

# Церковь Всех Святых из Земль Россійской Просіавшихъ CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2 MARCH/APRIL 2015



## MESSAGE FROM FATHER STEFAN

We are in the Great Lent period of our ecclesiastical year and the Orthodox Church invites us to take a Spiritual Pilgrimage whose destination is the joyous, bright and grace-filled celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord, Pascha! Not all Faithful can fast strictly according to the Lenten Rules of our Holy Orthodox Church, but everyone can make an effort to curb passions and be watchful of our actions. Make a promise to yourself to eat less and more simply, attend church more often, try hard to be understanding, supportive and helpful, and to give alms to the needy, to churches and monasteries. Make a sincere effort to keep the physical fast, eliminating meats, poultry, dairy products from your diet, and when it is appointed, fish and seafood. The Lenten Season is here for all of us. If we look at it as an aid on our way to salvation as opposed to a burden and a hardship, we will reap much benefit for both our souls and bodies.

This year, there are a number of jubilee dates that are of great importance to the Russian Orthodox Church. I want to share them with you so that everyone is aware of these important remembrances. On July 15/28 will be 1000 years since the repose of Saint Equal to the Apostle Vladimir Enlightener of Holy Rus'. There will be events in Russia and around the world throughout the year commemorating this jubilee with the most important taking place on the actual date. Watch for notifications of events.

Another important date to remember is July 24/Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, the 1000 year anniversary of the martyrdom of Saints Boris and Gleb. This took place in the year 1015.

Already mentioned in the last issue of our Newsletter was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Saint Theophan the Recluse on Jan. 10/23 (1815). This would be a good year to read (or reread) his spiritually edifying works. Books written by Saint Theophan are available in the Holy Virgin Cathedral Book Store and, of course, from Orthodox book stores online.

May 9/22 will be the 50th anniversary of the repose of Blessed Metropolitan Anastassy (Gribanovsky), our second Chief Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. His Beatitude Ever Memorable Metropolitan Anastassy reposed in the Lord in 1965. He is of special importance to our parish in Burlingame because the Church of All Russian Saints was established as a subsidiary (podvoriye) of the Synod of Bishops for our Russian Orthodox Church headquarters located in New York City. Metropolitan Anastassy would visit California and stay in special apartments designated for him in our church while he traveled up and down the West Coast, tending to the needs of various Russian Orthodox Churches and communities. As a historic reminder that our Church was his California headquarters, we have the honor of displaying his staff on our iconostas, something that is done only when a ruling or visiting bishop is present at a church service.

We will announce when events pertaining to Metropolitan Anastassy's memory are scheduled. Meanwhile, I'm honored to have served as an Altar boy and "staff holder" (posochnik) for such a great hierarch of not only the Russian

*continued...*

Orthodox Church but of Orthodox Churches throughout the world. Many members of our parish still remember Metropolitan Anastassy's visits to Burlingame. MEMORY ETERNAL to our beloved Metropolitan Anastassy and may we be remembered by him in his Holy Prayers before the Throne of God.

Keeping the Lenten Fast we prepare not only for the yearly Paschal celebration of Christ's glorious Resurrection, but also to enter the joy of Paschal light and life prepared for those who love God and live by His example and Commandments in His ETERNAL ABODES.

## BAPTISED

DECEMBER 2014  
 JUDAH KLINGSHEIM  
 OLIVIA VOLOSHKO  
 TIMOTHY NODELMAN

JANUARY 2015  
 ANFISA KONOVALOVA  
 ANNA SABININA  
 MARK ERASTOV

## MARRIED

DECEMBER 2014  
 NONE

JANUARY 2015  
 NONE

## REPOSED IN THE LORD

DECEMBER 2014  
 ELIZABETH PODOINITSIN

JANUARY 2015  
 RIMMA BOJKO  
 EUGENE SATRAP  
 ALEXANDRA BALITSKY  
 ANATOLY BOJKO  
 MARIANNA MASLOW

## CHURCH CHOIR TO PERFORM HYMNS OF GREAT LENT ON MARCH 15

- Andrei Roudenko

The time of Great Lent, **Великий Пост**, is upon us, leading us towards Passion Week, **Страстная Неделя**, and ultimately Pascha! During this period of increased repentance and spiritual cleansing, the special prayers that we read and sing during our services are particularly fervent and touching. Not surprisingly, the arrangements that the masters of Russian Orthodox Church music composition have created for these prayers are also among the most passionate and beautiful. Last year our choir presented a recital that featured a small sample of selections from this period.

On March 15 at 1 p.m., on the Sunday of Adoration of the Holy Cross, **Крестопоклонная**, our parish choir will present a concert-recital of additional special prayers from services leading up to Pascha. Selections will include works by famous pre-revolutionary composers - Bortniansky, Archangelsky, Turchaninov – as well as contemporary composers, including Trubachev and San Francisco's Mihail Konstantinov and Sergei Riabchenko.

The concert will be held inside our church. Admission is free. Seating will be limited, on a first-come, first-served basis. Our Sisterhood will host a luncheon after Liturgy and a reception following the concert in the church hall. For those who cannot attend in person, the concert will be broadcast via LiveStream at <http://new.livestream.com//coars>.

In addition to acquainting our parishioners and friends with the special prayers they will hear during our services, the concert will also have an important fundraising objective. Your donations will enable our choir to help fund upcoming Parish Beautification Stewardship projects. Our goal is to collect \$2,500, which we believe can be achieved if everyone who attends can donate an average of \$25.

We hope you will save the date, Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, as we invite you to join us for Liturgy, fellowship and an afternoon of music.

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# THEOLOGICAL QUESTION FOR FATHER STEFAN

## ARE ORTHODOX ALLOWED TO ATTEND SERVICES IN NON-ORTHODOX CHURCHES?

### ANSWER

Since we live in a secular, multicultural society, we often receive invitations to attend bar mitzvahs, become godparents to children of other faiths, or be a groomsman or bridesmaid in weddings of friends belonging to other religions. Of course, we want to accept and participate in such events, but what does the Orthodox Church say about this? What restrictions do we need to obey in terms of food, dress and participation?

First and foremost, every Orthodox Christian should be aware that laws, rules and particularly Orthodox Canons do exist that address this question. Canon LXV of the Apostles says, "If any clergymen, or laymen, enter a synagogue of Jews or heretics to pray, let him be both deposed and excommunicated."

Canon IX of Laodicia says, "Concerning the fact that those belonging to the Church must not be allowed to go visiting the cemeteries or the so called martyria of any heretics for the purpose of prayer or of cure, but, on the contrary, those who do so, if they be among the faithful, shall be excluded from communion for a time until they repent and confess their having made a mistake, when they may be readmitted to communion." Canon XXXIII of Laodicia reads, "One must not join in prayer with heretics or schismatics."

These Canons make it perfectly clear that Orthodox Christians are to avoid attending and participating in heterodox religious events.

Having said that, we must also realize that all the things we do must be tempered by genuine Christian love, compassion

and humility. In mixed faith families, it is inevitable that some members of the family who belong to another religion would be deeply hurt if their family members would shun them on a wedding day or a family member's funeral. In such a case, attend without participation but through your physical presence, show support without compromising one's faith. Sometimes this same support needs to be shown to co-workers and neighbors.

What about becoming godparents? It's not logical to become a godparent of someone not of your own faith. Orthodox Christians should always be a witness to the Orthodox Faith and not guide someone into religious beliefs contrary to the Orthodox Church. If you are uncomfortable attending a religious ceremony, there is nothing wrong with sending a greeting card or gift to mark the occasion or a letter of condolence to the bereaved.

What are restrictions in terms of food? When dining with non-Orthodox during Lent and fasting periods, we should never offend the host, nor should we purposefully abuse the situation. Instead, do your best to fill up your plate with Lenten (or near Lenten) foods, avoiding meat, dairy products and other obviously non-Lenten dishes. Best of all, turn down social visits during fasting times.

Throughout the year, Orthodox Christians should dress modestly and avoid situations where the dress code may be salacious and inappropriate. Common sense should always guide us to temper the strictness of Church teachings with compassion, understanding, humility and sincere Christian love.

# ANATOL SHMELEV: RUSSIAN CURATOR AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

- Ludmilla Bobroff

Being fluent in the Russian language has aided a number of our parishioners to find jobs at Stanford University over the past decades. These include Alla Avisov, Ron Bulatoff, Irene Jones, Larissa Krassovsky, and Natalia Koretsky, reposed wife of Parish Council Member Nikolai Koretsky. What makes Anatol Shmelev stand out is that he was born and raised in Southern California, educated in American schools and universities, and succeeded in writing his doctoral dissertation completely in Russian while attending the Institute of Russian History at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. That is quite a feat.

Anatol was born in Los Angeles in 1965, the son of Vsevolod Nikolaevich and Inna Anatolievna Shmelev. Fifteen years earlier, his parents and grandparents immigrated to the United States from a Displaced Persons' Camp in Germany. "I had a very Russian upbringing in the 70s and early 80s," says Anatol. "Besides attending American schools, I went to Russian School in Los Angeles, participated in Russian Scouts and a gymnastic organization called Sokol.

"My grandparents, Nikolai and Anna Shmelev, were a major influence in my life," he continues. "My grandmother, Anna Ippolitovna, was the daughter of a priest who perished during the Stalin era. Our family went to church regularly and I learned to read, write, and speak Russian fluently. However, my vocabulary was, what we called, 'kitchen Russian.' So from the age of ten to age nineteen, my parents took me once a week for lessons from Nikolai Ulianovich Puschkarsky, a retired lawyer and Russian School teacher. He taught me not only to speak correctly and read well, but also to write properly.

"My grandfather, Nikolai Fedorovich, also made it easy for me to excel in school. He was a prominent engineer who taught mathematics at the university level."

Anatol's interest in Russian history began developing at age 14. The teenager became interested in the life of Imperial Generalissimo Alexander Suvorov (1730-1800) who was undefeated in over 60 major battles which he led. The boy plowed through a Russian biography of the



*Anatol and Julia Shmelev*

military man written by another emigre, General Nikolai Golovin, using a dictionary to look up words he did not understand. "It was very difficult for me to read that book," he admits, "but I finally finished it and it opened up a whole world of wonderful Russian books to me: memoirs, literature, and historical studies."

After graduating from high school, Anatol enrolled at UCLA and majored in History and Russian Civilization, receiving a B.A. Degree in 1986. Next came UC Berkeley, where he received a master's degree in Late Modern European History with a focus on Russia.

While concentrating primarily on his studies, Anatol worked part-time as an interpreter and a pollster doing telephone interviews for the Los Angeles Times. He was even an extra in the 1989 movie, "Hunt for Red October." A film company was recruiting extras so John (Vanya) Sokoloff, now a famous pianist and composer, and Anatol signed up as a lark. "Although the movie took months to film, we appear on the screen for less than a minute," he laughs.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 90s, Anatol decided to see for himself what was happening there. He enrolled at the Institute of Russian History of the Russian Academy of Science in Moscow, receiving

*continued...*

his Ph.D. in 1996. The subject of his dissertation was “The Foreign Policy of the Admiral Kolchak’s White Government during the Civil War (1918-1920).” While studying at the Institute, he met Julia Barskaya, a student at St. Petersburg University. Less than a year later, they were married and came to the U.S. in 1996, when Anatol was accepted at Stanford’s Hoover Institution for a post-doctoral fellowship.

After completing the fellowship, he stayed on at Hoover, working on a joint archival project between the Hoover Institution and the Museum of Russian Culture in San Francisco, funded by the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities. Today, Anatol is the Curator for the Russian and Eurasian Collection at Hoover Institution. His job is to research, describe, acquire, and process materials. He enjoys working with his wife, Julia, who is a research assistant at Hoover.

The couple have two children. Nikolai, 19, attends Foothill College and is interested in engineering and economics. He completed the Parish Russian School several years ago. “Nikolai thinks of himself as a Russian boy living in America,” Julia adds. His sister Anna, 10, is a fourth grader at an elementary school in Los Altos. In addition, she attends the Parish Russian School where her father teaches Russian history to children in grades 2 and higher.

The parents are trying to keep their children interested in Russian culture.

Both of them have read stories nightly to first Nikolai and now Anna. Every summer, the family would travel to St. Petersburg to visit Julia’s parents. They enjoyed visiting famous monasteries, holy sites, museums, theaters, and historical locations. Sadly, those happy days came to an end with the recent repose of Julia’s parents. Julia, however, hopes to restart their annual visits to Russia very soon.

Anatol’s favorite hobby is reading history books. He also enjoys giving historical talks on subjects he has researched. In the past few years, he has given lectures at the Russian Center and Society of Russian Veterans in San Francisco on such topics as Russia’s role in World War I and the visit of the Russian fleet in 1863. “Before 1917, Russia and the United States were on friendly terms,” he says. “The Bolsheviks changed that dynamic.

“My research in Russian history allows me to learn more about my heritage, which is a great gift given to me by my parents,” he says. “As a result, my job has become a calling and makes my life richer. There is nothing more satisfying than finding and preserving Russian materials, especially emigre materials. The post-revolutionary Russian emigration was a unique phenomenon, and it contributed so much to world culture. It is important to preserve these materials and ensure that our children and grandchildren (and their grandchildren) will know about these extraordinary accomplishments as well as the hardships and struggles our ancestors had to endure.



*Posing for a family photo are son Nikolai, mother Julia, father Anatol, and daughter Anna.*

“Take a look at this parish,” Anatol concludes. “We tend to take for granted that this church exists and has stood here for over half a century. How often do we think about those who founded it, who risked their collateral to purchase the land? How many piroschki were sold to pay for the construction, the mortgage, to decorate the interior? If we allow ourselves to forget the sacrifices of the parish founders and its current benefactors, then what does that say about us? Similarly, we should all be more active in maintaining our heritage in every

way. Books, newspapers, letters and photographs are the living evidence of our past, and if we don’t care about them, our past will be erased, or worse, twisted and misinterpreted. The good deeds and sacrifices of our ancestors are like a foundation on which we can build our lives, and if we build prudently and solidly, our descendants will be able to continue this good work.” ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL

**MARCH 15**

Pasta Luncheon  
Church Choir Concert  
Reception after the Concert

**MARCH 22**

Annual Parish Meeting after Divine  
Liturgy

**MARCH 29**

Children's Kulich Faire

**APRIL 5**

Palm Sunday Luncheon featuring  
the Sisterhood's famous Fish Cotleti

### PREPARATIONS FOR PASCHA

The Sisterhood is selling vanilla beans, tvorog (cheese for sirnaya pascha), regular and organic kulichi made by the Sisterhood, and ready-made sirnaya pascha. For more information and pre-ordering, please contact: Tatiana Pavlenko at 650-430-9806; tpavlenko@hotmail.com or Luba Gauschildt at 650-591-1605; belmontbrandy@aol.com

There is no scheduled church cleaning day this year. However, Olga Parr needs help with mending and cleaning vestments and altar boy robes. This is easy work, but there are too many for one person to do. If you can help, please contact Olga to coordinate mutually agreeable work dates. She can be reached at 650-343-8017; oparr21@gmail.com

### PELMENI-MAKING SESSION

April 23

If you can help, come to the Church Hall anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Call Luba Gauschildt for more information, 650-591-1605.

## LENTEN RETREAT AT THE HOLY VIRGIN CATHEDRAL

The Holy Virgin Cathedral at 6210 Geary Blvd in San Francisco is presenting its Eighth Annual Lenten Retreat on March 29. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about Orthodoxy and to become acquainted with fellow Orthodox from Greek, Serbian, Romanian, Antiochian and American Orthodox Churches in the Bay Area and Northern California.

The morning speaker will be Father Stephen Freeman, rector of St. Anne Orthodox Church in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, which is under the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church in America. Author of many articles, books, and the "Glory to God" podcast on Ancient Faith Radio, Father Stephen will speak and answer questions on the subject, "Running on Empty in the Abundant Life."

Nun Theoktisti from the Holy Monastery of Saint John the Forerunner in Anatoli, Greece will speak on "With Faith There is Hope." She has done missionary work in Tanzania and Mozambique and is in great demand as a speaker.

The retreat begins with Divine Liturgy in English from 7:30 to 9:45 a.m. on March 29. Registration opens at 9:45 in the Cathedral's Main Hall, followed by breakfast, then Father Stephen's speech and Q&A session.

From noon to 1 o'clock is lunch, followed by Nun Theoktisti's talk and Q&A period. Next comes informal fellowship, a tour of the Holy Virgin Cathedral, and Vespers in English at 5 p.m.

Registration costs \$30 until March 7, then \$35 from March 8 until the day of the Retreat. Half day registration is also available.

For complete information, see [www.lentenretreatsf.org](http://www.lentenretreatsf.org) For questions, email [lentenretreatsf@gmail.com](mailto:lentenretreatsf@gmail.com) or call 206-931-5649.

#### CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS

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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](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 - May 2015**

Schedule of services can be found on the Church website:

<http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org>

## NEWS FROM RUSSIAN SCHOOL

Galina Isayeva and Ksenia Vasilieva are graduating from the Parish Russian School in May. The graduation ceremony will be held during the Annual School AKT at the Church Hall on May 17 after Divine Liturgy. All other students will receive their End-of-the-Year Certificates, as well as Certificates of Merit.

The families of the two graduates are planning a traditional White Ball for invited guests on May 31. It will be held in the Small Hall at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross in Belmont.

### 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](http://www.new.livestream.com/COARS)

## IN MEMORIAM - ALEXANDRA (SASHA) BALITSKY 1952-2014

- *Natasha Sabelnik*

On December 30, 2014, the Russian American community lost a valuable member and friend who contributed greatly to the art of ballet and Russian folk music. After a long battle with cancer, Alexandra Balitsky, who danced her whole life, departed this world with many friends, family members and admirers attending funeral services officiated by Father Stefan.

Sasha, as we all knew her, was born in Harbin, China on April 30, 1952 and came to the U.S. via Brazil as a small child. She studied ballet from a very early age and was a gifted ballerina when she joined the Perfiloff dance ensemble in her early teens. She continued dancing with Perfiloff, as well as with Ella Dmitrieff's folk dance group, the Avramenko Folk Ensemble, and with Massenkoff's Russian Folk Festival. She was even invited to join the Neva Dance Ensemble when they performed in Branson, Missouri. Yet despite the fact she was very talented, Sasha continued studying ballet at Natasha Borissova's Ballet Russe.



For many years, we were fortunate to see Sasha perform at the Russian Center and throughout the Bay Area at numerous Russian cultural events. Then serious health issues precluded her from actively devoting her life to the ballet and Russian dance which she came to love so much in her later years. Some of her last times on stage were with the "Russian Collections" performed at the 2014 Russian Festival in San Francisco and a special duet danced with Vladimir Riazantseff at the All-Diaspora Youth Conference held last summer in San Francisco.

Following surgery, she succumbed to her illness on December 30, 2014, leaving behind her brother, Peter Balitsky, his wife Nadia, her niece Luba (from a previous marriage), two nephews, Nick and Venia and their families, all of whom she adored.

The funeral was held on Monday, January 12 at the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame, as were the "pominki". Interment was at Serbian Cemetery in Colma. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made in her memory to the Church of All Russian Saints which are being accepted to this day.

Her family and friends, with whom she danced, will always remember Sashenka with fond memories and warm friendships. Memory Eternal! May she rest in peace.

**THANK YOU**  
TO  
**EVELINA AND LAMONT PHEMISTER**  
FOR GRACIOUSLY  
SPONSORING THE PRINTING COST OF THIS ISSUE.

# LIFE IN THE PARISH



The Markevich family enjoys a family reunion, celebrating the 90th birthday of Nicholas Markevich's mother. Standing left to right are Katherine, Father Deacon Peter from the Holy Trinity Orthodox Monastery in Jordanville, New York, little Lukia, Nicholas holding baby Sebastian, Anya, and second son, Andrei, from Corte Madera. The two brothers read the Epistles during Divine Liturgy.



Matushka Tatiana celebrates her Namesday with Father Stefan and their family, the Maximows.



Father Stefan immerses the cross in water during the Theophany service outside.



On January 9, the Church Hall overflowed with parishioners congratulating Father Stefan on his Namesday. Grandson Stefanchik Maximow (*not pictured*) also celebrated his Namesday and 2nd birthday!

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

# RUSSIAN SCHOOL YOLKA



Graduating seniors Galina Isayeva and Ksenia Vasilieva perform a headscarf dance.

*The Organizing Committee expresses their heart-felt thanks to the Sisterhood for their continued support, especially to Luba Gauschieldt.*



Benjamin (Venya) Felps from the ABC Class awaits his turn on stage.



Nika Yevseyev gets Ded Moroz's attention all to herself.



Children, parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends attend the Yolka party to watch Russian School students perform and interact with Father Frost (Ded Moroz).



Students in the Kindergarten, ABC and Junior Preparatory Classes are thrilled to see Ded Moroz. Also enjoying his appearance is Kindergarten teacher, Maria Utjaganova.

# FATHER SERGEI'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE CLERGY



Father Stefan congratulates Protodeacon Sergei for his long service to the Orthodox Church.



Father Sergei shares the joy of that day with his beloved wife, Sonya.



Attending the celebration are the families of Lev Shoomiloff and Prodeacon Andre Karobkoff.



Father Sergei is touched by the loving letters sent to him by his adult children on the East Coast



Alexei Baranoff presents a gift to Father Sergei from the Parish Council. So does Luba Gauschildt representing the Sisterhood (not pictured).

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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 MAY/JUNE ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT DIMITRY BOBROFF AT [JBROBROFF@AOL.COM](mailto:JBROBROFF@AOL.COM) COST IS \$25. DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CARDS AND SENDING CHECKS (MADE OUT TO CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS) IS APRIL 1.

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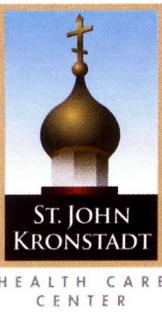
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