

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume VII, Issue 2.

October 2002



Russian Heritage
St. Petersburg, Florida

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Volume VII, Issue 2

OCTOBER 2002

FLORIDA SLAVONIC CHOIR CONCERT: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

The October meeting for *Russian Heritage* will be a concert of Russian liturgical and folk music presented by the Florida Slavonic Choir in the Music Building at the University of South Florida in Tampa. The concert will begin at 2:30 pm.

The Florida Slavonic Choir is a community choir founded with the purpose of "bringing before the general public the incredible beauty of classical Russian Church music and the lilting loveliness of Slavic Folk Songs." The 25 vocalists under the direction of George King will perform liturgical work by Borntiansky, Tchaikovsky, Tchaenokoff, and others, and the folk songs "Myetelitsa", "Kalinka", and "Tonkaya Ryabins".

The concert will include a "sing-a-long" with some of the folk songs, and light refreshments will be served. Admission is

free, with a free-will offering.

Directions to the Music Building at USF in Tampa: From I-275 take the Fowler exit and drive east to the main entrance of the university. Enter the campus, and turn left at the first light on to Alumni Drive. Then take the second right on to Magnolia. Drive to just past the pond, and follow the driveway into the Fine Arts parking lot where you will see the Music Building. The concert is in Room FAH-101. *We hope you will come and invite your friends to this special concert.*

Briefly . . .

At the September meeting of *Russian Heritage*, 42 persons gathered to meet our new officers, welcome and honor Anatole Sokolsky as honorary member, and share experiences of recent visitors to Russia.

Board Member and Pianist Vladimir Khokhlov has relocated to Washington, D.C. He reports that he plans to come back to perform in the area in the near future.

Opportunities to Study Russian

Start this fall at Manatee Community College in Bradenton. Classes begin immediately. Call Bill Grant for more information. (941-351-1596). In January, look for opportunities in conversational Russian at St. Petersburg College and Eckerd College.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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. Details to follow in November Newsletter.
Evening Ballet Performance at Palladium Theater Featuring Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson. Music by Chopin and Tchaikovsky. Details to follow.

Sunday, November 10, 2002. A Program on Palekh and other Russian Lacquered Boxes. Elena Novikov will present information about this tradition. Come learn more about this Russian art form, and/or share with other members examples that you have collected. *Russian Heritage* member Peggy Newton will also bring her Samoyed Dog "Noah" and tell us the story about these special Russian dogs in America. This meeting will begin at 2:00 pm in the Flamingo Room of the Continuing Education Center at Eckerd College.

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! This will be an event you will remember for a long time! Preparations are well under way, so make your plans now. Mayor Baker and his wife Joyce will again be our Honorary Chairs.

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. A more detailed program will be forthcoming. The same program will be presented in Tampa on February 23, and in Clearwater on February 25.

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. Local scholars and specialists from St. Petersburg, Russia will participate. It is planned to present a similar symposium in the St. Petersburg, Russia in July 2003.

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.

The following article is an update of the article that originally appeared in the March 2002 Newsletter. Several members have requested that we reprint it to let people know who we are and what we do. Feel free to share this information with others who might be interested in our activities.

Russian Heritage. Who Are We?

Some people have asked the question, just what is *Russian Heritage*? In our Articles of Incorporation, and in many of our Newsletters, we have stated that "The purpose of *Russian Heritage* is to preserve and promote Russian heritage, history, and culture, and to educate the general public through such activities as, but not limited to, social events, film festivals, artistic venues and educational programs." We are a non-profit organization that also raises funds to support educational and cultural programs.

In April, 2002 we had a membership of 117 members. Since that time we have had an increase in membership, and now there are 145 official members. Who are the members of *Russian Heritage*? According to our By-Laws, "full membership in *Russian Heritage* will be granted to those persons who agree to the functions and purposes of the Corporation, and who pay the annual dues stipulated by the Board of Directors." At this point we have 63 members of Russian-American background, of whom about half were born and grew up in the former Soviet Union, and have come to this country relatively recently. Others were born outside of Russia in Russian communities in America, Europe, Asia, and elsewhere. Many have fascinating stories.

There are approximately 76 members who are non-Russian, but who are interested in promoting Russian culture. Some of these members speak Russian and many have visited or lived in Russia. It is an interesting fact that at least sixteen couples in the organization include one Russian and one non-Russian spouse. What we all have in common is the desire to promote Russian culture in this part of Florida.

Projects of *Russian Heritage*. Each year *Russian Heritage* has sponsored cultural activities such as lectures, concerts, film series, forums, symposia, and social gatherings. The Old Russian New Year's Celebration has often been a highlight of the year. Some years have been better for fund raising than others, but we have supported several cultural projects here in the United States and in Russia. In St. Petersburg, Florida we have placed a historical marker at the entrance to Demens Landing and provided funds for an exhibit of photographs of the Russian St. Petersburg at St. Petersburg College. In Washington we have supported the Russian Cultural Center with two projects to promote Russian-American understanding. We provided funds for the Tolstoy Foundation. In Russia we provided major funding for a Peter Demens exhibit which travelled from Tver to St. Petersburg to Vesegonsk, part of which is now included in the permanent collection of the historical museum in Vesegonsk (the part of Russia where Demens lived before coming to Florida). Finally, we have set up a fund to help celebrate the anniversaries of the two St. Petersburgs in 2003, and we are planning several major projects for this year. In the first six years we have donated a total of more than \$15,500 to these causes.

2003 Celebrations For The Two St. Petersburgs

St. Petersburg, Russia is well on its way in preparations for its 300th birthday celebration in May of 2003. The city of St. Petersburg, Florida is also organized to celebrate its 100th anniversary as an incorporated city, and to focus on its connections with St. Petersburg, Russia. Mayor Rick Baker and President Carl Kuttler of St. Petersburg College are leading the city committee preparing for the joint celebrations.

A major project in this effort will be a spectacular exhibit at the Florida International Museum on loan from the Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. It is expected to open in February, 2003. An exchange of city delegations is also planned, and exact dates are being negotiated.

Russian Heritage is also planning several events and projects as part of this celebration. Our Old Russian New Year Celebration will feature the two anniversaries. We will also participate in a symposium on the history of the two cities in early March, with a possible second similar symposium being held in St. Petersburg, Russia in July.

Another project is being investigated is an exchange of high school students between the two St. Petersburgs. A subcommittee of *Russian Heritage* is now working with others on the details for such an exchange. Future newsletter articles will feature these and other projects being planned for this joint celebration.

On the following pages you can read about the similarities and differences between the two cities, written by Professor Bill Parsons. If you have any questions or additions to this topic, please respond to the *Russian Heritage* Post Office Box.



Pages 6-10 of this newsletter are a reprint of those pages in the September Newsletter.

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 visit <http://www.rh.org> with your dues to:

Russian Heritage
P.O. Box 14352
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**)

_____ I am definitely planning to attend. I will send payment later.

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.

_____ **Contributor.** 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.*