



**VOLUME 6 NUMBER 1**  
*January/February 2018*

# CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

**Церковь Всех Святых из Земли Российской Прославшихся**

*100 Years since the martyred death of  
 Metropolitan Vladimir*

**1918-2018**

*100 Years since the martyred death of  
 the Royal Family*

**MESSAGE FROM FATHER STEFAN**

I would like to convey to everyone my deepest and most joyous felicitations with the Holy Feasts of The Lord's Nativity in the Flesh and the Holy Baptism of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This year's Nativity Season will feel very short because the preparatory Sundays in anticipation of the Lenten Season will start as early as the 28th of January on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. Even earlier, on the Sunday after Theophany (January 21), the Gospel reading will be about Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was a man who was hated and corrupt because he was a Publican, a tax collector, bilking his fellow Jews while collecting taxes for the hated Roman invaders of Palestine. Zacchaeus had heard of the miracles performed by Jesus Christ and of His love and kindness to all people. When the Publican learned Jesus was coming to Jericho, he wanted to see Him but huge crowds surrounded Jesus. Being of short stature, Zacchaeus climbed a tree in order to see better the coming Lord. When Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree, He told him to hasten down because He wanted to enter Zacchaeus' house.

We know from the Gospel Reading that Zacchaeus repented, stood up and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and

if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

This Gospel reading is presented to us before the preparatory Sundays to the Lenten Season even begin in order for us to see Christ coming to us through the Lenten Services. Just like Zacchaeus climbed up the tree to see the Lord from afar and repented when the Lord entered his house, we must also repent and renew our life in Christ. May the Lord help and guide us all through the Lenten Season to a Joyous and Grace-filled Pascha.

I would also like to congratulate and thank all who have worked so hard to make our Parish Newsletter so successful, informative, interesting and attractive. First and foremost, my thanks go to Ludmilla (Mila) Bobroff, our Editor in Chief; to Xenia Maximow for beautifully designing each issue; to Dimitry (Dima) Bobroff who prints the hard copies, keeps track of advertising and handles the funds donated for the print copies, plus the photographers, contributors and supporters. Our parish publication is going into its sixth year, and I thank everyone for their labor of love that makes it possible. ■



# OUR PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Father Stefan Pavlenko



*Representing the Burlingame Church are, left to right, Matushka Tatiana, Father Stefan, Marina Roudenko, Vladimir Baranoff, and Andrei Roudenko. In the back is Archimandrite Roman (Krassovsky), once an altar server in Burlingame.*

During the first two weeks of August, Matushka Tatiana and I joined 52 pilgrims from all over the United States on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The pilgrimage was led by Bishop Nikolai (Olhovskiy) of Manhattan. I had been to the Holy Land twice before, once on a private pilgrimage with the Kochergin family. The second time to assure an American family that their daughter, a novice nun at Gethsemane Convent, was safe, when she was involved with a situation on contested church property in Jericho.

This pilgrimage, I felt, would be special. Matushka Tatiana was accompanying me for the first time, thanks to the generosity of the Parish Council. Matushka had heard me speak many times about the Holy Sites that I had visited. Finally, she would see them for herself.

Our group consisted of 49 people and three clergy. Besides ourselves, the Burlingame Church was represented by Andrei and Marina Roudenko plus Alexei Baranoff with his father, Vladimir Baranoff of Sacramento. The pilgrims ranged in age from the 20s to the 70s. Some were fit and handled the stone paved streets and the winding mountain paths without any problems. Others walked slower with great care, stopping to catch their breath when necessary. Amazingly, one pilgrim suffering from cancer, felt an abundance of energy and did not miss one single Holy Site

with the help of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Regardless of age, however, all of us bemoaned summer temperatures which constantly reached over 100 degrees.

We stayed at a Moscow Patriarchate Pilgrim's Hotel in Bethlehem which was within walking distance of the Cathedral and the Cave of the Nativity. Each day, we were given a packet of food for lunch and drove to various Holy Sites. The checkpoint between Palestine and Israel was a bottleneck with Israeli soldiers occasionally coming aboard our bus and walking up and down the aisle, looking for anything suspicious.

On this trip, I was surprised how many more sites were built and renovated since my last visit

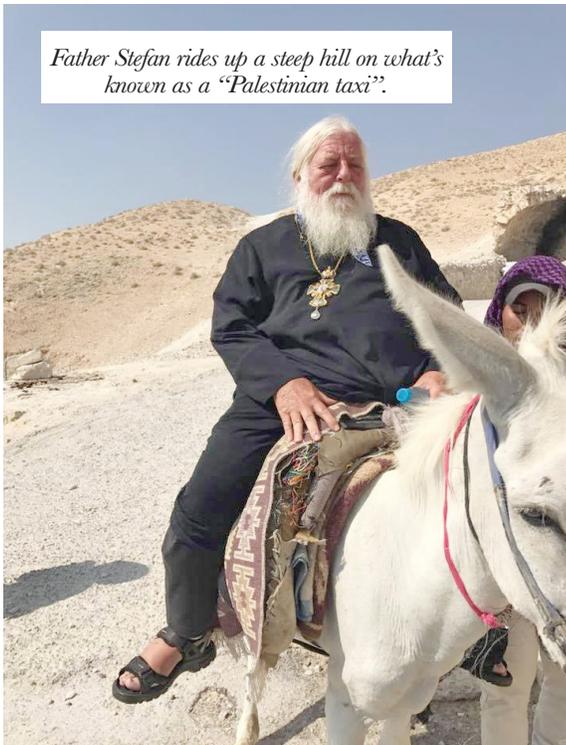
in the 90s. The Holy Sepulchre in the Church of the Resurrection was no longer surrounded by braces but magnificently renovated. The Russian Convent of the Ascension on the Mount of Olives was also beautifully restored, as was the Garden of Gethsemane at the bottom of the hill. Everywhere we went, our Russian Church Abroad group was warmly greeted. I was invited to participate many times in services.

One wonderful surprise was seeing Mother Moisseia, abbess of the convent on the Mount of Olives. When I met her for the first time in the early 90s, she had just been appointed abbess. This time on the day we visited her convent, she was being honored for her many years of service and ceremoniously relieved of her obligations. I was honored to be present when she formally completed her monastic obedience as Abbess.

For me, the monasteries that we visited were a highlight of the trip. One can actually hear the quiet and feel the holiness of the centuries-old Monastery of Saint Sabba and the Skete of Saint Chariton in Wadi Fara. In order to transport ourselves up a steep hill at the Monastery of St. George the Hozebite, Matushka and I mounted donkeys. My awkward attempts at getting on the back of my donkey provoked lots of giggles from the pilgrims.

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We also enjoyed an overnight stay at a resort hotel on the Sea of Galilee. Some pilgrims went to the beach, others to the pool. Nearby was a pilgrimage destination at Magdala where a group of ladies headed for the healing pools and experienced an unexpected treatment. Small fish living in the pools nibbled on the dead skin of their feet, making them soft once again. Some ladies liked the sensation. Others did not. Men also swam and relaxed, enjoying the tranquil surroundings of this Holy Place on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.



*Father Stefan rides up a steep hill on what's known as a "Palestinian taxi".*

Our final deeply moving experience was praying at the Tomb of Our Lord, called the Holy Sepulchre, at the Church of the Holy Resurrection in Jerusalem. A Greek bishop who had converted 50,000 Africans when he was a missionary there, concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with our Bishop Nikolai and all our clergy. With a voice sounding like an angel, the Greek bishop's prayer was deeply spiritual. After the service, Matushka and I went into the Holy Sepulchre together and prayed for our family, our friends, and our parish.

Archimandrite Roman (Krassovsky), Chief of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission of ROCOR in Jerusalem, has invited our parish to come on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Archimandrite Roman grew up in the Burlingame Church and was once an altar server here. If God wills it, perhaps 2019 may be the year we will organize a pilgrimage for our parishioners. ■

## THEOLOGICAL QUESTION FOR FATHER STEFAN

**HOW SHOULD WE UNDERSTAND THE TRAGEDIES THAT ARE OCCURRING IN THE U.S.? IS OUR LORD PUNISHING AMERICANS FOR OUR FAITHLESSNESS AND IMMORALITY?**

This past year seems to have brought an inordinate amount of natural disasters, hurricanes and floods, tornadoes and fires. No sooner have firefighters put out the raging flames in Santa Rosa and the Wine Country than new fires sprang up in the Los Angeles, San Diego, and Santa Barbara areas.

In the Bible we read of Noah and the Great Flood. It was certainly sent by God to remove the evil infecting the ancient world. After the heavy rains ended, the Lord showed a rainbow in the sky and promised not to destroy all mankind ever again.

However, written in the Book of Revelation, the Apocalypse, we learn that in the future, famine, pestilence, wars, asteroids and all manner of evil will spill out on the face of the earth before the Second Coming of Our Lord. He will find few who will have kept pure their faith in God and fidelity to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Orthodox Christian Church.

The tragedies, difficulties, and horrors that are occurring are not from God. They are in this world because of the Fall of Adam and the continued willful separation of mankind from its Loving Creator. They are a sounding knell to awaken us from indifference and from our willful personal and communal sins against God, against His Creation our Earth, and against each other. Instead of being a family of fellow human beings, we have become wicked warring tribes, attacking and killing each other for one reason or another, always justifying our actions.

Orthodox Christians know we should fast and pray, attend church diligently, give alms and support to the needy, live according to God's Commandments and the Rule of the Church, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, and love God and Neighbor with all our being. Only then will we be on the right path and need not fear the future or anything that might come our way. ■

# NINA PETROVNA MEDOVSHIKOVA: LONG-TIME CHURCH PARISHIONER

Ludmilla Bobroff



*This photo, taken in Harbin, shows Nina Petrovna and Boris Ivanovich with their children, George, age 12, and Tanya, age 2.*

Over the years, our Church has been blessed with a number of parishioners who have lived well into their 90s, attending services regularly and supporting the parish despite increasing health problems. Our latest title-holder is 97-year-old Nina Petrovna Medovshikova, mother of Sisterhood member Tania Ionoff and grandmother of Ekaterina Loukianoff of Alamo and Marianna Moore of Red Bluff.

With a clear sharp memory, Nina Petrovna can vividly recall events from her early childhood. Born in 1920 to Maria Ivanovna Zirianova and Pyoter Nikiforovich Zirianov, she spent her childhood in Vladivostok, attending Soviet schools. Her father served as a doctor in the tsarist army during World War I and continued practicing medicine after the war. All members of the family, consisting of Nina, younger brother Vasily, an uncle, and the parents, were faithful Orthodox.

“I was seven years old when I realized for the first time that something was not right in my world,” says Nina Petrovna. “A teacher asked if we had icons at home. When I answered yes, she said icons were dark and satanic. As the years passed by, more and more pressure was brought upon Orthodox believers.

“At age 11,” she continues, “I saw a group of Komsomol young men riding a wagon. They belonged to the All Union Leninist Young Communist League. One was playing an accordion while another one wore a cross and a mitre on his head, “blessing” pedestrians by showering them with vodka. This was Holy Saturday before Easter and I became scared. I didn’t know what to do.

“Even though my father had a responsible position in the hospital, my parents decided it was time to leave our homeland. They arranged for us to be transported across the Amur River by Chinese boatmen who were making a living helping people cross into China illegally. For some reason, the Chinese would not allow us to take our five-year-old dog into the boat. As we rowed away, we heard Jek howling on the riverbank.

“Our years in Harbin were happy ones. Because of the railroad that crossed Russia into China, many Russians settled there. I completed Oksakovskaya Gymnasia with Archimandrite Filaret as my religion teacher. He later became the Metropolitan of ROCOR. Father Ioann Shachneff took voice lessons with me in Harbin. Although I frequently sang on stage, my father discouraged me from pursuing a singing career and suggested I sing in church instead.

“Eventually I met my future husband, Boris Ivanovich Medovshikoff, who was a widower with a small son named George. Boris was a manager at Churin department store. After we got married, Tatiana was born in 1946 in Harbin.

“Life took a tragic turn for my parents, however. Soviet troops would cross the border periodically and round up Russians who left their homeland illegally. On one of these raids, my father and brother Vasily were arrested and forced to return to the Soviet Union. They were taken to a gulag in Siberia where my father died. Vasily was eventually sent to Afghanistan. When freed, he settled in Kazakhstan and died there ten years later.”

The young Medovshikoff couple moved to Japan and had to make a new life for themselves and their two children while waiting for visas to immigrate to the United States. Boris

Ivanovich worked in sales with his brother-in-law while Nina Petrovna taught Russian School in Tokyo at Saint Nicholas Cathedral. Eventually, their visas were issued and they sailed from Yokohama to San Francisco aboard the President Cleveland passenger ship.

Once again, a new life had to be built, this time in California. Having studied English, Nina Petrovna took an IBM course and became proficient as a keypunch operator. She was hired by PG&E. Boris Ivanovich worked for an import firm. Tatiana grew up and married Nikolai Ionoff, while George married Victoria Filina.

After the family moved to Burlingame from San Francisco in 1985, Nina Petrovna started singing in the choir at the Burlingame Church. In addition, she volunteered to clean and repair vestments, made pelmeni monthly, taught in Russian School, and became a member of the audit committee.



*Nina Petrovna Medovshikova*

Today, at almost 98 years of age and a widow since 1999, Nina Petrovna lives with her daughter, Tatiana and son-in-law Nikolai Ionoff. Besides attending services regularly and supporting all Sisterhood luncheons, she enjoys reading historical books, watching the television show Jeopardy, and most of all, walking daily in her neighborhood and enjoying the beauty of nature.

On December 22, 2017, Nina Petrovna's 43-year-old granddaughter, Ekaterina (Katya), reposed in the Lord. Although Katya had been ill for a number of years, her death came suddenly. Upon learning of her repose, Nina Petrovna said with much sadness, "Now, I feel very old."



*His Eminence Archbishop Peter of Chicago and the Midwest officiated at the Funeral and Burial. In this photo, Archbishop Peter provides words of comfort to the many mourners and the parents, left to right, Nikolai and Tanya Ionoff and in-laws Valia and Nikolai Loukianoff. Grandmother Nina Petrovna Medovshikoff is on the far right.*



*Katya's father, Nikolai Ionoff, lovingly created a photo board showing the life of his daughter, including her wedding to Sasha Loukianoff.*

# PILGRIMAGE TO A GREEK ORTHODOX WOMEN'S MONASTERY IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Ludmilla Bobroff



*Standing in front of the Church of the Theotokos the Life Giving Spring are, left to right, Elena Bederova, Ludmilla Bobroff, Dimitry Bobroff, and Galina Rukotova.*

Russians have always loved monasteries, staying for long visits, attending services, and discussing personal problems with monastics who reside there. Over the years, my husband Dima and I have heard many wonderful things about the Women's Monastery of the Theotokos the Life-Giving Spring located in Dunlap, California near Sequoia National Park. Both the women's monastery and Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center located nearby are under the spiritual direction of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco.

During the Feast Day of the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco, Dima spotted a notice on the bulletin board, announcing a three day pilgrimage to Dunlap. The trip was being organized by Svetlana Clark of Saint Seraphim's Church in Santa Rosa (OCA). For several years now, she has planned spring and fall pilgrimages, reserving lodge-style rooms at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, arranging transportation in private cars, then explaining

on site what awaited the pilgrims each day. We signed up quickly for Svetlana's fall pilgrimage. Joining us from the Burlingame Church were Elena Bederova and Galina Rukotova, as well as Yura Piksaykin, Yevgeniy Primak, and his girlfriend Kristina.

Our group consisted of 26 people, all of whom attended Orthodox churches of various jurisdictions from Santa Rosa to Palo Alto. The pilgrims ranged in age from 16 to their 70s. The drive to Dunlap from Burlingame took approximately five hours. No sooner did we arrive at St. Nicholas Ranch and given keys to our rooms, than we changed into appropriate clothing and walked up the hill for the 4 p.m. Friday Vigil service.

The Byzantine style church on the Monastery grounds was impressive. Beautifully landscaped gardens surrounded the building and the living quarters for 27 nuns, most of them young. Inside the church was an intricately carved iconostasis, filled with holy icons, including an icon of the

*continued...*

Theotokos the Life-Giving Spring. From the dome hung a gigantic chandelier that gleamed in the light of day. On the marble floor were exquisite designs.

All women and children stood on the left side of the church while men and boys stood on the right. With angelic voices, the nuns chanted the services, standing on both sides of the altar. Rector Father Gregory Koo served Vigil that night and Divine Liturgy the next day. We were told to follow protocol in order to receive the Holy Gifts and the blessing. First came the nuns, followed by men and boys, then came the women and children. This line-up was also expected in the refectory where we ate breakfast, lunch and dinner. Conversation was kept to a minimum. On Sunday, a nun read in Greek from a sacred text while we ate in silence.

All services were said completely in Greek which was a problem for me. I only understood “Kyrie Eleison” which means “Lord Have Mercy” and “Sophia” which translates to “Wisdom.” I was unable to discern when The Creed was chanted or The Lord’s Prayer. I turned to a young mother and whispered, “Do you understand Greek?” I asked. “No,” she said. “When I recognize something familiar, such as The Little Entrance, I pay attention. Otherwise, I just pray.”

I wished I had downloaded translations of the services into my Kindle beforehand, but Dima reminded me that the Greek Church follows the Gregorian Calendar whereas the Russian Church follows the Julian Calendar. The translations that are sent weekly via the internet would have been different because of the 13-day difference. I pacified myself remembering the words of a Greek matushka who once said to me, “Even though my brain does not understand what is being said, my soul understands.”

Besides attending services, we pilgrims also had obediences to fulfill. On Saturday, many of us sat in the garden cracking and shelling several buckets of almonds. When our conversations became too loud, Svetlana told us to lower our voices. Dima and a young man named Seraphim volunteered to build a wall with interlocking concrete blocks. It took them five hours of hard work to complete the task but surprisingly, neither one felt any aches or pains the next day.

On Sunday at 8 a.m., Father Ephraim, abbot of St. Andrew’s Skete in Mt. Athos, Greece who was visiting the monastery, served Divine Liturgy with his monks. Now male voices did the readings and the chanting. Afterward, Abbot Ephraim spoke to us via a translator, and Mother Markella, abbess of the Dunlap monastery, joined us for a short time. Abbot Ephraim was excited to see a photograph of Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco which was taken with Dima when he was 16 years old. The abbot and his monks were heading next to San Francisco to venerate the relics of Saint John at the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco.

As we said goodbye to Svetlana, many pilgrims asked when she was planning the next pilgrimage. She said it would be March 2-4, 2018. Svetlana’s email is [snivanova@hotmail.com](mailto:snivanova@hotmail.com) However, individuals are welcome at any time. Information on arranging a personal visit can be found on <http://www.stnicholasranch.org> ■

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# CHURCH NEWSLETTER CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS

You are reading the Fifth Anniversary issue of the Church of All Russian Saints Newsletter. Thank you for your encouragement and support during all these years. Our goal was to come out bimonthly on the first weekend of January, March, May, September, and November. Not once did we miss a deadline.

With each year, our circulation has grown. Currently, we have over 700 readers who receive the Newsletter on their computers. After the issue is released, we hand out 100 print copies to church-goers who do not have computers at home. Parishioners also mail or email newsletters to their own families and friends living far way.



*Here's the staff of the Church Newsletter. Left to right are Ludmilla Bobroff, Dimitry Bobroff, Xenia Maximow, and Lena Gauschildt.*

Next comes Art Designer Xenia Maximow. While juggling responsibilities of a wife, mother, and a career as an art designer, she finds time to lay out beautifully creative pages. When asked to correct or redesign pages, Xenia does so cheerfully and speedily. The last staff member is Lena Gauschildt, our back-up photographer. Always willing to go on assignment, she provides excellent photographs for my selection.

We also have two regular correspondents – Father Stefan and Andrei Roudenko. Father Stefan never fails to teach and inspire us with his Message and answers to Theological Questions. Andrei Roudenko, writer of the Choir News column, has done an outstanding job of informing readers of the Russian Church's

The Newsletter staff consists of Editor Ludmilla Bobroff (me); administrative assistant Dimitry Bobroff who is my researcher, IT guy, occasional writer, photographer, Sponsor Note coordinator, and Sales Directory manager. I could not publish the newsletter without his help.

rich musical heritage in choir singing.

While all of us work on the Newsletter for free, there is a cost of \$72 to print 100 copies on the copier. Below are the names of parishioners and friends of the Church who have generously paid the print fee.

## Thank you, Sponsors for the printed copies.



**Mila Assur**  
**Mila and Dima Bobroff**  
**Ira and Misha Bogoslovsky (2)**  
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**Fr. Stefan and Matushka Pavlenko**  
**Marina Plissak (2)**  
**Anastasia Sky (2)**

## CHURCH NEWSLETTER CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS

We have also been pleased that revenue from the Sales Directory, which started a year after the Newsletter, brought in over \$7000 to the Stewardship Fund. We thank our wonderful advertisers who pay \$25 per issue to run their business cards. Please support them and their businesses. Here are the names of advertisers who have purchased ad space two or more times:

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# THANK YOU STEWARDS PLUS CHURCH PRIORITIES FOR 2018

Dimitry Bobroff

Thank you to all our 2017 Stewards. We came very close to meeting our goal of raising \$60,000. It's very heartening when our church family takes responsibility for the well-being of the physical aspects of our church. See names on page 11.

Unfortunately, we did not accomplish any major Stewardship projects in 2017. Partially, this was due to a lack of volunteers to take on projects and partially due to changing project priorities.

Several projects are progressing well, however. The stained glass windows which are being designed by Svetlana Avdeeva, her daughter Xenia, and by Olga Parr, are close to being finalized. The artists have been in contact with Ken Minasian of Ocean Glass to fabricate them. All eleven windows have been subscribed by people who wish to memorialize their family members. This includes donated funds from one concert collected by our Burlingame Church Choir to memorialize reposed choir singer, Anna Markevich.

Another project in progress is a new website for the church, which is being managed by Sasha Loboda. He is working with Orthodox Web Solutions.

Other accomplishments that occurred in 2017 include energy efficient lighting, planned and coordinated by Starosta Vanya Afanasiev, and improvements to our heating and air conditioning systems, ably handled by parish council member, Oleg Bolshakoff.

We have held off spending too much money in 2017 because our church building itself is going to need major repairs. These include repairing exterior church walls which have developed a number of cracks; earthquake-proofing our cinder block fence in the rear of the church; replacing the leaking roof; and improving the roof drainage system which currently gets clogged, allowing pools of water to form on the roof. And finally, we need to replace our deteriorating outside doors in the Church Hall with steel doors.

Hopefully our current funds in the Stewardship Fund, as well as new donations for 2018 from current Stewards and new Stewards, will allow us to proceed on these projects.

We encourage the following from our parish family members:

1. Become a Steward of our parish and pledge generously. Program brochures will be handed out on several Sundays in January and available in the entryway by the candle stand. Our goal remains at \$60,000 for 2018 in pledges.
2. Volunteer to undertake and manage one of the Stewardship projects. You do not have to be on the Parish Council, or even a formal parish member, to do so. You will not be doing the work yourself but overseeing professionals whom you will interview and hire.

## PARISH PROJECTS FOR 2018

- Design and install memorial stained glass windows in the nave.
- Earthquake-proof the cinder block fence in the back of the church.
- Replace church roof and drainage system to prevent further water damage.
- Repair exterior cracks on church walls, seal the exterior walls, and repaint the exterior of the church. Repair crack in handicap ramp.
- Replace the two doors in the downstairs church hall with steel doors.
- Revitalize our church website with a new design and add features that will allow easy, timely update of content.





# SALUTING THE 2017 STEWARDS

Anonymous (cash total \$2,700)

Ellen and Andy Alexeeff

Anastasia and Alexei Baranoff

Alexander Bayden

Elena Bederova

Mila and Dima Bobroff

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# THIRD ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS



*Executive Director of CALL Primrose, Terry Boesch, as well as Yura Misersky and Dima Bobroff, show some of the products that were donated. All the bags on the ground came from our Church.*

A big thank you to parishioners, Russian School families, organizations, and friends of our Church who donated to our Third Annual Food Drive, organized by Treasurer Alexei Baranoff.

St. John Kronstadt Health Care Center donated \$1,500, while Brookside Skilled Nursing facility donated \$1,500 plus ten bags of food which their employees purchased and contributed.

Our total was 58 bags of food plus \$3,295 in cash. At a valuation of \$40 per bag, the cash donation represented 82 bags, for a total equivalence of 140 bags, surpassing our goal of 100 bags.

Three days prior to Thanksgiving, Dima Bobroff and Yura Misersky loaded their cars and drove the donations to CALL Primrose, a local non-profit food bank, located at 139 Primrose Road in Burlingame. Remembering the words of some parishioners who said, “Why donate? Burlingame is a well-off community,” Dima and Yura observed a constant stream of people being given food bags along with turkeys and other perishable items. Each person or family had to fill out and sign an application. The secretary of CALL Primrose showed them a stack of applications over an inch thick – and it was only 11 a.m. in the morning!

CALL Primrose is a non-profit food bank providing free grocery assistance year round to low income families and individuals in San Mateo County. Anyone in need of grocery assistance is welcome. In 2016 CALL Primrose was able to serve over 27,000 individuals, providing them with 42,000 bags of groceries.

Parishioners, who still think there are no needy families in Burlingame, should stop by the food bank and see for themselves.

Executive Director Terry Boesch profusely thanked the Church of All Russian Saints for supporting CALL Primrose so generously for the third year in a row. ■

## BAPTISED

**OCTOBER 2017**

Sophia Read

**NOVEMBER 2017**

Maxim Quinn

## MARRIED

**OCTOBER 2017**

Vadzim Drazdouski and  
Oxana Glazatova

**NOVEMBER 2017**

Alla Voroninskaya and  
Ryan Andrews

## REPOSED IN THE LORD

**OCTOBER 2017**

Vladimir Bondarenko

**NOVEMBER 2017**

Galina Kostomarow

Published with the blessing of His Eminence Kyrill, Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America, Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.

**Father Alexander Krassovsky of Sts. Peter & Paul Church in Santa Rosa sent a heart-felt letter of thanks to our Church for donating \$10,000 to help parishioners who were affected by the fires.**



**ХРАМ СВВ. ПЕРВОВЕРХОВНЫХ АПОСТОЛОВ ПЕТРА И ПАВЛА**

**Sts. PETER & PAUL RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**850 St. Olga Ct., Santa Rosa, CA 95407**

**(707) 584-4092**

V. Rev. Stefan Pavlenko et al  
744 El Camino Real  
Burlingame, CA 94010

November 4, 2017

Dear Fr. Stefan,

It is difficult to fully comprehend the recent catastrophe, which has so affected our parish over these last few weeks. Yet, at the same time, we are amazed at how this phenomenal event has precipitated such a phenomenal response from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

First and foremost, we ascribe glory and thanksgiving to Our All-Merciful God that all of our parishioners are safe and unharmed. We are equally grateful that our churches and monasteries in Santa Rosa and Calistoga were not damaged.

Unfortunately though, many were forced to evacuate during the fires and ultimately, a total of 14 homes of our parishioners were destroyed. The path that lies before our parishioners so affected - to rebuild their homes and somehow, re-establish some sense of normalcy to their lives - will not be an easy one. It is, specifically in this, that your generous contribution of \$10,000. will be so helpful to those in need. We ask you to consider that Sts. Peter & Paul R.O. Church is incorporated as a not-for-profit 501C-3 religious organization and therefore, any contributions made to it are tax deductible. We would be pleased if you would use this letter as a tax receipt for such purposes.

There are no words to adequately express our appreciation and gratitude to our archpastors & pastors; our Russian cultural, youth and welfare organizations and; to all of you for the concern you have shown for our safety and well-being and for that prayerful, moral and material support you have shown us during these difficult times.

May Our All-Merciful Lord reward you a hundred fold!

With love in Christ,

Archpriest Alexander Krassovsky and the Parishioners  
of Sts. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church

# ANATOL SHMELEV APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF RUSSIAN LIFE NEWSPAPER

Congratulations to parishioner Anatol Vsevolodovich Shmelev for being appointed president of the Board of Directors of Russian Life newspaper in San Francisco. His new volunteer job is to oversee the editorial content and the financial operations of the weekly newspaper that was founded in San Francisco in 1921 when a substantial Russian community began to form.

Anatol Vsevolodovich replaces Peter Yakoubovsky who led the newspaper for many years and did an excellent job. The new president will be working with Editor Elena Ivannikova, Editorial Assistant Natalia Musikhin, and Designer Yuri Fokin. Being the Robert Conquest Curator for Russia and Eurasia at the Hoover Institution in Palo Alto, Anatol Vsevolodovich has a deep personal interest in the history and accomplishments of the various waves of immigrants who settled in the San Francisco Bay Area and in other states.

"I plan to continue the efforts of Peter Yakoubovsky and Editor Elena Ivannikova and focus on stories of local interest here and elsewhere," says Anatol Vsevolodovich. "Since ordinary U.S., Russian and world news is readily available on the internet, our readership is more interested in learning about local events, community life, and stories that speak to our experience and our heritage."

Unfortunately, the newspaper is in a critical financial state and needs new subscribers. While readers prefer a print edition, it is costly to produce and to mail. Readers who supported Russian Life newspaper for decades are literally dying out. New emigres have their own newspapers which are financed primarily by advertising and rely on sensational articles about show business stars to lure readers.

"Russian Life hews to traditional values, especially with regard to the Orthodox Church," says Anatol Vsevolodovich. "The only way we can survive is to go online, attract acceptable advertising and build a new readership base. We will continue publishing a paper version as long as we are able, but this will not be an easy task. We are in great need of new subscribers."

For information on subscribing to Russian Life newspaper, call (650) 417-1156 or log onto the following website: [http://www.mrcsf.org/file\\_download/556/Russian\\_Life\\_11-12-2016.pdf/](http://www.mrcsf.org/file_download/556/Russian_Life_11-12-2016.pdf/) ■

## THANK YOU TO

*Mila Assur*

FOR GRACIOUSLY SPONSORING THE  
PRINTING COST OF THIS ISSUE IN  
MEMORY OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE  
CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS IN  
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GREGORIEVICH KAPINOS, VLADIMIR  
IVANOVICH LISIN, GALINA VASILIEVNA  
LISIN-DESTIN, LUDMILA VASILIEVNA  
LOCEY, VALERIAN STEPANOVICH &  
NATALIA MICHAELOVNA LOOKSHA, OLGA  
ERNESTOVNA SHULGINA, ALEXANDRA  
VASILIEVNA SOVINA-SCHEN, AND ANTONINA  
ANIKIEVNA STAFFORD.

## CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS

A Parish of the Western American Diocese of the  
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia  
744 El Camino Real, Burlingame, CA 94010  
<http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>  
Rector: Mitred Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko  
Cell: (650) 430-9805

See the schedule of services on the Church website:

<http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

## PARISH NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor - Ludmilla Bobroff

Art Designer - Xenia Maximow

Photographers- Dimitry Bobroff, Lena Gauschieldt and  
Marina McKee

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](mailto: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 2018**



*Both men and women have become proficient making 5000 pelmeni during one session. Revenue from their sale goes to the Sisterhood.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY + FEBRUARY

### JANUARY 9

COFFEE HOUR CELEBRATING  
FATHER STEFAN'S SAINT'S DAY

### JANUARY 14

YOLKA SPONSORED BY THE PARISH  
RUSSIAN SCHOOL

### JANUARY 21

PRE-LENTEN BLINI LUNCH SPON-  
SORED BY ST. GEORGE PATHFIND-  
ERS AT THE SCOUTS HOUSE IN  
SAN FRANCISCO. SEE THEIR AD  
ON THIS PAGE.

### JANUARY 28

COFFEE HOUR CELEBRATING  
SAINTS TATIANA AND NINA

### FEBRUARY 18

BLINI PREPARED BY THE SISTER-  
HOOD

### PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS

NONE IN JANUARY

FEBRUARY 1

IF YOU CAN HELP, COME TO THE  
CHURCH HALL ANYTIME BETWEEN  
10 A.M. AND 4 P.M. CALL LUBA  
GAUSCHIEDT FOR MORE INFOR-  
MATION. 650-591-1605.



Please Join  
St. George Pathfinders  
at their annual  
pre-lenten blini lunch!

## “BEST IN THE WEST” BLINI

**JANUARY 21, 2108**

**9:30AM – 3:00PM**

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# WELCOMING SPECIAL GUESTS



*Left: Bishop Irenei serves Divine Liturgy for the first time in Burlingame since being appointed Bishop of Sacramento. Marina Plissak venerates the cross he is holding*



*Members of the choir greet him warmly.*



*In November, Archpriest Vladimir Morin of Christ the Savior Church in London, Ontario, Canada, Mitred Archpriest Stefan Pawlenko, and Archpriest Boris Henderson of Church of All Russian Saints in Denver, Colorado served Divine Liturgy together.*

*Father Vladimir Morin, center, organized and led a group of pilgrims from Canada to Northern California.*



# GINGERBREAD FAIRE

*Right: The bazaar table with all its Russian items for sale was a big hit.*



*The Church Hall was filled with children of all ages with parents and grandparents helping them decorate their gingerbread houses.*



*Russian School parents provided a delicious lunch. Left to right are Anatol Shmelev, Aleksey Kovalenko, Julia Shmelev, Alla Petrushina, and Vladimir Egorov. Not pictured but providing help: Tatiana Chekasina, Ira Motoviloff, Nicholas Shmelev, Sofia Kovalenko, Anna Shmelev, Katya Kolenko and Chris Ching*



*Anna Shmelev concentrates on making her gingerbread house extra special.*



*Father Stefan admires the creativity of his grandchildren, Melania and Stefanchik, while mother Xenia Maximow looks on.*

# YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR RUSSIAN SCHOOL YOLKA PARTY

Lada Denisova

The Parish Russian School invites all children, parents and grandparents to their annual Yolka on Sunday, January 14 in the Church Hall after Divine Liturgy. We'll begin the celebration at approximately noon. It's free and everyone is welcome.

At the beginning, guests can socialize while parents serve tasty treats. The main course is usually soup and salads. Desserts, tea and coffee will be served as well. Several themed baskets, containing food products and gift certificates, will be raffled off. All proceeds from the raffle will go toward projects initiated by the Russian School.

Between 12:30 and 1 p.m., Russian School students will perform songs, dances, poetry readings, and a fairy tale. After the performance, our guest of honor – Ded Moroz – will appear to greet the children and dance with them around the Christmas tree. At the end of the celebration, he will present each child with a gift.

Please come. You will be most welcome at our annual Yolka party which the children await with great anticipation each year. ■



## 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/>

## DENTIST

# SALES DIRECTORY

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 Dmitry Bobroff at [jbobroff@aol.com](mailto: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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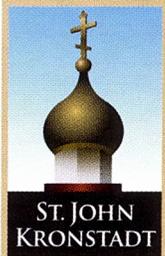
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