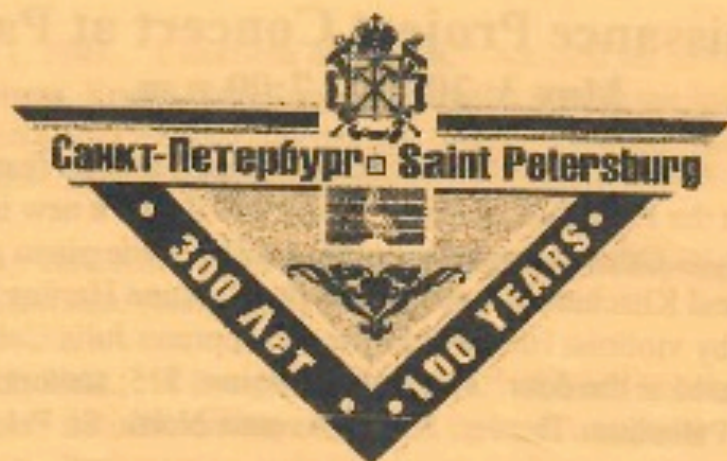


# RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume VII, Issue 7.

April - May 2003



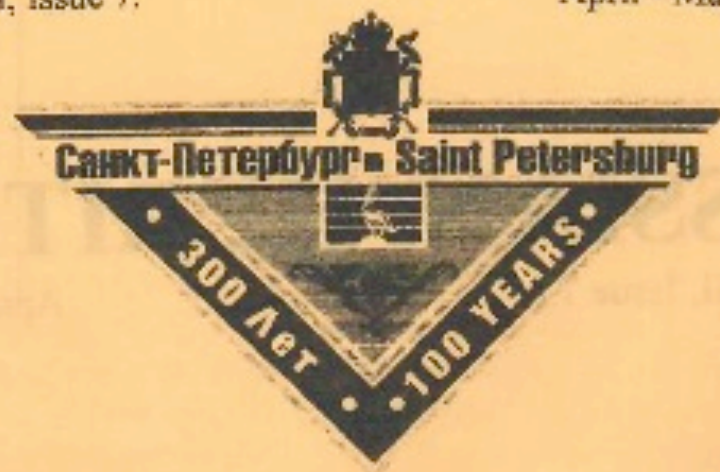
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## **Renaissance Project Concert at Palladium May 3, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.**

Dancers Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson will be featured at a performance at the Palladium Theater. They will dance a new interpretation dance: "Infinity". Other classical selections will include piano pieces by Tchaikovsky and Khachaturian performed by Christina Hartley, and performances by violinist Halina Bobrow and soprano Julia Colmas. Tickets may be purchased at the door. General admission: \$15; seniors: \$12; and children: \$8. Palladium Theater, 253 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, St. Petersburg. 727-822-3590.

## **Annual Business Meeting and Elections Sunday, May 18 at Ming Garden 2901 - 66<sup>th</sup> Street North, St. Petersburg**

Chinese Buffet Dinner at 5:30 \*

Business Meeting at 6:30

\*RSVP  
(727) 867-9148

Reports  
Elections  
Plans for the Future

Musical Program at 7:30

## **Student Ambassadors Selected in St. Petersburg Russia for Trip to Florida**

A major competition among Russian secondary school students who are studying English was held in St. Petersburg, Russia on Sunday, April 13. The students were judged on knowledge of English and ability to speak English in a variety of settings. The two winners of this competition were awarded the prize of a trip to St. Petersburg, Florida. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, this contest was largely sponsored by *Russian Heritage*. The two winners will be visiting our St. Petersburg at the end of August and the beginning of September. If you would like to hear more about this project, or if you have ideas about how these ambassadors can interact with our local students and schools, come to our annual meeting on May 18 for further discussion.

## **Carl Kuttler Meets with Putin, Chirac, and Schroeder in St. Petersburg**

While the competition for the trip to Florida was taking place, at the University of St. Petersburg a symposium on international law was being held, attended by Russian President Putin, German Chancellor Schroeder, French President Chirac, and *Russian Heritage* member Carl Kuttler. The symposium was attended by about 25 legal experts and academics from Europe, with Carl Kuttler, President of St. Petersburg College, and Sandy D'Alemberte, former President of FSU and former president of the American Bar Association, representing the United States.

## **Official City Delegation to Russia**

On May 2, a 43-person official City Delegation is leaving St. Petersburg, Florida for a nine-day trip to St. Petersburg and Moscow. Mayor Rick Baker and President Carl Kuttler are leading this group, which will include members of City Council and other dignitaries. They are part of the official "300/100 Celebration", and will be meeting with their counterparts in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Two other delegations will be going to Russia in July, one from St. Petersburg College, and one from Eckerd College, as part of the celebration.

## APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH . . .

**RUSSIAN HERITAGE** joined together with the St. Petersburg Friends of the Library to sponsor a poetry contest on the theme of friendship and connections between the peoples of the two St. Petersburgs. Local poet Peter Meinke judged the more than 60 entries and announced the three top poems. These poems were read at the St. Petersburg Public Library on April 15, and are reprinted in this poetry insert.

The two poems written by Peter Meinke for the 300/100 celebration are also included here, both in English, and translated into Russian by the St. Petersburg poet Ilya Foniakov. The section listed below is his introduction to the two poems which appeared in the Russian newspaper *Sankt-Peterburgskie Vedomosti*. This article also included an analysis of our January 2003 newsletter (буклет).



### Илья ФОНЯКОВ

В заоквавском Санкт-Петербурге, расположенном в штате Флорида, тоже готовятся к юбилейной дате.

«Санкт-Петербург», «Москва», «Россия», «хорошо», «царь Николай», «Горбачев», «Америка», «Флорида», «президент Буш», «президент Путин», «мэр Байкер», «губернатор Яковлев» плюс почему-то «ёж» и «ежик» — именно с таких понятий должен начинаться первый русский словарь американца, по мнению автора буклета, присланного из Соединенных Штатов. Не менее содержателен и трогателен английский минимум для россиянина. Особенно хороша фраза: «Kiss me, I speak Russian» — «Поцелуй меня, я говорю по-русски!»

Однако буклет, присланный автором и вдохновителем многолетней программы «Русское наследие» Биллом Парсонсом, содержит и другую полезную информацию: о серьезных курсах русского языка, о концертах русской музыки, о русских праздниках. Вместе с 300-летием нашего города жители Санкт-Петербурга во Флориде отмечают и свой юбилей: столетие обретения городского статуса. По этому случаю один из ведущих поэтов Флориды Питер Майнке написал два стихотворения. Одно из них он посвятил родному городу, чьим символом является птица пеликан, другое — нашему общему празднику. И просил перевести их на русский язык, что я с удовольствием и сделал.

### Maples and Orange Trees

Our warm beaches and our orange trees aren't the same  
as Russian lakes or ancient maples shaking in the winds  
that chill your city. In truth, we've only had our names  
in common, and now these birthdays, too neatly pinned  
and labeled, like sororal twins born centuries apart.

And yet, it seems right to celebrate together—  
Pushkin, who loved parties, would approve: Let's start  
a grand tradition, with vodka and mimosas, whether  
it's logical or not. Cities are built by dreams  
and the broken hands of men and women, by blood and tragic  
history, serfs and Seminoles, stoic hope that redeems  
despair, transforming swamp and rubble into pulsing magic:

For what are our two cities now, if not sweet sites unfurled  
like sanguine banners signing for a better world?

### 100 Years of Multitude

From the beginning life has bubbled here:  
Turkeys, panthers, wildcats, geese and cranes  
crowded the alligators and the herds of deer  
till civilization came, with guns and trains.  
And now we crowd ourselves, for good and ill.

St. Petersburg has always had so much,  
stretched below oak and palm and the perpetual  
sun, our friend and torturer. Everything we touch  
bears fruit between the teeming tides of Tampa Bay  
and the Gulf of Mexico: O brave new world, every day.

Here is a dream come true for most of us. Not all.  
We're a work in progress . . . And—we progress.  
Enough to say today to our home town, "Old girl,  
old pelican: *Happy Birthday. God bless.*"

## АПЕЛЬСИНЫ И КЛЁНЫ

Питер Майнко

Здесь – апельсины, пальмы, пляж и тёплая волна,  
там – север, клёнов желтизна и долгий плен зимы,  
но есть и общее у нас: хотя бы – имена  
и день рожденья. Близнецы! Хоть втрое младше мы.

Великий Пушкын ваш любил с друзьями пировать,  
давайте ж учредим и мы традицию свою  
и друг о друге никогда не будем забывать  
за доброй чаркой – вы в своём, а мы – в своём краю.

Не зря ведь, чудо возводя средь гибельных болот:  
там – побеждая холода, а здесь – жестокий зной,  
за чью-то властную мечту роняли кровь и пот  
индеец здешний – семинол – и русский крепостной.

Как символ – наши города! Шумя, наш братский пир:  
За вас! За нас! За оптимизм! За новый, лучший мир!

Перевёл Илья Фоняков

## МЫ ЗДЕСЬ ЖИВЁМ УЖЕ СТО ЛЕТ

Питер Майнко

Здесь хлопотала жизнь ещё до нас:  
олени, ягуары, пеликаны  
и аллигаторы. Но пробил час –  
затрепетали пальмы-великаны,  
пришла цивилизация сюда:  
её машины, ружья, поезда.

Теперь здесь мы толпимся в свой черёд  
над синью Мексиканского залива  
и бухты Тампа. Зреет сладкий плод –  
тропическое, солнечное диво  
над головами. И растёт вокруг  
Санкт-Петербург – мучитель наш и друг.

Здесь явью воплощается мечта.  
Пусть не любому это удаётся,  
наш путь – вперёд! Мы верим неспроста  
в грядущее. А нынче остаётся  
поднять за день Столетия стакан:  
цветы, наш город, Старый Пеликан!

Перевёл Илья Фоняков

CONVERSATION ON DEMENS LANDING \*

by Ed Durbin

Boris sat on Demens Landing  
Years coming to his understanding  
While the wavelets swished away  
The sounds of skiing infantry.

Dmitri, his old friend, had asked him  
With the seagulls whirling past him  
*"How often do you dream these dreams  
Of Nazis dancing through sunbeams?  
Since when does the Neva River flow  
Into the Gulf of Mexico?  
Forget these things, comrade, and toast:  
We've come to settle Florida's coast."*

"Dmitri, here where oranges rot  
We speak Russian, our sons do not.  
Tschaikovsky sounds so forlorn here—  
Can his Russian soul be borne here?"

*"Boris, you'll hear and see the same,  
Free to name things by your name;  
Now Petrograd must come this far  
Still beneath the self-same star.  
This city has the sun as Czar:  
Free Russia is where Russians are!"*

*"Old Russia had a hold on time  
But spring alone was colored lime.  
Bird, cathedral or wind chime--  
Either city sounds sublime,  
Either city's gold and white  
All sun-filled architecture's bright  
Starry creatures both at night:  
St. Pete's St. Petersburg somehow  
And I miss Russia less here now."*

\*First Prize

**DEADLY FAMOUS\***

*On meeting a well-known Russian  
poet At Ten Beach Drive  
by April Brown*

The piano player was  
on break. We  
took the back booth,  
slid toward each other,  
lost ourselves in  
fake leather, poor  
lighting . . . I smelled  
Russia  
on your prime  
silk shirt, brushed hard  
against your  
briefcase - -  
never asked what was  
new, or lost, or  
burning . . .

The prawns curled left.

You commandeered the  
bar, stirred up your  
vodka-based "Bliss,"  
(contagious), then  
spread it . . . We were all

Russian,  
we were  
all  
deadly famous  
that night.

\*Second Prize



## MY TWO ST. PETERSBURGS\*

by Philippe Novikov

I am waiting, anticipating.

I am longing to go to the other St. Petersburg,  
visiting a new place  
which I never have seen before,  
and looking at new faces  
all over the city,  
seeing on the run  
onion domes and bridges,  
the Hermitage and all the museums.  
Another Saint Petersburg -  
Not Florida, but Russia.

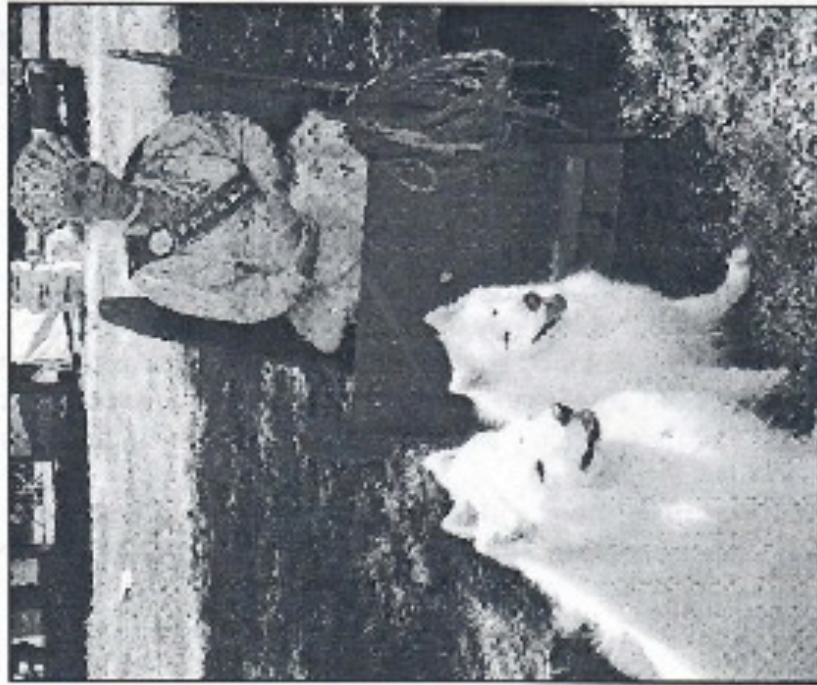
Saint Petersburg and Saint Petersburg.  
What do they have in common?  
I hear the people there are solemn.  
Saint Petersburg, Russia has subways everywhere.  
Catch a ride – and you'll be there.  
St. Petersburg, Florida? No subways at all,  
just the restaurants in the Mall.

*Moosika* and music.  
I listen to it a lot.  
Not rap, but Peter Tchaikovsky.  
His "Sleeping Beauty" is so hot!

The three Peters  
are so important to me.  
Peter Tchaikovsky made music for the heart.  
Peter the Great created a city of art.  
Peter Demens built a city, which stands apart.

And the two St. Petersburgs?  
They are both so fine.  
And what is truly special –  
They are both mine.

\*Third Prize



**Tania Vondersaar at the  
Festival of States Parade**



**Russian Heritage Booth at SPIFFS Folk Fair**

**Left to right: Kira Slabbers, France Frankian, Vera  
Espinola Beery, Mayor Rick Baker, Tania Vondersaar,  
and Vladimir Malkin; seated Helen Vogel**

## **Seven Samoyed Dogs Pull Tania Vondersaar's Sleigh in Festival of States Parade on April 12, 2003**

THE SAMOYED FANCIERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA ENTRY CELEBRATES THE 100/300 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA AND ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA. IT IS A SLED PULLED BY SEVEN SPARKLING WHITE SAMOYED DOGS. RIDING THE SLED, IS TATIANA VONDERSAAR OF THE RUSSIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY AND S.P.I.F.F.S. WEARING A COPY OF A 200 YEAR OLD RUSSIAN WEDDING GOWN AND KAKOSNICK HEADRESS.

THE SAMOYED DOG ORIGINATED 5,000 YEARS AGO ON THE ARCTIC RUSSIAN TUNDRA. THEY WERE USED TO PULL SLEDS AND TO HERD REINDEER. AT NIGHT, THEY SLEPT WITH THEIR HUMAN FAMILIES TO KEEP THEM WARM. THEIR FUR WAS SPUN INTO YARN TO MAKE VALUED ANGORA-LIKE GARMENTS.

IN 1902, IN ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, THE GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS PRESENTED A SAMOYED, MOUSTAN, TO THE BELGIAN PRINCESS DE MERCY ARGENTEAU. IN 1906, MOUSTAN BECAME THE FIRST REGISTERED SAMOYED IN AMERICA. IN 1925, THE PRINCESS DIED IN TAMPA. IN 1926, A MUSEUM DISPLAYING HER POSSESSIONS - THEN WORTH \$1.5 MILLION - WAS OPENED ON THE PINK STREETS OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA - SOLIDIFYING THE ST. PETERSBURG - ST. PETE CONNECTION.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, April 20, 2003. Easter for Western Christians**

**Saturday, April 27, 2003. Russian Easter**

**Saturday, May 3, 2003. 7:00 p.m. Renaissance Project at the Palladium.** Dancers Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson will perform "Infinity"; other classical selections by pianist Christina Hartley, violinist Halina Bobrow, and soprano Julia Colmas. Tickets \$15; seniors, \$12; children, \$8.

**May 10 & 11, 2003. "Elizabeth of Russia."** Musical set in St. Petersburg, Russia, based on one dramatic year in the life of Empress Elizabeth, the daughter of Peter the Great. Palladium Theater. Call 727-822-3590 for more information.

**Sunday, May 18, 2003. Dinner, *Russian Heritage Business Meeting,* and Elections.** (see page 2)

**May 24 & 25, 2003. "A Song of Two Cities."** A multi-media, multi-ensemble festival cantata, composed by local composer A. Paul Johnson. Performance includes choirs, orchestra, organ, soloists, poetry, slide show, and dancers. Palladium Theater. Call 822-3590.

**June 1, 2003. "Happy Anniversary, St. Petersburg!"** Program focusing on Russian music, folklore, and dances. Largo Cultural Center. 105 Central Park Drive. 2 p.m. \$9.50. Call 727-587-6793.

**June 7, 2003 "St. Petersburg's Birthday Party at the Pier!** Free birthday cake and music at the Pier. 1 to 4 p.m.

**June 8, 2003. "St. Petersburg Russian String Quartet.** Marly Room of the Museum of Fine Arts. 255 Beach Dr. N.E.