the British actor James Norton. Pierre Bezukhov will be played by the American actor Paul Dano who performed the carpenter in 12 Years a Slave (2013). Natasha Rostova will be played by the British actress Lily James known for her role in the Downton Abbey series.



Andrey



Pierre



Natasha

The screen version will be broadcasted on the first channel of the BBC television at the end of next year. It will consist of six series, one hour long each. The BBC corporation already screened the novel in 1972. The Soviet feature film War and Peace (1965-1967) directed by Sergey Bondarchuk won the Oscar as the best foreign language film.

## All Monuments to Russia to Enter One Electronic Data Base

A uniform electronic photo data base of all the country's monuments will be established in Russia. The public organization Union of Russia Volunteers has sent a letter of request to the RF Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky. They want to join the project of creating a uniform electronic photo data base of all the monuments of Russia.

According to the union intention its volunteers will start making the base by sending photos and short data of historical monuments from all over Russia. The Culture Ministry will be required to check the significance of the monuments and finance their restoration.



**RUSSIAN HERITAGE IS UPDATING ITS WEBSITE AND IS ESTABLISHED A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT. PLEASE VISIT THESE SOCIAL MEDIA TO GET THE LATEST INFORMATION**

*Website: [www.russianheritage.org](http://www.russianheritage.org).*

*Facebook: Go to your account, and type in Russian Heritage in search box.*

**\*\*\*A link to a video about St. Petersburg, Florida and Russian Heritage (15 minutes) on Russian TV: <https://vimeo.com/wtsproduction/review/105731402/da736da253>. (Familiar faces and places).**