

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 8.

MAY 2007

Annual Meeting - Russian Dinner - Male Quartet *Sunday, May 6 at "St. Petersburg Nights"*

Our annual meeting is held in May and includes the business meeting and election of officers for next year. This year a special program of music by the Russian Heritage Male Quartet will be presented for Russian Heritage members and for those eating at the restaurant at 7:00 pm.

A reception will begin at 4:00 pm, with wine and cheese being served. Our business meeting will begin at 4:30. In addition to the election of officers we will have annual reports and a review of our past year. There will be pictures of our activities, including many from the Old Russian New Year's celebration.

After the meeting, we will have the opportunity to share a Russian meal, ordering from the regular menu. At 7:00 the Russian Heritage Male Quartet will perform. Those who attended the picnic on April 21 will know what a musical treat we will have in this concert. Invite friends to our meeting, and/or to the restaurant for this special occasion. The cost of the concert is \$10.

At our business meeting, and during the meal and after, we will share ideas about what is ahead for Russian Heritage in the coming year. If you haven't been to the "St. Petersburg Nights" Russian restaurant before, this will be an excellent opportunity. It is located at 6800 Sunset Way on St. Pete Beach. We hope to see you for this special event!

Three Announcements from President Nadia Yevstigneyeva . . .

1. I would like to share with you a new idea for organizing a 10-day Russian/Scandinavian Cruise from Copenhagen on the ship "Star Princess" with 7 ports of call, including two full days in St. Petersburg in May of 2008. Tentatively we are looking at May 18-28, 2008 (please save these days for your next year vacation). This cruise will bring an opportunity to learn about the history of Russia and the Baltic countries, to study intensive Russian, to play the balalaika, and to have a lot of fun. We are working with Glen Johansson, Star Travel company owner to make this trip most affordable and exciting. Hear more about this at the annual meeting on May 6.



2. I would like to strongly encourage you to vote for St. Basil Cathedral as one of 21 candidates for becoming one of the New 7 Wonders of the World new. Don't miss this UNIQUE opportunity!!! Your vote counts! Help make history...

The Kremlin and Red Square. Moscow, Russia.

Built as a residence for Ivan I, the Kremlin was the official residence of the Czars until the 1917 Russian Revolution. Today, it houses the President's office. In front of the Kremlin is Red Square – an impressive and exuberant plaza. Rising from the square is St Basil's Cathedral, built in the 1550s to commemorate Ivan the Terrible's capture of the Mongol stronghold of Kazan.

Please, vote for the Kremlin/St.Basil's, as a representation of - Fortitude & Symbolism! You can vote on line or via phone.

Добро пожаловать на выборы 7 новых Чудес Света



Время голосования кончается. Помогите создать историю.

Кремль и Красная Площадь. Москва, Россия

Построенный для царя Ивана I, Кремль стал впоследствии официальной резиденцией

русских царей вплоть до Октябрьской революции 1917 года. Сегодня там находится офис президента. Перед западной стеной Кремля

расположена Красная площадь – величественное и легко узнаваемое место, которое для многих людей ассоциируется с знаменитыми майскими демонстрациями. На этой площади возвышается Собор Василия Блаженного, построенный в 1555-1561 г.г. в честь победы Ивана Грозного над Казанским ханством.

Итак: голосуйте за Кремль, так как это символ - могущества и символизма!

The New 7 Wonders of the World will be announced during the Official Declaration ceremony in Lisbon, Portugal on Saturday, July 7, 2007 - 07.07.07.

<http://www.new7wonders.com>

3. If you are traveling to Saint-Petersburg this year, remember to enjoy and use special services offered by "Angels" on the streets of the city. On April 21, for the first time this season, workers of the tourist information Angels Service (most of them are students of department of foreign languages of Saint-Petersburg universities) returned to streets of Russia's second capital. Ten "angels" are working in pairs at central St. Petersburg. Three police patrols are accompanying the workers of the Angels Service. As soon as the high season begins, the number of "angels" will increase to 60 people (The Angels Service is a mobile tourist information service established to provide visitors of St. Petersburg from all over Russia and abroad with effective information assistance). The "angels" are working in Central, Admiralteysky, Vasileostrovsky and Petrogradsky districts in Saint-Petersburg, in the places of tourist flows. Don't miss this opportunity – it's free!

RUSSIAN BREEDS: RUSSIAN GOLD

by Peggy Newton

Russia has a tumultuous history steeped in culture. Authors Pushkin and Tolstoy, composers Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov, artists Bakst and Repin, just to name a few, are responsible for Russia's prominence among the great cultural centers of western Europe like Paris, London and Rome.

Yet, commonly, a major barometer of Russian history and culture is overlooked - its native dog and cat breeds. On Saturday, March 31, this was not the case when Russian Heritage presented the educational program *Russian Breeds: Russian Gold*. At that program, five Russian breeds were presented in person and their history and use discussed.

The ambiance was set as attendees filed in while balalaika tunes played. They were greeted by costumed Board members. Russian Heritage's own Mary Stenov presented her Russian Blue Cat, Calypso, whose ancestors had been brought from Archangel in northwestern Russia to England where the breed was appreciated for its calm, tranquil disposition. This was aptly demonstrated as Calypso was presented in a room full of canines and didn't bat an eye - even when the Siberian Husky gave him a protracted stare.

The Husky, Ch. Echota's Cassanova, CD, CGC, Therapy Dog "Cass", came from Valrico with his owner Linda Van Cleve. She made it clear that the breed had originated on the eastern coast, near the Bering Strait with the Chukchi Indians. The Siberian Huskies were raised as family friendly, low maintenance sled dogs of great endurance and speed. A famous Siberian Husky was Balto who led the sled team which saved Nome by hurriedly delivering diphtheria serum. Ironically, during the Cold War, there was a statue of the Russian Balto in New York City.

Though Samoyeds are often mistaken for Huskies, the Samoyed, Rapture's Mouston of Kenway - "Mouston" owned by John and Julie Jeffries was presented as being from a totally different area in north western Russia near the Arctic Circle. Samoyeds had been used as reindeer herders by the Samoyed people who also used them to pull sleds and to warm their reindeer skin hut homes. Samoyeds are totally family friendly and their hair can be used to make angora-like garments. Their name, meaning "he who eats himself" originated when the czar's troops invaded the east and found the Samoyed people drinking reindeer blood - as much a misnomer as our Native Americans being called Indians.

The Black Russian Terrier, Ch. Russian Guard Danko Ares - "Onyx", presented by Laura Manis from Orlando awed everyone there with his cheerful enormity. We learned that the BRT originated during the Stalin era when a heavy, strong and resilient work dog was needed by the military. The Red Star Kennel in Moscow produced the breed with mixes of Bouvier, Giant Schnauzer, Rottweiler and others. They are intelligent and protective working dogs. Interestingly, their eyes are covered with hair so that, when on night missions, the gleam of the eye does not reveal its position.

Also a large dog, the Borzoi, formerly known as the Russian Wolfhound, was represented by Ch. Laureate Majestic Light - "Trevor" and his owner, Monica Barry from Brooksville. Monica described the Borzoi as a sight hound always associated with the hunts of the nobility. When the serfs were freed in 1860, they would have become extinct if it were not for the Grand Duke Nicholas. Then, at the time of the Revolution, most Russian Borzoi had been slaughtered - guilt by association. Fortunately, the United States and Great Britain maintained the breed and reinvigorated it in Russia after Perestroika. Now shows are planned for St. Petersburg, Russia, once again.

Thanks are due to all in attendance, to Mary & Gene Stenov for assisting with preparation, Jhanna Sidorenko for also dressing up, to Bill Parsons for traffic engineering, and to each human and dog presenter. Each presenter was thanked with a matryoshka doll from *Vladimir's* and a gift certificate for *Petsmart*®.



At the Russian Heritage picnic on April 21, about 90 participants enjoyed the hospitality of Host Dr. Konstantine Artzibushev at his Odessa estate on the lake. We thank Dr. Artzibushev for his hospitality.



Russian Heritage Male Quartet is made up of four outstanding musicians: Slava Markov, Sergei Boldireff, Andre Cheine, and Vladimir Khokhlov.

Host Dr. Konstantin Artzibushev, President Nadia Yevstigneyeva & Board Chair, Bill Parsons.



SPIFFS SPONSORS "ISLAND FANTASY"

At present Russian Heritage does not have any programs planned for June, but we are encouraged to attend the "Island Fantasy" on Saturday, June 2, 2007 sponsored by SPIFFS (St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society).

This program will feature Polynesian and Caribbean food, live performances from the islands of Jamaica, Fiji, Tonga, Tahiti, & Samoa, and live band and DJ music for dancing. Dress is casual, in the tropical or island style. There will be a cash bar, and raffle and door prizes.

The cost of the tickets is \$20.00 per person, and it is a fund raiser for SPIFFS to help get ready for the 2008 Folk Fair. Tickets are available from Bill Parsons or Mary Stenov, our SPIFFS representatives, and can be ordered at the annual meeting. Come, enjoy an evening of music, dance, live entertainment, fun and food?

Saturday, June 2 at 6:00 pm
Minnreg Hall (6340 126th Ave. N., Largo)

In the News. . .

The world has lost two important Russian individuals in April 2007. **Boris Yeltsin** was a pivotal figure in moving from communism to a Post-Soviet structure in Russia in the 1990's. **Mstislav Rostropovich** was a world-class musician, a cellist, composer, and conductor of the US National Symphony Orchestra in Washington.

An interesting article about Yeltsin and Putin and the changes that have taken place in Russia since the early 1990's was written by Russian Heritage member Carl Kuttler in the "St. Petersburg Times" on Sunday, April 29 in the Perspective Section.

Annual Dues for 2007

It is now time to pay your dues for 2007. If you want to continue receiving this newsletter, please take action now. If your dues have been paid, it will be indicated on your mailing label.

RUSSIAN HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP FORM 2007

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+

**We have an anonymous donor who will match the first \$100 of each sponsor's contribution to the Scholarship Fund.*

Name _____ Tel. _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email _____

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