



**RUSSIAN HERITAGE**

Post Office Box 66123  
St. Pete Beach, Florida 33736

---

---

**RUSSIAN HERITAGE  
NEWSLETTER**

---

---



*Russian Heritage*  
St. Petersburg, Florida

**FEBRUARY - MARCH 1999**

*VOL III - 5*



## **SPIFFS FOLK FESTIVAL: FEBRUARY 12 - 14**

The St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society (SPIFFS) is holding its annual Folk Fair on February 12-14 at the Bayfront Center, where the festivities will take place in the main arena and under tents in the parking lot. For the past two years the event was held outdoors in Vinoy Park, and the weather did not cooperate.

On Thursday and Friday mornings the Folk Fair is set for students only, but everyone is welcome for the events on Friday afternoon, and all day Saturday and Sunday. Of particular interest to members and friends of Russian Heritage are the special entertainment programs featuring Russian music and dancers.

The Russian program will be presented on Saturday February 13 at 6:00 pm. on the main stage. A special program of Russian music with Klavdia and Andre Cheine will be presented at the World Beer Garden on Saturday at 1:00 pm.

## **RUSSIAN NEW YEAR'S A BIG SUCCESS**

The Russian New Year's Eve Celebration on January 15<sup>th</sup> was extremely successful this year. In addition to great food, decorations, music, and dancing, our fund raising efforts made it possible for us to donate \$1,000 to the Russian Cultural Center in Washington, D.C.

Russian Heritage wants to thank all those who helped make this event such a big success.

## **Nominating Committee Formed**

At the January meeting of the Executive Committee of Russian Heritage, a decision was taken to form a nominating committee for next year's officers. If you would like to serve on this nominating committee, or if you have suggestions for officers or members of the board of directors for next year, please contact Vera Espinola (367-5657) or Nick Milin (367-3060).

**ST. ANDREW'S  
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**BLINI**

( SOURDOUGH PANCAKES )

\*\*\* ALL YOU CAN EAT \*\*\*  
( WITH ALL THE TRADITIONAL TRIMMINGS )

**COMPLIMENTARY WINE**

( RED OR WHITE )

**COFFEE TEA ICE CREAM**

---

**FINE MUSICAL PROGRAM**

**4:00 pm**

**FEBRUARY 19, 1999**

**AT**

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

301 58<sup>TH</sup> STREET SOUTH  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33707

**CALL FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION**

**JANA SIDORENKO 367-2092 OR NICK MILIN 344-7700**



## LANGUAGE CORNER

In the January newsletter we began a feature called the LANGUAGE CORNER. In this issue we will continue to look at the Russian language and important holidays. Does Russia celebrate Valentine's Day? Not exactly. There is no such holiday on February 14th. But there is a day that combines Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, and a general celebration of all women on March 8th. Special greeting cards, flowers, small gifts, and lots of attention are showered on women of all ages on this Women's Day Holiday. Again we are right in saying "С ПРАЗДНИКОМ" (SPRAZ-nee-kam) to all the special women in our lives on this holiday.

The season of Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter are also important holidays and holy days in Russia. Preceding Lent, known in Russia as the Great Fast, there is one week of feasting and celebrating called "Maslenitsa" which has a carnival atmosphere. Pancakes smothered in butter called "Blini" are the favorite food of this celebration. See story on opposite page about the BLINI celebration in St. Petersburg on February 19th. The following Russian words and description of МАСЛЕНИЦА and ПАСХАЛЬНЫЙ СЕЗОН are taken from Genevra Gerhart's book THE RUSSIAN'S WORLD. Another outstanding description of these holidays in Russian culture can be found in THE LAND OF THE FIREBIRD by Suzanne Massie, pp. 366-383.

Russian Words	English Sounds	English Meaning
ВЕЛИКИЙ ПОСТ	vye-LEE-kee POST	Great Fast (Lent)
МАСЛЕНИЦА	MAS-le-neets-a	Week-long Mardi Gras
БЛИНЫ	blee-NEE	Pancakes
ПАСХАЛЬНЫЙ СЕЗОН	pas-KHAL-nee se-ZON	The Easter season
ВОСКРЕСЕНЬЕ	vas-kre-SEN-ye	Sunday (Resurrection)
ВЕРБНОЕ ВОСКРЕСЕНЬЕ	VYERB-no-ye vas-kre-SEN-ye	Palm Sunday
ПАСХА	PAS-kha	Passover (Easter)
пасха и кулич	PAS-kha ee ku-LEECH	Easter dessert and Easter bread
ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕСЕ!	khrees-TOS vas-KRE-se!	"Christ is risen!"
ВОИСТИНУ ВОСКРЕСЕ!	va-EES-tee-nu vas-KRE-se!	"Truly He is risen!"
XB	(initials for above)	



## This Year: 1999

February 14-20	Maslenitsa
February 19	Blini Celebration
February 21	Beginning of Lent
April 4	Palm Sunday
April 11	Russian Easter



### Week-long Mardi Gras Масленица

Масленица was the week just preceding Lent Великий пост. Though the date for масленица was dependent on when Easter was celebrated, масленица itself was strictly a pagan holiday, a salute to the sun whose warmth made the grain grow high.

Large quantities of food were consumed during this week. Specifically, the food to be consumed was блины, raised dough pancakes, their shape in two dimensions rendering that of the sun in three.

And always associated with масленица were sleigh rides, with a troika if possible, but in any case using horses bedecked with gaily colored ribbons and quantities of sleigh bells. Some said the sleigh was to ride in great semicircles to commemorate the path of the sun through the sky.

### The Easter season

#### Пасхальный сезон

##### PALM SUNDAY

##### ВЕРБНОЕ ВОСКРЕСЕНИЕ

The Sunday before Easter, Palm Sunday, was called Pussy Willow Sunday Вербное воскресенье. Pussy willow branches were taken to church, blessed, and then taken home to be propped up behind the icon.

### Easter

#### ПАСХА

The faithful arrive at church in the late evening bringing with them their traditional Easter dessert пасха<sup>10</sup> and Easter sweet bread кулич and some Easter eggs to be blessed. Church attendance at this ceremony is, as elsewhere, at its highest, leaving many people outside the church. (This is especially true in the West, where, on this night, many people can be seen standing outside the front doors of Orthodox churches, candle in hand.) Near midnight the priest opens the doors to the church and leads a procession of deacons, altar boys, the choir, and any parishioners wishing to join. The procession is called a крестный ход, which in this case symbolizes the search for Jesus's body by Mary Magdalene and others (see Mark 16), and the subsequent discovery that Christ is risen. The procession circles the church three times, its members singing as they go. The church doors represent the sepulchre, and when they are opened the priest announces several times that Christ is risen: "Христос Воскресе!" The audience each time answers, "Truly He is risen!"—"Воистину Воскресе!" Directly after this ceremony and for several days thereafter, a delightful ritual takes place, usually between friends but not necessarily so. One person goes to another and says: "Христос Воскресе!" The other answers, "Воистину Воскресе!" and then they kiss three times on alternate cheeks.



## AN EVENING OF RUSSIAN FOLK ART

**When: FRIDAY, MARCH 19TH at 7:00 pm**  
**Where: At the home of Natasha and Roy Persons**  
**318 W. South Avenue**  
**Tampa, Florida**  
**What: Our March meeting of Russian Heritage**



Our Tampa hosts have planned a special evening of Russian Folk Art with examples of Russian foods, a table featuring Gzhel' ceramics, a table with Khokhlama, various books and pamphlets on recipes, skazki, and other folk arts, and examples of Russian folk music. People are welcome to bring their own items of Russian folk culture to show, including the above types of articles, musical instruments, toys, etc. You may also bring some food to share (zakuski?), but you do not need to bring something in order to come. All members and friends of Russian Heritage are welcome.

The directions to the Persons' home are as follows:

Take I-275 to Hillsboro Avenue Exit in Tampa  
Go West on Hillsboro Avenue  
Turn Left (South) on Florida Avenue  
Turn Right on W. South Avenue  
318 W. South Avenue (on left)

We thank our hosts, Natasha and Roy Persons, for making their home available for this event, and to professors Victor Peppard and Irena Nemchonok for help with the arrangements.

## SECOND ANNUAL RUSSIAN SONGFEST

What are your favorite Russian Folk Songs? Do you like to sing? Come join us for the second annual Russian Song Fest on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Ming Garden Restaurant at 2901-66<sup>th</sup> Street North. Boris Lebedinsky will lead us in the singing. Come between 5:00 and 5:30 pm for supper, and the singing will begin after we finish eating.

### “PUSHKIN IN THE PARK”



Alexander Sergeevich 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.



