

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

VOLUME X, ISSUE 7

APRIL – MAY 2006

Plan Now for the Annual Meeting Friday, May 19

Our annual meeting is held in May and includes the business meeting and election of officers for next year. This year a special program will honor two of our *Russian Heritage* student ambassadors who are graduating from Palm Harbor High School.

The meeting and celebration will be held at the "St. Petersburg Nights" Russian restaurant on Friday, May 19th, with a reception at 5:30 pm, business meeting at 6:00, supper at 6:30 followed by the program and dancing. Entrée choice is Beef Stroganov or Garlic Chicken for \$25. Please RSVP by May 16 by email (president@russianheritage.org), or by phone (727-864-8235), or send your check and reservations to Russian Heritage, PO Box 14552, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.

Violetta Yevstigneyeva and Victor Albert were two of our *Russian Heritage* ambassadors to Russia in the summer of 2005, and they have been active in many of our programs here, including most recently reading with Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko during his appearance here March 14. They are also honor students in Palm Harbor, graduating in May.

If you haven't visited the new Russian restaurant "St. Petersburg Nights" (6800 Sunset Way in St. Pete Beach), this will be an opportunity to sample authentic Russian cuisine, learn more about *Russian Heritage*, and celebrate our youth.

***Russian Heritage* Tennis Tournament, May 7**

We have had poetry contests and we have had competitions for the best Russian anecdotes and proverbs. This year we are going to try a mixed doubles tennis tournament.

On Sunday, May 7, 2006 the participants will gather at the Eckerd College tennis courts at 9:00 am. Teams will be selected at random, and either a round-robin or double elimination schedule will be played. Each match will be one set (a pro-set if all parties agree). A \$5.00 registration fee and one can of balls is all that it takes to participate. Please indicate your interest in participating by email or phone (727-864-8235). When registering, please leave your phone, in case there are any changes in the program. A suggested donation of \$5.00 will be collected from all who come to cheer on their favorites.

Russian Film at Eckerd College: May 12

(Miller Auditorium at Eckerd College, 4200 54th Ave. S., St. Petersburg)

A "Hollywood" type Russian movie will be shown as part of the International Film Series at Eckerd College on Friday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. **Night Watch (Ночной дозор)** is a science fiction film that uses extensive special effects to tell its story. In Russian with English subtitles. Free and open to the public.

A GYPSY CONCERT: MAY 13 IN CLEARWATER

A Gypsy Ensemble will perform at the Royalty Theater (405 Cleveland Street) in Clearwater at 8:00 pm on Saturday, May 13. For more details and ticket information, visit the website www.RussianTampa.com.

GREAT COOPERATION IN *RUSSIAN HERITAGE* BOOTH AT SPIFFS FOLK FESTIVAL IN VINOY PARK

Russian Heritage participated in its fourth SPIFFS Folk Festival on March 22-26, 2006, as one of 30 ethnic groups taking part in the program. This year we had wonderful souvenirs and works of art provided by "Vladimir's Collection" and we thank Vladimir and Galina Malkin for being involved with our display. We also had tasty Russian food at our booth for the first time in many years, and we thank Ilona Sakovich and the "St. Petersburg's Nights" restaurant for providing blini, pirozhki, borshch, and Russian soft drinks. Finally, we thank the many volunteers who worked in the booth, including Gene, Bill, Vladimir, Galina, Ilona, Nina, Irina, Evgeny, Lidia, Kathryn, Soosha, Cindy, Vadim, Sergey, Bill, Peggy, Tatiana, Leonid, Violetta, Laura, Mary, Roman, Helena, Marina, Larissa, Nadia, Boris, and Dan. The page we submitted to the program for the event emphasized the theme of "Russian Culture in America" and is included on page 3. The games we provided for the visitors to our booth are shown on page 4, and you can find the youth perspective on Violetta's Page (page 6).

Russian Poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko in St. Petersburg

Yevgeny Yevtushenko read his poetry and lectured on the role of the poet in Russia during his two-day visit to St. Petersburg, Florida on March 14-15, 2006. He read some of his classic poems, "Baby Yar" and "The City of Yes and the City of No". He read some of his poems in English, and some in Russian, followed by the English translation. At the Studio@620 he also read his most recent poem, "Death of a Tabaquero" written only days prior to arrival. In his lecture at Eckerd College on March 15, Yevtushenko explained how the poet in Russia has been "more than a poet" in the past ten centuries of Russian cultural history. See also page 7.

Russian Heritage Cruise: Nov. 30 – Dec. 4, 2006

NOW is the time to sign up for the *Russian Heritage* Cruise! Only a limited number of cabins are being reserved at the special price of \$413.50 per person on this Carnival Trip to Mexico. For further information, and for application forms, call 727-864-8235, or refer to the November newsletter. So far we have about six cabins reserved. Those participating in the cruise will help plan the special "Russian" program. All participants will receive a free "Russian Heritage" t-shirt.

Russian

Russian Heritage was founded in 1996 to preserve and promote the culture,

heritage and history of Russia. Its aim is to educate its members and the general public through activities such as lectures, concerts, films and social events.

www.russianheritage.org

In 2005 - 2006, Russian Heritage sponsored the following events:

- The Old Russian New Year's Party - an annual event.
- Conferences on the Siege of Leningrad to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the end of World War II.
- A film series featuring World War II films.
- A balalaika trio from St. Petersburg, Russia.
- Two student musician ambassadors from St. Petersburg, Russia.
- A poetry reading and lecture by Russia's most famous living poet, Yevgeny Yevtushenko.



Russian dancers at Old Russian New Year's Party

Russia in our Community

St. Andrew's Russian Orthodox Church
Father Igor Chitikov
4668 15th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL

The Florida Orchestra
Peter Sanderling / Susan Haig, Conductors
Presenting masterpieces of Russian classical music

City of St. Petersburg
Official Sister City of St. Petersburg, Russia

Russian Studies Program
 Eckerd College
4200 54th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL

Carl M. Kuttler
President of St. Petersburg College
Honorary Consul of
the Russian Federation to Florida

Russian American Club
2920 Beach Blvd. So.
Gulfport, FL

Russian Culture in St. Petersburg

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Place the appropriate number after the sister cities for the following American cities. (See Map)

St. Petersburg, Florida	Санкт-Петербург	_____
	St. Petersburg	
Chicago, Illinois	Москва	_____
	Moscow	
Sarasota, Florida	Владимир	_____
	Vladimir	
Portland, Maine	Архангельск	_____
	Archangel	
Asheville, North Carolina	Владикавказ	_____
	Vladikavkaz	
Jacksonville, Florida	Мурманск	_____
	Murmansk	
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Нижний Новгород	_____
	Nizhny Novgorod	
Minneapolis, Minnesota	Новосибирск	_____
	Novosibirsk	
St. Louis, Missouri	Самара	_____
	Samara	
San Diego, California	Владивосток	_____
	Vladivostok	

These cities are ten of the 102 American cities or communities that have sister cities in Russia.

Look around the Russian exhibit and find the Russian words for "Russia", "Moscow", and "St. Petersburg". Copy the Russian letters for these words on this sheet.

1. How do you spell "Russia" in Russian?

How do you pronounce it in Russian? (Ra-SEE-ya)

2. How do you spell "Moscow" in Russian?

How do you pronounce it in Russian? (Mask-VA)

3. How is "St. Petersburg" spelled in Russian?

How do you pronounce it in Russian? (Sankt-PeterBURG)

Part II. Say the Russian word on the left, and write down a word or phrase that gives an idea of what the word means.

<u>Word</u>	<u>Sounds like...</u>	<u>Means</u>
СПОРТ	(sport)	_____
БАЛЛЕТ	(ba-LYET)	_____
МУЗЫКА	(MOO-zy-ka)	_____
ЛИТЕРАТУРА	(lee-yee-ra-TOO-ra)	_____
ФУТБОЛ	(fut-BOL)	_____
ДУМА	(DU-ma)	_____
КОСМОНАВТ	(kas-man-AFT)	_____
ИКОНА	(ee-KO-na)	_____

Two Student Musical Ambassadors from St. Petersburg, Russia

Katya Gumenyuk and Dima Serebrennikov came to St. Petersburg, Florida to share their gift for music. The newspaper article from the St. Petersburg Times on this page explains their program. While here they performed in three concerts, visited with students in four schools, played for the St. Petersburg City Council and during the intermission in the Yevtushenko poetry reading. They also enjoyed Disney World, Busch Gardens, and swimming in the Gulf at a time when temperatures in their St. Petersburg remained below freezing.

Arts programs will focus on city's Russian heritage

Cultural events will trace connections between the two St. Petersburgs.

By WAVENEY ANN MOORE, Times Staff Writer
Published February 26, 2006

ST. PETERSBURG - Florida's St. Petersburg traces its Russian name to the city's early history, but a local organization that promotes Russian culture is a comparative newcomer.

Founded in 1995, in the wake of a successful exhibit featuring artifacts from the Kremlin museums in Moscow, the Tampa Bay area group hopes to stoke interest in a series of Russian-themed events taking place in coming weeks.

Among them is a poetry reading by an acclaimed Russian poet, a program featuring Russian composers by the Florida Orchestra and performances by two young musical ambassadors from St. Petersburg, Russia.

Bill Parsons is president of the local cultural group, known simply as Russian Heritage. Parsons said he sees the upcoming programs will build on the special connection between the original St. Petersburg and its Florida namesake. Furthermore, he added, the two cities are sister cities.

This city's Russian connection traditionally is traced to Peter Demens, the Russian nobleman who left his homeland in 1881.

He changed his name from Pyotr Dementyev to Peter Demens. Demens, who brought the Orange Belt Railway to St. Petersburg, is said to have named the Florida city after the place where he grew up. Demens Landing in the city's downtown is named after him.

Today, said Parsons, professor of history and Russian studies at Eckerd College, there are about 10,000 people of Russian heritage in the Tampa Bay area.

The Russian Heritage organization got its start at the end of the highly successful Treasures of the Czars exhibit at the Florida International Museum.

Several residents, among them some of Russian heritage, decided to organize the group. It now has about 200 members. About 55 percent of its members are of Russian background, while the remainder includes those who have visited Russia, studied Russian or have a Russian spouse.

According to the organization's Web site, www.russianheritage.org the goal of Russian Heritage "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, films festivals, artistic venues, and educational programs."

Over the years, Russian Heritage has presented programs about Demens, classic Russian films, concerts and activities such as the Old Russian New Year celebration at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. The organization also has brought Russian students to Florida and helped sponsor American students on trips to St. Petersburg, Russia.

This year's "musical ambassadors" from Russia are Ekaterina Gumenyuk, 16, and Dmitry Serebrennikov, 13. The students, who attend the special music school at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, are winners of several international competitions.

"This is the second time we've had the musical ambassadors. In addition to that, three times we have had winners of English-language competitions," said Parsons, who has led college groups to Russia and spent an academic year at Leningrad State University.

IF YOU GO

- Russian musical ambassadors Ekaterina Gumenyuk and Dmitry Serebrennikov will perform at the Palladium, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, in a program with the St. Petersburg Folk Ensemble directed by Suzanne Peresutskoff. They also will perform at Eckerd College, Gibbs High School and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Largo.

- Russian Heritage Ensemble, "Celebrating the Centennial of Shostakovich," Palladium Theater, 7:30 p.m., March 7.

- Poetry Reading: Yevgeny Yevtushenko, acclaimed Russian poet, filmmaker and political activist, 7:30 p.m., March 14, The Studio@620 620 First Ave. S. St. Petersburg, admits \$15, students \$10. Yevtushenko will lecture in the Presidential Series, "Every Wall Is a Door: Ten Centuries of Russian Poetry," Miller Auditorium, Eckerd College, 7:30 p.m., March 15, free.

**О международном фестивале в Виной Парке
About SPIFFS Folk Festival at Vinoy Park
«Культура разных народов в Америке»
“Russian Culture in US”**

The 31st Annual SPIFFS Folk Festival was held last March 22nd through the 26th. This was another successful year for the Russian Heritage Booth, this time at Vinoy Park. Vinoy Park allowed everyone to enjoy the beautiful water and sunshine, although it was a bit chilly and windy. All the countries also benefited from more room to display their goods. This year, the Russian booth especially stood out with our new addition of the Russian food stand provided by the Russian restaurant, St. Petersburg Nights. Visitors had the opportunity to try some delicious, traditional Russian treats such as pirozhki, blini, and borshch. The other main attraction was the colorful presentation from the Russian store, Vladimir's collection, which displayed unique Russian goods such as matrioshkas, jewelry and folk costumes. Galina's and Vadim's welcoming looks and warm smiles made our booth sparkle. But let's not forget the interactive educational part of our booth that attracted lots of curious youngsters. Bill Parsons created three engaging and challenging games in which children and adults had to learn how to write Russian words and recognize Russian words and cities. Thanks to the enthusiastic and persistent efforts of the Russian Heritage members and all the people involved in our booth, the Russian booth touched many lives and enriched our community's understanding of the unique Russian culture and traditions. Our most heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in making this a memorable Russian Heritage event!

В этом году СПИФФС (Санкт-Петербургский Международный Фестиваль Фольклора) проводился с 22-го по 26 марта в парке Виной под открытым небом. Наш павильон традиционно имел образовательный уклон и был представлен Русским Наследием, магазином-салонем «Владимир Коллекшн» и русским рестораном «Санкт-Петербургские Ночи». Тема этого года была - «Культура разных народов в Америке». Огромное спасибо всем кто участвовал в подготовке и проведении этой незабываемой недели от Русского Наследия и особенно Галине и Вадиму Малкиным, Элоне, танцевальной группе Померанцева, Биллу Парсонсу, и всем членам совета директоров и добровольцам нашей организации. Наш павильон, как всегда, привлек внимание огромного количества детей и взрослых посетителей выставки. Спасибо!!!!

Russian Poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko in St. Petersburg

On March 14th, *Russian Heritage* invited the historic and legendary Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko to St. Petersburg Florida. When I found out about this, I could not even believe that I might have the phenomenal opportunity to meet such an extraordinary individual. I immediately researched his life and read all of his works that I could find.

Finally, on March 20th, Victor Albert (another Russian Heritage youth ambassador) and I had the honor to dine with this famous poet. We learned that Victor and I would read one of his poems in English, while he read it in Russian. From the first moment when I shook his hand, I could not take my eyes off him. His artistic, magnanimous presence created an unparalleled energy in the room. I held my breath and carefully listened to his engaging conversation. Later that evening we went to the Studio@620 in downtown St. Petersburg to see Yevtushenko's live performance, the reading of his poems. The turn out of people was very successful, about 160 people. Yevtushenko performed his most famous works with indescribable enthusiasm and grace! The audience was truly touched by his heart felt performance! I am very grateful for this opportunity. I told my relatives and friends about meeting with Yevtushenko, and they would not believe me, because he is such a well known poet that they studied in literature classes in high school.

Еще одно незабываемое событие, организованное Русским Наследием, прошло в марте – литературные вечера с поэтом-легендой советских времен и современности Евгением Евтушенко. Мне посчастливилось лично познакомиться и пообщаться с Евгением (он просил называть его просто Женя) и получить великолепный урок выразительного чтения поэзии. Женя доверил мне прочитать одно из его самых сильных произведений «Два города» (В городе ДА и городе НЕТ)». Надеюсь что встречу с Женей опять.

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Membership Dues for 2006

All who are interested in Russian culture are welcome to join Russian Heritage by simply paying the yearly dues. Members receive newsletters and discounts on certain events such as the Old Russian New Year Celebration.

On your newsletter label, the last year for which you have paid is written.

Please mail your
 WITH THIS FORM COMPLETELY FILLED OUT to:

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 PO Box 14552
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