



# RUSSIAN HERITAGE

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## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF RUSSIAN HERITAGE

*"The purpose of Russian Heritage is to preserve and promote Russian heritage, history and culture, and to educate the public through such activities as, but not limited to, social events, film festivals, artistic experiences, and educational programs."*

At a summer planning session of the Board of Directors of Russian Heritage we examined our mission statement and discussed ways to implement our goals and purposes in the coming year. We talked about reaching out to activate our current members and attracting new members to our programs. We plan to continue our newsletter, including added information about what is happening in Russia, to improve our website, and to publicize more our activities that are open to our members and the wider public.

We are planning to continue our Old Russian New Year's Celebration. It will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2010 in the Grand Ball Room of the downtown Hilton Hotel. More details will be available in upcoming newsletters. We are scheduling a number of other educational and artistic programs for the fall and the spring, and these also will be described in our newsletters and on our reorganized website. The first general fall meeting will be on September 25 or 26. Stay tuned.

In the past few years we have shown a number of Russian films, but most have been single events. This year we hope to show a series of films that will be a part of a general "film series." If you have suggestions for the film series or other programs, please contact one of the members of the Board, or send an email to the president (see above).

Russian Heritage annual dues cover the calendar year. If you are now a member of Russian Heritage, you are in good standing through 2009. If you join now, or renew your membership now, you will be paid up through 2010. You can view the status of your membership on the address label on your newsletter. If your dues are paid through 2009, there will be "09" at the bottom of the address label. In the next newsletter look for the membership form for 2010.

At our September general meeting we will extend a special welcome to all our new members and welcome back our returning members. We hope to see you all there.

Bill Parsons, President  
and  
The Board of Directors

## A Message From the President . . .

This summer has brought a flood of memories about my experiences with Russia and Russian culture. It was 50 years ago that I began my study of the Russian language and Russian history, and it was 50 years ago in the summer of 1959 that I made my first trip to Russia (then the Soviet Union). I visited the American Exhibition in Moscow just a week after the famous Nixon-Khrushchev "kitchen debate" and I was in Iowa when Khrushchev came to the US later that year, making his memorable trip to the Roswell Garst farm in Iowa in search of the secret of American agriculture. Certainly much has changed in the past half century!

At the end of June I traveled to Washington, D.C. While there I visited the Russian Cultural Center and returned the Kremlin towers that we had borrowed from the Center for our Russian exhibit at the SPIFFS Folk Fair. I also met Uli Zislin and spent several hours at his Museum of Russian Poetry and Music in Rockville, Maryland. He invited me to the "Alley of Russian Poets and Composers" in Washington for the celebration of the 120 anniversary of Anna Akhmatova's birth (June 23, 1889) and I even recited an Akhmatova poem for those assembled. Finally, I had an assignment at the Library of Congress to present five volumes of Demens' writings to the Library on behalf of the Demens family. While there I met a former student who is now working in the European Reading Room at the Library.

Between these two landmark events I spent 40 years teaching history and Russian Studies at Eckerd College, and I have been active for 13 years in Russian Heritage. I hope that in the coming year we can work together to continue "to preserve and promote Russian heritage, history and culture" in the programs outlined on page one.

President Bill Parsons

## Chess Legends Kasparov and Karpov to Play Each Other Again

Chess legends Garry Kasparov and Anatoli Karpov are to relive their epic 1984 world championship duel 25 years on by playing a new match this September in the Spanish city of Valencia. The September 21-24 match is not expected to reflect the suspense of their first encounter and will be more of a ceremonial tournament. The five-month 1984 match marked the first battle between the famous chess rivals. At the time the world champion Karpov was 33 years old and the challenger Kasparov just 21.

The match was ended without result by World Chess Federation chief Florencio Campomanes on alleged health grounds, a decision that was controversial, as both players said they wanted to continue. Kasparov later defeated Karpov narrowly. He won the world championship in late 1985 and defended his title the following year.

Kasparov has been active in the political opposition to Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin since announcing in 2005 he was withdrawing from competitive chess and creating his own political party. Karpov was undisputed world chess champion from 1975 to 1985 and FIDE world chess champion from 1993 to 1999. Both Karpov and Kasparov are considered among the greatest chess players ever.

## Russian Heritage Picnic 4/25/09



On April 25 Russian Heritage had its spring picnic and annual meeting at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in St. Petersburg. Following the picnic entertainment was provided by Sergei Smirnoff and Olga Kamargo. At the business meeting there were annual reports and elections of officers. (See photo).

## Russian Heritage Board of Directors



Bill Parsons, President; Mary Stenov; Gene Stenov, Board Chair; Peter Sidorenko, Treasurer; Evgeny Lei, Galina Malkina, Vladimir Khokhlov, and Nadia Yevstigneyeva, Members of the Board. Not pictured: Zhanna Sidorenko, Vice President; Laura Plesch, Secretary; and Victor Peppard, Board Member.

## Guy Hoagland, a Poet of Two St. Petersburgs, Dies 4/27/09

Guy Hoagland enjoyed writing and teaching poetry, participating in the Poet-in-the Schools Program in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. He was the leader of a local group of poets known as "The Open Poetry Society" and worked to popularize local poets in the community. For Russian Heritage he was best known for his contacts with the poets of St. Petersburg, Russia. He made several trips to our "sister city", read his poems there, had them published in translation in various publications, including *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, and was an foreign member of the Union of Writers of the Russian St. Petersburg. He wrote a poem about the "invisible tree of poetry" that had roots deep into the earth, uniting the two St. Petersburgs, and producing leaf-poems expressing the finer instincts of our souls and muses. The following tribute is written by St. Petersburg poet Ilya Fonyakov in *Literaturnaya Gazeta*.

# Незримое древо поэзии

Памяти Гая Хогленда, американского петербуржца

УТРАТА

Чуть заходя, пришла из-за океана печальная весть: в городе Санкт-Петербурге, штат Флорида, умер поэт Гай Хогленд. Всего лишь год с небольшим не доживший до своего 90-летия, отважный лётчик Второй мировой войны, создатель и бессменный лидер «Общества открытой поэзии», собранного под свои знамена целое созвездие местных талантов, он был в то же время иностранцем членом Союза писателей российского Санкт-Петербурга. И членство это отнюдь не было формальным: именно он, Гай Хогленд, вместе с преподавателем флоридского Эккер-квэлла, русистом Биллом Парсоном, был инициатором установления братских связей между поэтами двух Санкт-Петербургов, «младший» из которых, американский, был основан выходцем из России Петром Демьяновым, ставшим и Америке Питером Деминсом.

Не раз во главе поэтического «деканата» Гай Хогленд приезжал на берега Невы, выступал перед студентами Петербурга, школьниками Колпина и Гатчины, его стихи в русских переводах печатались в российских изданиях, в том числе и в «ЛГ». У себя на родине — и за свой, ри-



зумется, счёт — Гай издал две небольшие антологии поэтов двух городов, объединённых общим именем. Вместе с ним мы составили сборник стихов американских петербуржцев, в переводах собиравших из петербургской столицы он выехал в Россию в 1997 году. Мы назвали его по одному из включённых стихотворений — «Испытание памяти», имен и вилу освобождение от

всех стереотипов времён холодной войны и прочих предрассудков.

Обязательный, неподкупный внешне Хеммингуэй, Гай любил возиться с юными стихотворцами Флориды, учил их азам поэтического мастерства, а они в ответ посвящали ему трогательные строки. Самым дом его в пригороде Санкт-Петербурга — Семиноле — дышал поэзией: кроме Гая стихи писали (и пишут) его жена Эва-Ринта, финка по происхождению, и одна из дочерей, носившая русское имя, — Тая. Было бы интересно издать по-русски небольшой коллективный сборник этой семьи, опровергающий расхожее представление об американцах как о безнадёжных прагматиках.

«Незримое» — так называлось одно из стихотворений Гая Хогленда. Речь в нём идёт о незримом древе поэзии, чьи корни обнимают всю землю, от Невы до Флориды, «объединяя и души, и разноязычных муз, и лучшее в людях инстинкты, упреждающие глубоко-глубоко, даже, может быть, глубже, чем чувство Бога». В устах человека верующего, каким Гай всё-таки был, эти слова дорогого стоят.

Илья ФОНЯКОВ

### President Kutler receives Russian medals



*SPC President Carl M. Kutler Jr. is awarded two medals by Russian Ambassador Sergey I. Kislyak. See story on page 5.*

### Walt Whitman Statue in Moscow



*A new statue of Walt Whitman has been erected in Moscow to greet President Obama. See story in English and Russian on page 5.*

### Pushkin Statue in Washington



*Washington, DC is the home of the first monument in the United States to honor a Russian literary figure, a statue of the great Russian poet and writer Alexander Pushkin on the campus of George Washington University. The dedication of this statue took place in September 2000. The monument to Alexander Pushkin, created by Alexander Bourganov, one of Russia's leading contemporary sculptors, is a bronze statue of the poet in a frock coat. The statue is more than 10 feet tall and is crowned by the image of Pegasus, symbol of poetry.*

### Teardrop Monument



#### **Did anyone hear about this?**

*This is the "TEAR DROP" made and installed by the Russians to honor those who died in 9-11 and it is a strong statement against terrorism. It is very impressive. It was a gift from the people of Russia and is the work of artist Zurab Tsereteli. It is located in New Jersey, and is on a line with the Statue of Liberty. If you have not heard about this monument, you can find more information at [www.911monument.com](http://www.911monument.com).*

## President Kuttler receives Russian Medals

Carl M. Kuttler Jr., President of St. Petersburg College and longtime member of Russian Heritage, was awarded two medals at the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., one "For the Contribution to the Cause of Friendship" and another celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Consular Service of Russia. The medals were awarded June 11 to Kuttler by Sergey I. Kislyak, Ambassador of Russia to the United States, for Kuttler's 20-year commitment to fostering relations between sister cities St. Petersburg, Russia and St. Petersburg. He also was cited for solidifying the friendship between Russia and the U.S.

Besides Kuttler and Kislyak, also present were ranking embassy officials, Cultural Attache Natalia Batova, General Consul Sergey Ovsiannikov, and Director of the Russian Cultural Center Evgeny Agoshkov. Batova and Agoshkov are friends of Russian Heritage and have participated in our events in St. Petersburg.

Kuttler was named Honorary Consul of the Russian Federation to the state of Florida in 2004, as recommended by President Putin, the Russian Prime Minister, and the Russian Ambassador to the U.S. It was approved by the U.S. State Department.

## A Statue of Walt Whitman, a Luminary of American Poetry, in Moscow

A statue of Walt Whitman, considered by some to be the most outstanding American poet, has been mounted on Lenin Hills in Moscow near the building of Moscow State University. Whitman, unconventional both in content and technique, is not well known in Russia. This statue is a return gift from the US for the statue of Pushkin that was put up in Washington DC ten years ago. It is the work of the same sculptor, Alexander Burganov.

## К приезду Обамы в Москве появился памятник "светилу американской поэзии"

К приезду в Россию президента США Барака Обамы в Москве появился памятник американскому поэту. Скульптура, изображающая писателя и публициста Уолта Уитмена, установлена на Ленинских горах перед зданием филологического факультета МГУ.

В России реформатора американского стиха знают очень немногие. В то же время в США Уитмен считается классиком и литературным светилом, как в России Александр Пушкин. Что интересно, памятник Уитмену - это ответный подарок из Штатов: 10 лет назад возле университета Джорджа Вашингтона был открыт памятник Пушкину, причем того же самого скульптора - Александра Бурганова.

Как признался сам скульптор журналистам, Уитмена на эту роль утвердили не сразу, поскольку претендовали еще Марк Твен и Эдгар По, однако победил "вселенский масштаб поэзии". "Посмотрели, хорошо выглядит - медведь, здоровый мужик в шляпе широкополной, в такой рубашке", - отметил Бурганов.

Поэт и журналист Уолт Уитмен (1819 - 1892) оказал существенное влияние на самосознание американцев. В своем сборнике "Листья травы" он пропагандировал идею очищающей человека близости к природе. Чувство родства со всеми людьми и всеми явлениями мира выражено посредством преобразования лирического героя в других людей и неодушевленные предметы.