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January/February 2021



CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

Церковь Всѣхъ Святыхъ въ Землѣ Россійской Просіавшихъ

Christ is Born!!!

MESSAGE FROM
ARCHPRIEST STEFAN, RECTOR

Glorify Him!!

Christ is born; glorify Him! Christ comes from Heaven; go to meet Him! Christ is on earth; be exalted! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! And praise Him in gladness, O people, for He has been glorified!

With all the Covid restrictions and limitations currently in effect, we as Orthodox Christians must do our ultimate best to celebrate Holy Nativity (Christmas) and Theophany (Our Lord's Baptism) as solemnly and deeply as we possibly can. This means we should read and reread the Gospel accounts of these miraculous events and make a committed effort to read the texts of the services related to these two major Holidays. The texts for services on Christmas Eve, Sochel'nik, the Nativity, Theophany Eve and Theophany are available on the Church Website. Go to the Home Page at <http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org> The full texts of Nativity and Theophany Services have also been printed out as individual pamphlets and are available at our church.

Not everyone will be able to attend the church services but all can make sure to watch and prayerfully participate in our LIVESTREAM coverage of all our Holiday Church Services. This is truly the time to make our home a small annex of our church, with the Nativity and Theophany icons on display and a candle or oil lamp placed before them.

The better we prepare for the most stringent circumstances, the easier it will be to cherish the grace of this Holy Season aptly called Sviatsi.

With the imposed restrictions, we should not get used to life without our church and church services and traditions. Make a sincere effort to do morning and evening prayers and if you have never practiced daily prayer, make that a habit and an important part of your private and family spiritual ritual.

It's easy to order Prayer Books in English, Russian or Slavonic from the Internet. The Holy Trinity Monastery Bookstore in Jordanville, New York is a great source. Or locally, visit the Holy Virgin Community Bookstore in San Francisco located next to the Cathedral on 26th Avenue and Geary Boulevard.

It is most urgent that we protect, guide and nurture our children to have an understanding of our faith and a love for our Church Services and Orthodox Christian Family Traditions. Without a living connection to this spiritual light, it will quickly dim and be lost to our youth.

The circumstances of limited attendance at church services makes this all the more difficult and menacing, but we should not abandon our **responsibilities and our firm resolve.**

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May the Lord help us in our efforts and may we use this time to grow spiritually, knowing if we do not give up, the Lord will guide, help, preserve and protect us on our spiritual journey and in our worldly toils.

I behold a strange, most glorious mystery! Heaven - the cave! The cherubic throne - the Virgin! The manger - the place where Christ lay, the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song! Our Savior, the dayspring from the East, has visited us from on high, and we, who were in darkness and shadow, have found the truth, for the Lord is born of the Virgin! ■

BAPTIZED

OCTOBER 2020
Anastasia A. Afanasiev

NOVEMBER 2020
Elena Kralin

MARRIED

OCTOBER 2020
Roman Azimov and
Tatsiana Kachuk

NOVEMBER 2020
None

REPOSED IN THE LORD

OCTOBER 2020
None

NOVEMBER 2020
Natalia Nikitin-Burkin

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION FOR ARCHPRIEST STEFAN

WHAT THREE MIRACLES ARE REVEALED TO ORTHODOX FAITHFUL?

Ofentimes when reading the Bible, we marvel when God's faithful witness miracles that are both great and small. The parting of the Red Sea, the plagues against Pharaoh, the descent of Holy Manna, God's Grace in Solomon's Temple, and the appearance of many other Divine events cause us to ponder why, seemingly, they no longer appear in our own time.

But is that really so? No, there are miracles that occur annually in our own time and are a marvel to all who witness them or have firsthand knowledge of their existence. These miracles are tied in with events celebrated on major feast days on the Orthodox Calendar. Specifically, they are Theophany which is celebrated January 6/19, Great and Holy Sabbath Saturday, a moveable feast day which is May 1 in 2021, and Holy Transfiguration Day celebrated on August 6/19. On each of these major church feast days, an extraordinary and miraculous occurrence is witnessed by those who attend services in the Holy Land at the place where the original miracle took place.

The first one of the year occurs on Theophany on the bank of the Jordan River where the actual Baptism of the Lord took place. Our Lord Jesus Christ was baptized by Saint John the Baptist and the Holy Spirit appeared as a Dove. A Voice from Heaven proclaimed "This is My Son, whom I love, With Him I am well pleased." The Holy Trinity is revealed to mankind, and this event is affirmed each year with the recurring miracle of the reversal of the current of the Jordan River.

Each year, the Great Blessing of the Waters takes place when the Holy Cross is immersed into the water of the river. At that moment, the current of the Jordan River reverses its flow, just like it did in the Old Testament when the Holy Ark of the Covenant and the People of Israel crossed the Jordan into the Holy Land led by Joshua. The river reversed its flow again when the holy prophet Saint Elisha received Prophet Elijah's mantle and struck the Jordan to cross on dry land.

Another miracle that takes place yearly occurs on Great and Holy Sabbath Saturday before Pascha. Thousands of the faithful arrive at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, where Our Lord resurrected, to witness the appearance of the Holy Fire. The Patriarch of Jerusalem enters the Holy Sepulcher after being examined to see he has no combustible materials. After praying fervently, he exits the Sepulcher with the Holy Fire and passes along the flame to the thousands gathered in the church. It is also distributed to all the churches in Jerusalem and now throughout the world. For several minutes, the Holy Fire is not hot and many faithful have blessed their faces and placed their hands in the burning flame without harm. Books have been written about this phenomenon for centuries and

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many accounts are available to those who are interested in this yearly miracle of the Orthodox Church.

Metropolitan Laurus of blessed memory once asked a Bishop who substituted for the Patriarch of Jerusalem to describe his experience. The Bishop told Metropolitan Laurus that he stood in cold and darkness, praying fervently. Time seemed to have stopped. Between prayers, he glanced at the marble cover over the space that once held Our Lord's body. Then, the Bishop noticed what looked like blue bouncing droplets surrounding the lamp that was full of cotton and oil. He dared to gather the droplets and place them in the lamp which ignited into a glowing bright fire. With this, he lit the bundled candles and came out of the Sepulcher joyfully with that year's HOLY FIRE!

Some years, the Holy Fire appears almost immediately at the start of the actual service. Other times, it is delayed for hours, causing fear and consternation among the faithful. But whenever it comes, it is the dawn of the Paschal Day for the Earth. Archpriest Vladimir Boikov's Church of the Resurrection of Christ in Auckland, New Zealand is the first Russian Orthodox Church to celebrate Pascha in the 24-hour cycle of the day as the world turns.

One simple proof of the veracity of this miracle is that during the centuries of Moslem hegemony over Orthodox Christians in Jerusalem, the miracle was never proven false, and remained a wonder to the occupying Muslims.

The third reoccurring miracle takes place on Mount Tabor yearly on Holy Transfiguration when a Mystical but very visible Cloud forms over the mountaintop where Our Lord Jesus Christ had shown His Glory to the Holy Apostles Peter, Jacob and John. The Apostles were awed to hear the Voice of God proclaim, "This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am Well Pleased, Listen to Him."

The Cloud first appeared when King Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem and the Hebrew Priests brought in the Holy Ark. As the Temple was being dedicated, a thick Cloud of visible Grace permeated the holy structure so much, the priests "could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God."

We, of course, must harken to the Lord's doing and embrace such wondrous miracles that occur for our enlightenment and encouragement. They are sent to us to follow Our Faith in these difficult and trying times. While others can ignore or belittle such occurrences, these miracles are a divine sign of God's presence in our own time. ■

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MEET OUR PARISHIONERS: ANNA AND ANDREI FEDOROV

Ludmilla Bobroff

Let me introduce you to Anna and Andrei Fedorov who have been attending the Church of All Russian Saints since 2008. At first, they attended occasionally. Then, as they learned more about the Orthodox faith, they started coming more often. After Anna joined the church choir, she enjoyed singing so much, the couple is present at almost every service. While Andrei doesn't sing, he stands ready to help the Starosta in any way possible.



Anna and Andrei Fedorov

Andrei is originally from Moscow, the son of the late Vladimir and Tatiana Fedorov. Andrei and his brother, Vladislav, grew up in the city, studied diligently in school, and were members of the Soviet Pioneers youth organization. Their parents did not take them to church but their grandmother, Lydia Starovoitova, having kept her faith during the Communist Party rule in Russia, taught Andrei enough to influence his later decision to be baptized. She became his Godmother when he was baptized in the late 90s.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 90s, colleges and universities in the U.S. offered exchange programs to qualified Russian students who wanted to come here to learn the English language and study the American culture. In exchange, American students were offered a similar opportunity to go to Russia to learn the language, the history, and the customs of the new Russian Federation.

In the fall of 1991, Andrei applied and was accepted as an exchange student at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He was a good soccer player and was quickly recruited to play on the college team. The coach even bought him a pair of expensive soccer shoes to enable him to play his best.

“Being on the team helped me learn conversational English,” says Andrei. “I already knew English grammar and vocabulary from my classes in Russia, but what I lacked were conversational skills. Playing on the team gave me an opportunity to learn expressions and phrases that were popular here.”

After the fall semester ended, Andrei returned to Moscow to complete his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Chemical Engineering at Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia. Also studying chemical engineering at Mendeleev University was Anna Smirnov from Klin, approximately 50 miles from Moscow. Daughter of Valeriy and Lidiya Smirnov, Anna met Andrei and the two started dating.

Anna was an only child and a good student. Although church was not part of her childhood, her grandmother, Anna Krasnova, was a devout Orthodox. She taught her granddaughter The Lord's Prayer (“Отче Наш”) and pointed out icons in her country home. “It was both my mother and my grandmother who encouraged me to be baptized at the age of 16,” says Anna. “But not until my late 20s did I consciously come to the faith and realize its importance.”

Upon graduating from Mendeleev University, Andrei decided to pursue his graduate degree in the United States. He was accepted into the PhD program at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Meanwhile, Anna remained an undergraduate at Mendeleev. Missing her boyfriend, she applied for a U.S. Visitor's Visa to come for a visit during winter vacation but it was brusquely denied by the consulate officer, saying he believed the purpose of her trip was to find a rich American husband. When Anna told Andrei tearfully she wasn't coming for a visit, he proposed to her over the telephone.

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They got married in a civil ceremony at a wedding palace in Moscow and two weeks later, Andrei flew back to Ohio to continue his studies. The young bride returned to Mendeleev University to complete the undergraduate program.



Andrei and his mother, Tatiana Fedorov, rest after a coastal hike in Linda Mar.

“Upon graduation, I decided to try my luck in being accepted at Bowling Green State University where Andrei was studying,” says Anna. “Through God’s Grace (although I did not realize it at the time), I was accepted at the university and graduated with a Master’s degree in chemistry in 1997 and a PhD in Photochemical Sciences in 2003.”

“Our parents had mixed reactions regarding our decision to study in the U.S.,” says Andrei. “Our fathers, who were both scientists, were very excited for us while our mothers were sad we were leaving. My mother, who had been an engineer during the Soviet years, had to give up her job and become a bank teller because that salary was higher than engineering after the economy collapsed. I wanted Anna to have all the opportunities for a successful career that I had and believed the U.S. would provide that.”



Anna welcomes her parents, Valeriy and Lidiya Smirnov, who came for a visit.

However, finding challenging jobs for both of them in the same city proved to be difficult. At one point, Anna was working in Ohio and Andrei was working in Toronto, Canada. After several years of living separately, the young couple decided to check out California for employment opportunities. They were amazed with all the jobs available in the tech industry.

Anna was the first to be hired as a scientific researcher at Genentech. The biotechnology company discovers and develops medicines for people with serious and life-threatening diseases. She moved to San Mateo in 2005 and rented an apartment that was, providentially, just a 15-minute walk from the Burlingame Church.

It took two years before Andrei found his dream job at Pacific Biosciences of California. The company develops instrumentation for the next generation of DNA sequencing. As the Principal Scientist/Director, he leads the effort to develop better DNA sequencing reagents to improve diagnostics of genetic diseases.

When the couple started attending church, it was sporadically. As they learned more about Orthodoxy from reading books, their faith grew. Anna took her first Confession and Holy Communion with Father Stefan. He also officiated at their marriage ceremony with two friends in attendance. But the biggest influence in Anna’s church life has been Choir Director Andrei Roudenko.

“I am forever thankful to Andrei Roudenko for his kind offer to me to attend choir rehearsals,” Anna says. “I finished music school in Russia, learning to play the piano and having some general singing experience. However, church choral singing turned out to be much harder than I expected. But it was also more emotionally and spiritually uplifting than I ever thought it would be.”

Their parents arrive periodically from Moscow, staying for a month. The young couple’s trips home are much shorter due to job commitments. Since they have lived here so long, their families say they are sometimes hard to understand because of mixing Russian and English words together. In their free time, they like to hike, camp, travel and get together with their mostly Russian friends, who, inevitably, persuade Andrei to bring out his guitar and play a few songs. ■

STEWARDSHIP NEWS – ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

Dimitry Bobroff

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and limited opportunity to attend church services, your Stewardship donations exceeded our goal of \$60,000 for 2020. We are very grateful to all of you, our generous Stewards, who value and love our parish community.

In January, I will be sending out tax-deductible receipts for your 2020 Stewardship donations, along with 2021 pledge forms and a list of planned projects for the coming year.

Our main projects in 2020 were the following:

1. New Livestream System. An anonymous parish member donated all the costs of state-of-the-art video and audio equipment along with installation costs. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, church attendance was limited and greater numbers had to rely on Livestream for their spiritual edification. Providing funds to upgrade our system was a Godsend, and we wish “many years” to our generous donor. Aleksey Kovalenko was the Project Manager.

2. Exhaust Fans. With the pandemic, it was important to have fresh, circulating air in the church for our limited inside attendance of invited parishioners. Two large, industrial quality exhaust fans were installed to replace our old barely-working fans. Oleg Bolshakoff was the Project Manager.

3. Altar Painting. Over the years, the smoke from candles and censers darkened the Altar ceiling and walls. Because this happened over a long period of time, it was not really noticeable and we all got used to having a gray cast. However, when Father Stefan would remove an icon on the wall, the underlying white color would be in great contrast with the rest of the space.

The Altar ceiling was painted a beautiful light blue color, while the walls were painted off white. Alyosha Baranoff was the Project Manager.

4. Sacristy (Panomarka). Removing everything from the Altar for painting provided an opportunity to think of other badly-needed improvements in the Altar. In most Orthodox churches, there is a Panomarka on each side of the Altar – one for priest vestments and vesting, and the other for the hot water, censers, and all items needed for church services. We currently have only one small Panomarka on the right side of the Altar available for everything. With plans developed by Father Stefan and Alyosha Baranoff, the northeast classrooms, bathroom, and kitchen are being remodeled into a good size Panomarka on the left side of the Altar to hold all items needed for church services. The classrooms are being preserved by eliminating the kitchen and the bathtub. Upon completion, the Panomarkas will resemble those in other Orthodox Churches with the right one for the priest’s vestments and vesting and the left one accommodating all items needed for church services. Alyosha Baranoff is the Project Manager.



Petya Kolenko works with Brian Ching of BK Builders on the panomarka.

5. Stained Glass Windows. Two stained glass windows were fabricated and installed in

mid-December. Window #4 depicts the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood in St. Petersburg and Window #5 depicts Saint Basil's Cathedral in Red Square in Moscow. The designs are the result of the artistic work meticulously created by Olga Parr and Svetlana Avdeeva. Designs for the remaining six windows have been completed by them while the fabrication and installation will continue into 2021. Dimitry Bobroff is the Project Manager.

6. Bell Project. The planning effort to replace our discordant and damaged set of bells with a new complete set of tuned bells is progressing and will continue into 2021. Bill Gilchrist is the Project Manager.

7. Golden Iconostasis. Our Father Deacon Alexandre Sarandinaki undertook a personal project during the initial weeks of the pandemic shutdown to paint the iconostasis a golden color by carefully using small brushes. This was a very laborious effort due to its delicate nature. The result is stunning.

8. Thanksgiving Food Drive: This was the sixth year that we participated in contributing to the CALL Primrose Food Bank to provide Thanksgiving meals for needy families in San Mateo County. Because of Covid-19, the food bank requested that we provide money instead of buying items and filling up food boxes. Thanks to the generosity of our parish, we collected \$2,140 (equivalent to about 43 food boxes) for families who would not have been able to afford a Thanksgiving meal.

This devastating year of the coronavirus has brought forth many stewards, parishioners, and friends of the Burlingame church to volunteer not only their personal funds but also their time and physical efforts. We are eternally grateful to the following people:

- Members of the Sisterhood for making and selling take-out meals.
- Ushers checking in people who have been invited to attend services.

- Choir members who have rehearsed and sung at the services when requested.
- Paul Loukianoff for providing the outside tents and the soundproof blankets for the fences.
- Peter Loukianoff for providing audio equipment for outside church services.
- Aleksey Kovalenko and his team who set up the audio visual equipment for all outside services.
- Volunteers who stay after services to clean the church.
- Andrei Roudenko for steering us through the ever changing pandemic regulations.
- Alik Klestoff for his electrical work in the new Panomarka.
- Margarita Mescherskaya for her weekly cleaning of the church.
- The Parish Council who perform tasks without fanfare and keep our church functioning well.
- Most of all, to the faithful who love God so much, they ignore rain, wind, and cold to attend services.

For 2021, here are our Projected Plans:

Plans for 2021 fall into the following categories: church improvement projects, stained glass windows, church bells, and external projects such as painting the outside of the church. On the next page, please see our Stewardship Program poster which lists the planned items in detail. In addition, the poster points out which projects need volunteers, sponsors, and managers.

If you would like to become more active in the Church of All Russian Saints, there are ongoing groups that always need additional new volunteers. Specifically, the Sisterhood, the Choir, teaching at the Parish Russian School, cleaning before major Feast Days, becoming an altar server for boys, and becoming a Project Manager overseeing a needed project.

Finally, please consider becoming a Steward. Pledge forms can be found on our website at <https://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/stewardship> ■

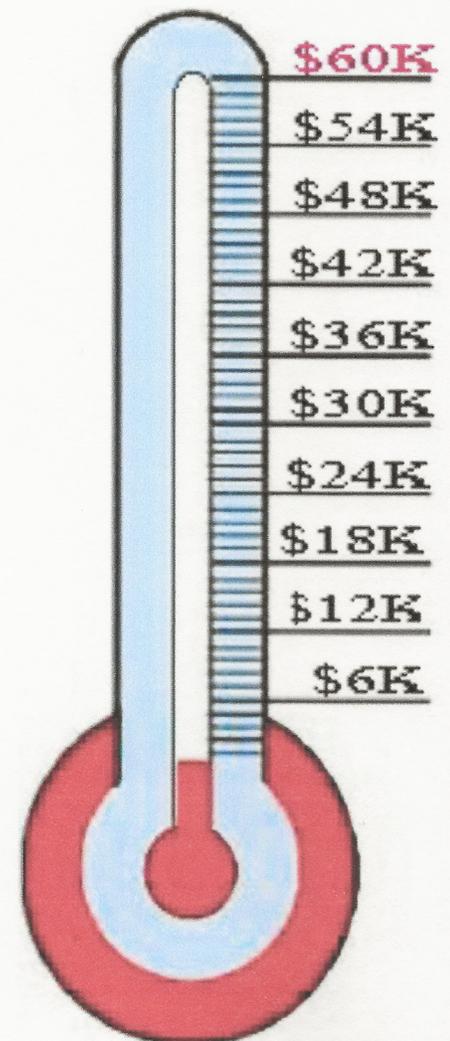
Church of All Russian Saints Stewardship Program

2021 Goal = \$60,000 in Stewardship Pledges



Parish Major Projects

- ❖ Church Improvement Projects (Alyosha Baranoff et al).
 - *Install updated wall paneling in the Altar and rest of church*
 - *Install bookshelves to declutter side rooms*
 - *Paint the inside of church and hallways*
 - *Update Narthex (entryway) with new floor and lighting*
 - *Upgrade candle stand area in entryway*
- ❖ Complete the fabrication/installation of the stained-glass windows (Svetlana Avdeeva, Olga Parr, and Dima Bobroff).
- ❖ Acquire a tuned set of church bells (Bill Gilchrist et al).
- ❖ External Projects
 - *Earthquake safety improvement – back fence*
 - *Repair damaged wet-rot wooden beams on roof*
 - *Repair cracks, seal, and paint the outside of the church*
- ❖ Volunteering for various efforts (a few examples):
 - *Sisterhood (Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko – (650) 430-9806)*
 - *Parish Choir (Andrei Roudenko – (650) 922-0250)*
 - *Parish School (Svetlana Avdeeva - (650) 483-5088)*
 - *Church Cleaning (Andrei Alexeeff – (650) 787-2145)*
 - *Altar Servers (Alyosha Baranoff – (916) 799-0898)*
 - *Minor repair projects (Dimitry Bobroff – (408) 257-6918)*
- ❖ Sponsorship for recurring supplies and needs (a few examples):
 - *Nativity and Paschal gift to choir members (~\$1,200 per Feastday)*
 - *Website hosting fee (\$300 per year)*
 - *Landscape maintenance (\$200 per month)*
 - *Liturgical supplies (wine, oil, incense, etc.) (\$150 per month)*
 - *Telephone cost (internet, phone, alarm system - \$180 per month)*
 - *Newsletter printing cost (\$72 per issue)*





SALUTING THE 2020 STEWARDS

Anonymous (cash total \$1,230)
Anonymous (new Livestream system)
Ellen and Andy Alexeeff
Svetlana Avdeeva
Alla Avisov
Anastasia and Alexei Baranoff
Elena Bederova
Ludmilla and Dimitry Bobroff
Tanya and Oleg Bolshakoff
Ronald Bulatoff
Natalie and Cleo Burigin
Louis Busta
Olga and Warren Cane
Ludmila Doktorov
Helen Dourov
Anna and Andrei Fedorov
Luba Gauschildt
Anna and Anton Generalov
Bill Gilchrist
Leo Grabowski
Margarita Herzen
Nina and Mark Howell
Tania and Nick Ionoff
Diana Kardash
Mara and Alik Klestoff
Olga Kolenko

Lana and Vova Kondrasheff
Nikita Korens
Aleksey Kovalenko
Sofija and Milovan Krnjajic
Sonia and Peter Loukianoff
Xenia and Andrei Maximow
Yura Misersky
Irene Motoviloff
Natalia Nielsen
Lula and Shura Ossipoff
Olga Parr
Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko Family
Lamont Phemister
Marina Plissak
Yana and Roman Ponomarev
Evghenia Regelman-Greiner
Marina and Andrei Roudenko
Sonja and Nick Shevelyov
Margarita and Alexander Shkolnik
Julia and Anatol Shmelev
Cyril (Cy) Sinelnikoff
Anastasia Sky
Maria Sky
Valentina Tolstoguzova
Yuliya Voroninskaya

OTHER NOTABLE DONORS TO THE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

CALL Primrose Food Drive Donors
Newsletter Advertisers
Newsletter Sponsors
Parish Church Choir
Parish School Teachers
Parish Sisterhood
Society for Honoring Russian Nobility
St. John Kronstadt Health Care Center
St. John's Volunteers/Brookside Nursing Home

A CENTENNIAL PANIHIDA FOR CRIMEAN EVACUATION

With the blessing of His Eminence Kyrill, Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America, Father Stefan served a panihida commemorating 100 years since the evacuation of nearly 150,000 White Army soldiers and civilians from the Crimean Peninsula in Russia. Attending the service on November 15 at the Church of All Russian Saints were Ivan Yerastovich Lisenko, son of Yerast Yerastovich Lisenko, who was on the ship in Crimea and disembarked in Gallipoli.

Also attending were Natalie Sabelnik, president of the Congress of Russian Americans which organized the Panihida and Nicholas Loukianoff, Ataman of the All Cossacks Union. Father Stefan had a personal connection to the evacuation since many members of his family evacuated Russia at that time. They included Great Grandparents Alexander Tolstoy and Maria Nee Kravchenko-Hmelnitskaya; Grandfather Warrior Colonel (Polkovnik) Dimitry Alexandrovich Schatiloff and Grandmother Nee Maria Aleksandrovna Tolstaya; Mother Maria Dmitrievna Schatilova who became Novice Nun Sister Maria and Father Warrior Vladimir Stepanovich Pavlenko.

With the choir singing and with heartfelt prayers, Father served a beautiful panihida for all the Russian soldiers and families who left their homeland, never to return. In an email sent that evening after the service, Ivan Yerastovich Lysenko wrote, "Please thank the priest and the choir

for the Panihida today. It was a beautiful service and I felt my father's presence."

The historical event happened November 13-16, 1920 when Baron Pyotr Nikolayevich von Wrangel organized the "Great Exodus" from the different ports of the Crimean Peninsula (Yevpatoria, Kerch, Sevastopol', Yalta and Feodosia). Mobilizing 126 ships, which included foreign ships and volunteer ships from the Black Sea fleet, he transported nearly 150,000 White Army soldiers and civilians out of Russia. The voluntary fleet sailed to Constantinople and to the Tunisian port of Bizerte.

During 2020, the Congress of Russian Americans had planned commemorative events in honor of the Centennial. The organization produced the first of a four-part film series featuring interviews with descendants of the evacuees who currently live in the United States. CRA also started collecting funds for the Church Memorial Fund to build a memorial church in Sevastopol', Crimea. It hopes to receive independent donations from all over the world so no government subsidies will be needed.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 slowed down plans to complete many of the projects. An exhibit, lecture, reception, and film premiere had to be postponed. However, a new book has been written by Tatiana Amochaev, under the pseudonym of Tania Romanov which was her grandmother's maiden name. Titled "One Hundred Years of Exile," Tatiana's



Ivan Yerastovich Lisenko, son of one of the evacuees, attended the panihida.



Representing the Congress of Russian Americans which organized the service, was President Natalie Sabelnik. Representing the All Cossacks Union was Ataman Nicholas Loukianoff.

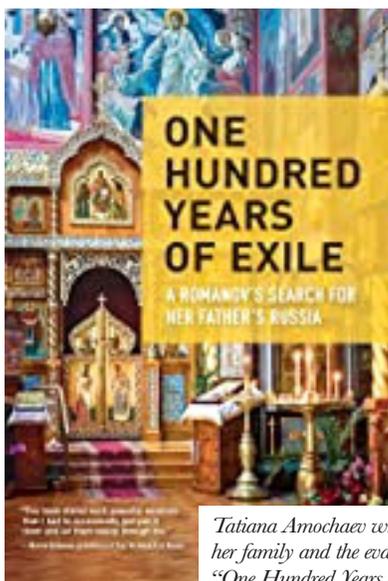
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gripping story captures not just the evacuation from the Crimean Peninsula, but also describes further obstacles her family had to overcome before coming to the United States.

Tatiana is generously donating the cost of her book to CRA's Memorial Church Fund. To purchase her book, send a check for \$30 to CRA at 2460 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. On the memo line, write Crimean Book. The \$30 will cover the cost of the book, tax, plus shipping and handling charges. The book will be mailed to you and your donation will go directly to CRA.

If you prefer to donate just to the Church Memorial Fund, send a check, made out to Congress of Russian Americans, with Church Memorial Fund written on the memo line. The address is the same, CRA, 2460 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

CRA sincerely hopes they will be able to fulfill their plans and joyfully celebrate the 100-Year Commemoration in 2021. ■



Tatiana Amochaev writes about her family and the evacuation in "One Hundred Years of Exile." Proceeds from the book will go to CRA's Church Memorial Fund.

CHOIR NEWS

Andrei Roudenko

Wow - what a year 2020 turned out to be! Twelve months ago at this time, our choir was preparing for Nativity and Epiphany services and our annual Great Lent Concert. Looking forward to gathering with family and friends for New Year's Eve and Nativity, our choir decided to host a Nativity Day potluck luncheon to enable those, who might not have another celebration to attend, to enjoy Christian fellowship on this major Holy Day. The initiative went "viral" and over 100 parish members participated, bringing food and drink. It was so successful that everyone expressed interest in making this an annual event. Little did we know that life in the world, our country, state and parish was about to dramatically change. COVID-19!

No one expected that Marina would be singing single-handedly for four weeks during Great Lent while the rest of our choir could "participate" only by Livestream. No one expected that our 30+ strong choir would be limited to micro- and mini-choirs for most of 2020. No one expected that attendance at church services would be by invitation, to satisfy social distancing guidelines. Who could have guessed a year ago that parishioners would not be allowed to stand inside our church!

No doubt, these are challenging times. But in comparison with the persecutions of early Christians, in comparison with those who suffered for their veneration of Icons in the 8th and 9th centuries, and in comparison with the fate of New Martyrs and Confessors of Soviet Russia, our situation is mild, and our response has been consistent with our predecessors.

O. Stefan's dedication to our services has not diminished. Our parishioner's desire to attend services, even in cold and rainy weather, including babushki with walkers, bundled in heavy coats and scarves (!), remains strong. Those choir members who are able, have stepped up to sing the glorious arrangements that were composed for large choirs, despite our limited numbers.

It's hard to predict what 2021 will bring. Maybe we will return to pre-COVID normalcy. Maybe we will be subjected to further restrictions, and maybe even persecution – we don't know. But the spiritual drive of our Pastor, our parishioners, Sisterhood, Council, and our choir members is strong. By God's grace, through the prayers of the Holy Theotokos, all the Saints of Russia, and St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco, we stand ready to seize every opportunity to continue practicing our Orthodox faith.

My friends: Христос рождается, славите!
Christ is born, glorify Him! ■

SISTERHOOD PIVOTS TO SELL TO-GO MEALS

Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko



A blackboard announces to churchgoers what is available for sale.

Due to the first coronavirus lockdown in March, the Sisterhood's last community lunch in the Church Hall was the annual Blini fest held in late February. As we toasted one another with shots of vodka and loaded up our blini with delicious caviar, gravlax, chopped eggs, and huge dollops of sour cream, it didn't occur to any of us that this would be our last lunch for a very long time. Surely, the lockdown would be over in a few weeks, so we kept planning our Pasta Buffet for Sunday of the Cross and Fish Cutlets for Palm Sunday.

Alas, neither occurred, not even our Paschal Breakfast after the Midnight Liturgy on early Pascha morning. By late summer, we really missed the fun of cooking together for our wonderful parishioners and started thinking what else we could do under our strict guidelines. If restaurants could provide take-out meals, maybe we should too!

The Nativity Lent was soon approaching, so we decided to make golubtsi (cabbage rolls) and a variety of desserts. We ordered new take-out containers and new bags. We stood socially distant from one another as we cooked. We wore gloves and handled food as little as possible.



Nina Eyvazov (left) prepares the meat-filled blintzes for packaging while Luba Gauschieldt takes out the frozen borscht from the freezer.



Ladies of the Sisterhood take a quick photo together after working for two days preparing, packing, and selling the golubtsi and desserts.

Phone orders started coming in and we were overwhelmed by the response. Our golubtsi to-go were a great success. However, we realized immediately we had a lot of cabbage left over so the next idea was to make borscht and freeze it. Soup containers were ordered and in two days, 30 quarts of borscht went into the freezer. Borscht by itself didn't seem to be enough of a meal, so we added savory meat-filled crepe piroshki plus desserts. Once again, orders came in and once again we sold out.

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Nativity Lent began, so for the first Sunday of December, we prepared fish cutlets for sale. Now we filled new containers with cutlets and mushroom sauce to be enjoyed at home, plus prepared a new variety of homemade desserts. Again, we sold out. Sadly, we could not hold our annual Gingerbread Faire this year and watch the children joyfully decorate their gingerbread houses. So we just sold the kits for the children to take home.

Our post-Nativity plans are still in flux. Please check the church website for information on events and to-go meals in January and February, if any become scheduled. ■



Vera Polski prepares the golubtsi (cabbage rolls) for sale. Matushka Tatiana works six feet away.

FROM THE PAST...

Volunteers Build 'Russian' Domes

By **PHYLLIS MACKALL**
Church Page Editor

A "labor of love" would be the appropriate term for the year of intricate work two brothers-in-law have devoted to the construction of five onion-shaped domes for a new Russian Orthodox church in Burlingame.

V. I. Lisin, 232 Hudson St., senior design draftsman for Westinghouse in Sunnyvale, and Dr. R. C. Locey of 156 Somerset St., a dentist, began their volunteer project early last summer.

The men previously built, as a joint project, a sailboat which both families enjoy.

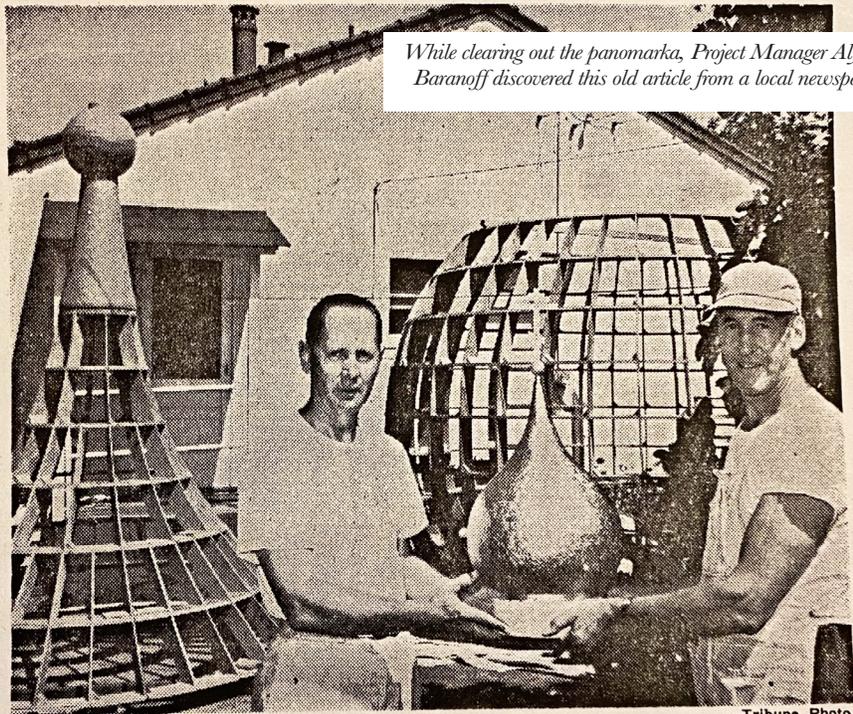
They were joined in their dome-making work by Mr. Lisin's son, A. V. Lisin of Saratoga, an engineer at Stanford University.

The Lisin family and Dr. Locey's wife and daughter are members of the Orthodox Brotherhood in the Name of All Russian Saints. This church is currently under construction at 744 El Camino Real in Burlingame.

In order to keep costs down, part of the work is being done by volunteers.

All of the work on the domes was done at the Lisin home. The four smaller domes are 7 feet in diameter and 11 feet high. The large dome is 12 feet in diameter and 18 feet high.

The latter, constructed in sections, will be assembled at a fiberglass plant in Belmont where the domes are being covered. All will be gilded before installation.

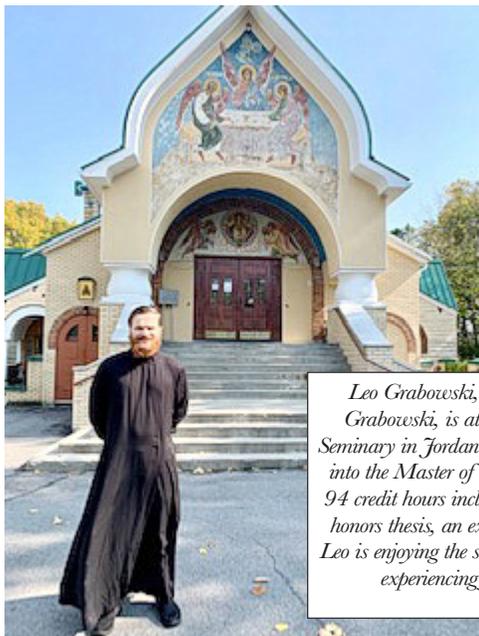


While clearing out the panomarka, Project Manager Alyosha Baranoff discovered this old article from a local newspaper.

—Tribune Photo

It's Not a Space Capsule

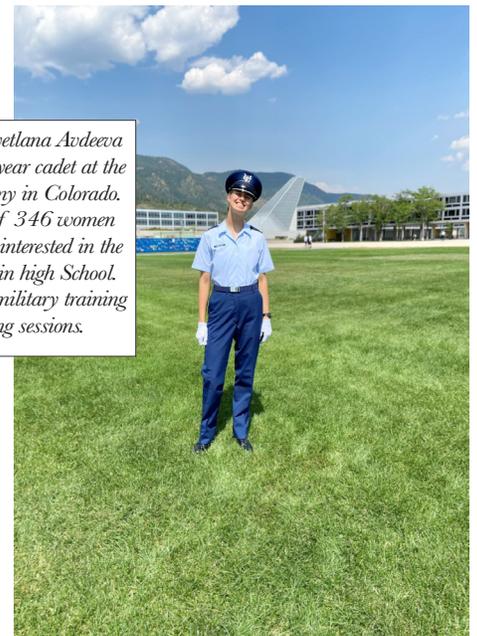
V. I. Lisin, left, and Dr. R. C. Locey hold a scale model of a traditional onion-shaped dome. These brothers-in-law have constructed five such domes during the past year to top the new Russian Orthodox Church in Burlingame.



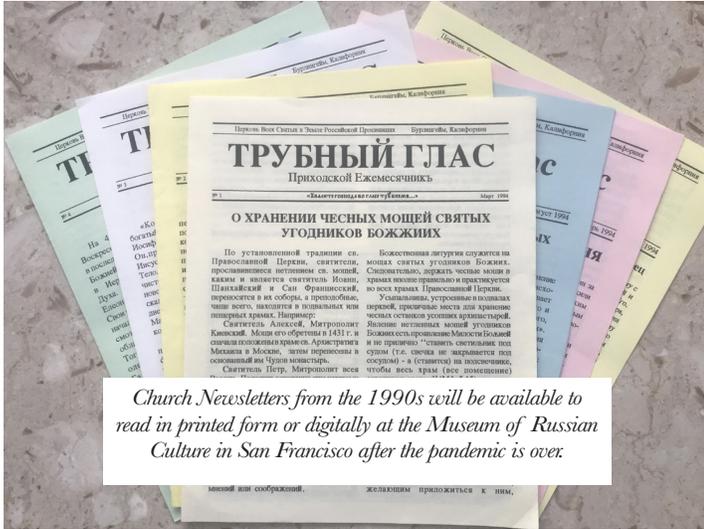
Leo Grabowski, oldest son of Molly and John Grabowski, is attending Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, New York. He was accepted into the Master of Divinity program which requires 94 credit hours including completing in three years an honors thesis, an extended essay, or a special project. Leo is enjoying the snowfall in Jordanville which he is experiencing for the first time in his life.

INTO THE FUTURE...

Ksenia Vasilyev, daughter of Svetlana Avdeeva and Alexsey Vasilyev, is a first year cadet at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado. Her Class of 2024 consists of 346 women and 799 men. Ksenia became interested in the military during her senior year in high school. Now, as a cadet, she has daily military training and weekly physical training sessions.



RUSSIAN MUSEUM ACCEPTS TROOBNII GLAS NEWSLETTERS



Church Newsletters from the 1990s will be available to read in printed form or digitally at the Museum of Russian Culture in San Francisco after the pandemic is over.

Our current Newsletter is not the first publication that the Church of All Russian Saints produced. In the mid-90s, members of the Gan family created a four-page pamphlet that came out monthly and was available to parishioners. The editorial team consisted of Alexandra Gan, Vadim Gan, Seraphim Rostislavovich Gan, and Father Stefan.

“It was a group effort but not an easy thing to do,” says Alexandra Gan, who kept all the issues from March 1994 to April/May 1997. “During those years, there was no internet to copy and paste the religious articles that were selected or the listings of upcoming events. So, Vadim and I typed the articles that were recommended by Seraphim Rostislavovich and Otets Stefan. Then Vadim designed the layout and Seraphim Rostislavovich would proofread and edit the

Russian grammar. Since my father-in-law didn’t have an email address, it was all done via fax.”

Recently, the editor of the current Burlingame Church Newsletter contacted Margarita Meniailenko, Chief Archivist of the Museum of Russian Culture in San Francisco and asked if the Museum would accept these old copies. Not only was Margarita interested in Troobniy Glas, but also in receiving back copies of the Church of All Russian Saints Newsletter which have been posted and printed since January/February 2013.

Currently, due to the coronavirus, the Museum of Russian Culture, located in the Russian Center in San Francisco, is closed. However, once COVID restrictions are lifted, staff members can show visitors both digital and printed copies of Troobniy Glas. The address of the Russian Center is 2460 Sutter Street, San Francisco. For complete information, contact Chief Archivist Margarita Meniailenko at 408-505-9101.

Back issues of our current Newsletter will also be saved at the Museum for future generations. However, all issues are now available on the Church of All Russian Saints website, <http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org>

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We welcome your suggestions on the type of articles you would like to see in the Parish Newsletter. Send your ideas to Ludmilla Bobroff at Ludmillaa@aol.com or telephone (408) 257-6918. Please write Parish Newsletter in the Subject Line. Deadline is one month prior to publication.

Next Newsletter - MARCH 2021

LIVESTREAM SERVICES

For those who are homebound, hospitalized or unable to attend Church Services at the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame, we have enabled live video streaming via the Internet. Live, as well as previously recorded Church Services are available at

YouTube channel:
<http://bit.ly/burlingamechannel>

Alternatively, the link to the Church Services is also available on the church website at:
<http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

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Please support our advertisers. All proceeds from ad sales go to the Stewardship Fund. If you would like your business card to appear in the next issue of the Newsletter, please contact Dimitry Bobroff at jbobroff@aol.com Cost is \$25. Deadline for submitting cards and sending checks (made out to Church of All Russian Saints) is February 1st.

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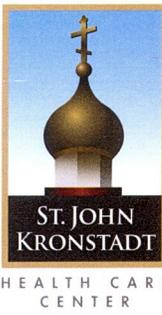


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