

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

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August-September 2004

Student Ambassadors Coming to Florida in September

Natalia Krupitskaya and Maria Kiselyova are the two Russian high school students who won the competition as the best students of English in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2004. Their prize is a trip to St. Petersburg, Florida where they will visit schools and interact with their counterparts here.

This year, the second such competition, more than 300 students participated from 70 high schools. They competed in written tests, oral interviews, and they wrote outstanding essays in English about themselves and their interests. The essays by our two winners were published in the May issue of the newsletter.

The housing arrangements for the two girls have been worked out. There may be opportunities for you to get to know them better by hosting them for a meal, or driving them to a school visit, or taking them to a museum or other outing. The plans call for them to be mostly in the south Pinellas County during the week of September 12 and in the north part of county during the next week. Questions about the schedule should be directed to Nadia Yevstigneyeva (727) 733-1480, or to Bill Parsons (727) 867-9148.

Fall Meeting Set for Saturday, September 11, 2004

The first meeting of *Russian Heritage* this fall will be Saturday, September 11 beginning about 5:00 p.m. We plan to have a pot-luck supper about 5:30, so begin to think about what you would like to bring to share. Drinks, paper plates, and utensils will be provided.

A presentation by Natalia Krupitskaya and Maria Kiselyova, speaking about about their lives in St. Petersburg, Russia, will be the formal part of the program. This will give us an idea of what they will say when they visit schools here.

The more informal part of the day will be a sharing of plans about the upcoming year, and impressions of Russia by those who have traveled there recently. Five members of our board were in Russia this summer.

The meeting will be held in the Clubhouse of the Lakeview of Largo Condo. Go toward the beach on Ulmerton Blvd., continue on Walsingham toward the beach, & then turn right on 143rd Street. Go one block and you will see it on the right facing building 11945. France Frankian is our host. (727) 593-5814.

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We have updated our website, and we hope to keep it current with information about our activities. To see our officers and board members, and to check on upcoming activities, please visit our website at: www.russian-yellowpages.com/Florida/RussianHeritage.

More Anecdotes and Proverbs

We had good reactions to our anecdote and proverb competition. Several more were submitted, and we decided to publish them in this newsletter. We will need to decide whether we should include such entries on a regular basis in the newsletter, or whether we want to consider a second contest. What do you think?

ПОСЛОВИЦЫ - - PROVERBS

1. ЧЕМ БОГАТ, ТЕМ И РАД.

a. *Be happy with what you have.*

With what I am rich, with that I am happy.

(I am happy with what I have. I do not seek other riches.)

b. *What is ours is yours.*

With what I am rich, I am happy ... to share.

(What little I have, I am ready to share.)

Both interpretations are possible, but the generally accepted version is the second.

2. ТИШЕ ЕДЕШЬ, ДАЛЬШЕ БУДЕШЬ.

Slow but steady wins the race. Haste makes waste.

If you go cautiously you will go further.

(The less we hurry, the more likely we are to achieve our aim.)

АНЕКДОТ - - ANECDOTE

В ресторан заходит мужчина и садится за столик. Подходит официант:

— Чего изволите?

— Принесите мне слегка подгоревшую картошку, пару тухлых яиц, недоваренную рыбу и чашечку холодного кофе.

Официант удивляется, но записывает все в блокнот и спрашивает:

— Это все?

— Да, и когда будете приносить блюда, пожалуйста, бросьте тарелки на стол и назовите меня вонючей скотиной и подлецом.

Официант еще больше удивляется и спрашивает:

— Нельзя ли узнать, чем вызвана такая необычная просьба?

— Ах, если бы вы знали, как я скучаю по своей бывшей жене!

A man came into a restaurant and sat down.

A waitress came up to him and asked:

-- What would you like?

-- Please bring me some slightly burned potatoes, two spoiled eggs, some undercooked fish, and a cup of cold coffee.

The waitress was surprised, but she wrote down the order and then asked:

-- Is that all?

-- Yes, but when you bring the food, please throw the plate down on the table and call me a stinking pig and a scoundrel.

The waitress was even more surprised and asked:

-- Do you mind if I ask why you are making such an unusual request?

-- Oh, if only you knew how much I miss my former wife!

Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson Relocate to Pennsylvania

Popular ballet dancers Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson, who have been on the Board of Directors of *Russian Heritage* for many years, and who have been featured performers in local ballet productions, have moved to Pennsylvania, on the outskirts of Philadelphia. Both dancers were trained at the prestigious Vaganova Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia, and performed with leading ballet companies there, including the Kirov Theater. They still have a special attachment to our St. Petersburg, and plan to maintain a connection with our city and with *Russian Heritage*. Their new address is:

Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson
211 Meadowlake Drive
Downington PA 19335

WHERE IS TVER?

(Tver rhymes with where, square, bear, and fair)

Tver is not a city well-known in America. At one time, when Moscow was emerging out from under the Mongol Yoke, Tver was one of its main rivals. Now Tver is located on the main roadway and railroad line from Moscow to St. Petersburg. Tver has 460,000 residents and is about a 2½-hour drive from Moscow's Sheremetevo Airport.

Tver should perhaps be best remembered in St. Petersburg, Florida as the native region of Peter Dementyev, who came to Florida, changed his name to Peter Demens, and brought the railroad to St. Petersburg, which he named in honor of the capital of Russia. *Russian Heritage* helped to sponsor a museum exhibit in Tver in 2000 that later went to St. Petersburg, Russia, and then to the small town of Vesegonsk near Demens' estates. Our 2003 exhibit on "The Two St. Petersburgs" was also on display in Tver for one week.

This summer *Russian Heritage* president Bill Parsons spent several days in Tver. He was interviewed by local media, and six articles appeared in local newspapers, three with his photograph! Questions asked were related to the two St. Petersburgs, *Russian Heritage* (which for some reason they translated as "the Russian Cultural Heritage Foundation), and Eckerd College.

There are people in Tver who are proposing interesting projects for the future. The Upper Volga Institute, a private college in Tver, is interested in student exchanges. The Rector of the institute is also involved in a tourist program to promote a "Russian Cultural Highway" from Moscow to St. Petersburg. M. S. Gorbachev is the Honorary Chair of the project.

Tver is also the location of the "All-Russian Film Festival for Amateur Video Productions." The organizers of this Film Festival have made a formal proposal to *Russian Heritage* to participate in the project in 2005, and help them move in the direction of an "International" Festival. The focus is on short cultural videos, many on themes of historical preservation and national and/or folk traditions. They have asked our Board of Directors to consider this proposal. If any members or friends of *Russian Heritage* have ideas, please share them with board members.

The Black Pearl of Russia

A Russian invasion of a positive nature has occurred in the United States this year. The American Kennel Club (AKC) has accepted the Black Russian Terrier as one of its breeds. We will undoubtedly see it next year at Westminster and at the Eukanuba International Classic here in Tampa on January 15 & 16, 2006.

Who is this invader? He is the youngest member of the AKC Working Group. He was developed in a Moscow suburb by Soviet scientists during the 1930's to fill the void left in the canine world as the result of the indiscriminate slaughter of purebred dogs during the Revolution and the subsequent effects of the ravages of war.

The Red Star Kennel was founded not to initiate a new breed but to find dogs to do the jobs required. The scientists began by doing a number of crosses to obtain a dog strong enough for heavy labor, interested in working for man, athletic and yet able to withstand the Russian winters. As the first President of the Black Russian Terrier Club of America (BRTCA), Elena Brailovsky is quoted as saying, "A Great Dane wouldn't last long in Siberia."

After World War II, some quality lines of German dogs became available - Giant Schnauzers and Rottweilers. Airedales, Newfoundlands and Great Danes were also cross bred. Native Russian stock like the Ovcharka were used. Initially, the Red Army created the first breed standard in 1958 which was revised several times before it was accepted in 1981 by the Soviet Ministry of Agriculture and in 1984 from the Federation Cynologique Internationale. Though initially used as a military dog, the Blackie was brought home from military tours by their soldier-masters to become trusted family guardians. At a time when residents were not permitted to own a gun, they could own a dog.

"A majestic head, powerful neck and shoulders, deep chest and impressive size and bone made the Blackie a peerless man-stopper on the Russian steppes..." states an AKC Gazette article. Dogs are between 26 and 30" at the shoulders - just under the size of a Great Dane. Their temperament is of utmost importance according to the AKC Standard: "The Black Russian Terrier is a calm, confident and courageous dog ...almost aloof...They are highly intelligent and extremely reliable."

I e-mailed Ms Brailovsky, the previously mentioned BRTCA president. Although she now lives in Biloxi, Mississippi, she was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, and titled her first dog there when she was thirteen. Later in Russia, she became a master trainer. She and her husband moved to the United States 10 years ago. About my teasing remark to her that, though I was eager to meet her Blackie, I tend to be partial to white dogs (Samoyeds), she wrote, "I do prefer black ones, especially considering the level of pollution in St. Petersburg, Russia, and lack of water due to low pressure in the pipes on our seventh floor." This comment was followed with the e-mail sign for a wink.

-Peggy Newton

Source: Boccone, Bud. *The Black Pearl*, AKC Gazette, 131:: 24-29, July 2004.

EXCITING PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR 2004-05

As we begin our ninth year, *Russian Heritage* builds on its past success in cultural and educational programs. The year 2003 had a focus on the joint celebrations of the anniversaries of the two St. Petersburgs. This past year we highlighted student ambassador exchange programs that grew out of the Two St. Petersburgs project, and this year we are continuing this program with the arrival of two exceptional high school students in September, just in time for our meeting on Saturday, September 11. (see p. 1)

The year 2005 will open with our traditional Old Russian New Year celebration at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club on January 15. A major focus for the spring of 2005 will be the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Watch for further details on this program, and if you, or members of your family, or friends or acquaintances have had experiences in these dramatic events, please send information to the "60th Anniversary Committee" at *Russian Heritage*, PO Box 14552, St. Petersburg, FL 33733, or call (727) 864-8235 and leave a message.

We hope that you will renew your membership for 2005, and share this information with friends who support our purpose, as stated in our Articles of Incorporation: "The purpose 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, film festivals, artistic venues, and educational programs." We are a non-profit organization that also raises funds to support educational and cultural projects. Information on annual dues and a new program for sponsorships is included below.

We hope to see you all at our September Meeting.

Sincerely, Bill Parsons, President

Membership Dues for 2005

On your newsletter label, the last year for which you have paid is written. We hope that you will plan to pay your dues for 2005 before the end of the year. If you pay the sponsorship dues of \$100*, we have an anonymous donor who will match your gift to the scholarship fund. The other dues remain the same as last year. We encourage you to write your email address clearly, which we hope to use more this year.

<p>Membership</p> <p>All who are interested in Russian culture are welcome to join Russian Heritage by simply paying the yearly dues. Members receive a monthly newsletter and discounts at certain events, such as the Old Russian New Year Celebration. Please mail this form with your dues to:</p>	<p>Russian Heritage P.O. Box 14552 St. Petersburg, Fl 33733</p>	<h3>Russian Heritage Membership Form</h3> <p>Categories for membership for 2005 are:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Student \$0</td> <td>Individual \$15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family \$20</td> <td>Sponsor \$100 or more</td> </tr> </table> <p>Please make checks payable to: Russian Heritage</p>	Student \$0	Individual \$15	Family \$20	Sponsor \$100 or more
	Student \$0	Individual \$15				
Family \$20	Sponsor \$100 or more					
		<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City/State/ZIP _____</p> <p>Telephone _____</p> <p>E-mail address _____</p>				