

# RUSSIAN HERITAGE

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SUMMER 2006

## Fall Meeting: Susan Haig of the Florida Orchestra *Sunday, 4:00 pm, September 24 at Eckerd College*

The first meeting of the fall season will be a general meeting for all members and friends of Russian Heritage at Eckerd College on Sunday, September 24 at 4:00 pm. Susan Haig, the Associate Conductor of the Florida Orchestra will be featured in a program that focuses on the current cultural and musical scene in Russia, and the upcoming season for the Florida Orchestra. Susan will be in St. Petersburg and Moscow from late July to mid-August, attending a Master Class for conductors at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. She has a special interest in nineteenth century Russian music, and she will be presenting the music of Glinka, Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky and others with the Florida Orchestra in a series of coffee concerts on Thursday mornings in the coming season.

Eckerd student Hayley Borck, our student ambassador who studied Russian in St. Petersburg and Moscow this summer, will also give a short report.

The meeting will be in the Pelican Room of the CEC Building (Continuing Education Center), just to the left of the entrance, after you pass the traffic circle at Eckerd College. The program is free and open to the public. Zakuski and beverages will be served.

## New Officers Elected at Spring Meeting

**Nadia Yevstigneyeva** became the new President of Russian Heritage at the May 19 meeting at the *St. Petersburg Nights Restaurant* in St. Pete Beach, Florida. **Mary Stenov** is the new Vice-president, and **Peggy Newton** was re-elected to the position of Secretary. The position of Treasurer is vacant at present, but a Treasurer will be appointed before the fall meeting. **Bill Parsons**, formerly President, was elected as Chair of the Board of Directors. Those elected to the expanded Board of Directors are listed on the cover of this newsletter.

The program featured the tradition of the "Последний звонок" (The Last Bell) for our two high school honors graduates who have served as Russian Heritage ambassadors both here at home, and last year in Russia. **Violetta Yevstigneyeva** and **Victor Albert** were honored for their many achievements.

## *Russian Heritage Cruise, November 30-December 4, 2006.*

This four-day cruise to Mexico on the Carnival Ship "The Inspiration" sails from Tampa, and has the fun features of all cruises: great food, entertainment, sun, relaxation . . . We also have planned a Russian performer who will sing and lead our group in Russian singing, and a retired Russian history professor who will share his insights on a half-century of experiences with Russia and Russians. The cost per person begins at \$413.50, and it's not too late to join the group. For more information, call 727-867-9148, or call 727-367-3737 to sign up for the trip.

## UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

There are many events promoting Russian culture in the coming year, some planned by *Russian Heritage*, and others that we have heard about. On this page you will see some of those events already in the works, and some that have been suggested. We need your ideas and energy to make them as successful as possible.

**Van Cliburn** plays Tchaikovsky's "Piano Concerto No. 1", Monday, September 25 at the Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg, Florida. Hear this piano legend perform the work that won him the Gold Medal at the First International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, and made him an icon in Russian-American cultural contacts for the last half century. For tickets, call the Florida Orchestra: 813-286-2403 or 1-800-662-7286.

Last year we challenged our members and friends to read, or re-read **Pushkin's YEVGENY ONEGIN**. In October we are planning to discuss this work and show the film **ONEGIN** to commemorate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of this classic. Check the September Newsletter for more details on this event.

The **Old Russian New Year Celebration** has been planned for Saturday, January 13, 2007 at the Tradewinds Resort in St. Pete Beach. Details in the September Newsletter.

### THREE NEW IDEAS HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED.

1. Perhaps *Russian Heritage* could help people prepare for their **Trips to Russia**. This might include working with a tourist agency for some of the preparations, but also for us to arrange for guides, tickets, and itineraries. In a few cases, our former *Russian Heritage* ambassadors have served as guides. Nadia Yevstigneyeva is investigating possibilities to present to the Board.

2. Maybe there could be a **Russian Heritage Cookbook**. Members and friends could submit their favorite recipes (Russian or traditional with a Russian flare), and a committee would put together a cookbook, with special features and artwork. We could also have fun with a tasting party. If you have recipes that you would like to submit *right now*, you can send them to the PO Box, or by email to our secretary, Peggy Newton (samangel@earthlink.net).

3. Another interesting suggestion is to organize a meeting featuring **Russian Breeds of Dogs and Cats**. In previous newsletters there have been articles about various breeds of Russian dogs, and we could learn more interesting information about Russia through the eyes, ears, and bodies of Samoyeds, Borzois, Siberian Huskies, and others. If you have such a pet, or if you know someone who has such an animal, or a pet with a Russian name, you may be interested in participating.

*If you have other ideas, bring them to the September meeting, or share them with one of the officers or one of the members of the board of directors.*

**Vesyegonsk !!!** Not many people in St. Petersburg, Florida could find this Russian city on a map, but this month *Russian Heritage* president Nadia Yevstigneyeva received a letter from the mayor of Vesyegonsk asking us to celebrate their city holiday with them (see below). It so happens that they begin their history in 1776, but the reason they want to include us in their holiday is that one of their famous townspeople was Peter Demens, the founder of our city. Although Vesyegonsk is only the about the size of Palmetto, Florida (which makes it about 1/25 the size of our city), we must remember that we like to be compared with the other St. Petersburg, which is more than 20 times larger than our city. Vesyegonsk is located in the NW corner of Tver' Oblast, quite far from major population centers. Maybe it is time for a delegation from our city to visit Vesyegonsk to see one of the places where Demens lived before coming to America.



**ГЛІАВА**  
**ГОРОДА ВЕСЬЕГОЊСКА**  
 Тверской области

The president of Russian Heritage  
 Nadia Yevstigneyeva  
 Po Box 14552  
 St. Petersburg, Fl. 33733, USA

Dear Nadia Yevstigneyeva!

In July, 2006, Vesyegonsk in the Tver' Region of Russia will celebrate the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of our history. Since St. Petersburg, Florida in the United States was founded by Captain Peter Demens, a Russian nobleman from our town of Vesyegonsk, we think it is appropriate for you to celebrate with us.

Our citizens would like to promote the friendship between our two cities. We hope that our communication can continue and be successful. We welcome you to celebrate with us our city's great holiday. And we invite you and members of your Russian Heritage group to visit Vesyegonsk in the near future.

22.06.2006



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