

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume VIII, Issue 8.

June-July 2004



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Annual Meeting At Palladium Theatre

The annual meeting of *Russian Heritage* took place on May 8 at the Palladium Theater. The new officers elected for next year are listed on the following page. Let's do all we can to support these officers as they plan for 2004-05.

After the meeting the Renaissance Project presented a program of Russian music and dance, featuring ballet masters Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson, and violinist Halina Bobrow and pianist Christine Hartley. The concert was a fundraiser for *Russian Heritage*, and brought \$300 to our ambassador scholarship fund.

"Russian Odyssey" ends July 11

The outstanding exhibit of Russian art and culture at the Florida International Museum is scheduled to end July 11. There is less than a month left for you and your friends to see this excellent collection of treasures from the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia.

First Fall Meeting Set for September 11

Saturday, September 11 is the next meeting for *Russian Heritage* in the fall of 2004. We will meet for a pot-luck supper in the clubhouse of an apartment complex in Largo. Details will follow in the August newsletter, but we plan to eat about 5:30. The program will feature our two student ambassadors with whom you became acquainted in the last newsletter (Natalia Krupitskaya and her aliens, and Maria Kiseleva with her alphabetical autobiography). We will also include a sharing of experiences of some our members who traveled this summer to Russia. Mark your calendars.

Board of Directors Sets January 15 as Date for "Old Russian New Year's Celebration" at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club

After several years of successful celebrations of the Old Russian New Year, we have decided to repeat this event once again at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club on Saturday, January 15, 2005. Mark your calendars, and watch for further details in later newsletters.

RUSSIAN HERITAGE
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Russian Anecdotes

Russian Heritage sponsored a "Russian Anecdote" competition in the spring. The winner was Sergey Skudaev, who submitted the first three selections. He received a prize of \$50 at the annual meeting on May 8, 2004.

1. Леонид Ильич Брежнев делал доклад на съезде Коммунистической партии и проговорил три часа. После доклада он потребовал к себе того кто написал за него доклад и возмущенно спросил:

- Почему ты написал мне доклад на три часа? Я же сказал чтобы доклад был на один час!

- Извините, Леонид Ильич, но я написал доклад на один час как вы сказали. Просто Вам дали три копии.

Leonid Brezhnev gave a speech in the Communist party forum and spoke for three hours. After the speech he demanded the speech writer, and said irately:

"Why did you write a three-hour speech for me? I ordered a one-hour speech!"

"Sorry, Leonid Ilich. I did write a one-hour speech. I just gave you three copies.

2. Инженер из провинции приезжает в командировку в Москву. В гостинице ему дают номер, где остановились еще три инженера. Они пьют водку, громко и разговаривают. Инженеру нужно выспаться перед завтрашней презентацией, но в такой обстановке невозможно уснуть. Он находит горничную и просит ее принести ему в номер чашку чаю. Затем он возвращается к себе в номер и говорит шумящим коллегам:

- Вы веселые ребята, но мне вас жалко. Вы говорите такие вещи и не подозреваете что во столе спрятан микрофон и товарищ капитан из КГБ слышает каждое ваше слово. Товарищ капитан, пожалуйста поплите мне чашечку чаю.

Через минуту входит горничная и приносит ему чашку чаю. Пьяные инженеры испугались, притихли и он спокойно заснул.

Утром он встретил горничную и поблагодарил ее еще раз.

- Ваша шутка очень понравилась товарищу капитану. Сказала горничная.

A provincial engineer has a business trip to Moscow. In the hotel he shares a room with three other engineers. They are drinking vodka and talking very loudly. He needs before his presentation on the next day, but he cannot sleep in such conditions. He comes out, finds a maid and asks her to bring him a cup of tea. Then he enters the room and talks to his drunk colleagues:

"You are bright guys. But I feel sorry for you. You are talking about risky stuff and do not realize that there is a microphone hidden under the table, and that the KGB captain hears your every word. Comrade captain, please send me a cup of tea."

At the next moment the maid comes in and brings a cup of tea.

The drunken engineers get scared and go to sleep. As a result he sleeps well.

Next morning he meets the maid and thanks her one more time.

"You are welcome," she says, "and by the way, comrade captain liked your joke."

3. В городском парке Иностранные туристы наблюдают как трое рабочих выполняют странную работу. Первый выкапывает яму, второй закапывает ее и поливает водой.

Один турист подходит к бригадиру и спрашивает:

-Простите меня за любопытство, но я не понимаю какой смысл в этой работе.

Почему первый рабочий выкапывает ямы, а второй их закапывает?

- Это третий рабочий закапывает ямы. Второй рабочий сегодня не пришел. Он должен был садить деревце в каждую яму.

In a city park foreign tourists observe two workers. The first one digs a pit in the ground, the second fills it with soil and pours on water. One tourist asks the boss:

"Excuse my curiosity, but this works makes no sense to me. Why does the second worker fill in the hole and water it?"

"He is not the second worker. He's the third. The second one did not come today. He was supposed to place a tree in each hole.

4. В Америке работают, если платят хорошо.
В России работают. Если платят -- хорошо.

In America people work if they are paid well,

In Russian people work. If they are paid, that's good.

(One of the reasons so many Russians have moved to the US.)

5. "Мы стали жить лучше," сказала правительство.
"Мы за вас рады," подумал народ.

"We have changed our lives for the better," announced the government.

"We are happy for you," thought the people.

(The way things were, are now, and unfortunately may continue.)

6. Брежнев и Никсон в Москве, на Красной Площади. Никсон говорит Брежневу:
- Америка свободная страна. Каждый может прийти к Белому Дому и кричать:
«Долой Никсона».

Брежнев с удивлением поворачивается к Никсону и говорит:

- Россия также свободная страна. Каждый может подойти в Кремлю и закричать:
«Долой Никсона».

Brezhnev and Nixon are in Moscow on Red Square.

Nixon says to Brezhnev: "America is a free country. Anyone can come to the White House and shout, 'Down with Nixon!'"

Brezhnev turned to Nixon and said: "Russia is also a free country. Anyone can come to the Kremlin and shout 'Down with Nixon!'"

7. Брежнев отвечает на телефонный звонок снимая трубку и приветствуя: Дорогой Леонид Ильич слушает...

Brezhnev answers the phone: "Dear Leonid Ilich is listening..."

8. На лекции про Интернет лектора спросили:
- А какой адрес у президента?
- Президент – цобака – гав – ру !
(president@gov.ru)

During a lecture about the Internet, the speaker was asked:

"What is the President's email address?"

"ThePresident-dog-gav-ru" (president@gov.ru)

[In Russian the internet symbol "@" is "dog" (собака) and gav-ru is a barking sound.]

9. An interview with Putin.

"Who is your favorite poet?" Mayakovsky. "Ваш любимый поэт?" Маяковский.

"Who is your favorite prose writer?" Nabokov. "Ваш любимый писатель?" Набоков.

"Who is your favorite politician?" "Ваш любимый политик?"

Maybe, it is enough?

Может быть хватит?

10. Соревнование между русской и американской машиной. Американская машина выиграла. На следующий день заголовка в Правде: «Соревнование между русской и иностранной машиной закончилось следующим: Россия пришла второй и Америка пришла второй с конца».

There was a competition between a Russian and an American car. The American car won. The following day, *Pravda* reported: "The competition between the Russian and the American car ended in this way: Russia came in second place, and America was second from the bottom."

11. From the American press:

"Special services are investigating the case of money laundering through the Bank of New York of illegal monies of the Kremlin administration and as well as other criminal organizations."

13. A Soviet dog and an American dog meet during the Gorbachev era.

The American dog asks: "How's Perestroika doing?"

"They've lengthened the chain by two meters and they've put the food bowl five meters away, but they let you bark all you want."

14. What's the difference between an optimist and a pessimist in Russia?

A pessimist is a person who says that everything around him is bad.

An optimist is someone who believes that in the future nothing would be worse than now.

RUSSIAN PROVERBS

In our "Russian Proverbs Contest" contestants were asked to submit their favorite Russian proverbs in Russian and in English, and explain why they were important to them. The proverbs are first listed in Russian, followed by a near English equivalent in italics, followed by a more literal translation into English, followed by some comments by the submitters, in parenthesis. The winners of this competition were Nadia and Violetta Yevstigneyeva, who submitted six of the first seven proverbs. They were awarded the prize of \$50 at the Annual Meeting on May 8, 2004.

1. ДРУЗЬЯ ПОЗНАЮТСЯ В БЕДЕ.
A friend in need is a friend indeed.
One recognizes his friends in a time of need.
(It is important to be a friend in times of misfortune.)
2. В ЧУЖОЙ МОНАСТЫРЬ СО СВОИМ УСТАВОМ НЕ ХОДИТЬ.
When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
A visitor to a monastery must live by the local rules, not by his own.
(Good advice to those who are beginning their lives in the US.)
3. БЕЗ ТРУДА НЕ ВЫНУТЬ И РЫБКИ ИЗ ПРУДА.
No pains, no gains.
Without effort you won't catch fish.
(It is important to work hard to achieve success.)
4. ТЯЖЕЛО В УЧЕНИЕ, ЛЕГКО В БОЮ.
If you work hard in your preparation it will go much easier in the battle.
(This means that if you prepare well in education, sport, or working towards any goal, it will pay off by making the goal more easily gained.)
5. ТЕРПЕНИЕ И ТРУД ВСЕ ПЕРЕТРУТ.
If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again.
Patience and hard work bring success.
(Nothing is impossible to a willing mind.)

6. КРАТКОСТЬ – СЕСТРА ТАЛАНТА.

Brevity is the soul of wit.

Brevity is the sister of talent.

(There is a talent to express things briefly with wit and understanding.)

7. РЫБАК РЫБАКА ВИДИТ ИЗДАЛЕКА.

Birds of a feather flock together.

To each other known from afar, all of the fisherman are.

A fisherman sees another fisherman from a distance.

(People of the same sort are drawn to one another, find a common language at once, and become friends.)

8. ЛУЧШЕ ОДИН РАЗ УВИДЕТЬ, ЧЕМ СТО РАЗ УСЛЫШИТЬ.

A picture is worth a thousand words.

It is better to see one time than to hear a hundred times.

(That's why I want to go to Russia and see many of the things I have only read about and heard about.)

9. ВЕК ЖИВИ, ВЕК УЧИТЬСЯ.

Live and Learn.

Live to 100, learn to 100. Live a century, learn a century.

(You are never too old to learn.)

10. ВЕК ЖИВИ, ВЕК УЧИТЬСЯ, А ДУРАКОМ ПОМРЕШЬ.

Live and learn a 100 years, and still you die a fool.

11. СЕМЬ РАЗ ОТМЕРЬ, ОДИН РАЗ ОТРЕЖЬ.

Look before you leap. Discretion is the better part of valor.

Measure the fabric seven times, before you cut in once.

(Be cautious)

12. КУЙ ЖЕЛЕЗО, ПОКА ГОРЯЧО.

Strike while the iron is hot. Make hay while the sun shines.

He who hesitates is lost.

(It is sometimes difficult to decide whether to apply #11 or #12.)

PLANS BEING MADE TO CELEBRATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WWII

At the first meeting of the new Board of Directors we brainstormed different ideas for programs for 2004-05. One suggestion was to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe, known in Russia as Victory Day. The experience of those who participated in the 2003 official Mayor's delegation to St. Petersburg, Russia was unforgettable and moving, and maybe this is a theme around which we might focus some of our spring programming for Russian Heritage.

One thought was to have a symposium and/or an exhibit on this topic taking place in the spring of 2005. It was suggested that we look into the possibility of inviting some of the survivors/participants in these events. With our connections to St. Petersburg, Russia it might be possible to include participants such as "Children of the 900 days", and invite such individuals to our city. Of course, it is not just a Russian celebration, and we might emphasize themes of cooperation and the celebration of the peace in all countries.

In connection with this theme, it was suggested that we might organize a film series, showing some classic films, and perhaps some contemporary ones about WWII. There might also be a chance to examine WWII music and songs, from both the Russian and American sides. None of our ideas are set in stone at this time. We are looking for input from our members. We would like to hear from those in *Russian Heritage* who grew up in Russia. What suggestions do you have? What family stories, photographs, or artifacts are a part of your experience and background? Or do you know of people here with more information. We also seek input from the non-Russian members of *Russian Heritage* who might have suggestions from their perspective, or their family's experience in WWII.

If you have experiences, stories, or suggestions about this proposal, please take a few minutes to write them down, and send them to *Russian Heritage*, PO Box 14552, St. Petersburg, FL 33733; or share them with one of the members of the board. We have a planning committee that will appreciate your thoughts.

Florida Orchestra to Feature Russian Composers in Fall

Russian classical music is usually one of the mainstays of symphony orchestras. This fall the Florida Orchestra will feature many of the works of Sergei Rakhmaninov. If you are interested, you might want to check the schedules. *Russian Heritage* is considering ways to incorporate these concerts into our program. Some concerts will include soloists from Russia.