Honorary Consul Named

The Director of the Utah-Russia Institute, Dr. Ross “Rusty” Butler was recently named the Honorary Consul for the Russian Federation in the State of Utah and was honored at a reception at Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City on October 25.

Consul General Yury Popov flew in from San Francisco to personally honor Dr. Butler at this event. He spoke of the friendship that has been built over the years between Utah and Russia and his hopes that this mutual friendship and cooperation will continue.

The Consul General emphasized the strong role that Dr. Butler has played in establishing this friendship to this point and expressed his excitement at Dr. Butler’s continuing efforts.

The role of Honorary Consul General will play a particularly important role next year, as Utah hosts the winter Olympics. Russia will have the largest contingency here from overseas and Dr. Butler expects to be very busy dealing with some of the issues that may arise as a result of their participation.

However, Dr. Butler’s responsibilities will not end with closing ceremonies. He will continue to serve in this capacity—assisting Russian immigrants and tourists when problems arise and promoting business, educational, cultural and humanitarian relations between Utah and Russia.

Dr. Butler has served as the Executive Director of the Utah-Russia Institute since its beginning in 1993. He came to the Utah-Russia Institute from the Boeing Corporation where he was a senior executive in the military airplanes division. In addition, he spent several years working for the U. S. Department of Education and as a Chief-of-Staff in the U. S. Senate.

Dr. Butler is also very active in the community, participating in such organizations as the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America and America’s Freedom Festival at Provo.

Moscow State Symphony

It began with a solemn, yet energetic rendition of the American national anthem and ended with a thunderous standing ovation: a momentous occasion—the performance of the Moscow State Symphony at Salt Lake City’s Abravanel Hall.

When the orchestra appeared on stage and began to play the national anthem, all present rose to their feet and joined in with heads held high. The American anthem was followed by the Russian national anthem, and all present again respectfully rose from their seats.

The world-renowned orchestra, conducted by Pavel Kogan, then performed music by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff and was cheered on every hand. The music simply transported the audience to a world of classical beauty and grace.

The first piece by Tchaikovsky was the Polonaise and Waltz taken from “Eugene Onegin”, an opera that discusses unfulfilled love and unrealized desires.

According to the program notes, the Polonaise was an elegant dance used in 19th-century Russian society to embellish formal occasions and is taken from the Third Act of Eugene Onegin.

Next the orchestra was joined by pianist Vladimir Feltsman who performed Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor, Opus 23. His fingers flew over the keys and the audience was breathless with excitement at his performance.

Overall, the concert was an incredible experience for all who were privileged to participate.

The symphony then performed Rachmaninoff’s Symphony No. 2 in E minor, a difficult, but extremely enjoyable piece of music, full of life and energy. This piece was written by Rachmaninoff in Dresden where he had moved to escape the pressures of social life in Moscow.
“The Three Sisters” by Anton Chekhov

The BYU Department of Theatre and Media Arts presents “The Three Sisters”, a play by Anton Chekhov. The play will be directed by Barta Heiner.

“While creating a mode of dramatic presentation that was to become the realistic idea for a new century, Chekhov, in his play “The Three Sisters”, sensitively examined the issues of his epoch. In a time of rapid social change, traditional Russian politics and culture were beginning to disintegrate, and a directionless middle class began to pursue aristocratic aspirations and pretensions.

In the play, the Prozoroff family dreams of returning to Moscow, but through lack of incentive or necessary circumstances, their travels are delayed. They project their happiness into the future, and do nothing about reaching their goal in the present; nor do they savor or appreciate the life and joy that is around them.

The production runs November 2—November 17 (excluding Sundays and Mondays) and tickets are $12 ($3 off with BYU or student ID). A matinee performance will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, November 10.

Call (801) 378-4322 for tickets.

Russian Cuisine is Available Locally

One of the things I love about America is the diversity that is found here. Everywhere you go, you can find cultural innovations and delicious cuisine from numerous countries. Just take a walk down any downtown street and you will find restaurants touting Brazilian, Mexican, Japanese, and Italian foods. But to find Russian, you must look a little harder.

Lately, I have had a craving for some of my favorite Russian and Ukrainian foods: pelmeni, vareniki, borscht, pirozhki and more, so I went looking for someplace to satisfy my hunger.

Although Russian food is a bit harder to find than Mexican, but in Salt Lake, there are several respectable places to eat and buy Russian foods.

Lyubochka is a little International Grocery and Deli where you can find meats, cheeses, breads and cakes that are commonly seen in Russia and other Eastern European countries. If you speak Russian, you might also be interested in the Russian books, videos and music that are available at this location. Lyubochka is located at 959 East 3300 South in Salt Lake City.

Café on Main is located at 2701 South Main Street, also in Salt Lake City, and is said to have some of the more authentic food available in the area. The people are also very friendly and enjoy sharing their culture with everyone.

In addition, Rasputin’s International Cuisine is located at 2148 South 900 East and has quite a variety of foods available at a reasonable price.

If you know of other Russian restaurants or if you have comments about these, please feel free to email me at dav- isje@uvsc.edu.

UVSC’s Russian Club

The UVSC Russian Club has become very active this semester and is looking forward to a very productive year.

In the aftermath of the September 11th tragedy, the Russian club presidency felt compelled to do something to show support for those who were suffering and grieving throughout the country.

They proceeded to buy up most of the red, white and blue ribbon in Utah Valley and made thousands of ribbons which were then distributed to students all over campus. For more than a week students wore the ribbons, contributed money and thus honored those who had been so devastatingly affected by those tragic events.

Since then, the Russian club has not been idle. They participated in Multicultural Week at UVSC where they teamed up with Sergei and Jennifer Dengin to sell delicious Russian food to very appreciative and hungry students.

And last weekend, they hosted their first Russian Movie Night where they watched the romantic comedy “Office Romance.”

In addition, the Russian Club presidency has begun an ambitious schedule of events including movies, plays, parties and more. You do not have to be a UVSC student to participate in the Russian Club or to attend Russian Club events, so keep your eyes open for upcoming activities.
Culture Corner—The Two-Headed Eagle

The two-headed eagle first appeared as a state symbol in Russia (called Muscovy at the time) in the XV-th century. It was brought from the Byzantine Empire by Sophia Paleolog, a member of the last Byzantine dynasty, who became the wife of Ivan III, the Great Duke of Moscow.

The two-headed eagle remained the symbol of the Russian Monarchy and the Russian State for more than four hundred years, until the October Revolution of 1917.

The symbol was revived and regained its status as national symbol of Russia by order of President Boris Yeltsin on November 30, 1993.

There are different interpretations of this symbol. The most common version says that the two heads of the eagle symbolize the dual nature of Russia - European and Asian, Western and Eastern. According to this school of thought, the symbol is meant to emphasize that both Eastern and Western are of equal importance and power.

Another school of thought is that this two-headed eagle represents the equal relationship between church and state in Russia.

The State insignia survived changes during the pre-revolutionary history of Russia, although these changes were not significant. The most notable change came in the XVII-th century when the Ryurik dynasty ended and the Romanovs came to power. At this time three crowns were added above the eagle to embody the unity of three nations - Russia, Ukraine and Belorus.

In recent years, since the fall of communism and the reinstitution of the two-headed eagle as a symbol of Russia, there has been much debate about whether or not the crowns should remain a part of the symbol. Some argue that since Russia is no longer a monarchy, the crowns are no longer appropriate. However, a common joke among Russians is that without the crowns the symbol looks like a “Chernobyl chicken.” So for now, the crowns remain.

Russian Trivia

As you may have noticed it has been a while since we did trivia, so this month, I will remind you of our last questions and give the answers. We will commence with our normal trivia section next month.

1. How many time zones are there in Russia? 12
2. What is the name of the famous art gallery in Moscow? The Tretyakov Art Gallery
3. What is the current name of Leningrad? St. Petersburg
4. How many republics make up Russia? 21
5. What mountain range constitutes a natural boundary separating European and Asian Russia? Ural Mountains
6. In what year did Moscow become the capital of Russia? 1922
7. What is the state symbol of Russia? The two-headed eagle
8. In what year did the current state symbol become the state symbol? Most recently in 1993. See Culture Corner for further details
9. What does the state symbol symbolize? Dual nature of Russia—Eastern and Western, Asian and European
10. What is the predominant religion in Russia today? Russian Orthodox

Upcoming Events

November
1  All Saints Day
2-17  “The Three Sisters”
7  Day of Accord and Conciliation (Russia)
The anniversary of the socialist revolution of October 1917 which established communist power — still survives. The system is gone, but many still cling to the custom
22  Thanksgiving (America)

December
12  Constitution Day
25  Christmas Day

January
1  New Year’s Day
7  Russian Orthodox Christmas
Pachlava (Baklava)

Ingredients
3 c flour
300 g butter
3 yolks
200 g sour cream
1 ts baking powder
salt
vanilla

Filling:
5 egg whites
2 c sugar
300 g ground walnuts
honey

Method
Mix sour cream, egg yolks, baking powder, salt and vanilla.
In a separate bowl, chop butter and flour together with a knife,
Make a hole in it and pour in the sour cream mixture.
Knead dough and divide it into 3 parts.
Roll out 1 dough part into a sheet and spread 1/2 filling on it. Roll the second part and cover the first layer, spread the rest of filling and top with the third part of dough.
Brush with 2 beaten yolks and cut out rhombuses.
Bake until light golden—about 10 minutes.
Before cooling, pour melted honey over them. Cool down and cut into portions.