

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

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Natasha Krupitskaya and Maria Kiselyova Shine as *Russian Heritage* Student Ambassadors in September

After a rather "stormy" beginning with Hurricane Ivan, the program for our two student ambassadors went forward as scheduled. The full list of activities is given on page 2, and Violetta Yevstigneyeva has written an article beginning on page 3 about their visit to Palm Harbor University High School, followed by several pictures. Their departure was delayed by Hurricane Jeanne, which meant that they experienced a "Hurricane Party" and also had a chance to spend two more days in Florida. On page 4 we recognize some of the many people who helped make this program possible.

Concert and Two Russian Films at Eckerd College

Wednesday, November 10 at 7:00 pm a concert of piano music will be presented at Eckerd College. One Japanese pianist, one Russian pianist, and we hope **Christina Miller**, our musical ambassador from March 2004 will perform. Check our website for more details.

Russian Heritage and Eckerd College presents two Russian films on Thursday, November 11 in Dendy Auditorium on the Eckerd campus (4200 54th Ave. South, St. Petersburg). The showings are free and open to the public.

7:00 p.m. **The Blue Bird of Happiness (Синяя птица)**. This children's film, a joint production of Lenfilm and Twentieth Century Fox, was produced in 1976. It stars Elizabeth Taylor, Jane Fonda, Ava Gardner as well as famous Russian movie stars and performers of the Kirov Theater. Part shown in English, part in Russian, with subtitles.

8:30 p.m. **The War (Война)**. This is a contemporary film about the war in Chechnya, directed by Aleksei Balabanov, (Brother). It is about a soldier who was captured in the war in Chechnya and made a slave. Later he was released, but told not to return, but he did return. In Russian, with English subtitles.

"Finding Freedom: Forty Years of Soviet and Russian Art"

The Leepa-Ratner Museum of Art presents an exhibition of works from the Kolodzei Collection of Russian art chronicling four decades of Russian and Soviet non-conformist art from the post-Stalinist era to the present. Sixty works by 25 artists are included. The exhibit opens on November 7 and runs through January 2, 2005.

The Leepa-Ratner Museum of Art is located at 600 Klosterman Road, just west of Highway 19, on the Tarpon Springs Campus of St. Petersburg College. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and free to children and students with ID. Sunday admission is free to all. See page 7 for further programs connected with exhibit.

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Our sincere sympathy to long-time members of *Russian Heritage* Oleg and Irene Schidlowsky on the unexpected death of their son, Yury.

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A donation of \$775 was sent to the family of one of the heroes of the Beslan School tragedy in Russia. We thank all who contributed. A report on this project will appear in our next newsletter.

Russian Heritage
International Ambassadors program
September 9-29, 2004
Natasha Krupitskaya and Maria Kiselyova

Presentations at:

- o Russian Heritage Meetings in Largo and Clearwater
- o Eckerd College
- o Canterbury High School
- o St. Pete High School (IB Program)
- o Bayshore High School (Sarasota)
- o St. Petersburg College (Tarpon Springs Campus)
- o Palm Harbor University High School (IB Program and Medical Magnet)

Meetings with:

- o Mayor of St. Petersburg Rick Baker
- o St. Petersburg City Council Members
- o Dean of Eckerd College, Dr. Lloyd Chapin
- o President of St. Petersburg College, Dr. Carl M. Kuttler
- o SPIFFS General Assembly

Visits to:

- o Fort DeSoto Park
- o St. Petersburg Beach, Clearwater Beach
- o Salvador Dali Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Ringling Museum, Leeper-Ratner Museum
- o Baywalk and St. Petersburg Pier
- o College Fair in Clearwater
- o Magic Kingdom and EPCOT in Orlando
- o Aquarium and Busch Gardens in Tampa
- o Retirement Home in St. Petersburg
- o High School Football Game in St. Petersburg
- o Usher Concert in Tampa
- o "Hurricane Party" (Power off from Jeanne)

Accommodation:

- o Bill Parsons' house in St. Petersburg
- o Gene and Mary Stenov's house in St. Petersburg
- o Bill and Pat Grant's house in Sarasota
- o Lee and Patricia Rowell's house in Palm Harbor



Violetta Yevstigneyeva, a student at Palm Harbor University High School, is continuing her internship as a volunteer for *Russian Heritage*.

Violetta's Page - Страничка Виолетты

Welcome back to Violetta's Page! Three weeks ago I was very fortunate to meet the two extremely talented Russian students Natasha and Maria. I did not know them before they arrived, but their openness and kindness made me feel special. In a matter of couple days we became best friends! They learned from me about American schools, students, activities and I also learned about their lives. These two students are very motivated, goal oriented, confident and knowledgeable, and that's why they won this competition to come here!

Добро пожаловать ещё раз на мою страничку! Три недели назад мне удалось встретить двух невероятно талантливых русских школьниц - Наташу и Марию. До этой встречи я совсем их не знала, но их невероятная откровенность и доброта позволили мне почувствовать себя особенной. Всего за несколько дней мы стали лучшими друзьями! Наташа и Маша узнали от меня об американской школе, студентах, школьных делах и интересах, а я узнала об их жизни. Эти девушки очень целеустремленные, уверенные в себе и эрудированы, поэтому неудивительно, что на конкурсе они выиграли поездку к нам.

Natasha and Masha made many presentations in Pinellas schools. I organized their visit to my school. One Wednesday, September 23rd, they arrived at Palm Harbor University High School at 7 a.m., and made five presentations! The students were anxious to hear about Russia and Russian life from a teenager perspective.

Наташа и Маша сделали много презентаций в наших школах. Я организовала их визит в мою школу. В среду, 23-го сентября, Наташа и Маша приехали в Палм Харбор Университет-Школу в 7 часов утра и были готовы к 5-ти презентациям! Американские студенты с нетерпением ждали рассказов о России и жизни русской молодежи из уст самых тинейджеров.

Unfortunately many students only know that Russia is far away and has lots of snow, so the presentation took them by surprise. As I watched, I noticed the students were paying close attention and some even had their mouths open. Afterwards the girls were bombarded with questions from "What is your favorite music?" to "What do you think about the war in Iraq?" I felt very happy that we could enrich the cultural and overall awareness of these high school students. I hope in the future we will have more such opportunities.

(continuation on the following page)

К сожалению многие студенты знали только то, что Россия находится далеко и там много снега, так что презентации были для них большим сюрпризом. Наблюдая американских студентов, я заметила, что они слушали девушек с огромным интересом и даже иногда с открытым ртом! После выступления студенты просто атаковали русских школьниц вопросами, на пример: «Какая ваша любимая музыка?» и «Что вы думаете о войне в Ираке?» Я очень рада, что этот образовательный опыт обогатил и углубил знания наших студентов о культуре России, а также расширил их общий кругозор. Я надеюсь, что в будущем у нас ещё будут такие возможности.

These amazing girls touched the hearts of many people in a very short time, and I want to thank everybody who contributed to their being here in our St. Petersburg!

За такой короткий срок эти удивительные девушки тронули сердца очень многих людей! И я хочу поблагодарить каждого, кто сделал возможным их визит в наш Санкт Петербург.

Violetta Yevstigneyeva Виолетта Евстигнеева

In the first picture on the next page Natasha and Masha are shown at Palm Harbor University High School. Can you tell which are Russian and which are American?

Other pictures show the ambassadors answering questions at school.

Row 2: With Mayor Rick Baker at City Hall; With members of the Board at RH meeting; Row 3: Supper with Violetta, Tania Bobrovskaya, and Nadia Yevstigneyeva; The Three girls at EPCOT center.

OUR THANKS TO MANY - СПАСИБО!

Many members and friends of *Russian Heritage* were involved in the Student Ambassador Program. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank all those who participated, including all members of the Board of Directors. Most involved in planning were Nadia and Violetta Yevstigneyeva. Thank you! The teachers and administrators at the various schools were also very cooperative, and we thank them. We also thank our hosts Gene and Mary Stenov, Bill Parsons, Lee and Patricia Rowell, and Bill and Pat Grant. We thank Ray Abrahamsen for his help in obtaining tickets to Disney World. We thank Tania Bobrovskaya for her work in setting up the competition in Russia that selected the two winners, and for her participation in the program here. Finally, we thank John Galbraith for his support that has made this Student Ambassador Program possible these two years.

Interested in a Pen Pal? We have had requests from a number of people in Russia who are interested in Pen Pals. One bicyclist from Tver and one Seminary student from St. Petersburg have expressed such an interest, in Russian if possible. If you are interested, email HeritageRussian@aol.com.

September 9-29th 2004

Masha and Natasha



UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 10, 2004 **Piano Concert at Eckerd College.** (see page 1)
- November 11, 2004 **Russian Films at Eckerd College.** Free and Open to Public.
7:00 pm: "The Bluebird of Happiness" 8:30 pm: "The War" (see page 1)
- November 7, 2004 – January 2, 2005 **Art Exhibit at Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art**
"FINDING FREEDOM: Forty years of Soviet and Russian Art." (see page 1)
- Sunday, Nov. 7. Exhibition Opening, 1pm – 5pm. Free Admission
- Sunday, Nov. 7. 2pm Lecture: Vitaly Komar and Natalia Kolodzei. \$10.
- Mon., Nov. 8. 1:30pm in FA 132 – Slide Presentation on Russian Baroque. Sue Cornett.
- Tues., Nov. 9. 12:30pm in FA 132 – Fun with Russian Translation. Nadia Yevstigneyeva.
- Wed., Nov. 10. 1pm in Lobby – On the Easel: Komar and Melimid, Life of Tolstoy.
- Sun., Nov. 14. 1:30pm – Russian opera film: "Eugene Onegin"
- Wed., Nov. 17. 1:30pm – Russian Icons. Sue Cornett
- Sun., Nov. 21. 2:00pm – Nan Colton as Catherine the Great. \$10*
- November 19, 2004 **"Human Trafficking" Workshop** (see bottom of page)
- November 19-22 **Florida Orchestra Plays Tchaikovsky**
- January 2005 **Florida Orchestra: Rachmaninoff Festival** (3 Concerts)
For more information go to www.floridaorchestra.org.
- January 15, 2005 **Old Russian New Year Celebration** (see page 9).
- January 27–29, 2005 **Events Associated with the End of the Siege of Leningrad.**
Watch for the January newsletter for information about the student surveys on WWII and the events associated with the end of the siege in Leningrad. We have several "children of the siege" who will participate in our anniversary events.
- March 2, 2005 **The Spirit of St. Petersburg (Russia) Balalaika Trio.**
Concert at 7:30 at the Palladium Theater. You do not want to miss this one!
- March 16 – 20, 2005 **SPIFFS 30th Anniversary Folk Festival at Tropicana Field**
This year's theme is "Festivals and Holidays Around the World."

"HUMAN TRAFFICKING" WORKSHOP

The National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) is sponsoring a workshop on "Human Trafficking" in labor practices and in the sexual exploitation of women and children on Friday morning, November 19 in Sarasota, Florida at the Annual Conference of the NFWL. This is a global problem that affects people from Russia and Eastern Europe as well as from Asia and Latin America. One of the sponsors of this workshop is Congresswoman Robin Read, who attended our Old Russian New Year's Celebration last year, and has invited *Russian Heritage* to be involved. If you are interested in attending the breakfast and morning workshop at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Sarasota, please contact Zina Downen for further information. (727) 399-1713.

For more details, check our website: www.russian-yellowpages.com/Florida/RussianHeritage.

BORZOI - RUSSIAN WOLFHOUND

The *Russian Wolfhound* or *Borzoi* (Russkaya Borzaya) will forever be associated with the hunting activities of the Russian aristocracy - a fact which once almost led the extinction of the breed.

The Borzoi was first described to the west in 1516 by an Austrian nobleman returning from Moscow. After Peter the Great, only the czars and the nobility could own Borzoi. To produce identical packs of Borzoi for hunting, the Imperial Kennel was established in Gatchina in 1613. Every six Borzoi puppies had a serf's child to attend to all of its puppy needs. If the pups were mistreated, the child was whipped.

Everything changed in 1861 when the serfs were emancipated. Fewer people remained to tend to large estates, and kennel maintenance became more costly. For a time Borzoi declined. But in 1887, the Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaivitch, uncle of the future Czar Nicholas II, established Perchina Kennels south of St. Petersburg.

The Grand Duke is on record hosting the Perchina Hunts, with 100 foxhounds, 130 Borzoi, 100 puppies, 20 retired hounds and 87 English thoroughbred horses. At a similar 1891 hunt held by the Czar at Gatchina, 6 wolves, 4 foxes and 173 hares were caught during the month-long hunt.

The Russian Revolution almost ended the Borzoi breed which had been so closely associated with the nobility. Many dogs were slaughtered. By one account, there were only 6 Borzoi left in Moscow. Fortunately, a few years before the revolution, American Joseph B. Thomas had obtained several Borzoi from Perchina for his own kennel in the US. It was Thomas who founded the *Russian Wolfhound Club of America* in 1903.

When Russian communism collapsed, American Borzoi fanciers were disheartened to discover that the few Borzoi who had survived in Russia were in poor condition. In 1991, Russian dog fancier Nadia Navakova described their plight in the *New York Times*. The Americans swiftly mobilized, providing vet supplies and breeding dogs descending from the original Perchina kennels. Thus American Borzoi injected old blood to invigorate the Russian breed and return it to its original majesty.

So, what is the character of this noble animal? It is a sight hound, which means it chases its quarry by sight. It must be fast enough to keep the prey visible. Slower scent hounds can follow a trail hours after it has been laid. The Borzoi, are easy to identify because of the S-shaped curves of the body, the dramatic abdominal "tuck up", the long legs and the tail used almost like a rudder to maintain balance at high speeds. The Borzoi temperament is sweet, docile, and intuitive. They make excellent house pets in spite of their near lightening speed.

Peggy Newton, Dog Lover and *Russian Heritage* Secretary.

Bielski-Braham, Tanya. "Once Upon a Time", *AKC Gazette*, Sept. 2004, 28-33.