

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

PO Box 66123

St. Pete Beach, FL 33736

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 5738

St. Petersburg

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume V. Issue 4

DECEMBER 2000



RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume V. Issue 4



DECEMBER 2000

Holiday *Russian Heritage* Party in Bradenton

Come celebrate the season with a Russian flavor! A *Russian Heritage* Christmas Party is planned for Friday evening, December 15 from 5:00 PM to late into the night.

You are invited to bring a dish or something to drink, but there will be plenty, even if you don't. We will have musicians to play for dancing, and we even plan some Russian singing.

A special attraction is our banya. Although it may not be exactly the same as described on page 2 of this newsletter, there is a pool nearby for the cold plunge as part of the banya tradition. If you want to partake, bring a swimming suit, or a towel, or a sheet.

Bill and Pat Grant and Victor and Victoria Peppard are co-hosting this party at the Grant home in Bradenton (7330 Westmoreland Drive). It is 15-25 minutes

from the I-275 Sunshine Skyway bridge, depending on the traffic. Telephone: (941) 351-1596.

As you come south over the I-275 bridge, bear right on US Hwy 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 left 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. If you wish to spend the night, call Debbie in sales (941) 355-2781, for a special \$59 rate.

Please RSVP with a phone call to (941) 351-1596, or (813) 971-0223, or email to grantwb@ix.netcom.com We hope to see you December 15.

BANYA, THE RUSSIAN SAUNA (БАНЯ)

The tradition of the Russian sauna is very old; it is known to have existed in the Middle Ages. Until the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution almost every Russian village house had its own *banya*, separate from the main house. Eighty percent of the population lived in villages. The *banya* was built close to a water supply such as a river, a lake, or a town well. The temperature inside a *banya* is heated by the use of wood-burning stoves. Water is boiled in kettles and poured on heated stones. The resulting moist hot air is different from the dry heat of Finnish saunas. In a *banya* people sit or lie naked on benches and beat themselves with a birch or oak switch called a "vjenik" (вѣник). To protect their hair, men wear woolen hats, and women, if they can, braid their hair. Men and women take turns using the *banya*. Afterwards people jump into the cold water of a lake or river or roll around in the snow.

Communal baths are located in cities and towns. The demand for them originally came from factories. After bathing, instead of jumping into a lake or river, as in the country, people douse themselves with cold water from a bucket, or in the case of modern *banyas*, from a shower. These types of *banyas* are divided into four parts. People undress in the "predbannik," dressing room (предбанник). There is a "moechnaya," washing room (моечная), sometimes called a "dushevaya" (душевая). Afterwards, people head for the "parilka," the steam room (парилка). They sit on stone benches (as expected, the higher they choose to sit, the hotter the air) and beat themselves, as described above. The humid air is so hot that one can stay there only for limited periods of time. In the steam room people sit, drink tea, beer, or vodka, play chess, or chat.

At present, even though most apartments have bathrooms, *banyas* continue to enjoy great popularity. Their attraction lies in the fact that not only are they a source for cleanliness, but perhaps even more importantly, they provide a place for people to gather for social pleasure.



This description of the Russian *Banya* is taken from the book The Russian Way, by Zita Dabars with Lilia Vokhmina (Passport Books, 1995),

World War II Symposium & Victory Medal Ceremony

Several years ago, the **Russian Cultural Centre** was started in Washington, D.C.. The purpose of this Center was to promote Russian cultural activities and friendship between our peoples. *Russian Heritage* was a contributor to the founding of this organization. We have visited their building in Washington, reviewed the programs, and what they have accomplished to date is impressive.

This year the **Russian Cultural Centre** is sponsoring many different programs, one of which is a **World War II Symposium and Victory Medal Ceremony** in which they will award medals to Americans who worked with the Russians in WWII and helped to protect Russia from being conquered by the Nazis. Our country is finally building a memorial in Washington, D.C. in 2001 to Americans who took part in World War II. It is long overdue.

This program by the Russian government is most fitting at this time. *Russian Heritage*, as founding members of the **Russian Cultural Centre**, will support this program by donating \$1500. As underwriters of the **Symposium & Victory Medal Ceremony** to be held on January 4th 2001 in Washington, D.C., the name of *Russian Heritage* will be inscribed in gold in the Russian-American Room of the **Russian Cultural Centre**.

Russian Heritage Ensemble Concerts for 2001

The first in a series of three Russian Heritage Ensemble concerts featured works by Russian composers, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, and Prokofiev, and by American composers, Barber, Gershwin, and Copland. The audience of more than 160, including about 40 students from St. Petersburg Junior College, were treated to exciting and dramatic music by pianist Vladimir Khokhlov and Olga Glick, soprano solos by Lena Lewenson, and violin selections by Eugene Bazhanov and Natasha Bazhanov.

Two additional concerts are scheduled for early 2001. On January 21 the Ensemble will present the music of Mozart, Brahms, Prokofiev, and Liszt. On February 25 these musicians will perform Russian favorites by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov. Each concert begins at 3:00 PM at the Music Center of St. Petersburg Junior College St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus (6605-5th Avenue North) in St. Petersburg. Tickets are \$12 and will be available at the door. For more information, call (727) 573-7646.

Florida International Museum Seeks Donations

The Florida International Museum seeks donations of items related to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 for a special exhibit to open this winter. Items of interest include photographs, slides or negatives, uniforms, diaries, flight logs and other documents. For information, or to donate items, call the museum at (800) 777-9882. Of special interest to Russian Heritage members might be any items they might have from Russia from this time period.

St. Petersburg Junior College Thanks Russian Heritage

Vera Espinola Beery, Board Chair for Russian Heritage, received a note of appreciation for our gift to help establish a Russian cultural exhibit at St. Petersburg Junior College.

Language Corner

Рождество Христово (Christmas-The Birth of Christ) - один из главных христианских праздников, установленных согласно церковному вероучению в честь рождения Христа. Отмечается 25-ого декабря. В одних странах по новому стилю, в других - по старому, что соответствует 7-ому января нового стиля,

Приметы (Folklore predictions):

На Рождество Христово метель – пчёлы хорошо родиться будут.
Если на Рождество путь хорош – к урожаю гречи.

Колядованье (Caroling) – обряд хождения по домам в Рождество и в Новый год с поздравленьем, песнями со звездой или с житом, для сбора денег и пищи. Коледовать (колядовать), славить Христа, ходить по домам с песнями, собирая подачки. **Колядка (Carol)** – обрядовая песня с пожеланиями богатства и здоровья в Рождество.

С РОЖДЕСТВОМ ХРИСТОВЫМ!!

Merry Christmas!!

С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ!!

Happy New Year!!

Ирена Немчонок

Виктор Пенпара



Professor H. Tristram Engelhardt to Speak on Orthodox Christianity

"The real essence of religion is the mystery of God," says Texas doctor and philosophy professor Tristram Engelhardt. Professor Engelhardt will speak on three occasions, first at Eckerd College on Thursday, November 30th at 7:30 in Dendy Auditorium. His topic at Eckerd will be "Orthodox Christianity: Religious Belief in a Post-Modern World." He will continue his theme at the Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church, 6447-76th Ave. North, Pinellas Park, at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, and 9:15 a.m. on Sunday.

С РОЖДЕСТВОМ ХРИСТОВЫМ

RUSSIAN HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP

Since the publication of the November Newsletter, the following persons have joined **Russian Heritage**. If you know of people who would like to be a part of our organization, share this information with them, and encourage them to join.

Delia Albright
Jan Ballantine
Dr. Jane and Mr. Larry Breck
Mary Ellen and Stephen Cease
Sonia Cockfield
Tatyana Hysa

Wallace Littell
Irena Nemchonok
Robert J. Petroff
Paul and Zinaida Sarachan
Maria Shago

Membership Dues

The *Russian Heritage* year begins in September and ends in May. Members receive a monthly newsletter with notice of special events of interest to members. *Russian Heritage* is non-profit and tax-exempt.

You can mail this form with your dues to:

Russian Heritage
PO Bbx 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 _____