

RUSSIAN

HERITAGE

Volume VIII, Issue 1.

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September Meeting at Palladium  
Sunday, September 7 at 3:00 p.m.

Welcome to the fall season of *Russian Heritage*. Our first meeting will be a program at the lower chamber at the Palladium Theater (253 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North) on Sunday afternoon September 7, at 3:00 p.m.

The program will include several exciting events:

1. Meet the officers of *Russian Heritage* elected at May meeting.
2. Meet the two Student Ambassadors from St. Petersburg, Russia who are visiting our city. (details on page 3)
3. Watch videos of Russian TV programs about St. Petersburg, Florida run on Russian national TV.
4. Hear reports from *Russian Heritage* members recently returned from Russia.
5. Sample Wine, Cheese, Punch, and Cookies.
6. Hear our plans for the fall & for the "New Year"

All of the above for only \$5.00 to cover the cost of the refreshments. This is an excellent opportunity to invite friends who might be interested in *Russian Heritage*, or who might be interested in meeting the Russian students or seeing the Russian TV videos. It has also been suggested that those who have *Russian Heritage* T-shirts from last year's New Year's Party wear them for this special event.

## Two St. Petersburg Student Ambassadors Coming to Florida in September

Two Russian high school students are coming "from St. Petersburg to St. Petersburg" as part of the plan to celebrate the anniversaries of the "Namesake Cities". Polina Kormil and Dina Urich were selected in a competition to identify the best English language high school students in St. Petersburg, Russia from more than 180 contestants.

They have received invitations from about a dozen schools in Pinellas County to visit classes and share their knowledge about Russia and to learn more about American schools. *Russian Heritage* members and friends will have a chance to meet Polina and Dina at the September 7 meeting at the Palladium Theater, and there are still opportunities to host the girls for a meal, and/or an evening or possibly a weekend outing. We are trying to arrange a trip to Orlando. If you are not sure you would like to go yourself, you might consider sponsoring them with tickets to one of the theme parks. Questions about the plans should be directed to Nadia Yevstigneyeva (727-733-1480) or Bill Parsons (727-867-9148).

## St. Petersburg, Florida "stars" on Russian TV

The city of St. Petersburg, Florida has become much better known to viewers of Russian TV this year. Two national TV stations (NTV and ORT) produced programs about our city and its 100 year anniversary, and local visitors to Russia have been covered in numerous stories about our joint celebrations. The city delegation headed by Mayor Rick Baker visiting Russia in early May was covered in several segments of the news, and most recently the symposium in St. Petersburg on the theme of the Two St. Petersburgs made the national news as well. (see page 4). If you want to see the segments made here in Florida, come to the September 7 meeting at the Palladium. If President Putin and President Bush come to St. Petersburg, Florida in late September, or later this year, that will also give our city great coverage by the Russian and American media.

## Two Opportunities to Study Russian Language and Culture

The non-credit conversational Russian class announced in the last *Russian Heritage* Newsletter begins Wednesday, August 27 at Lakewood Community School (1400-54<sup>th</sup> Avenue South in St. Petersburg) from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. This 8-week course is intended for beginners, but those with some back-ground in Russian are also welcome. The fee for this course is \$48, payable at the first class. The instructor for this class is Professor Bill Parsons of Eckerd College. For more information, please contact the instructor at [parsonwh@eckerd.edu](mailto:parsonwh@eckerd.edu)

Beginning on Wednesday, September 17 a class on Russian Culture and Conversation will be offered at the Florida International Museum (100 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North in St. Petersburg) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., taught by Helena Kazakova. This 10-week non-credit course focuses more on Russian culture with an introduction to the Russian language. The cost of this program is \$75. For more information about registration, please call Jackie Addis, 341-4441.



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.

## The "Two St. Petersburgs" Symposium at the History Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia

We were confident that the symposium would take place in St. Petersburg, Russia on July 21, but we were not certain exactly how everything would work out. In fact, the event was a big success. About 60-70 people, mostly Russian, arrived for the 3-hour conference in an 18<sup>th</sup> century room in the Peter-Paul Fortress which is part of the City History Museum. The session opened with a welcome by the director of the museum, Mr. Arakcheev, who commented on the relationships between the two cities, and even mentioned the symbol of the quilt which was a gift from our city to theirs. Mr. Arakcheev was presented with a gift for his museum of a portfolio of historical photographs of St. Petersburg, Florida in the 1920's and 1930's from *Russian Heritage*, Eckerd College, and USF St. Petersburg.

The presentations from the American side included a talk on Peter Demens and the Founding of St. Petersburg, Florida by Professor Bill Parsons of Eckerd College, and a Slide Presentation by Professor Ray Arsenault of USF St. Petersburg on St. Petersburg, Florida in 1903. Poet Peter Meinke read his anniversary poem for the two cities, and Poet Ilia Foniakov read his translation of Meinke's poem. From the Russia side, students Polina Kormil and Dina Ulrich gave a bi-lingual power-point presentation of St. Petersburg, Russia, which they have prepared for their trip to Florida. *Russian Heritage* representative Tatiana Bobrovskaia was instrumental in arranging the symposium at the History Museum and she participated in the presentation of our programs for the anniversary year.

For four days the exhibit of the banners from the St. Petersburg, Florida Museum of History were also on display in the Peter-Paul Fortress Museum of History. For this exhibit, the text of the banners was translated into Russian, and was displayed with the banners. If you are interested in the bi-lingual text of this exhibit, you may pick up a copy at the September 7 meeting at the Palladium.

On the eve of the symposium, an hour-long call-in radio show was broadcast in St. Petersburg which featured poets Peter Meinke, Ilia Foniakov, and Professor Bill Parsons talking about the two St. Petersburgs, with particular focus on the role of poetry in the two cities.