



Russian Heritage

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SPECIAL PROGRAM ON TURGENEV ON NOVEMBER 9, 2018

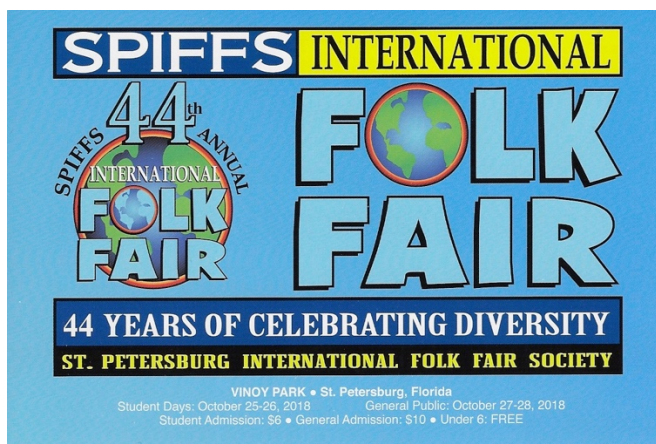


To mark the 200th anniversary of Ivan Turgenev's birth in 1818, Russian Heritage will present a program on **Turgenev's "Fathers and Sons"**. This novel is considered one of the classics not only of Russian Literature but also of World Literature, ranking with the novels of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. This event on November 9 will feature readings from the novel in English and film clips from a film version in Russian, followed by the commentary of several professors of literature and a general discussion.

We hope you will consider reading (or re-reading) the novel before November 9. It is available on line and in most libraries. If you are not able to read the entire novel before the event, you might read at the first 10 chapters, or just come to the program to be entertained and enlightened.

Friday, November 9 at 4:00 pm at the Main Public Library: 3745 9th Ave N, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33713.
(Visit the Russian Heritage Facebook page, and see page 6)

SPIFFS International Folk Fair: October 25 - 28



A special thanks to all who participated in the SPIFFS Folk Fair - for those who volunteered in the Russian tent, and those who marched in the Parade of Nations, and those who sang in the Russian chorus led by Galina Popova, and the St. Petersburg Folk Ensemble under the direction of Suzanne Pomerantzeff. We salute in particular the ones who spent countless hours of preparation and time at the Folk Fair, including Gene Stenov who organized the set-up of the tent and helped coordinate the volunteers; Mary Stenov who made cultural presentations on the Russian samovar and the tea in Russian culture, and the preparation of Russian gingerbread cookies, and the making of multiple batches of these *prianiki*; Kato Hetschinof for staffing the Russian food tent and selling lots of Russian-style corn puffs; Elly Roche for coordinating the sale of Russian souvenirs and art objects and the making gallons of *mors* (a refreshing cranberry drink). These super volunteers were present at the Folk Fair all four days, basically from the opening of the event to closing time.

Many other volunteers helped with the preparing of the exhibit, the greeting of the visitors, the stamping of passports for the students, the selling of food, souvenirs, and other Russian items (including scarfs, hand-painted matroshki, magnets, ornaments, T-shirts, Russian coins, *znachki*, mugs, and more than 30 books). We thank Bill, Kay, Zhenya D., Victoria, Corey, Zhanna T., Dagmara, Grace, Masha, Tania, Boris M., Evgeny L., Vassili G., Vladimir Kh., Galina, Anna, Angelika, Zoja, Liuba, Julia S., Sveta, Sveta, Olga O., Victor, Peter, Roger, Darryl, and Linda. All volunteers are greatly appreciated!

Thousands of visitors came through the Russian tent. This year it was amazing to see the number of adults and children who were able to speak Russian, coming from many parts of Russia and Eastern Europe. One man from Tashkent even played a balalaika solo in the tent while his son played the *treshchotki*. Many others were delighted to see our Russian items, our welcoming volunteers (many in beautiful Russian outfits), and many played with our puzzles and word games, and listened intently to information about Russian culture.

SPIFFS PHOTO



FATHERS AND SONS AT ECKERD COLLEGE

In 1966 Eckerd College (then known as Florida Presbyterian College) hired a new member of the History Department with a specialization in Russian and Eastern European History. Professor Bill Parsons was to teach courses in European history, in Russian and East European history and Russian Studies. In his course on Modern Russia and the Soviet Union, the students were required to read the first 10 chapters of Fathers and Sons and several chapters later in the novel, in order to gain an understanding of the changes taking place in Russia from the “men of the 40s” to the new generation of the 60s, and the conditions in Russia on the eve of the Emancipation of the Serfs in 1861.

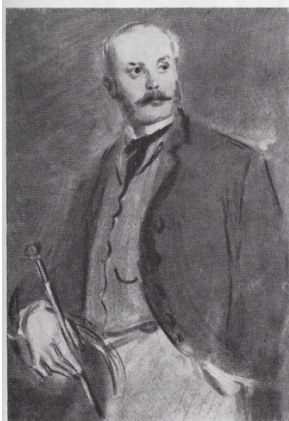
Vivian Parsons began teaching at Eckerd College in 1967, with courses in Elementary and Intermediate Russian, and an occasional course in Russian literature of the nineteenth century or in Soviet literature. In examining the nineteenth century, Turgenev’s Fathers and Sons was always included in the syllabus. This novel was the best-known Russian novel in Europe and America in translation and was praised by the literary critics and the general reading public at that time.

One question that was raised in both classes concerned the universality of the themes in this novel versus the idea that this was a “period piece” showing the Russian realities of the mid-nineteenth century. Clearly the theme of the conflict of generations between the “Fathers” and the “Sons” is a universal one, and the relations between the family members and outsiders can resonate across cultures and through time. But what about the specific features of the Russian character and the Russian environment on the eve of a major transition?

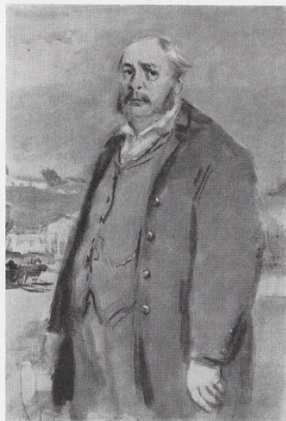
In the Russian literature course there were references to Turgenev and his predecessors, such as Pushkin, Gogol, and Lermontov, and to his contemporaries like Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. In the history course, students studied the relationships of Turgenev and his heroes to thinkers such as Herzen, Chernyshevsky, and Pisarev and the rise of the nihilist philosophy. Also significant were the changes in social and economic life on the eve the emancipation of the serfs and the transformation of Russia leading eventually to the revolutionary traditions of the late nineteenth century, and eventually to the Russian revolutions of 1917.

If you have read this far, I hope you will take a closer look at “Fathers and Sons” and come to the Turgenev program at 4:00 pm on November 9 at the Main Library in St. Petersburg.

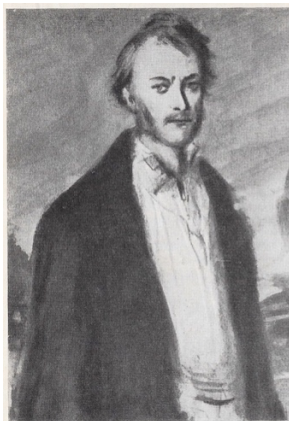
Bill Parsons, Professor Emeritus, Eckerd College



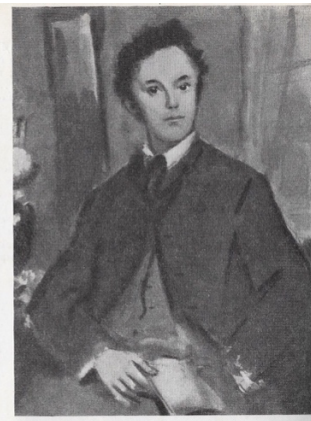
Pavel Kirsanov



Nikolai Kirsanov



Bazarov



Arkady