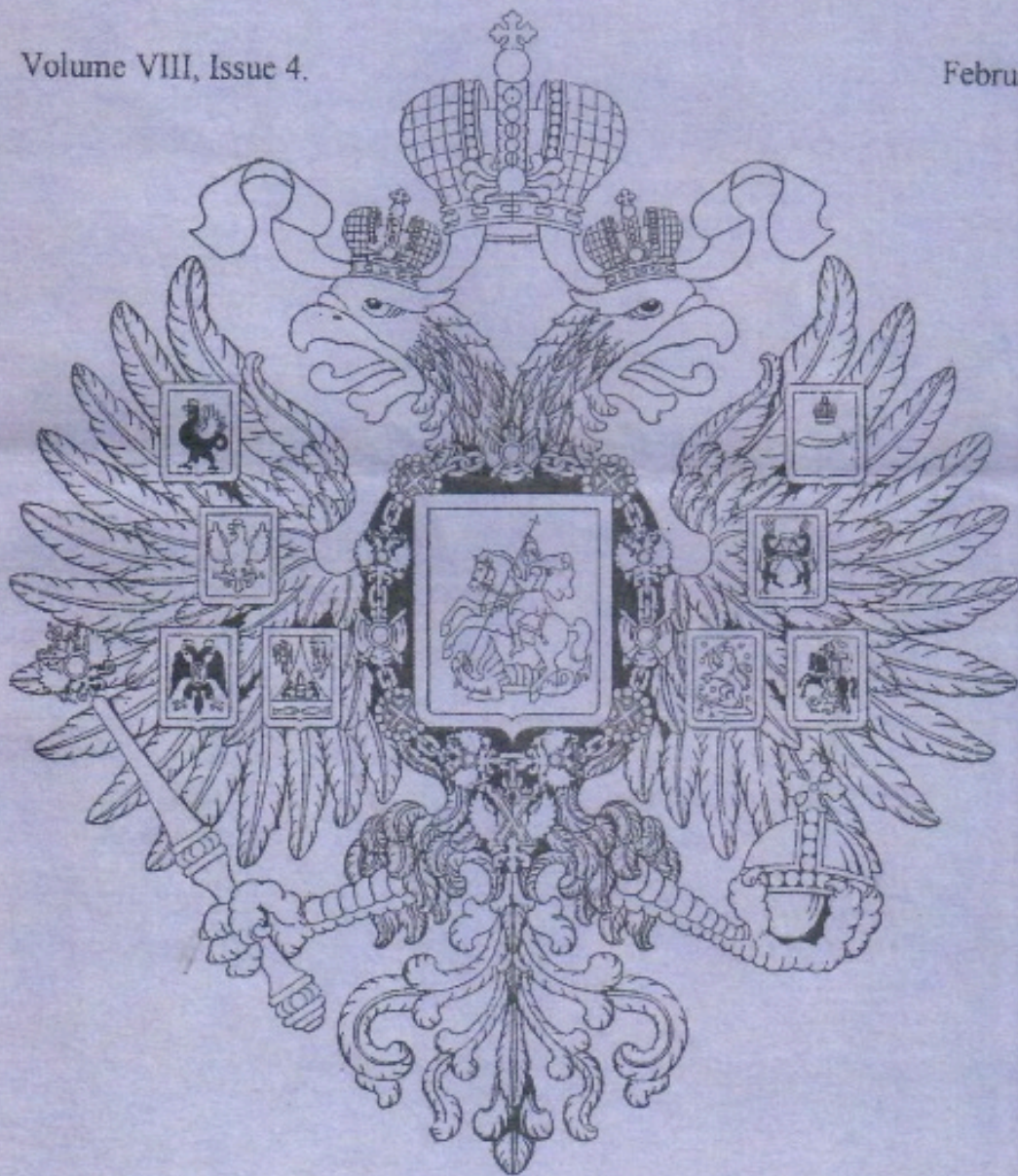


RUSSIAN HERITAGE

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Program of Classical Music and Dance

On Saturday, January 31, Dancers Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson, who dazzled party-goers at the Old Russian New Year's Celebration, will be featured in a concert at the Paladium Theater (253 5th Avenue North in downtown St. Petersburg) beginning at 3:00 p.m. The program is presented by the *Renaissance Project* and includes classical music selections performed by pianist Christine Hartley and violinist Galina Bobrow.

Ustinov and Martinson will perform a specially choreographed dance to selections of Mahler's "Fifth Symphony" as well as ballet fragments from Tchaikovsky and Field. Tickets are available at the door.

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OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY RUSSIAN

Have you always wanted to learn a little bit more about the Russian language? Or do you have friends that were interested in the Russian alphabet and language? This may be the time for you or your friends to explore the possibilities of learning some basic Russian. Non-credit courses for those with little or no background in Russian will begin at Lakewood Community School in St. Petersburg on Wednesday, February 4 at 5:30 pm, and at Manatee Community College in Bradenton on February 3 at 6:30 pm.

The program at Lakewood Community School for those with no background will begin at 5:30 pm. for a two-hour lesson. Those with some background will begin their two-hour lesson at 6:30. The instructor for this course will be William Parsons, Professor of History and Russian Studies at Eckerd College. Text materials for the beginners will be distributed in an orientation session on Wednesday, January 28 at 5:30, or at the first class on February 4 at 5:30. Teach Yourself Beginners Russian will also be used.

Registration for the course will be at the orientation session on January 28 at 5:30, or at the first class on February 4. The cost is \$48 for 8 weeks. If you are interested in this course, or if you have questions, email the instructor at parsonwh@eckerd.edu.

Old Russian New Year Celebration Begins *Russian Heritage* Program for 2004!

Our largest Old Russian New Year's Gala took place on January 11, 2004 with more than 300 participants at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. The exquisite decorations and party favors were provided by Margo Catsimatidis and Tania Vondersaar, and we thank them for creating such a festive spirit. Master of Ceremonies France Frankian welcomed the guests and presented our New Year's toast. Mayor Rick Baker and Carl Kuttler presented highlights from the city's 300/100 anniversary celebration of the "Two St. Petersburgs", including reports on their meetings with President Putin and his desire to come to Florida. President Bill Parsons reported on the special projects of *Russian Heritage* in 2003, such as the museum exhibits, the seminars, and the Student Ambassador programs. The party-goers enjoyed dancing to the dazzling music of the "Dazzlers", and Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson performed again their much requested "Tango".

Many thanks to the members of the *Russian Heritage* Board who planned the festivities, and to Bernie Orlando, Smelia Demjanovich, Helen DiPietro, and Sylvia Pedersen who organized the registration. We also thank Margo and Tania for the raffle prizes, and Nadia Yevstigneyeva, who managed the raffle ticket sales that brought \$1,000 to the Student Ambassador Fund. We finally thank all who helped to set up for the party, and all who made the event a success by coming and bringing their friends!

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Где можно купить "по-русски"?

After reporting in the November *RH* Newsletter on places in the Tampa Bay area where you can buy Russian foods and goods, we received information about two additional locations. In Tampa, visit the Red Square Deli, (4023 W. Waters Ave.) for "Russian gourmet food and more." In Clearwater, try the Sunshine Food and Deli, (1907 Drew Street) for Russian and international foods.

“Russian Odyssey”: An Outstanding Exhibit

We have in our city an outstanding exhibit of Russian Cultural History at the Florida International Museum. The more than 250 artifacts from the Russian State Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia represent many of the best Russian artists and examples of the most characteristic art trends in Russia during the last 800 years.

In the first section the focus is on religious culture, with a truly remarkable collection of icons. The influence of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great is immediately apparent in secularized Western art of the eighteenth century as well as in the life-size representations of these rulers. In addition to the lavish display of the wealth of the royalty and nobility, one sees the more simple life of the peasantry.

For those who are familiar with nineteenth century Russian art, there are excellent paintings of portraits, landscapes, and everyday life so typical of this period. Look for portraits by Levitsky, Tropinin, Jaroshenko, Repin, and Serov, landscapes by Shishkin and Savrasov, and scenes of everyday life by Venetsianov, Myasoyedov, Makovsky, and others.

Finally, note the exhibits of Russian ballet and the masterpieces of the “World of Art” movement in the Diaghilev epoch. This period at the beginning of the twentieth century represents the time when Russia began to influence the West rather than to imitate Western trends.

If you have not seen the exhibit, it is time to go. If you have gone, encourage your friends to go before the treasures are gone in early April. And don't miss the excellent collections of samovars, Dostoevsky's study, or the porcelain dishes fit for a Tsar.

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Our April *Russian Heritage* Events

This year Russian Easter and Easter for Western Christians will occur on the same day: April 11. *Russian Heritage* is planning a picnic for either April 18 or 25. Details will be provided in the next newsletter, but look forward to a fun time!

Two Russian Films to be Shown At Eckerd College: Sunday, February 22

2:00 p.m. **RUSSIAN ARC.** (Alexander Sokurov. 2003. Russian with English subtitles)
This film shows travel through 300 years of Russian history in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. If you have not seen this film, or if you have only seen it once, you will find this a thought-provoking film about Russia's past, present, and future.

4:00 p.m. **OLIGARCH.** (Pavel Lungin. 2003. Russian, NO SUBTITLES)
The dramatic changes in Russia in the past two decades are shown in this film about the "new Russians" and the creation of "oligarchs" in the post-perestroika period. Money, power, corruption, love - - these are the themes of this film. If rated, this film would be "R".

These two films will be shown on Sunday, February 22 in Dendy Auditorium at Eckerd College (4200 54th Avenue South). They are free and open to the public. The two films will be introduced by Professors Sergei Novikov and Bill Parsons of Eckerd College.

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"To Russia With Sergei"

Professor Sergei Novikov of Eckerd College is leading a tour to Russia this summer on 12-day river excursion from St. Petersburg to Moscow. The all inclusive tour, including air from Tampa is \$2700. There are only four spaces left in this program, so if you are interested, please contact Sergei at (727) 864-8059.

"Russian Arts and Ideas Study Program"

sponsored by

St. Petersburg College

A study in Russia program is available for students who can earn college credit for courses in the humanities and world literature. The travel portion of the course is from June 14 - 25 in Moscow, Novgorod, and St. Petersburg. Participation in the pre-departure and post-study tour classes is required, beginning in May. For more information, call Susan Cornett (727) 712-5716 or Bill Range (727) 341-4776.

Student Ambassadors Programs Continue

In the 300/100 anniversary year 2003 *Russian Heritage* initiated a Student Ambassador Program that brought four Russian high school students to the Tampa Bay area. Two of these students were from Moscow, and two were the winners of a contest in St. Petersburg, Russia to select the best English language students in the city. After the visit of Polina and Dina in September 2003, the *Russian Heritage* Board decided to continue the program in 2004. The first part of the 2004 program is the visit of two students from the Special School-Lyceum of the St. Petersburg Conservatory named after Rimsky-Korsakov in March 2004 (see below). The second part of our Ambassador Program will be the second English Language Competition for students from St. Petersburg, Russia. Already more than 300 students took part in the first stage of this competition, and the 15 finalists are competing for the two trips to St. Petersburg, Florida for the fall of 2004 on January 31, 2004. We thank Tatiana Bobrovskaya, our *Russian Heritage* representative in St. Petersburg, Russia for setting up this elaborate program in our namesake city.

We have once again received a \$5,000 matching grant to support this program, but we need help from the members and friends of *Russian Heritage* to make this program a continuing success. YOU CAN MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION to the Ambassadors Fund (we are a 501-C non-profit organization). Send donations to: *Russian Heritage*, PO Box 14552, St. Petersburg, FL 33733. Or you can consider hosting our visitors while they are here. You may be able to have them stay with you in your home for several days, or take them to Bush Gardens or Disney World, or invite them for dinner. If you would like to entertain the musicians in March, contact Vladimir Khokhlov (813) 961-6597, or Bill Parsons (727) 864-8235. For the fall program, contact Nadia Yevstigneyeva (727) 733-1480, or Bill Parsons (727) 864-8235.

Ekaterina Frolova and Kristina Miller: Student Musical Ambassadors from Russia

Violinist Ekaterina Frolova and pianist Kristina Miller have been selected as the two musical ambassadors from St. Petersburg, Russia to St. Petersburg, Florida. They will arrive in Florida in the first week of March to give several concerts, and to visit schools in the area, and to interact with music students here. Because *Russian Heritage* is a major sponsor of this program, we urge you to meet these outstanding musicians at one of their concerts and to take advantage of the opportunity to interact with them. One concert has been scheduled for Sunday, March 7 at 4:00 p.m. in Largo. The March newsletter will have a more detailed schedule of their activities.

Another Major Anniversary in St. Petersburg, Russia

Russian Heritage members and friends are much aware of the anniversary year 2003 which marked the 300th anniversary of the founding of the city of St. Petersburg, Russia. On January 27, 2004 another major anniversary was marked in our namesake city. This was the 60th anniversary of the full liberation from the "900 days" siege of Leningrad during the Nazi occupation in World War II. Those in the our city delegation who participated in the Victory Day celebration in May of last year will understand the importance of these important anniversaries for the people of St. Petersburg, Russia.

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Membership Dues for 2004

We have more than 255 members who have already paid their dues for 2004. If you have already paid your 2004 dues, this will be indicated on your address label. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter, please be sure you are current for 2004, or let us know that you would like to remain on our mailing list.

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Membership
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:

Russian Heritage
P.O. Box 14552
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Russian Heritage Membership Form

Categories for membership for 2004 are:

Student \$5 Individual \$15
Family \$20 Sponsor \$50 or more

Please make checks payable to: Russian Heritage

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____