



RUSSIAN HERITAGE
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At the Palladium Theatre
 Saturday, May 8, 2004

The annual meeting will include annual reports and elections of officers. The program for the concert will feature ballet performances by Anna Litvinov and Elena Kostinova and classical musical selections by members of the Renaissance Project. Tickets will follow in the May newsletter. The concert costs \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$10 for youth. Advance tickets are available for \$10. You can save the price for an advance, or \$15 at the door. The price for the supper is \$10. You can save the price for the supper and the concert to the \$15. You can save the price for the supper and the concert to the \$15. You can save the price for the supper and the concert to the \$15.

Concert: 7:00 pm
 Supper Meeting: 6:00 pm
 Light Supper: 5:00 pm
 Reception: 4:45 pm

Best Russian Anecdotes and Proverbs Contest

We want to hear from you with your best Russian anecdotes. Please send us your anecdotes in Russian or English, but they can be in either language. First prize is a month of paid entry to SPIFFS. Your choice. We also will award \$20 for the best Russian proverb with a few sentences explaining why they are important to Russians. The contest will close on April 15.

In the April Newsletter

- Russian Heritage* Picnic: April 18 p. 1
- Last chance to see the "Russian Odyssey" Exhibit? p. 1
- Visit of Russian Ambassador Musicians p. 2
- Russian Heritage at SPIFFS p. 2
- Violetta's Page p. 3
- Grand Finale May Event: p. 5
- Annual Meeting and Dance Concert: May 8
- Last chance for Russian anecdotes and proverbs contest p. 5



RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume VIII, Issue 6.

April 2004

Russian Heritage Picnic: Sunday April 18 5:00 to 9:00 at Bill Grant's House

March was a busy month for *Russian Heritage* with the visit of the Russian student-ambassador musicians and our participation in SPIFFS Folk Festival (see articles on page 2 & 3). In April our major event will be a Russian picnic at Bill Grant's house on Sunday, April 18, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Plates, napkins, and cutlery will be supplied, but it will be up to the members and friends of *Russian Heritage* to bring something to share with others to go on those plates. Bottled water will also be available, but if you want something stronger, feel free to bring your own bottle with a tag to identify it for you (and others).

A badminton court will be available, and bring your bathing suits if you want to swim. Children of all ages are welcome. For those nostalgic about the Russian *banya*, Bill's sauna will be fired up to be ready by 8:00 p.m. Be ready for Russian singing, and other adventures.

The Grant home is in Brandendon (7330 Westmoreland Drive), about 20 minutes south of the Sunshine Skyway bridge, depending on traffic. After the bridge, turn right on US 19. About a mile after crossing the Manatee River, go in the left lane and enter the ramp for US 301 south. After about 4 miles, turn right on Whitfield. Go straight on Whitfield until it runs into Pearl. Go straight ahead on Pearl, crossing US 41, until you reach the water. Turn right on Westmoreland. The Grant house is the third on the left.

Please RSVP if you are planning to come by calling (941) 351-1596, or (727) 867-9148. Leave a message of who is coming, and what you are likely to bring. We hope to see you on April 18.

"Russian Odyssey"

The outstanding exhibit of Russian art and culture at the Florida International Museum is scheduled to end April 4. There are just a few days left for you and your friends to see this collection of treasures from the Russian Museum, unless the exhibit is extended.

At the January meeting of the *RH* Board of Directors, there was discussion about the exhibit, and it was felt that there were still many who were not aware of this fine exhibit. President Bill Parsons agreed to write a letter to the Times, which appeared on March 21.

Re: In museum face-off, sculptor tops sports, March 6.

We are lucky to have the Chihuly glass exhibit in St. Petersburg at the Museum of Fine Arts. We are also fortunate to have an amazing exhibit of Russian art at the Florida International Museum. I think we should celebrate and promote all our outstanding opportunities rather than to see them as competing against each other.

In a recent meeting of Russian Heritage (a local organization that promotes Russian culture in the Tampa Bay area), we bemoaned the fact that so many people in the area were unaware of the "Russian Odyssey" exhibit at the Florida International Museum. The artifacts from St. Petersburg, Russia, represent the best Russian artists, and they are examples of the most characteristic art trends in the past 800 years of Russian culture.

"Russian Odyssey" is open through April 4. The large collection of religious art, including Russian icons, is especially meaningful in this period of Lent. Church groups, schools and other organizations can get discounted tickets by calling (727) 822-3693 and asking for group sales. This is a great opportunity to observe many aspects of Russian life and culture. A visit to the Cuban Missile Crisis Exhibit in the same museum would be an added bonus.

Bill Parsons, professor, Eckerd College, and president,
Russian Heritage, St. Petersburg

Outstanding Musicians from St. Petersburg, Russia

Kristina Miller and **Ekaterina Frolova** from the Special Music School connected with the St. Petersburg Conservatory were hosted by *Russian Heritage* during the first two weeks in March. They won the hearts of all who heard them perform (see Violetta's review on page 3). They had two major concerts in Largo on March 7 and at Eckerd College on March 13. They also appeared at St. Petersburg College and Eckerd College for music students, and they visited the Program for Performing Arts at Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg and the Music Magnet Program at Blake School in Tampa, where they performed and interacted with high school music students. Their final encounter with young musicians in the area was a performance and question and answer session with the members of the Pinellas Youth Orchestra. They were accompanied by the Associate Director of the School and piano instructor, Natalia Ushakova.

In addition to their many performances and interactions with students, Kristina and Ekaterina had a chance to visit Disney World, Bush Gardens, the Dali Museum, the Gulf Beaches, and they visited the St. Petersburg City Council and had a meeting with Mayor Baker.

The most frequent question the girls received was: "How many hours a day do you practice?" Ekaterina usually responded: "Whatever it takes?" When pressed, both indicated that they would often practice 6 or 7 hours a day, if their school schedule permitted. The results of this hard work and discipline were clearly evident in their virtuoso performances, including violin works by Bizet-Waxman, Ysaye, Bazzini, and others, and piano pieces by composers such as Chopin, Liszt, and Rachmaninov.

Russian Heritage thanks Ekaterina, Kristina, and Natalia for this wonderful experience, and we give special thanks to Zina and John Downen who acted as the gracious hosts, and to Vladimir Khokhlov who helped to arrange many of the activities, and to all who contributed to the *Russian Heritage* Scholarship Fund, especially John and Rosemary Galbraith.

Russian Heritage at SPIFFS

Russian culture was well represented at SPIFFS (St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society) 29th Annual Folk Fair at the Pinellas Expo Center in Pinellas Park, March 17-21. The theme was legends and folk lore, and we presented Pushkin's "Introduction to *Ruslan and Ludmila*" with the mighty oak and the wise old cat telling his stories. Visitors could put their heads into images of the mermaid (rusalka) and Baba Yaga (the wicked witch) prepared by our SPIFFS representative Zina Downen. We also featured fables by Krylov, in particular "The Quartet" and "The Swan, the Crab, and the Pike." Of particular interest was our Russian game (see p. 4). You can try it yourself, but you will not have the benefit of the pictures.

Our special thanks to the many volunteers who helped set up and work in our booth: Luda Apanasenko, Luba Aubut, Tania and Leonid Beck, John and Zina Downen, Bill Grant, Vasily Golouber, Zhenia Levina, Marco Munos, Peggy Newton, Bill Parsons, Victor and Vika Peppard, Richard Rappaport, Mike and Livy Rhodes, Cindy Scaglione, Nadia and Violetta Yevstigneyeva, Eckerd College students Sofia Bilokryla, Yova Borovska, Christina Nescio, Emma Pinault, and Dy Tran, and Vladimir, Galina, and Vadim Malkin of "Vladimir's Collection." Also, thanks to the Pomerantzeff dancers!

Violetta Yevstigneyeva, a student at Palm Harbor High School, is volunteering to work with *Russian Heritage* for a school project. She spent time with our visiting musicians and at our SPIFFS booth, and is now writing about her impressions.

Violetta's Page - СТРАНИЧКА ВИОЛЕТТЫ

About the Visit of Russian Teen Musicians to Florida О визите русских тинэйджеров-музыкантов во Флориду

On March 7 I really enjoyed the concert of two Russian musician-teenagers in Largo. The very talented girls from my own town city performed several master pieces of very famous European and Russian composers such as Chopin, Bizet-Waxman, and Rakhmaninov. It was a concert of one breath in a completely silent atmosphere and with a very unique feeling of unity of the listeners. After the last piece the audience stood up and started applauding until the musicians performed a very special piece by Gershwin, which was especially prepared for their trip to Florida. What a wonderful performance!

Я получила удовольствие от посещения концерта 7 марта в Ларго. Удивительно талантливые девушки из моего родного города Санкт-Петербурга исполнили произведения известных европейских и русских музыкантов – Шопена, Бизе-Ваксман, Рахманинова. Это был концерт на одном дыхании, в полной тишине, и при каком-то захватывающем дух чувстве единения всего зала. После исполнения последнего произведения гости громко аплодировали стоя до тех пор пока музыканты не исполнили на бис специально подготовленное к этой поездке произведение Гершвина – это было просто потрясающе!

I was really impressed with girls' skills and talents. Right after the concert I had a chance to meet future stars – 18-years old pianist Kristina and 19-years old violinist Katya. They are very modest, nice, and surprisingly kind and funny girls, but the most important they are very hardworking and goal oriented. They both are graduating this year from the special music school connected the famous St. Petersburg Conservatory. After their graduation both Kristina and Katya are planning to continue their study at the Conservatory. They will have to complete 5 years plus two more years in graduate school

Я была потрясена мастерству и виртуозности исполнения. После концерта я познакомилась с будущими звездами – 18-летней Кристиной-пианисткой и 19-летней Катей-скрипачкой. Простые, милые, удивительно доброжелательные девушки, а главное целеустремленные и трудолюбивые. Они обе заканчивают в этом году музыкальную школу при Санкт-Петербургской Консерватории и поступают по конкурсу в Консерваторию где им предстоит учиться еще 5 лет плюс два года в ординатуре при желании.

I also had an opportunity to meet girls in a very informal situation and learn about how happy and grateful they were for our Russian Heritage organization giving them a wonderful chance to visit USA. Since the girls did not speak very much English, they asked me personally to thank you for organizing this trip with their concerts and the chance to enjoy the beauty of our nature and people.

Я также встретилась и ближе познакомилась с девушками в неформальной обстановке – они оказались настолько счастливыми и благодарными Русскому Наследию за этот предоставленный им шанс приехать в Америку и увидеть красоту нашей природы и народа.

About the SPIFFS Folk Fair in Pinellas Park
О СПИФФС международном фестивале в Пинеллас Парке

The interest in our Russian booth was incredible – it was much more than I had expected. All kids were very intrigued by our game-quiz with Russian and American fairy tales, where they had to figure out the English titles for the Russian. Almost 1,000 participants tried the game! A lot of adults were involved as well. Our prize, a sheet with the Russian Alphabet (and a piece of candy), was received with a high interest and questions about pronunciation and differences between two alphabets. I like the idea of this game. It was a surprise for me that the most difficult translation was Cinderella and Hobbit. But most important was the fact that our exhibit was colorful, beautiful, and above all interesting.

Интерес который проявили американцы к русскому павильону превзошел мои ожидания. Всем школьникам было интересно поучаствовать в конкурсе-угадайке на знание сказок – почти 1000 поучаствовали в игре-перевод названия известных сказок. Интересно что и взрослые были вовлечены и заинтригованы. При получении приза - русского алфавита (и конфеты) многие спрашивали о правильном произношении букв. Мне понравилась идея этой игры. Как ни удивительно наиболее сложными оказались сказки *Золушка* и *Хоббит*. Да, самое важное то, что наш павильон был очень ярким, красивым, а главное интересным.

Violetta Виолетта


Write what you think the English is for each of the following terms. If you get at least 9 correct, you will receive a prize!

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. МИККИ МАУС | 1. _____ |
| 2. ХОББИТ | 2. _____ |
| 3. ТРИ ПОРОСЕНКА | 3. _____ |
| 4. КРАСНАЯ ШАПОЧКА | 4. _____ |
| 5. ОСТОРОЖНО МЕДВЕДИ | 5. _____ |
| 6. ТРИ МЕДВЕДЯ | 6. _____ |
| 7. КОРОЛЬ ЛЕВ – СИМБА | 7. _____ |
| 8. АВРААМ ЛИНКОЛЬН | 8. _____ |
| 9. ГАРРИ ПОТТЕР | 9. _____ |
| 10. ЗОЛУШКА | 10. _____ |



The stamp with the *Russian Heritage* image is the stamp that more than 1400 people received in their visas at the SPIFFS Folk Fair. It also appeared on our game.

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Tel: 727-326-1182



Final *Russian Heritage* Event of the Spring: Annual Meeting – Light Supper – Dance Concert

At the Palladium Theater
Saturday, May 8, 2004

The annual meeting will include annual reports and elections of officers. The program for the concert will feature ballet performances by Andre Ustinov and Elena Martinson and classical musical selections by members of the Renaissance Project. Details will follow in the May newsletter. The concert costs \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$10 for youth. *Russian Heritage* members can purchase tickets for \$10 if they are paid for in advance, or \$12 at the door. The price for the supper is \$10. You can send checks for supper and the concert to the *RH* PO Box, or pay at the door. Note that the date of the annual meeting in May has changed from what was announced earlier.

Reception:	4:45 pm
Light Supper:	5:00 pm
Business Meeting:	6:00 pm
Concert:	7:00 pm

* * * * *

Best Russian Anecdotes and Proverbs Contest

We want to hear from you with your best Russian anecdotes (Soviet era or contemporary). Submit three, if possible in Russian and English, but they can be in either language. First prize is 6 months of hard labor or \$50. Your choice.

We also will award \$50 for the three best Russian proverbs, with a few sentences of explanation of why they are important to Russians, *and* to you personally.

The deadline announced in the last newsletter has been extended to April 18. Send in your entries, or bring them to the *Russian Heritage* picnic on April 18. Prizes will be awarded at the May annual meeting.

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Because of space limitations, the winning essays in the Student Ambassador Program written by our next two Ambassadors from St. Petersburg, Russia will be printed in the May newsletter.

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