

# RUSSIAN HERITAGE

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 5

MAY 2008



## *PICNIC and ANNUAL MEETING: May 17*

The annual meeting and picnic for Russian Heritage will be on Saturday, May 17 at Dr. Artzibushev's home in Odessa, Florida. (16559 Hutchinson Rd.) Plan to come about noon. The food will be served about 1:00 pm. Cost for the picnic is \$10; for 16 and under, \$5. You can get your tickets from one of the Board Members of Russian Heritage, or at the Russian art store "Vladimir's Collection" (201 First Street NE), or by mail to: Russian Heritage, PO Box 14552, St. Petersburg FL 33733.

The musical program will feature Boris and his sax. Games and activities for all ages are being planned. A cuisine competition will feature favorite desserts (Russian or other). You can prepare a cake, or cookies, or a pie, or anything that would normally be eaten for dessert. If you plan to enter, please bring your dessert before noon for the judging. First, second, and third prizes will be awarded, and entries will be shared with all attending.

A short annual meeting will take place to elect officers and board members for next year, and to consider plans for the future. The Chair of the Board, the Treasurer, and the Secretary have one more year for their terms. Elections will be held for President and Vice President, and all members of the Board of Directors. If you are interested in being a candidate or nominating a candidate for playing an active role on the board, please respond by email and your ideas will be considered by the nominating committee.

This will be the second year in a row that Dr. Artzibushev has invited us to his home for our spring picnic. We thank him in advance for his generosity.

## *AN EVENING OF RUSSIAN ROMANCES*

5:30 pm, Sunday, May 4 at the *St. Petersburg Nights Restaurant*

A concert featuring the Classical ELEGIA TRIO performing beloved Russian Romances. Performing for the first time in St. Petersburg, this Trio consists of Katherine Vershynina – keyboard performer and vocalist (graduate of the Moscow Conservatory and winner of numerous national and international competitions), Natalia Vasilieva – violinist (graduate of the Kaliningrad Conservatory and member of the Belorus State Orchestra), and legendary local musician, Boris (vocals, guitar, bass, and saxophone). Ticket price is \$10 for the musicians. Russian Heritage members who stay for dinner or drinks will receive a 10% discount on the bill. The restaurant is located at 6800 Sunset Way on St. Pete Beach.





*Russian Heritage*  
PO Box 14552  
St. Petersburg FL 33733  
Email: [president@russianheritage.org](mailto:president@russianheritage.org)  
Website: [www.russianheritage.org](http://www.russianheritage.org)

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Vice President  
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## 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! p

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](http://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.*





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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 4 "An Evening of Russian Romances" at *St. Petersburg Nights Restaurant*. (see p. 1)

May 17 Picnic and Annual Meeting. (see p. 1)

May 24 SPIFFS Volunteers Appreciation Picnic. SPIFFS invites all who volunteered at Folk Fair 2008 (in the Russian Village or elsewhere) to come to a picnic at Boca Ciega Millenium Park (12410 74<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.) from 11 am to 5 pm on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Come to meet and greet all who helped make the Folk Fair a success.

**"Living Statue" Invited to St. Petersburg, Russia**

The "Living Statue" from St. Petersburg, Florida (you may have seen her at the Saturday morning market or at the SPIFFS Folk Fair) has been invited to perform in St. Petersburg, Russia at the City's annual birthday celebration this May. If you would like to help sponsor her trip, please contact call 727-867-9148 ASAP. Her expenses in Russia will be covered, but she needs to raise money for travel expenses in a very short time.

**"Books for Russia"**

For ten years the Library Foundation for "Russia Abroad" has collected books and journals published outside of Russia. This organization, funded largely by the Solzhenitsyn Foundation, has collected more than 80,000 books for use in their research facility in Moscow, and in other regional libraries in Russia. They continue to collect such books and other archival materials from those Russians living outside of Russia, including many volumes that have been contributed by members of the Russian American Club in St. Petersburg, Florida. If you know of persons who would like to donate such materials to this cause, please contact Nikita Tregubov, president of the Russian American Club (727-343-3934).

**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. \_\_\_\_\_

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