



Russian Heritage

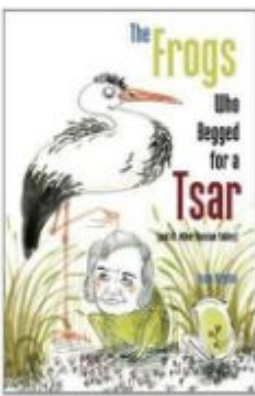
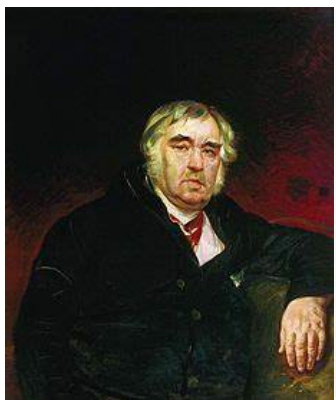
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Russian Winter Ball Honors the Memory of Tatiana Vondersaar

The 23rd Annual Russian Winter Ball took place in the beautiful St. Petersburg Yacht Club on Saturday, January 19 with 225 participants enjoying an exciting evening of fun, dancing, entertainment, and the welcoming in of the new year Russian style. It was also a tribute to Tatiana Vondersaar, one of the founders of Russian Heritage and a leader of the organization before her death 10 years ago. It was also a fundraising event for the Russian Heritage Scholarship Fund. Greetings and tributes were expressed by Mayor Rick Kriseman, Congressman Gus Bilirakis, and John and Margo Catsimatidis (Tatiana's daughter). A large collection of photographs from this event can be viewed at the Russian Heritage facebook page (see Russian Heritage Abroad).

PROGRAMS ON IVAN KRYLOV AND THE ART OF TRANSLATING RUSSIAN POETRY INTO ENGLISH



Unfortunately, the program on the Fables of Ivan Krylov has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. If and when the event is rescheduled, we will advertise the new time and place of this event.

For those interested in Ivan Krylov there is an interesting article in the January/February issue of Russian Life Magazine on Krylov at 250 which includes several more translations by Lydia Razran Stone of Krylov's fables. The Russian Life Magazine is available in the Gulfport library and in several Barnes & Noble Stores.

Report on the Two St. Petersburgs Project

A new Facebook Page has been created to give more information about the Sister Cities Program for St. Petersburg, Florida, focusing on the Friendship City relationship between St. Petersburg, Florida and St. Petersburg, Russia. It is called "Two Saint Petersburgs – Sister Cities."

Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the End of the 900-Day Siege in Leningrad in WWII

On January 27, 2019 a celebration took place at the St. Petersburg College Music Center to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the 900-day siege in Leningrad during WWII. At this event a Proclamation of the City of St. Petersburg was read, and John Rodriguez, the Government Relations Director for the City of St. Petersburg brought a message from Mayor Rick Kriseman: "Relationships between cities are almost never about politics. They are about people." The mayor has stated that he believes, strongly, in elevating the profile of our city, not just nationally, but globally. And one way to do this is to strengthen our relations with our sister cities, such as St. Petersburg, Russia. (See page 3 for proclamation.)

SPIFFS INTERNATIONAL BALL: Saturday, March 2, 2019

Each year the St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society (SPIFFS) celebrates its members and their "Persons of the Year" at an International Ball. This year's event will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at the Gulfport Casino. Many groups come in ethnic dress (especially some of the Asian groups) but most arrive in semi-formal attire. This year's band is familiar to Russian Heritage: Boris & Sax will perform. To reserve tickets and to support our Persons of the Year, please call Mary Stenov (727) 867-6013.

It's time to pay your RH dues for 2019!

Proclamation



CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG



Rick Kriseman, Mayor

WHEREAS, St. Petersburg, Florida and St. Petersburg, Russia share a common name; and

WHEREAS, our two cities have been paired as Friendship Cities for many years; and

WHEREAS, St. Petersburg, Florida recognizes the extreme tragedy of Leningrad being under siege for almost 900 days during the dark days of WWII, and losing more than 1,000,000 of its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, January 27 is commemorated each year as the day of the breaking siege of the blockaded city; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Kriseman, Mayor of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, do relay our heartfelt greetings to the people of St. Petersburg, Russia and to all survivors and descendants of survivors of this siege, on this the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of the City, and hereby proclaim January 27th, 2019 as

THE DAY OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE 900-DAY SIEGE OF LENINGRAD IN WWII

in St. Petersburg, encouraging all citizens to recognize and remember this historic event.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official Seal of the City of St. Petersburg, County of Pinellas, and State of Florida to be affixed this 27th day of January, 2019.

Rick Kriseman
Mayor

