



Celebrate Russian heritage

It's 13 days of music, art, dance

By MEGAN LYNCH
DAILY NEWS WRITER

Tomorrow is the first day of the second annual Russian Heritage Week, but because the joyous celebration has already outgrown its format, this year's installment will last 13 days.

The citywide series of events includes concerts, art exhibits and dance competitions, with the number of participants expected to exceed last year's 100,000.

The 13-day "week" will get underway at 7 p.m. tomorrow with "Tchaikovsky in America," an evening of musical performances at Carnegie Hall by children from the Russian-American community.

The concert will commemorate the Russian composer's many contributions to the world's musical tradition.

Other musical events include the Golden Gramophone Gala Concert, which will be held at Radio City Music Hall on Friday. Performers include Russian pop-music sensations Alsou, Kristina Orbakayte and Tea for Two.

The opening, of several innovative shows of contemporary Russian art, at locations including Pace University and the Globe Institute of Technology's Art Center, also will be part of the event. The exhibits present works by painters, photographers and sculptors who grew up in the Soviet Union.

One show, titled "Russian Ballet in Black and White," features work by the famed photographer Nina Alover and opens



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Marina Kovalev, president of Russian-American Arts Foundation, thanks sponsors of Heritage Week — Daily News' John Campi (l), vice president of promotion and community affairs, and News President Les Goodstein — with vodka decorated with their portraits.

Tuesday at the National Arts Club.

For those whose preferred art is dance, there will be a full day of ballroom competition next Sunday on the Coney Island Boardwalk at W. Fifth St.

People of all ages and nationalities can participate in such dances as the waltz, tango and samba, with music provided by a 20-piece swing band as well as a 16-piece Latin band.

Official competitions will be held in three age categories on a professional stage.

On June 16, a fashion show featuring creations of top Russian-American designers will be held at the Tatiana Restaurant, 3152 Brighton 6th St. in Brighton Beach.

Also part of the event is the seventh annual NYANA Festival next Sunday, which will feature musical performances by the

Russian-speaking Jewish community as well as displays of artwork and crafts created by American artists. The festival, at Asser Levy Park at Ocean Parkway and Seabreeze Ave. in Brighton Beach, will also offer a wide variety of ethnic foods.

On June 20, the final day of the celebration, the Shostakovich School of Music and Dance will hold an all-day gala showcasing instrumental and dance per-

formances by its graduates at Abraham Lincoln High School, 2800 Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

An all-day community health and sports fair also will be held on the June 20 at Asser Levy Park, ending with the official closing ceremonies.

Acclaimed boys' group M-Generation, winners of the International Golden Hanukiya Competition, will perform.

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Ukraine's ex-PM guilty

SAN FRANCISCO — Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko was found guilty Thursday of money-laundering and extortion charges related to a series of business schemes in his homeland.

Lazarenko, 51, faces a maximum of five years in prison, defense attorneys said. Lazarenko sought political asylum in the U.S. in 1999 during his country's presidential election campaign, claiming that he had faced three assassination at-

tempts.

Boeing strikes back

MOSCOW — Boeing Co., one of the largest foreign investors in Russia, said it may hire fewer engineers and information technology specialists as the former Soviet state refuses to lower its 40% tariff on the company's planes.

Russia's aerospace industry, which rivaled that of the U.S. during the Cold War, has suffered since the fall of the Soviet Union as the state couldn't financially support airplane manufacturers. The country, which

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produced about a dozen regional and long-distance commercial planes last year compared with about 150 during Soviet times, has imposed high tariffs to protect its domestic industry.

Candidate surfaces

MOSCOW — The first major candidate in the upcoming election for president in Russia's Chechnya emerged Thursday. The campaign is to replace President Akhmad Kadyrov, who was killed by a rebel bomb blast in May.

Malik Saidullayev, a wealthy Moscow-based lotteries tycoon, flew to Chechnya to submit documents required to register for the Aug. 29 poll, a source close to him told Reuters.