

# RUSSIAN HERITAGE

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## Plan Now for the Annual Meeting Friday, May 19

Reservations are beginning to come in, but we still need to hear from many of you, that you are coming to our special event and annual meeting at the "St. Petersburg Nights" Russian Restaurant on Friday, May 19.

Our annual meeting is held in May and includes the business meeting and election of officers for next year. This year a special program will honor two of our *Russian Heritage* student ambassadors who are graduating from Palm Harbor High School.

The meeting and celebration will be held at the "St. Petersburg Nights" Russian restaurant on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, with a reception at 5:30 pm, business meeting at 6:00, supper at 6:30 followed by the program and dancing. Entrée choice is Beef Stroganov or Garlic Chicken Tabaka for \$25. Please RSVP by May 16 by email ([president@russianheritage.org](mailto:president@russianheritage.org)), or by phone (727-864-8235), or send your check and reservations to Russian Heritage, PO Box 14552, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.

Violetta Yevstigneyeva and Victor Albert were two of our *Russian Heritage* ambassadors to Russia in the summer of 2005, and they have been active in many of our programs here, including most recently, reading with Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko during his appearance here March 14, and playing in the *Russian Heritage* tennis tournament. They are also honor students in Palm Harbor, graduating in May.

If you haven't visited the new Russian restaurant "St. Petersburg Nights" (6800 Sunset Way in St. Pete Beach), this will be an opportunity to sample authentic Russian cuisine, learn more about *Russian Heritage*, and celebrate our youth.

## Russian Film at Eckerd College: May 12

(Miller Auditorium at Eckerd College, 4200 54<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., St. Petersburg)

A "Hollywood" type Russian movie will be shown as part of the International Film Series at Eckerd College on Friday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. **Night Watch (Ночной дозор)** is a science fiction film that uses extensive special effects to tell its story. In Russian with English subtitles. Free and open to the public.

## Festival of States Parade: May 12

SPIFFS is sponsoring a float in the Festival of States Parade, and members of *Russian Heritage* are invited to walk or ride in the parade in Russian costume as part of this event. The starting location is between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> streets on Central Avenue. Arrive by 7pm, the parade begins at 8pm. The parade ends in Vinoy Park.

## A GYPSY CONCERT: MAY 13 IN CLEARWATER

A Gypsy Ensemble will perform at the Royalty Theater (405 Cleveland Street) in Clearwater at 8:00 pm on Saturday, May 13. For more details and ticket information, visit the website [www.RussianTampa.com](http://www.RussianTampa.com).

## Professor Bill Parsons Retires from Eckerd College

*Russian Heritage* president Bill Parsons, who is Professor of History and Russian Studies at Eckerd College, is retiring from the Eckerd faculty after 40 years of distinguished service. At his retirement celebration on April 28, Eckerd College invited the board members of *Russian Heritage* to participate, and Bill was toasted and roasted by his faculty colleagues, and by Nadia Yevstigneyeva, the current vice-president of *RH*. Bill was also chosen by the *RH* Board as this year's "Person of the Year" for recognition by SPIFFS at its annual banquet.

## Tatiana Bobrovskaya to Attend Annual Meeting

Tatiana Bobrovskaya, our *Russian Heritage* representative in St. Petersburg, Russia, is visiting Florida to attend the graduation of her niece, Violetta Yevstigneyeva, from Palm Harbor High School. She will attend our annual meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>, and she will consult with the officers and board members about future programs of cooperation between our two St. Petersburgs. Tatiana has been instrumental in arranging our student ambassadors program in Russia, and was involved in the conferences on the Leningrad siege in 2005. She also participated in the *RH* tennis tournament.

## *Russian Heritage* Cruise: Nov. 30 – Dec. 4, 2006

It's not too late to sign up for the *Russian Heritage* Cruise! We have had additional inquiries, and it looks like we should have a good group. The basic cabins are \$413.50 per person for an inside cabin for two on this Carnival Trip to Mexico from Tampa. For further information and to register, call 727-367-3737 and ask about the special *Russian Heritage* cruise. Those participating in the cruise will help plan the special "Russian" program. All participants will receive a free "Russian Heritage" T-shirt.

## ***Russian Heritage Tennis Tournament, May 7***

There were 13 participants and a number of spectators for the first annual *Russian Heritage* tennis program at Eckerd College on Sunday morning, May 7. Six teams of mixed doubles were involved, and after each team played six games, the players rotated and continued play. Most participants played between 18 and 24 games. After this "round robin", a demonstration of outstanding men's doubles featured Sergei and Phillippe Novikov vs. Victor Peppard and Victor Albert. Also participating in this tournament were Bob Bailes, Ed Kaplan, Bill Parsons, Tatiana Bobrovskaya, Kim Fintorino, Jamie Gill, Courtney Kagan, Nadia Yevstigneyeva, and Violetta Yevstigneyeva. The "tournament" raised \$95 for the scholarship fund.

## **Proposed Changes in the Bylaws**

At the April 2 meeting of the *Russian Heritage* Board of Directors, two changes were proposed for the By-Laws of the organization.

1. To increase the size of the board from the current 4-8 directors, to 12-16.
2. To elect our officers for 2-year terms, rather than the current 1-year term.

If these amendments are approved at the annual meeting on May 19, they will go into effect with the elections for officers for 2006-07.

The rationale for increasing the size of the board is 2-fold. First, many of our board members travel extensively, and a larger board would give us a broader representation when some of the directors are absent. Second, there are many willing and eager to serve on this board, and we want to encourage such participation.

The reason for extending to two years the terms for executive officers is simply to provide more continuity in the key positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**Check our New Web Site! [www.russianheritage.org](http://www.russianheritage.org)**