

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume VI, Issue 7.

APRIL - MAY 2002



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Plans for 2003 Celebrations of the Two St. Petersburgs Move Forward!

In the last issue of the *Russian Heritage Newsletter* the joint announcement by Mayor Rick Baker of St. Petersburg, Florida and Governor Vladimir Yakovlev was published, indicating a desire to celebrate together in a significant way the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg, Russia, and the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of St. Petersburg, Florida as a city. Since that time, a logo for the event has been developed (see cover of this newsletter), *Russian Heritage* has hosted a meeting to discuss our role in these events, and the city has hosted a brainstorming session of all interested parties to discover what projects that might become a meaningful part of this joint celebration.

The city committee is being chaired by Dr. Carl Kutler of St. Petersburg College. He was instrumental in bringing Yakovlev and Baker together in Washington, and he spent the early part of April in St. Petersburg with a U.S. Congressional delegation including local Representative Bill Young. While in St. Petersburg he explored further opportunities for cooperation in 2003. Clearly, major initiatives are underway. Some of the discussion of *Russian Heritage's* participation in these events is given on pages 4-5.

Russian Heritage Sets Financial Goals To Support 2003 Activities

The Executive Board of *Russian Heritage* has set a goal of \$20,000 to be raised to support the projects for 2003 endorsed by our group. We have obtained a matching gift of \$10,000, so if we can raise \$10,000 from our members and friends, we will meet our goal.

Our Executive Board has proposed the following challenges.

Be a **PATRON**. For a gift of \$1,000 or more, a Patron will become a member of *Russian Heritage* for 2003, and will be given two tickets to the Old Russian New Year's Celebration for 2003.

Be a **SPONSOR**. For a gift of \$500 or more, a Sponsor will become a member of *Russian Heritage* for 2003, and will be given two tickets for a concert in 2003.

Be a **CONTRIBUTOR**. For a gift of \$100 or more, a Contributor will become a member of *Russian Heritage* for 2003.

All supporters of this financial drive will also be recognized in our promotional materials. And remember that *Russian Heritage* is a 501 (c) organization with the IRS, so do notations are given under IRS Codes. Some of the projects we are supporting are described on pages 4-5.

"Russian Heritage Ensemble" Concert Now May 25th

The concert originally scheduled for April 27 has been postponed until May 25th (see below). There is a concert by Russian musicians Artur Girskey, violinist of the Florida Orchestra, and Evgenia Pilyavina, pianist, at the Palladium Theater on April 23 at 7:30 p.m. The May concert will be the last event of the 2001-2002 season, so we hope that you will plan to attend and bring a friend.

"RUSSIAN HERITAGE ENSEMBLE"

*Vladimir Khokhlov and Olga Glick,
Piano
Natasha Bazhanov, Violin, and Fred Gratta,
Cello*

Perform

BEETHOVEN Violin Sonata in D-major
CHOPIN Piano Sonata in B flat-minor
BRAHMS Trio for Piano, Violin and
Cello

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 3 P.M.

At the Music Center of
St. Petersburg Junior College Gibbs Campus
6605 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg

Admission \$10
Free for students
For more information please call (727) 576-
7787

A tale of two St. Petersburgs



St. Petersburg, Florida

Location

West Central Florida

Area

58 square miles

Founded

1903

City seal

Pelican, palm tree and sun

Population

248,232

Florida's fourth-largest city

Tourist attractions

The Salvador Dali Museum

The winter weather

Most likely natural disaster

Hurricanes

Average temperatures

July: 83 degrees

January: 61 degrees

What's gone by mid April

Spring training

Named by

railroad builder Piotr Dementyev
(Peter Demens)

Nickname

Sunshine City

Fact from history

Ponce de Leon arrived in 1521,
looking for a fountain of youth.

St. Petersburg, Russia

Location

Northwestern Russia

Area

540 square miles

Founded

1703

City seal

Anchors and scepter on red

Population

4,660,600

Russia's second-largest city

Tourist attractions

The Cabinet of Curiosities

The Winter Palace

Most likely natural disaster

Floods

Average temperatures

July: 63 degrees

January: 14 degrees

What's gone by mid April

The ice on the Neva River

Named by

Czar Peter I

Nickname

Venice of the North

Fact from history

Immortalized by Tolstoy and
Dostoevsky.

Two Brainstorming Sessions Plan For 2003 Celebrations

Russian Heritage Meeting March 19th Focused on 2003

Many suggestions were put forward by members and friends of *Russian Heritage* for helping to celebrate the joint anniversaries of the two St. Petersburgs in 2003. Concrete proposals centered on the Old Russian New Year's Party scheduled for January 12, 2003; A concert featuring local Russian artists and The Tampa Bay Symphony in February; a symposium jointly sponsored with USF and Eckerd College in March; a program of exchanges of delegations of various groups between the two cities; possible cooperation with the St. Petersburg Museum of History on an exhibit on the two cities; and other initiatives that would highlight the history and the culture of the two cities.

Virginia Rowell represented the city at the meeting, and explained some of the past contacts between the two cities. She told of the city's efforts in the past and at present to develop meaningful interaction with the Russian St. Petersburg.

Those in attendance were asked about their interest in going to Russia during 2003, and/or hosting Russian visitors coming here. There was significant interest in both programs. About half of those interested in going to Russia felt they would like to be there in May for the "big" celebration. Others thought a trip later in the summer would be more feasible and more desirable.

Mayor Baker Hosts Planning in City Council Chamber

On April 3 a meeting took place at city hall hall of persons interested in the centennial of St. Petersburg, Florida and the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg, Russia. The logo for the joint celebration was displayed, and many individuals and organizations shared their visions of what might be possible.

Representatives of many city agencies, local museums and cultural organizations, and area businesses were represented. There are many projects being proposed, some focusing on our own city's history (for example, Sunken Gardens is also celebrating its 100th year), or on the 100th anniversary of Wright Brothers flight in 1903. But most ideas seemed to be related to the idea of doing something with a Russian connection.

Dr. Carl Kutler, president of St. Petersburg College has been appointed chair of the city's committee to coordinate the joint celebration. *Russian Heritage* was represented at this meeting and will work with the Carl Kutler's committee to help further our common cause.

There are two web-sites that will be of interest to persons wanting to learn more about the 2003 events. For the planning of the events in Russia, visit the site at www.300.spb.ru. This site is available in English and Russian, and will tell you how many days are left until the celebration. For the St. Petersburg centennial, go to: www.stpete.org/centennial.htm

Annual Meeting for *Russian Heritage* on May 14, 2002

The annual meeting for *Russian Heritage* is held each May and is the time for annual reports and the election of officers for the coming year. This year's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the All State Campus of St Petersburg College (3200 34th Street South) in Room 110.

The Executive Board, serving as the nominating committee, has proposed the following slate of candidates for the year 2002-2003. According to our by-laws, the terms are all for one year.

Chair of the Executive Board	Tatiana Vondersaar
President	Bill Parsons
Vice President	France Frankian
Secretary	Olga Fincher
Treasurer	Bill Grant

Members of the Board:	Zina Downen
	Vladimir Khokhlov
	Elena and Sergei Novikov
	Bernie Orlando
	Victor Peppard
	Andrei and Elena Ustinov
	Nadia Yevstigneyeva

Nominations from the floor will be considered.

Program for Annual Meeting The Two St. Petersburgs: Similarities and Differences

Professor Bill Parsons will make a short presentation followed by a discussion of the similarities and differences between the two cities sharing this same name. Look at the chart on page four as a beginning point for comparison.

RUSSIAN HERITAGE DUES FOR 2003

At the April meeting of the Executive Board, it was decided that the dues for *Russian Heritage* would be changed from the program year to the calendar year. Therefore, all members who have paid for this year will be paid up until December 2002, and the dues for 2003 will be collected in November and December 2002.

It was also decided that there would be a slight increase for family memberships (from \$15 to \$20) and for individual memberships (from \$10 to \$15). The memberships for sponsors (\$50 or more) and students (\$5) would remain the same.

The Executive Board also decided that members would be given special discount prices on some of our activities, such as concerts and the Old Russian New Year's Party in January 2003.

Anyone who joins *Russian Heritage* now, or who renews at the rates listed in this newsletter, will be paid up through December 2003.

Check Out the New WEB-Page for *Russian Heritage*

We have decided to develop a WEB-page for *Russian Heritage* as part of the general site for Russian-Yellow Pages. They have given us a start with some photos and copy on our Old Russian New Year. We can work to keep the site up to date and feature our upcoming events. Our site will be:

www.russian-yellowpages.com/Florida/RussianHeritage

Once we have the site up and running, people all around the world will be able to see what we are doing, and what we represent. Check out the site, and pass it on to friends who might be interested. If you have ideas to share, pass them on to any member of the Board of Directors.



САНКТ ПЕТЕРБУРГ