

**RUSSIAN HERITAGE
NEWSLETTER**

JUNE 1999
VOL III-8



**PUSHKIN DAY
JUNE 6, 1999**

Proclamation

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

WHEREAS, Born in Moscow on June 6, 1799, Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin is considered Russia's greatest poet and the greatest Russian writer of any kind; and

WHEREAS, Ancestor to an Ethiopian courtier of Peter the Great, Pushkin took great pride in his African ancestry and noble heritage; and

WHEREAS, Even as a student, Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin was viewed as the great poetic genius of the nation and father of Russian literature and modern Russian literary language; and

WHEREAS, UNESCO has entered June 6th on its Calendar of Memorial Dates for 1999, to be celebrated worldwide as a cultural event; and

WHEREAS, Russian Heritage of St. Petersburg, Florida is celebrating Pushkin's birthday with a special program of poetry, music, and dance at the Museum of Fine Arts on Sunday, June 6, 1999;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVID J. FISCHER, Mayor of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 6, 1999 as

Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin Day

in the City of St. Petersburg and urge all residents to join me in recognizing this important cultural celebration.

PUSHKIN DAY

in St. Petersburg, Florida

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1999

2:00 - 5:00



Russian Heritage presents a program of poetry, music, and dance on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Russia's greatest poet, **Alexander Pushkin**.

2:00 pm

Exhibitions of Pushkin Realia.

Genealogical Display.

Book and Music Display.

2:30 pm

Official Opening

Reading of Proclamation

Video of Pushkin's Life

Poems About Pushkin and Russia

The Search For Alexander Sergeyeovich Pushkin	Guy Hoagland
"Alexander Sergeyeovich Pushkin experimented with creativity". .	Guy Hoagland
Ilya's Town	Brad Morewood
A Small Victory	Brad Morewood
Resurrection in the Lyceum	Nina Smith

**3:00 pm
PUSHKIN'S VERSES**

To Anna Kern	Peter Meinke
"Я помню чудное мгновение"	Tanya Vandersa
Music by M. Glinka	Svetlana Strezev
Winter Morning	Peter Meinke
Зимнее утро.	Tanya Vandersa
"For the Shores of Your Distant Home"	Peter Meinke
"Для берегов отчизны дальней"	Igor Novosilzov
Music by A. Borodin	Michael Shevtsc Pronsky
Bacchanal Song	Brad Morewood
Бакхическая Песня.	Anatole Sokolsk
The Bronze Horseman (From the Introduction).	Brad Morewood
Медный всадник (Вступление)	Igor Novosilzov
"I Have Erected a Monument to Myself"	Guy Hoagland
"Я памятник себе воздвиг нерукотворный"	Anatoly Glen

3:30 pm

Russian Folk Dances. St. Petersburg Folk Ensemble

Intermission

4

4:00 pm

FOUR MAJOR PUSHKIN TEXTS IN POETRY AND MUSIC

I. Ruslan and Ludmila

Prologue to "Ruslan and Ludmila"	Bill Parsons
"У лукоморья дуб зелёный"	Anatoly Sokolsky
Ludmila's Aria	Svetlana Strezeva
March of the Chernomor.	Milana Strezeva
Music by M. Glinka	

II. Evgeny Onegin

Introduction.	Victor Peppard
Tatyana's Letter	Nina Smith
Письмо Татьяны.	Tanya Beck
"Кто ты, мой ангел ли хранитель"	Svetlana Stezeva
Music by P. Tchaikovsky	
Onegin's Answer	Victor Peppard
Ответ Онегина	Anatoly Glen
Tatyana's husband.	Victor Peppard
Князь Гремин	Anatoly Glen
Gremin's Aria.	Michael Shevtsov-
Music by P. Tchaikovsky	
Pronsky	
Tatyana's Answer to Onegin	Nina Smith
ОТВЕТ ТЯТЬЯНЫ.	Tanya Beck

III. Boris Godunov

Pimen's Story: "Ещё одно, последнее сказанье".	Bill Parsons
Pimen's Aria.	Michael Shevtsov-
Pronsky	

IV. Queen of Spades

Pushkin's Ending.	Vivian Parsons
Tchaikovsky's Ending.	Tanya Vandersaar
Lisa's Aria	Svetlana Strezeva
Music by P. Tchaikovksy	

St. Petersburg takes a day to celebrate Pushkin

■ The Russian Heritage group has planned a day of readings and music to introduce residents to "a people's poet."

By WAVENEY ANN MOORE
Times Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Sunday has been declared Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin Day in St. Petersburg.

Mayor David Fischer issued the proclamation in recognition of the renowned Russian poet, who was born June 6, 1799.

Joining Pushkin devotees around the globe in a celebration of the poet's birth will be the Russian Heritage organization, a local group formed three years ago to promote that country's culture.

The group has planned a program featuring readings from selections of Pushkin's masterpieces as well as musical interpretations of his works. A video of the poet's life also will be shown. The celebration will take place Sunday, from 2 to 5 p.m., at the St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts.

Bill Parsons, president of the Russian Heritage organization and professor of history and Russian studies at Eckerd College, says an afternoon of Pushkin can be appealing to poetry lovers as well as those normally lukewarm toward the art.

"He's Russia's most popular poet," Parsons said, adding that Pushkin also is "a people's poet."

If you go

Pushkin Day in St. Petersburg, 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Drive NE. The program will feature Pushkin's poetry, recited in English and Russian, and music by Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Glinka and Borodin, based on the poet's works. Music will be performed by Russian singers Svetlana Strezeva and Michael Shevtsov-Pronsky. Russian folk dances will be performed by the St. Petersburg Folk Ensemble under the direction of Suzanne Pomerantzeff. Free. Call 864-8235.

Pushkin's African ancestry also makes him interesting, he said, for Pushkin addressed the subject in his works.

Known for such masterpieces as *Eugene Onegin*, Pushkin was the great-grandson of Abram Hannibal, who is believed to have been born in Ethiopia. Hannibal was captured and taken to Russia, where he became a servant of the czar and later his godson. Hannibal became highly educated and later distinguished himself as a military engineer. One of his sons' daughters, who married into Russian nobility, was Pushkin's mother.

"He was a child prodigy," Parsons said of the poet, who was a ladies' man and died in a duel at 37.

"A lot of people compare him to Mozart."

— Information from "Russia and the Negro: Blacks in Russian History and Thought" by Allison Blakely was used in this article.

Annual Meeting Begins Plans for 1999-2000

The annual meeting on May 18th elected officers for the coming year, and began the process of planning for the new millennium. The new officers include some familiar faces:

President: Bill Parsons

Vice President: Tanya Vandersaar

Secretary: Victor Peppard

Treasurer: Bruce Beery

Chair of the Board: Vera Espinola

Members of the Board:

Vladimir Khokhlov

Nicholas Milin

Sergei Novikov

Konstantin & Zhana Sidorenko

A committee has been formed to begin plans for the Russian New Year's Ball for January 14, 2000. It was decided that proceeds from the event would be given to the Tolstoy Foundation. Look for more information about this organization and its activities in the fall newsletter.

Bill Parsons also reminded members and friends of **Russian Heritage** that the year 2000 is also the 150th anniversary of the birth of Peter Demens, and that we are collecting funds to help sponsor a museum exhibit on Demens in Tver and St. Petersburg, Russia. We have received close to \$1,000, so we are almost half-way to our target. Donations can be made to "Russian Heritage" earmarked for the "Demens Exhibit".

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to "Pushkin Day" plans, and to a short talk on Peter Demens and his views on Russian literature.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Russian Heritage is a non-profit organization devoted to promoting Russian Culture in St. Petersburg, in the Tampa Bay area, and throughout Florida. **Russian Heritage** meets once a month with programs ranging from lectures, to concerts, to film festivals, to "sing-a-longs" and other types of innovative programs. The highlight of our program year has been our Russian New Year's Celebration in mid-January. Members receive a monthly newsletter with news about the activities of **Russian Heritage**, and events of Russian culture throughout the area.

Membership Dues are being collected now for the 1999-2000 program year. You may join **Russian Heritage**, or renew your membership at "Pushkin Day", or send in your dues according to the following schedule:

- ___ \$ 5.00 Student
- ___ \$10.00 Individual
- ___ \$15.00 Family
- ___ \$50.00 Sponsor

Make checks payable to: **Russian Heritage**
and send to: Post Office Box 66123
St. Pete Beach, FL 33736