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Conferences on the Siege of Leningrad

The first two conferences on the "Children of the Siege" took place at the end of January. The final conference will be at Eckerd College on Monday, February 7 in afternoon and evening sessions. See schedule on page 2 for the program of the upcoming program at Eckerd College.

The first conference at the St. Petersburg College Tarpon Springs campus was well organized, and well attended by the college faculty and students. Participants included Professors David Moore, Joe Leopold, David Liebert, Susan Cornett, and Dr. Nadia Yevstigneyeva from St. Petersburg College; Professor Bill Parsons from Eckerd College; and our guests from St. Petersburg, Russia Ilya Fonyakov, Ella Fonyakova, and Lidia Bobrovskaya. Tatiana Albert provided translation services for our guests, and readers included Dwayne Martin, Martha Campbell, Richard Werner, Violetta Yevstigneyeva, and Victor Albert.

The second conference is scheduled for January 31, and will follow a similar program of documentary film and readings of poetry and memoirs.

Old Russian New Year's Celebration

More than 300 members and friends of *Russian Heritage* celebrated the Old Russian New Year at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club on Saturday, January 15. The party atmosphere, the decorations, the music, the food – all were awesome! The raffle prizes brought in \$1200 to the scholarship fund, and many remarked that this was one of our best New Year parties ever.

Many people helped to make this party a big success. We thank all those who participated in the planning and preparation for the event, those who helped with the decorating and smooth functioning of the evening. We thank the Dazzlers for their dazzling dance music, Vladimir Khokhlov for reception music, and Andrey Ustinov and Elena Martinson for their dance performance. Finally, we thank Tatiana Vondersaar and Margo Catsimatidis for their generosity in providing the decorations and the raffle prizes. People are still talking about this special party!

Eckerd College Symposium
Children of the Siege: Remembering Leningrad in WWII
 Monday, February 7, 2005

During the 900-day siege of Leningrad during the war, the city was virtually surrounded, with its supply lines cut. Daily artillery fire and bombings by the Germans further threatened the population. It is estimated that more than a million people perished from cold, starvation, disease, and enemy action. But Leningrad did not fall.

Participants in this symposium include several who as children, aged 4-8, survived this siege and went on to have productive lives. You can meet them and hear their stories on February 7, 2005 at Eckerd College.

12:00 Luncheon. President's Dining Room.

Welcome and introduction of the participants.

The fee of \$25 covers lunch, all afternoon and evening sessions, and a book of readings by participants in the siege. For more information, and to make reservations for the luncheon, call 727-864-8235 by February 3. You can send your \$25 to the Russian Heritage PO Box, or bring it to the lunch, if you have made reservations in advance.

1:30-2:45 Video Presentation and Discussion.

Documentary film. *Cities at War: Leningrad, The Hero City.*

2:50-3:00 Intermission

3:00-4:00 Presentations on Music and Art During the Siege.

Shostakovich and the Leningrad Conservatory.

The Destruction of Art, and the Saving of Art.

4:00-5:45 Russian Feature Film: *Once There Was a Girl.* Discussion.

During the 900-day siege of Leningrad in WWII, two little Russian girls learn to deal with the everyday crises of the war situation. (1945. In Russian, with English subtitles).

6:00-7:00 *Supper available in CEC Dining Room or in nearby restaurants.*

7:30 Symposium Panel Presentation

Welcome: Dean Lloyd Chapin

Panel Moderator: Bill Parsons, Professor of History and Russian Studies

"Children of the Siege" Ilya Fonyakov, poet; Ella Fonyakova, artist and writer; Lidia Bobrovskaya, designer; Irena Nemchonok, professor of Russian at USF; and Faina Blagodarova, writer.

(Including readings, reminiscences, and video highlights.)

All sessions will be in Miller Auditorium at Eckerd College, except for the luncheon. All afternoon and evening sessions are free and open to the public. The evening program is part of the College Program Series. An exhibit of artwork and artifacts connected with the siege will be in Miller Auditorium during the symposium.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 7, 2005 **Symposium "Children of the Siege: Remembering Leningrad in WWII"** (see page 2)
- February 11, 2005 **Poetry Reading and Talk About Contemporary Russia.**
Ilya Fonyakov will speak at a special meeting of the Russian-American Club on Friday, February 11 at 2:00pm. This is an excellent opportunity for our Russian speaking members to enjoy Russian poetry, and to hear Ilya's thoughts on the current scene in Russia.
- March 2, 2005 **The Spirit of St. Petersburg Balalaika Trio** performing at the Palladium Theater in downtown St. Petersburg. (see below)
- March 16 – 20, 2005 **SPIFFS 30th Anniversary Folk Festival at Tropicana Field**
This year's theme is "Festivals and Holidays Around the World." We will be needing volunteers who are willing to help.
- April 2005 **Planned showing of Films About WWII on the Eastern Front** (TBA)
- May 7, 2005 **Business Meeting & Program Celebrating the End of WWII in Europe**
Time and Place to be announced in upcoming newsletter.

Russian Heritage Balalaika Concert

7PM Wednesday, March 2, 2005
Palladium Theater, 231 5th Ave. N.

featuring

The Spirit of St. Petersburg Balalaika Trio

A trio of talented musicians will delight the Palladium Theater audience with a program of classical music played on Russian folk instruments, and traditional Russian folk music performed in native costumes.

The first half of the program will include chamber music with a special Russian flavor, with popular pieces by Mozart, Vivaldi, Bach, Strauss, and others. The second half will feature some of the most popular Russian folk melodies and dances, including one section where the trio will perform with Suzanne Pomerantzeff's Russian folk dancers.

The artists include Svetlana Nikonova on the Domra, Vladimir Zakharevich on the bayan, and Andrei Savaliev on the bass balalaika. The trio is now performing with the Washington Balalaika Society, but they come from our namesake city of St. Petersburg, Russia.

General Admission \$15, Seniors \$12, Youth \$5.