

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

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A Second Musical Program For Spring

Saturday, March 10, 2007 at 2:00 pm

The first program in the spring series examined the connection between Russian folk music and concert music of the nineteenth century. About 40 people attended this program, the workshops on choral music and balalaika lessons, and the sing along of favorite Russian songs. For the second program, there will be a focus on Russian poetry in the works of composers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will also have a workshop for balalaika players at 1:30 pm, and group singing following the program, with some of the songs we tried in February, and some new ones.

Again taking part in the program will be Vladimir Khokhlov, pianist; Serge Boldireff, tenor; Vladislav Markov, bass; Andre Cheine, bayanist; and others. If you enjoyed our first program we hope to see you again, and bring your friends. If you didn't come to our first program, we hope to see you this time.

The program will be at Lewis House at Eckerd College (Go right at the traffic circle, towards the chapel, and park in the lot on the right near Lewis House.) The program is free and open to the public.

Russian Booth at SPIFFS Folk Fair in Vinoy Park

Russian Heritage will operate the Russian village at the 32nd Annual SPIFFS Folk Fair on March 14-18 in Vinoy Park in downtown St. Petersburg. The first three days will be for school students, and Saturday and Sunday will open to the public. There will be more than 30 ethnic groups represented with cultural displays, entertainment from around the globe, and exotic foods! Sunday will have a special focus on Hispanic culture.

The Russian Village will feature a Russian cultural exhibit by Russian Heritage, souvenirs and art works for sale by Vladimir's Collection, Russian foods prepared by the St. Petersburg Nights restaurant, and a special appearance by the Russian show dogs, the Samoyeds, who were brought to America just more than 100 years ago by a Belgian princess who lived in Tampa the last years of her life. Russian entertainment will be provided by The Academy of Ballet Arts on Wednesday at 1:30 pm and at 10:40 am on Saturday. Serge Boldireff and Andrey Chiene will perform on Friday.

The opening ceremonies and the Parade of Nations will take place on Saturday at 1:00 pm. The Fair will open for the general public on Saturday (10 am to 10 pm) and on Sunday (noon to 6:00 pm). The closing ceremonies will be at 5:30 pm on Sunday.

We need volunteers who can serve in our booth and march in the Saturday parade, ideally in ethnic costumes. We have some costumes available in adult and children's sizes, but we need volunteers. Are you willing and able to help? If you can volunteer, please call Zhana Sidorenko (727) 367-2092.

March 23: Event at Russian-American Club to Commemorate Pushkin

In our fall meeting devoted to the anniversary of the publication of Evgeny Onegin, it was noted that there are three Pushkin anniversaries celebrated each year in Russia: his birth on June 6; his Lyceum Day in October; and his death on February 10. This year is the 170th anniversary of his death, and Russian-American Club is having a special program to commemorate this event on Friday, March 23 at 2:00 pm in the club's center at 2920 Beach Boulevard in Gulfport.

The main theme of this program will be reminiscences from the life of the poet. Boris Maximov and A. A. Golubintsev will be the main presenters. Members of Russian Heritage who love Pushkin and can appreciate his works in Russian are welcome to come to this program.

March 31: Russian Dogs on Display (and one cat!)

This is your chance to meet champions of Russia's most famous breeds. You've heard about the remarkable Borzois, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, and Black Russian Terriers, and many of you have read about them on the pages of this newsletter. Now you will have the opportunity to meet these special breeds at our own "Russian Heritage Extravaganza" on Saturday, March 31 at 2:00 pm at Eckerd College. Also meet a Russian Blue cat!

Not only will you be able to see these championship dogs, but you will also hear about their stories. How did these dogs play a major role in Russian culture? What was the role of Grand Duke Nicholas in the developing the tradition of Russian kennels and the famous St. Petersburg Dog Shows of Tsarist times? Find out at 2:00 pm on March 31 in Roberts 101 at Eckerd College.

RUSSIAN BLUE

I would like to introduce Calypso!

If you, in any small way, are a cat person – you will be very happy to meet Calypso – our very giant *Russian Blue* cat.

He came into our lives through a friend who needed a home for him. Our friend needed to travel a great deal – he even bought a carrying case for travel – just in case Calypso would become his traveling companion – but to our advantage – Calypso was not in the traveling mood. We gladly provided refuge – we took him into our home and he took over our lives and our hearts – from refuge to total occupation. He is a two year old, silken gray, eighteen-pound gentle giant...

He is quiet – saunters like a shadow – with green eyes flashing. His shape is a perfect! Almond shaped eyes, perfect proportions and the personality of a Saint – are only some of his many attributes.

He most graciously tolerates our Lhasa Apso – Shamal who mercilessly chases him around the house, forcing him to jump up onto counter tops with extreme grace, alacrity and dignity – after all, one does not lower oneself to respond to undignified aggression. One just sits stoically and swats.

You are welcome to meet this wonderful creature on March 31 (see above). *Russian Blues* – according to some sources – were brought here across the Bering Strait through Alaska by English sailors at the turn of the century. The breed has been around since the 1930's. They do not breed often and generally have small litters.

We love this member of our family greatly and would enjoy sharing him with you – he will be very glad to meet you.

Affectionately,
Mary and Gene Stenov