

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

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 3 MAY / JUNE 2014

Христос Воскресе!

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY AND JUNE

MAY 28-29	ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
JUNE 7-8	PENTECOST (TROITSA)
JUNE 16-JULY 11	SAINTS PETER AND PAUL FAST
JUNE 22	FEAST DAY FOR THE BURLINGAME CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS
JUNE 28-29	20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLORIFICATION OF BISHOP SAINT JOHN OF SHANGHAI AND SAN FRANCISCO. ALL SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT THE HOLY VIRGIN CATHEDRAL IN SAN FRANCISCO, NONE IN BURLINGAME. FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.WADIOCESE.ORG



MESSAGE FROM FATHER STEFAN

We have just celebrated the Bright, Joyous and Grace-filled Feast of the Holy Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Liturgically and in our hearts, we continue to bask in the glory of the feast for a total of forty festive days!

Entering the feast we relived the last days of Our Lord with His Disciples as He entered Jerusalem and then suffered and died on the cross. We were at Church services when the Church celebrated most joyously the Holy and Glorious Resurrection. And now, we continue singing the Feast Day Troparion: “Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and for those in the tombs bestowing life.”

We continue greeting each other with the joyous Paschal Greeting: “CHRIST IS RISEN!” With all our hearts, we respond with a resounding, “INDEED, TRULY, VERILY---- HE IS RISEN!” The troubles of the world are not diminishing and a sobering reality of “wars and rumors of wars” seems to be taking over news broadcasts with chilling details of atrocities perpetrated by various factions

against each other. Each claims honorable motives for unspeakable acts of aggression, vengeance and retaliation.

As Orthodox Christians, we should be keenly aware that all these things and worse have been revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures through the words of Christ Himself, His Holy Apostles, and the Fathers of the Orthodox Church. We should not be polarized by all these things but strive to live by the Holy Commandments of the Scriptures and the Rule of the Church. If we treasure in our hearts our love for God and love for our fellow man, we have nothing to fear.

Attend Church services, pray in church and at home, fast during appointed fast days and strive to do good toward your neighbor. All will be well in this life and assuredly in the future in God’s Eternal Kingdom. May God bless you and your families with good health, prosperity, peace and tranquility during this Paschal Season and for your entire future life!

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!



THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

- *Father Stefan Pavlenko*

WHY ARE WOMEN NOT ALLOWED IN THE ALTAR?

When we judge our Orthodox faith by what we see in our local parish, we sometimes get a limited impression about our Orthodox Faith. Many people believe there is a strict and unbending rule that “women are forbidden to enter the Holy Altar.” They assume the reasons include such things as “women are unclean,” or “sinful,” and therefore not allowed to enter the Holy Altar.

This misunderstanding is immediately dispersed upon visiting a convent or a women’s monastery. There, one can see that nuns are indeed allowed into the Altar. They receive a blessing to enter the Holy Altar to serve as acolytes to the celebrating priest, to help read the names of the faithful for the Proskomedia Service, to prepare the after Communion antidoron and wine (zapivka), and to complete cleaning chores.

We should know not all men are allowed free entry into the Holy Altar. Just being a male does not give a man the right to enter the Altar at will. To enter the Altar, one must have a specific blessing to do so. To receive a blessing to enter, one must not have certain impediments. For example, living with a mate out of wedlock (without the Sacrament of Marriage) would be one reason for exclusion.

Sometimes elderly widowed women in the parish are also given a blessing to enter the Altar. This occurs when no other volunteers can be found. When my mother was a young woman in Belgrade, Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky) blessed her to take care of the Russian Orthodox Holy Trinity Church Vestry. The vestment closet was accessible only through the Altar. She went in and out of the Altar whenever the need arose.

HOW ARE NAMES CHOSEN FOR BABIES, CONVERTS, MONASTICS, AND CHURCHES?

When Russian Orthodox Christians are baptized, they are given names in honor of Saints of the Orthodox Church. In older simpler times, the priest or the head of the family would look at the list of Saints in the Church Calendar and select one Saint who was commemorated on the child’s birthday. If the birthday did not have a list of Saints from which to choose, the Eighth Day or the Fortieth Day list was consulted.

The Eight Day after the baby’s birthday is the actual day the Church designates to say special prayers and to name the child. On this day, the priest is called to the home of the faithful and the prayer of naming a child is read.

Today, parents tend to choose names from among their relatives or because they admire a particular person. This is acceptable as long as the name is an Orthodox Christian name and the Saint is honored in a proper way. However, the best way for parents to choose a name is to honor a Saint they love and to instill in their child a desire to learn the Saint’s life (Jitiye Sviatogo) so that the Saint becomes an example of Christian piety for the child.

Just as important as choosing the right name is choosing the proper Godparents. This should not be a frivolous matter limited only to close friends or chosen relatives. A true Godfather or Godmother takes upon themselves a lifelong responsibility to care for the spiritual direction of their Godchild. Besides being an example of a good Orthodox Christian in prayer, fasting, church attendance, helping the needy, and maintaining a moral Christian lifestyle by obeying the Commandments of God, Godparents should make sure their Godchild wears a cross, knows his/her



Saint's Life, recognizes icons of their Saint and Guardian Angel, has copies (eventually) of a Prayer Book, Psalter, the Bible, Lives of Saints and Church Teaching (such as "The Law of God" by Fr. Seraphim Slobodskoy). Of course, Godparents should always be available to discuss spiritual matters. To prepare for this important lifelong task, they should take Confession and Holy Eucharist before their Godchild's Sacrament of Baptism.

An adult convert has an easier task - choosing the name of a Saint whom they like or revere. The decision should be made with a lot of thought, study, and prayer.

A monastic does not choose his new name. Instead, the monk tonsuring him chooses one for him. Oftentimes, that name is based on the character of the person being tonsured as an example for whom to strive. Other times, a monk's tonsure name will begin with the letter of his secular name. For instance, an Arkady will be named Anthony, or a Paul, Peter. Of course, he may be named after the Saint commemorated on his birthday. If the monk's monastic obedience is icon painting, prosphora baking, cooking, or gardening, he could also be named in honor of a Saint whose obedience was exactly that.

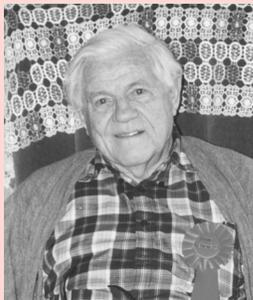
Church names are chosen by the founders of a parish and must be approved by the local ruling archbishop or metropolitan. Churches can be named after the Holy Virgin Mary, any Saint of the Orthodox Church, a major or even a minor feast day, and even after a Holy Icon. In naming a church, founders must not duplicate the names of nearby parishes so that the Ruling Bishop, clergy and faithful from neighboring parishes can attend Feast Day services of the newly named parish.



1944



1964



1984



2004

**DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MY
HUSBAND, MIRON SKY,
WHO DIED 10 YEARS AGO ON APRIL 13, 2004**

Until We Meet Again

*I dream of us as we were once upon a time,
Holding hands and walking side by side.
We laugh and smile,
We are young again, just as we used to be.
And I hear your whispers in my ear
Of happiness in Paradise...*

*Letting you go was hard for me to face.
There was so much I wanted still
To share with you.
So much that we had planned to do.
Alas, the years went much too swiftly by
As we grew old, you and I.*

*But when I see something you cherished,
Or stroll along a path we walked together,
Or hear a tune you liked,
I do not let my thoughts be sad.
I know you would be here with me forever,
Could you have found a way,*

*Although you left me, my beloved, long ago,
To go alone into a world unknown,
I do not grieve,
And do not speak of you with tears.
I talk about the life we shared
As if you were beside me here.*

*We cannot see beyond,
But I know you are at peace.
And I believe
My happy memories will never cease.
So I wait, while life on earth goes on and on,
Until in Heaven we meet again.*

Anastasia Sky

THANK YOU TO ANASTASIA SKY
FOR GRACIOUSLY SPONSORING THE COST OF THIS ISSUE IN COMMEMORATION
OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPOSE OF HER HUSBAND, MIRON SKY

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- Nikolai Koretsky

The Annual Church of All Russian Saints Parish Meeting started at 12:15 on March 30, 2014 after attendees enjoyed a light lunch. Everyone received an agenda, a 2013 financial statement and a voting ballot.

The meeting was opened with a prayer, followed by the election of Boris Parr as the meeting chairperson and Nikolai Koretsky as the secretary. Also elected were Helen Gauschildt, Ludmilla Bobroff, and Tania Bolshakoff to tabulate the election ballots.

Father Stefan announced that longtime parish board member, Alexei Parshooto, resigned from his post with regret without completing his second year in office. Father Stefan co-opted Oleg Bolshakoff to replace Alexei Parshooto for the remainder of his term of office.

Five nominations were taken from the floor for four seats on the parish board. All dues-paying members of the church then cast their votes on the ballots.

Father Stefan reported that in 2013 there were 11 funerals, 38 baptisms, 1 wedding and 133 signatures in the Book of Records from church-goers who received Holy Communion during Great Lent in 2013. He thanked everyone who has been active in maintaining and supporting our church, especially members of the Sisterhood, the Choir, the Parish Council, and hard-working individuals. He also mentioned three major celebrations that will occur this year in the diocese: the 20th anniversary of the sainthood of Bishop Saint John, the 700th anniversary of Saint Sergius of Radonezh, and the 50th anniversary of Saint John of Kronstadt. An organizing committee is also looking into the possibility of going on an overnight pilgrimage to the Greek monastery in Fresno, California.

Elder Ivan Afanasiev stated that the parish board has taken over janitorial duties at church after the former paid janitor moved away. He also discussed some air-conditioning issues and the replacement of old light bulbs with new energy-efficient ones. The Elder mentioned that Father Stefan's old van was replaced with a new car that, thankfully, does not have to be constantly repaired.

Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko, head of the Sisterhood, reported there



Matushka Tatiana presents her report on the Sisterhood at the Annual Parish Meeting. Seated at the head table are (left to right) Yura Misersky, Nikolai Koretsky, Shura Ossipoff, Father Stefan, and Ivan Afanasiev.

were 12 full lunches, several lighter lunches, 10 pelmeni-making sessions, as well as celebrations for Father Stefan's Namesday, the church's Feast Day (prestolnyi praznik), and Father Stefan's 40th Anniversary into the Priesthood. She also mentioned that the very labor-intensive rummage sale, chaired by Larissa Krassovsky, earned \$5,000. She thanked Luba Gauschildt and other members of the Sisterhood for their dedication and hard work.

Choir Director Andrei Rudenko reported there were 15 major new arrangements learned by the choir in 2013. In addition, the choir sang at 213 church services, 48 rehearsals, and at 25 male choir rehearsals. The next choir concert will be performed in October. Andrei Roudenko is encouraging younger singers to audition for the choir, even those with limited choir singing experience.

Russian School Director Alexander Miroshnichenko reported that currently there are 30 students enrolled in the school. Classes take place on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 7:20 PM. The school has two celebrations a year - a Yolka shortly after Nativity and the End of the Year Akt. Students come from very different backgrounds and it's difficult to accommodate them with a uniform program.

Financial Review Committee - Sonia Shoomiloff reported the committee has reviewed finances of both the church and the Russian School. The church finances are in good order, while the financial records at the Russian School are improving, she said.

Financial Report - S. Ossipoff and A. Baranoff. Shura Ossipoff

presented his farewell speech as treasurer and officially turned over the books to Alexei Baranoff. The new treasurer summarized the financial report, stating that in 2013, there was a loss of \$17,889. This loss, however, was a marked improvement over the losses sustained over previous years. For 2014, the Financial Committee developed a balanced budget.

Election Results were announced by Secretary Yura Misersky. The newly elected two-year-term Parish Board Members are Dimitry Bobroff, Andrei Maximow, Shura Ossipoff, and Alexei Sikorsky. Backup member is Marina Roudenko.

The Financial Audit Committee for 2014 are Olga Medvedko, Sonia Shoomiloff, and Helen Gauschildt. Backup member is Tania Bolshakoff.

Statement from the Floor. Larissa Krassovsky thanked everyone who helped during the rummage sale, especially Luba Gauschildt. She also presented a check for \$1000 to the Stewardship Fund which resulted from the sale of a portion of military books in the estate of the reposed Vsevolod Skaredov. (\$200 came from the League of Russian American Women.) Being one of the founders of the Burlingame parish, Larissa expressed her pleasure and gratitude at seeing so many young adults in church during services and also at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned after a prayer.

CHURCH STEWARDSHIP - REMINDER

- Dimitry Bobroff

Church Stewardship is based on an annual calendar year. After initially filling out the Stewardship Form, you will be asked to fill out a much shorter annual renewal form in succeeding years. The form allows you to decide how much you want to pledge each year. The Church Financial Committee is then able to develop an annual budget to plan needed projects for that year. We understand not everyone can afford to give a monetary pledge. If you have skills that can benefit the Church, such as singing in the choir or being active in the Sisterhood, that is stewardship also.

Please fill out a Stewardship Form whether you're donating money or your time and talents. Stewardship forms are available in the front of the Church close to the candle counter.

We hope you become a proud Steward of the Church of All Russian Saints for the year 2014 and beyond.

BAPTISED

FEBRUARY 2014

ALEXANDER KENEDY
ANGELINA KENEDY
ANGELINA SEVEN
CHRISTINA SEVEN
ALEXANDRA
SARANDINAKI

MARCH 2014

SOFIA STADNIK
MAXIM MIRONOV

MARRIED

THERE WERE NO
MARRIAGES
IN THE MONTHS OF
FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

REPOSED IN THE LORD

FEBRUARY 2014

VALENTINA DIATROPTOVA
VALENTINA OBERMEYER
LEONID KOROTKY

MARCH 2014

KATHLEEN N. TURLEY
EFREM EIVAZOFF
ELIZABETH ENGURAZOFF

NEW PARISHIONERS

EUGENIA AND VLADIMIR
ROUDENKO



SPONSORSHIPS OF CHURCH EXPENSES

- Dimitry Bobroff

2014 Church Expenses Sponsorship

I would like to sponsor the following:

Area of Sponsorship	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14
Copier costs (\$300/mo; \$3,600/yr)												
Gardener costs (\$180/mo; \$2,160/yr)												
Internet/Wi-Fi cost (\$45/mo; \$540/yr)	Pledged											
Larger freezer upstairs for prosforas (~\$600 to purchase)	Paid in Full											
Liturgical supplies (\$100/mo; \$1,200/yr)	Pledged											
Livestreaming video costs (\$600/yr)	Pledged											
Nativity/Paschal gift to choir members (~\$1,200/Feastday)				Paid in Full								\$400 Paid
Newsletter printing cost (\$72/bi-monthly issue; \$432/yr)	Paid		Paid		Paid		Paid		Paid		Paid	
Office expenses (\$50/mo; \$600/yr)	Paid	Paid	Pledged	Pledged	Pledged	Pledged	Pledged	Pledged	Pledged	Pledged	Pledged	Pledged
Telephone cost (\$80/mo; \$960/yr)												

Please make out checks to "Church of All Russian Saints" with memo notation of area of sponsorship and number of months that you will sponsor. and drop the check into the small black mailbox by the front door. Put a check mark in the appropriate space on this sheet.

You have probably seen this sponsorship matrix hanging on the front door and in the Church Hall. It is a list of church expenses that must be paid on a regular basis. Examples include the cost of the telephone (\$80 per month), the gardener (\$180 per month), the copier (\$300 per month), liturgical supplies (\$100 per month), and Livestreaming video (\$600 per year).

Thankfully, a number of people have signed up to sponsor some of these expenses. Empty spaces denote areas currently not sponsored.

We are looking for additional sponsors. Choose a category that appeals to you and sponsor the expense for a month, for several months, or even a whole year. You do not have to be a Steward to contribute. All donations are welcome. Contact Dimitry Bobroff (jbobroff@aol.com) for information.

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

V. Rev. Mitred Archpriest

Stefan Pavlenko, Rector (650) 430-9805
Ivan Afanasiev, Elder (650) 589-7617
Alexei Baranoff, Treasurer (916) 799-0898
Yura Misersky, Secretary (650) 579-2667

Head Sister

Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko (650) 430-9806

Choir Director

Andrei Roudenko (650) 922-0250
Dimitry Bobroff (408) 257-6918
Nikolai Koretsky (650) 492-8237
Andrei Maximow (408) 954-0764
Shura Ossipoff (650) 697-1078
Oleg Bolshakoff (415) 759-8582
Alexsei Sikorsky (650) 235-5286



RECOMMENDED SPIRITUAL VIDEOS

- *Dimitry Bobroff*

Here are some videos I found of interest recently. Please inform me of your favorite videos that help us grow spiritually.

IN ENGLISH

“Orthodox in Dixie” is a documentary about parishes in South Carolina that belong to the Eastern American Diocese of Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. The light-hearted video is 40 minutes long.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lb6ZLx0qPNY>

“Alaskan Native Americans and Christianity” presents Alaskan natives and their Russian Orthodox beliefs, culminating in their celebration of Pascha in a small village on the Yukon. The video is 27 minutes long. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca1GUxF2MwA>

“The Holy Icon - Doorway into Heaven,” is a lecture given by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware. With his British accent, the former Oxford University professor is a pleasure to watch. The video is 39 minutes long.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&v=67x3GiPDfvk&NR=1>

“Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame” is a short video tour of the church and its icons. The choir sings in the background. The video clip is 8 minutes long.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vrcv7IGyLw>

IN SLAVONIC

“Parish Choir of the Church of all Russian Saints, Burlingame CA” presents three selections from the March 2014 choir recital in the Burlingame Church. The video is 13 minutes long.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVo9AvY1Alo&feature=youtu_gdata_player

IN RUSSIAN

“Glow in the Eyes of God” (Сияние Божие в глазах) is about the life of the late Metropolitan Laurus. At approximately 17+ minutes into the video, watch for a 12-year-old boy walking through the wheat fields. It’s our own Father Stefan. The video is 52 minutes long.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olbgvf4IBZc&app=desktop>

“Russia is Still Alive” (Русь Еще Жива) is about a monk in Russia named Roman who is a spiritual poet and song

writer. Zhanna Bichevskaya sings a number of his songs. The 56-minute video is quite powerful.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUGEsTwnjM>

“May 24, 2013 Day of Slavic Writing and Culture” (24 Мая 2013 День Славянской Письменности и Культуры) is a 1 hour 48 minute festival of Russian/Ukrainian songs on Red Square in Moscow with Patriarch Kyrill and Patriarch Feofil of Jerusalem as honored guests. Video was recommended by Aleksander Nikolaevich Miroschnichenko.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqIQNrc9RV0>

“The Life of St. Matrona.” Born blind and unable to walk, the saint showed love to everyone and became famous for her prophesies and healings. She died in 1952 and was glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church in 1998. The video is 52 minutes long.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGrhxhBHt0c>

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 OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS

A Parish of the Western American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad

744 El Camino Real, Burlingame, CA 94010

<http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

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Photographers - Dimitry Bobroff and Lena Gauschildt

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

Next Newsletter - July 2014

Schedule of services can be found on the Church website:
<http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>



LIFE REVOLVES AROUND CHURCH FOR THE MISERSKY FAMILY

- Ludmilla Bobroff



Two children were born in Harbin, Yura and Marina. The grandmother, Elena Ignatievna Misersky, lived with the family her entire life.

Churches grow and prosper primarily because dedicated parishioners donate their time, their energy, their prayers, and their financial contributions year after year, decade after decade to the glory of Our Lord and His Beloved Church. The Misersky family is one of several families who have dedicated their lives not only to the Church of All Russian Saints (since 1972), but also to churches in San Francisco, Sao Paulo, Brazil and Harbin, China.

At almost all services, Nikolai Vasilevich Misersky is behind the candle counter, quietly answering questions, selling candles, and accepting lists of names for commemoration at the Divine Liturgy. During the past 40 years, he has assisted a number of Elders (starostas) but always declining the top position for himself. His wife, Maria Ivanovna, who departed this life in 2012, was affectionately called Auntie Musia (Tyotyia Musia) by the Sisterhood. She cheerfully took on all jobs, from changing

vestments seasonally to making pelmeni monthly. Her smile always lit up the room.

Their son, Yura, continues working alongside his father in Church, as well as singing in the choir, and being a member of the Parish Board. He holds the office of secretary. The Misersky daughter, Marina, sang in the choir while growing up in San Francisco. When she married and eventually moved to Michigan, she was instrumental in founding an Orthodox Church with her husband who became a convert and an unofficial Elder.

The first 40 years of Nikolai Vasilevich's life, however, were far from quiet and peaceful. He was born in 1927 in a small railroad station town of Kuancheng (now Changchun, Jilin) located in Manchuria. His father worked for the railroad. When the Soviet Union returned the Chinese Eastern Railroad to China, all workers were required to return home. Nikolai Vasilevich's family consisted of parents, grandparents and an older brother. Upon arriving in Harbin, China which had a large Russian population, the grandparents decided to remain there. Since no one wanted to leave the grandparents behind, the entire family stayed also.

The two brothers finished their schooling in Harbin, then Nikolai enrolled in the theology program at the university in the hope he wouldn't be drafted. But a worse fate awaited him. Within a year, his grandmother, grandfather, father and older brother all died. Schooling stopped. Nikolai had to become the head of the family and support his widowed mother.

Fortunately, he found a job as a machinist in a large company that repaired large machinery. Nikolai traveled all over China for his job. Always awaiting his return was his childhood sweetheart, Maria Ivanovna Stepanenkoff. In 1946, they married. Nikolai was 19, his bride was 20.

Their wedding was supposed to be held at the main cathedral in Harbin. However, on their wedding day, all private automobiles were commandeered to drive Soviet citizens to the voting booths. The location was changed quickly to a small nearby church. The winter wedding was a festive occasion, lasting three days. Three priests served at the wedding ceremony as well as a protodeacon. The couple's marital bliss lasted 67 years.

Married life for the newlyweds started with young Nikolai working for the Chinese railroad and Musia studying pharmaceuticals. They had two children, Marina and Yura. Around 1953, the

Chinese government ordered all Europeans to leave the country. The young family considered immigrating to the U.S. but there was an 18-year wait for a visa. Brazil was their choice for temporary residence.

Life in Sao Paulo was difficult. The family of five, including grandmother Elena Ignatievna Misersky, had to share a two-room flat for many months with the four-person Koba family until enough money was saved to move into a more spacious residence. Nikolai had a four-hour daily commute, which began at 4 a.m., to get to his job at a power company. He didn't speak Portuguese, but fortunately, his boss spoke Russian.

When John F. Kennedy became President of the United States, the family received a letter from the U.S. Immigration Department, stating families were welcome to immigrate to the U.S. and reunite with their relatives. The Miserskys decided to do so. Before moving to their new homeland, however, Nikolai had surgery in Brazil for a stomach ulcer which he thought would be unaffordable in America. The surgery was difficult. Half of his stomach was cut out. He lost his appetite, was forced to eat six times a day, all while relocating to San Francisco.

Finding a job in San Francisco was no easy matter either since Nikolai was not a union member. As always, the family gravitated to church, this time to the Old Cathedral. Musia, Marina and Yura sang in the choir while the grandmother became a reader.

Finally in 1972, after so many years of worrying about money, looking for jobs, and moving from country to country, the Miserskys found their permanent home in Burlingame. Nikolai landed a job with United Airlines and worked the 3 to midnight shift. They reunited with Constantine Alexeiyeovich and Anna Pavlovna Koba from their Sao Paulo days and both families started attending the Church of All Russian Saints. Nikolai became active on the Parish Board while Musia and Yura joined the choir.

“When Father Nikolai Masich died, the Church was in bad financial trouble,” remembers Nikolai Vasilevich. “We had no money to pay a new priest. We used paraffin in the lampadas which smoked up the interior. We made candles by hand. Only after several people left large sums of money in their wills could we rest easy.”

Working for United Airlines brought an enjoyable perk to him and his wife - free flights. Nikolai and Musia traveled to Australia, Hawaii, the Soviet Union, England, France, Switzerland, London, and Brazil. “Those years were the best

years of our lives,” he reminisces. Yura even had the opportunity to study photogrammetry in Switzerland and work in West Germany after graduation.

For his many years of dedication to the Church, Nikolai Vasilevich was appointed in 2006 to be a lay delegate at the Reunification Conference in San Francisco, representing the Burlingame Church in the Western Diocese. The delegate was so worried about making the right decision regarding reunification with the Moscow Patriarchate, he suffered a stroke the week before the meeting. For several months afterward, Nikolai Vasilevich was unable to read or write. He walked and talked with difficulty. Through the prayers of Father Stefan and many parishioners, he recovered fully and started volunteering in Church once again.

Today, Nikolai Vasilevich continues to serve as the assistant to Elder Ivan Afanasiev. He has participated in weddings where the couple, already married in a wedding palace, requested an Orthodox Church wedding so their union would be blessed by Our Lord. He has also watched babies being baptised secretly because one or another relative was non-Christian and adamantly



Nikolai Vasilevich Misersky and his son Yura pose in front of the parents' 50th wedding anniversary portrait.

opposed to the Sacrament of Baptism. But more than anything, Nikolai Vasilevich is ready to answer questions from church goers who are not well versed in the rules and traditions of Orthodoxy. “I'm ready to help in any way I am able,” he says softly.

When father and son are asked who gets credit for developing their strong love for the Orthodox Church, they say Elena Ignatievna Misersky. Nikolai Vasilevich's widowed mother (the one who refused to leave her parents behind in Harbin) lived with the family her whole life. She reposed in 1994.

FELLOWSHIP

in the Church Hall

MARCH 2ND, 2014 BLINI



Providing all-you-can-eat blini for hungry parishioners are (first-left to right), Natalia Shoomiloff, Nadia Soudakoff, Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko. (Back row) Tanya Ionoff, and Irene Shegoleff.



Blini always attract many parishioners and guests.



Tania Bolshakoff keeps the hot blini coming.

KULICH BAKING



It took several kulichi-baking sessions to produce dozens of these delicious sweet breads.



Exhausted from all their work are Luba Gauschildt, Irene Shegoleff, and Nadia Soudakoff

APRIL 6TH, 2014 KULICH FAIRE



Luci and Olivia Baksheeff are proud of their decorated kulichi.



Masya Andruha shows off her paschal art creations.



Margarita and Olya Neledva work hard on their masterpieces.

CHOIR CONCERT



The Parish Choir sang selections from Great Lent and Passion Week during a March 16 concert in the Church itself. The mixed choir was led by Choir Director Andre Roudenko, the male choir by Pavel Roudenko. While admission was free, enough donations were collected to subsidize the cost of liturgical supplies for the year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAY 4 - BRUNCH
- MAY 11 - FUNDRAISING LUNCH TO HELP PAY FOR SURGERY FOR A GRAVELY ILL BOY NAMED SEREZHA
- MAY 18 AT NOON - RUSSIAN SCHOOL AKT
- JUNE 1 - LUNCH FEATURING PIROGI WITH TRADITIONAL AND UNUSUAL FILLINGS
- JUNE 22 - PARISH FEAST DAY

- PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS
- MAY 1 AND JUNE 5
- COME ANYTIME BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 4 P.M. CALL LUBA GAUSCHIEDT FOR MORE INFORMATION 650.591.1605

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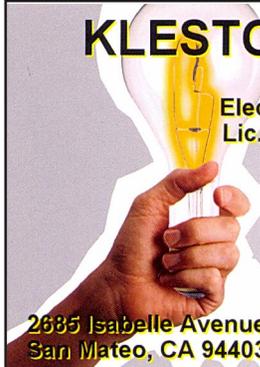
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