

THE JOURNAL OF RUSSIAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH APRIL 2013



Zdrastvuy, New York!

by Alexey Osipov

Yes, America was discovered by Columbus, an Italian ship captain funded by a Spanish Queen, but Russian's too can trace a long path through the history of the United States. Two centuries ago, the first Russian settlers landed in California. Later, Russian Tsar Alexander II entered into correspondence with President Abraham Lincoln addressing him as: "My dear brother ...". Many Americans were born in Russia or have Russian roots, and the current New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, has expressed confidence that soon one in ten residents of the Big Apple will be speaking Russian.

Russian America can be proud of so many members whose accomplishments inspire both Americans and Russians; in the annals of both Russian and American history are inscribed the names of Igor Sikorsky, and Sergey Brin, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Vladimir Zworykin, Ivan Turchaninov and Igor Stravinsky. The distinguished Jewish spiritual leader Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson addressed himself in Russian and the great American Kirk Douglas, patriarch of the famous acting family, is "Russian" Jewish in origin.

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Здравствуй, Нью-Йорк!

by Alexey Osipov

Да, Америку открыл испанец Колумб, но русский след в истории Соединенных Штатов есть и будет: два века назад в Калифорнии высадились первые русские поселенцы, чуть позже российский царь Александр II вступил в переписку с президентом Авраамом Линкольном, обращаясь к нему: «Любезный брат мой...». Многие американцы родились в России или имеют русские корни, и нынешний мэр Нью-Йорка Майкл Блумберг даже выразил уверенность в том, что совсем скоро каждый десятый житель Города Большого Яблока будет говорить по-русски.

Русской Америке есть чем гордиться: в анналы как российской,

так и американской истории вписаны имена Игоря Сикорского и Сергея Брина, Сергея Рахманинова и Владимира Зворыкина, Ивана Турчанинова и Игоря Стравинского. На русском говорил Любавичский ребе Менахем-Мендел Шнеерсон; «русским» евреем по происхождению является актер Кирк Дуглас.

Нью-Йорк не удивишь красочными карнавалами и фестивалями, которые проводят представители самых разных общин, проживающих в Городе Большого Яблока. А вот Русский уличный фестиваль прошел здесь

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COALITION IN SUPPORT OF RUSSIAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH: APRIL 2013

American Association of Russian Women
 American Russian Aid Association "Otrada"
 American Russian Children Home (ARChH)
 American University in Moscow
 Art of Inspiration
 Arts on the Hudson
 Assistance Fund of the Orthodox Church Abroad
 BBT-School of Russian American Ballet
 Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn Center
 Brooklyn House of Kulture
 Columbia University Russian International Association
 Congress of Cossacks in America
 Days of Russia Foundation
 Federation of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
 Institute for Bi-Lingual Research Inc.
 Kuban Cossacks Association, Inc
 Maestro Artist Management
 MGIMO Alumni Assoc. in N. America
 Moscow-on-the-Hudson Trade House
 Museum Of Russian Art (MoMA)
 New Review Magazine
 New Russia Cultural Center
 Prof. Edgar Lehrman Memorial Foundation for Ethics, Religion, Science & the Arts
 Project 59 Inc.
 Pushkin Society IN America
 RADA Russian American Dental Association
 Reporter Daily Newspaper
 RU-List
 Russian American Chamber of Commerce in the USA
 Russian American Cultural Heritage Center (RACH-C)
 Russian Carnival Ensemble
 Russian Center NY
 Russian Chamber Chorus of New York
 Russian Children's Welfare Society
 Russian Folk Ensemble "Golden Rooster"
 Russian Nobility Association in America
 Russian Orthodox Church (Patriarchal Parishes)
 Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia
 Russian Orthodox Youth Committee
 Slavic Peoples Corporation (Arrow Park)
 Slovo/Word Publishing House
 St. Elizabeth, Grand Duchess of Russia, Charitable Fund of the American Russian Aid Association
 St. George Pathfinders of America (NY Chapter) ORUR
 St. Petersburg Trade House
 St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church
 Theater Voyage
 VTSA Corp
 Wide Bridge Inc.
 World Russian Forum
 NEO Magazine



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New York State Senate Endorses Russian April



Senators Espaillat & Perkins flanked by Fr. Alexander Golubov, Chair Dr. Zatssepina, and coalition representatives. (photo courtesy of the New York Senate Photo Office)

A delegation of the 50 member "Coalition in Support of Russian-American History Month," lead by chairman Dr. Olga Zatssepina, traveled to Albany, capitol of New York State, on Tuesday March 5, 2013, to witness the submission of a Senate resolution of great importance to the Russian American community.

Directing himself to the broad smiles and moist eyes of the delegation, Senator Adriano Espaillat, whose district includes a large number of Russian Americans, rose to deliver a warm and eloquent speech commending the Russian American community for its many accomplishments and significant contributions to his State and his Nation and offered the resolution for approval by the Senate.

In a commendable spirit of bi-partisanship,

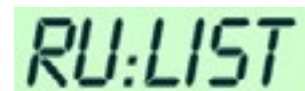
Democrat Espaillat from Manhattan was joined as co-sponsor by Republican Majority Leader Dean G. Skelos, and Senators Golden and Bonacic, both of whom also co-sponsored the resolution last year, and Senator Simcha Felder of Brooklyn who joined the co-sponsors this year. Among the members of the coalition was the representative of the Russian Orthodox Church, Father Alexander, who was invited by the speaker to give the invocation and blessed the work of the Senate.

Before the meeting, the resolution sponsor, Senator Espaillat introduced the members of the coalition, presented the resolution, and explained what historical dates, significant for the history of Russian America, will be celebrated in April 2013. □

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Russians Here and There Keep Their Eye On the Ball

by Nicole Lyalin, Hunter College

Tennis, is a very popular sport in the Russian community. So, it is reasonable that many of its stars are Russian! One prominent example would be the super talented Maria Sharapova! who is not only a successful tennis player, but also has major deals with companies such as Head, Nike, and Samsung and even launched her own candy company called Sugarpova.

Sharapova, and her parents Yuri and Elena are from Gomel Belarus. Just before Maria's birth, they left their homeland and moved to Sochi. There, her father became friends with Aleksandr Kafelnikov, who's son would go on to win two grand slam singles and become Russia's first world no.1 ranked tennis player. Aleksandr, gave Sharapova her first tennis racquet at age four. Soon after she began practicing regularly with her father.

At age six, Sharapova attended a tennis clinic in Moscow where she ran into Martina Navratilova, who saw her play and recommended she train at the Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy in Florida where Anna Kournikova, also trained. She had to wait until age 9 to start attending the academy but, in 1995 she was signed with IMG and they agreed to pay her annual tuition, a fee of \$35,000.

Sharapova's first win came in November 2000, the Eddie Herr International Junior Tennis Championships, girls 16 division, at the age of 13! She was awarded the Rising Star award and

soon after had many more wins: Wimbledon in 2004, the US open in 2006, the Australian Open in 2008, and the French Open in 2012. Not only this, but she also won the silver medal in the Olympic games of 2012.

With all of these major accomplishments in Sharapova's life, she also recently started a candy company, which goes by the name of Sugarpova. Sharapova has also been featured in numerous modeling assignments including the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue and she has been the face of several fashion houses, such as Cole Haan. □



Maria Sharapova holding the 2008 Bausch & Lomb Championship trophy (Photo: Craig O'Neal)

Keeping It In The Family

by Chris Chase

Washington Capitals superstar Alex Ovechkin announced Monday that he and Russian tennis player Maria Kirilenko are engaged.

Ovechkin, 27, who has been dating Kirilenko for over a year, announced the news on Twitter.

With the NHL in the midst of a lockout, the former MVP has been playing in Moscow. He was a constant presence at the matches of his now-fiancee this summer, cheering her on at the French Open, Wimbledon and Olympics. If her play is any indication, she appreciated the support.

Kirilenko, 25, reached a career high of No. 12 in the WTA rankings and advanced to the semi-finals at the Olympic tournament at Wimbledon. Her year-end ranking of No. 14 was the best of her career. □

from USA Today



Washington Capitals' Alexander Ovechkin & Tennis Player, Maria Kirilenko. (Photo: @ovi8)

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry – descendent of Ivan the Terrible

U.S. President Barack Obama has named Senator John Kerry to replace retiring Secretary Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State and he has been handily approved by the US Senate.

Democrat John Forbes Kerry elected in 1985, to the Senate from Massachusetts, became the head of the committee on foreign policy. Supported by President Obama's announcement of a "reset" of US-Russian relations, he advocated for the development of economic relations between Washington and Moscow. So when, in January last year, Russia and the United States exchanged diplomatic notes on the completion

of the internal procedures necessary to put into force the US-Russian intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, John Kerry said that this document will allow scientists and designers, world-class individuals from both countries, to work more closely together to address common energy and environmental challenges.

At the same time he called the economic cooperation between Russia and the U.S. "woefully underdeveloped" and stressed that the development of such cooperation will strengthen the security of the United States, and the well-

being of the country. John Kerry has repeatedly criticized the position taken in UNSC Russia and China in connection with the crisis in Syria.

Curiously, the 69-year-old politician, who was born in the state of Colorado, is a descendant of some monarchical dynasties of Europe, including - Russian Tsars, according to British publisher Burke's Peerage which specializes in matters of genealogy and published data on the ancestry of Kerry finding that among his ancestors was the famous Russian monarch Ivan the Terrible. □

[From REGNUM]

The Romanovs in Russian-American History

by Fr Alexander Golubov

A momentous occasion in its own right, the 400th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty holds special symbolic significance for Russian Americans. It is a key occasion to celebrate noteworthy contributions of the Russian Emperors to the development, growth and security of the United States.

First of the modern Russian emperors, Peter I of Russia, also known as Peter the Great (1682 – 1725) is usually recognized as the modernizer of the Russian state. He also enabled the historical exploration by Russian navigators of the American Northwest. The significant outcomes of several Russian expeditions included the European discovery of Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, Bering Strait, Bering Island, the Commander Islands, the Diomedede Islands, St. Lawrence Island and the Pribilof Islands, as well as a detailed mapping of the northern and northeastern coast of Russia and the Kurile Islands.

The Russian empress Catherine II (1762 – 1796), also known as Catherine the Great, not only continued North American exploration, but also became a power broker in European affairs. Her policies in Europe indirectly influenced the outcome of the American Revolution, and led to the establishment of the Orthodox Church on the North American continent.

Catherine also engaged the services of the American naval hero, John Paul Jones, giving him his last command. In 1788 he was commissioned a rear admiral in the Russian navy and given command of the 24-gun flagship *Vladimir*. Successful in repulsing Ottoman forces in the Black Sea, he received the Russian Imperial Order of St. Anne and retired to Paris.

Emperor Paul I (1796 – 1801) expanded the Russian Siberian fur trade to the shores of North America, granting the “Russian American Company” a trade monopoly and a 20-year renewable charter in 1799. Alexander Baranov, the newly appointed governor of Russian America, built the first Russian permanent settlement of New Archangel, the present-day Sitka, in 1804, and Fort Ross in Northern California in 1812. Russia’s first joint stock company became the virtual government of Russian America until 1867, when Russian holdings in Alaska were sold to the United States.

Direct and friendly diplomatic relations between the United States and Russia began in 1809, when Emperor Alexander I (1801 – 1825) met with John Quincy Adams, appointed by President James Madison as the first officially



Portrait of James Buchanan, who later served as 15th President of the United States; by John Henry Brown



Oil on canvas portrait of Empress Catherine the Great by Russian painter Fyodor Rokotov

recognized minister to Russia. The growing tensions between the United States and Great Britain prompted the American administration to seek diplomatic and military support in Russia. Since 1809, the mature monarchy and the young democracy kept their diplomatic channels open and friendly.

Russian-American commercial interests were given a powerful boost when in 1832 President Andrew Jackson sent James Buchanan to St Petersburg to negotiate a free trade treaty with Russia. At a court reception for foreign ambassadors in December 1832, Emperor Nicholas I (1825 – 1855) announced that he had approved the trade treaty with the United States. By August 1833 the Russia-US trade treaty had been ratified by the U.S. Senate. The treaty awarded each nation “most favored nation” trading status, and was believed to be the first that Russia had signed with a foreign power.

The Union’s alliance with Emperor Alexander II (1855 – 1881) was critical to Union victory in the American Civil War. By 1863, the war had bogged down, and neither side was able to make significant advances. The arrival of two Russian naval squadrons in New York Harbor and San Francisco Bay in September 1863 buoyed Union hopes, demonstrated Russian political support for the Union, and forced England and France to change their plans for intervention on behalf

of the Confederacy. The squadrons sailed along the East and West coasts of the United States until the summer of 1864, demonstrating Russian naval power, discipline and organization for the entire world to see.

In December 1898, Emperor Nicholas II (1894 – 1917) took the initiative in convening The Hague Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907. Delegates from 26 countries, including a distinguished delegation from the United States, gathered in May 1899 in The Hague’s beautiful “House of the Woods.” On the eve of the cataclysms of the 20th century, The Hague Conferences demonstrated growing apprehension of modern political alliances and the arms race, expressed hope for a world organization of nations, and a desire to codify international law.

As a symbolic testimonial to his desire for a lasting peace between Russia and the United States, Nicholas II offered his support for the building and consecration of the Russian St Nicholas Cathedral in New York City (1898 – 1902). The Cathedral, located on Manhattan’s East Side, is perhaps the finest monument to enduring Russian spiritual values and to the Romanov dynasty, which had played an important role in the growth and development of the United States. □

Igor Sikorsky – the Consummate Russian American

Born in Kiev, Imperial Russia (now Ukraine), on May 25, 1889, Igor Ivanovich Sikorsky showed early interest in aviation. He spent three years at the Naval College in St. Petersburg, and was still a student at the Mechanical Engineering College of the Polytechnic Institute in Kiev when he determined to build his first helicopter.

He built it in 1909 and his second in 1910, proved able to lift itself - but not with the weight of a pilot.

Returning to fixed-wing planes, in 1910 he made his first solo in an aircraft of designed and constructed by him. He defied the experts by building the first four-engine airplane in 1913. It, "The Grand," included luxuries: an enclosed cabin, washroom, upholstered chairs, and an exterior passenger balcony. A larger aircraft, the Ilya Mourometz, in a military version, proved highly successful as a bomber in WWI.

When the Revolution ended Mr. Sikorsky's career in Russian aviation, he traveled to the US in 1919. America had been a beacon to him. "As a youth, I was impressed by the skyscrapers that were taller than anywhere else," he recalled in 1967, "by the railroad system that included more miles of rails than the total of the rest of the world. I was inspired by the achievements of such men as Edison, Ford, and others, and in my case particularly, the Wright Brothers."

In 1923, he organized the Sikorsky Aero Engineering Corporation on Long Island and built



*Comdr. Frank A. Erickson, USCG & Dr. Igor Sikorsky, Sikorsky Helicopter HNS-1 C.G. #39040.
August 14, 1944 USCG Photo #: 232-8 / Photographer: U.S. Coast Guard*

the S-29-A (the A for America) a twin-engine, all-metal transport, then more including the S-38 amphibian which Pan American Airways used for new air trails to Central and South America, in 1929, a series of historic flying boats, the first 40-passenger Flying Clippers in 1931, followed by the first transoceanic flying boat, the S-42.

By 1938, Sikorsky returned seriously to the field of vertical lift. His first helicopter, the VS-300, a strange-looking tubular skeleton rose a few feet from the ground on September 14, 1939.

Deeply religious, Sikorsky wrote two books "The Message of the Lord's Prayer" and "The Invisible Encounter." He wrote an autobiographical account of aviation, "The Story of the Winged S" and in 1967, accepting the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy, expressed this belief; "Creative work is still with us," he said, "still here to stay, and still remains a tremendously vital factor in the progress of mankind. The work of the individual still remains the spark which moves mankind ahead." □

Excerpted from <http://www.sikorskyarchives.com/History.php>

St. George Pathfinders – Leaders in Scouting

by Tatiana Geringer

In 1909, the first boy scout camps began to appear in Russia. The driving force behind the Russian scouting movement at that time was a visionary named Oleg Ivanovich Panukhoff.

Pantukhoff was influenced by the 1908 book titled Scouting for Boys, written by Englishman Sir Robert Baden-Powell. Since the earliest days of organized scouting, Russian youth have played a major role in keeping the traditions of scouting alive and well. In fact, Russian scouting organizations have branched out all over the world to wherever Russians immigrated, including the United States.

There they are known as St. George Pathfinders of America. After the Russian Revolution of 1917, the organization Русский Скаут went into exile, and continued in many countries where fleeing White Russian émigrés settled, estab-

lishing groups in France, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Finland, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Belgium, Argentina, Chile, Canada, Australia, United States. During all this time, the organization continues to uphold the ideals of scouting, instilling in children everything from the importance of community service to teamwork and confidence building as well as learning about the environment and basic woodland survival skills. What sets St. George Pathfinders apart from other scouting organizations is its Russian roots. Meetings, publications, and even summer scout camps are all conducted in Russian. Pathfinders strives to preserve Russian language, culture and heritage for generations to come. This year the New York Metropolitan Chapter of SGPA will celebrate its 65th anniversary. □



Oleg Pantyukhov, Founder of Russian Scouting.

ABOUT “RUSSIAN- AMERICANS”

Editorial

Americans like categories they can get their arms around even if they don't fit. The very term American is ambiguous - do you mean North or South? Another category, Hispanic / Latino includes people from 20 plus countries and numerous ethnicities. Try to explain “Asian or Pacific Islander” to those whom it is supposed to define.

In the United States it is common practice to use the term “Russian” to include a great number of distinct people from diverse locations, ethnicities (over 120) and all the major religions. The practice is not frivolous but neither is it complete. For some, language is the only thing that binds them and “Russian Speaker” provides an alternative term. But, there are Russian Americans who do not speak Russian and other Americans who do. Nuances are best revealed by examining the history of those who are embraced by the term - willingly or not.

An article by Paul Robert Magocsi on everyculture.com throws some light on the matter.

“Since the second half of the nineteenth century, Russia has been the largest country in the world, stretching from the plains of eastern Europe across Siberia as far as the shores of the Pacific Ocean. For centuries, Russia has straddled both Europe and Asia, two continents that are divided by the Ural Mountains.

In a sense, there are two Russian homelands. One is the present-day state of Russia, which coincides with territory inhabited by ethnic Russians. The other includes territories that are beyond Russia proper but were once part of the pre-World War I Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union. Americans who identify their heritage as Russian include first-generation immigrants and their descendants who came from Russia within its present-day border; people from the Baltic countries, Belarus, and Ukraine who have identified themselves as Russians; East Slavs from the former Austro-Hungarian Empire who have identified themselves as Russians once in the United States; and Jews from the Western regions of the former Russian Empire and the Soviet Union who, aside from their religious background, identify themselves as Russians.

Much of European Russia west of the Urals was part of a medieval state known as Kievan Rus', which existed from the late ninth century to the thirteenth century. During the Kievan period, Orthodox Christianity reached Russia and that religion remained intimately connected with whatever state or culture developed on

ZDRASTVUY, NEW YORK!

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New York is not surprised by colorful carnivals and festivals of different communities living in the Big Apple. Yet a Russian street festival in Manhattan has not been seen since 1922. After that, for many decades, Russian Americans affected by the confrontation between the two systems, tried not to think about their origins: a situation that reached its peak during the Cold War and ended with the fall of the Iron Curtain. But, one of the highlights of the month will be a Russian American street festival in New York City, at 94th St. between Broadway and West End Ave. on April 27 from 12 to 4 PM.; nearly a century since Manhattan has seen such!

Modern Russian New York - is a polyphony of cultures and traditions, a grand diversity of those from the now defunct Soviet Union who identify as Ukrainians and Kazakhs, Uzbeks, Belarusians, etc. spun off from the Russian world - connected by the notion of cultural and historic familiarity rather than ethnic origin.

From a variety of estimates, New York today is home to over 0.2 million people whose native language is Russian and who have recently elected a member of its own to the NYS Assembly. For the second consecutive year, the NYS Senate passed a resolution declaring April, as Russian-American History Month. In support, more than fifty different social organizations have formed a coalition that has embraced the task of inspiring the creation of a huge number of events - concerts, festivals, seminars, etc., the primary purpose of which is to inform the American public about the importance of the contribution of Russia and the Russian Diaspora to the history and culture of the United States. So it is that in April, not only in America but in the whole world, we will celebrate the half-century anniversary of the flight of the first woman in space, the 70th anniversary of the lifting of the siege of Leningrad, and the 140th anniversary of the birth of the great composer Sergei Rachmaninoff. □

Russian territory until the twentieth century. It was in a northern part of Kievan Rus', the Duchy of Muscovy, that the birth of a specifically Russian state can be found. The state-building process began in the late thirteenth century, when the Duchy of Muscovy began to consolidate its power and expand its territory. The expansion proved to be phenomenal. By the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the growing state included lands along the Baltic Sea, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, and large parts of Poland.

ЗДРАВСТВУЙ, НЬЮ-ЙОРК!

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в последний раз в Манхэттене в 1922 году. После чего на долгие десятилетия русские американцы старались не вспоминать о своем происхождении: сказывалось противостояние двух систем, достигшее своего апогея в период холодной войны, закончившейся падением железного занавеса.

Современный русский Нью-Йорк – это многоголосье культур и традиций, обеспеченное разнообразием таковых в странах теперь уже несуществующего СССР. На русском языке говорят и думают и украинцы и казахи, узбеки и белорусы, ведь русский мир – это понятие культурное, а не только этническое.

По самым разным оценкам, в штате Нью-Йорк сегодня проживают более 0,2 млн. человек, родным языком которых является русский. У русского Нью-Йорка сегодня даже есть собственный член Ассамблеи. И вот уже второй год подряд Сенат штата принимает резолюцию, которая объявляет апрель Месяцем российско-американской истории. Инициаторами этой резолюции являются более полусотни различных общественных организаций, объединившихся в специальную коалицию, которая поставила себе задачей проведение в рамках Месяца огромного количества мероприятий – концертов, фестивалей, семинаров и пр., главной целью которых является информирование американского общества о значимости вклада России и русской диаспоры в историю и культуру США. Именно в апреле не только Америка, но и весь мир будут праздновать: полувековой юбилей первого полеты женщины в космос, 70-летнюю годовщину снятия блокады с Ленинграда, 140 лет со дня рождения великого композитора Сергея Рахманинова.

Одним из главных мероприятий Месяца станет уличный фестиваль, который пройдет в Нью-Йорке, на W 94 Street, между Бродвеем и West End Ave.

Почти целый век Нью-Йорк не видел такого! □

The country's borders also moved beyond the Ural Mountains into Siberia, a vast land whose annexation together with Central Asia the Caucasus region were completed in the nineteenth century.”

Perspectives may vary but it is right and useful that we examine and learn more about this large but relatively unknown group of Americans. That is what Russian American History Month is about. □

Russian Language and Culture – Authentically Preserved



Otrada was founded in 1968 as a nonprofit corporation committed to the cultural, educational and charitable activities of the Russian-American community. Conveniently located just 40 minutes from Manhattan on 11 acres of land in Chestnut Ridge, NY, Otrada is easily accessible from the tri-state area and surrounding East Coast.

Otrada originated with a group of founding members, but now continues to deliver upon its mission as a non-profit organization, enhancing the quality of life for its members, visitors, its community, and international family Sponsorships. Thanks to the hundreds of passionate volunteers, dedicated board of directors, and many donors, Otrada will proudly continue to serve the Russian America community

The Otrada halls are available for parties. Please visit our web page for more information.

Various Russian-American cultural events take place year round at Otrada. These events include Russfest, musical and dance performances, balls and various other indoor and outdoor events.

Summertime is a great time for the whole family to visit Otrada. Swing sets, slides, see-saws, a merry-go-round and large outdoor swimming pool are available. □



www.otradainc.com / Tel: (845) 735-4694

BRIGHTON BEACH BROOKLYN

by Sean Lavelle

Brighton Beach, known also as “Little Odesa,” takes its Russian-speaking roots from Russian Jews who immigrated to the neighborhood in the late 1960’s from the former Soviet Union. Located (somewhat ironically) a few blocks from the Americana-saturated boardwalks of Coney Island, the Russian-speaking community of Brighton Beach has since attracted a wide variety of Eastern European and Slavic people, earning it its reputation as a Russian enclave.

Unlike many of the watered-down “ethnic communities” across the United States, Brighton Beach is unapologetically Russian and makes no visible effort to cater to tourists. A stroll down Brighton Beach Avenue, the neighborhood’s main thoroughfare, is all the proof one needs. Dappled with Russian delis, butchers, vegetable grocers, cafés, book stores, and clothing boutiques, Brighton Beach Avenue is a bustling street where even Walgreen’s has Cyrillic lettering on their storefront signs. When entering any of these stores you are addressed first in Russian and then in English once the store clerk has read the confusion on your face.

Two blocks over, at the beach itself, old men can be found huddled around a chess game on one of the benches facing the ocean and fur-clad women can be seen walking in fours along the boardwalk, seemingly unbothered by the biting ocean wind. The beach is in beautiful condition and along the boardwalk are a few Russian restaurants that boast large patio areas.

When it comes to nightlife in Brighton there is really only one option: the supper club. These establishments are restaurants by day and clubs by night (you can’t drink vodka without a good meal in you) and are host to a range of performances ranging from contortionists to Russian pop singers. The most popular of these are The National, Rasputin, Odessa, and Atlantic Oceana. □

Excerpted from <http://runsbrooklyn.blogspot.com>
by Sean Lavelle



View west on Brighton Beach Avenue, Brooklyn.
(photo: Brian Clift)



Brighton Beach Avenue at Brighton 5th Street, Brooklyn.
(photo: Brian Clift)

EVENTS



My Poor Marat

April 5-27
Tues-Sat: 7:30PM
Sat-Sun: 2:30PM
Canal Park Playhouse
TICKETS: \$25

Featuring a bi-lingual cast, the play will perform in both Russian and English on alternating performances.



Tracking Signals High and Low

April 5-28
Reception: April 5 @ 7pm
The Active Space
FREE

Featuring most recent works by vydavy and Project 59 dealing with behavioral patterns of two different scales: global and domestic.



CHTO? GDE? KOGDA?

April 6th @ 1:00PM
Columbia University
FREE

“What? Where? When?”: This popular and traditional Russian intellectual game will be held, in Russian, synchronously with other teams from around the world.



Connecticut Little Symphony Benefit Concert

April 7 @ 4:00PM
St. Peter's Church
\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION

The concert—part of the “Music in Chelsea Series”—will feature the music of Liadov, Chopin, and Mussorgsky.



Stalingrad: The City of Steel

April 9 @ 4:30PM
Hunter College
April 12 @ 6:00PM
Columbia University
FREE

Natalia Narochitskaya presents her book on the battle of Stalingrad through British & American newspapers



LEARN TO PLAY CHTO? GDE? KOGDA?

April 12 & 26 @ 6:00PM
Columbia University
FREE

A top U.S. Chto? Gde? Kogda? team will teach this traditional and intellectual game. This event is held completely Russian.



History Tour of the St. Nicholas Cathedral

April 14 @ 1:30PM
St. Nicholas Cathedral
FREE

Fr. Alexander Golubov, former Academic Dean of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, gives a tour on the buildings history and architectural innovations.



Fiddler on the Roof

April 14 @ 3PM
Whitman Theatre at
Brooklyn College
TICKETS: \$45 / \$36

This landmark Broadway musical, which captured the hearts of people all over the world, is presented by the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts



A Breath of Spring

April 14 @ 4PM
West End Collegiate Church
April 20 @ 8PM
Church of the Holy Apostles
\$20 / \$25 / \$15

10th-anniversary concert featuring world premiere commission, *From the Four Winds*, by Belarusian-American composer and pianist, Nina Siniakova.



Russian New York: The New Review

April 15 @ 6PM
NYU, 19 University Place
FREE

This documentary film shows the life and creative endeavors of post-war Russian immigration to the US. Dedicated to the 70th anniversary of *The New Review Magazine*.



A Talk by Stephen Pearl: Oblomov – Retranslating a Classic

April 23 @ 1PM
U.N. Albano Building
FREE

Bridging the time, place, contextual and cultural gap – an account of some of the policy choices entailed by the re-translation of *OBLMOV*



Sacred and Secular

April 24 @ 8PM
Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church
April 28 @ 3PM
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church
\$25 / \$20 STUDENTS & SENIORS / 20% OFF ONLINE

The Russian Chamber Chorus of New York presents an all-Rachmaninoff program, in honor his 140th birthday.



2013 Pushkin Society in America Conference

April 25 @ 5:30PM
April 27 @ 2:00PM
Sheepshead Bay Library
FREE

Dedicated to writer and founder of Churaevka Russian Village in Connecticut, George Grebenstchikoff's 130th birthday.



Russian Street Fair

April 27 @ 12-4PM
94th St., Broadway to
West End Ave
FREE

Celebrate History Month alongside the Symphony Space Theater. Visitors will enjoy Russian food, souvenirs and other delights.



The 7th Children's Festival of Russian Culture

April 27 @ 3:30PM
Peter Norton Symphony Space
TICKETS: \$15 - \$25

Exceptionally talented children's groups perform traditional Russian songs, dances, and American standards.

“RUSSIAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH” draws the attention of American audiences to the history of Russian-Americans and the role they have played in the history of the US.

Events and activities have been organized to celebrate **RUSSIAN APRIL** in 2013 in various locations in New York State.

For complete event listings and admission information go to [HTTP://WWW.RUSSIANAMERICANHISTORYMONTH.ORG](http://www.RussianAmericanHistoryMonth.org)