

Russian Heritage Newsletter

SAINT PETERSBURG, TAMPA, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA



RUSSIAN HERITAGE WINTER BALL, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 2020

Russian Heritage NEW Logo

We have a new logo for our organization. Thank you Michael our webmaster who helped design it.



RUSSIAN HERITAGE

Russian Heritage Winter Ball

It took a lot of effort, nerves, stress and patience, to put this Ball together. We want to Thank All those Board Members who managed to make this a great event! But also thank all RH Members and guests who attended too.

Russian Heritage Webpage Is Being Updated

The time has come to finally get a new look and add many more features to our webpage. It's a tedious process but we want to Thank Michael the web designer and maintainer for making it happen along with Zina Downen one of our Board members.



RUSSIAN HERITAGE WINTER BALL, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 2020

RUSSIAN HERITAGE WINTER BALL

A Fun Time Enjoyed by All! We had our 24th Annual Winter Ball on Saturday, January 11th, 2020 @ the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Over 250 people attended, with several local politicians and state congressmen. It was possibly the "Best Ball Yet!" quoted by many.

St Petersburg Sister Cities (Florida & Russia)

This year Russian Heritage plans to get this project off the shelves and into action. After many years of silence, work has been progressing a step at a time, contacting officials from both sides. One of our main goals is to organize the student exchange program, we plan to have several activities with art and perhaps theatre events. We will keep you informed with the progress.



Find us on Facebook:
Two Saint Petersburgs - Sister Cities



IF YOU WERE ABLE TO SEE THE ORIGINAL MUSICAL PLAY "THE ORANGE BELT RAILROAD," BY RICHARD BUDIN, YOU WERE INDEED VERY FORTUNATE. IT WAS A PLAY PRESENTED IN GULFPORT BY LOCAL PERFORMERS. IT REVOLVED AROUND THE PINELLAS PIONEER, PETER DEMENS, A RUSSIAN IMMIGRANT WHO BUILT A RAILROAD THAT LEAD TO THE FOUNDING OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA. THE PLAY COMMEMORATED OUR COUNTY'S HISTORY AND CULTURE AND MAKES US VERY PROUD OF OUR RUSSIAN HERITAGE, WHERE SO MANY RUSSIAN PEOPLE WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN BUILDING THE "AMERICAN DREAM." MARY STENOV

Orange Belt Railroad (January 16- 21, 2020)

Gulfport Theatre, Saint Petersburg, Florida

This historical play with music tells the tale of Peter Demens, a Russian immigrant and small-town businessman who takes a dilapidated railroad and sets out to build a route stretching across Florida from Sanford to Point Pinellas. The project sets the stage for the city of St. Petersburg to come into existence. The play takes place between 1885 and 1889 and focuses on a single historical figure, Peter Demens, and his real-life business partners and associates. Like a cat with nine lives, each time the railroad's end is near, Demens manages to strike a new deal to keep things going. Familiar St. Petersburg locations such as Demens Landing, Williams Park and Disston Plaza take on greater significance after viewing this play. Cities that sprung up along the way include Clearwater, Dunedin, Largo, Palm Harbor, Tarpon Springs, Ozona, and Gulfport. "Locals loved this humorous and musical snippet of Pinellas County history," said Eileen Navarro (director for this production).

FEBRUARY 2020 RUSSIAN & FLORIDA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **February 2, 2020, Sunday**
ST PETERSBURG: Peter & the Wolf Story time Concert for Children @ James Museum
TAMPA: Game of Мозгобойня @ Gengiz Khan Mediterranean Grill
ORLANDO: International Peace & Film Festival @ Wyndham Resort Hotel
- **February 7, 2020, Friday**
NEW YORK: 55th Petroushka Ball
- **February 8, 2020, Saturday, 6:00 pm**
TAMPA: Russian Heritage Hockey Night @ Amalie Arena
- **February 9, 2020, Sunday**
DAYTONA BEACH: Russian State Symphony Orchestra @ Peabody Auditorium
- **February 12, 2020, Wednesday 6:30 pm**
TAMPA: Golden Gates Russian Dancers @ Temple Terrace, UM Church 5030 E Busch Blvd
- **February 14, 2020, Friday, Valentine's Day (US)**
ST PETERSBURG: Valentine's Day (w/ Julia's Birthday) Party @ 1st Dance Studio
- **February 15, 2020, Saturday, 9:00 am**
ST PETERSBURG: Sretenie (The Meeting Of Our Lord) @ St Andrews ROC, 6465 54th Ave N
- **February 16, 2020, Sunday, 3:00 pm**
GULFPORT: Shashlik Picnic @ Russian American Club
- **February 18-21, 2020, Tuesday**
ST PETERSBURG: St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs @ the Palladium
- **February 19, 2020, Wednesday**
SARASOTA: Stalin, Roosevelt, Gorbachev, Reagan, Putin, Trump @ Ringling College
- **February 21-23, 2020, Friday**
ST PETERSBURG: Super Greek Festival @ St Stefano's Church
ST PETERSBURG: Music by Chopin, Rachmaninoff & Others @ SPC/Gibbs Campus Music Center
- **February 23, 2020, Sunday**
Defender of the Fatherland Day (RU)
- **February 26, 2020, Wednesday**
ST PETERSBURG: All About Tchaikovsky @ Mahaffey Theater

A Few Russian & American Tidbits for February:

- February 2, 1811 - Fort Ross was established in California.
- February 2, 1956 - Hot Diggity Song was released, written by two Russian Americans.
- February 3, 2003 - Natalia Medvedeva, Singer. Album cover model for the group 'The Cars,' died.
- February 7, 1942 - Artist Ivan Bilibin, remembered on this day.
- February 9, 1891 - Philosopher & Writer Fyodor Dostoevsky, remembered on this day.
- February 10, 1837 - Poet Alexander Pushkin, remembered on this day.
- February 11, 1980 - The Film "Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears" was released in theatres.
- February 20, 2005 - Sandra Dee, Russian American actress, remembered on this day.
- February 22, 1934 - The song "Polushko Pole" was first heard in a movie.
- February 22, 1987 - Artist Andy Warhol, remembered on this day.
- February 26, 1953 - Michael Bolton, Russian American singer & songwriter was born.
- February 29, 1892 - St. Petersburg was Incorporated as a Town, Re-Incorporated as a City in 1903.

Several Commemorated Orthodox Saints & Holydays in February:

- February 2, St Inna
- February 3, St Maxim
- February 4, St Timothy
- February 6, St Xenia & Agatha
- February 7, St Vitaly
- February 16, St Simon
- February 23, St Valentina
- February 25, Iverskaya Theotokos Ikon

Obituary:



Barry Marshall (29 Jun 1946 New Orleans, LA -13 Jan 2020 St Petersburg FL) (aged 73) Barry was a long time member of Russian Heritage who attended many discussions about Russian history, literature, and culture and showed great interest in what we were doing. He will be missed.

Some Interesting Facts on Russia:

- Big Diomed Island (Ratmanov Island or "Tomorrow Island" due to the International Date Line) is the western island of the two Diomed Islands in the middle of the Bering Strait. The border separating Russia and the United States runs north-south between the Diomed Islands. The first European to reach the islands was the Russian explorer Semion Dezhnev in 1648. The Russian navigator (Danish nationality) Vitus Bering re-discovered the Diomed Islands on August 16, 1728, the day on which the Orthodox Church celebrates the memory of the martyr St. Diomed. In 1867, during the Alaska Purchase, the new border between the nations was drawn between the Big Diomed and Little Diomed islands. Russia is separated from United States by 2.5 miles (4 kilometers).
- Russia's greatest museum - The Hermitage, in St Petersburg - is home to around 70 cats, which guard its treasures against rodents. The tradition dates back to a 1745 decree of Empress Elizabeth, the daughter of Peter the Great, founder of St. Petersburg. The museum also has almost 14 miles of marbled corridors.
- The Oldest Christian Church in Russia "Tkhaba-Yerdy" dates back to the 8th century.
- The name Red Square has nothing to do with communism, but derives from the word "krasnyi", which once meant "beautiful". The name was first used in 1493.
- In the White Dining Room in the Hermitage Palace there's a clock on the mantelpiece. It was stopped at 2.10am on the night of October 25, 1917, when Kerensky's provisional government, which had held power since the February revolution, was arrested by the Bolsheviks - it is the moment Russia slipped into communism.

We at Russian Heritage, are interested to know, "YOUR INTEREST"

Russian Heritage has been around since 1995. We are a cultural non-profit organization, and are interested in uniting the Russian public first of all, in the Tampa Bay area, by providing interesting events and finding ways to network ourselves together.

Various statistics show that there are 10,000 Russian speakers in the area (give or take). Saint Petersburg has always been populated by Russians, ever since Peter Demens (Dementiev) brought the railroad to the area, and thus St Petersburg has been named after him, the founding father of St Petersburg, Florida (& Odessa, Florida).

Let's see what we can do together and for ourselves. There is a lot happening and a lot available to have outings for ourselves, families, children and for the professionals.

Follow us on our webpage:
or find us on Facebook:

www.russianheritage.org
"RussianHeritageAbroad"

A Few Selected Photos from the Winter Ball.



You can see more photos from the Ball on our webpage.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF RUSSIAN HERITAGE? IF NOT, JOIN US!
WE ARE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE!