

RUSSIAN HERITAGE

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October 2003

Learn About the Russian Alphabet & Russian Children's Books

On Wednesday, October 8 a special presentation on the Russian Alphabet and the Russian Children's books that help teach reading to Russian children will take place at the Lakewood Community School in St. Petersburg. Irena Nemchonok, professor of Russian at USF in Tampa, will talk about the alphabet and the children's books known in Russian as БУКВАРЬ (Bukvar) and АЗБУКА (Azбуka). If you do not know the Russian alphabet, this will be an opportunity to get acquainted. If you know Russian this will be a chance to see how the teaching of reading has changed in the Russian schools since the end of the Soviet system.

The session will begin at 7:00 pm at the Lakewood Community School (1400 – 54th Avenue South). Park in the parking lot in front of the school, and go into the office entrance to find the room for the program. We hope that many members of *Russian Heritage* will be interested in this interesting program.

October 15th Concert: THE MOSCOW JEWISH CHOIR

On Wednesday, October 15, Michael Touretsky's MOSCOW JEWISH CHOIR will present a concert at the Palladium Theater (253 – 5th Avenue North) in downtown St. Petersburg. The concert begins at 8:00 pm and tickets are available for \$36.00 each. The *New York Times* calls the concert "a finely crafted, inspirational performance..." For more information call the Palladium Theater, (727)-822-3590.

Russian Film to be Shown at Eckerd College: October 17

The film "Russian Ark" (Aleksandr Sokurov, 2003) will be shown in Dendy Auditorium at Eckerd College as part of an International Film Series at 6:30 pm on Friday, October 17. In an unprecedented single, continuous, 90-minute take, Aleksandr Sokurov aims to evoke three centuries of Russian history. A modern filmmaker finds himself transported to the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, and, together with a cynical French diplomat, observes characteristic moments in the unfolding of Russia's turbulent past from the early 1700's to the present. (Russian with English subtitles. 96 minutes)

Russian Cosmonaut Coming to Tampa

Cosmonaut Alexander Volkov is coming to Tampa on October 30 – 31. For more information see page 4.

Two Russian Student Ambassadors A Big Hit in Florida

The two Russian high school students who came "from St. Petersburg, Russia to St. Petersburg, Florida" in September as part of the plan to celebrate the anniversaries of the two "Namesake Cities" made a big impression on all who met them. Polina Kormiltseva and Dina Urikh made their presentation at the September 7th meeting of *Russian Heritage* at the Palladium Theater, and they also visited more than ten local schools with their power point program on St. Petersburg, Russia and its 300th anniversary. They also entered into a dialog with the students from elementary schools through college, answering numerous questions, and giving postcards and znachki (collectible pins) to those who could answer simple questions about St. Petersburg, Russia after listening to their presentation. The schedule of their activities is listed on page 3.

Many people in *Russian Heritage* and some friends of our organization played an important role in making this project a big success. Most of the arrangements for the schedule were made by a subcommittee of our 300/100 project consisting of Nadia Yevstigneyeva, Bill Parsons, and Bill Grant. Special thanks also go to the hosting families, including Bill Parsons and Gene and Mary Stenov in St. Petersburg and Lee and Patricia Rowell in Palm Harbor. Persons who also hosted important parts of the program included Bernie Orlando, Helena Novikov, Carl Kuttler, Janice Buchanan, and Robyn Gorman. Many teachers and administrators in the Pinellas County School System were also instrumental in setting up the program in the schools. *Russian Heritage* also appreciates the offers of others to participate in this program, and we hope that there will be opportunities in the future to take you up on your offers of assistance. Finally, we thank Tatiana Bobrovskaia for her help in arranging the competition in St. Petersburg, Russia that selected the two winners, and for her participation in the program here in Florida.

At the Board Meeting for *Russian Heritage* on September 28 the program of the student ambassadors was discussed, and there was general agreement that the program was a success. The Board voted to raise funds to continue to sponsor this exchange into the future. The money raised at the Old Russian New Year's party from the raffle will go into this fund.

It was also decided at this Board Meeting to make arrangements to bring two student musicians from a music school in St. Petersburg as part of a similar exchange. Vladimir Khokhlov is helping to explore these possibilities, with a possible target date in the spring of 2004. These students could visit schools, and also could perform in a concert to help offset the expenses of this trip.

**Russian Heritage
International Ambassadors program
September 7-23, 2003**

***Polina Kormiltseva and Dina Urikh,
accompanied by Tatiana Bobrovskia.***

Presentations at:

- Russian Heritage Meeting at the Palladium Theatre
- Gibbs High School (Magnet Arts School)
- Perkins Elementary School (Magnet for Arts and World Cultures)
- Eckerd College
- Lakewood High School (Technology Magnet School)
- Campbell Park Elementary School (Magnet for Marine Science)
- Canterbury Private School
- St. Petersburg High School
- John Hopkins Middle School
- St. Petersburg College (Tarpon Springs Campus, Clearwater Campus)
- Palm Harbor University High School

Meetings with:

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

Visits to:

- Fort DeSoto Park
- Christ United Methodist Church
- Dolphin Cruise
- St. Petersburg Beach
- Salvador Dali Museum
- St. Petersburg Museum of History
- Magic Kingdom at Disney World in Orlando
- Adventure Island in Tampa
- Clearwater Beach
- Tarpon Springs
- New York (Metropolitan Museum, etc.)

Accommodation:

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

Prof. Bill Parsons, *President of Russian Heritage*

September 18, 2003



World Space Week 2003

October 4 - 10, 2003

MOSI Aerospace Days

October 30 - 31, 2003



**Aerospace
Odyssey Lecture**
By
**Cosmonaut
Alexander Volkov**

Friday, October 31, 2003
7 p.m.



- Meet Russian Cosmonaut Alexander Volkov — a veteran of 3 space flights totaling over 1 year in earth orbit
- Experience *Mission to Mir*, film in the IMAX® Dome Theatre at MOSI

ADMISSION	Adult 13-59	Senior 60+	Child 2-12
MOSI members	\$8.75	\$8.25	\$6.75
non-members	\$12.75	\$10.95	\$8.75

(813) 987-8000 or 1-800-995-MOSI
MOSI ♦ 4801 East Fowler Ave. ♦ Tampa Florida 33617-2099
www.mosi.org

Upcoming Events.

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 will leave their home and travel to the United States. Artifacts will span over 800 years of Russian history and will 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.

DANCERS ANDREI USTINOV AND ELENA MARTINSON TO PERFORM AT PALLADIUM THEATER: November 16, January 31, and April 4

Mark your calendars for these upcoming performances by ballet stars Andrei Ustinov and Elena Martinson. Watch for selections from classical ballets and modern dances. Also appearing at these concerts will be local performers of classical music. For more information, check in later newsletters, or call the Palladium Theater (727) 822-390.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HOST VISITING RUSSIAN VISITORS

In the past month *Russian Heritage* has been approached by various organizations hosting visiting Russians. We publicized the opportunity to host the visiting student ambassadors in our own program, but there are other opportunities to provide housing and other support for individuals in a variety of programs. If you are interested in learning about such opportunities, contact *Russian Heritage*, PO BOX 14552, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.



Make plans now to attend the *Russian Heritage* Old Russian New Year's Gala Celebration. We are looking to repeat last year's success with an outstanding party at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. You may make your reservations now with the form in this newsletter, or you can wait for your official invitation later this fall.

This is also a good time to send in your dues for 2004.

