

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

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MARCH 2008

MASLENITSA 2008

Tatiana Vondersaar Honored by SPIFFS

1. St. Andrew's Russian Orthodox Church, (4668 15th Avenue South, in Gulfport) celebrates Maslenitsa Sunday, March 2 at 12:30 pm in the Church Hall. Boris and Sax will entertain. Traditional blini will be served. Cost: \$30. Call Irina: 5640-0772 or Galina: 527-2874 for reservations or more information.

2. USF Russian Club will celebrate Maslenitsa on Sunday, March 2 beginning about 2:30 in the USF park on Fletcher Street east of the USF campus near the Hillsborough River. Games, music, and blini! Russian Heritage members are welcome. Bring some food to share. Call 813-971-0223 for more information.

3. The St. Petersburg Nights Russian Restaurant and Lounge, 6800 Sunset Way, St. Pete Beach, FL. Phone: 727-363-3832. Sunday, March 2, beginning at 5:00 pm with the movie "Snegurochka" (the Snow Maiden) with English Subtitles. At 6:30 live performances by Boris & Sax, and Katya performing Russian Romances. Cost: \$25. Russian Heritage members are offered a \$5 discount.

4. Russian-American Club invites you to a traditional "Russian Blini" on Friday, March 7 at 4:00 pm at the building of the Russian-American Club, 2920 Beach Boulevard in Gulfport. A musical program of Russian songs and romances featuring Sergei and Faina Boldireff will be a highlight of the celebration along with the traditional foods and drinks. Cost: \$30. Reservations by March 4. Call 727-367-2092 for more information.

SPIFFS (The St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society) is presenting its 33rd Annual Folk Fair on March 27-30, 2008 in Vinoy Park in downtown St. Petersburg. This year our own Tatiana Vondersaar is being honored for her dedication to SPIFFS and her many years of volunteer service by having the new SPIFFS Education Fund named in her honor.

Tatiana Vondersaar has volunteered literally thousands of hours in St. Petersburg, by visiting schools, taking part in SPIFFS translation projects, and representing Russia in many multi-cultural endeavors. She has been recognized on more than one occasion as one of the outstanding volunteers of the year in St. Petersburg.

At the opening ceremonies for the Folk Fair (Saturday, March 29 at 3:00), Tatiana will be honored. We hope that many from Russian Heritage will be on hand for the "Parade of Nations" and this special opening ceremony.

The Tatiana Vondersaar Educational Fund was endowed by Margo and John Catsimatidis to honor Margo's mother. This fund will help support educational projects for SPIFFS. Further gifts can be made to this fund (see page 5).

For further information on the Folk Fair and the Russian village, see page 2.



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Tatiana Vondersaar

Old Russian New Year's Celebration: 2008

Some said it was the best Old Russian New Year's Celebration ever!! Some said it was "the best party in town"!! Another very successful Old Russian New Year's Gala took place at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club on January 12, 2008 with more than 275 members and friends of *Russian Heritage* in attendance. The party atmosphere, the decorations, the music, and the food – all lived up to expectations in this beautiful location. The silent auction brought in a record \$4,100 to the scholarship fund, and everyone seemed to have a great time. Everyone also seemed to enjoy our special gifts of the Russian wooden toys from Bogorodskoye and the artistic prints of St. Petersburg by artist Pavel Golchikov.

We had several special guests in attendance. Our Honorary Host, Mayor Rick Baker welcomed the guests with his remarks about his meeting with emcee Carl Kuttler and Vladimir Putin. Congressmen Gus Bilirakis also brought his greetings to the party goers. Special music and entertainment were provided by Gypsy performers, Vasili Romani and Zemfira, with a little added audience participation by Violetta and other "Gypsy-at-heart" attendees. Vladimir Yarosh, the winner of our Russian Heritage talent show, added his flair for song and dance.

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. In particular, we single out President Nadia Yevstigneyeva and Board Chair Vladimir Malkin for their superb efforts of planning the event, and presenting the New Year's Toast. We thank the Dazzlers for their dazzling dance music, Vladimir Khokhlov and Susan Haig for their wonderful duets for the reception music, and Honorary Consul of the Russian Republic and President of St. Petersburg College, Dr. Carl Kuttler, Jr. for his exceptional work as emcee. Finally, we thank Margo and John Catsimatidis for their generosity in providing the outstanding decorations and most of the silent auction prizes that helped make this party so special!

The photographs on the following page show some of the highlights of our party. Can you identify the participants? Do you recognize our darling dancing couple, 95-year-young Arda and DeeDee? Our entertainers and special guests? Our laughing ladies? For more photographs from this event, visit our website at www.russianheritage.org.

Archiglas Is Coming!! Mark Your Calendars!!

An outstanding vocal ensemble from St. Petersburg, Russia will be performing in St. Petersburg, Florida on Thursday, April 10 at 7:00 pm at the Christ United Methodist Church in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida. ARCHIGLAS performs Russian liturgical music and Russian folk songs. The concert is free, but there will be a free will offering taken. More information will appear in the April Newsletter, but spread the word. Russian Heritage is one of the proud sponsors of this event.

*Watch for news on our after Easter RH Picnic . . .
 . . . in the next Newsletter.*





Volunteers Needed For Russian Village at Folk Fair

We need volunteers to staff the Russian Village at the SPIFFS Folk Fair:

Thursday, March 27 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Friday, March 28 8:30 am – 3:00 pm; and 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Saturday, March 29 9:30 am – 10:00 pm
Sunday, March 30 11:30 am – 6:00 pm

Volunteers normally will work in shifts of 3-4 hours (at least two hours at a time), and should wear Russian dress, when possible. Please call Zhanna for more information, and to let her know when you are able to volunteer: 727-367-2092.

The Nicholas White Scholarship Fund

Those who have been reading our newsletters from the fall know that Russian Heritage has been collecting funds to support a local musician/composer who was admitted to study at the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia. Nicholas completed the fall semester with good results, but has now returned home. He is reviewing his options and planning his future which may include further study at the St. Petersburg Conservatory, or study and work closer to home. He hopes to present an account of his experiences at the Conservatory in upcoming meeting of Russian Heritage and/or on the pages of this newsletter.

A total of \$4,000 was collected from the following members and friends of Russian Heritage: Tatiana Albert, Vasili Arkadiev, Jerry Elder, Laura Plesch, Susan Haig, Antoine Harovas, Bill Grant, Olga Fincher, Vladimir Khokhlov, Dagmara Kulik, Bernie Orlando, Bill Parsons, Oleg Schidlowsky, Olga Schidlowsky, Gene and Mary Stenov, Arda Unjian, Nadia Yevstigneyeva, and an anonymous donor. This amount covered most of his tuition and fees, his round trip transportation, and his room expenses, and made it possible for him to take advantage of this outstanding educational experience.

2008 Annual Dues

RUSSIAN HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP FORM 2008

Those interested in Russian culture are welcome to join Russian Heritage by paying the yearly dues. Members receive a monthly newsletter, discounts at certain events, such as the Old Russian New Year Celebration.

Student *0 Individual *15 Family *20 Sponsor \$100+

Name _____ Tel _____

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Checks payable to Russian Heritage, P.O. Box 14552, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.
For more information call Bill Parsons: 727-867-9148