

Церковь Всех Святых из Земль Российской Прославшихъ CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

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1994-2014

20th Anniversary OF THE
GLORIFICATION OF
BISHOP ST. JOHN OF SHANGHAI
AND SAN FRANCISCO



MESSAGE FROM FATHER STEFAN

We are in the midst of summer vacation with children home from school and families taking time off from work to relax, spend time together and travel. Recently, we celebrated Pentecost (Troitsa), followed by our Church Feast Day. Then, many of us attended Holy Virgin Cathedral to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the glorification of Bishop Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco.

After so many important Church holidays, there's a tendency to start skipping church during the summer months. I urge everyone to try their best to avoid this "summer slacking". Summertime is rich with Feast Days commemorating important saints, icons, and holy events. Make a point of attending church at home or wherever your vacation plans take you.

When selecting a vacation destination, it's always best to pick a location where an Orthodox Parish is available. As Russian Orthodox, we share our faith with Greeks, Serbs, Bulgarians, Antiochians, Romanians and other Orthodox Christians. Search out Orthodox Churches located in the area you are visiting and make a laudable effort to attend Saturday Night Vigils, Sunday Divine Liturgies, and Holy Day services. (See Andrei Roudenko's article under Choir News to learn the importance of attending Saturday Night Vigils.) Keep in mind that some Orthodox parishes are on the Gregorian Calendar so be careful not to miss important Orthodox holidays.

Coming up in July are the **Nativity of John the Baptist** (July

7th) and the **Holy Apostles Peter and Paul** (July 12th). The latter is the patronal Feast Day of the Santa Rosa Church. If you are in the wine country on that date, be sure to attend.

In addition, there are services for the **Holy Royal Martyrs** (July 17th) and **Saint Sergius of Radonezh** (July 18th) at the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco. Our Diocesan Kazan Summer Church on the Russian River located at Vacation Beach near Guerneville celebrates its Feast Day commemorating **The Holy Kazan Icon of the Theotokos** (July 21st). We should also not forget **Equal to the Apostles Saint Vladimir Enlightener of the Russian Lands** (July 28th).

The Monterey/Seaside Church celebrates its **Feast Day of Saint Seraphim of Sarov** (Aug. 1st). Other important dates are **Prophet Elijah** (Aug. 2nd), **Saints Boris and Gleb** (Aug. 6th), and **Holy Healer Great Martyr Pantelemon** (Aug. 9th).

Procession of the Life Giving Cross (Aug. 14th) is the first day of the two week long, strict Dormition Fast. Two important Feast Days that should not be missed no matter where you're traveling are the **Holy Transfiguration of the Lord** (Aug. 19th) and **The Dormition of the Holy Virgin** (Aug. 28th).

Check our Parish Church Schedule to see when we have services in July and August and make a supreme effort to attend church here in Burlingame or on the road.

Final Note: There will be a special joint commemoration of the 80th year anniversary of our Western American Diocese, the 700th anniversary of the birth of Saint Sergius of Radonezh,

and the 50th anniversary of the canonization of St. John of Kronstadt on Friday evening, October 3 and Saturday morning, October 4. The services will be held at the Saint Seraphim Russian Orthodox Church in Monterey/Seaside. Keep an eye out for details.

Have a grace-filled and joyful summer! God bless you. **DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND CHURCH THIS SUMMER!**

BAPTISED

APRIL
NONE

MAY
MELANIA FETISOVA

MARRIED

THERE WERE NO
MARRIAGES
IN THE MONTHS OF
APRIL AND MAY.

REPOSED IN THE LORD

APRIL
MARIA MARTYNKEVICH
LEONID KARPENKO

MAY
NONE

NEW PARISHIONERS

KATHERINE ANDRUHA
GEORGE LYSENKO
SUSANNA MOTOVILOFF

AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS FOR PARISH DUES, STEWARDSHIP AND DONATIONS

- Alexei Baranoff

Being a parish member is a wonderful way to partake in the day to day care of our church's needs. Along with the month to month support of the priest, choir director, utilities, overhead expenses, and other general incidentals, steady payments of current memberships allow the Parish Council to forecast and manage these rising costs.

Whether you are a parish member or not, you can also participate in the Stewardship program which focuses on larger more involved projects and specific obligations such as the recently completed cupola repairs.

Of course, the church cannot exist on just membership dues and Stewardship pledges. It is also dependent on regular donations, especially those donated during Nativity and Pascha.

All of these raise the question of how do I pay? Aside from writing checks or giving cash at the candle counter in church, an easy and alternative way is to set up automatic payment on a recurring basis.

There are several options available for your consideration. Two examples are Automatic Check Payment and PayPal.

❖ Automatic Check Payment is the same as writing a personal check and placing it in the mail. Most banks offer this service free of charge and even cover the postage. You can set a recurring date, and a check will be sent automatically from your bank to the church. This method is easy

to track with a copy of the check or reference number for your files. Copies of your checks are generally available from your bank's website at no cost.

❖ PayPal is another very popular method of payment. This option uses either a credit card or your checking account to process a payment. Once again, recurring payments can be established at your direction. One does not require a PayPal account to use this service. Even though a minimal fee for this service is charged to the church, the peace of mind with automatic payment is worthwhile. The link to the church's PayPal account can be found on our church's website under "Donations / Membership" or directly at <http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/eng/donationsEng.php>.

Whether you decide to pay monthly or annually, either option mentioned above can help streamline and create a more efficient process for all. Don't forget to fill in the memo line on your checks whether they are manual or automatic payments. Of course, receipts are available for monthly and annual donations sent via automatic payments, as well as manual payments.

If you're interested or need assistance in establishing an automatic payment for either membership dues, Stewardship, or any other donation, please call me at 916-799-0898 or ask me after church services. As Parish Council Treasurer, I am ready to help.

SISTERHOOD SEEKS COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS

- *Matushka Tanya Pavlenko*

After intense preparations for our Parish Feast Day, the 20th Anniversary of the Glorification of Bishop St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco, and the All Diaspora Youth Conference, the Burlingame Sisterhood has decided to take a break for the summer. There will be no Sisterhood lunches or events during July or August.

In addition, there will be no pelmeni-making session in July. The next session will be on August 7, starting at 10 a.m. and ending approximately at 4 p.m. You can come at any time. For more information, call Luba Gauschildt at 650-591-1605.

At the last Parish Council Meeting, the subject of Coffee Hours was brought up. Many parishioners would like to have a regular after-liturgy coffee hour, similar to those held at other churches. Our wonderful Gilchrist family hosted this event for many months. Now we need other people from the parish to volunteer to do so.

Coffee Hours can be done by an individual, a family, or a small group. Volunteers would be responsible for bringing breakfast or snack items, providing the coffee, sugar and milk (non dairy during Lenten periods), making the coffee, setting everything up and then, cleaning up at the end. Coffee cups and paper plates would be provided by the Sisterhood.

Starting this Sunday, a sign up sheet with available dates will be posted in our Church Hall. For more information, please call me at 650-430-9806 or send me an email at tpavlenko@hotmail.com

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION FOR FATHER STEFAN

IS YOGA HARMFUL TO THE SOUL?

When I was asked whether the practice of Yoga was something Orthodox Christians could safely engage in, my first thought was sure, if it's done to stay limber, burn calories, lose weight or exercise. But before trusting my personal opinion, I decided to find out what experienced Orthodox Christians said on this subject.

What I discovered made me feel it is my duty as Parish Priest to warn the Orthodox faithful of the serious dangers that Yoga and other so-called Eastern Meditations can cause.

The Orthodox Church engages all our senses when we come to services and draw near to God. Our eyes see the Holy Icons and follow the movements of the clergy and altar attendants. We hear the singing and the church bells. We smell the incense. We humbly partake of the Holy Communion in the Eucharist and savor the large pieces of bread soaked in wine at holiday Vigils. We bless ourselves with the sign of the cross and make various prostrations, sometimes bowing down to the ground. We bring our body and our senses into the act of worshipping God in Church and at home. This is a very important aspect of the Orthodox Christian life. Our whole being, body, soul and spirit, is active in our spiritual development and worship of God.

Yoga and various Hindu practices touch on certain activities that include contorting the body into various positions and stances, along with specific breathing exercises. At first, these activities seem innocent and harmless enough but when esoteric depths are realized, it becomes apparent these stances, movements, and breathing methods are part of an ancient pagan ritual that was expressly developed not only to limber and develop a healthy physique, but to create a powerful channel to "spirits" and "gods" associated with the pantheon of the Hindu Religion.

From an Orthodox Christian perspective, this is a surrender to the influence of a foreign religion in its most benign interpretation. In the worst case scenario, Yoga opens our heart, mind and soul to the hostile invasion by demonic spirits.

Please study this matter from a purely Orthodox Christian perspective and make the correct decision when addressing the subject of Yoga in your life and especially in the lives of your children.

(If you wish to submit a theological question for Father Stefan's consideration to be answered in the next issue of the Church Newsletter, please email it to stefanvpavlenko@msn.com)

ALEX AND PETER KLESTOFF - READERS, CHOIR SINGERS, AND IDENTICAL TWINS

- Ludmilla Alexander

During the midnight Paschal service held in April at the Burlingame Church, Readers of the Book of Acts were Alex and Peter Klestoff. One read in English, the other in Slavonic. Standing in the center of the church, the two men looked identical with similar dark suits, haircuts, moustaches, heights, and voices. Newcomers to the church as well as parishioners who had never seen both brothers together were startled to observe how closely they resemble one another.

The Klestoffs are actually mirror image twins with only a birthmark over a right and left eyebrow differentiating them. Otherwise they are identical and have become accustomed to people staring at them.

“Seldom do you see adult twins who look so much alike,” says Natasha Klestoff, the wife of Peter. “Because they enjoy being twins, neither one shaves off his moustache or changes his hairstyle. I think they like being unique.”

Since it has always been difficult to tell them apart, the two brothers remember tricking their Russian School teachers with one twin supplying the correct answers for the twin who didn't study the assignment.

Today, Alex and Peter's personalities and interests are also similar. They both like to read books, sing tenor in the Church Choir, and play golf (although Peter claims to be the better golfer). When they were young men, they danced for many years with the Perfiloff Dance Troupe. Their wives say they can easily tell them apart. Yet, when one or the other twin enters a room unexpectedly, it takes a second for the wives to identify who it is. Svetlana, Peter and Natasha's daughter, was three years old when she realized for the first time that the two looked alike. Handing her Uncle Alex a small mirror, she said, “Don't you think you look just like my Papa?”

The twins were born in Harbin, China in 1946 to Valentina Ivanovna and Yakov Alexandrovich Klestoff. A third son,

Misha, was born in 1953 also in Harbin, months before the young family immigrated to Sao Paulo, Brazil. They lived in Brazil for less than five years before receiving entry visas into the United States.

The first to arrive in San Francisco was Valentina Ivanovna. She was determined to learn English and find a job while the father stayed behind with the boys. Valentina worked as a seamstress, then at a hotel, and finally, for many years at Hartford Insurance Company.

There she set rates for policies, even mastering the computer in later years.

In 1958, Yakov Alexandrovich and the boys reunited not only with their mother but also with Anna Baranova, Valentina's sister. Anna Baranova helped the family emigrate from China and then again from Brazil. The third sister was our much-loved Musia Misersky who was the last to arrive in the U.S. but remained close to her sisters her whole life.

The young family settled in San Francisco where the boys attended Russian School at the Old Cathedral and participated in the Russian Scouts program. Following in their mother's footsteps, they joined various church choirs, including St. Tikhon of Zadonsk, where Alex, then Peter, became choir directors during their teenage years. After graduating from Lowell High School in 1964, Alex attended San Francisco City College. He admits he was not a dedicated student, so when he received a draft notice, he enlisted in the U.S. Army.



The Klestoff boys spent part of their childhood in Brazil before coming to America.

Alex was sent to the Signal School at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey to study photography. During his free time, he became the choir director of a small Orthodox Church in a nearby town. Upon completion of the program, he was sent to Viet Nam - not for combat, but to take photos from a helicopter in an air reconnaissance unit. In the one year, ten months that he was in Viet Nam, not once did he participate in any military action.

Meanwhile, Peter was studying at San Jose State University, hoping to avoid going to Viet Nam. Upon graduation from

San Jose State, he received his third draft notice and was drafted into the U.S. Army. After completing basic training at Fort Ord, he was sent first to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, then applied and was accepted to Officers Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia. As a 2nd Lieutenant, Peter was assigned to the Berlin Brigade. He worked as a train commander traveling between West Berlin and West Germany. His Russian language came in handy when he spoke to the Russian officers at the checkpoints. He also worked as an interpreter at Spandau Prison where Deputy Fuhrer Rudolf Hess was imprisoned. Peter left the Army with the rank of Captain.



Valentina Ivanovna Klestoff attends a formal ball commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Russian Center with Alex and Mara (left) and Peter and Natasha (right).

After Viet Nam, Alex returned home to San Francisco and began studying seriously. He received an A.A. degree from City College of San Francisco and a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from San Francisco State University. His first job was with General Electric, designing large vertical motors for nuclear power plants. Next came employment at Bechtel for six years, followed by a return to General Electric in San Jose. In 1979, he received his license to become an Electrical Contractor. He operates Klestoff Electric in San Mateo to this day.

Peter took a different path. His first job after the U.S. Army was a superintendent for the Marine Terminals Corporation, located on the Oakland Waterfront. In 1979, he began working for Stevedoring Services of America where he was a Terminal Manager and Vessel Operations Manager. He has been with the company for 35 years and is thinking of retiring at the end of 2014.

Alex met his future wife, Mara Bondar, at a wedding in 1970. They had known each other as children in Sao Paulo, Brazil. After dating for four years, they married at the Holy Virgin Cathedral with a reception at the Russian Center. They have two sons, Alexei, who is a lawyer, and Andrei, a paramedic. Alexei and his wife, Kate, have two children, Lucas, age 7 and Anya, age 5.

Alex and Mara have lived first in Burlingame, then San Mateo since 1974. The two cities were halfway points between their jobs. Mara worked as a paralegal for a law firm in San Francisco

until her recent retirement. She also taught Russian School at the Holy Virgin Cathedral and at the Burlingame Russian School.

Peter met his future wife at his twin brother's wedding in 1974. He was the Best Man. Natasha Sokolik was the Maid of Honor. She is the granddaughter of Archdeacon Feodot Zadorojny, an iconographer who painted all the icons in the Old Cathedral in Shanghai where Bishop St. John served. Her grand uncle, Nicholas Zadorojny, was the iconographer of the Burlingame Church, painting the walls of the nave and the altar in a European style.

Natasha's family moved to Burlingame when she was eight years old and attended the first house church on Carmelita Avenue.

After writing to each other for three years, Peter and Natasha's love grew. They got married in 1977 at Holy Virgin Cathedral with the reception also held at the Russian Center, just like Alex and Mara's. Ironically, when the third brother Misha grew up, he became president of the Russian Center. For 30 years, he ran the Russian American cultural center, paying off its debts and renovating the building to sustain devastating earthquakes. Misha's wife, Katya, is credited with organizing the first Russian Festival which has become the best attended event at the Russian Center.

Peter and Natasha continue living in Burlingame. Natasha first worked as a registered nurse at Sequoia Hospital and is now a realtor at Misha Klestoff's real estate office, West & Prazker in San Francisco. Their daughter, Lana, is a project manager with a forensics software company.

While Yakov Alexandrovich reposed in 1971, Valentina Ivanovna is going strong at age 95. She lives half a block from the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco. When Alex and Peter are asked who gave them such a solid religious upbringing, both answer without hesitation, "Our parents instilled in us a love for the Church. They constantly attended services and Mama sang in the choir. Because of this, the Church became and will always be an important part of our lives."

CHOIR NEWS - ALL-NIGHT VIGIL

- Andrei Roudenko

In contemporary parish practice, the All-Night Vigil (Всенощное бдение) begins the daily cycle of services that concludes with Liturgy the following morning. The Vigil consists of Vespers (Вечерня), Matins (Утренняя) and First Hour (Первый Час).

In addition to commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord, Saturday-Sunday Vigil-Liturgy services commemorate specific events and Saints. With the exception of the Gospel readings, Troparia and Kondakia, and Prokimenon, the text of the Liturgy is largely constant. In contrast, the All-Night Vigil includes many commemoration-specific texts that change from day to day. As a result, the Vigil service is critical to a complete understanding of the commemorated events and the Lives of Saints.

The Vespers part of the Vigil recalls the major events of the Old Testament, e.g., the creation of the world, expulsion of man from Heaven, the annunciation to the Theotokos of the impending birth of a Son (Богородице, Дево, радуйся...), and

the Nativity of the Lord (via St. Simeon's prayer, *Ныне отпускаеши ...*). In addition, part of the Vespers stihiri (Стихири на Господи возвах and Стихири на Стиховне) describe the commemorated event or the deeds of the Saint(s).

The Matins recalls the New Testament, celebrating God's works on earth and His Resurrection. A key part of the Matins is the Canon. The Canon is a collection of (originally) sacred poems that describe the attributes and major events associated with the commemoration of the day. As in the Vespers service, a portion of the stihiri (Стихири на Всякое дыхание) are commemoration specific. On major feast days, the Matins include Magnification (Величание) of the Saints or events of the feast.

The "All-Night" label associated with the Vigil contributes to its unfair "bad rap" of being a long service. Unlike some monasteries and parishes, the Vigil in our parish is an energetically paced service that seldom lasts more than a few minutes beyond two hours. But in those two hours, one can participate in celebrating the enormous faith of a Saint or be drawn into the actions of a major sacred event!

Nowadays, we see many award ceremonies where actors, athletes, and others are honored for their accomplishments. These ceremonies feature highlights from their careers and commentary on their achievements. The Vigil service is Orthodoxy's honor ceremony, honoring those who achieved Sainthood, or honoring an event that affected the history of the world.

The rich symbolism of the Vigil has inspired countless composers over the centuries to contribute a broad range of music to this service. These range from arrangements of ancient chants to elaborate original compositions, which

rival those we commonly hear during Liturgy.

Our choir plans to present a program of works from the Vigil service on Sunday afternoon, October 26, 2014. The program will feature a sample of simple and elaborate arrangements that we typically use in our services. For some parishioners, these may be familiar, but for those who seldom attend Vigils, we hope it will inspire more frequent participation. Like our recent concert of works from Great Lent and Passion Week services, this Vigil Concert will be a fundraiser for our Parish Stewardship Program.

Meanwhile, we invite all current and future parishioners to attend our Vigils and experience the splendor and richness this service offers.

SEREZHA LUNCHEON RAISES ALMOST \$2000

The fundraising lunch held in May for seven-year-old Sergey Shevchik raised close to \$2000 for the boy's bone marrow transplant. Nikolai Shevchik, the boy's father, sent a heart-felt letter in Russian, thanking all the kind people who attended the event and those who donated generously to the cause.

"It's difficult to find words to describe my gratitude and to express my overwhelming emotions and deep respect for all of you who supported our little Serezha," he wrote.

Approximately 100 people attended the luncheon. It was organized by Alena Gromova of Burlingame, a friend of the Shevchik family. Earlier, she approached Lada Denisova, Burlingame Russian School teacher, to help with the fundraiser. Lada and Alena knew each other from the days that Alena's daughter, Tania, attended the school.

continued on next page...

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Working with friends and family members, the two prepared soup, salad, cabbage pirogi, vatrushki, lemon pies, cream with berry sauce, and raspberry mousse.

The Shevchik family is from Tavriysk, Ukraine. When Serezha was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2012, the family learned that bone marrow transplants were not being performed in the Ukraine. The parents considered several clinics before choosing the one in Israel.

Serezha and his mother, Veronika, moved to Israel in February to begin chemotherapy. The father stayed in Ukraine to raise money for the treatments and the bone marrow transplant. The original estimate for the cost of all these procedures was \$300,000. Currently, the family still needs \$25,000.

According to Alena Gromova, the treatments have been working. "The Israeli doctors say Serezha has a very good chance of complete remission," she says. "After three rounds of chemo, he is clear of cancer cells. Mother and son are now waiting for test results to determine when the boy should have the bone marrow transplant. A donor has been found."

Adds Lada Denisova, "I also want to thank the many people who supported this cause, as well as the blessing from Father Stefan. For days and weeks after our lunch, parishioners were still donating funds, which was very touching."

IN MEMORIAM - VIOLET KRULJAC

- Ludmilla Alexander



In May, the Serbian Cemetery in Colma was the scene of one of the largest funerals in its 134-year history. Over 1000 people came to pay their respects to the newly reposed at Duggan's Serra Mortuary in Daly City. This included Archbishop Kyrill, Father Stefan Pavlenko, and Father Alexander Krassovsky from the Santa Rosa Orthodox Church. Then on the day of burial, May 23, approximately 600 people came to pray at the funeral, officiated by Deacon Jim Myers of St. Paul's Catholic Church in San Francisco.

Who was this newly reposed woman who received so much love and respect from people of different nationalities and faiths?

It was 88-year-old Violet Chelone Kruljac, caretaker of the Serbian Cemetery for 57 years. Of Italian heritage, Violet grew up on the cemetery grounds, taking over the job of caretaker upon the deaths of her parents in the 1950s. When grieving families came to make arrangements for burial, Violet had the ability to offer sympathy and kindness, yet would coax a smile or two from the bereaved with her salty language. Furthermore, her memory was incredible, recalling details of the deceased decades later.

With Russian baritone Nikolai Massenkoff singing "The Lord's Prayer" and "Ave Maria" from the balcony of the mausoleum, Violet was buried in the Chelone family gravesite alongside her parents and other members of the family. She left behind four adult sons, their wives, and six grandchildren, ranging in age from 9 to 25. Her husband, a Croat from Yugoslavia, succumbed decades ago.

While Violet always said she wanted to be buried on the cemetery grounds, even she could not have guessed how historical the 9-acre property would become. The Serbian Cemetery opened in 1880 to accommodate the Russians and Serbs who came to California seeking riches during the Gold Rush. Today, its 12,000 reposed souls include coal miners, Orthodox clergy, tsarist monarchists, White Army officers, Cossacks, Cadets, and immigrants from all over the world. Several memorials stand on the grounds, commemorating the patriotism and service of many of these individuals.

The most recent structure built is the Serbian Cultural Center where the wake was held. Organizers created flower arrangements in shades of violet. The food was especially delicious because Violet loved to cook. And even now, people come to the cemetery to visit her grave and reminisce about her.

LIVESTREAM SERVICES

For those who are home bound or hospitalized and are not able to attend Services at the Church Of All Russian Saints (COARS), we have enabled live video streaming via the Internet. All live and previously recorded Services can be viewed here:

www.new.livestream.com/COARS

CHURCH FEAST DAY

JUNE 22, 2014



Protodeacon Nicholas Triantafillidis prays the Ektenia during the Divine Liturgy.



Protodeacon Sergei Shoosmiloff reads the Scriptures surrounded by many attendants from the Holy Virgin Cathedral.



Andrei Maximow and his son Stefanchik venerate the Feast Day icons of Holy New Martyrs of Russia and All Russian Saints. The reliquary box on the left (on loan from Hieromonk Fr. Juvenal Herrin) contains holy relics from various Russian Saints.



Children line up to take Holy Communion.



Lydia Gritzke and Anastasia Sky are two dedicated parishioners who try hard not to miss services. It's especially difficult for Lydia who comes from Brentwood and no longer drives. Her niece, Nina, has become her occasional chauffeur.



Blessing the Church with Holy Water are Archbishop Kyrill, Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko, Archpriest Andrei Sommer, Father Ioan Comanescu, Protodeacon Sergei Shoomiloff and Protodeacon Nicholas Triantafillidis.



The procession around the Church includes altar boys, selected icon carriers and shield carriers, the choir, and parishioners.



The celebratory trapeza filled up the Church Hall as well as the outside courtyard pictured here.

RUSSIAN SCHOOL AKT

MAY 18, 2014



A. N. Miroshnichenko, director of the Russian School, introduces the teachers. They are (left to right) Ekaterina Sergeevna Zadonskaja, Lada Nikolaevna Denisova, Irina Aleksandrovna Irklienko, Alla Vladimirovna Avisova, Svetlana Olegovna Avdeeva, Anatolii Vsevolodovich Shmelev, and Father Stefan.



Acting in "A Speckled Hen" are (left to right) Daniil Krouford, Elisaveta Zakharova, Alexander Buick, and Brendan Ching.



(Left) Father Stefan and Lada Nikolaevna Denisova prepare to hand out certificates and books to the students. Besides regular Russian classes, the school offers special Russian American classes for children who don't speak Russian fluently.



(Left to right) Daria Burnosova, Anna Shmeleva, Sergey Isayev and Nikolai Feldman perform a scene from a fairy tale that was performed during the Day of the Russian Child at the Russian Center in San Francisco. Ksenia Vasilieva is the narrator.



(Left to right) Dantia Egorova, Anna Shmeleva, Veronika Saltanova, and Daria Burnosava recite poems after receiving their certificates. Dantia Egorova was awarded a Certificate of Merit of the First Level for her outstanding work during the school year.

(Right) Many parents and grandparents attend the annual event to watch their children officially graduate from one grade to the next.



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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.

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Schedule of services can be found on the Church website:
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IRENE AND MISHA

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