

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

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JANUARY 2009

Russian Heritage in January!!

1. The Old Russian New Year Gala.

Friday, January 9, 2009
Reception 6:00; Dinner 7:00
St. Petersburg Yacht Club
11 Central Avenue - St. Petersburg

It's not too late to sign up. In fact, we are extending the deadline for the discounted tickets. The price for members will remain \$80 and for non-members the price will be \$95.

This year our emcees will be Susan Haiq and Boris (Ded Moroz) and his sax. As before the program will feature live music with the Dazzlers, a delicious dinner (Beef Stroganoff or Fish Dementyev), a champagne toast, a great silent auction, and much more.

If you have not signed up yet, please contact us at 727-867-9148, or parsonwh@eckerd.edu to reserve your place and choose your dinner entree, and then send your check to Russian Heritage, PO Box 14552, St. Petersburg, FL 33733 for your tickets. Final deadline is January 6, 2009.

2. Author of New Book on Peter Demens to Speak

Inna Povedskaya, visiting scholar from Tver, Russia and author of a newly published biography of Peter Demens, will speak at the St. Petersburg Museum of History (335 Second Avenue NE in downtown St. Petersburg) on Sunday, January 11 at 2:00 pm. Price: \$5 for adults; free for students.

Some will remember when Inna participated in the Peter Demens Symposium at Eckerd College in May 2000.

The new biography *VESEGONSKIY AMERIKANETS* (The American from Vesegonsk) was published in November 2008 in Russia, and is based on Inna's extensive researches in Russia and America about Peter Demens, the Russian founder of St. Petersburg, Florida. It is highly illustrated and has a 22 page summary in English.

3. Inna Povedskaya at the Russian American Club

On January 14 the Russian American Club will have an Old Russian New Year's Party in Gulfport (2920 Beach Blvd. S.) including shashlik, live music with Boris Lebedinsky, and a short talk by Inna Povedskaya (see above) in Russian about Peter Demens. The event will begin at 2:00 pm and the cost is \$20. If you are planning to attend, please call 727-867-9148 or 727-397-7297.

Alexander Nevsky Considered Greatest Russian in Poll

Grand Prince of Novgorod and Vladimir in 13th century, Alexander Nevsky has become the most notable personality in Russian history. Over 2 million people gave their votes for him in a project by Russia TV channel, Name of Russia.

Russian writers Alexander Pushkin and Fyodor Dostoyevsky ranked second and third. Among other top ten greatest people in Russia's history are Peter the Great, Vladimir Lenin, and Ivan the Terrible.

Joseph Stalin who is 12th in the rating was leading for quite a while before the project's organizers reported an error in the system and held a re-vote. Many of Stalin's supporters said the move was politically motivated.



Final debates as to the most notable person in the Russian history will take place in late 2008 in a talk show on Russia TV.

The above article describes the competition going into the final week of voting. In the final vote, Alexander Nevsky remained in first place with 313,650 votes. The following individuals were the top 12:

Alexander Nevsky	313,650
Peter Stolypin	304,035
Joseph Stalin	298,882
Alexander Pushkin	295,308
Peter the Great	264,909
Alexander Suvorov	261,144
Vladimir Lenin	259,792
Dmitry Mendeleev	254,132
Fyodor Dostoevsky	247,486
Ivan the Terrible	230,425
Catherine the Great	92,065
Alexander II	83,991

For further information on this internet voting program, visit the Russian language website, www.nameofrussia.ru.

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Moscow Christmas tree is the greenest!

A Christmas tree has lit up central Moscow with energy-efficient lights powered by bicycle dynamos. Organized by the World Wildlife Fund, the event was attended by leading environmentalists and celebrities who pedaled to bring the lights to life.

The aim of the event on Red Square is to promote energy-efficient technologies to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

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Mary and Gene Stenov Become Russian Heritage Persons of the Year at SPIFFS' Banquet

At the SPIFFS International Ball each group honors its persons of the year. This year Mary was honored as RH Vice President for three years and the official delegate to SPIFFS for the last two years. Gene was recognized as RH Treasurer, the alternate delegate to SPIFFS, and the one most responsible for setting up our SPIFFS village at the Folk Fairs.

The following lines were penned by Leonid Beck for this occasion:

*A Salute to you! Gene and Mary, Our Persons of the Year!
Tonight is the time to be recognized for your great deeds.
We wish you always fortune and health and good cheer,
Since you are always there for us in our needs.*

*Обоих Вас сердечно поздравляем
И всякого добра мы Вас желаем
Спасибо за разнообразные веселия
И за всё, что делаете, вытягивая нас из забвения. . .
Будьте здоровы!*

Leonid and Tanya Beck

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The Seven Wonders of Russia

The results of the national contest to determine the "Seven Wonders of Russia" have been determined. They are as follows: Valley of Geysers, Lake Baikal, Peterhof, Manpupuner Rock Towers, Saint Basil's Cathedral, Mamayev Kurgan and statue The Motherland Calls, as well as Mount Elbrus.

The contest Seven Wonder of Russia was organized in summer 2007 by a range of national mass media agencies to bring attention to restoration and preservation of unique historical, cultural and natural sights of Russia, as well as revive patriotism and love for the Motherland.

Over 25 million people had participated in the online voting determining the Seven Wonders.

There may be valuable information in this poll as we plan for our SPIFFS exhibit in March.

Opening of New Orthodox Sanctuary in Bradenton

On Christmas Eve, members of St. Mark Orthodox Christian Church attended the first Nativity of Christ service in their new sanctuary on 1517 Morgan Johnson Road, off SR64 in East Bradenton. Father John Chudik welcomes everyone to attend services, and to visit the church website at www.stmarkorthodox.org. For more detailed information, contact Father John at (941) 920-2708, (941) 794-0425, SMOC3415@aol.com, and church president Nadya Golubov at (941) 920-2709.

Highlights of the Year in Russia

News of Literature and Culture

Daria Dontsova heads rating of Russian Fiction Writers. The author of ironic detectives Daria Dontsova has become the leader in best-sellers in Russia. She has the most copies of her books in print, and the most titles (68) currently in print. For non-Russian writers the leaders are Danielle Steel, Sidney Sheldon, and Joanna Chmielewska.

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For the first time ever the Hollywood company of Disney has launched production of a Russian film.

The fairy tale movie under the title *Book of Masters* will be produced jointly with Nikita Mikhalkov's studio "TriTe". Disney Studio promises to make something in traditions of the famous Soviet children's film *Morozko* (1964), but with large-scale battle scenes and visual effects.

The role of Kashchey the Immortal, a traditional character of Russian fairy tales, will be performed by the now popular Russian actor Gosha Kutsenko. There will be also Baba-Yaga, mermaids and fairy warriors.

Nikita Mikhalkov and Disney



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Winners of the annual National Contest "Book of the Year" have been announced. Grand Prize went to Yuri Rost with his photo album "Group Portrait Against Background of Century". The prizes were given in ten nominations. In Humanitas nomination the winner is Lyudmila Saraskina with her book "Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn". Among the winners there is also Vladimir Sharov's "Be Like Children" (Prose of the Year) and collected poems "All Yevtushenko: Verses and Poems 1937-2007" (Poetry of the Year). The ceremony of award traditionally was held in the framework of the Moscow International Book Exhibition Fair open from September 3.

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Nanny of Pushkin, Arina Rodionovna, is set in stone. A monument to Pushkin's nanny was unveiled in the Kaluga region of Russia. . . . A monument to Fyodor Dostoevsky was set up in Greece. . . . A biographical film about Leo Tolstoy is being shot in Germany, starring Christopher Plummer and Helen Mirren as the writer and his wife. . . . A new translation of Bulgakov's *Master and Margarita* captivates Japan. . . .

With the death of Russian writer and philosopher Alexandr Solzhenitsyn, many honors have been established. A Solzhenitsyn Museum will open in Kislovodsk, the writer's native city. Solzhenitsyn Street will replace Bolshaya Kommunisticheskaya Street located in the center of Moscow. Solzhenitsyn died on August 3 at age 89 and was buried in the Donskoe Cemetery in Moscow.

For more details on these and other stories, email your request to me (parsonwh@eckerd.edu) and I will send you an attachment with the more information.