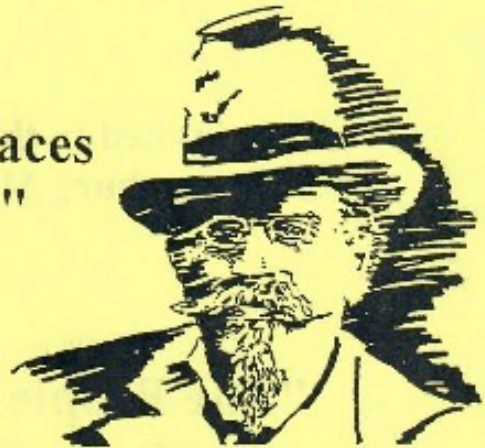


# "The People and Places of Peter Demens"



**Peter Demens  
(1850-1919)**

**PETER DEMENS EXHIBIT**  
**At the St. Petersburg Museum of History**  
April 26 - July 7  
Special Presentation by Curator Bill Parsons  
Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.



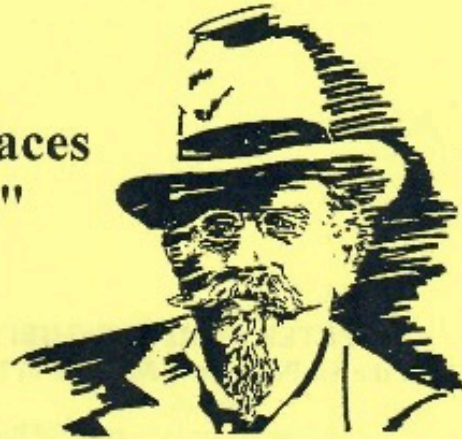
**RUSSIAN HERITAGE**  
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Saint Petersburg, FL  
Permit No. 5738

JUNE 2000  
VOL IV-9

You are invited to the Peter Demens Exhibit at  
the St. Petersburg Museum of History:

**"The People and Places  
of Peter Demens"**



**Peter Demens  
(1850-1919)**

This exhibit is organized to help celebrate the  
150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Peter Demens.

St. Petersburg Museum of History  
335 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
(727-894-1052)

Bring this coupon, and save \$1.00.

**\$1.00 off the price of admission to  
Peter Demens Exhibit**

(Good through July 7, 2000)

## New President of Russian Heritage Dr. Carl Kuttler

Dr. Carl Kuttler, the President of St. Petersburg Junior College, has been interested in Russia for a long time and has made significant contacts with important people in Russia. On April 11<sup>th</sup> he was elected president of Russian Heritage for 2000-01.

Dr. Kuttler has been an active participant in exchanges with Russia during the period of Perestroika and after. He served as a consultant on higher education in Russia, and he went to St. Petersburg, Russia on several occasions to participate in an exchange with the Rector of St. Petersburg State University. He also hosted Mayor Anatoly Sobchak and his wife during their visit to Florida in 1990, and most recently he invited the Russian Ambassador to the United States, Yuri Ushakov, to speak at the St. Petersburg Junior College graduation ceremony on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000. On one of his trips to Russia he met with Vladimir Putin, then an associate of Mayor Sobchak. He hopes to arrange a visit of President Putin to Florida at some time in the future.

President Kuttler has plans to open a Russian museum/cultural center at the Gibbs campus of St. Petersburg Junior College this fall. Included in this museum will be many photographs and historical reproductions of St. Petersburg brought by the Sobchaks during their visit in November 1990.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2000-2001

Now is the time to join "Russian Heritage", or to renew your membership for the year 2000-2001. You will receive the monthly newsletter and play a special role in promoting Russian culture in St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay area. We are planning many special programs for the new year and you will want to be a part of these activities. If you joined in 2000, your membership will be paid up for this coming year. If you joined before January 1, 2000, it is time to renew.

You can mail the form below with your dues to "Russian Heritage", PO Box 66123, St. Pete Beach, FL, 33736. You may want to look on the reverse for other bargains brought to you by Russian Heritage.

Here are listed the categories of membership:

___ \$ 5.00	Student	Make checks payable to: Russian Heritage and send to: PO Box 66123 St. Pete Beach, FL 33736
___ \$10.00	Individual	
___ \$15.00	Family	
___ \$50.00	Sponsor	

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

No page 4.

## The President's Report: "From Pushkin to Demens"

From June 1999 through May 2000 Russian Heritage was active promoting Russian Culture "From Pushkin to Demens." The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Pushkin was celebrated in a big way with a poetry celebration at the Fine Arts Museum on June 6, 1999. This was followed by a Pushkin-Tchaikovsky Film Festival at Eckerd College in November featuring film versions of Tchaikovsky's operas "Eugene Onegin" and "The Queen of Spades." Finally Yevgeny Yevtushenko appeared at our Millennial Old Russian New Year's Ball, and presented a special poetry reading, "From Pushkin to Yevtushenko" at the Palladium Theater on January 15, 2000.

The celebration for Peter Demens, the Russian aristocrat who came to America in 1881 and founded and named our city St. Petersburg, went on all year to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth on May 1, 1850.

1. Russian Heritage raised \$5,000 (with the help of a matching grant from John Galbraith) to support an exhibition in Russia on Demens: "From Vesegonsk to Florida" which is now appearing in the city of Tver, Russia, will later go to St. Petersburg, Russia, and will finally appear in Vesegonsk in the Tver region where Demens lived (see letter on p. 7).

2. Russian Heritage sponsored a new historical marker in Demens Landing explaining the significance of his contribution to the city. We received approval from Mayor David Fischer, the City Council, and the Florida State authorities in Tallahassee, and this marker was installed and dedicated on May 1, 2000 (see proclamation on p. 8).

3. A major Demens Symposium was jointly sponsored by Russian Heritage and Eckerd College on May 1, 2000. Taking part in this program were three generations of Demens' descendants: Peter Demens Toistoy from California and Gene and Greg Demens from British Columbia. Two scholars from Russia contributed: Professor Igor Bogachek from St. Petersburg, and Inna Povedskaya, the curator of the Demens Exhibition in Tver. Finally, there were presentations by local scholars: Professors Ray Arsenault, Bill McKee, Bill Parsons, and Anatole Sokolsky.

4. An Exhibit on Demens "The People and Places of Peter Demens" is now at the St. Petersburg Museum of History. The exhibit will remain at the museum until July 7<sup>th</sup>. A special presentation will be made by the curator of this exhibit on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. There are also other exhibits at this museum that make it well worth the trip.

Russian Heritage also sponsored the Millennial Old Russian New Year's Ball that was a very successful fundraiser and we held our third annual Russian Songfest. We also were recognized as an official "non-profit" organization by the IRS and the US Post Office, so we will benefit from both of these designations.

As president of Russian Heritage for the past two years I want to thank you for your support and cooperation. In the fall I will be on leave from Eckerd College and I will spend part of that time in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I know the new officers have planned an exciting program for next year, and I urge you all to take an active role in our organization.

Sincerely,  
*Bill*  
Bill Parsons

### A LETTER from the CHAIRMAN of the BOARD

Russian Heritage had a great year 1999-2000 with Dr. Bill Parsons as our president. The Board of Directors and the membership wish to thank Bill for his energy and good works on behalf of Russian Heritage. We had our last Board of Directors meeting of the 2000 Spring season on May 18, 2000 at Bill and Vivian Parsons' and celebrated a very significant birthday for Bill with a delicious dinner at their home. Bill will keep us informed of his activities as he and Vivian travel this year.

The ten members of the new Board of Directors were present, including our new president, Dr. Carl Kuttler, also president of St. Petersburg Junior College. This planning meeting for the years 2000-2001 included the discussion of programs for our organization. We will have three concerts by the *Russian Heritage Ensemble* at the new Music Center of SPJC at the Gibbs Campus on 66<sup>th</sup> St. and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. on November 12<sup>th</sup>, January 21<sup>st</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup>, all on Sunday at 3 p.m. More details and reminders will be sent with each newsletter. We will also have a membership Christmas party on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the home of president Carl Kuttler, off Park street in St. Petersburg. Details for this will also be announced, but mark your calendars for these exciting events now. We also formed a Program/Publicity committee and a By-Laws committee. I will write the newsletter and encourage all to send me news of Russian functions in the United States and the Bay area and about personal Russian activities. I would like to highlight some of the Russian-related events of individual members in each newsletter. St. Petersburg Junior College will print the newsletters and our secretary, Olga Fincher, will mail them. Our first newsletter for the September-May 2000-2001 season will be mailed in August with information about our first General Meeting/Inauguration of new officers on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at Buddy Freddy's Restaurant on 58<sup>th</sup> St. & 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. (Tyronne Gardens). More details later.

We would also like to thank Bill Parsons specifically for writing the text and following through on the suggestion of one of our members, Leopold Boudouin de Courtenay, about putting an historical marker explaining the meaning of Demens' Landing in the park. In consultation with the City, and also with some help from the Beerys, the marker was approved and placed at the entrance to Demens' Landing. *Russian Heritage* paid \$1530 for the marker. It was fitting that Mayor Fischer was there to dedicate it on the occasion of Peter Demens 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, because he had been on the City Council in the 1980s when a hotel was proposed for that site and he successfully fought for the creation of a park and the continuation of city-protected waterfront.

Remember to see the interesting and scholarly Peter Demens exhibit at the St. Petersburg Museum of History! Bill Parsons is the curator and will give a special presentation there on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.

I hope you all have a happy and healthy summer! See you in September!

Vera Espinola-Beery

Chairman of the *Russian Heritage* Board of Directors



ГЛАВА  
ГОРОДА ТВЕРИ  
ТВЕРСКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ

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телефон: 33-01-31  
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телеграф: 171767 ЗНАК  
телекс: 171219 ZNAK  
эл. почта: tveradm@tver.fact400.ru

"Russian Heritage"  
St. Petersburg,  
Florida, USA

27.10.2000 №  
на № \_\_\_\_\_ от \_\_\_\_\_

Dear members of "Russian Heritage",

Mayor of the city of Tver and the leaders of the Tver State Museum express their grateful thanks for your support in creating an exhibition "From Vesjegonsk to Florida", which was opened on April 17, 2000 at the exhibition hall of the Museum.

It is devoted to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Peter Demens, a Russian nobleman and the founder of your city.

The exhibition impressed the visitors of our museum and the guests of the city.

We thank you very much for your efforts.

We hope to continue our cooperation.

With best regards

Alexander Belousov  
Mayor of the City of Tver

Yuri Boshnyak  
General Director of the Tver State Museum

JUNE 2000  
VOL IV-9

# Proclamation

## CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

WHEREAS, The success of any city and community depends on the involvement of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, St. Petersburg is celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of one of its most important citizens, *Peter Demens*; and

WHEREAS, *Russian Aristocrat Peter Demens* left his homeland in 1881 and traveled to Florida, becoming an American entrepreneur and millionaire who made a significant impact on the founding and development of St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, In 1888, *Peter Demens* brought to St. Petersburg the famous Orange Belt Railroad whose terminal was the original Pier, as the Pier reached far enough into Tampa Bay to allow ships drawing 12 feet of water to load and unload cargo directly to and from railway cars; and

WHEREAS, The City has recognized *Peter Demens*' contributions since 1977 with the naming of a beautiful, downtown city park, *Demens Landing*; and

WHEREAS, *Peter Demens* will long be remembered for a number of reasons: joining the American and Russian cultures through his writings, bringing the railroad to St. Petersburg, and building the first railroad pier;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVID J. FISCHER, Mayor of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, do hereby proclaim Monday, May 1, 2000

### *Peter Demens Landing Day*

and urge all citizens to recognize the importance of his work in shaping the dynamic and rich history of the great city of St. Petersburg.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official Seal of the City of St. Petersburg, County of Pinellas and State of Florida to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2000.

*David J. Fischer*

David J. Fischer  
Mayor

