



Russian Heritage

NEWSLETTER

Volume XXI, Issue I

August 2016

Fall Meeting Saturday, September 17 at 2:00 pm

Russian Heritage will open its fall season with a special meeting on Saturday, September 17. Come celebrate the opening of 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.

When: Saturday, September 17 at 2:00 pm

Where: The Poynter Library of the USFSP

(140 7th Ave. S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701)

See exhibits from the “Peter Demens and the Two St. Petersburgs Archive” and meet people who have played an important role in the relationships between the two cities, and be a part of the discussion for the future relations between the the St. Petersburgs.

25 YEARS AGO LENINGRAD BECAME ST. PETERSBURG AGAIN!

Where were you in 1991 when the Russian city became St. Petersburg once again and what was your attitude towards the changes in Russia at that time? Be a part of the discussion.

Visit us: www.russianheritage.org. Facebook: Russian Heritage St. Petersburg FL

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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 beforehand in the classroom. Tea and snacks will be served.

Russian Folk Instruments Featured for Russian Heritage

People are still talking about the Domra Concert Russian Heritage sponsored in the spring of 2016 when Alexander Tsygankov performed at the Studio@620. This summer Russian Heritage secretary, Bill Parsons, attended the BDAA convention in Bloomington, Indiana and participated in the Convention concert featuring more than 80 musicians playing Russian Folk Instruments (some will remember the BDAA concert in Sarasota three years ago). Two of the musicians from Bloomington, another talented Domra player and a virtuoso guitarist, will perform in St. Petersburg in January. Watch for details in an upcoming newsletter.

BOOK DISCUSSION PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2016

At the July meeting of the Board of Directors it was decided to arrange for a Book Discussion in the fall, and a date of November 5 was chosen. The new Board Member Evgenia Davenport who teaches at USF in Tampa has agreed to help facilitate this discussion. The big question was what should be the first book to discuss? Would it be a classic of Russian literature? Or something more contemporary? After seeking further advice from the Board and other interested participants, it was decided to begin with "Yevgeny Onegin." 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. If the interest is strong, we might need a second discussion, possibly combining it with a Pushkin short story ("The Shot" has been suggested). The plan is to discuss the work in English, and you are encouraged to choose any translation you find, or read it in Russian. Further suggestions will be made in an upcoming newsletter, but we hope you will get started early.

Two other books that have been recommended are: 1) "Russian Tatoo: A Memoir" by Elena Gorokhova, a somewhat humorous account of a young Russian woman who marries an American in the early 1980s and has some difficulties with the clash of cultures (It might be interesting to see how people who have been involved in this type of experience would view this book); and 2) "The Black Russian" by Vladimir Alexandrov (the true story of an American Black man who has adventures in the US, then in the 1890s in London and Russia, finally ending in Turkey). Those who come to the first discussion can discuss further options.

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.

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. This year we will welcome the New Year at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club with our traditional Gala. Note the later somewhat later date this year, mark your calendars, and look for further details in upcoming newsletters.