

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume VIII, Issue 7.

May 2004

SPRING PICNIC A GREAT SUCCESS

More than 120 people attended the *Russian Heritage* spring picnic on April 18 at the home of Bill and Pat Grant in Bradenton. The food was great! The weather was perfect! The singing and the volleyball were lots of fun! In a word: "Здорово!" (Zdo-ra-va!) "Awesome!" It was especially exciting to see the large number of children and young families. Perhaps we need to plan more events with the young people in mind. *Russian Heritage* sends a big "Спасибо!" (Spa-see-ba!) "Thank you!" to Bill and Pat for their warm hospitality.

ANNUAL MEETING LIGHT SUPPER

At the Palladium Theater
Saturday, May 8, 2004

The annual meeting will include annual reports of a very successful year and elections of officers for 2004-05. We hope for an excellent turnout.

Reception: 4:45 pm

Light Supper: 5:00 pm

Business Meeting: 6:00 pm

Concert: (see below) 7:00 pm

The cost of the supper is \$10. Please RSVP (727) 867-9148 by May 5. Leave message.

Fund Raiser Concert for *Russian Heritage* *Renaissance Project* Performance at the Palladium

This program will feature ballet performances by **Andrei Ustinov** and **Elena Martinson** and classical musical selections by pianist Christina Hartley and violinist Halina Bobrow of the Tampa Bay Symphony. Andrei and Elena will perform selections from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* and they will also dance to the music of John Field. They will also repeat their popular choreography to Mahler's *Fifth Symphony*.

Tickets for this concert are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for seniors, and \$10 for youth. *Russian Heritage* members can purchase tickets for \$10. This concert is a **fund raiser** for *Russian Heritage*, and a portion of the ticket sales will go into our scholarship fund. We thank Andrei and Elena and the Palladium Theater for making this possible. We hope that you will make every effort to attend, and bring your friends, for our annual meeting and the concert by our outstanding Russian ballet performers.

The Palladium Theater is located at 231 5th Avenue North in downtown St. Petersburg.

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Anecdotes and Proverbs Competition

The winners of the Russian Anecdote Competition and the Russian Proverbs competitions will be announced at the annual meeting on May 8. Winning entries and honorable mentions will be published in the next newsletter.

Violetta's Page - СТРАНИЧКА Виолетты

Violetta Yevstigneyeva, a student at Palm Harbor High School, is volunteering to work with *Russian Heritage*. She shares her impressions of the SPIFFS Awards Banquet.

**Carl Kuttler and Rick Baker Selected for
RUSSIAN HERITAGE's "Persons of the Year"
At Annual SPIFFS International Ball**

The SPIFFS Award Ceremony honoring the "Persons of the Year" for each ethnic group in 2004 was a main part of the SPIFFS International Ball on April 24th. Twenty ethnic groups, including *Russian Heritage* representing Russia, participated in this event. *Russian Heritage* was represented by 17 members sitting at two tables, and we were the only group to select two Americans as our honorees, and the only group to be represented by a Mayor.

As our "persons of the year" we selected Rick Baker, mayor of St. Petersburg, and Dr. Carl Kuttler, president of St. Petersburg College. These two men chaired the committee which led the joint celebration of the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg, Russia, and the 100th anniversary of St. Petersburg, Florida in 2003. In May these two men led the mayor's official delegation to St. Petersburg, Russia where a twin city agreement was signed between the two cities. Later in the year they met with Vladimir Putin in New York City, and Putin said that he hoped to be able to accept their invitation to come to St. Petersburg, Florida "in the near future".

I had a chance to chat with a Mayor and his wife Joyce - they are such wonderful people! Unfortunately Dr. Kuttler was unable to attend, but his award was received for him by the Assistant Director of the Honors College at St. Petersburg College, another very special person. Our *Russian Heritage* Ambassador for the night was Zina Downen, our official *Russian Heritage* delegate to SPIFFS.

After the awards were announced, a delicious buffet was provided, followed by dancing and intercultural communication and fun.

We represented our organization and our culture with pride and an amazing spirit!
Мы представляли наше Русское Наследие с гордостью и потрясающим духом!
Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate. Большое
Спасибо!

Violetta Yevstigneyeva Виолетта Евстигнеева

Natalia Krupitskaya and Maria Kiseleva Selected as Student Ambassadors for Fall 2004

The competition to name our 2004 Student Ambassadors began in St. Petersburg, Russia on December 7, 2003. About 300 high school students of English from 70 schools participated in the first stage of the written exams, and 50 were invited back for the oral stage of the competition on December 15. Of these, 15 were selected to write a composition about themselves, and appear before the selection committee on January 31, 2004. The two winners are Natalia Krupitskaya, first place, and Maria Kiseleva, second place. These two girls will be coming to St. Petersburg, Florida in September. Read their remarkable compositions on the following pages of our newsletter. You will be able to read more of these compositions at the annual meeting.

Maria Kiseleva

School # 61

Age: 15

Hello! I'm **Maria Kiseleva**. I am participating in this contest to test myself and to compare my English with other contestants. And now I am glad to present to you the first unique edition of the Big Encyclopedia of Me (A-Z), where you can learn everything, or almost everything about me. Enjoy.

A is for **ACTION**. In my opinion one lives while one moves and does good things for other people. Maybe it is not good, but life now is constant action, a fact which we can not deny.

B is for **BEACH**. This is the place where I love spending sunny summer days, which are so rare in our severe climate. Where else can one get a month's worth of sun within several hours?

C is for **CATS**. Cats are my favorite animals. I love them for their enigmatic eyes, but even more for their independence, a quality that not all calling themselves humans have.

D is for **DRAMA**. This is my hobby. I like acting. Some people even say I have a talent. If actresses were paid better, I'd become an actress. It's a pity they are not.

E is for **ESTONIA**. I have many relatives there and it is my father's motherland. It is a northern country with a beautiful capital. It is my second home.

F is for **FIRE**. Please, do not think I am an incendiary. I'm not. I just love looking at fire. Fire is the best example of the fact that no matter how dangerous an element is, it's charming. Always.

G is for **GOthic**. This is my favorite architectural style, not because it's fashionable, but because I just like its gloomy beauty.

H is for **HABITS**. These are very important for me. People say a habit is a second nature. I totally agree.

I is for *IRONY*. We are taught to take life seriously. But should we? Not always, I think. That's why I'm glad when someone says I'm ironic. I hope I really am.

J is for *JUNK FOOD*. Unfortunately I love it as all teenagers in their hearts of hearts do. No matter how harmful it is, I'm loving it. ☺

K is for *KISELEVA*. That's my surname. Like many people, I used to hate it when I was a child. Now I don't. Things could be much worse.

L is for *LEO*. This is my Zodiac sign. "Leo" belongs to the "fire" signs. Not by chance, I guess.

M is for *MARIA*. This is my name. It's beautiful, isn't it?

N is for *NEGATION*. I think it is one of the most important instincts that was put in human beings by nature. Without it humanity could not develop. So it's wrong when adults try to kill this instinct in their children.

O is for *OPEN*. Many people say it's one of my main qualities. Maybe it's not good to be open, because people can hurt you, but at the same time I can give away pain and not have it inside.

P is for *POETRY*. In my opinion, poetry has a great power. However, poems are usually created just to save people's feelings through the years, like leaves in a herbarium, with no intention of having any power. A paradox.

Q is for *QUOTE*. I like quoting famous people, as those people are smarter. Who knows, maybe one day someone will quote me.

R is for *READING*. My hobby, along with drama.

S is for *SAINT PETERSBURG*. My dear city. My sweet home. I can speak about it forever, but I can express everything in one word – a dream: a little bit mad, magnificent, foggy, salty dream. One for all.

T is for *TEA*. This is my favorite drink. As a real Russian, I like it with lemon.

U is for *UFO*. You can laugh, but I really believe that we are not alone in the Universe, and that one day we'll finally shake hands with kind creatures with big green ears.

V is for *VICTORY*. I love to be a winner. I can't live without it.

W is for *WHY? WHAT?* and other questions. As it says in one film, life consists of questions, but we want answers. But it still consists of questions.

X is for *X*. I hate math. For me it's like Latin – something which can be completely understood only by a few "selected" people.

Y is for *"YESTERDAY"*. This is my favorite song. McCartney is a genius. No further comment necessary.

Z is for *ZEAL*. I needed a lot of zeal to create this encyclopedia. I hope you liked it. If yes, let me know.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully, Maria Kiseleva.

The Museum of Planet Earth archives.

Exhibit # 61 Description: Earth inhabitant,
 Name: Natalia Krupitskaya
 Place of birth: St. Petersburg, Russia, Earth.
 Date of birth: 31 July 1989 A.D.
 Nationality: Russian
 Place of education: Gymnasia# 61, class 9thBⁿ.

Natalia Krupitskaya
 Date of birth: 31. 07. 1989
 Place of birth: Saint-Petersburg, Russia
 Citizenship: Russian
 School: Gymnasia #61
 Class: 9

She has been taking extra courses of English in the English club of her school since the 3rd class. She is the Young Ambassador of Peace and a Member of the English Debates League "Idea".

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. The captain and his crew would like to welcome you aboard of this spaceship. Thank you for visiting The Museum of Planet Earth and we hope that you will enjoy the tour. Dear people of the VKS planet, please put on your virtual reality glasses and join me in this spectacular and thrilling journey that will take us to the most mysterious and exotic planet in our galaxy - Planet Earth. Today you will have an exclusive opportunity to learn about Earth people's behavior patterns, their likes and dislikes, their dreams and fears.

To view our main exhibit, please press the red button on the left of the dashboard situated in front of you. This alien is a female human being who has been put asleep for the purposes of this excursion. Human species have a tendency to believe in their superiority over the rest of the galaxy and can therefore display unpredictable behavior in captivity. This is our newest exhibit. Her name is Natalia Krupitskaya and she was brought to the museum just a few vic-hours ago. You are probably wondering about her curious facial expression. Our research center scientists were also puzzled by it at first, however, after an in-depth study of the human specie they were able to establish that this never changing curvature of her face is called "a smile". In a human world a person's friendliness is judged by the size of her smile. This girl's smile is very impressive even by the Earth's standards.

A weird bump in the middle of the girl's face is called "the nose". A bit higher you can see two wide openings where you can find white balls with green and black circles - these are her "eyes". Even though we have a very limited knowledge of this alien specie, we can still read her eyes, which show a strong desire to learn everything there is to know about the world, a craving for knowledge, and a passion for socializing.

Speaking and socializing functions are performed through a longish hole in the lower part of a human's face - "the mouth". Our scientists also proved that in order to develop her skills in this area, our exhibit takes advanced courses in public speaking and studies languages of different folks who inhabit the "Blue Planet". These skills provide her with a unique opportunity to successfully communicate with human beings of different nationalities. These contacts give her a chance to discover new and exciting facts about the world.

Now let's return to the girl's eyes, which Earth people usually call "the mirrors of the soul". Through her eyes we will get to the soul of our exhibit. To view her soul, please push the blue button, situated above the red one in the upper left corner of the dashboard. This child's soul consists of a number of sensitive cells, which react to the information coming from the outside world. Our exhibit's soul fog is pink with bright yellow spots. This color scheme suggests that this girl has a remarkable personality: she is serious and sensitive, loving and caring, funny and charming. Our exhibit also has an astonishing ability to enjoy life and provide comfort and support to everyone around her. She is a down-to-earth low maintenance person, but she knows exactly what she wants and is strong-willed. Our scientists determined that this girl enjoys a wide spectrum of Earth things: she loves the sun, thin ice crusts on the puddles, and stopy scarves. If you peer into her soul fog, you will see clearly images of various human beings flowing by. These human beings are this child's most favorite people and they have a permanent place in her heart. Our next stop is the heart, where we will have a chance to learn more about these so-called "most-favorite" people of hers.

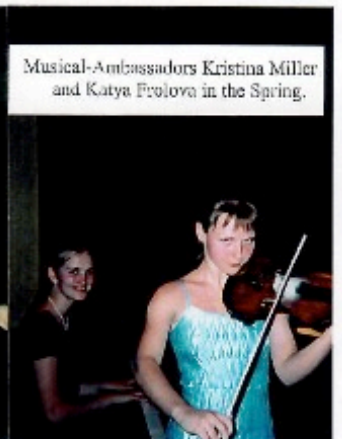
OUR PERSONS OF THE YEAR: 2003-2004



Ambassadors Dina Urikh and Polina Korniltsova in the Fall.



Rich Baker (as Peter the Great), Mayor of St. Petersburg
Carl Kuttler, President of St. Petersburg College
(recognized at the SPIFFS Banquet on April 24; see page 2)



Musical-Ambassadors Kristina Miller and Katya Frolova in the Spring.



RUSSIAN HERITAGE AT SPIFFS

Upcoming Events

- May 8, 2004 Annual Meeting at Palladium Theater. Election of Officers.
- May 8, 2004 Dance Concert at the Palladium Theater.

The Renaissance Project
presents

a concert for the benefit of the
Russian Heritage Society

with


Elena Martinson & Andrei Ustinov
Stars of Russian Classical Ballet

Christine Hartley - Piano
Halina Bobrow - Violin

Classical and neoclassical pieces
Choreography by Andrei Ustinov & Eam Suve, Director of the National
Ballet Academy of Estonia
Music by P. Tchaikovsky, J. Field and G. Mahler

Saturday, May 8, 7:00 p.m.

Palladium Theater
253 5th Ave. N
St. Petersburg
(727) 822-3590
Russian Heritage Society contact - Bill Parsons (727) 867-9148



The new officers and the new board of directors need your advice on the activities for next year. We definitely are committed to continuing our student ambassador program and we have funds to do so. We also are considering improving our web site and possibly moving towards an electronic newsletter for those who have email addresses. Our plans for specific programs will be discussed by the new board, but we need your input.

We have made one decision for January, 2005. We will continue our tradition of celebrating the **Old Russian New Year at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club**. We have chosen the date of January 15, 2005. This is a Saturday night. The new board will be discussing all the details of this celebration, and you may have suggestions for us as well. It's not too early to mark your calendars!