



RUSSIAN HERITAGE  
Post Office Box 14552  
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## **The 300/100 Year Drawing to a Close: Do Not Miss the Final Flurry of Activities!**

*Russian Heritage* began the year 2003 with a spectacular Old Russian New Year's Gala at the Yacht Club on January 12. During this special anniversary year of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg, Russia, and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Petersburg, Florida, many special activities were planned by the city of St. Petersburg and its special anniversary planning committee, as well as our own special projects of symposiums, museum exhibits, and exchanges of student ambassadors. We intend to bring this anniversary year to a climax with our **2004 Old Russian New Year's Party** on Sunday, January 11, again at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. We encourage all members and friends of *Russian Heritage* who are planning to attend this activity to respond soon to reserve your place at the festivities.

### **Three additional opportunities are forthcoming.**

1. ***Russian Heritage* Program on Summer Delegations to Russia: November 14.** In May, Mayor Rick Baker and Dr. Carl Kuttler of St. Petersburg College led a city delegation to Moscow and St. Petersburg for anniversary events that resulted in a partnership agreement between the two St. Petersburgs on a wide range of inter-governmental issues. An official video of this trip was produced and will be shown at the November *Russian Heritage* meeting.

An Eckerd College group, which included a number of members of *Russian Heritage*, participated in a river cruise from St. Petersburg to Moscow in July. While in St. Petersburg, the *Russian Heritage* museum exhibit and a symposium on the two St. Petersburgs were organized at the History Museum at the Peter-Paul Fortress. A video of this trip will also be shown at the November meeting.

**Where?** The Board Room of the District Office of St. Petersburg College  
(8580 66<sup>th</sup> Street North, Pinellas Park)

**When?** Friday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m.\*

\* A second showing will be presented in Dendy Auditorium at Eckerd College on Friday, November 21 at 1:30 p.m.

**2. RUSSIAN ODYSSEY: RICHES OF THE STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM**  
**November 2, 2003 – April 4, 2004 at the Florida International Museum**

For the first time, over 250 superlative objects from The State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia have left their home and come to the United States. Artifacts span over 800 years of Russian history and focus on themes such as religious culture, the life of the Tsars, a comparison of the life of noblemen and peasants, and other cultural elements such as the ballet.

These items are now on display at the Florida International Museum (100 Second Street North, in downtown St. Petersburg), and they represent a remarkable contribution to Russian culture, history, and heritage.

**3. DANCERS ANDREI USTINOV AND ELENA MARTINSON PRESENT A PROGRAM OF CLASSICAL MUSIC AND DANCE AT THE PALLADIUM**

Although the exact program has not been selected, there will be a program of classical music and dance at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 16 at the Palladium Theater (253 Fifth Avenue North) in downtown St. Petersburg. The musicians and dancers of the Renaissance Project will perform again some remarkable pieces. For more information, call the Palladium Theater (727) 822-390.

## **Где можно купить “по-русски”?**

Some of our newer members have asked where they might buy Russian things. In this issue of the newsletter we are listing several local places you might want to explore.

If you are interested in traditional Russian souvenirs or fine jewelry (many of the items are crafted by the master-jeweler owner), go to VLADIMIR'S COLLECTIONS, located in downtown St. Petersburg at 111 Second Avenue NE.

If you are interested in Russian foods, greeting cards, or videos (mostly in Russian without subtitles) try the INTERNATIONAL DELI, 1155 Pasadena Avenue in St. Petersburg.

If you want to try a Russian café serving Russian meals and delicious мороженое (ice cream), you can eat “по-русски” while shopping for gifts and works of art, at CAFÉ ARTS, 130 Central Avenue in Treasure Island.

If you know of other opportunities to shop “по-русски” let us know.

## SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

**Anatole Sokolsky** was born in Lithuania on November 11, 1903, the same year that St. Petersburg, Russia celebrated its 200 year anniversary and St. Petersburg, Florida was incorporated as a city. Anatole was honored last year as the *Russian Heritage* honorary member of the year for his contributions to the promotion of Russian culture and his researches and his persistence in recognizing the contributions of Peter Demens to the history of St. Petersburg, Florida. He was instrumental in popularizing Demens, encouraging the city to honor him by naming a city waterfront park "Demens Landing", and working with the Russian community to place a monument to Demens in the park. He has written several books, most recently his autobiography Through War Revolution and Peace in 1998. In May he was interviewed for a Russian TV special about Demens and St. Petersburg, Florida which was shown throughout Russia. Professor Sokolsky lives at 914 Pelican Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33707.

**Tania Vondersaar** is also celebrating a pivotal birthday on November 14, but she is not yet ready to join the century club. Tania has been on the board of *Russian Heritage* since its birth in 1996, and she has served as Vice President, President, or Chair of the Board for most of these years. Tania has been honored for two years in a row as one of the Mayor's volunteers of the year for her work with *Russian Heritage*, SPIFFS, her presentations on Russian culture to various organizations (almost always in one of her magnificent Russian costumes!), and her work as a translator and volunteer. She has been indeed one of the faces that many people identify with Russian culture and heritage. Tania lives at 5443 Fourth Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33707.

There are in fact several other members of *Russian Heritage* with birthdays in November, but it is especially important to remember the birthdays in the years that end in the multiples of ten, and this month's birthdays both qualify. It is also hard to image two more deserving individuals in promoting the goals of *Russian Heritage*.