

THE JOURNAL OF RUSSIAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH IN NEW YORK STATE APRIL-MAY 2014



The bust of Yuri Gagarin unveiled at the Cradle of Aviation Museum. Photo: Newsday/J. Conrad Williams, Jr. / Открытие бюста Юрию Гагарину в Музее Авиации, Лонг Айленд Фото: Newsday/J. Conrad Williams, Jr.



Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN Vitaly Churkin and cosmonaut Oleg Kotov / Постоянный представитель России при ООН, Виталий Чуркин и космонавт Олег Котов



Soviet cosmonauts Yuri Gagarin and Valentina Tereshkova gave a press conference during their visit to United Nations Headquarters (1963). Photo: UN Photo/YN / Советские космонавты Юрий Гагарин и Валентина Терешкова на пресс-конференции в штаб-квартире ООН (1963). Фото: UN Photo/YN

Orbit of Friendship

by Alexey Osipov

Space exploration was initially interpreted by the Soviet Union and United States as a real race, in which the winners were determined in the most different nominations: "first satellite", "first man in space", "first space station", etc. But for many years, Russians and Americans have been not only collaborating successfully in space exploration, but also attracting representatives of other countries.

June 30, 2012 the bust of Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, was unveiled at Long Island's Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, NY. Mikhail Tyurin - a 28-year veteran of the Soviet and Russian space programs - said the bust was more than just a likeness of the first man in space. It was a symbol of the new era of understanding between US and Russia.

Among the good friends of RACH-C, "The Russian American Cultural Heritage Center" are both cosmonauts and astronauts so, RACH-C was very pleased to be present when the UN headquarters hosted an exhibition of paintings by Russian schoolchildren who won the RACH-C competition, "We Draw Gagarin". The exhibition's guest of honor was Russian cosmonaut, Hero of Russia, Oleg Kotov.

Kotov met with American students from New Jersey thanks to the efforts of their history teacher, descendant of Russian emigrants, Sergei Alschen who chose Gagarin's flight as an aspect of the Cold War, to be the theme of one of their semesters. Let's recall that it was Russia, that initiated the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the resolution on

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Орбита дружбы

Алексей Осипов

Освоение космической сферы первоначально воспринималось Советским Союзом и Соединенными Штатами как настоящая гонка, в которой определялись победители в самых разных номинациях – «первый спутник», «первый человек в космосе», «первая орбитальная станция» и т.д. Но вот уже много лет россияне и американцы не только успешно совместно сотрудничают в деле освоения космоса, но и привлекают к своим проектам представителей других стран.

30 июня, 2012 г. в лонг-айлендском музее «Колыбель авиации» в Гарден-Сити, штат Нью-Йорк, был открыт бюст российского космонавта Юрия Гагарина, первого человека в космосе. Михаил Тюрин – ветеран советских и российских космических программ сказал, что бюст более, чем сходство. Это символ новой эры понимания между США и Россией.

В числе добрых друзей РАКСИ есть много космонавтов и астронавтов. Кстати, именно с участием РАКСИ в США, в штаб-квартире ООН прошла выставка рисунков российских школьников, победивших в конкурсе «Рисуем Гагарина». Тогда почетным гостем выставки стал российский космонавт, Герой России Олег Котов.

Он также встретился с американскими учащимися из штата Нью-Джерси, которые благодаря усилиям своего учителя истории, потомка русских эмигрантов Сергея Алшена выбрали в качестве темы одного из семестров изучение курса «Полет Гагарина в аспекте холдинговой войны». Напомним, что именно Россия инициировала принятие Генассамблеей

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EDITORIAL

The 3rd “Russian American History Month”, New York, April-May, 2014

Dear Friends!

Welcome to the third Russian American History Month in NYS, another welcome expression of the rich diversity of our state and nation.

The main objective of the History Month is to provide learning opportunities for the public at large, especially, younger generation, that highlight the history of Russian Americans and their productive role in the evolving history of the United States. The goal is to let the children of the parents and grandparents who came from Russia know about their contributions into American history and feel pride in being Russian Americans.

In early 2012, a coalition of organizations requested the NYS Senate to pass a resolution establishing “Russian American History Month.” NYS Senator Adriano Espaillat, whose district includes a number of Russian Americans, rose to deliver a warm and eloquent speech commending the Russian American community for its contributions to his State and his Nation and offered the resolution. It passed without objection and kicked off a month of events and activities throughout the state.

In 2013 a delegation of the 50 member “Coalition” led by its chair Dr. Olga Zatsepina, President of RACH-C witnessed the NYS Senate reaffirm the month. In a commendable spirit of bi-partisanship, Democrat A. Espaillat from Manhattan again sponsored the resolution, joined as co-sponsor by Republican Majority Leader Dean G. Skelos. Senators Martin J. Golden and John J. Bonacic, who also co-sponsored the resolution a year before, were joined by Senator Simcha Felder of Brooklyn as a co-sponsor. The resolution passed and the tradition of “Russian American History Month” in NYS was firmly established.

RA History Month 2014 will open at Kaufman Music Center with the US Premiere of classical music composer Grigory Smirnov, native of Siberia. Other high points of the Month will include many concerts, among them: the 8th annual “Musical Olympus” festival at Carnegie Hall; Celebration of the 100th anniversary of Scriabin performed by Moscow born composer/ performer Dmitry Rachmanov ; the Youth America Grand Prix 15 anniversary celebration ; and a concert commemorating the end of WW II. The “Cherry Orchard Festival” will help celebrate the Month with Russian inspired events including Vladimir Spivakov with the Moscow Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra.

This publication carries information about the events of the Month. These and new events are described at www.russianamericanhistorymonth.org. Conferences, art exhibits, documentary screenings, tours, and more are listed there as well annual events like the celebrated “Spring Ball” of the Russian Nobility Association in America, first held in 1936, and the 8th annual RACH-C international “Children’s Festival of Russian Culture.”

COALITION IN SUPPORT OF RUSSIAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH IN NEW YORK STATE
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 Kultura
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 Carnaval 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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Editors
Olga Zatsepina
Julio Rodriguez

Graphic Design
Nery Lady Lora

Production Assistance:
Olga Pidgeon
Benjamin Sigelman

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Yuri Gagarin: First Of The Space Travelers

by Benjamin Sigelman

While Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon, his journey would have been impossible without the precedents that had paved its way. A little less than a year before John Glenn orbited the Earth, Yuri Gagarin became the first man to dare to enter the final frontier. His On March 8, the pioneering astronaut would have turned 80.

Yuri Alexeevich Gagarin was born in the village of Klushino, Russia. Even as a boy he showed an interest in flight, launching paper airplanes in class. However, in 1943, Nazi occupation caused his school to close. Shortly before the village's liberation, the young Gagarin saw a Soviet fighter pilot attack German troops. This act of heroism led to him determining his future career path. Two years after the village's liberation, the Gagarins moved to Gzhatsk where Yuri continued his studies. In 1951, he joined the Saratov Flying Club and later studied at the Military Aviation School in Orenburg, where he played basketball despite his stature of 5'5", graduating with honors. In 1959, after two years of military service in Murmansk, Gagarin joined a select group of candidates to take on the task of going into space. One year later, following extensive medical examinations in Moscow, Gagarin began his training.



Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin

On April 12, 1961, the Vostok One rocket with Gagarin at its helm blasted off, the astronaut yelling, "Let's go!" moments after launching off the ground. He spent 108 minutes outside of the Earth's atmosphere, becoming the first person in history to do so. The very day of his mission's completion, a rally on Red Square celebrated Gagarin, awarding him the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, the highest honor possible at the time.

A month later, Gagarin began his second mission, this time closer than his previous one. The "Peace Mission" became Gagarin's first time abroad, visiting almost 30 countries, such as Czechoslovakia, Finland, Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, India, Afghanistan, and Egypt. He also visited France during the 14th International Astronautically Congress. A year after his momentous launch, Astronauts Day, an annual tradition continuing to this day throughout Russia, was first celebrated.

According to his younger daughter Elena, Gagarin's love of cosmonautics never ceased. He was jealous of those who had the privilege to spend more time than he had in the place he'd always dreamed of going.

Unfortunately, he was never able to complete his dream of returning to space. On March 27, 1968, the MiG-15UTI Gagarin was piloting crashed. He received a state funeral, drawing tens of thousands to Red Square. Soviet Union declared a national period of mourning for the 34-year-old astronaut. He was buried in the Kremlin wall alongside other national heroes.

Gagarin's legacy continues to this day. The town of Gzhatsk was renamed in his honor and continues to bear his name. To many, he is still a symbol of both scientific progress and the determination to break into the unknown. □

Nabokov: Gifted Writer, Russian and English

by Diana Bruk

Vladimir Nabokov is considered the greatest literary stylist and one of the best postmodern writers of the twentieth century, his magnum opus, *Lolita*, consistently finds its way on compilations of the best novels of all time, and his name is revered in the literary community. And yet when entering a library, it's difficult to decide whether to look for his books in the "American literature" section or the Russian one (hint: he can usually be found in both).

Born to one of the wealthiest aristocratic families in St. Petersburg, Vladimir Nabokov came into the world on April 22, 1899 (April 10 by the Old Style calendar). He spoke Russian, English, and French at home, and spent his summers on the family estates in Vyra and Rozhdestveno, as well as holidays on the French Riviera. He wrote his first poem during a thunderstorm at the age of 15. During the February Revolution of 1917, Nabokov and his family fled to Crimea. Nabokov would never again return to his beloved Russia, and this loss of his motherland and his first love (Valentina) would factor heavily in his work, where he often explored the beauty of nostalgia and the way that fiction enables one to revisit treasured memories and barred lands.

In 1919, Nabokov enrolled in Cambridge, where he



Author Vladimir Nabokov in New York City, Photo: William Claxton, 1962

studied Russian literature and conducted several love affairs at once. In 1922, his father, whom he loved and admired enormously, was assassinated in Berlin while trying to shield the real target. Nabokov stayed in Berlin, where he shortly met Vera Nabokov at a masked ball and married her. She would famously become his personal assistant, editor, and complete other half until the day he died. Over the next few years, he would write several novels in Russian (using the pen name Sirin), which failed to make much critical or commercial impact. At the time, he, Vera, and their only child, Dimitri, lived

quite poorly, with Nabokov often writing his novels on index cards in the bathtub or on a bidet.

Sensing anti-semitic unrest, the Nabokovs moved to Paris in 1937. In 1940, they managed to catch one of the last ships sailing to America, marking the third time that Nabokov narrowly escaped an authoritarian regime.

In America, he began lecturing on comparative literature at Wellesley college and working as a lepidopterist at Harvard while training himself to write artistically in English. In 1948, he began teaching Russian and European Literature at Cornell University, until the worldwide success of *Lolita* enabled him to retire in 1959. In 1961, he and Vera moved into a hotel in Montreux, Switzerland (he would famously never own a house), where he died in 1977 from severe bronchial congestion. This decade, the "Ithaca period," is when he produced some of his most famous revered work, including *Pnin*, *Pale Fire*, *Speak Memory*, his controversial translation of *Eugene Onegin*, and of course *Lolita*. While unequivocally regarded as a great writer in America, Nabokov's legacy in Russia is more complicated. His books were banned during the Soviet Union. But it was noticed recently, that a reevaluation of Nabokov is taking place today, perhaps indicating that he will finally begin to be appreciated in the country of his birth. □

Alaska To Mexico Through One Russian's Eyes: Nikolai Rezanov

by Benjamin Sigelman

Before becoming the 49th state, Alaska was part of Russia. One of the first to establish business there was Nikolai Rezanov who, on March 28, would have turned 250.

Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov was born in 1764 in St. Petersburg to a noble family. Even in his childhood, he demonstrated great intelligence and talent mastering five foreign languages by the age of 14. At the age of 16 he was personally responsible for the safety of Catherine the Great during her trip through Crimea. He would again work with her while on the staff of Gavril Derzhavin, Catherine's personal secretary.

In addition to politics, he developed an interest in trade after meeting Grigori Shelikhov of the Shelikhov-Golikov Fur Company, the first company to send packages from Russia to the United States, eventually marrying his daughter Anna. Following Shelikhov's death in 1795, Rezanov continued to be vigorously involved in business and in 1799 founded the Russian-American Company on the basis of Shelikhov's ideas. He remained its head and also became a member of senate.

After the birth of their second child in 1802 his wife died of puerperal fever. Saddened by her death, Rezanov wanted to retire and take his children to live in seclusion. However, the new emperor, Alexander I, had other plans for him; in 1803 by imperial order, Rezanov was named the first Russian ambassador to Japan, with the idea of opening trade between the two countries despite Japan's policy of isolation. The 14-month voyage under the leadership of Adam Johann von Krusenstern became the first Russian circumnavigation and took the crew across the equator before reaching the port of Nagasaki. The ships' crew stayed in the harbor for six months awaiting a response from Emperor Kokaku, who was unable to establish an embassy and did not wish to do trade with Russia, returning all gifts and demanding the ships' leave.

Upon his return to Russia, Rezanov went to inspect Russian settlements in Alaska. He arrived in New Arkhangelsk, modern day Sitka, and saw the settlers dying of hunger as all food spoiled on the way through Siberia. In an attempt to help, Rezanov bought a vessel from the merchant John Wolf and ordered the construction of another to ensure a sufficient amount. Once they were ready, Rezanov sent the two ships to California both for food and the possibility of opening trade with Spain.

The hope of trade relations proved inopportune as Spain was allied with Napoleon. However, within six weeks of arriving in San

Francisco he managed to win over the governor of Alta California José Arillaga and the fort's commandant and future founder of Los Angeles José Dario Argüello, falling in love with his daughter María Concepción.



Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov. Date unknown. Unknown artist. Photograph of an engraving. Collection of Oakland Museum of California. The Oakland Tribune Collection.

At the age of 42, he proposed to her before returning to Russia to ask for the emperor's permission. María Concepción ensured him that she would wait. On his way back, Rezanov stopped in New Arkhangelsk and sent his own people to California to search for a suitable place to organize southern settlements, one of which existed for 13 years. Unfortunately, he never reached the emperor; he died on March 1, 1807 from a serious head injury he sustained falling from a horse.

Maria Concepción continued to wait for him remaining faithful and going every morning to the place where the Golden Gate Bridge now is to wait for him. Upon learning about his death, she joined a convent where she would spend the rest of her life. Their romance later became the subject of many works such as Andrei Voznesensky's poem "Avos!" and subsequently Alexei Rybnikov's popular rock opera Juno and Avos as well as the subject of Bret Harte's poem "Concepcion de Arguello". The love between the Russian explorer and the daughter of a Spanish statesman created a connection between the two countries. Additionally, accounts of his expeditions inspired many and in an age of expedition. □

Russian-American Relations During World War I

by George Selinsky

This year Russia will be commemorating 100 years since its participation in World War I. This is a significant occasion, as Soviet history books had labeled this an 'imperialist war' who's main achievement was introducing the instability which led to the Russian revolution. As a result, Russia's participation in World War I is not familiar to many, Dr. Zhivago aside. Even fewer know of Russian-American relations during this period.

While Russia was involved in World War I from its outset in August of 1914, it took two and a half years until the United States broke its policy of neutrality and joined the allied forces. However, prior to this event the United States had already been procuring armaments for several allied countries, including Russia. By the end of 1915 over thirty five American factories, the bulk of the country's productive capacity, was engaged in the production of various armaments for the Russian front, including the famous Mosin-Nagant Russian field rifle.

The production and shipment of Russian arms in the United States came under targeted attack from two fronts: agents of the central powers, who for obvious reasons sought to disrupt any allied supplies, and leftist agents, who's goal was to arrange for Russia's defeat in the war in order to bring about a revolution. Supply depots were subject to bomb attacks, and defective supplies were marked as good for use.

When the United States entered the war effort in April of 1917, massive conscription took place. That included the conscription of Russian citizens living and working in the United States, who were considered eligible for the draft as Russia was an allied power. About 98 Russian conscripts from the United States were decorated for their service on the western front. Russian American citizens also participated financially in the war effort, buying "freedom bonds" which amounted to as much as \$10,000,000 according to one estimate (about \$187 million in today's dollars).

In February of 1917, when the Tsarist government was replaced by a democratic provisional government, American public opinion was highly supportive of the new Russian republic seeing it as a 'big brother democracy'. However, 8 months later the Bolsheviks came to power which resulted in Russia withdrawing from the war effort. This resulted in a lot of hostility toward Russians in the United States, who became the subject of a series of pogroms. These pogroms carried on during the infamous Palmer raids after the war was over, when all ethnic groups suspected of leftist leanings were subject to attacks by police.

Many Russians from Russia who fought in the war

refused to support the new Bolshevik government, choosing to actively resist it. Having lost the civil war to the communists, these men and their families had to find a new home. Initially moving to Europe and China, many ended up settling in the United States after World War II. Gracefully, America not only offered them a new home, but recognized their contribution to the united war effort by giving them the status of war veterans.

In 1924, a group of Russians in San Francisco opened the first Russian military organization in the United States, the "Society of Russian Veterans of the Great War". The society purchased a house in 1934, which exists to this day and houses numerous unique exhibits and archival materials devoted to Russia's participation in World War I, as well as the Russian civil war. □



"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 in various locations in New York State.

Russian Community Organization Formed in New Jersey

by Alexander Golobov

Known for its diversity, the United States is home to many groups that, however dedicated to their adopted homeland, still strive to preserve the history, culture and fellowship of their respective motherlands. The Russian American community continues that tradition.

Just last year, The Rova Farms Historic District Association (RFHDA), a charitable non-profit organization was formed to continue the work of community building and advocacy in the best traditions of its forerunner «ROOVA.» Its mission — to promote the development, stability and well-being of the Russian-American community by interpreting its cultural, historical and spiritual heritage with accuracy, integrity and sensitivity; advance and support community education, growth and development goals; introduce programs and public policy initiatives; and to work in partnership with community leaders and other organizations to foster deeper understanding and appreciation of Russian-American history, experience and our diverse culture.

ROOVA originally came into being in 1926 as the result of a merger of five Russian organizations: the Russian Orthodox National Aid Society of New York, the Russian National Mutual Aid Society of New York, the Russian Consolidated Aid Society of Philadelphia, the Federation of Progressive Mutual Aid Societies of New York, and the Russian National Mutual Aid Society of Pittsburgh. Organized into local units known as branches, ROOVA offered the Russian-American community insurance policies, financial assistance for the disabled, low-cost mortgages, and shelters for the homeless and aged. It also organized many social and sporting events

throughout the year. In 1965, ROOVA merged its insurance operations with the Russian Brotherhood Organization (RBO) of Philadelphia, and ceased to exist. ROVA Farms, Inc., as well as the other ROOVA-founded institutions, were not included in the merger with RBO, and have continued their autonomous operations. To this day, only three institutions have survived: St Mary's Church, St Vladimir's Church, and St Vladimir's Russian Orthodox Cemetery.

In the early 1930's, the Russian-American financial and social service organization, known at one time to its members by its acronym in the Russian language, POOBA — Русское Объединенное Общество Взаимопомощи в Америке, otherwise known as ROOVA — the Russian Consolidated Mutual Aid Society of America (RCMASA), purchased some 1400 acres of prime Jersey Pinelands, and undertook a large-scale social experiment, establishing ROVA Farms Resort, Inc., in Cassville, Jackson Township, New Jersey, as a Russian-American cultural and social center, and giving Russian immigrants the opportunity to cultivate the land, grow vegetables, and raise livestock. Within a few years, several religious, cultural, and philanthropic institutions had been founded: St Vladimir's Memorial Church to commemorate the 950th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus'; St Vladimir's Orthodox Cemetery; St Mary's Russian Orthodox Church; the A. S. Pushkin Memorial Home for Aged Russian People; and the Pushkin Memorial Park. The Leo Tolstoy Memorial Library devoted to the history and archives of Russian immigration in America and a Summer Camp for Children were also established, but have not survived to the present day. □



Rova Farms in Jackson, New Jersey

ORGANIZATIONS

RACH-C Celebrates 10th Anniversary

by Sergei Levashov

In 2011, President of RACH-C Olga Zatsepina, PhD and Bd Member Alexander Ruchkin, PhD, wrote a book about US organizations of Russian Emigration that was published by RACH-C Press.

The book identifies about a hundred groups, some just beginning, others with decades of work; all of them in some way trying to preserve and share Russian culture in America. All these organizations are dedicated to preserving the best of the heritage of the mother country while embracing the culture of their new country of residence. Many also help with charitable activities directly supporting orphanages, medical facilities and more in Russia, not just the US.

RACH-C, no longer among the newest, is generally representative of the newer organizations that try to encourage the interest of non-Russians in the culture and history the diverse groups that form the identity of "Russian American." And, it can look back with pride at the ways it has built on the experience of older groups while developing new initiatives. RACH-C will hold the 8th annual International "Children's Festival of Russian Culture" at the NYU Performing Arts Center (Skirball Hall.) on May 17, 2014. As usual there will be exceptionally talented Children's Folk Ensembles from as far as Canada and Virginia joining local and metro area groups in providing a taste of centuries old Russian

music and dance along with contemporary music.

In 2011, RACH-C won the coveted "Silver Archer Award" within the category "Communications in the Global World" for its series of children's festivals. The award comes from the board of directors of this association of public relations practitioners in Russia. You can learn more about this festival over the years on our website.

RACH-C is a charitable, educational 501 C 3 Non-Profit dedicated to collecting, preserving, and disseminating the best traditions, the history, the culture and the heritage of Russian Americans, and to sharing them with their friends and neighbors. Its achievements over the past decade have included:

Seminars and conferences with NYU, The Harriman Institute, Lehman College CUNY, and other scientific settings dealing with matters such as – American Adoption of Russian Children, The Russian American Diaspora and citizen diplomacy, etc.

The "Children's Festival of Russian Culture" an annual collection (8 years) of performances for families that features performances by Children's Folk Ensembles for families.

Establishing the first ever "Russian American History Month" in New York State (celebrated in 2014 for the 3rd year). The main objective of "Russian-American History Month" is to provide learning opportunities for the general public, especially students in schools

and universities, that will draw attention to the history of Russian Americans and the productive role they have played and continue to play, in the history of the United States.

Publications, notably the book by Dr. Alexander B. Ruchkin and Dr. Olga S. Zatsepina titled; *Русские в США. Общественные организации русской эмиграции в XX — XXI вв.* (Russians in the USA: Organizations of Russian Immigration in the XX-XXI centuries.) □



The 7th Children's Festival of Russian Culture, Peter Norton Symphony Space Theater. Photo: T. Pakhomova, 2013

The Russian Nobility Association in America, Inc.

by The Russian Nobility Association in America

The RNA was founded over eighty years ago in New York by Russian Émigrés, who left Russia in 1917-1922 as a result of the Russian revolution. Since then, several generations of Russian-American members and friends of the non-profit, all-volunteer Association, have carried on the Russian Nobility's traditions of honor, service, culture, and civility by preserving the tenets of Russian history, heritage and culture. Most importantly, the Association continues to engage in philanthropic and humanitarian activities which include youth programs, medical assistance, and support of orphanages and homes for the elderly in the Greater New York area, throughout the United States and internationally.

The RNA funds its charitable endeavors from private contributions, proceeds from its various cultural lectures, and the annual Spring Ball, the largest fund raising event of the year. In addition to its humanitarian efforts, the RNA has recently instituted the Prince Scherbatow Scholarship Fund, which offers financial aid to college students. This Fund is supported in part, by a series of lectures which were presented by prominent authors

including Suzanne Massie, and in 2013 by Douglas Smith, as well as Faberge expert, Dr. Geza Von Habsburg.

The RNA has its roots firmly planted in the heritage of Russian-American contributors to the arts and sciences, including world famous names such as Igor Sikorsky, Alexander De Seversky, Vladimir Zworykin, Vassily Leontiev, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Igor Stravinsky, Serge Obolensky, Alexander Tcherepnine, Vladimir Nabokov, Natalie Wood, Yul Brynner, George Balanchine,

Mikhail Baryshnikov, Oleg Cassini and scores of others. Membership in The Association is open to everyone who has the desire to help or the inclination to share their time and effort to ease the burden of the disadvantaged. Today, the Charter of the RNA is an even stronger commitment to continue the long standing traditions of "Nobility," that is, to help the less fortunate, educate the needy and comfort the sick and indigent. □



RNA Board Members, Photo: Nikolai Komissarov

ORBIT OF FRIENDSHIP

Continued from Page A1

declaring April 12 International Day of Human Space Flight.

The International Association of Space Explorers (ASE), which includes conquerors of space from many different countries, recently unveiled its strategy for defending our planet from asteroids. A recent and, alas, incredibly unpleasant meeting by residents of the Russian city of Chelyabinsk with such an uninvited guest spurred the ground work to activate the strategy and bring it to life. ASE representatives reported that a great telescope dedicated exclusively to tracking the trajectory of asteroids and meteorites already exists. Money for it was collected; a significant part of it came from businessmen from Russia.

Memorable photos and records of presentations over various years reflect the perspective of Russian and American space heroes who have come to admire and respect each other.

“Most of all I remember the special program, within the framework of which the city named in honor of my dad, Gagarin, was brought to order. This was in the year when the 50th anniversary of his flight into space was celebrated. A celebratory exhibition was held in the Moscow State Archive where documents were presented, many of which were exhibited for the first time, personal items belonging to my father, a lot of photos.”

— Elena Gagarina, daughter of the first cosmonaut

Yuri Gagarin, director of the Moscow Kremlin Museums

“I began to dream about space upon seeing it in a fantasy movie. Gagarin had already been in orbit, but human flights were still perceived then as something out of the ordinary. I didn’t want to be a national hero; I just wanted to touch the stars. For hours I would stare at the night sky, trying to find an algorithm of the location of leading lights.... Yuri Gagarin’s flight into space opened the road to the Universe for all of humanity. My American colleagues and I regard the role of Russians in the history of space exploration with great respect.”

— Astronaut Mae Jemison

“The competition of two great powers gave space exploration a separate positive push. But the world’s different today and leading world powers don’t compete in space as much as they collaborate in its exploration.”

— Astronaut Neil Armstrong



The Moscow Kremlin Museum director & a daughter of Yuri Gagarin Elena Gagarina. Photo: A. Savin, 2011



Dr. Mae C. Jemison, First African-American Woman in Space. Photo: NASA, 1992



Astronaut Neil Armstrong, first man to walk on the moon. Photo: NASA, 1965

ОРБИТА ДРУЖБЫ

Начало на стр. A1

ООН резолюции об объявлении 12 апреля Международным днем освоения человеком космоса.

Международная ассоциация космических исследователей (ASE), в которую входят покорители космоса из многих стран мира, недавно представила в Нью-Йорке свою стратегию защиты нашей планеты от астероидов. К активизации ее разработки и воплощения в жизнь их подтолкнула недавняя и, увы, весьма неприятная встреча жителей российского Челябинска с незваным космическим гостем. Представители ASE сообщили, что хороший телескоп, который будет отслеживать траектории исключительно астероидов и метеоритов, уже существует, деньги на его ввод его в эксплуатацию собраны, причем значительная их часть поступила от бизнесменов из России.

РАКСИ неоднократно выступал организатором различных мероприятий, посвященных освоению космоса. В наших архивах сохранились памятные фотографии покорителей космоса и записи их выступлений разных лет.

«Больше всего мне запомнилась специальная программа, в рамках которой был приведен в порядок город, названный в честь папы, город Гагарин. Это происходило в год, когда отмечался 50-летний юбилей его полета в космос. А в московском Государственном архиве тогда прошла юбилейная выставка, на которой были представлены документы, многие из которых выставлялись впервые, личные вещи, принадлежавшие отцу, много фотографий».

— Елена Гагарина, дочь первого космонавта Юрия Гагарина, директор Музеев московского Кремля

«Детские фантазии редко бывают протестными. Я начала мечтать о космосе, увидев один из фантастических фильмов. Гагарин уже побывал на орбите, но полеты человека за пределы атмосферы тогда еще воспринимались как нечто из ряда вон выходящее. Мне не хотелось быть национальной героиней, мне хотелось просто прикоснуться к звездам. Часами я вглядывалась в ночное небо, стараясь найти алгоритм расположения небесных светил... Полет Юрия Гагарина в космос открыл дорогу всему человечеству во Вселенную. Я и мои американские коллеги с огромным уважением относимся к роли русских в истории освоения космоса».

— Астронавт Мэй Джемисон

«Соревнование двух великих держав придавало освоению космоса определенный позитивный толчок. Но мир сегодня стал другим, и ведущие мировые державы не столько конкурируют в космосе, сколько сотрудничают в деле его освоения».

— Астронавт Нейл Армстронг

EVENTS

"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 in various locations in New York State.

For complete event listings, go to [HTTP://www.RussianAmericanHistoryMonth.org](http://www.RussianAmericanHistoryMonth.org)



Daria Bagrintseva, Solo Exhibition

MARCH 29 - APRIL 6
THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ART, JERSEY CITY
\$5 / MEMBERS: FREE

Daria has a strong creative drive that is felt in her works. She is not afraid of any size, shape, color or unusual theme



Michael Bulychev-Oksler, Piano Solo Recital

APRIL 6 @ 2:00 PM
QUEENS CENTRAL LIBRARY
FREE

A top prizewinner of many international competitions, pianist Michael Bulychev-Oksler will perform music by Rachmaninov, Scriabin, Glinka, among others



Music of Grigory Smirnov

APRIL 7 @ 8:00 PM
MERKIN CONCERT HALL
\$10-\$30

The concert presents new works by Grigory Smirnov featuring stellar New York performers of the new generation



The 2014 Musical Olympus Festival

APRIL 9 @ 7:30 PM
CARNEGIE HALL
\$15, \$30, 45

Carnegie Hall will receive young musicians from four countries in a festival performance showcasing their talent



Youth America Grand Prix's 15th Anniversary Closing Night Celebration

APRIL 11
LINCOLN CENTER
POST PERFORMANCE RECEPTION: \$250

JOIN US FOR A PRE-PERFORMANCE Q&A, CLOSING-NIGHT PERFORMANCE, AND A POST-PERFORMANCE RECEPTION



Yuri's Night

APRIL 12
WORLD-WIDE

Since 2000, Yuri's Night has given way to space-themed parties and events around the world in April, celebrating both Yuri Gagarin's launch making him the first human in space and, 20 years later, the launch of NASA's SPACE SHUTTLE



SCRIABIN: THE RUSSIAN PROMETHEUS

APRIL 13 @ 3:00 PM
ZENKEL HALL, NYC
\$20, \$35

Pianist Dmitry Rachmanov offers an all-Scriabin program at Carnegie Hall to celebrate the composer's 100th memorial anniversary



Bicentennial Celebration of the Great 19th Century Russian Poet Mikhail Lermontov

APRIL 14 @ 1:30 PM
MID-MANHATTAN LIBRARY, NYC / FREE

Celebrate 200 years since the birth of the poet of the Caucuses with illustrated lectures, poetry readings & more



Tour of Cathedral of Our Lady of the Sign

APRIL 22 @ 7:00 PM
THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF THE SIGN
FREE

Tour in English & Russian, conducted by Prince Vladimir Galitzine, recently retired Starosta of the Cathedral



History Tour of the St. Nicholas Cathedral

APRIL 24 @ 1:30 PM
ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL
FREE

Fr. Alexander Golubov, gives a tour on the buildings history and architectural innovations



The New Review, 70 years in New York

APRIL 26 @ 2:30 PM
MID-MANHATTAN LIBRARY
FREE

Look back at the power of poetry as expressed by Russian poets over the years in the pages of the "New Review," oldest Russian literary magazine in the US



Attend our annual Russian Orthodox Easter Picnic!

APRIL 27
ALL SAINTS OF RUSSIA CHURCH, PINE BUSH, NY
FREE

Go on a picnic to celebrate Russian Orthodox Easter. Transportation bus available (\$20)



Что? Где? Когда? (What? Where? When?)

MAY 3 @ 1:00 PM
HAMILTON HALL
FREE

A traditional intellectual game extremely popular in the Russian-speaking world, and will be held completely in Russian at Columbia University



"The Spring Ball" of the Russian Nobility Association in America

MAY 9 @ 7:30 PM
THE PIERRE HOTEL
INDV. TICKETS: \$450+ /
TABLES OF TEN: \$4,500+

Ball to raise funds to support numerous charitable organizations



Jubilee Concert with Willy Tokarev

MAY 11 @ 5:00 pm
SYMPHONY SPACE, NYC
\$55/\$45/\$35

Diana Bagrationi Foundation & VK Studios present the solo performance of legendary composer & singer Willi Tokarev



Young Musicians: Spivakov International Charity Foundation Concert

May 14
MERKIN CONCERT HALL, NYC

A series of performances by some of the world's most talented young musicians!



VIVA! TCHAIKOVSKY

MAY 16 @ 7:30 PM
THEATER AT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO, NYC
TICKETS: \$25-\$65,

This 2-act evening of music by Tchaikovsky will feature New Opera's production of composer's opera "IOLANTA" and a ballet "Dear Nadezhda"



RACH-C's 8th Annual Children's Festival of Russian Culture

MAY 17 @ 3:00 PM
NYU SKIRBALL PERFORMANCE CENTER / \$15 / \$20 / \$25

Children's Folk Ensembles perform centuries old Russian music & dance along with contemporary song & dance