



# Russian Heritage

**NEWSLETTER**

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## *Kelli Stuart Presents...*

The first RH meeting of the fall season will be Saturday, September 9 at 4:00pm 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*, 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.

*Kelli Stuart is an American student who had a life-changing experience after studying abroad in the former Soviet Union. She is the kind of student that we have supported for student exchanges in the past. It is our hope that many members and friends of Russian Heritage will want to hear her story. It may help us to direct our thinking about our student exchange programs in the future. She is just now completing her second novel based in the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s.*

This will be the first meeting of the fall season. It will be a chance to reconnect with other members and friends of Russian Heritage. If you have not visited the Club in Gulfport, this will be a good opportunity to do so. Light refreshments will be served - *vaerniki* in keeping with the theme. A donation of \$5 (student rate \$2) will cover the cost of the program and the refreshments. The program will be conducted in English. We hope to see you there. If you are planning to come, and if you use Facebook, please visit our Facebook page to let us know that you are coming. You will also find many additional interesting features on this page.

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## Two August Programs....

### Discussion of Lermontov's "Princess Mary"

On Saturday, August 23 USF Professor Zhenya Davenport led a discussion of Lermontov's "Princess Mary" in Russian, intended mainly for Russian-speaking youth and students of Russian. A lively encounter took place, leaving participants wanting to continue this program in the future. We thank Zhenya for leading this discussion and hosting this event in her home.



### Russian Cultural Presentation at the Indian Festival in Tampa

On Sunday, August 24, Mary Stenov, Lisa Stenov, and Ruth Alice Williams presented a Russian cultural program at the Indian Cultural Center in Tampa as part of the Independence Day Festival. Ruth Alice sang "Kalinka", and the trio sang "Moscow Nights" and presented "Let There Be Sunshine" in Russian and English. The Russian group and a Bulgarian dance group were part of a SPIFFS program which was included along with classical Indian dances and "Bollywood" performances in front of a crowd of more than 1,000.

## "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, and Russian Heritage sponsored his appearance at Studio@620 in 2006.



*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.*

Yevtushenko helped to establish a link between the poets of St. Petersburg, and St. Petersburg, Florida, leading to a series of published anthologies featuring these poets, many in bi-lingual editions. One such volume was Maples and Orange Trees, the poetry of Florida's Poet Laureate Peter Meinke, translated into Russian by the poets of St. Petersburg, Russia. A second translation connection is the fact that two of the most recent anthologies of Yevtushenko's poetry published in America included translations by four local poets and scholars. Two of these translators will be present for "Remembering Yevtushenko" on October 14 at 4:00 pm.

## Other Upcoming Events...

**SPIFFS Folk Fair. October 26 – 29, 2017 at Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg.**

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Russian Revolution. A Three-part program sponsored by Eckerd College, USF in Tampa, USFSP and Russian Heritage in November 2017.**

**Russian Heritage Winter Ball. January 27, 2018 at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club.**