

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume XIV, Issue 3

DECEMBER 2009



С Рождеством

С Рождеством Христовым я Вас поздравляю!
Счастья и здоровья, блага всем желаю,
Святости, лукавства - в меру чтоб всего,
Радости, удачи. Плохого - ничего!

*Wishing you
joy and peace
this holiday season.*

Old Russian New Year Celebration Coming Soon

As you make your plans for the holiday season, don't forget to make your reservations for the Old Russian New Year's Gala on Saturday, January 16 at the Hilton Bayfront in downtown St. Petersburg. We are looking forward to a really special event with great food and fashion, dancing and decorations. Don't wait until the last minute! There will be an outstanding silent auction, and this year a part of the proceeds will go to a charity in Russia, and part will go into our scholarship fund. This is also a special event this year because John and Margo Catsimatidis are sponsoring the gala in memory of Tatiana Vondersaar, Margo's mother, who passed away earlier this year. If you cannot find your invitation, you can use the forms in the newsletter on page 5.

Additional information about the gala. Our emcee will be Dr. Carl M. Kuttler, Jr., President of St. Petersburg College (until the end of the year) and Honorary Consul of the Russian Federation (this role will continue). We will also have a brief program by Tamara Volskaya and Anatoly Trofimov on Russian folk instruments (see details of their concert on page 4.) And finally, our entrees will honor Leo Tolstoy, the great Russian novelist. This year is the 100 anniversary of his death in 1910. He himself was a vegetarian, and there will be a vegetarian choice for those not choosing the entrees associated with Anna Karenina and Andrei Bolkonsky!

Russian Heritage Talent Show in October

On Sunday, October 18 a talent show was attended by 35 members and friends of Russian Heritage. Everyone enjoyed a musical afternoon hosted by the Victor and Victoria Peppard at their clubhouse overlooking sparkling waters of St. Pete Beach. Emcee Victor Peppard presented singers Mary Stenov, Irina Karpilenko of Ukraine and Elena Drujinina (Victoria Peppard's mother), with piano accompaniment by Vladimir Khokhlov; poetry readings by Aglaya Gorman and Bill Parsons; a piano duet by Vladimir Khokhlov and Bill Parsons (Two Guitars); and a Schubert solo by Vladimir Khokhlov. Several USF students also participated in leading group singing of Russian songs. Guests were then treated to a homemade supper and dessert buffet, which also showed a great deal of talent sharing. We appreciate very much the hospitality of the Peppards in making this special gathering possible, and the sharing of many talents by our members and friends.

Russian Heritage Well Represented at SPIFFS 35th International Folk Fair at Albert Whitted Park

The St. Petersburg International Folk Fair took place November 5-8 in Albert Whitted Park, and Russian Heritage was one of the 21 ethnic groups that had a village for the event. St. Petersburg Nights Restaurant provided Russian foods, and Vladimir's Collection sold Russian art and souvenirs. There were a number of posters and art displays in the tent, and a number of games and puzzles were available for learning more about Russian history and culture. On the two school days, long lines of students lined up for their passport stamps. This year they had to learn the capital of Russia, the population of Russia, and how to say "thank you" in Russian before they could get their passports stamped.

For entertainment, Russia was represented by Suzanne Pomerantzeff's Russian character dancers. In fact, she was recognized as one of the participants who has taken part in all 35 Folk Fairs. Also on the program were Svetlana Nikonova and Vladimir Zakharevich, two performers who were trained in Russia, but who are now living in Washington, D. C. Svetlana plays the domra (similar to the mandolin) and Vladimir plays the bayan (a Russian accordion). This dynamic duo performed on November 5 at the St. Petersburg Nights Restaurant, and again on November 6, 7, and 8 at the Folk Fair. They amazed all by their beautiful renditions of Russian Folk Music. If you are looking for a special Christmas gift for you Russophile friends, their CD is available. Call 867-9148



2010
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Join us for the

New Year GALA

January 16th, 2010
at the
Hilton Bayfront in
St. Petersburg

Come Celebrate the 14th Anniversary

*Old Russian
New Year's Celebration Gala*

Saturday, January 16, 2010

*Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront
333 First Street South - St. Petersburg, Florida*

*Reception 6:00pm - Welcome 6:45pm
Dinner 7:00pm*

*Honorary Chairpersons:
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Baker*

Dance to the Music of the Fabulous Dazzlers

*R.S.V.P. with the enclosed card by January 6
Black Tie Optional*

Silent Auction throughout the evening

2009 – 2010: Russian Folk Instruments Featured

Members and friends of Russian Heritage have had the opportunity this year to see programs featuring some of the best performers in the world on Russian Folk instruments. In November we heard Svetlana Nikonova on the domra and her husband Vladimir Zakharevich on the bayan (see page 2). In January we will have the opportunity to hear Tamara Volskaya on the domra and her husband Anatoliy Trofimov on the bayan.

Tamara Volskyaya is considered to be one of the leading contemporary performers on the domra. She is a Merited Artist of Russia, a Laureate of the USSR, and a Professor at the Mussorgsky State Conservatory of Yekaterinburg, Russia. Tamara now lives in New York, but she travels the world as a domra and mandolin soloist.

Anatoliy Trofimov is a bayan virtuoso, music teacher, and prolific composer. He has arranged many works for the bayan and domra. Together they play as the "Russian Carnival" Folk Instruments Ensemble. They play Classical and Russian Folk Music.

Tamara and Anatoliy will play at the Old Russian New Year Gala on January 16 at the Bayfront Hilton. They have been invited to Florida by the Mandolin Society of Sarasota. They will have a master class and a concert in Sarasota at some point before our gala, and they will have a concert on Sunday, January 17 at 3:00 pm in Pinellas Park.

The concert on Sunday will be at the St. Giles Episcopal Church (8271 52nd Street N. in Pinellas Park). Tickets at the door are \$15. Russian Heritage members can buy tickets for \$12 in advance, or if reserved in advance (call 727-867-9148). Doors open at 2:30.



Other Possible Coming Events

A **Balalaika Group** from **Syktyvkar** (capital of the Komi Republic of Russia) has been visiting the United States this year, performing in Washington D. C. and other locations. Most recently they played in Miami, and on their return trip to Washington, they stopped and gave a short performance at St. Petersburg College. It was an ensemble of four musicians, two playing on the prima balalaika, one on an alto, and one on a bass balalaika. Unfortunately, there was little notice of their arrival, and they basically played for a class at the college. There is a chance that they will return January. If so, we will inform our members, and we will have another opportunity to enjoy Russian Folk Instruments in St. Petersburg.

An **economist from Yakutia** is scheduled to come to our area, also in January. We will inform you of time and place of meeting, once confirmed.

SPECIAL RATES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE HILTON BAYFRONT FOR GUESTS COMING TO THE OLD RUSSIAN NEW YEAR GALA. INQUIRE AT THE HILTON!!

SUPPLEMENT: News from the World of Russian Culture

(Provided by NadiaYevstigneyeva from internet searches)

Leo Tolstoy Film Biography to Mark Centenary of His Death

A documentary film about the life of Leo Tolstoy will be released in Russia next year, marking the 100th anniversary of the writer's death. The film tells about the last years of his life and shows documentary shots taken during Tolstoy's funeral. The film under the tentative title "Leo Tolstoy: Genius Alive" will be made only of newsreels, more than enough material for a full-length film.

St. Petersburg Celebrates Birthday of Russian Matryoshka

St. Petersburg celebrated the 110th anniversary of the matryoshka – the symbol of Russian folk art and an image of Russian female beauty, good nature and housekeeping. The jubilee featured a regional festival of folklore, arts and crafts, "Matryona's Week" which opened on Matryona's Day, November 22.

In the framework of the festivities, which represent the history, art culture and folk handicrafts associated with the Matryoshka, there were exhibitions and contests of children's creativity, as well as craftsmen and artists' demonstrations telling about the amazing history of the toy, and the vast geography reflected in decorative design and artistic image of Matryoshka, which has spread all around Russia and far beyond.

Wooden Miracle to be Restored by 2014

Restoration of the world-famous Transfiguration Church on Kizhi Island is to be completed by the 300th anniversary of the pearl of the Kizhi churchyard to be celebrated in 2014. Work on the restoration of the unique monument of Russian wooden architecture has already been launched. Metal bearings have been installed, and the building's lower rows of beams prepared for restoration. Additional work is to be done on the island itself: road laying and fixing, changing of existing electricity networks, as well as equipment of the security system, the freight dock, and the storage rooms for museum exhibits.



Gogol's Nose Promoted by St. Petersburg Celebrities

The CD *St. Petersburg Reads Gogol* timed to the 200th anniversary of Gogol's birthday has been released in the city on Neva. Gogol's masterpiece *The Nose* has been read by Petersburg celebrities: politicians, actors, sportsmen, writers, and TV hosts. Among them are the St. Petersburg Governor Valentina Matvienko, chairman of the city parliament Vadim Tyulpanov, writer Daniil Granin, and others.

Poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko to Establish Museum of Himself

The well-known Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko is planning to establish a museum dedicated to his own persona in the writers' settlement of Peredelkino near Moscow. At the poetry night in the Russian Embassy in Washington, on the occasion of him receiving an award from the Foundation of American and Russian Cultural Cooperation, the poet mentioned that along with the museum, his personal collection of paintings will be donated. It should be noted that the museum in Peredelkino is built on the poet's private land, but he is now living and working in the USA.

Ward Number 6 Nominated for Oscar from Russia

The Russian candidate for the Oscar Prize for the best foreign film will be *Ward Number 6* by film director Karen Shakhnazarov. The film scenario is based on the famous Chekhov's story, full of enigmas and paradoxes. The plot hinges around real events with a doctor of a mental hospital who then finds himself as one of its patients.

The film has been selected out of nine contenders by way of open discussion and secret voting. The decision was taken by the Russian Oscar Committee under the chairmanship of Vladimir Menshov. The Oscar prizewinner will be announced on March 7, 2010. Shostakovich Street and Engels Prospect in Vyborg District.

Russian Schoolchildren to Study *Gulag Archipelago*

Earlier *Gulag Archipelago* was optional for study at the secondary school. Now the novel has been included in the federal component of educational standards, and its study becomes compulsory for all Russian senior pupils. The writer's widow Natalia Solzhenitsyna, offered to include several lessons on works of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn into the school curriculum. Previously schoolchildren studied the short story *Matryona's Home* and the famous story *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*.

***The Master and Margarita* is the Favorite Book of the Russians**

The favorite book of the Russian readers turned to be *The Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov, according to results of a recent poll. Out of 3000 respondents from different regions of the country, 16 percent specified Bulgakov's famous novel as their favorite book. The second place in popularity was *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy (7 per cent), and third was *Crime and Punishment* by Feodor Dostoyevsky (3 per cent). Other classics distinguished by readers were *Evgeny Onegin*, *Dead Souls*, *Anna Karenina*, and *A Hero of Our Time*. Also mentioned were *The Good Soldier Švejk* by Hašek, *The Three Musketeers* by Dumas, *Lolita* by Nabokov, *Doctor Zhivago* by Pasternak, and *Robinson Crusoe* by Defoe.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MORE SUCH INFORMATION, GO TO www.russia-ic.com/culture_art/