

# RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume V, Issue 3.



November 2000

## **Tatiana Vondersaar Replaces Carl Kuttler as President of Russian Heritage**

Carl Kuttler, who was elected president of Russian Heritage in April, 2000, has resigned from this position because he felt pressures of time and other commitments prevented him from devoting the time he felt necessary to this leadership position. At the September meeting, when announcing his resignation, Kuttler stressed his continuing interest in Russian culture and politics, and promised to continue to support and promote Russian Heritage.

Tatiana Vondersaar, who has served for several years as vice president, and who was elected as vice president again in April, will serve as president for the remainder of the year. Tatiana has been active in promoting Russian culture in the community for many years, as featured in the September Newsletter. She has been an important part of Russian Heritage from the beginning.

## ***Russian Heritage Ensemble To Perform in Concert on Sunday, November 5***

The first of three concerts sponsored by Russian Heritage will take place at 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 5, 2000 in the new Music Center of St. Petersburg Junior College at the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus at 6605 - 5th Avenue North.

The Russian Heritage Ensemble is made up of several musicians from Russia who are now living in the Tampa Bay area. Violinists Eugene Bazhanov and his wife Natasha are performers for the Florida Orchestra. Pianist Vladimir Khokhlov has been on the Board of Directors of Russian Heritage for several terms.

The first concert will feature works by Russian and American composers. The first half of Sunday's concert will be selections from Russian classical music, and the second half of the program will be American music. This concert will be one of the first concerts in the new Music Center which features two new Steinway concert grand pianos.

Tickets are \$12 for this concert, or \$33 for the series of three concerts. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or can be reserved by calling Eugene Bazhanov (727-573-7646). Remember, this is a fundraiser for Russian Heritage, as well as a terrific opportunity to hear great music. Call now for tickets.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF RUSSIAN HERITAGE THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

**Russian Heritage** was organized in the summer of 1996. Its purpose is "to preserve and promote Russian heritage, history, and culture, and to educate the general public through such activities as, but not limited to, social events, film festivals, artistic venues, and educational programs." (taken from the "Articles of Incorporation of Russian Heritage, Inc.") In terms of organization we began with Articles of Incorporation, followed by registration as a non-profit organization, and finally we qualified for non-profit status with the post office. We began with a small nucleus of members and a small group of officers, evolved to a Board of Directors, and now a new series of by-laws are in the works. For the first two years Vera Espinola Beery of the Florida International Museum served as president, and for the second two years Professor Bill Parsons of Eckerd College was president. We have sponsored activities (see below) usually on a monthly basis, except for summer, and we have usually distributed a monthly newsletter.

**Major Achievements.** Perhaps the most successful programs, and fundraisers, have been our four Russian New Year's Celebrations. Much planning and energy have gone into these events at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club in mid-January each of the first four years. Other major events have included the Pushkin Day event of poetry and music on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the poet's birth (June 6, 1999), and the Peter Demens Symposium (May 1, 2000) and related events on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. We also sponsored a Russian poetry day featuring Yevgeny Yevtushenko reading in Russian the works of famous poets from Pushkin to Yevtushenko (January 15, 2000).

Three Russian Film Festivals have also been sponsored at Eckerd College. These featured three Academy Award Winning Russian films; three contemporary and two classic features; numerous animated shorts; and three films based on the life and works of Pushkin and Tchaikovsky. Our Russian Concerts have included a Tchaikovsky piano concert at the Fine Arts Museum and a violin and voice concert at the Largo Community Center, in addition to our musical programs at the New Year's Celebrations and the Pushkin program.

Our charitable contributions included support for the Russian Cultural Center in Washington, D. C.; the Tolstoy Foundation in New York; the Demens Exhibition in Tver and St. Petersburg in Russia; and the Russian Cultural Center at the St. Petersburg Junior College. We also sponsored the Demens historical marker at the entrance to Demens Landing.

Our Fellowship Events included meals at Ming Gardens, the Garden, Malo's, Safrons, O'Grandney's, and Buddyfreddy's Restaurants, and a Russian Easter celebration at the Pasadena Country Club. We held three Russian Songfests, with those present singing along in Russian to favorite Russian melodies.



## Demens Exhibit Opens In St. Petersburg, Russia-

The exhibit devoted to Peter Demens which opened in Tver, Russia in April had its opening in the City Historical Museum in the Peter-Paul Fortress of St. Petersburg, Russia on October 10, 2000. The Exhibit "From Vesegonsk to Florida" was organized by Curator Inna Povedskaya and presents the achievements of Peter Demens in both Russia and America. Russian Heritage was one of the sponsors of this exhibit honoring the 150th anniversary of the birth of the co-founder of our city of St. Petersburg in Florida.

Russian Heritage Board Member Elena Novikov is planning to attend this exhibit while in Russia. Other Americans traveling to St. Petersburg, Russia in the next two months should also take advantage of this special tribute to Peter Demens.

## Olga Fincher's "Balalaika" on Display in Ocala, Florida

Olga Fischer's water color "The Balalaika" has been selected for the Annual Show of the Florida Watercolor Society held at the Appellon Museum in Ocala, Florida. This painting is especially important to Olga because her father was a balalaika maestro.



## Peter Demens Symposium *PROCEEDINGS*

On May 1, 2000 a Peter Demens Symposium was held at Eckerd College. Copies of the *Proceedings* of this symposium, edited by Professor Bill Parsons of Eckerd College, will soon be available. In addition to the presentations given at the symposium, the *Proceedings* will include bibliographies of works written by Demens in English and Russian, and a list of works about Demens in English and Russian. Those interested in this volume should contact: Professor Bill Parsons  
Eckerd College  
4200 54th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33711

## RUSSIAN LANGUAGE CORNER

With the elections coming up soon, we thought it might be interesting to include a few words and phrases in Russian that might be used in describing or talking about this event. What follows is just a sample of the vocabulary that might be used. However much we might wish to, we will refrain from making any comments on the candidates themselves.

выборы	elections
выбирать	to elect
голосовать за кого-то	to vote for someone
количество голосов	number of votes
избирать	to elect
избиратели	voters
быть избранным	to be elected
избирательный пункт	polling place
большинство голосов	majority of votes
победить на выборах	to win an election
кандидат в президенты	candidate for president

At USF our slogan is that we teach Russian the "fun and easy way," and if people are interested, we will be happy to include a bilingual section in the newsletter devoted to such things as sayings and expressions, jokes and practical issues related to learning Russian.

Irena Nemchonok and Victor Peppard  
Russian Department, University of South Florida

## **UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2000 – 2001**

- November 5, 2000. Russian Heritage Ensemble Concert.**  
3:00 pm at SPJC-Gibbs Campus.
- December 15, 2000. Russian Heritage Christmas Party in Sarasota.**  
For details see page 6.
- January 21, 2001. Russian Heritage Ensemble Concert.**  
3:00 pm at SPJC-Gibbs Campus. Second in series.
- February 23, 2001. Blini Celebration**  
Sponsored by St. Andrew's Russian Orthodox Church.  
Further details in future newsletter.
- February 25, 2001. Russian Heritage Ensemble Concert.**  
3:00 pm at SPJC-Gibbs Campus. Third in series.
- March 25, 2001. Round Table Discussion on the End of the Cold War and the Evolution of Russia in the Past Ten Years.** Scholars from University of South Florida and Eckerd College will participate. Details to follow.
- April 15, 2001. Russian Easter.** This year Russian Easter and Easter for Western Christians both occur on this same Sunday.
- April 21, 2001. Russian Heritage Picnic at Fort DeSoto Park.** We will gather after 11:00 am, have lunch, swim, sing Russian songs, and have fun at Shelter #7 on the North Beach. Details will Follow.
- May 2001. Business Meeting and Elections of Officers.**  
Time and Place of meeting will be announced later.



## December Russian Heritage Party in Sarasota

Victor and Victoria Peppard and Bill and Pat Grant will be co-hosting our Christmas party at the Grant's home in Bradenton on Friday evening, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Hours 5 PM to whatever. Everyone is invited to bring a dish and something to drink but I'm sure we'll have plenty if you don't.

The Grants have a banya. So if you want to partake, bring a bathing suit. Or sheet.

Musicians are being recruited for some singing and dancing.

The address is 7330 Westmoreland Dr., Bradenton and is from 15 to 25 minutes from the I-275 Tampa Bay Bridge, depending on the traffic. Telephone (941) 351-1596.

As you come south over the I-275 bridge, bear right on 19. About a mile after crossing the Manatee River, stay in the left lane and go up the ramp onto New 301. After about 4 miles, turn right on Whitfield. Where Whitfield makes a sharp curve to the left, go straight ahead on Pearl, crossing US Hwy 41. Follow Pearl to the water. Turn right on Westmoreland. 7330 is the third house on the left. (If you miss Pearl and stay on Whitfield, it is ok because it too ends at the water. Go right to 7330 Westmoreland)

There is a Holiday Inn close by on Route 41. (From Pearl, turn right on 41 and it is on the left.) If you wish to spend the night, call Debbie Knutson in Sales at (941) 355-2781. Fax (941) 355-4149. She has agreed to a special \$59 rate. If the Grants know in advance, they will arrange a boat pick up at 5 PM and again at 6 PM from the Inn with you being delivered to the Grant's dock.

Please RSVP with a phone call to (941) 351-1596 or email to [grantwb@ix.netcom.com](mailto:grantwb@ix.netcom.com)



Снеговик Ёлочка



Дед Мороз

## RUSSIAN HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP

During the program year 1999-2000 **Russian Heritage** reached a total of 110 members and distributed monthly newsletters to about 200 members and friends. So far this year the persons listed below have paid their Russian Heritage dues. The article on page 2 shows the activities sponsored in the past four years. Programs for this year are featured elsewhere in this newsletter. Perhaps you would like to join us as members, or perhaps you could share this information with others who are interested in promoting Russian culture.

Dimitri & Sonya Artzibushev  
Dr. Konstantin Artzibushev  
Eugene Bazhanov  
Bruce & Vera Beery  
Iwan & Rita Choronenko  
Erika Cummings  
Jerry Elder  
Tina Suleiman Filtz  
Bob & Olga Fincher  
France Frankian  
Bill & Pat Grant  
Larry & Veronika Jamieson  
Ken & Galina Johnston  
John & Ludmila Kinlen  
Nina Kirsanov

Andrew & Dr. Marina Kulick  
Dr. Carl Kuttler  
Barry Marshall  
Nicholas Milin  
Larissa Natarelli  
Sergei & Elena Novikov  
Bernie Oriando  
Bill & Vivian Parsons  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Pavchinsky  
Victor & Victoria Peppard  
Dan & Svetlana Price  
Christiana Reordan  
Oleg & Irene Schidlowsky  
Olga Schidlowsky  
Gleb Shem

Gene & Mary Stenov  
Julia Stepelton  
Natalie Stetson  
Anver & Cindy Suleiman  
Tina Suleiman  
Jean Appelyard Tucker  
Arda Unjian  
Ruth Uphaus  
Ljalilia Vartanova  
Tatiana Vondersaar

### Membership dues

The *Russian Heritage* year begins in September and ends in May.

You'll receive the newsletter with notice of our special events as well as notice of Russian events in the Tampa Bay area. *Russian Heritage*, Inc. is non-profit and tax-exempt. You can mail the form below with your dues to:

Russian Heritage  
PO Box 66123  
St. Pete Beach, FL 33736

Categories of yearly membership are:

- \$5 Student
- \$10 Individual
- \$15 Family
- \$50 Sponsor

Please make checks payable to: *Russian Heritage*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_