



CIRCUS CIRCUS Performers rehearse at the Ice Palace in preparation for today's opening of 'Dralion,' a Russian premiere for Cirque du Soleil. The Canadian super circus returns to St. Petersburg with an Asian-inspired show just in time for Chinese New Year on Jan. 31.



LOCAL

City Honors Siege Survivors With March

On the 70th anniversary of the lifting of the blockade, thousands plan memorial tribute. **Page 3.**

BUSINESS

Housing Bubble



Russian politics affect London's housing market. **Page 6.**

ARTS & CULTURE



A Hero's Welcome

After a summer in the U.K., a famed painting is given a new home. **Page 9.**

March Leads to Clashes With Police German Ads Pulled From Street

By Sergey Chernov
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

At least ten anti-fascist demonstrators were detained in St. Petersburg on Sunday, during the fifth anniversary of the double murder of anti-fascist activists Stanislav Markelov and Anastasia Baburova in Moscow. The event was marked across Russia and in a number of European countries.

A group of around 50 anarchists and anti-fascist activists assembled for an unauthorized march on Bolshoi Prospekt on Vasilyevsky Ostrov Sunday, partly obstructing traffic. Some members of the crowd threw smoke bombs, lit flares and chanted anti-fascist and anti-capitalist slogans.

Earlier, the city administration refused to authorize either a march or a full-fledged rally in memory of Markelov and Baburova based on what organizers call a technicality. According to the organizers, the committee on law, order and public security declined to accept the application on Dec. 31 because it was more than 15 days ahead of the event.

When the organizers submitted the application on the first working day of the new year, Jan. 9, they were told that it had been submitted too late. The law stipulates that applications be submitted between ten to 15 working days ahead of any planned rally. The activists were given permission instead to hold an assembly on the Field of Mars on the condition that sound-amplifying equipment was not used. After meeting on the Field of Mars, some activists decided to still go ahead with the unauthorized rally.

Moving quickly, the marchers walked about 650 meters amid smoke and stopped cars, carrying flares, red-and-black anarchist flags and banners reading "Anarchism. Anti-Fascism. Autonomous Action" and "Let's Protect the City from Fascism." The activists dispersed when a police van stopped next to them six minutes after they started to march. Two police officers detained two young women who appeared to be with the marchers and took them to the 20th precinct station located nearby. Later, the activists and the Help for the Detained group reported three more detentions. All those arrested were charged with jaywalking.

Five or six people were also detained for an alleged altercation with neo-Nazis in a cafe on Ploshchad Vosstaniya. According to eyewitness reports, neo-Nazis



Anarchists and anti-fascist activists holding an unauthorized march on Vasilyevsky Ostrov's Bolshoi Prospekt Sunday.

followed the anti-fascist activists to the site where the unsanctioned march was initially scheduled to be held at 4:30 p.m. and reportedly initiated the clash. According to one of the anti-fascist activists who asked not to be named, a criminal misconduct case was opened after several nationalists filed reports with the police. Organizers postponed the start of the march until 6 p.m. and moved the location to Vasilyevsky Ostrov.

The authorized protest held on the Field of Mars in the afternoon, which was organized by the Autonomous Action anarchist movement and the Russian Socialist Movement (RSD), proceeded without incident.

Titled "Against Repressions and Xenophobia," it drew around 150 people according to the organizers. The activists held banners and placards reading "Memory. Protest. Solidarity," "Stas and Nastya [the diminutives of Stanislav and Anastasia], we continue your struggle," "St. Petersburg Against Fascism," and "While the Nazis divide us, the boss and officials rob us," among others. A number of placards were dedicated to the imprisoned activists tried in the Bolotnaya Case for alleged riots during a May 6, 2012 opposition rally in Moscow.

"What happened on Jan. 19, 2009 has consolidated the protest and social movement in Russia," said Vladimir Plotnikov, an activist with the RSD.

"No one has any doubts that nationalism is a threat. The left-wing organizations in Russia have their own disagreements but they come together at this rally, sharing its rhetoric and demonstrating common values. Quite a serious consolidation has emerged, because it's frequently difficult for left-wing and social activists to agree," he said.

Earlier, the Democratic St. Petersburg coalition released a statement saying that it would not take part in the event due to expected anti-liberal and anti-capitalist left-wing slogans.

Shortly before the main event, the youth wing of Yabloko Democratic Party's St. Petersburg branch — a part of Democratic St. Petersburg — organized its own vigil on Troitskaya Ploshchad on Petrograd Side, the site of the Solovki Stone raised in memory of those who perished in Stalin's purges. According to media reports, about 70 people lit candles and placed flowers near portraits of Markelov and Baburova.

"I was surprised and somewhat perplexed that a portion of St. Petersburg's

protest movement, Democratic St. Petersburg, boycotted this event," Plotnikov said.

"They said: 'They're left wing, they're against capitalism and we won't go with them; look at what they write in their blogs,' and had their own event near the Solovki Stone. But no one was planning to slam Democratic St. Petersburg or, moreover, Yabloko. There were words about the solidarity of workers in their struggle against capital at the rally, but its subject was not strictly anti-capitalist. I don't understand these people. In my view it's a manifestation of sectarianism. It serves to discredit the anti-fascist struggle," he said.

Markelov and Baburova were gunned down by a masked man in central Moscow on Jan. 19, 2009. In 2011, ultranationalists Nikita Tikhonov and Yevgenia Khasis were found guilty of the double murder and sentenced to life and 18 years in prison, respectively.

According to Plotnikov, the situation in the city has worsened recently. He pointed to a number of racially motivated attacks on migrant street vendors in St. Petersburg in 2013 and the infiltration of the anti-Kremlin protest movement by nationalists.

By Mark Lammey
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Municipal authorities in St. Petersburg have told advertising agencies to remove ads for German goods from the city's main streets during the celebrations marking 70 years since the end of the Siege of Leningrad during World War II, a news report said.

Several outdoor advertising agencies said the city's advertising regulator ordered them to take down the offending materials not just from main streets but also from districts where cemeteries are located, Delovoi Peterburg reported Jan. 16.

The blockade, which lasted almost 900 days and cost the lives of about 800,000 citizens, was breached on Jan. 18, 1944, before being lifted on Jan. 27, 1944.

The city celebrates these two dates each year.

City Hall denied involvement in sending out the order and called it a provocation, NTV television channel reported.

Volgo-Balt Media said the regulator ordered it to get rid of five bus stop advertisements that promote its client Media Markt, an electrical goods retailer, the report said.

The regulator's reported decree has been criticized by other agencies and German goods retailers.

"In any matter, it is possible to reach the point of absurdity, but in my view, to remove advertisements just because they promote a German brand is stupidity," said Igor Sedov, director of Aksel group, a BMW and Volkswagen dealer.

"A lot of German firms operate in Russia today; young firms that have no connection with the war," said Dr. Gabriele Kötschau, chairwoman of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce in St. Petersburg.

"I think it is wrong to punish them by taking down outdoor advertisements on these dates that are important for 'Leningraders.'"

ВЕДОМОСТИ 29 ЯНВАРЯ 2014 САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГ

«Бизнес-ландшафт Санкт-Петербурга и Северо-Западного федерального округа»

В ФОКУСЕ ДИСКУССИИ:

- Прогноз развития российской и региональной экономики в 2014 году.
- Финансовые рынки и банковский сектор: обзоры и прогнозы доступа к финансовым ресурсам.
- Инвестиционная привлекательность бизнес-проектов Санкт-Петербурга. Драйверы и тормоза для роста инвестиций.
- Судьба крупных инвестиционных инфраструктурных проектов и перспективы государственно-частного партнерства: административный ресурс для бизнеса.
- Возможности для бизнеса в 2014 г. Взгляд со стороны: банковского сектора, строительного рынка, промышленности, ритейла, телекоммуникационных и IT-компаний, консалтинга

Партнер **BORENIUS** При участии **HANSA**

Руководитель проекта Елена Еликова Тел. (812) 325-60-80, E-mail: conference@spb.imedia.ru

ALL ABOUT TOWN

Wednesday, Jan. 22
Learn how to talk business like a native speaker during **SPIBA's** weekly English discussion club from 7-8:30 p.m. this evening in their office at 21 Nevsky Prospekt. Native speakers will be present to help explain any untranslatable business idioms such as "bang for the buck" and "go belly up."
AmCham's **Joint Environment, Health and Safety, and HR Committee** meeting will meet this morning to discuss the aforementioned topics. Visit www.amcham.ru for more details.

Thursday, Jan. 23
Stop by the ongoing **Europe-Asia Event Forum** being held in the PetroCongress Congress Center, starting on Jan. 22 and continuing through Jan. 24. Over 300 experts from 27 different countries will be on hand to help attendees foster international relations, share experience and expand their own businesses beyond Russia's borders.

Friday, Jan. 24
Entice your children away from the television with the opportunity to go to the **Kukli International Children's Theater** and see a performance dedicated to the upcoming 70th anniversary of the end of the Siege of Leningrad. The show runs through Jan. 28 and tickets are 300 rubles (\$8.97).

Saturday, Jan. 25
Watch athletes with Olympic-sized dreams compete during the **Russia-Wide Wrestling Festival** dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the end of the siege of Leningrad that continues in the city until the end of the month.

Sunday, Jan. 26
For anyone interested in the world of professional illustration, look no further than the Miroedova School's **Day of Contemporary Illustration**. The event will feature lectures on how to get ahead in the competitive industry as well as offer attendees, one-on-one consultations with industry experts. Entry to the event is 200 rubles (\$6).

Monday, Jan. 27
70 years ago today, the siege of Leningrad ended after enduring for a terrible 872 days. Today will be an example of Leningrad poet Olga Berggolts' words, "Let no one forget, let nothing be forgotten," and those hoping for somber reflection can go to Ulitsa Italiyanskaya and Manezh Square for the **Way of Life**, a series of special events to honor this day.
Internations and CouchSurfer members are invited to a weekly **English Club** starting at 7:30 p.m. in a different restaurant every week. Register on either of the websites if you plan on attending or call 921 2222 for the location.

Tuesday, Jan. 28
Join SPIBA and several distinguished guests during their business meeting on **Labor and Labor Safety Law** starting at 9:30 a.m. this morning. Speakers include Alexander Ekimov, Baltika Brewery's head of labor safety, and Sergey Tsutsiev, an expert on work conditions assessment. Make sure to RSVP by Jan. 27 if you want to attend.

To have your event included in All About Town, email tot@sptimes.ru

City Remembers Siege of Leningrad

By Irina Titova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

In fall of 1941, Antonina Vetikova, who was then 14 years old, stopped stammering — a problem that she had suffered since early childhood. Ironically, Vetikova got rid of her problem due to the fear she experienced during a WWII air raid by Axis planes on the peaceful residents of a village outside Leningrad where her family lived.

“There were no bomb shelters in our village and when the planes began shooting at us, we all just ran into a neighboring forest to hide,” Vetikova, 86, told The St. Petersburg Times on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the end of the Siege of Leningrad, also known as the Blockade, to be celebrated on Jan. 27.

“The planes flew so low that we could see the faces and goggles of the Nazi pilots. I still can’t forget how they smiled as they shot at us!” Vetikova said.

When she returned home after one such air attack, however, she realized that she had lost her stammer.

“I’m even ashamed to speak of it, but it’s a fact,” she said.

Vetikova was one of around a million people who lived through both the Nazi air raids on Leningrad and the experience of the Blockade.

Although she lived 36 kilometers outside of the city, the area of her residence was also cut off from the rest of the country by Nazi troops.

“The situation in our village was better than in Leningrad itself because we had peat to burn for warmth and we had easy access to water. The situation with food, however, was terrible. We ate anything we could find: Pine bark, potato peels and that famous 125 grams of Blockade bread,” Vetikova said.

The siege of Leningrad was a prolonged military operation undertaken by Germany’s Army Group North against Leningrad, as St. Petersburg was then known. The siege started on Sept. 8, 1941, when the last road connecting the city to the rest of the country was severed. Although the Soviets managed to open a narrow land corridor to the city on Jan. 18, 1943, the siege was finally lifted just over a year later, on Jan. 27, 1944. Lasting 872 days, the Siege of Leningrad was one of the longest and most destructive blockades in history and overwhelmingly the most costly in terms of casualties.

The 872 days of the siege caused unparalleled famine in the Leningrad region through disruption of water, energy and food supplies. This resulted in the deaths of up to 1.5 million soldiers and civilians. Piskaryovskoye Memorial Cemetery alone holds half a million civilian victims of the siege.

Petersburgers suffered from extreme starvation, especially in the winter of 1941-1942. From November 1941 to February 1942, for example, the only food available to residents was 125 grams of bread per day, of which 50-60% consisted of sawdust and other inedible admixtures, and was distributed through ration cards. For about two weeks at the beginning of January 1942, even this was available only to workers and military personnel. In conditions of extreme temperatures (down to -30 degrees Celsius

(-22 degrees Fahrenheit) and with the lack of city transport, even a distance of a few kilometers to a food distributing center created an insurmountable obstacle for many citizens. In January-February 1942, about 700-1000 citizens died every day, most of them from hunger and many in the streets.

Vetikova said there was no greater joy than when they learned about the end of the siege and that the date would always remain a very significant one for her.

ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

The 70th anniversary of the final lifting of the Siege of Leningrad will be marked with many memorial events in St. Petersburg.

At 7 p.m. on Jan. 27, thousands of residents are due to take part in a candlelight procession along Nevsky Prospekt. 1,944 volunteers will walk from Ul. Malaya Sadovaya to Palace Square where they will form a gigantic human sign spelling out “900 days,” the historically celebrated length of the blockade. The number of volunteers symbolizes the year the siege ended.

At 7 p.m. the city will also hold a minute of silence.

After the march, photos and video images from the siege will be projected onto the façade of the General Staff building.

Automobiles, bicycles and military vehicles will then arrive on the square where WWII artillery and anti-tank barriers will be displayed. An educational installation called “Children of the Blockade” will be housed under the arch of the General Staff building to teach children about life in the besieged city.

Musical groups will perform songs and dances from the period on Palace Square.

The original trams that carried Leningrad residents during the blockade will once again operate on Vasilevsky Island in honor of the anniversary. During the blockade, the trams stopped working only when the supply of electricity was cut off in December 1941. The trams remained on the streets of Leningrad until April 1942, when the first passenger trams went back into operation.

In the meantime, the leaders of blockade veterans’ unions supported a plan championed by the city’s administration to recreate the atmosphere of besieged Leningrad, the Fontanka.ru Internet portal said.

The proposed re-creation, however, was met with negativity by some bloggers who considered it inappropriate to use an entertainment form to represent such a tragic event.

Titled “Way of Life,” the event will be held in Manezhnaya Square from Jan. 25-27 and aims to give an impression of how daily life was in the besieged city. The recreation is to have “educational and patriotic character and will be first of all addressed to young people who were born many years after the end of the war”, the city’s vice-governor Mikhail Mokretsov said, Fontanka reported.

Starting Jan. 20, at least 900 of the city’s public buses began to play audio recordings dedicated to the anniversary of the siege. The recordings are taken from “Siege Numbers” and “Siege Diary,” which inform listeners of the most significant facts from the life of the besieged city.

On Jan. 27, thousands are due to take part in a candlelight procession along Nevsky Prospekt.



The General Staff building of the State Hermitage Museum is at the center of corruption allegations.

Suspect in Hermitage Case Jailed

RIA NOVOSTI

Police have arrested a Moscow businessman accused of helping to embezzle over 55 million rubles (\$1.65 million) during the renovation of Russia’s most famous museum, the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, the Interior Ministry said on Jan 14.

Arkady Akhmechet has been charged with large-scale fraud, according to a statement posted on the ministry’s website. The crime is punishable by up to ten years in prison under Russian law.

Police said Akhmechet oversaw financial operations at construction firms that stole money after being contracted to restore buildings belonging to the Hermitage Museum Complex between 2010 and 2013.

Akhmechet is the second suspect named by police in the embezzlement scheme, uncovered by Russia’s Audit Chamber in July.

The Interior Ministry said Leonid Tamarov, the director of a contracting firm involved in the restoration, fled Russia after the start of police investigations but died in Israel in September under unclear circumstances.

Russia is working with Interpol to establish the context of Tamarov’s death, the ministry statement said.

An investigation into the embezzlement scheme was opened in September after Russia’s Audit Chamber said it had found violations in a contract worth 6.2 billion rubles (\$190 million) to reconstruct the General Staff building in the Hermitage complex.

Police said the contractors, who agreed to construct glass ceilings over five courtyards on the complex grounds and equip them with anti-icing and snow removal systems, stole money by creating so-called double contracts that falsely billed money from firms that did not actually carry out the work.

The management of the State Hermitage Museum denied any involvement, saying it was only a client and was not involved in any financial aspect of the renovation.

Police said in September that a group of individuals were under investigation for their involvement in the case, though they have not yet publicly identified any additional suspects.

РЕКЛАМА

The St. Petersburg Times

28 января

ТРЕНИНГ:

ПРОГРАММА РАЗВИТИЯ ДЛЯ РУКОВОДИТЕЛЕЙ: ОПЕРАЦИОННОЕ УПРАВЛЕНИЕ КОМАНДОЙ

Цель тренинга: формирование у участников понимания ключевых принципов проектного менеджмента, развитие практических навыков.

Аудитория: руководители проектов.

Результаты тренинга: освоение современных методов и средств управления проектами, понимание алгоритма поведения в ключевых ситуациях, умение занимать конструктивную позицию при решении конфликтных ситуаций.

Основные темы:

- Параметры, классификация и жизненный цикл проектов.
- Организационная структура проекта.
- Планирование, правильная постановка задач и распределение функций.
- Зоны риска, разделение ответственности.
- Способы мотивации и управление негативной реакцией.
- Работа с группами влияния.
- Мониторинг выполнения проекта и принятие решений.
- Возможности оперативного контроля с использованием KPI, быстрое определения расхождения с планом, принятие мер.
- Итоговая оценка проекта.
- Особенности проектов в функциональной, матричной и проектной компаниях.
- Работа с кейсами, реальные примеры, ролевые игры.

Тренер: Александр Кузьменков - бизнес-тренер, опыт работы более 11 лет. Специализация – программы развития для высшего и среднего менеджмента компании, сотрудников кадрового резерва.

Стоимость участия: 10 000 руб. (без учета НДС).

В стоимость включено: обучение, раздаточные материалы, кофе-брейки, обеды.



16+

Подробности и регистрация по телефону: (812) 325-6080 доб. 333, e-mail: conference@spb.imedia.ru, руководитель проекта Мария Гусакова.



A screen grab from a video showing two men claiming responsibility for the Volgograd bombings last month.

Terrorist Spotted in Sochi

By Ivan Nechepurenko
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — After an Islamic extremist group promised to deliver a deadly “present” to visitors of the upcoming Sochi Winter Olympics, law enforcement authorities said a potential suicide bomber had traveled to Sochi from Dagestan.

Ruzana Ibragimova, also known as Salima, is reportedly “the widow of a neutralized member of the insurgency who can be used by its leaders to organize terrorist acts during the 2014 Winter Games as a suicide bomber,” according to the local news site Blogsochi.ru.

Security has been one of the primary concerns surrounding the games, with the opening ceremony to be held on Feb. 7 a mere 600 kilometers from the republic of Dagestan, considered by experts as the most dangerous place in Europe.

Alexander Valov, the head of Blogsochi.ru, said by phone from Sochi that the information was leaked to him by three different sources, two from law

enforcement officials and one from Sochi’s city hall.

A representative of the Krasnodar regional Federal Security Service branch could neither confirm nor deny the information.

According to Valov’s source in the FSB, the suspect had already been spotted on Sovetskaya Ulitsa in central

About 40,000 law enforcement and special services officers have been deployed to Sochi.

Sochi, which is in the vicinity of the Foreign Affairs Ministry’s Sochi office and Sochi city hall.

It was unclear whether Ibragimova was carrying any explosives with her. It was also not immediately clear how a suspected terrorist — who was appar-

ently interrogated by law enforcement officials in the past — could get into Russia’s Olympic capital amid heightened security.

Valov published a copy of an official letter sent by the local FSB to the Krasnodar Anti-Extremism Center, asking them to chase the suspect, who arrived in Sochi on Jan. 10 to 11. The letter describes Ibragimova as someone who “limps slightly, her elbow does not bend and she has a 10-centimeter long scar on her left cheek.”

Valov said police were trying to keep the information under wraps.

“The police are afraid of causing panic by making this information public,” Valov said, before being interrupted by an Investigative Committee representative who had arrived to present him with an official summons for questioning.

Valov went on after the investigator left: “Some people said that this might be another anti-terrorist drill, but the documents are real and describe real people.”

A journalist working for a major Western newspaper said that he had also seen a notice about Ibragimova at the reception desk of a Sochi hotel. According to Valov, the same document was sent out to all checkpoints guarding the Olympic security zone of Sochi.

The news comes after a video posted Sunday, on the website of the radical group Vilayat Dagestan, showing two men claiming responsibility for the Volgograd bombings last month and promising to deliver more acts of terror during the Olympics.

Vilayat Dagestan represents the Dagestan “province” of the Caucasus Emirate, a self-proclaimed entity that aims to establish a strict Islamic state in Russia’s North Caucasus. The organization, which seeks to include Sochi within the proposed Vilayat Cherkessia province, is headed by Doku Umarov, an Islamist militant who has been repeatedly declared dead by Caucasus authorities only to reappear time and time again.

President Vladimir Putin said Sunday that about 40,000 law enforcement and special services officers had been deployed to provide security in the Sochi area.

Putin told six Russian and foreign journalists that: “We are doing everything with an understanding, with a clear understanding of the operational situation developing around Sochi and in the region as a whole; we have a perfect understanding of what it is, what the threat is, how to stop it, how to combat it.”

Russia’s Rights Record Delays Visa-Free Travel

By Yekaterina Kravtsova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — An official from the European Union spoke out about several concerns over Russia during a visit to Moscow on Jan. 17, warning that plans for a visa-free regime would be put on hold until issues of corruption and human rights are addressed.

The meeting came shortly after the EU decided to cut short a planned meeting with Russian leaders in Brussels later this month, a move which observers have attributed to an ongoing spat over Ukraine.

Justice Minister Alexander Kononov said the meeting on Jan. 17 of the Russia-EU Permanent Partnership Council was more about preserving ties than anything else.

“We are trying not to turn our relations completely sour and maintain a certain level of dialogue,” Kononov said after meeting with EU Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom, adding that the EU was not willing to take further steps in the dialogue for a visa-free regime with Russia.

Kononov added that Russia was not going to pressure the EU over the visa deal. “We have a feeling that our colleagues in the EU are not committed and do not feel a need to eliminate the barriers between Russia and the EU,” he said.

Negotiations about the visa-free regime have been ongoing for more than ten years, and Russia has accused the EU of deliberately delaying the process on several occasions. In December, Russia said it had prepared a visa agreement and that it hoped the EU would sign it at the next Russia-EU summit, which has now been shortened from two days to a few hours on Jan. 28.

At the request of the EU, the summit, which is usually held over two days with numerous meetings, will consist solely of a working dinner in Brussels on Jan. 28 between President Vladimir Putin, Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton.

Relations between Russia and the EU hit a rough patch after Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich backed out of an association agreement with the EU in favor of closer ties with Moscow.

At the Jan. 17 meeting, Malmstrom said the EU was still committed to creating a visa-free regime with Russia, but she could not say when such a measure would be taken, as the EU still had several concerns.

Malmstrom emphasized that one of those concerns was Russian legislation that “did not fully coincide with values shared by EU countries,” such as a law requiring NGOs funded from abroad and “engaged in political activity” to

register as foreign agents, as well as a ban on “homosexual propaganda” among minors.

She also mentioned the case of former Hermitage Fund lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who died in prison after accusing officials of corruption. Malmstrom said the Magnitsky case signified that there was no rule of law in Russia.

“We want a visa-free regime to be established in a safe and secure environment, which means there is no corruption, and human rights and the rule of law are observed,” Malmstrom said, adding that an agreement to facilitate the process of getting visas would be set soon but would not happen at the summit.

Kononov said that criticism from the EU was “off the mark,” adding that Russia also had concerns about the state of human rights in the EU. The Foreign Affairs Ministry’s report on human rights in the EU published on Jan. 14 cited a growth in xenophobia and racism in Europe, restrictions on freedom of the press, and multiple cases of police overreaching their authority.

At the upcoming summit, officials will concentrate on defining their strategic partnership rather than confronting divisive issues. Vygaudas Usackas, head of the EU delegation in Russia, said, Interfax reported.

Major disagreements that have arisen over the past year will also be discussed, he said, including the EU’s economic integration with Ukraine, trade terms within the WTO and foreign policy issues.

Vyacheslav Nikonov, deputy head of the State Duma Foreign Affairs Committee, said further EU delays on the visa deal would prevent strategic cooperation at the summit, adding that the EU was no longer a promising partner for Russia since it was experiencing a period of stagnation.

“The summit is a completely absurd and meaningless event because it sees the president meeting with people who are not authorized to solve any issues and who make anti-Russian statements,” Nikonov said by phone.

Vladislav Belov, an expert with the Institute of Europe at the Russian Academy of Sciences, said he was not surprised that the summit was shortened, since it justified the current state of Russia-EU relations.

It was unlikely that there would be any progress at this summit, he said, adding, however, that Putin had likely prepared some statement or proposal for the EU that could lead to an unexpected result.

“I know that Putin prepared something for this summit,” he said. “It is difficult to predict what that would be, since Putin has not ceased to surprise us lately; it could be something that would make the EU reconsider its position,” he said.

Russia has accused the EU of deliberately delaying the process for a visa-free regime on several occasions.

ВЕДОМОСТИ 30 ЯНВАРЯ 2014 САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГ

Практикум
Большие продажи решений в сфере B2B

Большие продажи – это чаще всего продажи B2B (бизнес-бизнес) и B2G (бизнес-правительство). Они связаны с достаточно длительным сроком ведения переговоров, большим количеством людей, вовлеченных в переговоры и принятие решения. Большие продажи – это продажи, связанные с большими деньгами и высокими рисками со стороны, как клиента, так и продавца. Это может быть продажа IT-технологий, рекламных компаний, финансовых услуг, промышленного оборудования, консалтинговых услуг, продажа аутсорсинга и другие виды деятельности. Часто в больших продажах менеджеры ведут переговоры с высоко-статусными людьми. В любом случае в больших продажах речь идет о продаже решений!

Этот практикум позволяет освоить еще один системный практический взгляд на продажи с точки зрения осознания решения клиентом. Каждый теоретический блок сопровождается примерами конкретных технологий, которые может применять менеджер по продажам в своей реальной деятельности.

ПРАКТИКУМ ОРИЕНТИРОВАН НА:
генеральных директоров, руководителей коммерческих отделов, директоров по продажам и менеджеров по продажам в сфере B2B.

АВТОР И ВЕДУЩИЙ – НИКОЛАЙ РЫСЁВ

Российский тренер-бренд, автор бестселлеров «Активные продажи», «Большие продажи», «Правильные управленческие решения. Поиск и принятие», «11 правил руководителя №1», «Технологии лидерства. О Богах, Героях и Руководителях».

Стоимость участия: 12 000 руб. (без учета НДС)

Руководитель проекта
Анна Сабанина

Тел. (812) 325-60-80,
E-mail: conference@spb.imedia.ru

16+

I N B R I E F

Fire Decimates Zoo

■ MOSCOW (RIA Novosti) — A faulty heater caused a fire at a city zoo in far eastern Russia, killing about two dozen animals but sparing the pride of the park, an extremely rare Amur leopard, local officials said Monday.

Firefighters were not immediately alerted to the scene on Saturday night because the night watchman, who was new on the job, tried in vain to put out the blaze by himself, a spokesman for Komsomolsk-on-Amur's fire department said.

The deceased animals, which included a python, five monkeys, three chinchillas, three large bats, six parrots and several other birds, were presumably killed by smoke inhalation, the city administration said in a statement.

A flower-laying ceremony was held on Tuesday in honor of the deceased animals, some of which had been living in the zoo for decades and become well-known among locals.

The Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper said that as many as 70 of the 240 animals in the park might have been killed in the fire, but that the incident has been downplayed because it coincided with the regional governor's visit to the city.

More than 100 rioters sought medical help and 44 of them have been hospitalized, city officials said.

Timing Turnaround

■ MOSCOW — A senior lawmaker on Monday submitted a bill to the State Duma that would permanently set clocks to winter time in Russia.

More than 100 deputies from the four Duma factions have signed the bill, including around 12 members from the ruling United Russia party, said Sergei Kalashnikov, head of the Duma Committee on Public Health and one of the bill's authors.

Russia has been living in permanent "summer time" since 2011, when an initiative by then-President Dmitry Medvedev saw clocks being moved forward in March, but not put back in the fall.

Kalashnikov, a member of the Liberal Democratic Party, or LDPR, has long crusaded against the switch, saying in 2012 that it has condemned the population to increased stress and worsening health.

The current bill would not restore the seasonal changing of clocks currently observed in the West, however. If accepted, it will move Russia from Medvedev's "eternal summer" to year round winter time.

Riots Continue

■ MOSCOW (RIA Novosti) — Riot police and anti-government demonstrators in the Ukrainian capital faced off Monday in the wake of some of the worst street violence the city has seen since protests began in November.

Protestors erected barricades on a street running along main government buildings in Kiev in an apparent effort to extend territorial control beyond the main square demonstrators have occupied for almost two months.

Demonstrators threw Molotov cocktails at riot police from the top of the Dynamo Kiev football stadium in central Kiev. Police responded by using stun grenades and tear gas against the mobs.

Torched vehicles could be seen still smoldering on a downtown street in a reminder of the unrest that ensued when a group of aggressive demonstrators broke away from a mass rally on Sunday held to voice discontent at the swift passage of wide-ranging legislation to clamp down on protests.

Around 60 police officers were reportedly injured in the violent clashes, which ran late into the night, as were several dozen rioters.

Icy Death

■ MOSCOW — An elderly man in Russia's Far East died shortly after bathing in icy cold water as part of Sunday's Epiphany celebrations.

The man took ill after plunging in a font filled with freezing water in the republic of Sakha. He referred himself to nearby medical personnel but died in an ambulance on his way to the hospital after his heart stopped, the regional Emergency Situations Ministry said, Interfax reported.

Temperatures in the republic of Sakha dropped to minus 45 degrees Celsius on Sunday.

"With this exception, no other incidences have been reported. An elderly man overestimated his physical abilities. He probably had a cardiovascular problem, but we are not doctors so cannot say for sure," the ministry said.

Epiphany takes place in Russia on Jan. 19 and marks the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. During the celebrations, participants dunk themselves under cold water three times in a symbolic washing away of their sins from the previous year.



Astakhov attributes the growth in adoptions to the improved selection, training, education and support of adoptive parents.

Russians Adopt More Kids

By Natalya Krainova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — The number of Russian orphans and abandoned children has dropped from 140,000 to a little under 107,000 in the past five years due to state policies encouraging domestic adoptions, children's ombudsman Pavel Astakhov said Monday.

Following the controversial ban on U.S. adoptions that took effect in January 2013, the majority of children taken from Russian orphanages last year were adopted inside the country, Astakhov said while reporting the results of his yearly work to President Vladimir Putin, Astakhov's website reported.

In the wake of the U.S. adoption ban, passed by parliament in retaliation for a U.S. law that punishes suspected Russian human rights violators, Moscow has been under pressure to increase domestic adoption rates, which have been stubbornly low in recent years compared to the number of orphans in need of homes.

Still, less than 20 percent of Russians say they would ever consider adopting a child, due to insufficient income, a lack

of government support and poor housing conditions, according to a national poll released in mid-November by the Foundation for Supporting Children in Difficult Situations.

Astakhov painted a rosier picture of the situation in his meeting with Putin, however, saying that the majority of adoptions were now by Russians, ar-

because we know how the public at the start of [last] year was agitated by our certain decisions [and] laws that were enforced," Astakhov said in reference to the public discontent over the ban on U.S. adoptions.

But one positive consequence of the ban, Astakhov said, was that now "no one in Russia remains indifferent to the problems of orphaned children."

Astakhov attributed the growth in adoptions in part to the improved selection, training, education and support of adoptive parents.

Last week, Astakhov also said that the overall number of adoptions had grown by 6.7 percent compared to the previous year, to more than 65,000. He said that figure compared to an average yearly increase of 1 to 1.5 percent between 2009 and 2013.

Astakhov's press office referred an inquiry for more statistics to the Education and Science Ministry. A ministry spokesman said that Astakhov had announced "forecasted" statistics and that no other figures were yet available. The spokesman said final numbers would be released in April.

Moscow has been under pressure to increase adoption rates, which have been stubbornly low in recent years.

going that the change was due to the fact that "there were no more American adoptions in 2013."

"And this exactly indicates that not only efforts of the state in this case have led to such results, but first and foremost a very active stance of society,

Lavrov Insists Iran Take Part in Talks

RIA NOVOSTI
MOSCOW — This week's peace talks in Geneva on the ongoing conflict in Syria will be a sham without Iran's participation, Russia's foreign minister said Monday as the main Syrian opposition group threatened to boycott talks attended by the Iranians.

"Forty countries have been invited to the Geneva 2 talks... And if Iran is excluded from the list then the conference will resemble something profane," Sergei Lavrov said.

"Iran, of course, along with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq, is one of the countries

interested in resolving the situation without further damaging the stability of this important region of the world."

Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary General, announced Sunday at a news conference that an invitation from the UN to attend the conference had been extended to Iran.

The Syrian National Coalition, the country's Western-backed opposition group, said Monday it would not attend if representatives from Iran were at the meeting.

The United States insisted that Iran has failed to meet the requirements for participants, which include

supporting the establishment of a transitional government.

"If Iran does not fully and publicly accept the Geneva communique, the invitation must be rescinded," the US State Department said in a statement Sunday. The U.S. reiterated its concerns about Iran's continuing support of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The talks are scheduled to begin Wednesday in Montreux before moving to Geneva. Representatives from several dozen countries as well as the EU, UN, Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation are expected to attend.

Putin Orders Rehab Program Finalized

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES
MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin has ordered the Federal Drug Control Service to complete work as soon as possible on an interagency program for rehabilitating drug addicts, the Kremlin said Monday.

Viktor Ivanov, head of the Federal Drug Control Service, told Putin that his agency has held meetings in 30 re-

gions with health care specialists, legal experts, community leaders and international specialists.

Several regions have already begun implementing such projects at the local level, even though the program hasn't been finalized, Ivanov said.

Russia has been criticized by international NGOs for its scant drug rehabilitation and prevention programs,

and in particular for a blanket ban on the use of methadone, employed in many countries to curb heroin use.

Ivanov said last March that almost 150,000 people had been convicted of drug-related crimes in Russia. The Federal Drug Control Service detected around one million drug users in Russia in a year, "including 200,000 in night clubs and discos," Ivanov said.

РЕКЛАМА

ВЕДОМОСТИ 19 ФЕВРАЛЯ 2014
Санкт-Петербург
Golden Garden Club, ресторан «Ф.М. Достоевский»
Владимирский пр., г. 9

Конференция
«Федеральная контрактная система 2014. Новые возможности и возможные трудности в сфере закупок товаров, работ и услуг»

Президентом РФ подписан новый Федеральный закон от 5 апреля 2013 г. № 44-ФЗ «О контрактной системе в сфере закупок товаров, работ, услуг для обеспечения государственных и муниципальных нужд», с 1 января 2014 года ФЗ №44-ФЗ вступил силу.

На конференции «Ведомостей» будут рассмотрены важнейшие изменения в контрактном законодательстве, подведены первые итоги перехода на новую систему, в дискуссионном формате выявлены проблемы, с которыми сталкиваются организации. Участники смогут обменяться мнениями по основным темам встречи и поделиться практическим опытом.

В фокусе обсуждения:
• Новые правила и понятия, введенные ФЗ №44-ФЗ
• Сложные вопросы практического применения в порядке процедуры закупок для бюджетных и автономных учреждений, государственных и муниципальных унитарных предприятий
• Принципиальные изменения в системе контроля за госзакупками
• Перспективы судебной практики по спорам, касающимся госзакупок.

При участии **КАЧКИН И ПАРТНЕРЫ**
право недвижимость инвестиции

Руководитель проекта
Елена Еликова

Тел. (812) 325-60-80,
E-mail: conference@spb.imedia.ru

16+



Considered a 'safe haven' for investments, Russians favor property in the London boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea.

London Draws Russian Buyers

By Olga Kalashnikova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Economic and political changes in Russia are affecting house prices in London, according to new research emerging from the Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford by Professor Tarun Ramadorai and Dr. Cristian Badarinza.

Perhaps predictably, the more unstable a country, the more often wealthy residents seek to invest their capital into relatively rich and trustworthy economies. Because London real estate is more expensive than the majority of property in Russia and maintains its value better, it is often seen as a very good investment for wealthy Russians looking to hedge their bets.

"When there have been times of political uncertainty in Russia, house prices in high income areas of London have significantly risen. And it's the reason why London house prices have continued to rise at a much higher rate than the rest of the UK," said Ramadorai.

"Wealthy buyers from Russia and around the world are buying houses in particular areas of London because it's a relatively safe bet, like gold or real estate in other major cities. It's known as a 'safe haven' — an investment location in which assets will retain or even increase their value in the face of turbulence in other parts of the world," he said.

During the course of their research, Ramadorai and Badarinza linked different areas of the city with specific foreign countries based on the amount of residents from these countries who had settled there. They used data from the Office for National Statistics and compared it with house price transac-

tion data from the Land Registry and Nationwide Building Society, as well as information on global political and economic risks. As a result, the pair proved that changes in political and economic uncertainty in specific foreign countries strongly influence housing prices in the areas of London to which they are linked.

"The granular level at which we have analyzed the data allows us to confirm that safe-haven demand effects from southern Europe, China, the Middle East, Russia and South Asia are indeed important factors in explaining the dynamics of London house prices," Ramadorai said.

Wealthy Middle Eastern residents, for instance, tend to prefer expensive properties in Little Venice in West London as well as less fashionable areas, such as Edgware Road or Wood Green.

Unrest in Pakistan has pushed up prices in Wimbledon Park — an area popular with those from the South Asian country. Southall, Kensington, Chelsea, Knightsbridge and Belgravia are all considered to be some of the most expensive neighborhoods in London and have been found to be the chosen destination for Russians, reported Vedomosti.

The researchers found that increases in political uncertainty in Russia, China, the Middle East and East Asia cause prices to rise in areas with higher than average income levels. Areas with relatively lower average income levels experienced price increases following turbulence in Southern Europe and South Asia.

"It's all part of the trend of wealthy residents from less-wealthy countries insuring against domestic economic

and political uncertainty at home," said Professor Ramadorai.

"This research reinforces what we've known for some time: that central London property is in effect a reserve currency," the Financial Times quoted Henry Pryor, a buying agent, as saying.

Those who invest in property rarely take up residency in London and are more likely to be moving capital to keep it safe rather than intending to occupy the property themselves.

"London is attractive for Russian entrepreneurs due to its fair tax and investment climate," said Olga Ponomareva, vice president of the Leorsa Group, an investment firm. "In addition, Great Britain has established a level of standards that the whole profession emulates.

"London is a multinational city where foreigners rarely stand out," she said.

The influx of wealthy foreign property investors contributed to a 10 percent increase in house prices in 2013. In order to maintain control of housing, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne plans to introduce a capital-gains tax on non-resident foreigners selling U.K. property from 2015. Brits already pay a 28 percent capital-gains tax, while foreigners do not. In addition to creating a bubble, uncontrolled growth in property prices is making life more and more expensive for Londoners.

Ramadorai sought to reassure residents of the city by telling the Financial Times that "when uncertainty arises, prices go up, but when it recedes, they seem to fall back to their mean." Something that no doubt has Londoners hoping for peace abroad.

Gas No Longer Free In Turkmenistan

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASHGABAT — Turkmenistan's president said Jan. 18 that his government will begin installing gas meters in households, ending the unlimited supply of free gas to citizens in the energy-rich Central Asian nation.

President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov said during a televised address that the government hoped the meters would encourage people to consume energy more efficiently, but neither he nor the country's state-owned gas company gave a time frame or a reason behind the policy change. The government also did not immediately reveal how much it would charge for gas.

The move comes in the wake of signs that Berdimukhamedov's authoritarian government sees the subsidized domestic energy market as too heavy an economic burden, and is making profitable energy exports a bigger priority.

The nation is estimated to have the world's fourth-largest natural gas reserves, and gas, electricity and water have been supplied free to households since 1993. In 2006, the same year Berdimukhamedov became president, the country's rubber stamp parliament voted to extend the free energy policy until 2030.

The free gas has been the carrot to the stick of Berdimukhamedov's regime, which has allowed no dissent or independent media in the predomi-

nantly Muslim nation of 5 million people.

Berdymukhamedov, nicknamed Arkadag — which means the Protector — won by a landslide 97 percent in 2012 presidential elections, in a vote widely criticized by election monitoring groups.

The government has made it clear in recent months the domestic subsidies are too costly. At a conference in October attended by Berdimukhamedov, one delegate publicly announced that free gas to the country's citizens cost Turkmenistan \$5 billion each year.

"The installation of the meters will allow people to economically consume natural gas, while the maximum payment for using the gas will not create difficulties for the population, for each family," Berdimukhamedov said during the televised address.

In an issue of a government newspaper released Saturday, Turkmenistan's state-owned gas company encouraged citizens to install the gas meters, which would enable the population to "normalize" energy consumption.

Berdymukhamedov's regime has simultaneously encouraged energy exports, particularly with China. In September, Turkmenistan struck a deal that would boost its gas exports to China to 65 billion cubic meters per year by 2020, up from 25 billion cubic meters this year.

Ukraine's Fracking Plans Worry Russia

RIA NOVOSTI

Russia said Jan. 17 that gas drilling technology likely to be used by Ukraine could pollute water supplies for Russians living near the border between the two countries.

Ukraine is expected to employ hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a widely used but controversial process that blasts a chemical solution into rock formations to release gas, Russia's Natural Resources and Environment Ministry said in a statement.

Fracking near Ukraine's border with Russia could pollute surface and underground water reserves used by local people, the ministry said.

Ukraine depends on Russian imports of natural gas, but in recent years has been attempting to diversify its supplies by financing alternative sources of the fuel, particularly domestic reserves of shale gas.

The exploitation of shale gas, which is locked in shale rock formations, has revolutionized the world gas market in recent years and threatened the traditional dominance of fixed pipeline suppliers like Russia.

Ukraine signed two major shale gas deals with international oil giants Shell and Chevron last year worth a combined \$20 billion.

New Law Helps MegaFon

VEDOMOSTI

MegaFon is the cell phone operator that has benefited most so far from the law allowing subscribers to keep their number despite changing service providers, Vedomosti reported on Jan. 17.

Data compiled by the Central Science Research Telecommunication Institute, or ZNIIS, shows that between Dec. 1 and Jan. 13, 2,598 users have switched providers, with 42.5 percent choosing MegaFon.

Of the remaining number, 810 joined MTS, with VimpelCom gaining 504 new clients. Tele2, Rostelecom and its subsidiaries, Tattelcom and SMARTS received 144, 21, 14 and 1 new users, respectively.

The data is seemingly at odds with traditional market patterns: in last year's third quarter, MTS took 30 percent of the market, while MegaFon occupied second place with 28 percent of the market. However, rival providers have been quick to say it is

premature to draw conclusions from the statistics.

The figures do not reflect the full picture as no information is given about the number of new contract subscribers, which adds up to tens of millions of new users on a quarterly basis, said MTS spokesman Dmitry Solodovnikov.

MTS also has the highest customer loyalty of the top three providers, with only 9.1 percent of clients choosing to leave the operator, Solodovnikov added.

Since the end of the New Year's holidays, a further 5,495 users have applied to switch providers — more than double the number who applied during the first six weeks of the law's enactment in December — so the landscape could still change, said Vladimir Kalinin, a spokesman for ZNIIS.

The subscriber migration process is being rolled out through the end of the first quarter, while statistics on the number of users choosing to switch providers will be published weekly by ZNIIS.

Aeroflot Appeal Upheld in Berezovsky Case

RIA NOVOSTI

A London court has upheld state airline Aeroflot's right to appeal a case involving deceased oligarch Boris Berezovsky.

The High Court of Justice ruled Thursday that Aeroflot should be allowed to appeal a 2012 dismissal of a case it filed in London seeking the recognition and enforcement of fraud judgments the airline had previously won against Berezovsky and its former deputy director general Nikolai Glushkov in Russia, news agency RAPSİ reported.

Berezovsky and Glushkov were convicted of defrauding Aeroflot in the 1990s and initially ordered to pay the airline over 200 million rubles (\$6 million) in damages. The judgment took effect in February 2008, after the Mos-

cow City Court dismissed Berezovsky's appeal.

In 2011, Aeroflot sought an inflation adjustment of the amount awarded, claiming the original amount should be increased to two billion rubles (\$60 million). The Golovinsky Court granted the adjustment in full.

Aeroflot initiated the present proceedings in the UK seeking the enforcement of that judgment.

In late 2012, the judge presiding over the case summarily dismissed the claims on the basis of the finality principle, which prevents parties from re-launching disputes except by way of appeal or as a result of fraud.

Shortly after that verdict, a spokesperson for Aeroflot told RAPSİ that

the airline was considering the option of an appeal.

The Jan. 16 judgment said that summary dismissal cannot be granted unless the court is satisfied that the claim being dismissed would have had no real chance of success.

Lady Justice Arden said that the test for summary dismissal had not been met in the earlier decision.

"The court needed to make findings of fact as to whether as a matter of Russian law the second Savelovsky judgment was final and binding under Russian law. Until that happened the court could not refuse recognition on the ground that the second Golovinsky judgment breached the finality principle," she said.

Berezovsky died in March 2013.

Thibaut Fourriere Finds Home in Petersburg

By Olga Kalashnikova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Thibaut Fourriere, Consul General of France in St. Petersburg, was appointed to his new post in August 2013. Russia, however, is far from unexplored territory for the 43-year-old. Fourriere has been working in the CIS for almost 20 years. He has also lived and worked in Moscow, has a Russian wife and speaks perfect Russian.

Fourriere sat down with The St. Petersburg Times in his office at the French Consulate over a cup of coffee that he prepared himself. He confessed that although the Russian language has changed his life, his interest in Russia came about by chance. He does not have any romantic stories in his background related to Russian relatives who were forced to flee to France after the Revolution of 1917. Fourriere acknowledged St. Petersburg as an attractive city for both business and daily life, talked about the difficulties facing the diplomat and acknowledged his happiness at being appointed to a post in the city. This interview was conducted in Russian.

Q: You speak Russian very well. How did your interest in the language arise?

A: I think this interest developed by chance and, in part, thanks to my parents. I started to learn Russian as my third language when I was at school. At that time I could not even imagine how it would change my life. My parents never insisted that I should take an occupation they approved of. They gave me an opportunity to study and gave me a lot of support. When I started studying at the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris, my father, who was an officer with the French army, told me about a recruitment competition at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He advised me to apply since I spoke Russian. I was 17 then and didn't know what I wanted to do in the future, I just knew that I would most likely work for my country. My father and grandfathers had all been in the military, so it was natural for me to think about becoming a civil servant. My father gave me some advice and I decided it would be an interesting job. After graduating from INALCO, I went on to receive a diploma from the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris and then joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I was 25 at the time and my career in this field continues to this day.

Q: Why did you choose to study Russian as a young man? Was it unusual at the time?

A: My family does not have any historical connections to Russia but there was an opportunity [to study Russian] in the lycée I attended. Usually, we study English or German as our first foreign language and then Spanish. I thought it would be interesting to study such an unusual language as Russian, so I did. Although the Russian language is very difficult, my results were good and I decided to continue by entering the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations.

Q: So you continued to study Russian there?

A: Yes. There were also lessons in economy, geography, politics, the history of Russia and of the Soviet Union. It was very interesting because we studied culture and history as well as language.

Q: Do you like the Russian language?

A: Of course I do! And I am a lifelong student of Russian. I even become depressed sometimes when I cannot ex-



Thibaut Fourriere is a career diplomat whose love of Russia started in childhood.

press an idea or do not understand something because I have been studying it for so many years. But the Russian language has changed my life and I am very glad of it. When I started studying Russian in 1985, the Cold War was still on. We studied the language and, although we had wonderful teachers, when I first came to Moscow I realized we knew too little about the Soviet Union and its people. We did not really know how people lived, so it was a great discovery for me.

Q: Why did you come to Russia to study?

'I thought it would be interesting to study such an unusual language as Russian.'

A: I was awarded a scholarship for one year of study in Moscow. I arrived in September 1991 and I had carefully followed all of the dramatic events over the summer of that year. I understood it was necessary to come to Moscow to improve my knowledge of Russian. When I first came to the Soviet Union in 1987, I could just about ask how to get to Red Square or to the hotel, but I could barely understand the answer. There were no opportunities to communicate with Russian people while studying the language in Paris and very few Soviet newspapers were available. There were also very few Russians in Paris and there was no Internet.

Q: Were you a tourist when you first visited Russia in the late 1980s?

THIBAUT FOURRIERE

Education:
The National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (Russian), Paris
The Institute of Political Sciences, Paris.

State Service:
2013-present: Consul General in St. Petersburg.
2010-2013: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Bishkek.
2007-2010: HR Manager at headquarters.
2009: Councilor of Foreign Affairs.
2004-2007: First Secretary in Moscow.
2001-2001: First Secretary in Baku.
2000-2001: Deputy Head of the French Mission in Baku.
1997-2000: Central Administration, Continental Europe.
1995-1997: National Civil Service at the French embassy in Kiev.
1995: Central Administration, Dept. for Strategy, Security and Disarmament.

Favorite music: Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Sergei Prokofiev, Dmitri Shostakovich.

Favorite book: 'Demons' by Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

Reading now: 'Blue Book' by Mikhail Zoschenko, 'The Palace by the Blue Bridge' by Gennady Petrov.

Favorite film: 'Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears' and the films by Michel Audiard.

A: Yes, it was a package tour that included Moscow, Suzdal, Vladimir and Leningrad.

Q: And what was your impression of Leningrad then?

A: If you find anyone who says they have negative impressions of visiting St. Petersburg, please introduce me to them; it would be very interesting. I think anyone who visits St. Petersburg takes away only positive impressions not only because it is a museum of a city but also because of its warm-hearted and talented people.

'...when I first came to Moscow, I realized we knew too little about the Soviet Union and its people...'

Q: Do you think it is comfortable for expats to live in Russia, in St. Petersburg?

A: I can only judge by the French who live and work here and I do not feel it is especially difficult for them. They seem satisfied. There are lots of opportunities in the city and it is nice for everyone to live here. When I was told in April of last year that I would soon work in St. Petersburg, I was happy. My dream had come true. When I worked in Moscow, I would come to St. Petersburg for the weekend. St. Petersburg is my second motherland now.

Q: Were you appointed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to work in Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan?

A: Yes, but it was also my own desire. There were several other people who had also passed the Russian language test, but had never been either in Russia or in the countries of the former Soviet Union. Maybe it was easier for me to go to these countries, as my wife is Russian. She didn't have any language problems in Kyrgyzstan. It was very important if she wanted to work, since it would have been more difficult for my colleagues whose wives do not speak Russian.

Q: Did you meet your wife in Russia?

A: Yes, at the Embassy of France in Moscow. I was working with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs while she worked for the finance department.

Q: Does she travel with you to all of the countries where you are appointed?

A: I told her before we got married that my job is very interesting but that there would be times when I needed to go to other countries. When the Ministry decided to open the Embassy in Bishkek [Kyrgyzstan was the last former Soviet country where France did not have the Embassy], for example, my boss asked if I was interested in going. Of course, it is very difficult to refuse such an offer. But before I gave him the answer, I asked my wife. I gave him my decision only after my wife had agreed.

At first, I went alone as it was only a few weeks after the revolution in Bishkek. There were conflicts in the city and hundreds of people were killed. I did not want to risk [her joining me]. I lived three months without my wife and son and only when the situation calmed down did they join me there. But when I left them in Paris, I did not know what the future would hold.

My father was an officer and when he was posted to trouble spots in the Middle East, we were prohibited from living

with him. I lived with my father just for two years, which was my parents' choice, but I knew I did not want to repeat the situation [in my own life]. From the very beginning, I knew that my family would travel everywhere together.

Q: Does your son study in St. Petersburg?

A: Yes, he studies at the French school. He also attended kindergarten in Bishkek for three years. Everyone spoke Russian there. He speaks Russian with his mother at home. We felt that he should attend French school to understand that French is also a language of communication with his peers, not only with his father. He was born in Paris, lived three years in Kyrgyzstan and has more memories about Bishkek than about Paris. He spends his summers near Moscow at a dacha. He is growing up as a real Russian man, a "muzhichok." My wife and I believe it will be a big advantage for him, having two languages and two cultures.

Q: Are you bilingual at home?

A: My wife communicates with our son either in Russian or in French, while I speak to him only in French. I was the only person in Bishkek who could speak French with him and he still thinks that I do not speak any Russian. He even tries to teach me some words in Russian.

Q: You have worked both in Moscow and in St. Petersburg. How would you compare these two cities?

A: Moscow is a state within the state. One has to get used to life there. It is a special city and I like it but honestly, life is full enough without this constant vanity. It is interesting, but you get tired of it. That's why I came to St. Petersburg for the weekend whenever I had the chance. I like walking along the streets in St. Petersburg. Even if you do not have any destination in mind, you can just walk. You will always find interesting places — culture and history are everywhere. I am a fan of Style Moderne architecture and there are lots of buildings in this style.

Q: Is St. Petersburg an attractive city for French companies?

A: The whole of Russia is an important partner for France, not just St. Petersburg. Russia is an attractive and profitable market for business. It is full of potential and there are lots of plans and projects. St. Petersburg is twinned with both Bordeaux and Nice. Nice is a special city for Russians and there are projects in Nice that help to bring people [from the two countries] closer.

Q: Which French companies operate in St. Petersburg?

A: Accor Hotels is represented by two hotel chains in St. Petersburg: Ibis and Novotel. Alstom Transport built a factory that produces modern trams and produced the high-speed trains that travel between St. Petersburg and Helsinki. There are companies operating in energy-efficient heating systems, such as Dalkia International, and logistics with DSV Global Transport and Logistics and MLP Invest. Danone is the world leader in dairy products, Soufflet produces malt and Lesaffre produces yeast for bakeries. A lot is done in the area of water purification. There are numerous areas of cooperation, and the collaboration both in business and tourism must develop. It is necessary for more Russians to visit France and for more French people to visit St. Petersburg, Moscow and other Russian cities and towns.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.



While visiting the biathlon venue, Putin made time to sit down and give a pep talk to a few dozen Sochi volunteers.

25,000 Volunteers Set to Go

By Nataliya Vasilyeva
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — They are young, bright and speak good English. Russia has trained 25,000 volunteers to work at the upcoming Sochi Games.

President Vladimir Putin, who views the Olympics that start on Feb. 7 as a top priority of his presidency, met with a few dozen volunteers on Jan. 17 at a biathlon venue in the mountains above Sochi, saying their work “to a greater extent is key to the atmosphere” at the games.

Volunteer candidates were expected to demonstrate at least an upper-intermediate command of English, and those selected were given online English classes. Some speak several languages.

Most of the volunteers are young and typically undergraduates like Yulia Nagaitseva, a 21-year-old journalism student from the city of Voronezh in southwestern Russia. Nagaitseva was on a four-month work and travel program in the U.S. when she heard the Sochi organizers’ call for volunteers.

“There are once in a lifetime events, and it’s one of them,” she said after the meeting with Putin. “I couldn’t miss it.”

Nagaitseva and other volunteers spoke of a stringent selection process

for volunteers, which included multiple tests and Skype interviews.

Many foreign visitors at test events in Sochi last year spoke highly of the volunteers’ language skills. They were also pleasantly surprised to see Russians smiling at them, unlike most Russians whose culture doesn’t encourage smiling to strangers.

Volunteers were given classes on cultural awareness, which taught them to smile, among other things, said Sergei Pilipenko, a 52-year-old English professor from Kuban State University in the nearby city of Krasnodar.

Pilipenko, who will work at the main media center, recalled a recent meeting with a Japanese journalist.

“I saw a Japanese man bow — and we bowed back.”

At his meeting with volunteers, Putin joked with the audience and answered their questions.

A volunteer from Beijing, who is studying to become a Russian translator, told Putin it was her dream to meet him.

“I simply can’t believe it,” the woman said. “It’s like a dream.”

“I’ll pinch you later,” Putin replied.

Volunteers had roles assigned to them months ago, so they are getting

training according to their future jobs, said Natalya Salmina, head of a training center in the Urals city of Ufa, who also attended the meeting with Putin.

Some volunteers are going to man transport hubs, showing visitors the way. Others will be responsible for helping professionals prepare ski slopes, for example. There will also be medical volunteers.

The 30-year-old Salmina, who teaches X-ray diagnostics at a university in Ufa, heads a training center that specializes in teaching volunteers for medical purposes.

Some of them are doctors with years of experience, but because of the Russian legislation, medical volunteers, even if they are practicing physicians, won’t be allowed to treat patients on their own, she said. They will be working as assistant doctors in conjunction with paid doctors and medical translators.

Some medical volunteers speak several foreign languages. They will mostly be stationed at high-risk venues such as freestyle, Salmina said, “where they are most needed.”

Volunteers in Sochi will account for a third of the total workforce at the games.

Putin Denies Olympic Budget Corruption

RIA NOVOSTI

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was unaware of any instances of corruption during the construction of Olympic facilities in Sochi and the costs were possibly driven up by contractors.

“I do not see serious corruption instances for the moment, but there is a problem with overestimation of construction volumes,” Putin said in an interview with Russian and foreign journalists aired on Sunday.

He said that bidders often deliberately decrease estimated costs of a project in order to win tender, but push prices up once the bid is secured.

“This price increase, it is sometimes due to contractor’s deliberate acts, and sometimes it is due to the fact that the professional valuation of necessary investments, especially in mountain con-

ditions, for a mountain cluster, are not efficient enough,” the president said.

When asked to comment on media reports quoting Swiss IOC member Gian-Franco Kasper as saying that up to a third of Sochi’s circa \$50 billion budget had possibly been siphoned off, Putin said that the Olympic official did not say that directly.

“I have seen the transcript of his meeting with some journalists, your colleagues tried to drag him to this topic, and I can understand journalists, it is their job — always drag out “hot” topics,” he said. “But the Swiss specialist...he did not say that, as it seemed to me based on the report.

“If anyone has such information, give it to us, please. I repeat once again, we will be grateful. But so far there was nothing but talks,” he said.

Snow Expected for Games

RIA NOVOSTI

The Sochi Winter Olympics will have enough snow, Russia’s top weatherman predicted last week.

Roman Vilfand sought to end any concerns about snow shortages by insisting that there would be a suitably wintry setting for the February 7-23 event in the mountains around the Black Sea resort.

“There’s snow right now at all the Olympic facilities and now it’s possible to say with confidence that there will be a blanket of snow at all the Olympic venues” come Games time, said Vilfand, the director of Russia’s Roshydromet weather agency.

He added that a layer of artificially produced snow would nonetheless be fired onto the slopes because “professionals prefer man-made snow.”

Vilfand’s forecast is the latest from Russian experts to offer assurance that

the Games will suffer no shortage of snow. His colleague Alexander Frolov even warned last month that a “snow cyclone” could hit some events.

There will be snowfall in the mountains between seven to 12 days during the Games, with the remaining third of the Games likely to see sunshine with cloudy spells, Frolov said.

A lack of snow forced the cancellation of some test events last February. Fears of unseasonably warm weather in the Caucasus Mountains have prompted Olympic organizers to store nearly half a million cubic meters of snow in huge, refrigerated reservoirs ready for deployment on the ski slopes if nature fails to deliver.

The Vancouver 2010 Games in Canada were afflicted by spring-like conditions and snow had to be trucked to Cypress Mountain ahead of the event.

Sochi’s Hometown Favorite

By Gabrielle Tetrault-Farber

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Alexei Voyevoda — a three-time arm wrestling world champion and a two-time Olympic medalist in bobsleigh — is a popular hometown athlete and strong medal contender at the upcoming Winter Games.

The 33-year-old Sochi native, who still lives and trains in his hometown, has credited the city’s environment for his athletic prowess, which he hopes to display with the Russian bobsleigh team.

“I grew up in the mountains and I would always climb trees with the other children,” Voyevoda said in a telephone interview. “I was the fastest of the little tree-climbing monkeys. That is how I became strong.”

At first glance, Voyevoda seems like an unlikely bobsledder. His thick biceps, sculpted by years of arm wrestling, almost seem too large to be squeezed into a 67-centimeter-wide bobsleigh. And his approach to the sport also seems a little too casual for an Olympic champion.

“Arm wrestling is a very serious thing,” Voyevoda said. “Many more countries practice arm wrestling than bobsleigh. I plan to return to arm wrestling after the Sochi Games. I have many options.”

Indeed, for Voyevoda, Olympic bobsleigh seems to be more of a hobby, a mere interlude between arm wrestling successes.

“Arm wrestling has helped me a lot in my bobsledding career,” Voyevoda said. “My role on the team is to stop the bobsleigh. I do this with the strength I have acquired through arm wrestling.”

But Voyevoda’s mixed athletic allegiances have not hampered his draconian training regime and determination, which helped earned the Russian bobsleigh team a silver medal at the 2006 Turin Games and a bronze in Vancouver in 2010.

“I want to serve my country,” he said. “I want to be worthy of representing Russia. The Sochi Games are close to the heart of all Russian athletes because they are being held in our country. But I feel this even more strongly because I grew up here. This is my city.”

Despite his meat-lover’s appearance, Voyevoda is a “green giant” of sorts. The bobsledder, who weighs in at 115 kilograms, has been a raw vegetarian for more than two years. He said he drinks only water for breakfast and “feels great.”

Voyevoda’s athletic feats, his Herculean build and his charisma have earned him the title of ambassador of the Sochi Games.

“My role as one of the ambassadors of the Games is to promote sport, to encourage people to adopt a healthy lifestyle,” he said.

Voyevoda also expressed his hopes that the Sochi’s hosting of the Olympics would encourage Russians to become more active and increase Russia’s reserve of elite athletes. According to the Sports Ministry, only a quarter of the country’s population regularly engages in physical activity.

“Sochi is a national project for Russia,” Voyevoda said. “It will make the country even stronger on the international sporting stage.”

I N B R I E F

Prepare to Fight

■ RIA Novosti — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Jan. 18 that he wants his country’s athletes to show total dedication and “fight to the end” at their home Winter Olympics in Sochi next month.

The February Games will be the first time Russia has ever hosted the Winter Olympics and they come 34 years after Moscow was the host city for the Summer Games.

“On the subject of results, the most important thing is that our athletes look convincing, fight to the end, display skill and please their fans,” Putin said in an interview with a group of foreign and Russian journalists, according to a partial transcript released by the Kremlin on Jan. 18.

Putin declined to predict how many medals Russia would win in Sochi, saying: “Sport — it’s always an element of the unexpected. So it’s very difficult to say in advance.”

Lip Service

■ MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered new assurances to gay athletes and fans attending the 2014 Sochi Winter Olym-

pics next month. Yet he defends Russia’s anti-gay law by equating gays with pedophiles and says Russia needs to “cleanse” itself of homosexuality if it wants to increase its birth rate.

Putin’s comments in a TV interview broadcast Sunday still show the wide gulf between the perception of homosexuality in Russia versus the West. A Russian law passed last year banning “propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations” among minors has caused an international outcry.

Putin refused to answer a question on whether he believes that people are born gay or become gay. The Russian law, however, suggests that information about homosexuality can influence a child’s sexual orientation.

Empty Seats

■ RIA Novosti — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Jan. 17 signaled that volunteers may be allowed to fill up empty seats at the Sochi Olympics next month. In a worrying development for organizers, it was announced Jan. 16 that around 30 percent of Olympic tickets remain unsold three weeks before the February 7 opening ceremony.

“Why should places go empty? It’s better that they’re filled and occupied

by people who love sport,” Putin said on a trip to the mountain facilities at Krasnaya Polyana, where he met some of the 25,000 volunteers who are to staff Russia’s first Winter Olympics.

Russian officials are eager to avoid the embarrassment of large swathes of unfilled seats being the backdrop to a project designed to boost the country’s international prestige.

But tickets for 73 medal events, generally in the higher price bands, remained available via the online booking system as of last week, including for all Alpine skiing events and the men’s hockey bronze medal game.

Luxury tickets for the opening and closing ceremonies were also listed as available.

The London 2012 Olympics sold out tickets for every event apart from football, while the last Winter Olympics in Vancouver saw all but 110,000 of 1.5 million tickets snapped up. Some events in London suffered from empty seats, though that was put down to no-shows from corporate guests in areas reserved for sponsors.

Volunteers were used to fill empty seats to augment disappointing attendances for August’s world athletics championships in Moscow and the world university games in Kazan in July.

Siege Inspires Youthful Ambition Decades Later

By Inna Klyavlina
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Every year, to help commemorate the anniversary of the Siege of Leningrad, local theater group Hailing From the Blockade organizes a series of free charity concerts dedicated to the blockade. This year, in the lead-up to the 70th anniversary of the lifting of the Siege, the popular concerts will be on again from Jan. 26-30 at various locations around the city.

Recognized with an entry in the Golden Book of St. Petersburg, the highest honor given as recognition for contributions made to the city and its citizens, the theater group has been running the annual charity events since 1995. Its members include those who personally experienced the blockade as well as their children and grandchildren and, in some cases, even their great-grandchildren.

At 23, George Novitsky is one of the youngest performers with the group whose grandparents lived through the siege. Novitsky is now also the same age his grandfather was when the siege began in 1941. His grandmother was only 11.

"Both of my grandparents did what they could during the blockade. My grandmother, for example, helped the wounded while my grandfather, who worked at Kirovsky Zavod, was also part of Leningrad's Home Guard Infantry Division, which helped bring down the blockade," said Novitsky.

The influence of his grandparents' experiences has also helped prepare Novitsky to perform in the group, which he joined seven years ago.

"We used to have a lot of conversations about the war [both grand-

parents have since passed away] and the siege itself, but it was never for the sake of idle chit-chat. When they spoke, you got a sense that they were sharing something hidden and sacred. The way they told all these terrible stories in such a calm manner, with such a strength and courage in their voices — of course it had a profound impact on us, giving us insight into what it was like during those times," said Novitsky.

"I think that today, more and more people are recognizing the war and honoring its memory. We are starting to see more and more young people in our audience, which makes us very happy. The number of veterans is growing smaller every year in both our group and the audience and so in this way we can show them that we, the young generation, remember and honor their memory and spirit," he said.

In addition to performing with Hailing from the Blockade, Novitsky has also performed with the Theater of Musical Comedy. For his performance as Alfred in the musical "Dance of the Vampires," he received a nomination in the Best Actor category for a Golden Mask — the Russian National Theater Awards — in 2013.

Having studied overseas and with plans this year to perform a solo act, it is Novitsky's love and appreciation for what was sacrificed in St. Petersburg that keeps him in the city. "You may not believe this but when I was away in Italy for a year doing a traineeship, I dreamt of Nevsky Prospekt every single night," he said.

"St. Petersburg has this inexplicable attraction. It is truly an amazing city; enchanting and miraculous!"

Hailing From the Blockade will be performing from Jan. 26-30. Check www.finzal.ru for more details

Paris Back From U.K. Sojourn

By Olga Kalashnikova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

"The Judgment of Paris," a monumental canvas by Italian Carlo Maratta dated circa 1708, had been installed in Tsarskoye Selo for more than 50 years before receiving a new lease on life thanks to an unprecedented exhibition that brought it renewed attention.

Once part of the collection of Sir Robert Walpole, Great Britain's first Prime Minister, the painting had hung high above the main staircase at The Catherine Palace in Pavlovsk since entering the palace collection in 1960, following the completion of post-war restoration work.

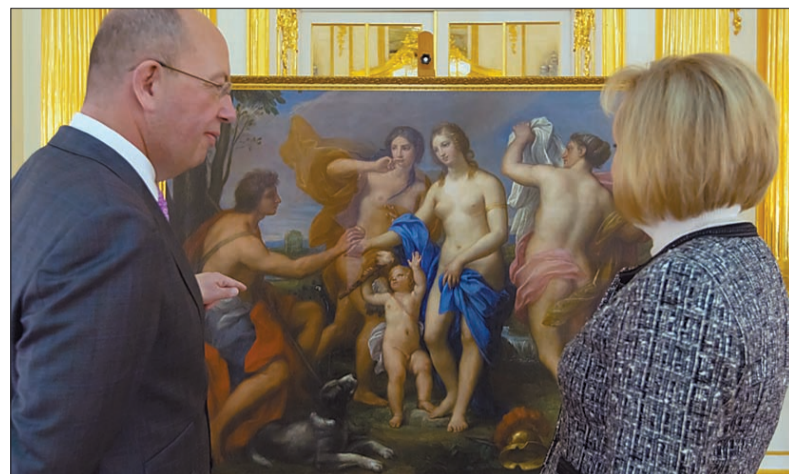
Sent to the U.K. as part of the "Houghton Revisited" exhibition, the painting is now back in St. Petersburg and has been placed in a new location.

Walpole's collection was one of the most celebrated art collections of its time and included works by Van Dyck, Poussin, Maratta, Rubens and Rembrandt, which are today held by the State Hermitage Museum, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, the State Tsarskoye Selo Museum and other important Russian museums.

In 1779, Walpole's descendants sold 200 paintings from the collection to Catherine the Great, for which the Russian Empress paid £40,550. Centuries later, the canvasses from Russia's leading museums were returned to the family estate of the collection's founder.

"This landmark project highlights the historic ties between Russia and Great Britain as well as the excellent taste of two remarkable 18th-century leaders," said Mark Stadler, CEO of HSBC Russia, the company supporting the exhibition.

The idea for the exhibition came about when Thierry Morel, former director of the Hermitage Foundation (U.K.) and current member of executive board of the Hermitage Foundation (U.S.), discovered the plan for the original hanging at Houghton secreted in the Hermitage



Mark Stadler of HSBC Russia and Olga Taratynova, director of Tsarskoye Selo.

archives. The exhibition that developed from this chance encounter was dedicated to the 250th anniversary of Catherine the Great's accession to the throne.

From May to September 2013, for the first time in over 200 years, all of the paintings were reassembled in the original setting of Houghton Hall.

"I would like to thank the State Hermitage Museum and other Russian museums for providing an opportunity to show this collection to the British public. This may be the first time when such a privilege has been granted to a private house," said the Marquess of Cholmondeley, a direct descendant of Walpole and current inhabitant of Houghton Hall.

Some of the paintings, thanks to the exhibition, revived their minute of glory, like it was with "The Judgment of Paris." The canvas based above the front stairs in the palace in Tsarskoye Selo deservedly found its place in a separate hall, devoted to Maratta's works, in the exhibition. To deliver the painting to Houghton Hall, one had to carefully take it away, which turned out to be a difficult job.

"The removal and transportation of that painting was a complex and delicate process, so the best art conservation experts were invited to take up the task," said Stadler.

The process was so difficult and unusual that even the BBC sent a crew to document the removal process.

"The picture turned out to have been maintained in good condition, which was a surprise. All these masterpieces survived two revolutions, the siege, war and evacuation to arrive in modern times in such a good condition," said Stadler.

"If they had remained at Houghton Hall, they would have been destroyed by the fire which happened at the house ten years after the collection was sold to Russia. If the pictures had been there, nothing would now remain," he said.

HSBC's participation in the exhibition is not the bank's first experience of cooperating with Russian museums. In 2009, the bank supported "Newspeak: British Art Now" — an exhibition of works by young British painters at the Hermitage.

"As an international bank we are committed to celebrating cultural differences in the territories where we do business. The key for any project HSBC supports is to have at its heart the idea of cultural exchange, which reflects our values and purpose. In this respect, 'Houghton Revisited' is a perfect fit as it embraces both Russian and British history, connects different cultures and generations and evolves the bank's origins," added Stadler.

Education & Job Opportunities

advertising section

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

sanoma

Sanoma Independent Media

в Санкт-Петербурге объявляет конкурс на вакансию

МЕНЕДЖЕР ПО ПРОДАЖАМ СПОНСОРСКИХ ПАКЕТОВ в отдел конференций

Обязанности:

- Продажа спонсорских пакетов
- Активный поиск клиентов, холодные звонки
- Подготовка договоров
- Контроль спонсорских обязательств

Требования:

- Высшее образование
- Опыт в продажах услуг на b2b рынке, опыт в продаже спонсорства конференций будет преимуществом
- Деловой кругозор
- Деловые связи в бизнес-кругах Петербурга
- Отличные коммуникативные навыки

Условия:

Оклад +% с продаж

Резюме по адресу: elikova@sptimes.ru

English teacher

International Communicative School (ICS) is looking for native speakers of English to work with children and adults.

Required:

- At least 2 years experience in teaching children or adults
- Higher education or CELTA certificate

We offer visa support, teacher training and a competitive salary.

Please send your CV to: info@icmschool.ru

DERZHAVIN INSTITUTE
Russian Language School

Morning and Evening Groups
Individual Classes
In-Company Training
Every Tuesday at 3 p.m. (Free)

RUSSIAN CRAFT LESSON
Excellent souvenir from St. Petersburg -
HAND-MADE MATRASHKA
www.derzhavin.com
Tel. + 7 (812) 740 19 26, 118 Fontanka Emb.

АЗИМУТ
Отель - Санкт-Петербург

AZIMUT Hotel St. Petersburg is seeking a **SALES MANAGER** for its corporate department.

Responsibilities:

- developing and maintaining relationships with key clients
- securing new accounts
- telemarketing

Requirements:

- good knowledge of the hotel market in St. Petersburg and Moscow as well as the corporate sector

Conditions:

- salary 45-50,000 rubles, official registration.

Please send your CV to: gfedyaeva@azimuthotels.com
Tel: 8 911 973 1002; 8 960 260 4507

INSIGHT SCHOOL
A perfect start makes a perfect future

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL for children from 2 to 10 years.

WE TEACH ALL CLASSES IN ENGLISH

Tel.: 952-40-52, 717-02-18
22 Krestovsky Pr. • 150 Nevsky Pr.
insightschool.ru

Russian New Romantics Remembered

Legendary 1980s band Kofe finds fans abroad with a new release of an old recording.

By Sergey Chernov
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Kofe, Leningrad's New Romantic pioneers — who only lasted for three years in the mid-1980s — have released an album nearly 30 years after it was recorded. Titled "Balance," the album was recorded in 1986 and distributed only on self-produced tapes with black-and-white photos glued to the boxes, as was the case with all underground rock in the Soviet Union during the 1980s.

According to founding member Alexander Senin, who programmed the drum machine and played percussion with the band, the album has been released on CD and vinyl on the independent Other Voices label based in Nizhny Novgorod, in cooperation with the German-Ukrainian label Baran. The vinyl edition was printed on yellow vinyl in France and is expected to arrive, along with CDs, via the Russian Post later this month.

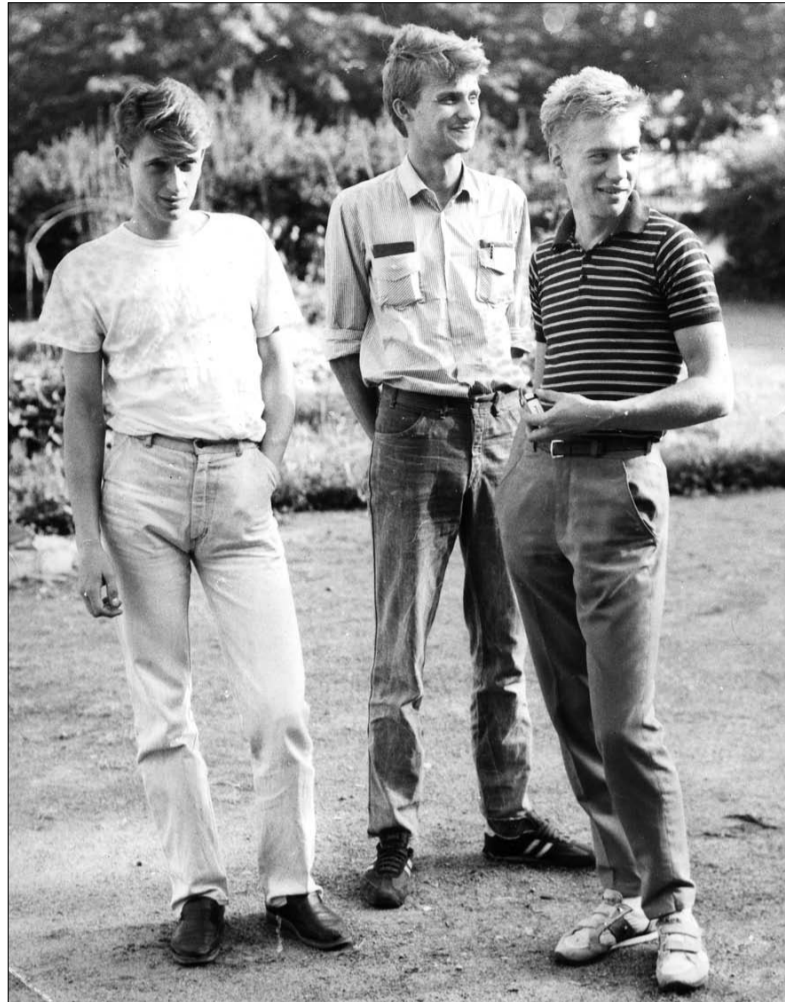
"It happened purely by accident, when somebody wrote to me on Facebook one day and said his name was Oleg and that he would like to release 'Balance,' an album by Kofe — something I was greatly astonished by," Senin said.

"Sometimes I came across links to some pirate releases that had appeared and were being sold somewhere, but neither I nor my Kofe counterparts ever paid any attention to it. The offer was that I would receive 10 percent of the printed copies, which I was very happy about. No payment was discussed at all because no member — living or dead — has ever bothered to register any rights to the material."

Senin, 49, described himself as the keeper of Kofe's legacy saying that out of the band's former members, only he and Stanislav "Stas" Tishakov, whom he describes as the band's "founding father," maintained any interest in Kofe. The 49-year-old Tishakov, who played bass with Kofe, runs a page dedicated to the band on a Russian social network.

Apart from Senin and Tishakov, the band — as it appeared on "Balance" — featured Georgy "Kobesh" Kobenshvidze on vocals, Eduard "Ed" Nesterenko on guitar, Igor "Goga" Kopylov on bass and Igor "Pat" Petrov on keyboards and guitar.

"We realized early on that it's difficult to record a guitar in an apartment



Leningrad's answer to Duran Duran, Kofe are back with a new (old) album.

but if you use the keyboards and the drum machine, you can achieve a pretty decent sound," Senin said.

The album was recorded at a home studio belonging to aspiring producer and musician Alexei Vishnya. According to Senin, the album was re-mastered in England for the current edition. "I listened to it and found certain differences from what was done at Vishnya's studio nearly 30 years ago but it was working material, it should be listened to more attentively," he said.

Kofe was formed in July 1984 in emulation of bands like Duran Duran, Ultravox, The Police, Frankie Goes to Hollywood and UB40, and recorded its debut album, "Ballet," in Vishnya's apartment in the Okhta district of St. Petersburg in autumn of that year.

"Obviously, they have chosen the second album due to the quality of the sound and musical material, which was incomparably higher than on the first

one. While working on releasing our second album, the guys apparently decided to build on their success and now there's talk of releasing the first album as well," Senin said.

"It belongs to the arena of antiquities and rarities, but maybe it makes sense. If no worthwhile songs are being produced on today's pop scene, then maybe something that was written by a few unknown students from Leningrad 30 years ago will be in demand. Who knows?"

The band members, who were students at various technical universities, were interested primarily in Western pop music of the time, using every opportunity they had to see and hear something new.

In 1984, they were frequent visitors to a "video cafe" at the Molodezhny Theater on Fontanka — one of a small number of such establishments that emerged in the city at that time, Senin

recalled. Such cafes attracted patrons by playing Western music videos unavailable on Soviet television or elsewhere in the city.

He attributed the initial inspiration for starting Kofe to the German band Trio, whose 1982 video, "Da-Da-Da," was repeatedly played at the cafe.

"There was a big reel-to-reel video tape recorder, which I think was hugely expensive," Senin said.

"Three of us used to buy one glass of juice to share because everything was expensive there. We would sit and watch what they showed us — Peter Gabriel's 'Shock the Monkey' (which I think changed our entire lives), some David Bowie and Trio's 'Da-Da-Da.'"

"It was difficult to imagine a more idiotic song. They realized that it was enough to say 'Da-Da-Da' into the microphone and then make 'banging' and 'crashing' sounds with the guitar and two drums. We realized that that was what we were able and wanted to do, too. That's how Kofe began."

"Balance" was recorded at Vishnya's new apartment in a nine-story building on Prospekt Gagarina in the south of the city.

"It was a two-room apartment and everybody sat in the kitchen," Senin said.

"The smaller room was used as the bedroom, while the large one was divided by a partition into two. There was the tape recorder in one, and the band stood in the other, in front of a glass window with the face of Vishnya behind it. He occasionally shouted 'Once again!' or 'Turn the guitar down!'"

The band had to share studio time with the now-legendary and still massively popular Kino, who were recording their album "This Is Not Love."

"Once we almost had a fight with them but it was first come, first served. And there were more of us [in Kofe] anyway," Senin said.

"We were in the same melting pot with Kino and I sometimes regret that there was no one around with a camera to take pictures of how Kofe and Kino carried Vishnya's sofa into his apartment."

Out of these sessions emerged a bonus track that was added to a later edition of Kino's "This Is Not Love" by Vishnya.

"When adjusting the microphone levels, Vishnya, a notorious hooligan, asked Tsoy to recite something that he had in front of him. He picked up a sheet of paper and mumbled the first verse of our song 'Princess,'" Senin said.

"When I bought 'This Is Not Love' and came across it, I had a serious conversation with Vishnya but he somehow persuaded me that it was all okay — as usual."

Kofe stood aside from both the underground rock scene and the pop music scene of the time.

"On one hand, we played music that no one else played, which was trendy and in demand. Roughly speaking, we copied our Western equivalents of the time, including Ultravox, Duran Duran and Frankie Goes to Hollywood. That was a lot of fun," Senin said.

"But on the other hand, the lyrics written by Tishakov, Goga and myself did not fit the pop scene then. They were somewhat romantic, decadent and rebellious. They did not fully comply with the standards of official Soviet pop music."

Senin said the band split in late 1986 due to some members wanting to remain an underground act with the Leningrad Rock Club, while others appeared to be interested in offers they were receiving from the state-concert agency Lenkontsert, an offer which meant that the band would receive decent payment but had to appeal to a broader audience.

"We resisted because we saw ourselves first and foremost as engineers and only secondarily as poets, composers and artists," he said. "We worked for the two camps."

In 1987, Nesterenko, Senin and Kopylov formed Petlya Nesterova, a post-punk band which released two studio albums and performed frequently on the local club scene. The band, which passed through many lineup changes, folded when Nesterenko died in 2008.

Looking back, Senin said he is amused by how the album sounds.

"It sounds funny," he said. "Of course, I have a personal relationship with every song and many memories about each of them but when I put on 'Balance' by Kofe in the car, I was pleasantly surprised that it sounded so good. If you can listen to the music and understand the words when listening to it in a car, it's really good."

"It also sounded amusing, interesting and original. I am thankful and flattered that people remember it and want to release it, and that our student pastime grew into something bigger. Some homemade recordings made under the table in some mouse hole that you can still listen to decades later are already a great success."

THE DISH

Dom Restaurant: If Walls Could Talk

Dom Restaurant

72 Moika River Embankment
Tel. 930 72 72
Sun-Thurs: 12.30 p.m. - 11 p.m.,
Fri-Sat: 12 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Dinner for two with alcohol: 3000 rubles
(\$89.30). English menu available.

By Lana Matafonov

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

There is something about the atmosphere at Dom. Like many of the historical buildings around the city, you can sense the history, the soul within the walls, no matter how much the interior may have changed over the decades. Such is the feeling at Dom that the beautifully renovated 19th-century style interior does little to shake off the feeling that something went down here...and it turns out, indeed it did.

Maintaining the layout of a house, you can choose to enjoy a

drink at the bar first, join other diners in a brightly lit and spacious living room, or settle in within the small, cozy red-walled library. We chose the library after finding out that it was under this roof poet Konrad Ryleev, one of the leaders of the Decembrist uprising, lived. Along with other members of the group, it was here in this house that they planned the eventual bloody revolt on Dec. 26, 1825. After that snippet of history, the broodiness of the library felt like a good fit.

Noticing our shiny, rosy cheeks from the sub-zero temperatures outside, the waiter was kind enough to serve us an aperitif on the house to warm us up, and to perhaps prepare us for the rather pricey menu he then handed over. Proudly using local produce, the kitchen offers an interesting take on modern Russian

cuisine, which could justify the price tag.

With hot and cold starters offering dishes with mussels, scallops, ox tail and tongue, we ordered a more conservative serving of pumpkin fritters with red caviar and sour cream (550 rubles, \$16.40). The soft fritters turned out to be more of a mash but this didn't affect the taste — it was just more awkward to share. Topped with sour cream, the saltiness of the caviar played nicely with the sweetness of the pumpkin.

Traditional Russian salads such as Olivier, vinaigrette and dressed herring, along with soups such as borsch, ukha and shchi are all on offer. However, we decided to skip these and instead complement our sweet red Argentinian Malbec wine (350 rubles a glass, \$10.42) with a grilled quail and berry ragout (850 rubles, \$25.30)

and rabbit pelmeni (450 rubles, \$13.40).

Other dishes on the menu wrestling for our attention included roe deer fillet with warm pear and buckthorn sauce (1500 rubles, \$44.65) Guinea fowl with stewed rice and truffle oil (1200 rubles, \$35.70) and stewed duck leg with plum confit (790 rubles, \$23.50).

When it arrived, the plating of the quail was slightly off-putting, resembling as it did a small human figure. However, once you got past the shape, the actual dish turned out to be an enjoyable combination of succulent grilled meat with a hint of spice, which blended well with the sweetness of the fruit ragout.

The modest serving of homemade pelmeni was accompanied with a trio of chives, dill and sour cream on the side. While the rabbit meat inside was

cooked to a tender, it definitely needed the help of the sides to boost the taste. For those that like their pasta fresh and thick, these pelmeni (also offered with a turkey, beef and fish filling), will definitely satisfy.

To finish, we skipped the usual offerings of cakes, pies and sorbet and opted for traditional Russian cherry dumplings instead (410 rubles, \$12.20). However, this time the thickness of the buttery pastry was a bit too tough but when eaten with the sourness of the cherry topping, the dish fast became addictive and was quickly devoured.

With its beautiful interior, eager-to-please staff and satisfying Russian cuisine, Dom is defiantly a welcome addition to the St. Petersburg restaurant scene. The only uprising that may now occur under this roof is from the person who is paying the bill at the end.

HOW TO USE THE LISTINGS:

Dates and times are correct at the time of publication, but last-minute changes are not infrequent, so it's best to check by contacting the venue. **COMPLETE LISTINGS** can be found at www.sptimes.ru (or scan the QR code below).

Unless otherwise stated, stage events start at 7 p.m. All stage shows and films are in Russian unless noted.

**STAGES**

wednesday, january 22

ballet

Anna Karenina Alexei Ratmansk choreographs Rodion Shchedrin's ballet in two acts based on the novel by Lev Tolstoy. *Mariinsky II*, 7.30 p.m.

opera

Le Nozze di Figaro Yury Alexandrov directs Mozart's classic four-act comic opera based on Pierre Augustin de Beaumarchais' witty play about the tangled events leading up to the planned marriage of Figaro and Susanna. *Mariinsky Theater*

concert

Vocal Music Vocal ensembles from St. Petersburg. *St. Petersburg Opera*
Symphony Music Liszt. Cappella Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Alexander Chernushenko. *Cappella*
Vocal Music Bach, Pergolesi, Schubert, Liszt. *Kochneva House*, 41 Nab. Reki Fontanki, M: Gostiny Dvor. Tel. 710 4002

thursday, january 23

ballet

Anna Karenina Alexei Ratmansk choreographs Rodion Shchedrin's ballet in two acts based on the novel by Lev Tolstoy. *Mariinsky II*, 8 p.m.

opera

Prince Igor Grigory Isaakian's production of Borodin's opera about Prince Igor and his son Vladimir, who are held as prisoners during the war with the Polovtsians. *Mariinsky Theater*
Yevgeny Onegin Vladislav Chernushenko stages Tchaikovsky's opera based on Pushkin's novel in verse. *Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory Theater*

concert

Symphony Music Mozart. State Academic Bolshoi Theatre of Russia. Conductor William Lacey. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Main Hall*
Chamber Music Traditional music from India, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Russian Early Music Ensemble. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Small Hall*
Symphony Music Mendelssohn. Bruch. Elgar. The Mariinsky Orchestra. Conductor Nikolai Znaider. *Mariinsky Concert Hall*
Vocal Music Obradors, Granadoz, Albeniz, Rodrigo. *Kochneva House*, 41 Nab. Reki Fontanki, M. Gostiny Dvor. Tel. 710 4002

friday, january 24

opera

Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute) Alain Maratrat directs Mozart's opera about wisdom and love. *Mariinsky Concert Hall*
Carmen Alexei Stepanyuk stages Georges Bizet's opera about the tempestuous relationship between a gypsy girl and a soldier. *Mariinsky Theater*
Yevgeny Onegin A new staging, by an all-French team, of Tchaikovsky's opera based on Pushkin's novel in verse about the intertwining fates and love between four young people. *Mariinsky II (New Theatre)*

concert

Symphony Music Bach, Mozart, Muller. Cappella Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Ilya Derbilov. *Cappella*, 7 p.m.
Symphony Music Haydn, Mozart, Brahms, Shostakovich. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Small Hall*
Symphony Music Rachmaninov, Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, R. Strauss. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Main Hall*
Chamber Music Dubyuk, Petrov, Feodorov-Vishnyakov, Prozorovsky, Basner, Iradyev. *Kochneva House*, 41 Nab. Reki Fontanki, M: Gostiny Dvor. Tel. 710 4002

saturday, january 25

opera

Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute) Alain Maratrat directs Mozart's opera about wisdom and love. *Mariinsky Concert Hall*
Aida Verdi's tragic tale about an Ethiopian princess enslaved in ancient Egypt and her love for an Egyptian commander. *Mariinsky Theater*
The Tsar's Bride Stanislav Gaudasinsky directs Rimsky-Korsakov's tragic opera about Ivan the Terrible. *Mikhailovsky Theater*
Orpheus Tatyana Yastrebova stages Yevstigney Fomin's musical melodrama based on the poems of Yakov Knyazhnin. *Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory Theater*

concert

Symphony Music Mozart, Beethoven, Weber, Brahms, Dvorak, Waldteufel. Klassika St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Main Hall*
Piano Music Glinka, Balakirev, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Debussy, Rameau, Daken, Poulenc. *St. Ioann Evangelical-Lutheran Cathedral*, 54 A Dekabristov Ul., 2 p.m.
Organ Recital Bohme, Vogler, Walter, Corrette, Daken, Bach. Jan van Moll (Netherlands) *St. Maria Evangelical-Lutheran Cathedral*, 8a, Bolshaya Konushennaya Ul. Tel. 314 7161, 6 p.m.

sunday, january 26

ballet

Giselle The classic romantic ballet, with music by Adolphe Adam and choreography by Jules Perrot, Jean Coralli, Marius Petipa. *Mariinsky Theater*, 2 p.m., 7.30 p.m.
Giselle Adolphe Adam's tragic ballet about the tragic consequences of one young peasant woman's love for a member of the aristocracy. *Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory Theater*

opera

The Lethander Opera in two acts. Music and libretto by Rodion Shchedrin. Mariinsky Theatre soloists, choir and orchestra. Conductor Valery Gergiev. *Mariinsky II*, 8 p.m.
The Tsar's Bride Stanislav Gaudasinsky directs Rimsky-Korsakov's tragic opera about Ivan the Terrible. *Mikhailovsky Theater*
Pagliacci Yury Alexandrov stages Ruggero Leoncavallo's tragic opera about a jealous husband in a troupe of itinerant actors. *St. Petersburg Opera*

concert

Organ Recital Bach, Guilment, Bovet, Durufle, Part. Aare-Paul Lattik (Estonia) *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Main Hall*
Vocal Music Singing Cappella soloists. *Cappella*, 12 a.m., 2 p.m.
Organ Recital Bach, Ireland, Bovet, Mignan, Gibbs, Reubke. Kevin Bowyer (Great Britain) *Mariinsky Concert Hall*
Chamber Music State Russian concert orchestra. Conductor Vladimir Popov. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Small Hall*, 7 p.m.
Choral Music Veteran Choirs of St. Petersburg. *Cappella*, 7 p.m.

monday, january 27

ballet

Giselle The classic romantic ballet, with music by Adolphe Adam and choreography by Jules Perrot, Jean Coralli, Marius Petipa. *Mariinsky Theater*

concert

Symphony Music Shostakovich. Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Alexander Dmitriyev. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Main Hall*
Symphony Music Shostakovich. The Mariinsky Orchestra. Conductor Valery Gergiev. *Mariinsky Concert Hall*
Songs of the War Marking 70 years since the end of the Leningrad Siege. Performed by soloists of the Mariinsky Academy of Young Singers. *Mariinsky II*
Choral Music Cappella choir, symphony orchestra and soloists. Conductor Vladislav Chernushenko. *Cappella*

tuesday, january 28

opera

Der Fliegende Holländer (The Flying Dutchman) British director Ian Judge directs Richard Wagner's opera based on the legend of the ghost ship. *Mariinsky Theater*

concert

Symphony Music Beethoven. The Mariinsky Orchestra. Conductor Valery Gergiev. *Mariinsky Concert Hall*, 8 p.m.
Russian Music Andreyev Russian Orchestra. Conductor Dmitry Khokhlov. *Cappella*



Markshcheider Kunst, a local band that blends ska, Latin and Afro rock, will perform at Avrorra Concert Hall on Friday, Jan. 24, while its spin-off dedicated to Cuban music, Tres Muchachos y Companeros, will perform at Zoccolo on Saturday, Jan. 25.

GIGS

wednesday, january 22

rock, etc.

Dekabr / AtOM / if grou / Hasky Alternative. *Dada*, 47 Gorokhovaya Ulitsa. Tel. 983 7050. 8 p.m.
Lackband Nu-jazz, hip-hop, funk. *Griboyedov (Hill)*, 2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 10 p.m.

jazz & blues

1900: Jazz musical Arseny Ivankovich, David Goloshchyokin and His Band. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Iosif Brodsky's Pilgrim Literary jazz performance. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

thursday, january 23

rock, etc.

Volny / Belyi Griby Folk rock, alternative. *Dada*, 47 Gorokhovaya Ulitsa. Tel. 983 7050. 8 p.m.
Iwantsummer / Psiho by Alfred Hitchcock Pop rock. *Fish Fabrique Nouvelle*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
EDD-989 / Brompton's Cocktail Free entrance. *Fish Fabrique (Maly Zal)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
Knyazz Rock, punk rock. *Jagger*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
Saturday Night: the Ultimate Tribute to the Bee Gees Bee Gees covers. *Lensoviet Palace of Culture*, 42 Kamennostrovsky Prospekt. Tel. 346 0438. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues

Homage to Charlie Mingus Grigory Voskoboinik Band. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Volkovtroi Original compositions. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

friday, january 24

rock, etc.

NOM Markscheider Kunst Ska, Latin, reggae. *Avrorra Concert Hall*, St. Petersburg Hotel, 5/2 Pirogovskaya Nab. Tel. 907 1917. 8 p.m.
Paskura / Vy Pole Pop rock. *Fish Fabrique Nouvelle*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.



NOM, a local music and art collective that adds hilarious theatrical antics to its act, will perform at Mod on Saturday, Jan. 25.

Positive Rock Party 18Plus, Bezchuvstv, Limonady, Razbor Polyotov. *Griboyedov*, 2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 8 p.m.

Black Fox Covers. *Jagger*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.

Belye Griby Rock. *Manhattan*, 90 Nab. Reki Fontanki. Tel. 713 1945. 8 p.m.

Hammerhead True Metal Fest XII Ten Torn Hammer, Count to Six, Nu-Nation, Nibiru. *Mod*, 7 Nab. Kanala Griboyedova. Tel. 712 0734. 7 p.m.

Sodom Thrash metal. *Zal Ozhidaniya*, 118 Nab. Obvodnogo Kanala. Tel. 333 1069. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues

Elvira Trafova and Pyotr Kornev Band Music from films, shows and musicals. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Nikolai Sizov Band Mainstream. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

saturday, january 25

rock, etc.

Eisbrecher Electronic metal. *Avrorra Concert Hall*, St. Petersburg Hotel, 5/2 Pirogovskaya Nab. Tel. 907 1917. 8 p.m.
Shootki Ska. *Dada*, 47 Gorokhovaya Ulitsa. Tel. 983 7050. 8 p.m.
Orkestr Che Pop rock. *Fish Fabrique Nouvelle*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
Sdvig / Kach Hip-hop. *Griboyedov*, 2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 9 p.m.
Coverun Covers. *Jagger*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
Vasily K. Rock. *Manhattan*, 90 Nab. Reki Fontanki. Tel. 713 1945. 8 p.m.
NOM Art rock. *Mod*, 7 Nab. Kanala Griboyedova. Tel. 712 0734. 6:30 p.m.
Tres Muchachos y Companeros Cuban. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues

Leningrad Dixieland Band Jazz dancing. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Andrei Blinchevsky Band Saxophone night. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall (Ellington Hall)*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 8 p.m.
Viktoriya Urusova Band Original compositions. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

sunday, january 26

rock, etc.

Cuba Jam Cuban music, salsa. *Dada*, 47 Gorokhovaya Ulitsa. Tel. 983 7050. 8 p.m.
Pyotr Malakhovsky Birthday Concert Pop rock. *Fish Fabrique Nouvelle*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
Pustotsvet / Melonoise Improvised music. *GEZ-21 (Gallery of Experimental Sound)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 52 58. 8 p.m.
The Spootniks Rockabilly. *Griboyedov (Hill)*, 2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 9 p.m.
Akvarium Pop rock. *Jagger*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
Eitarum / SilverCast / Emerada Metal. *Mod*, 7 Nab. Kanala Griboyedova. Tel. 712 0734. 6 p.m.
Angel NeBes Rock. *Kosmonavt*, 24 Bronnitskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 922 1300. 7 p.m.
Slavic Roots Fest Acts t.b.c. *Manhattan*, 90 Nab. Reki Fontanki. Tel. 713 1945. 8 p.m.
Triada Pop rock. *Zal Ozhidaniya*, 118 Nab. Obvodnogo Kanala. Tel. 333 1069. 8 p.m.
Obshchezhitnye / Vnutrenneye Sgoraniye Rock, alternative. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues

Alexander Latin Band Jazz dancing. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Easy Winners Ragtime Band Early traditional jazz. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 3:30 p.m.
Chizhik Jazz Quartet Crossover jazz. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

monday, january 27

rock, etc.

Harley Davidson Covers. *Jagger*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.

jazz & blues

Alexei Popov and Four & More Funk, electric jazz. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

tuesday, january 28

rock, etc.

Kvadrat Jazz Club Jam session. *Griboyedov (Hill)*, 2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 10 p.m.
Music Battle Rock 'n' Girls v. Gruppa Mira. Covers. *Jagger*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
Anna Grekova and Bereg Yalty Rock. *Manhattan*, 90 Nab. Reki Fontanki. Tel. 713 1945. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues

Kvadrat Jazz Club Jam session. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall (Ellington Hall)*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 8565, 764 9843. 8 p.m.

MUSEUMS

ACADEMY OF ARTS MUSEUM 17 Universitetskaya Nab. Tel. 323 6496, 323 3578 M: Vasileostrovskaya. Wednesday through Sunday, 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

ANNA AKHMATOVA MUSEUM AT THE FOUNTAIN HOUSE

34 Fontanka River, entrance from 53 Liteiny Pr. M: Gostiny Dvor, Mayakovskaya. Tel. 272 2211. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday; 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the last Wednesday of every month. www.akhmatova.spb.ru

NEW! Blockade: Before and After.

Painting, graphics and objects from both the museum's and private collections. Artists: Vasily Kaluzhnnin, Konstantin Kordobovskiy, Grigory Katsnelson. *January 28 through February 23*

Discovering Brodsky. Illustrations by children to the Brodsky poem "The Ballad of a Little Tugboat." *January 21 through February 9*

ALEXANDER BLOK APARTMENT MUSEUM

57 Ul. Dekabristov, M: Sadovaya, Sennaya Ploshchad. Tel. 713 8631. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday.

ISAAK BRODSKY APARTMENT MUSEUM

3 Pl. Iskusstv. M: Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 314 3658. Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

CHALIAPIN MANSION AND MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN OPERA

26 Ulitsa Graftio, M: Petrogradskaya. Tel. 234 1056. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Step back in time to when air travel was still glamorous with a look at aviation history from the archives of KLM and Air France at Erarta.

DOSTOEVSKY APARTMENT MUSEUM
5/2 Kuznechny Pereulok, M: Vladimirskaaya. Tel. 571 4031. Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.md.spb.ru.
Celebrating Dostoevsky's Heroes. Installation. *Through Feb. 11*

HEROIC DEFENDERS OF LENINGRAD MUSEUM MONUMENT
Ploshchad Pobedy, M: Moskovskaya. Tel. 371 2951, 373 6563. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (5 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday). Closed Wednesday and the last Tuesday of every month.

HISTORY OF ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM
Peter and Paul Fortress, M: Gorkovskaya. Tel. 230 6431. Daily, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (6 p.m. Tuesday). Closed Wednesday. www.spbmuseum.ru.
The Romanovs in St. Petersburg. Decorative art, photo, painting, graphics, installation. *Through Oct. 8*

HISTORY OF ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM: RUMYANTSEV MANSION
44 Angliiskaya Nab. M: Vasileostrovskaya, Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 571 7544. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (5 p.m. Tuesday). Closed Wednesday and the last Tuesday of each month. www.spbmuseum.ru
Leningrad Inhabitants. Painting. *Through Mar. 15*

POLITICAL HISTORY OF RUSSIA MUSEUM
2/4 Ulitsa Kuibysheva, M: Gorkovskaya. Tel. 233 7052. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Thursday and the last Monday of the month. www.polithistory.ru
Leningrad '44. Posters from WWII and during the Blockade. *Through Feb. 15*

STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM
1 Palace Square, M: Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 571 3420, 571 3465. Daily, 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (9 p.m. Wednesday). Closed Monday. www.hermitagemuseum.org
Permanent Collection Three million items in six buildings along the Neva and around Palace Square. Unless otherwise stated, temporary exhibitions are displayed in the Winter Palace, the museum's main building.
Edgar Degas: Figure in Motion. Painting. *Through Feb. 16*
British Silver from the Victorian Age. Decorative art, installation. *Through Mar. 16.*
Mono-no Aware: The Beauty of Things.
Contemporary Japanese Art. Video, photo, sculpture, installation. *Through Feb. 9*

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM
2 Inzhenernaya Ul. M: Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 314 3448, 595 4248. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (5 p.m. Monday). 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Closed Tuesday. www.rusmuseum.ru/eng
Kazimir Malevich. Before and After the Black Square. Painting, graphics, installation. *Through Feb. 2.*

ADVERTISING

ROSSI'S CLUB
Show daily 11 pm - 6 am

• dance party • strip-show
• european cuisine • karaoke-bar
1/3 Ul. Zodchego Rossi, St. Petersburg, m. «Gostiny Dvor», tel. 710-40-16, www.rossis.ru

Dinner is Served. The Russian Museum Culinary Companion. Decorative art, painting, graphics, installation. *Through Feb. 2*

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM: MARBLE PALACE
5/1 Millionnaya Ul. M: Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 312 9196. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (5 p.m. Monday). 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursdays. Closed Tuesday.
2nd Biennial of Historic and Archive Photography. *Through Feb. 2*
Vladimir Yashke. Painting. *Through Feb. 2*
NEW! Interpretation of Nature: Charles March Photography. *Opens Jan. 22*

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM: MIKHAILOVSKY (ENGINEERS') CASTLE
2 Sadovaya Ulitsa, M: Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 313 4112. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (5 p.m. Monday) 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays. Closed Tuesday.
NEW! Yuri Kryakvin. Painting. *Through Feb. 24*

ST. PETERSBURG STATE MUSEUM OF THEATER AND MUSIC
8 Stremyannaya Ul. Tel. 764 1130. Daily 12 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday and last Friday of the month.
Theatrical Dynasties: Komissarzhevskaya. Personal items, letters, costumes, posters, photo, decorations. *December 19 through April 12, 2014*
YUSUPOVSKY PALACE
94 Nab. Reki Moiki, M: Sennaya. Tel. 314 9883. Daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The World of Russian Nobility. Painting, installation. *Through Mar. 30*

GALLERIES

ARTISTS UNION OF RUSSIA EXHIBITION CENTER
38 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul. Tel. 314 3060. 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Monday. www.spb-uniart.ru
Yury Lavrukhin. Painting. *Through Feb. 2*

BOOK AND GRAPHICS CENTER
55 Liteiny Prospekt, M: Mayakovskaya. Tel. 273 5452. Daily 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. www.naiv-art.ru
NEW! Front – City – Front. Graphics, photo, newspapers and posters from 1941-44, from the Kornilov-Kharshakov family archive. *Opens Jan. 22*

ERARTA MUSEUM
2, 29th Line, V.O. M: Vasileostrovskaya. Tel. 324 0809. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Closed Tuesday. www.erarta.com
NEW! Air France & KLM: A History of World Airlines. Photo. *Opens Jan. 23*
Earthy & Celestial. The gallery's first exhibition dedicated to Christianity, addressing Biblical subjects or connected with Christian ideology. *Through Feb. 3*
Ig'rai, ne Noi: Arthur Molev. Painting. *Through Feb. 10*
Terrestrial and Celestial. Painting, graphics, installation. *Through Feb. 27*

MARINA GISICHA GALLERY
NEW! Terracotta Warriors: Dmitry Gretskey & Yevgenia Kazt. Painting. An exhibition of 7-meter-tall oil paintings of schoolchildren wearing serious looks by the St. Petersburg artist. *Opens Jan. 23*

LAZAREV GALLERY
5, 6th Line, V.O. M: Vasileostrovskaya. Tel. 328 222. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Monday. www.ivan-slavinsky.com.
Witness Your World: Mummy Troll/Leroy Brothers. Video, photo, installation, performance. *Through Jan. 31*

LOFT-PROJECT ETAGI
74 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 458 5005. Daily 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
365 Days: Jonas Mekas. Video. *Through Feb. 25*
Animation, Covered With Snow. Animation, installation, video, installation, performance. *Through Feb. 20*

LOMONOSOV EXHIBITION HALL
23, 4th Sovietskaya Ul. M: Ploshchad Vosstaniya. Tel: +7 (911) 976 5646. Daily 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. www.lomonosovsalon.ru

MANEZH CENTRAL EXHIBITION HALL
1 St. Isaac's Square. Tel. 314 8859. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. www.manege.spb.ru
NEW! Poster. Graphics. *Opens January 22.*

MART GALLERY
35 Ul. Marata, M: Vladimirskaaya, Dostoyevskaya. Tel. 710 8835. 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 12 p.m. – 6 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday. www.martgallery.ru
NEW! Greis Darko (Ukraine). Photo. *Through Feb. 22*

MOKHOVAYA 18 GALLERY
18 Mokhovaya Ul. M: Chernyshevskaya. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday. Tel. 275 3383. www.gm18.ru
The Body: From Olympus to Olympiad. Painting. *Through Feb. 13*

MOSKOVSKY DISTRICT EXHIBITION HALL
6 Pl. Chernyshevskogo, M: Park Pobedy. Tel. 388 3984. Tuesday – Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday.
70 Peaceful Years. Dedicated to the final lifting of the Leningrad blockade. Decorative art, painting, graphics, sculpture. *Through Feb. 2*
Stopping Time with the Brush: Sergei Silchenko. Painting, graphics. *Through Feb. 2*

NEW MUSEUM GALLERY
29, 6th Line, V.O. Tel. 323 5090. M: Vasileostrovskaya. Wednesday – Sunday 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. www.novymuseum.ru
Metaphors For Taking Long Distances: Alladin Garunov. Video, photo, painting, installation. *Through Feb. 9*

PUSHKINSKAYA 10 ART CENTER
53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 5371. Open Wed to Sun, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. www.p-10.ru
Nonconformism Art Museum. Realities of Existence: Yuri Medvedev. Floor 4. *January 11 through February 9*
Nonconformism Art Museum. Any Time of Activity: Vasily Golubev. Painting. *Through Feb. 9*

RACHMANINOV GARDEN
5 Kazanskaya Ul. Tel. 312 9558. Tuesday – Saturday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. www.fotorachmaninov.ru
Mobile Phone Photography Photo. *Through Feb. 22*

ROSPHOTO STATE CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY
35 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul. Tel. 314 6184. Daily 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. www.rosfoto.org
Landscapes: Svetlana Timofeyeva. Photo. *Through Feb. 9*

SPAS GALLERY
93 Nab.Reki Moiki, M: Gostiny Dvor, Sennaya, Sadovaya. Tel. 571 4260. Daily, 12 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Closed on Sunday. www.spasgal.ru
Love Color: Vyacheslav Shraga. Painting. *Through Feb. 15*

STACHKA GALLERY
5 Ploshad Stachek. Photocenter "Jarky Mir PRO". M: Narvskaya. Tel. 680 0101. Daily 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

ST. PETERSBURG ARTISTS' MUSEUM-EXHIBITION CENTER
1 Ul. Glinki. Tel. 314 0609. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday. www.piter-art.com

TAIGA GALLERY
20 Dvortsova Nab. M: Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. +7 (921) 837 1820. www.space-taiga.org

TIOINDIGO GALLERY
40, 7th Line V.O. M: Vasileostrovskaya. Tel. 635 5305. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. www.tioindigo.ru

TKACHI EXHIBITION HALL
60 Nab. Obvodnogo Kanala, Pyotr Anisimov Factory. Tel. 920 5013. M: Ligovsky Pr., Obvodny Kanal. Daily 12 a.m. to 8 p.m. www.tkachi.com

TRETYAKOV GALLERY
2 Pionerskaya Ul., M: Sportivnaya. Tel. 233 1007. Tuesday – Friday 12 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., Saturday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SCREENS

NEW! Angelique (2013, France-Belgium-Czech Republic-Austria) Ariel Zeitoun's adventure film starring Nora Arnezeder, Gerard Lanvin and Tomer Sisley. *Avrora, Formula Kino Galereya, Khudozhestvenny.*

NEW! Best Night Ever (2014, U.S.) Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer's comedy starring Desiree Hall, Samantha Colburn and Eddie Ritchard. *Formula Kino Galereya, Khudozhestvenny.*

NEW! The Book Thief (2013, U.S.-Germany) Brian Percival's war drama starring Sophie Nélisse, Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson. *Avrora, Jam Hall, Formula Kino Galereya, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Pik, Rodina, Velikan Park.*

NEW! Champions (Chempiony) (2014, Russia) A sports drama directed by Dmitry Dyuzhev, Artyom Akseenko, Alexei Vakulov and Emil Nikogosyan. Alexei Chadov, Svetlana Khodchenkova and Mark Bogatryov star. *Khudozhestvenny, Jam Hall, Velikan Park. Starts Jan. 23.*

NEW! Faster Than Rabbits (Bystreya, Chem Kroliki) (2013, Russia) Dmitry Dyachenko's comedy starring Leonid Barats, Alexander Demidov and Kamil Larin. *Formula Kino Galereya, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Velikan Park.*

NEW! Grand Central (2013, France-Austria) Rebecca Zlotowski's drama starring Tahar Rahim, Lea Seydoux and Olivier Gourmet. *Dom Kino.*

NEW! Grudge Match (2013, U.S.) Peter Segal's sports comedy starring Robert De Niro, Sylvester Stallone and Kim Basinger. *Formula Kino Galereya, Jam Hall, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Neva, Pik, Velikan Park.*

NEW! How I Live Now (2013, U.K.) Kevin Macdonald's drama starring Saoirse Ronan, Tom Holland and George MacKay. *Angleterre (in English with Russian subtitles), Khudozhestvenny, Pik, Rodina.*

NEW! I, Frankenstein (2014, U.S.-Australia) Stuart Beattie's fantasy action film starring Aaron Eckhart, Bill Nighy and Miranda Otto. *Jam Hall, Velikan Park. Starts Jan. 23.*

NEW! Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (2014, U.S.-Russia) Kenneth Branagh's action thriller starring Chris Pine, Kevin Costner and Keira Knightley. *Avrora, Formula Kino Galereya, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Neva, Pik, Velikan Park.*

NEW! Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa (2013, U.S.) Jeff Tremaine's comedy starring Johnny Knoxville, Jackson Nicoll and Greg Harris. *Mirage Cinema, Velikan Park. Starts Jan. 23.*

NEW! Pawn Shop Chronicles (2013, U.S.) Wayne Kramer's crime comedy starring Paul Walker, Norman Reedus and Elijah Wood. *Khudozhestvenny, Rodina, Velikan Park.*

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013, U.S.) Ben Stiller's adventure comedy-drama starring Ben Stiller, Kristen Wiig and Adam Scott. *Formula Kino Galereya, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Pik, Rodina, Velikan Park.*



NEW! All Is Lost (2013, U.S.) J.C. Chandor's drama starring Robert Redford. *Angleterre (in English with Russian subtitles), Avrora, Formula Kino Galereya, Pik, Rodina, Velikan Park.*



NEW! Inside Llewyn Davis (2013, U.S.-France) Ethan Coen and Joel Coen's drama starring Oscar Isaac and Carey Mulligan. *Avrora, Dom Kino, Mirage Cinema, Velikan Park.*



NEW! Saving Mr. Banks (2013, U.S.-U.K.-Australia) John Lee Hancock's biopic starring Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks and Annie Rose Buckley. *Avrora, Mirage Cinema, Velikan Park.*

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Apartment for rent For just 2,500 Euro/month, rent a million-dollar apartment in the elite "Dom Le Grand" on Nevski 152! New 77 sq. m., fully furnished, comprising bedroom, kitchen + sitting-room, large bathroom, utility room. smart lift, security, etc, all as you expect for a 5-star elite apartment: plasma panel TV, modern Italian furniture etc, European style. Minimum rental 6 months. British manager. admin@deeplife.co.uk

1-ROOM APARTMENT

Liteiny prospect 49 Apartment of 70 sq m in a quiet court-yard, spacious, European standard, fully furnished. 40000 rub per month. For details contact Olga tel +7921 9637454; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

Moika 64 Near ST Isaac's sq, apartment of 60 sq m, European style, IKEA furniture, entrance through the gated court. 60000 rub per moth. For details contact Olga tel +7921 9637454; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

Studio Griboedova canal 2 right in the heart of the city stylish apartment of 50

sq m, fully furnished and equipped, architect design, secure entrance, view over the park, 50000 rub per month. For details contact Olga tel +7921 9637454; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

Liteiny prospect 60 Corner with Nevskiy prime location, modern apartment of 60 sq m, European style, in a quiet secure court-yard, 55000 rub per month. For details contact Olga tel +7921 9637454; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

2-ROOM APARTMENT

Voronezhskaya Street. Voronezhskaya Street. Brand new 2-room apartment in an elite residential building, modern design, fully furnished and equipped, independent heating system, air-conditioning, Internet, satellite TV, concierge, 24/7 security, underground parking. NIGHT SKY REALTY. Tel.: +7-812-333-15-15. E-mail: info@nightskyrealty.ru

3-ROOM APARTMENT

25 Fontanka river emb 4th floor. 115 sq.m.: 2 bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen and 3 bathrooms. Splendid view of

Fontanka river and Anichkov bridge from sitting room windows and balcony. Bedrooms overlook green courtyard. Fully furnished and equipped. Modern elevator. Renovated entrance from the embankment. Concierge. Guarded parking. 100,000 rub/month. Photos on www.spb-estate.com. Low agency fee. Tel.: +7-921-992-1522, +7-921-957-0763, 325-3838, **NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY**, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com.

Fontanka 54 Newly renovated apartment of 200 sq m with 3 bedrooms, secure entrance, parking, fully fitted kitchen. For details contact Olga tel +7921 9637454; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

Karavannaya Street Modern 3-room apartment in the historic center, elegant design, fully furnished, full set of household equipment, air-conditioning, water filters, Internet, satellite TV, video monitoring. NIGHT SKY REALTY. Tel.: +7-812-333-15-15. E-mail: info@nightskyrealty.ru

Zhukovskogo Street Elegant 3-room apartment in an elite residential house in the city center, Italian furniture, full set of household equipment, concierge service, security 24/7. NIGHT SKY REALTY. Tel.: +7-812-333-15-15. E-mail: info@nightskyrealty.ru

4-ROOM APARTMENT

Italianskaya street 2-bedroom apartment of 100 sq m after renovation, 2 bathrooms, European style, fully furnished, entrance with intercom system, 75000 rub per month. For details contact Olga tel +7921 9637454; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru,

Millionnaya 17 Apartment of 200 sq m with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully fitted kitchen, secure entrance. For details contact Olga tel +7921 9637454; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

5-ROOM APARTMENT

Robespiera emb 12 5-room apartment in new building with concierge and parking, near Tavrichesky Park, designed in two levels, has big terrace, fitted, partly furnished, 300 sq m. For details contact Olga tel +7921 9637454; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru

6-ROOM APARTMENT

Millionnaya Street Bright and spacious 6-room apartment in the historic center, 4 bedrooms, modern interiors, fully furnished



PROPERTY RENT & SALES

+7-812-493-23-40,
+7-921-963-74-54
www.ctinvestments.ru

and equipped, air-conditioning, video-monitoring, secured parking in the courtyard. NIGHT SKY REALTY. Tel.: +7-812-333-15-15. E-mail: info@nightskyrealty.ru

To advertise, please call

325 6080

or write to:

klyavlina@sptimes.ru

The St. Petersburg Times **20 YEARS**

facebook

The St. Petersburg Times



READ THE LATEST NEWS
AND
SHARE YOUR OPINION

www.sptimes.ru

EDUCATION

Education Professional Native English Trainer. Highly Qualified. MBA. 931-322-06-13

LANGUAGE LESSONS

Russian lessons individually designed for your needs. Flexible hours. www.ruslearn.com

GUIDES

Professional guide / driver with a car. www.guide-petersburg.com. Tel.: +7-812-934-57-84. Gennady

Guided tours. Museums. Tel. : +7-812-579-99-33. E-mail: info@travelrussia.ru www.travelrussia.ru

TAXI

+79-ANGEL-TAXI
angel-taxi.com/moscow-tour

PSYCHOLOGIST

Resource psychology, tarot horoscope.
+7(921) 775 15 01

VISAS

Alliance
Travel company

7, 2nd Sovetskaya Ul
Office 408, 4th floor
"Voststaniya" Metro St.
Tel.: +7(812)579-99-33
info@travelrussia.ru
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

www.TravelRussia.ru
YOUR ON-LINE TRAVEL PARTNER

Visa Support to RUSSIA Excursions
Hotels & Apartments Transfers
Private accommodation Rent a car with a driver

BABY-SITTER WANTED

Baby-sitter wanted Native English speaker is needed to talk and play with our 1 y.o. son four times a week, two hours a day. Please send your CV with a photo and expected hourly rate to iwse.spb@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Charming lady, 37 y.o, good shape, brunette, looking for the man for exciting relations
blackcatt379@gmail.com

FOOD MARKET

Indian Spices Shop

• Wide range of seasonings and spices
• Top class, authentic Indian and Ceylon teas

• High quality Basmati rice and huge choice of beans
• Prepared traditional Indian dishes

22 Ul. Vosstaniya (M: Pl. Vosstaniya)
Tel. +7 (812)579-09-66.

www.indianspices.ru

MASSAGE

All kinds of massage. Liza. +7-911-720-99-19

Erotic, classical massage. Anastasia. Tel.: 910-49-12

Escort, erotic and classical massage. Tel.: +7-965-787-56-09. Eva

Erotic and relaxing massage. Tel.: +7-952-351-41-52. Katyusha

Erotic, urological, classical and other kinds of massage. No sex. 12 Gonchamaya Ul. (M. Vosstaniya Sq.). Tel.: +7-921-645-66-01. Sofia.

MOVING/RELOCATION



Your choice for:
International, domestic,
local moving
Project/office moving
Secure and heated storage
Relocation services

Triple-A, Attentive, Accurate,
(pro)-Active!!!!
The mover that listens and
speaks your language.

Your contact person: **Norbert Gooren, General manager**
Tel.: +7-812-4319919
Email: ngo@aaa-russia.com
www.aaa-russia.com

TRAVEL GUIDE

St. Petersburg Tourist Information Bureau



Information pavilions:
• Pulkovo airports (1 and 2)
• Marine Facade (Seaport)
• Palace Square
• St Isaac's Square
• Rastrelli Square
• Alexandrovsky Park
• Vosstaniya Square
Free tourist information service.

14/52 Sadovaya street,
St. Petersburg, Russia, 191023,
37 Sadovaya street,
St. Petersburg, Russia, 190031
Tel.: +7 (812) 310-28-22; 310-22-31;
+7 (931) 326-57-44;
Fax: +7 (812) 310-28-22
E-mail: info@ispb.info
www.ispb.info
www.visit-petersburg.ru

City Marketing Agency:
8 Shpalernaya street.

The St. Petersburg Times does not take responsibility for the information printed on Classifieds and Real Estate pages.

DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR FREE COPY OF THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES AT:

BUSINESS CENTERS

Austrian Business Center Regus
55 Nevsky Pr.
Belye Nochi Business Center
23 Malaya Morskaya Ul.
Europa House 1 Artilleriyskaya Ul.
Goldex 36 Shpalernaya Ul.
Gustaf 38 Sredny Pr. V.O.
Magnus 34 9-Liniya V.O.
MCDS 6 Proletarskoy Diktatury Pl.
Moskovsky 212 Moskovsky Pr.
Neptun 93A Obvodny Emb.
Nevsky 30 20 Nevsky Pr.
Nevsky 32/34 32/34 Nevsky Pr.
Nevsky 38 38 Nevsky Pr.
NRK 3 Kaluzhsky Per.
Oscar 13 Fontanka Per.
Pulkovo Sky 2 Vnukovskaya Ul.
Purneco Limited 63 Zhukovskogo Ul.
Renaissance House
17 2-Sovetskaya Ul.
Severnaya Stolitsa 36 Moika Emb.
Sweden House
1/3A Malaya Konushennaya Ul.

RESTAURANTS

Abrikosov 40 Nevsky Pr.
Bar Tranzit 85A Nevsky Pr.
Baranka 5 Chapaeva Ul.
Barcelona 26 Ulitsa Rubinshteina
9 Prospekt Chernyshevskogo
1 Bolshaya Konyushennaya Ulitsa
Begemot 12 Sadovaya Ul.
Bohemia restaurant
16 Teatralnaya Ploshchad
Britanskaya konditerskaya
80 Bolshoy Pr. Petrograd Side
25 Grechesky Pr.
Café Max 90-92 Nevsky Pr.
Coca Inn 13-15 Sadovaya Ul.
Coffee House Gourmet
15 Vladimirsky Pr.
Coffee House Gourmet
86 Marata Ul.
Da Albertone 23 Millionnaya Ul.
Dickens Pub 108 Fontanka Emb.
Dom Byta 12 Razezhaya Ul.
Europe 1/7 Mikhailovskaya Ul.
Evrasia 85A Nevsky Pr.
Francesco 47 Suvorovsky Pr.
Grad Petrov
5 Universitetskaya Emb.
Il Patio 30 Nevsky Pr.
182 Nevsky Pr.
J.Walker 36 Griboedova Emb.
Jam 12 Ryleeva Ul.
James Cook
2 Shvedsky Per.
45 Kamennooostrovsky Pr.

Jean Jacques 10 Marata Ul.
KFC
11 Sheremetievskaya Ul.
39/40 Sredny Pr. V.O.
Konyushenny Dvor
5 Griboedova Emb.
Korova Bar 8 Karavannaya Ul.
Kvartira №55 36 1-Liniya V.O.
Lobby Bar 1/7 Mikhailovskaya Ul.
Makaronniki 16 Dobrolyubova Pr.
Marco Polo 27 12-Liniya V.O.
McDonald's
2 A. Nevskogo Pl.
18A Bolshhevikov Pr.
11 Novatorov Blvd.
41A Grazhdanskaya Ul.
71 Zanevsky Pr.
39 Kamennooostrovsky Pr.
100-104 Ligovsky Pr.
45/2 Nevsky Pr.
141 Savushkina Ul.
29A Sredny Pr. V.O.
45 Yaroslavsky Pr.
Mezonin 1/7 Mikhailovskaya Ul.
Mollie's Pub 36 Rubinshteyna Ul.
Moskva 112-114 Nevsky Pr.
Ocean 14 Dobrolyubova Pr.
Old Customs House 1 Tamozhenny Per.
Ovsyanka café 11 Gorokhovaya Ulitsa
Peoplecfe 2 Italiyskaya Ul.
Pervoe, Vtoroe i Kompot
10 Zhukovskogo Ul.
Petropavlovsky 85A Nevsky Pr.
Pizza Hut 96 Nevsky Pr.
71 Moika Emb.
Pub Bulldog 20/16 Vosstaniya Ul.
Pushka Inn 14 Moika Emb.
Rossi 1/7 Mikhailovskaya Ul.
Saint-Petersburg 5 Griboedova Emb.
Sbarro 42 Nevsky Pr.
Sever 46 Nevsky Pr.
Shamrock 27 Dekabristov Ul.
Stroganoff Steak House
4 Konnogvardeisky Blvd.
Subway 63 Ulitsa Tchaikovskogo
98 Bolshoy Prospekt Petrograd Side
18 Sytninskaya Ulitsa
Tandoor 2 Voznesensky Pr.
Tepló 45 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul.
Tequila-Boom
57/127 Voznesensky Pr.
Terrassa 3 Kazanskaya Ul.
Testo 21 Kazanskaya Ul.
The Office 5 Kazanskaya Ul.
Tinkoff 7 Kazanskaya Ul.
Victoria 59 Moika Emb.
Volga-Volga Petrovskaya Emb.
Zinger 28 Nevsky Pr.
Zoom 22 Gorokhovaya Ul.

HOTELS

3 Mosta 3 Moika Emb.
5th Corner 13 Zagorodny Pr.
Admiralteiskaya
8 Aleksandra Bloka Ul.
Alexander House 27 Kryukov Emb.
Ambassador
5-7 Rimskogo-Korsakova Ul.
Andersen Hotel 4A Chapygina Ul.
Angleterre 39 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul.
Arbat Nord Hotel 4 Artilleriyskaya Ul.
Arkadia 58 Moika Emb.
Art Hotel 27-29 Mokhovaya Ul.
Art Hotel Trezzini 21 Bolshoy Pr. V.O.
Aster 25 Bolshaya Konushennaya Ul.
Asteria 71 Fontanka Emb.
Astoria 39 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul.
Atrium Hotel 2 Ispolkomska Ul.
Austrian Yard 16 Furshtatskaya Ul.
Austrian Yard 45 Furshtatskaya Ul.
Azimut 43/1 Lermontovsky Pr.
Baltic Star Hotel
3 Beriozovaya ave., Strelna
Belveder Nevsky
29 Bolshaya Konushennaya Ul.
Brothers Karamazov Hotel
11A Sotsialisticheskaya Ul.
Comfort Hotel
25 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul.
Corinthia Hotel St. Petersburg
57 Nevsky Pr.
Courtyard Marriott
61/30A 2-Liniya V.O.
166 Griboedova Emb.
Cronwell Inn Stremyannaya
18 Stremyannaya Ul.
Crowne Plaza Ligovsky
61-63 Ligovsky Pr.
CubaHostel 5 Kazanskaya Ul.
Deluxe 14 Bolshaya Konushennaya Ul.
Demetra Art Hotel
44 Ulitsa Vosstaniya
Domina prestige Hotels
St. Petersburg 99 Moika Emb.
Dostoevsky 19 Vladimirsky Pr.
Elizar Hotel
85A Obukhovskoy Oborony Pr.
Ermitage Hotel
11 Millionnaya Ul.
Guyot 23B Professora Popova Ul.
German Club Hotel 20 Gastello Ul.
Golden Garden 9 Vladimirsky Pr.
Golden Triangle Hotel
12 Bolshaya Konushennaya Ul.
Grand Hotel Emerald
18 Suvorovsky Pr.
Grand Hotel Europe
1/7 Mikhailovskaya Ul.
Helvetia 11 Marata Ul.

Holiday Club 2-4 Birzhevoy Per.
Hostel life 1 Vladimirsky Pr.
Hotel SPB Vergaz 70 7-Liniya V.O.
IBIS Hotel 54 Ligovsky Pr.
Imperia Park
10 Akademika Lebedeva Ul.
Lancaster 3-5 Fokina Ul.
M Hotel 2/22 Krylova Per.
Marco Polo 27 12-Liniya V.O.
Marmara 26-2 Novorossiyskaya Ul.
Marshal 41 Shpalernaya Ul.
Moika 22 Kempinski
22 Moika Emb.
Holiday Inn Moskovskie Vorota
97A Moskovsky Pr.
Moika 5 5 Moika Emb.
Nash Hotel 50 11-Liniya V.O.
Nautilus 3 Rizhskaya Ul.
Neptun 93A Obvodny Emb.
Nevsky 98 98 Nevsky Pr.
Nevsky Breeze 12 Galernaya Ul.
Nevsky Central Hotel
90-92 Nevsky Pr.
Nevsky Contour 88 Nevsky Pr.
Nevsky Express Hotel
91 Nevsky Pr.
Nevsky Forum 69 Nevsky Pr.
Nevsky Grand Hotel
10 Bolshaya Konushennaya Ul.
Novotel 3A Mayakovskogo Ul.
Oktaibrskaya Hotel
10 Ligovsky Pr.
Palantin 4-6 Rizhsky Pr.
Park Hotel 12 Severnaya Doroga
Park Inn Nevsky 4 Gonchamaya Ul.
Park Inn Pulkovskaya
1 Pobedy Pl.
Petro Palace Hotel
14 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul.
Park Inn Pribaltiyskaya
14 Korablestroiteley Ul.
Radisson Royal Hotel 49/2 Nevsky Pr.
Renaissance Baltic Hotel
4 Pochtamtanskaya Ul.
Respectale 36-38 Mayakovskogo Ul.
Reval Sonya Hotel 5 Liteiny Pr.
Rossi 55 Fontanka Emb.
Seamen Hotel
2 Gapsalskaya Ul.
Shelfort 26 3-Liniya V.O.
Sky Hotel
17 Bolshaya Konnyushennaya Ul.
Sokos Hotel Olympic Garden
3 Bataisky Per.
Sokos Hotel Vasilevsky
11-13 8-Liniya V.O.

...and many other locations throughout the city

PAN-ASIAN

PARADISE cafe&bar



PARADISE

2 Konyushennaya Pl.
Info&reserve: 9 55555 9
www.paradise-cafe.ru

PARADISE is a new establishment that is a joint project by renowned Moscow designers. The premium-class institution in the city center is a popular hangout for stylish, active and beautiful people. During the day, PARADISE is a fashionable casual cafe with an exquisite pan-Asian menu. In the kitchen, the chef creates a unique gastronomic PARADISE: Exquisite cuisine in a luxurious setting – only the best, for the best.

In the evening and at night, this is the perfect place for a pre-party cocktail. Three dining rooms, a fantastic karaoke hall, only topical musical sets, a great crowd, masterfully-mixed cocktails from the best bartenders in town and elevated cuisine are all waiting for you beyond the gates of PARADISE!

We invite you to celebrate the New Year holidays in the charming atmosphere of PARADISE! It offers an extravaganza of light and sound, an unprecedented artistic show, incendiary karaoke and endless dancing to sound the city's best DJ!

\$\$\$ 🍷 🎵 🎧 📺 📶

INDIAN

Tandoor



10 Admiralteysky Prospekt
Metro: Admiralteyskaya
Tel: +7 (812) 312-38-86, 312-53-10.
Open daily from noon to 11 p.m.

Popular city restaurant. Experience the tantalizing flavor of Indian cuisine. From kebabs to curries, with a wide range of vegetarian selections at reasonable prices. Business lunch 450 rubles. Choice of soup. Choice of curry: chicken, lamb, fish, lentil or vegetable with rice, salad and bread, plus mineral water. Restaurant provides small to medium-sized outdoor catering services for parties and banquet functions.

\$\$\$ 🍷 🚗 📺 📶

ITALIAN

Restaurant Da Albertone



23 Millionnaya Ul.
Tel: +7 (812) 315-86-73, 962-08-29.
Popular Italian restaurant. Head chef Luca Pellino, sous-chef Tiziano Valente. Located close to the Hermitage. Open kitchen. Homemade pasta, sausages,

desserts and ice-cream. Supervised kids' playroom and menu. Summer terrace. Japanese dishes from the adjacent "Sushi Lounge" can be ordered. Open Sun-Thurs 11 a.m. – 11 p.m., Fri-Sat until 1 a.m. Delivery service available.

\$\$\$ 🍷 🎵 🎧 📺 📶

ITALY Bottega



14 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul.,
Tel.: +7 (812) 944-0-300, italy-group.ru
ITALY Bottega is like discovering a corner of Italy in the very heart of St. Petersburg. Home-made pasta, real Neapolitan pizza, the most popular Italian specialties and a great variety of wines are all on the menu. It's a great place to meet up with friends, enjoy a leisurely family breakfast, talk business with colleagues or just sip a glass of wine after tiring walk in the city center.

\$\$\$ 🍷 🚗 📺 📶

TONY's Kitchen



88 Maly Prospekt VO. Tel. 988 8020
Tony's Kitchen is an everyday restaurant that is equally perfect for a business meeting or a romantic dinner. The meals on offer take into account any and all preferences: Italian, Pan-Asian and Japanese cuisine are all available and a wide selection of wines is presented on shelves in the dining room. The restaurant is located on two floors, which makes it comfortable for informal celebrations, including birthday parties and corporate events. Tony's Kitchen has all the amenities for an enjoyable family outing: A spacious children's room with a nanny, coloring books and a children's menu. Sunday is officially family day at Tony's, when creative workshops and competitions for children are held.

\$\$\$ 🍷 🎵 🎧 📺 📶

Romeo's Bar & Kitchen



Tel.: +7 (812) 572-54-48
43 Ul. Rimskogo Korsakova
www.romeosbarandkitchen.ru
The restaurant is a walking distance from the Mariinsky Theatre and has three spaces inside – restaurant, cafe and bar.

On offer for customers:

- Breakfast
- Business lunch (from 210 rubles)
- Freshly baked pizza
- Desserts from our own confectionery.

Romeo's Bar & Kitchen will also help you organize birthdays, weddings, parties and any other special event.

\$\$\$ 🍷 🚗 🎵 🎧 📺 📶

INTERNATIONAL

Cafe-bar Soiree



28 Ul. Zhukovskogo
Metro: Ploshchad Vosstaniya
8 (812) 2723512
Website: <http://spbbar.net/>
E-mail: MSoiree@mail.ru
Soiree is a cafe-bar great for business meetings, business lunches or even a romantic dinner. The combination of delicious food and affordable prices gives you the perfect reason to stay and dine! A fine selection of wines to suit every taste are also on display around the high shelves in the dining room.

You can be sure to find that Soiree will suit all your needs and for a wonderful time spent with family or in the company of friends. Breakfast: 9:00-11:00. Lunch: 11:00-17:00. Dinner: 17:00-23:00. 110 seats

\$\$\$ 📶

MEDITERRANEAN

Côté Jardin



Hotel Novotel St. Petersburg Center
3a Ulitsa Mayakovskogo
Tel: +7 (812) 335-11-88,
fax: 335-11-80
www.accorhotels.com/5679
A contemporary all-day restaurant featuring Russian delicacies and Mediterranean specialties with monthly promotions. Welcome to our new cosy **Novotel Café** where you can have a quick and tasty snack. The café offers a comprehensive and balanced cuisine at reasonable price. Novotel Café is perfect for both spending free time and holding business meeting in informal setting.

Enjoy seasonal hot cocktails, hot St. Petersburg chocolate and homemade Glühwein at Novotel Café, with the tempting cakes and pastries at our La Brioche Deli-Counter. Take away service.

Open daily for à la carte from 06:30 – 23:00, breakfast 06:30 – 10:00, buffet business lunch 12:00 – 16:00. Major credit cards are accepted. Try our **business lunch** on every week-day at Novotel from 12:00 until 16:00.

Our daily buffet features only homemade cooking, freshly baked cakes, fresh salads, Russian delicacies as well as Mediterranean dishes with the emphasis on Regional Cuisine. Full buffet is for only **760 Rubles** – coffee and mineral water included. Monday – Friday, 12:00 – 16:00.

\$\$\$ 🍷 🎵 🎧 📺 📶

PUB

Brugge



22 Makarov Embankment (near Tuchkov bridge), Vasilevsky Island.
Tel.: +7 (812) 600-23-90.
BRUGGE is a new Belgian gastropub where you can try more than 70 unique sorts of Belgian beer. The menu offers a great variety of Belgian culinary delights – from Flemish lamb stew and Waterzoi to world's most famous Liege-style waffles. Each of our beers is served in an original glass and our eccentric way of serving each meal will both intrigue and delight.

\$\$\$ 🍷 🚗 📺 📶

RUSSIAN

Palkin



47 Nevsky Prospekt.
Tel: +7 (812) 703 5371,
www.palkin.ru
Open: noon to 11.30 p.m.
PALKIN restaurant is located in the very heart of St. Petersburg. Our constant search for new flavors, painstaking work with old cookery books, and strict standards regarding the use of ingredients make Palkin one of the few places in the world where diners can enjoy the finest dishes of aristocratic Russian cuisine in the elegant atmosphere of an upscale establishment. Extensive wine collection. Opulent interiors with open fireplace. Smoking area.

\$\$\$ 🍷 🎵 🎧 📺 📶

Dom



72 Nab. Reki Moiki.
Tel.: +7 (812) 930 7272, rest-dom.ru
A restaurant serving modern Russian cuisine, Dom captures the food, traditions and culture of Russia. With a focus on the family trio of comfort, cuisine and flavor, the restaurant adds its own modern twist. The menu includes special dishes such as pelmeni with rabbit, pumpkin fritters with red caviar, whole smoked sterlet and borsch with porcini mushrooms all exclusively created by chef Eugene Khomenko. Wine connoisseurs and lovers will be delighted by the selection of wines from both the Old and New Worlds. And after the dinner one can spend time at our old-fashioned bar enjoying fascinating live music performances.

\$\$\$ 🍷 🎵 🎧 📺 📶

Knyaz

Ресторан КНЯЗЬ

24 Ulitsa Furstatskaya.
Metro: Chernishevskaya
Tel.: +7 (921) 903 0197,
+7 (812) 272 2530
www.kochubeyclub.ru/restoran
We invite you to visit Knyaz, a restaurant featuring Russian and European cuisine. The restaurant is located within the historic mansion of Prince V.S. Kochubeya. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Business lunch menus are available Monday to Friday from noon to 4 p.m. (290 rubles). During lunch hours, a 20% discount is offered on the a la carte menu. Every Friday and Saturday, enjoy live music (guitar, keyboards, vocals). Knyaz welcomes corporate events, weddings, birthday parties and events for children.

\$\$\$ 🍷 🎵 🎧 📺 📶

Shokoladnitsa



Hotline +8 (800) 100 3360
www.shoko.ru
Shokoladnitsa – More than just coffee With over 30 unique cafes in St. Petersburg, the large coffee chain with a sweet name has been operating in Russia and across the CIS for many years. Each cafe is designed with a relaxing interior and offers the same welcoming hospitality as well as the company's excellent coffee, desserts and hot dishes from both European and Russian cuisines. The aroma of roasted coffee beans, along with a classic cappuccino topped with soft foam accompanied by a slice of gourmet Napoleon cake will set a romantic mood on any given day. A toasted club sandwich with chicken, Felino salami, Maasdam cheese and traditional rabbit-filled dumplings will also please guests with a hearty appetite. Every day Shokoladnitsa invites you to enjoy a coffee date across the northern capital. We look forward to serving you!

\$\$\$ 🍷 🎵 🎧 📺 📶



Let our readers know about your restaurant and any special menus or offers by advertising in the Dining Guide section of The St. Petersburg Times.

To advertise, please contact Ilya Yanchuk at +7 812 325 6080, or e-mail: yanchuk@sptimes.ru

David Satter, the Kremlin's Bete Noire

By Victor Davidoff

David Satter is a familiar figure to anyone who follows events in Russia. A scholar and journalist, Satter has been writing about Russia since the mid-1970s, when he was Moscow correspondent for *The Financial Times*.

In those Cold War years, Satter differed from many of his colleagues in the foreign press corps who had few contacts, were isolated from everyday life and produced articles based on rewrites of Tass official reports. Satter met with Soviet dissidents and traveled to parts of the country that no other Western correspondent had ever visited. The KGB agents assigned to follow him had to hustle to keep up.

Therefore, in certain respects it was amazing that it took so long for Russian authorities to declare Satter's presence on Russian territory "undesirable." He readily admits to being critical of the Putin regime. "But there is actually quite a lot to criticize, so if you're going to report honestly from Russia you almost have to be critical," he said in an interview to CNN.

The Kremlin couldn't have liked his publications in support of the U.S. Magnitsky Act. Journalist Vladimir Abarinov, who wrote about Satter on his Facebook page, thinks that support alone was enough for the Kremlin to blacklist Satter.

The Kremlin must have liked even less Satter's doubts about the official version of the Moscow apartment house bombings of 1999, which played a significant role in raising then-Prime Minister Putin's rating before he ran for president the first time. The official version blames Chechen separatists, but in his book "Darkness at Dawn: The Rise of the Russian Criminal State," Satter presents evidence to suggest that the Federal Security Service was involved. And as the 2006 death by poisoning of former FSB agent Alexander Litvinenko in London showed, poking your nose too far into an investigation as to who was truly responsible for those bombings might lead to consequences far more serious than a visa refusal.

Finally, Satter must have hit a sore spot in the Kremlin when he wrote in December for CNN that visitors to the upcoming Winter Olympics in the Black Sea city of Sochi "are walking into what effectively is a war zone." This point of view may have been the reason that Dutch journalists Rob Hornstra and Arnold Van Bruggen were denied their visas in October.

Although Satter isn't the first foreign journalist to be refused a visa in the post-Soviet period, he is the first U.S. journalist to have this dubious honor. The last time this happened was in 1986, when U.S. News & World Report journalist Nich-



olas Daniloff was accused of espionage. He was arrested in Moscow and exchanged for a Soviet spy in the U.S.

Daniloff's expulsion marked a new low point in U.S.-Soviet relations and set off the largest spy scandal in the two countries' history. In the end, the U.S. expelled 100 Soviet diplomats suspected of spying, and the Soviets deported 10 U.S. diplomats and withdrew all 260 of the Russian support staff working for the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

And now Satter's visa refusal marks another nadir in U.S.-Russia relations after the Soviet collapse. It comes at a time when a massive anti-American campaign is going on in Russia. Hardly a week goes by without state television broadcasting yet another sensational report about the latest U.S. conspiracy against Russia. One of the national channels is about to air a series in which the Chernobyl disaster is shown to have been orchestrated by CIA agents. The level of hostility in the

official rhetoric of the Kremlin sometimes surpasses that of the worst days of the Cold War.

Russia continues to be the main sponsor of Syrian President Bashar Assad and his brutal civil war in which more than 3,000 people are killed every week. Last week, there were rumors that the Kremlin would sign an agreement with Iran to trade Iranian oil for Russian goods. This deal is a direct violation of the conditions of the agreement signed by six world powers and Iran in November. Meanwhile, Russia's defense budget is growing astronomically — 60 percent over the next three years. Special attention is being given to producing new weapons systems that could only be used in a huge war against NATO or the U.S.

All this has led journalist Nikolai Svanidze to the conclusion that Satter's visa refusal wasn't just a personal matter but rather an unfriendly signal to Washington. In an interview with *Voice of America*, Svanidze noted that "this is within the

general trend in relations between Russia and the U.S. and the general atmosphere in Russia, where there is hostility to everything that comes from the West."

Unfortunately, the U.S. and the West do not have any options for responding to Moscow's latest challenge. A tit-for-tat annulment of a Russian journalist's visa to the U.S. would be playing by the Kremlin's rules, and only the correspondent and his readers would suffer. The flawed reset policy has left the U.S. without strong cards that could be played to stop the escalation of hostility coming from Moscow.

It's time for Western countries to redesign their policy toward Russia if we are to avoid seeing a remake of the Cold War.

Victor Davidoff is a Moscow-based writer and journalist who follows the Russian blogosphere in his biweekly column.

COMMENT

Medvedev's Liberal Hot Air

By Alexei Bayer

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev often looks like the odd man out in the government he heads. Many people expected him to be retired to some meaningless sinecure once his four-year stint as figurehead president ended in May 2012. Yet President Vladimir Putin is keeping him on. The question is why.

Medvedev's presidency was not a success by any measure. His early liberal agenda, which stirred hope among some members of the intelligentsia, quickly proved nothing but hot air. He was ineffectual, timid and maladroit in his public appearances. His infantile delight in high-tech gadgets and the social media was ridiculed, and his love of 1960s British rock bands made him look like a latent teenager.

The low assessment of Medvedev is probably the only thing the opposition and Putin's supporters share today. Putin himself often seemed irritated by Medvedev during his protege's presidency. Since returning to the Kremlin, he pointedly curbed the modernization program Medvedev advocated. Some of the oligarchs who supported the former president felt pressured.

So far, Medvedev's tenure as prime minister has done little to dispel the impression of him as a

nonentity. Putin has criticized the work of Medvedev's government, expressing impatience with its failures to implement his May 2012 directives on social programs and the economy.

Medvedev must also be a constant reminder to Putin of his failure to create a viable successor. In 2007 to 2008, Putin was determined to retire from politics. He wanted someone who would be able to assume power but remain loyal and allow him to enjoy his considerable fortune unmolested — something Putin himself had scrupulously done with regard to former President Boris Yeltsin. After months of trying to choose between former Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov and Medvedev, Putin opted for the latter as more trustworthy of the two. But, despite Putin's best efforts, Medvedev did not become a true political leader, necessitating Putin's return to presidency.

Putin is no longer thinking of a successor and is likely to stay on for the remainder of his current six-year term as president and the next — that is, at least until 2024. It is not clear who will succeed Putin after that, but it certainly will not be Medvedev. Most likely, Putin has other plans for Medvedev.

First of all, there is the economy, which stagnated in 2013 and may suffer a recession this year. If oil prices fall, the economic downturn may

prove severe. It would seem that Putin does not expect a major economic debacle, throwing money around as if there is no tomorrow. For example, he is providing billions of dollars in loans to Ukraine and Belarus and assuming the huge financial burden for the Sochi Olympics. He is also keeping Medvedev at the helm, which is not a wise decision if he expects stormy weather ahead. At the same time, however, if the economy does hit the skids, Medvedev and his government could always be used as a scapegoat, while respected former Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin could be then brought in to deal with the economic crisis.

Medvedev's lingering liberal image could also come handy if Putin clamps down on dissent after the Sochi Olympics, as many in the opposition fear. Medvedev could then be blamed for undermining the state. By the same token, if the recent small-scale amnesty were to be followed by other steps designed to achieve reconciliation at home and burnish Russia's image abroad, Medvedev could once again be put forward as a reformer. But in any case, Putin will remain as the country's tough and uncompromising national leader.

Alexei Bayer, a native Muscovite, lives in New York. His detective novel "Murder at the Dacha" was published by *Russian Life Books* in 2013.

The St. Petersburg Times

Санкт-Петербург Таймс

The St. Petersburg Times is a part of Sanoma Independent Media
CEO: Jean-Emmanuel de Witt

Board of Directors: Tatiana Shalygina, Tatyana Shishkova, Mikhail
Doubik, Alexander Gukasov, Elena Razumova

Chairman of the Supervisory Board: Derk Sauer

Publisher: OOO "Neva Media"

General Director: Tatyana Turikova

Editorial: Christopher Gordon, Acting Editor-in-chief

Advertising: Ksenia Chiritsa, Ylia Yanchuk

Subscription: Viktoria Borovkova Production: Alla Kalinovskaya

IT Department: Sergei Karasev

OOO Neva Media Учредитель и издатель – OOO "Нева Медиа"

Copyright © 2005 The St. Petersburg Times. All Rights Reserved.

Mass media registration certificate number ПИ № ФС2-8918 of November 30, 2007, issued by the Directorate of the Federal Service for the monitoring of compliance with legislation in the sphere of mass communications and the preservation of cultural heritage of the North-West Federal District. Свидетельство о регистрации средства массовой информации ПИ № ФС2-8918 от 30 ноября 2007 года, выдано Управлением Федеральной службы по надзору за соблюдением законодательства в сфере массовых коммуникаций и охране культурного наследия по Северо-Западному федеральному округу. Издание предназначено для аудитории старше 18 лет.

Отпечатано в ОАО «Первая Образцовая типография» филиал «СПб газетный комплекс», 198216, СПб, Ленинский пр., 139. Заказ № 1364.

Подписано в печать: по графику в 1.00, фактически в 1.00. Тираж 20000 экз.

Распространяется бесплатно. The St. Petersburg Times is a free publication.

Address: 190000, Russia, St. Petersburg,

4 Konnogvardeyskiy boulevard, Entrance 7, 3rd floor.

Telephone/Fax: (7-812) 325-60-80.

Адрес редакции: 190000, Конногвардейский бульвар,

д. 4, лит. А, подъезд 7, этаж 3

Internet: <http://www.sptimes.ru>