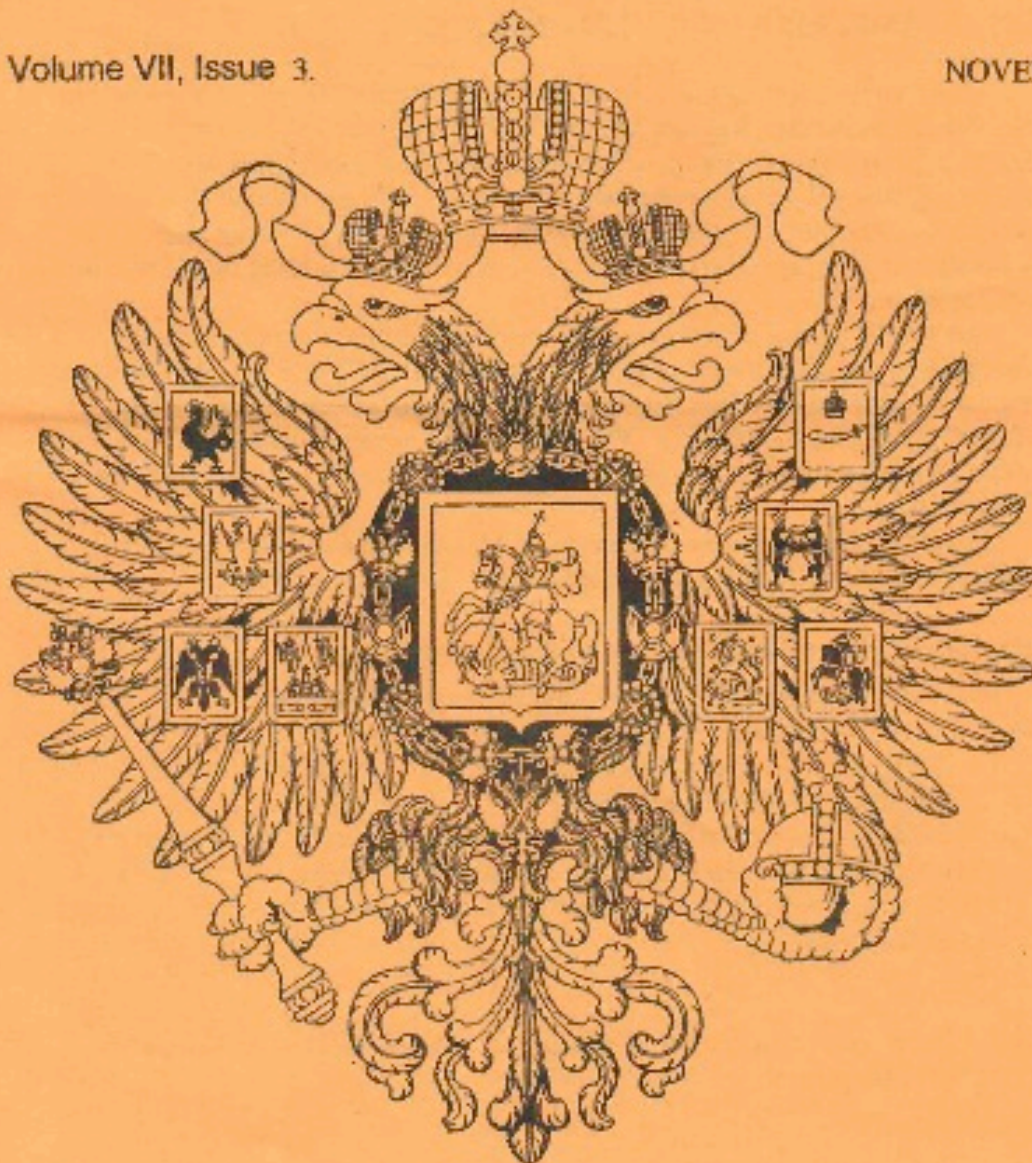


RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume VII, Issue 3.

NOVEMBER 2002



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November Provides Many Opportunities . . . Art, Music, Dance, Cultural Events.

The regular meeting for *Russian Heritage* in November will be a special **Program on Palekh and Other Russian Lacquered Boxes** on Sunday, November 12, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. in the Flamingo Room of the Continuing Education Center at Eckerd College. Elena Novikov will present information about this tradition, including a slide show and display of examples of the lacquered boxes. Come learn more about this interesting Russian art form, and if you have some of these art works, bring them to share with other participants.

A second special feature of our November meeting will be the appearance of "Noah", the Samoyed dog who is getting ready to celebrate in 2003. The Samoyed is a Russian Dog (in Russian Laika – Лайка) of the North which is famous for pulling dog-sleds, and for being the first dog in space. *Russian Heritage* member Peggy Newton will tell us the story about these special Russian dogs who came to America at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Enter Eckerd College at the main entrance on 54th Avenue South, and turn left after the traffic circle into the parking lot of the Continuing Education Center.

International Cultural Sundays in Sarasota

Russian and Ukrainian Night: November 3, 2002

When? 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 3, 2002.

Where? "La Pergola" Room at Primo! Ristorante. (8070 North Tamiami Trail) just North of the Sarasota Airport.

What? Russian and Ukrainian Culture, Music, Dance. (Primo!'s regular menu & cocktails available for purchase + specialty items from culture featured.)

Program: \$10.00. For further information and reservations: (941) 349-3494.

\$15 at the Door

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Watch for information about an exchange of students between Russia and Tampa Bay that may begin with pilot project in January, 2003!

RUSSIAN HERITAGE ENSEMBLE

Olga Gilck, Piano
Eugene Bazhanov, Violin
Natasha Bazhanov, Violin

Program:

Alfred Schnittke: Suite in Old Style
Johannes Brahms: Violin Sonata No. 2
Dmitry Shostakovich: Prelude and Fugue for Piano
Anton Rubinstein: Violin Sonata and Various Pieces

Shostakovich and Rubinstein were St. Petersburg Composers,
performed in honor of the upcoming 300th anniversary of the city.

Saturday, November 9 at 3:00 p. m.
at the Music Center
St. Petersburg College, Gibbs Campus
6605 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg

Admission \$10

For more information call (727) 576-7767



Autumn Romance

a classical ballet and opera performance
set to the music of Chopin and Tchaikovsky,
played by the first cellist of the Tampa Bay Symphony Orchestra

Christine Hartley

with the Russian ballet masters

Elena Martinson & Andrey Ustinov

and Suncoast Opera Soprano

Susanne Epple

Saturday, November 9, 2002
8:00 p.m.

The Palladium Theater
253 5th Ave. North
St. Petersburg, FL

general admission - \$15, children & students - \$10, seniors - \$12

Florida Slavonic Choir Delights Audience!



The Florida Slavonic Choir in Concert at USF in Tampa.

On Sunday, October 20 a concert of liturgical and folk music was presented at the University of South Florida, sponsored by *Russian Heritage*, USF, and Eckerd College. The 25 vocalists under the direction of George King sang *a cappella* renditions of classical church music by Glinka, Tchesnokoff, Tchaikovsky, and others. Particularly moving versions of "Kol Slaven", "Otche Nash", and two variations of "Tibe Poyem" were especially well received.

The choir also sang three delightful Russian folk songs: "Metyelitsa", "Tonkaya Ryabina", and "Kalinka". After the choir performed the three songs, the audience (prepared in advance with song sheets) joined the choir for a sing-a-long.

The Florida Slavonic Choir has some similarities with *Russian Heritage*. It is a community choir of many different ethnic backgrounds who sing in Russian to promote "the incredible beauty of classical Russian Church music and the lilting loveliness of Slavic Folk Songs." Under the professional musical direction of George King and the phonetic coaching of Tamara Furman, the choir did a wonderful job in expressing their love for Russian music.

Local Resident Connects the Two St. Petersburgs

Vera Olshevsky now calls St. Petersburg, Florida home. But she was born in the other St. Petersburg into a family of a Tsarist flagmaker who found interesting work on both sides of the ocean. Vera's father, John Olshevsky, worked as a Master Flagmaker for the Kepke Company in the Tsarist capital, and this company had a monopoly for producing flags, banners, and official insignias for the Imperial Family. One of Vera's most prized possessions is an original drawing of the Tsarist Double-headed Eagle which was prepared by her father for the 300th anniversary of the Romanov family in 1913.

Vera's great grandfather was a Polish noble who lost his wealth and position in an uprising against Russian rule. He moved his family to Larvia where John was born in the 1870's. He found his vocation in St. Petersburg where he worked as an artist and designer of Tsarist banners and flags. He was not politically active, but he was lucky enough to leave St. Petersburg on the eve of the turmoil of 1917, buying a house in the Finnish resort area of Kyokkala, just 40 kilometers from St. Petersburg. His boss at the Kepke company promised he could have his job back after the situation settled down in the Russian capital, but that was not to happen.

For six years the Olshevskys remained in Kyokkala, living in a small Russian community without being able to find meaningful employment. They finally pursued the dream of applying to move to America, where they had a distant relative who would sponsor them, since John did have a special talent as flagmaker. They sold their house to a Finnish general, and headed for Ellis Island. Vera at age nine remembers the crossing on an oceanliner, and the shock the family felt when they were almost denied entrance at Ellis Island. They felt it was divine intervention when their problems were solved.

For the first 16 years John worked for the Annin Flag Company, the company which made the first American flag flown at the North Pole. He then worked for 10 years providing contract work for Valley Forge Flag Company, working with daughter Vera to produce "flags, banners, and coat of arms printed on silk, wool, rayon, cotton." He did the art work, and used the same techniques with aniline dyes that he learned in Russia.

After her father died, Vera moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. She has many memories and reminders of her most interesting life, including photographs of her homes in Finland and America, two remarkable drawings her father made for the Tsar's Coat of Arms, and a memorial Tsarist Ruble minted for the 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty. If anyone is interested in learning more about Vera's experiences or about her treasures, please contact Russian Heritage at our post office address, or call (727) 864-8235. Vera would like to see her father's works in the hands of someone who would appreciate their historical significance.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 3. Russian & Ukrainian Day in Sarasota. (see page 2.)

Saturday, November 9. Russian Heritage Ensemble Concert at St. Petersburg College. Performances of classical music by composers from St. Petersburg, Russia & others in afternoon concert. (see page 3.)

Evening Ballet Performance at Palladium Theater Featuring Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson. Music by Chopin and Tchaikovsky. (see page 3.)

Sunday, November 10, 2002. A Program on Palekh and other Russian Lacquered Boxes. (see page 2.)

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE OPPORTUNITIES

January 7 and 21, 2003. The Russian Alphabet and Conversational Phrases.

Learn the Russian alphabet and learn some important conversational phrases for use during the 2003 anniversary year. Opportunities for beginners and those who have already learned some of the basics. (7:30 p.m. in Dendy Auditorium at Eckerd College) Free and open to the public.

Russian Conversation and Culture. A 10-week non-credit course offered by St. Petersburg College, beginning January 8. More details to follow.

Sunday, January 12, 2003. Old Russian New Year's Celebration. This highlight event will again be held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Those who attended in 2002 are still talking about it! Now is the time to send in your reservations to assure your place at this special event. (see page 7.)

Friday, February 14. The Romance of Russia. A day-long program at Eckerd Senior College, featuring music, art, culture, food, and much more. Some members of Russian Heritage will be participating.

Thursday, February 27, 2003. Tampa Bay Symphony Celebrates 300/100 Anniversaries at Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg. Russian and American music will be featured in this concert, along with ballet performances by Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson.

March 2, 3, & 4. Symposium: "The Two St. Petersburgs." Eckerd College, The University of South Florida in St. Petersburg, and Russian Heritage will sponsor this event to compare the histories of these two cities. Suzanne Massie, the author Land of the Firebird, will be one of the featured speakers.

March 19-23. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society (SPIFFS) presents Annual Folk Fair. The Folk Fair is first open to the schools, and to the general public from March 21-23. This year Russia will be the featured country, in keeping with joint anniversary celebrations.

Membership Dues for 2003

All members of *Russian Heritage* who paid their dues in 2001-2002 are members through December 2002. You may pay your 2003 membership dues now, and save on a number of events, such as the Old Russian New Year's Celebration (see below). The address label on the cover of your newsletter indicates if you are now paid up through 2002 or 2003.

Membership
All who are interested in Russian culture are welcome to join Russian Heritage by simply paying the yearly dues. Members receive a monthly newsletter and discounts at certain events, such as the Old Russian New Year Celebration. Please call the form with your dues to:
Russian Heritage
P.O. Box 14552
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Russian Heritage Membership Form

Categories for membership for 2003 are:

Student \$5 Individual \$15
Family \$20 Sponsor \$50 or more

Please make checks payable to: Russian Heritage

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Old Russian New Year's Celebration

Sunday, January 12, 2003

We are anticipating a tremendous turnout for our Old Russian New Year's Celebration this year. For those who pay their dues for 2003, the price will be \$50 per person. For non members the price is \$65 per person. If you want to assure your place at this spectacular event, you may pay on the form that is included below. If you want to reserve your place now, and pay later, that is also a possibility. More details will follow in later newsletters.

_____ Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ tickets for the **Russian New Year**.
(\$50 per person for members; \$65 for non-members, which will give these individuals membership. Checks made out to **Russian Heritage**)

Contributions* to 300/100 Anniversary Fund

_____ **Patron.** For a gift of \$1,000 or more, you will become a member for 2003 and receive two tickets for the Old Russian New Year's Celebration.

_____ **Sponsor.** For a gift of \$500 or more, you will become a member for 2003 and receive one ticket for the Old Russian New Year.

_____ **Contributer.** For a gift of \$100 or more, you will become a member for 2003.

**Russian Heritage is a 501(c) organization. All gifts are tax deductible.*