



**RUSSIAN HERITAGE**

Post Office Box 66123

St. Pete Beach, Florida 33736

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## **RUSSIAN HERITAGE NEWSLETTER**



*An Old Russian  
New Year Celebration*

**January 1999**  
Vol. II-4

## **RUSSIAN NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION**

This year's Russian New Year's Celebration is on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. We welcome Natalia Batova from the Russian Cultural Center in Washington D. C. and our other distinguished guests. We hope that 1999 is a good year for you all, and for our Russian Heritage Organization. SPRAZ-ni-kom!

*Happy Hour and Dancing:*  
6:00 p.m.

with the delightful strings of guitarist

*Boris Lebedinsky*

playing Russian dance favorites

*Dinner:*  
7:15 p.m.

*Our special guest from the Russian Embassy,  
Washington, D.C.*

*Director of the Russian Cultural Centre, Natalia Batova*

*"The goal of the RCC is 'That our two nations will never again polarize'...and that this is best achieved by education and culture through understanding and friendship. We have been too long deprived of each other's company..."*

*Dance (or listen) to the Big Band Sound of Profiles  
9:30 to 11:30 p.m.*

*RUSSIAN HERITAGE*

*And*

*Our Honorary Chairpersons*

*The Honorable Margo Fischer*

*and*

*Mayor David Fischer*

*Request the Pleasure of Your Company*

*On Friday, January 15, 1999*

*at the*

*St. Petersburg Yacht Club*

*11 Central Avenue*

*for a*

*Dinner-Dance*

*RSVP by January 9, 1999*

*Benefit for the Russian Cultural Centre  
Washington, D.C.*

*Black tie optional*



#### TCHAIKOVSKY LECTURE/CONCERT - JANUARY 26TH

"THE VOCAL LYRIC OF P. I. TCHAIKOVSKY" will be the subject of a lecture/concert presented by Vladimir Khokhlov in the Marly Room of the Fine Arts Museum on Tuesday, January 26th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Providing examples of Tchaikovsky's music will be Elena Lewenson, soprano of the Minsk Musical Theater and Eduard Chudakov, Baritone of the Latvian National Opera. Lecturer, soloist, and accompanist for this program will be Vladimir Khokhlov, graduate of the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia, and now member of our Russian Heritage Board of Directors. This lecture/concert is free to members and friends of Russian Heritage, with a free-will offering taken.

This lecture on Tchaikovsky was originally scheduled for our February meeting. Note that it will now take place on JANUARY 26th. And note also that it will be a good introduction to two Tchaikovsky programs coming in February. On Friday, February 26th the Russian National Ballet will present the ballet "SWAN LAKE" at Ruth Eckerd Hall, and on Saturday, February 27th The Florida Orchestra will present "Totally Tchaikovsky" - a night devoted to the music of the Russian master.

#### MARCH MEETING TO FOCUS ON RUSSIAN FOLK CULTURE IN TAMPA

The March meeting for Russian Heritage will take place in Tampa, and will feature Russian Folk Art, Folk Music, and Folk Culture. The date will be Friday evening March 19th at 7:00 PM. The place will be announced shortly.

Many people in the Tampa Bay area have interesting examples of Russian Folk Art. Our hosts in Tampa will be presenting a number of special examples, and members and friends of Russian Heritage are invited to bring special items from their own personal collections.

## **RUSSIAN EXHIBIT CONTINUES AT ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM OF HISTORY**

The exhibit featuring Russian Icons and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Andrews Russian Orthodox Church in St. Petersburg, Florida continues through the first week in February. If you have not seen this exhibit, you still have time. And if you show this newsletter, you will get \$1.00 off the price of admission. The exhibit is called ". . . the things that are God's".

### ***The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ***

#### **THE ICON:**

**The Theotokos and Child**—the central figures, she is depicted reclining upon a blanket, and He in a manger fodder bin.

**Saint Joseph**—the Guardian of Christ and His Mother; tradition relates that Joseph was an elderly widower, having white hair and beard, he is depicted being tempted by Satan to doubt the virgin-birth.

**Satan**—the figure in the lower center, he is depicted as an elderly hunchback tempting Saint Joseph, whereas else in the icon should be done in bright colors, Satan, the Prince of Darkness, is portrayed in dark, drab garments.

**A Shepherd**—the figure on the right, he is depicted facing the angels as they announce the glad tidings of the birth of the Messiah.

**The Magi**—the figures on the left, they are depicted following the star, which is in the top center, and carrying their gifts; tradition speaks of their being representative of all mankind . . . one being young (beardless), one being middle-aged (in the center of the group), and one being elderly (closest to the cave).

**The Angels**—the group on the left offers worship to Christ, the group on the right announces the glad tidings to the shepherd (one is depicted speaking to the shepherd while the other points to the cave in Bethlehem).

**The Cow and The Star**—illustrate that all creation rejoices at the birth of the Messiah, the lowly and the great, earthly and the heavenly.



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, January 15, 1999	RUSSIAN NEW YEAR'S
Tuesday, January 26, 1999	TCHAIKOVSKY LECTURE/CONCERT
Friday, March 19, 1999	RUSSIAN FOLK ART PROGRAM
Tuesday, April 20, 1999	SECOND ANNUAL RUSSIAN SONGS
Tuesday, May 18, 1999	BUSINESS MEETING/ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1999-2000
Sunday, June 6, 1999	BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR PUSHKIN (See below)

#### PUSHKIN IN THE PARK

Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin, Russia's greatest poet, was born on June 6, 1799. For his 200th birthday party, we are planning a special celebration in St. Petersburg, Florida. "Pushkin in the Park" will feature Russian music and dancing, Russian poetry, Russian food, and much more.

In June 1998 in Russia it was announced that from June 1998 until June 1999, the entire year would be dedicated to the preparation of the 200th anniversary of the poet's birth. We will help celebrate Pushkin's birthday here, and you can help make this a memorable event. If you have suggestions for this event, please get in touch with us at the address listed on this newsletter, or call 864-8235.

At present we are exploring the possibilities of using Demens Landings or Williams Park in downtown St. Petersburg for this event. We plan to schedule events for late afternoon and early evening. Please mark your calendars, and prepare by reading some poems or short stories by Pushkin.

#### IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN RUSSIAN HERITAGE FOR 1998-1999

For information about membership in Russian Heritage, and to remain on this newsletter mailing list, please call 864-8235.

## Language Corner

Most members of Russian Heritage know Russian well, but for those who are not experienced in Russian, we will at times include a short section of Russian Language information. Those who are Russian or who know Russian well might use this information to share with friends who do not know Russian.

A good place to start, of course, is with the Russian (Cyrillic) alphabet. If you need help with the alphabet, please contact Russian Heritage, and we can get you started. In this lesson we give the words in the Russian alphabet, the sounds in English, the meaning in English, and some commentary about the words and phrases. The syllable in capital letters is the syllable that receives the stress in the word or phrase.

Russian Words	English Sounds	English Meaning
С ПРАЗДНИКОМ!	SPRAZ-ni-kom	Happy Holiday!

This may be a good first phrases to learn in Russian. It means Happy Holiday! But it can be a generic greeting for Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Happy Birthday! Happy Easter! or it may be an appropriate for any Church Holiday in the Orthodox Calendar.

This is a most appropriate greeting for Russian Christmas (January 7) and New Year's Eve or New Year's Day (January 13 & 14).

The more formal greeting for these days is as follows:		
Russian Words	English Words	English Meaning
С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ	SNO-veem GO-dom!	Happy New Year!
С РОЖДЕСТВОМ ХРИСТОВЫМ!	srazh-dyest-VOM Hrees-TO-veem	Merry Christmas!
С ПРАЗДНИКОМ!	SPRAZ-ni-kom!	Happy Holiday!