

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 2.

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2007

Many Russian Heritage Activities on the Horizon

Russian Film at Eckerd College: *Sunday, October 23 at 3:00 pm*
Nikita Mikhalkov's film "Russians Deprived of Russia". Details page 3.

SPIFFS International Ball: *Friday, November 2 at 7:00 pm*
Come celebrate Russian Heritage's "Person of the Year" at SPIFFS International Ball. Banquet Masters in Pinellas Park (8100 Park Blvd. N). Menu: Roast Beef, Fillet of Sole, Chicken Marsala, Salad Bar, Dessert Bar. Awards Ceremony. Live Band!
Tickets: \$30. Contact Bill Parsons (727-867-9148) by October 25 for reservations.

Russian-American Idol: Variety Show!! *Sunday, November 18, 2007*
Share your talent with other members and friends of Russian Heritage! Details: p. 3.

Old Russian New Year's Celebration!! *Saturday, January 12, 2008*
We are having our big Gala on January 12, 2008 at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club!
You will be receiving the official invitation very shortly. Space will be limited, so we recommend that you return your reservations early.

Russian Village at Folk Festival: *March 26-30, 2008*
The St. Petersburg Internationals Folk Festival will take place the last week in March at the Vinoy Park in downtown St. Petersburg. We need to begin planning for our village and for our participation.

Russian Heritage Baltic Cruise: *May 22-June 4, 2008*
An exciting cruise on the Baltic Sea visiting many Scandinavian capitals, with two days of special tours in St. Petersburg, Russia, is being sponsored by Russian Heritage. Several members of the Board of Directors are planning to participate, and special Russian cultural activities are being organized. Details on itinerary and prices will be sent to you in the next few days. Reservation and first payment are due in early December, so make your plans now.

Read about our Nick White, our Scholarship Student, on pages 4.

Russian Doctor Shares Her Experience

On September 7, 2007 "Russian Heritage" sponsored a program in which Dr. Lidia Kustova of St. Petersburg, Russia reported on the Health Care System in Russia. The following is a report written by Russian Heritage president Nadia Yevstigneyeva, who graduated from the same medical academy in St. Petersburg.

Our visiting doctor Lidia Kustova reported to us what has happened in Russia during the last ten years in the health care system. Lidia graduated from the St. Petersburg Pediatric Academy in 2000 and since then she has worked as an ultrasound specialist in one of the leading emergency care hospitals in the city of St. Petersburg. Lidia pointed out that in the Russian Federation the health care system differs greatly between large cosmopolitan cities, especially Moscow and Saint Petersburg, and remote areas of the country, where people have a much lower level of care and very little choice. Has the situation improved, and is Russia in practice addressing the problems created by the lack of integration, vertical treatment structures, and over specialization?

Members of Russian Heritage and the Russian-American Club were interested in the current situation of medical insurance and its coverage and accessibility for the population; demographical issues caused by high death rates and low birth rates; issues with medical treatment and medications; infectious diseases in the hospitals; and advanced training for specialists such as surgeons. The role of local polyclinics and pediatric care for infants were also discussed. The highlights of Lidia's presentation included the fact that free medical insurance for each Russian citizen is still in place and works quite well in large cities where there is a sufficient health care establishment. Over the counter medication is accessible for the population, but it is quite expensive for most old people and the poor. The birthrate is at the lowest level in the history of Russia and some very strange efforts have been made by the government to increase it. Life expectancy is very low and the gap between American and Russian levels is extremely large (12 years for men and 9 for women). The extremely low salaries of medical doctors, the high reputation of medical professionals, and the extremely competitive entrance exams to the medical schools – these were just a few of the additional observations made by Lidia in our discussions.

Listening to Lidia's presentation gave us some positive feelings that the Russian Health System can survive as long doctors like Lidia will be dedicated to serving the country and its people. However, the Minister of Health, Zurabov, has not been popular among medical community in Russia and he did not bring any important improvements to the health system. His name was mentioned several times at the meeting with Lidia. But there may be good news. After Lidia returned to Russia, President Putin replaced Zurabov with Tatiana Golikova. She formerly served in the Ministry of Finance. Let's hope that this change will help Russia and its citizens to get better health care and medical services soon.

Nadia Yevstigneyeva

Russian-American Idol!

Searching for Talents to perform in a Variety Show!

Do you like to dance, sing, play a musical instrument, read poetry?
Do you feel a strong connection to Russia or other cultures of the former Soviet Block?

Share your talent with other Russian-Speaking members of our community!

Come and Join us at St. Petersburg Nights, Russian Restaurant and Lounge,
(6800 Sunset Way, St. Pete Beach, Fl 33706, www.StPetersburgNights.com) for a

Variety Show

November 18th at 6:30 pm

Participant prizes include souvenirs, gift certificates to the Restaurant, and a ticket to the
Old New Years Ball

Free admission for all

If you would like to participate in the show, pre-registration is required.

With questions or to register, contact Ilona at (727) 644-4839

(Sponsored by Russian Heritage, www.russianheritage.org) *LEARN ABOUT*

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FAMOUS RUSSIANS OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA AFTER THE REVOLUTION

A documentary film made by the most famous of contemporary Russian film makers will
be shown on Sunday, October 21 at 3:00 pm in the Miller Auditorium at Eckerd College.

Nikita Mikhalkov's "RUSSKIE BEZ ROSSII" (Russians Deprived of Russia)
documents the stories of the Russian commanders of the White Army and their men after
the Civil War in Russia following the Bolshevik Revolution. Featured in this film are
Kolchak, Denikin, and Wrangel and their contributions to the Russian Empire before and
during WWI, and their fate after the victory of the Bolsheviks. Interviews with
descendants of these leaders and those who chose to leave Russia for better times in
Western Europe after 1921 are featured, often in conversation with Nikita Mikhalkov
himself.

The film is in Russian with English subtitles. A brief introduction to the film will be
given by historian William Parsons, Professor Emeritus of Eckerd College.

NICK WHITE IN RUSSIA

(The following report was received this week from Nick White our Russian Heritage scholarship student at the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia. We are still seeking additional support for this scholarship program. See page 5. You can read more from this report on our website at www.russianheritage.org, which is in the process of being upgraded.)

Dear Russian Heritage,

Привет! So far everything here in the Russian Federation has been going very well. I have a premiere coming up very soon, actually this coming Thursday the 25th of October. It is a piece for Solo Cello and will be played by a fellow first year student from Uzbekistan named Dmitri Yanov-Yanovich. It will be premiered in the wonderful Alexander Glazanov Hall, in which I have seen several concerts now, including one last week featuring the music of my composition professor Sergei Michaelavich Slonimsky. Studying with a composer of his caliber has been and is an incredible honor. He is rather demanding, but incredibly talented as a composer and teacher. I never thought I could learn so much from one single person.

I am so grateful to Russian Heritage for the opportunity you have afforded me here in St. Petersburg. My composition class consists of approximately 12 students most of whom are Russian. Fortunately, my Russian is steadily getting better and I understand more and more. I have also taken the large step of adding Russian characters to my computer keyboard. Боже Мой! So far as I know I am the only American in the dorms and only one of 3 in the conservatory itself. Surprisingly, however, I've assimilated very well and most everyone has little interest in where you're from – only who you are and what kind of musician you are. My class load is very large but manageable. I take 15 hours of Russian, along with 6 hours of composition, 1 ½ hours of Solfeggio, 1 ½ hours of Harmony, 1 ½ hours of Score Reading, and 1 hour of Piano per week. Basically there is a lot to be done and not so much time to do it.

With regards to Russia itself, I am immensely enjoying my time here. By far the most awe inspiring place I have seen is the Alexander Nevsky Monastery and Tikhvin Cemetery. I saw the graves of Dostoyevsky, Mussorgsky, Borodin, Glazanov, Rubenstein, Rimsky-Korsakov, and of course Tchaikovsky. I must have stood at Tchaikovsky's grave for an hour just in absolute amazement. It was hard to imagine that I was literally 6 feet from the actual man! My heart collapsed in my chest. To be in such a place was just beyond all possible imagination. I take Solfeggio in a class room that Dmitri Shostakovich occupied for 15 years and I still have yet to get over the feeling. One of my great idols, sat here everyday for 15 years. It is just unreal. Someone pinch me so that I can wake up.

My biggest thanks to Russian Heritage and all who have helped make this possible for their generous contributions to my education and to my life really. With the education I'm receiving here I could surely do anything I want. Thank you all so much. You can not possibly imagine what you've given me already, and I've only having been here 2 months. I owe you so much.

Thank you all so much. I look forward to my next update. Спасибо большое!

Sincerely,

Nicholas Jennings White
Николаас Джэппингс Уайт - «Коля Белый»

October 18, 2007



Three Russian Doctors
Anatole Glen,
Vassili Arkadiev (translator),
Lidia Kustova. (see p. 3)



Nick White
Russian Heritage Scholarship Student
at the St. Petersburg Conservatory
(see p. 4)

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Membership Dues for 2008

All who are interested in Russian culture are welcome to join Russian Heritage by simply paying the yearly dues. Members receive newsletters and discounts on certain events such as the Old Russian New Year Celebration.

On your newsletter label, the last year for which you have paid is written. We hope that you plan to pay your 2008 dues before the end of the year. Dues are the same as last year. Please mail to:

Russian Heritage
PO Box 14552
St Petersburg, FL 33733

Please check one:

- Student \$ 0 Individual \$ 15 Family \$ 20 Sponsor \$100 or more

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

If you would like to make a contribution to the Nick White Scholarship Fund, remember the gift is tax deductible, and the first \$100 will be matched by an anonymous donor.

_____ \$1,000; _____ \$500; _____ \$100; _____ \$50; _____ \$25; _____ Other