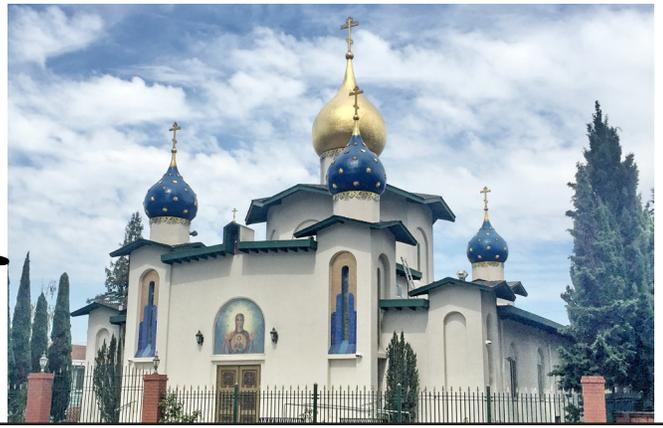


70 Years of
Novo-Diveevo Convent

225 Years of Russian
Missionaries in Alaska

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 5

November/December 2019



CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

Церковь Всѣхъ Святыхъ въ Землѣ Россійской Просѣвшихъ

MESSAGE FROM ARCHPRIEST STEFAN

Once again, Matushka Tatiana and I traveled extensively in the month of October. We first flew to the East Coast to participate in the 70th Anniversary of the Russian Orthodox Convent Novo-Diveevo, located approximately 10 miles north of New York City. Founded in October 1949 by Father Adrian Rymarenko (later, Archbishop Andrei of Rockland), it has been home to many nuns from various parts of the world since 1949. The convent is blessed with sacred relics, including a full length portrait of Saint Seraphim of Sarov painted during his lifetime, a cross from the Ipatiev House, and a Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God, which was a gift from the Optina Pustyn Monastery.

The original Russian Convent Diveevo is located near Sarov, Russia and in the 19th century was under

the spiritual protection of Saint Seraphim of Sarov. While still living in Russia, my family on my maternal grandmother's side often made pilgrimages to Sarov to pray at the church. My father's family also revered

Saint Seraphim. When my father became a soldier during World War II, his mother-in-law's mother blessed him with a small icon of Saint Seraphim. The icon renewed itself during the course of the war and my father returned home safely from the battlefields.

After immigrating to the United States, they worked for a period of time at a tobacco and pig-raising farm in Lancaster,

Pennsylvania. When their contract was completed, they started touring New Jersey looking for a place to live. You can imagine their excitement when they discovered Novo (New) Diveevo Convent which had been recently established not far from New Jersey's northern border.



Matushka Tatiana, along with daughters Olya, Xenia and friend, Sonya Shoosmiloff, prepared the meal for the clergy at the 70th anniversary Novo-Diveevo banquet. Protodeacon Sergei Shoosmiloff is on the far left, Archpriest Stefan Pawlenko is standing in the back.

continued...

Not only my family but Matushka Tatiana's family also deeply revered Saint Seraphim, as well as the New Convent's saintly and clairvoyant founder, Archpriest Father Adrian Rymarenko. Consequently, when we learned that the 70th Anniversary of Novo-Diveevo was going to be celebrated on Saturday, October 19, we had to attend. We departed Burlingame a bit earlier to be with our daughters, Xenia Maximow and Olia Schafranek and their families. Xenia and Olia had volunteered to help with the celebratory banquet and invited their mother to cook for the head table of Bishops and clergy. For additional assistance, Matushka Tatiana invited Sophia Shoomiloff, wife of Protodeacon Sergei Shoomiloff who served for many years with me at the Burlingame Church. The couple is now affiliated with Our Lady of Kazan Orthodox Church in Newark, New Jersey. The celebratory banquet was a joyous occasion for all of us especially since the culinary reputation of the Burlingame Sisterhood was being spread beyond California.

While at the convent, we took time to search out the gravesites of our loved ones. Novo-Diveevo Convent has the largest Russian Orthodox Cemetery in the United States. Both Matushka Tatiana's and my relatives are buried there. We are always thankful to be able to visit the Convent and to pray onsite for our reposed loved ones.

Upon our return to California and after serving Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 20, Matushka Tatiana and I began a road trip to participate at this year's Fall Priests Conference and Retreat. It took place at another Church Abroad Convent, the Holy Monastery of Saint Paisius in Safford, Arizona.

This year's Fall Conference was highlighted by the consecration of the convent's very impressive main edifice in honor of Dormition of the Holy Virgin.

The convent had its beginnings thirty years ago in Northern California near Santa Rosa. When the number of young women seeking a traditional coenobitic life reached 20, it was time to seek a permanent location. The sisters found suitable property in the high desert of Arizona. Although the property required much hard labor, the sisters planted olive and fruit orchards and a large vegetable garden to feed themselves and their thousands of guests. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful monastic community in our Western American Diocese. I recommend and invite our parishioners to make a pilgrimage to Arizona and experience the beauty of the natural surroundings and feel the Orthodox Christian spirituality that is treasured there.

Both Novo-Diveevo and St. Paisius Monastery are holy places that help grow our faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ through the prayers and the support of the nuns and the clergy of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR). All of us should expand our horizons beyond our wonderful close knit Parish life in Burlingame and participate in the activities of the Western American Diocese and beyond. Next year will be the 100th anniversary of the Church Abroad with many remembrances and celebrations being planned. Let's all make an effort to attend. ■

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

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION FOR ARCHPRIEST STEFAN

WHY IS DEPRESSION A SIN?

Depression, or "ooniniye" in Russian, is an indication of the general state of our spiritual condition. If our faith in God is weakened and we do not trust that God is on our side, we begin believing Satan's lie that our spiritual state is hopeless and we have no way of being among those who are saved.

There's a very big difference between depression and a bout of sadness that naturally occurs in one's life due to normal setbacks and losses, such as the death of a relative or friend or unexpected hardships. These situations are natural and occur in everyone's life. The sadness one feels has a clear and logical source, and to varying degrees, we can understand the reason and deal with the conditions and our feelings.

Depression is a completely different matter. It is a chronic state of sadness and melancholy that is so strong that it affects our activities and our relationships with relatives, friends, co-workers and associates. The constant sadness, gloom, and anxiety erodes our capability to face everyday challenges, disrupts our inner peace, and can bring some to despair and even suicide. Clinical statistics show that 40 percent of men and an even higher percent of women experience depression during the course of their lives.

Where does it come from and how do we deal with it? Not claiming medical or psychological credentials, one can safely say

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that among the causes of chronic depression are such things as chemical imbalances in our metabolism which can affect mood in a negative way. Correcting our daily diets and adjusting our exercise regime can often bring us to a better overall state of mind and pull us out of the doldrums.

More serious neurological conditions, which cause severe depression, may require medical and psychiatric attention. Certain drugs may be prescribed to help overcome these debilitating conditions. But this would be called for only in the most severe and critical extremes.

For Orthodox Christians, it is most proper to delve into the healing Sacraments of the Church with sincere prayer to God for help and healing. The Fathers of the Church and especially the Holy Ascetic Saints speak much on the subject of melancholy, despondency, depression, and despair. These are seen as rooted in the Fallen Nature of Man and the spiritual state of an individual. Also playing a role are activities by demonic forces and temptations.

All humans sin. Even the Saints struggled with temptation. But if we do not believe in God's Love for Mankind and for His love for each one of us, and if we succumb to Satan's lie that our spiritual state is hopeless, then surely, we will suffer debilitating depression and could even fall into despair.

The Fathers of the Orthodox Church tell us that one of the greatest resources to battle depression is humility. By being humble, we can more easily put all our trust in God. In humility, we are able to more deeply, sincerely, and honestly confess and repent

of our sins. A true, sincere and complete confession to Christ Our Savior Himself before the Gospel and Cross in the presence of the Witness and Advocate Priest does very much to bring joy into the heart of a repentant sinner. We then nourish and strengthen our body, soul and spirit through the Holy Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Our Lord, and continue on our way to Salvation, seeing much more clearly our Redemption in Christ. We can then more easily redouble our prayer efforts which, according to Saint John of Kronstadt, is as important for the soul as breathing is for the body. With a renewed spirit, we can face the troubles of our life with joy, banishing the dark clouds and gloom that often hang mercilessly over us. ■

BAPTIZED

AUGUST 2019	SEPTEMBER 2019
Nicholas Gattenberger Alexander Gravetski Dmitri Gravetski	Maksim Barkouski Nikita Myrosnichenko Amelia Solodnikova Alexander Tseytlin Katerina Tseytlin

MARRIED

AUGUST 2019	SEPTEMBER 2019
None	None

REPOSED IN THE LORD

AUGUST 2019	SEPTEMBER 2019
Maria Zaitseva	Vera Leontiev Leo Shoomiloff

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Rector
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ELENA BEDEROV: DISCOVERING SAINT JOHN IN SAN FRANCISCO

Ludmilla Bobroff

Life is not always easy for new immigrants in America. Elena Bederov learned this herself after leaving Belarus in 1996. Not knowing the English language or having her family and long-time friends nearby made the transition very difficult. But she conquered all her challenges when she found Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco.



Elena was born in Vitebsk, Belarus to Zenaida Burova from the Smolensk Region of Russia and Leonid Petrovetskiy from the Vitebsk region. Her mother's family were of German heritage with the great grandfather being one of many Germans invited by Ekaterina the Great to resettle in Russia to build the country.

Elena's father, Leonid Petrovetskiy, was a descendent of a military family whose one ancestor was most likely captured by Peter the Great during the Swedish War. (A recent DNA test shows that Elena and her sister, Nina, have Scandinavian roots.) While traveling from Saint Petersburg to Moscow, this great great grandfather became ill while passing through the Vitebsk region. He remained in the area for treatment and fell in love with the people and the surroundings. After finishing his military career, he returned to the region, purchased land and forests by Ekaterinensky Tract (the main road between Moscow and St. Petersburg) and started a village. It was there that Elena's father was born.

Between 1921 and 1924, the Communist Party in the Soviet Union started seizing private property and reorganizing the land into collective farms. The great grandfather's land and forests were confiscated and he was taken to Minsk and tortured by the NKVD (later renamed the KGB). Meanwhile in Vitebsk, the great grandmother was killed right in front of the children. When the great grandfather was finally released from prison, he was allowed to live in his large house on the hill as long as he ran the kolhoz according to the strict rules of government officials.

As a small girl, Elena remembers only the good things in her life: the blue lakes, the crystal clear rivers, and the

kind people who surrounded her. Both Elena and her sister Nina received good educations.

"Although our family attended church only two or three times a year, we all believed in God," Elena says. "Everyone was baptized by the 40th day after birth. While my Russian grandfather was a psalter reader in church, none of us had any formal training in Orthodoxy. However, we did read a lot of novels written by famous Russian authors who had a deep faith in the Church. Their writing influenced me greatly."

After completing Vitebsk Technology University with a degree in Tech Design, Elena fell in love and married a medical doctor in a civil ceremony in 1984. They had a son and named him Vadim. When the boy was ten years old, the husband expressed a desire to immigrate to the United States to join his family who was already here. With trepidation, Elena agreed. They arrived in California in 1996.

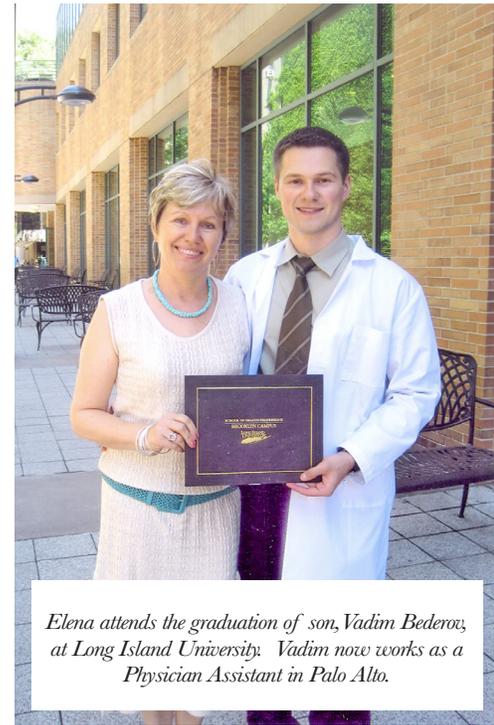
Contrary to their expectations, life was difficult for the young parents. Elena had never learned the English language and started attending evening classes at San Mateo High School. She also worked as a babysitter to support the family while her husband studied long hours to pass an examination for a U.S. Medical License. Worst of all, their marriage started falling apart, and in 2002, the couple divorced.

"I was very stressed at that time and devastated with the divorce," confesses Elena. "A non-Orthodox Russian-speaking friend suggested we visit Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco where the relics of Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco are located. I knew nothing about the saint and yet, when I approached his relics, I started crying and crying with tears pouring down my face. I felt I found my personal intercessor before the Lord and that Saint John would help me."

Since then, Elena has read many articles and watched many videos about the beloved saint. She attends the Holy Virgin Cathedral at least once a month to pray at his relics. Recently, Elena was excited to learn that the tallest wooden church in Europe with 13 domes, similar to the one in Kizhi, was built and consecrated in the town of Novinki near the capitol of Minsk, Belarus. The unique wooden church is located near Saint Elizabeth Convent whose nuns help orphans and patients with mental health issues. What especially pleased Elena was that the church was named in honor of Saint John of Shanghai and San

continued...

Francisco. Representing ROCOR at the consecration was Archbishop Michael (Donskov) who was personally acquainted with Saint John during his lifetime.



Elena attends the graduation of son, Vadim Bederov, at Long Island University. Vadim now works as a Physician Assistant in Palo Alto.

With a son to raise, Elena had to remain strong. She learned the English language, then applied to various companies. First, she worked as a quality assurance supervisor for Joe Boxer Corporation, then a production manager for Weston Wear Corporation. After taking classes in

medical billing, she was hired by UCSF Patient Financial Services in Emeryville where she works today.

Meanwhile, her son completed UC Davis and Long Island University and works as a Physician Assistant at Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

In contrast, being accepted by parishioners at the Church of All Russian Saints was a slow process. Although Elena attended Divine Liturgy from the time she arrived, parishioners were not welcoming. In those years, they were suspicious of all new faces. So she would light a candle, stand in the back, then depart without speaking to anyone.

One day, the late Nikolai Vasilievich Misersky started talking to her. He helped her buy a Bible, explained the church schedule, and introduced her to Aleksandr Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko, director of the Parish Russian School. "Aleksandr Nikolaevich was warm and friendly to me, as he is with all newcomers," says Elena. "During Liturgy, I would stand by him in the cliros and he would tell me about the service itself or about the saint who was being commemorated that day. After

church, he would invite newcomers for coffee or tea, usually at the Copenhagen restaurant on Burlingame Avenue, and offer to pay for all of us. We would then talk about our Church and the Russian community in Burlingame. He was a mentor to me and about 40 other newcomers over the years."

Despite the twists and turns in her life, Elena has remained loyal to the Burlingame Church. She has always been impressed with the wonderful lunches that are served and Matushka Tatiana's cooking talents. She officially joined the Sisterhood and helps in the kitchen during Coffee Hours, the Choir Concert reception, and at Russian School Parents' Events.

Since the Church has become important in her life, she wishes that at least monthly, there would be a program that parishioners would organize that would combine "chaya-pitye" (tea drinking), light refreshment, and an educational component. It could be a talk about a saint, a viewing of a favorite Orthodox video, or a discussion of a pilgrimage taken in their homeland.

During a June Namesday Coffee Hour, Elena plus Lena and Luba Gauschildt organized a viewing of a video of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco. This was followed by a question and answer session by the audience with parishioners who personally knew the saint during his lifetime.

"We, immigrants, still have a lot to learn about Orthodoxy," says Elena. "I would be happy to help anyone wishing to organize an educational program, along with a Chaya-pitye. If you're interested, please contact me at ebederov@yahoo.com"



At her Namesday Coffee Hour, Elena arranged to have a video shown about Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco, followed by a Q&A with parishioners who personally knew him. Showing their personal photographs are, left to right, Larissa Krassovskiy, Dimitry Bobroff, Misha Bogoslovskiy and Olga and Boris Parr.

RUSSIAN SCHOOL TEACHER WINS BORSCHT COOK-OFF

Ludmilla Bobroff



upon request and even present a cooking class for interested parties with proceeds benefiting the next Russian School White Ball Committee. (If you would like the recipe and/or her cooking class with tasting, contact Margarita at Margaret@4herzen.net)

The Parish Russian School also proudly announced the third place winner to be Anna Vladimirovna Legkova-Garg who is a substitute teacher at the Burlingame Church School.

The Russian Festival is held annually at the end of July at Fort Ross State Historic Park, located not far from the town of Jenner. The festival commemorates the 40 years that Russian fur traders spent on the Sonoma Coast, building a fort and a chapel, attempting to grow crops for their colony in Alaska, and intermarrying with the Kashia Pomo and the Coast Miwok Native Americans. Unlike the Memorial Day festivities in May which attract parishioners from the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco and ROCOR Churches throughout the Bay Area, or the Fourth of July festivities which attract parishioners from the Holy Trinity Cathedral and OCA Churches, this Russian Festival is popular with locals as well as tourists.

Margarita Grigorievna Herzen, second grade teacher at the Church of All Russian Saints Parish School, won first prize in the Second Annual Borscht Cook-off, held in July at the Fort Ross Russian Festival. She prepared a complicated Ukrainian borscht recipe, taught to her by her mother, the late Vera Georgievna Chernozubova. Margarita beat eight other cooks to win a cookbook, titled "T-Bone Whacks and Caviar Snacks - Cooking with Two Texans in Siberia and the Russian Far East" by Sharon Hudgins.

In explaining why her recipe is so tasty, Margarita says, "My mother taught me that only the best and freshest ingredients should be used. A flavorful borscht depends upon the home-made stock, the base, and the painstakingly long time needed to bring out the unique flavor of each ingredient."

The two-part recipe, listing 39 different ingredients, requires from three days to one week to prepare. Margarita submitted the three page, single-spaced recipe to this Newsletter but it was much too long to be included in the issue. However, she is willing to share the recipe via email



The day starts with members of the clergy from St. Nicholas Cathedral in San Francisco (Moscow Patriarchate) serving Divine Liturgy. After a procession to the cemetery and a panihida, there are traditional Russian games and circle dances, Native American performances, balalaika music, a choir singing Russian folk songs, demonstrations by millers, woodworkers and grain grinders, a bell ringing concert, plus musket and canon firings. Many attendees dress in costumes which add to the festivities.

"Every time I drive to Fort Ross, I feel so lucky and inspired," says Margarita. "It is a little piece of our



Fort Ross State Historic Park holds Russian Festivals in May and July, honoring the Russian fur traders who spent 40 years, attempting to grow crops for their colony in Alaska.

BETHANY SCHOOL'S MOTHER MARIA SPEAKS TO PARISHIONERS

Anna Derugin

For the first time in the history of the Western American Diocese, a representative of Bethany School in Palestine spoke in May to the Burlingame Church choir members and parishioners. Mother Maria (Wall), director of the school, was visiting the West Coast on a fundraising mission to help pay for a new van and construction projects. Jacqueline Khouriya, a former student and now a teacher at the school, accompanied Mother Maria.

Andrei and Marina Roudenko were already aware of Bethany School, having gone on a pilgrimage with Bishop Nikolai of Manhattan to the Holy Land the previous year. After visiting the school, they returned to Burlingame, determined to collect funds every other month to support the school. The choir and parishioners have been generous with their donations.

In her talk, Mother Maria explained that operating a Christian school in the Holy Land is riddled with obstacles. Not more than two percent of the population is Christian and the possibility of Bethany School being shut down is a constant cloud that hangs over her head. More than 400 girls from Muslim families study at the school. During the 12 grades, they learn chemistry, biology, physics, and especially math. Half of the teachers at the school are Christian, the other half are Muslim. All work respectfully side by side. Some students of the school are third generation. At least one-fifth of the staff members were former students of the school.

Since Mother Maria arrived at Bethany School over ten years ago, it has become one of the finest schools in the area. Due to its building space, the school is limited on how many students it can accept. Parents are disappointed when their girls are turned down. Up to a dozen Christian students live at the school because of difficulties at home.

Mother Maria, a math teacher herself, comes from a family of math teachers. When she first arrived at the school, she was told by the girls, "Math is not for us. It is a subject for boys. We don't understand it. We don't like it. We don't want to do it." Mother Maria persisted because, as she explained, math helps develop logical thinking. Over the years, the students' attitude towards math changed and now they enjoy studying it.

The teachers involve the students in science projects and have competed internationally. Two tenth grade students presented a project that determined epileptic seizures. For more than five years now, the girls have participated in a Lego robot project where they construct and program the robot to go through a parkour. Returning recently from a competition which they had won, they were chanting in Arabic, "Hooray

ancestral land to call our own. The State of California welcomes our participation. But if we, the direct ancestors of those early fur traders, don't support the events in large numbers, the Fort's history will get diluted and interpreted through secondary sources. Let's hope the managerial staff at the Fort continues to feel the Russian spirit running through their veins for centuries."

More recently, our Parish Russian School experienced two tragedies. Anna Vladimirovna Legkova was in a serious automobile accident, sustaining major head injuries. She was brought to the hospital for surgery in critical condition. She is now in progressive care. Although her progress is very slow, she has a strong constitution and her prognosis is good. Anna Vladimirovna is under excellent medical care and has a loving and supportive husband at her side.

The same day that Anna Vladimirovna was in surgery, Director of the Parish Russian School, Alexandr Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko, fell and broke his shoulder at his home. He, too, has undergone surgery. Since he is prohibited from using his right arm at all, Alexandr Nikolaevich has been transferred to Campbell Village to continue his recovery. He will remain there until his strength and mobility return.

The students, parents, and teachers of our Parish Russian School, as well as our church parishioners, are praying for the rapid recovery of both their beloved director and teacher. ■

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Mother Maria came to the West Coast on a fundraising mission

the Orthodox School. Hooray!”

While Orthodoxy is not allowed to be taught to Muslim girls openly, there is a large cross in the yard, a cross over the main school entrance and crosses over the entrances to each classroom. The school observes Christian holidays. Before a holiday, teachers explain its significance to the students, whether it’s the Annuncia-

tion, the Meeting of the Lord, or the Resurrection of Christ. Boarding children participate in all feast days. They celebrate the Baptism of Christ by going to the River Jordan and the Feast Day of Transfiguration by going to Mt. Tabor. Before Christmas, Christian children take part in the night procession of the nuns from Jerusalem to the Nativity Church in Bethlehem.

The students frequently have questions and do not hesitate to ask the nuns, priests, or Head Deputy Father Khader Baramki. Mother Maria encourages this, saying, “The girls are taught there are no stupid questions. Inquisitiveness is considered something positive and is not only allowed but appreciated. The teachers also have questions and it’s a blessing they do not find asking questions a threat to their own religion.”

Students are exposed to the concept of indiscriminant forgiveness as opposed to taking revenge if being attacked. Although Christianity can’t be formally taught, the girls



While Mother Maria received checks from the choir, the Sisterhood, and the Russian School, she was touched by the donations collected in church by little Anastasia Sarandinaki.

learn about it through example. They are told about meekness, humility, and other Christian values. Being among practicing Christians leaves an impression on the souls of the students even if they do not understand it.

When Mother Maria first came to the school, physical punishment was used as a disciplinary



Parishioners surround Mother Maria and her companion, Jacqueline Khouriya (center), a teacher at the school.

measure. She did away with that and required that other methods be used to attain obedience from the students. In her words, “If you want to be shown respect, you must first learn to respect other people. If you want to be loved, then you must first give love. What you expect, you must first give. These were all novel ideas to the teachers. But after having tried the new disciplinary policy, they saw that it really worked. After this, the teachers found they did not have to use extreme tactics to keep the students in line and could let them be more independent.”

The school was founded in the 1930s by two British Anglican nuns who had converted to Orthodoxy. Right from the start, ROCOR became the school’s prime benefactor. Mother Maria first set foot in a Russian Orthodox Church on Easter at age 16 in her native Germany. She decided then that she wanted Russian Orthodoxy to be in her life. At age 21, she was baptized and at age 26, she became a novice at St. Mary Magdalene Convent in Jerusalem (Israel). At age 28, she became director of Bethany School. Her command of the Russian language is perfect, like that of a native.

Mother Maria faces adversity every day. Directing the school’s academics and maintaining an academic environment is a huge task in and of itself, but she faces many other issues that are outside the scope of the “job description”. Once, she took time to travel out of the country with a boarding student who was in need of a complex surgery. The details of the entire experience were a demonstration of God’s Grace. Mother Maria navigates through the complexities of making building improvements on the school property, going so far as to reassess building plans to compensate for new structures that have substandard structural integrity. She transitions from the role of a school director, to a mother, to a civil engineer and more.

Despite problems with neighbors and occasional problems with government officials, Mother Maria keeps her spirits up with the help of God and her loyal teachers and staff. “The most important thing,” she says, “is for our girls to grow up and be good mothers.” ■

CHOIR NEWS

Andrei Roudenko

In early October, Marina and Andrei Roudenko represented our parish at the 28th annual conference of Russian Orthodox Church Musicians (ROCM). The conference was held in Boston and hosted by the Church of the Holy Epiphany where they were parishioners and choir singers before moving to Burlingame in 2001.

The theme of the conference was "Continuity and Growth: Ensuring the future of Liturgical Chant in our Parishes." The conference was dedicated to the memory of Vladimir Pavlovich Roudenko, who served as choir director in Boston for nearly two decades. The conference program included two presentations by Andrei - one on the musical life and legacy of Vladimir Pavlovich; the other on choral performance techniques, which were originally developed for, and presented to, our parish earlier this year. Other activities included presentations on vocal technique, church music history, compositions by Boris Mikhailovich Ledkovsky, a concert by the Konevets Quartet from St. Petersburg, and rehearsals for hierarchal services led by Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal and Canada.

A video of Andrei's presentation on Vladimir Pavlovich will be available on our new, revitalized parish website in the coming months.

As in previous years, Marina and Andrei went to the conference with the objective of discovering new compositions that could become a part of our future services. Indeed, several selections, some that were sung by the conference choir during services, and several that were part of the Konevets Quartet's concert program, emerged as strong candidates. All are prayerful, musically beautiful and promise to be excellent additions for our parish.

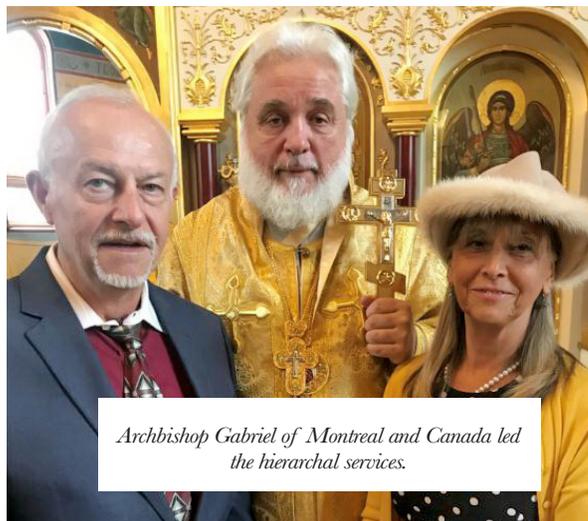
Noticeably absent from the conference was Archpriest Andrei Papkov, Chairman of the Liturgical Music Commission of the Synod of Bishops. Father Andrei suffered a stroke during



At the Russian Orthodox Church Musicians conference, Andrei Roudenko presented a talk on the legacy of his father, Vladimir Pavlovich, a choir director all of his life.

the Vigil of the Elevation of the Cross, just days before the conference began, and was rushed to the ER. Clergy, choristers and friends all over the world continue to pray for Father Andrei's recovery. Please pray for Father Andrei!

Locally, on Sunday, November 17 after Divine Liturgy, our parish choir will present our annual Fall Concert, this time featuring works by living composers from around the world. Although contemporary composers write with modern, fresh harmonies, we believe you will find that the overall sense of prayerfulness is consistent with traditional works that have adorned our services for centuries.



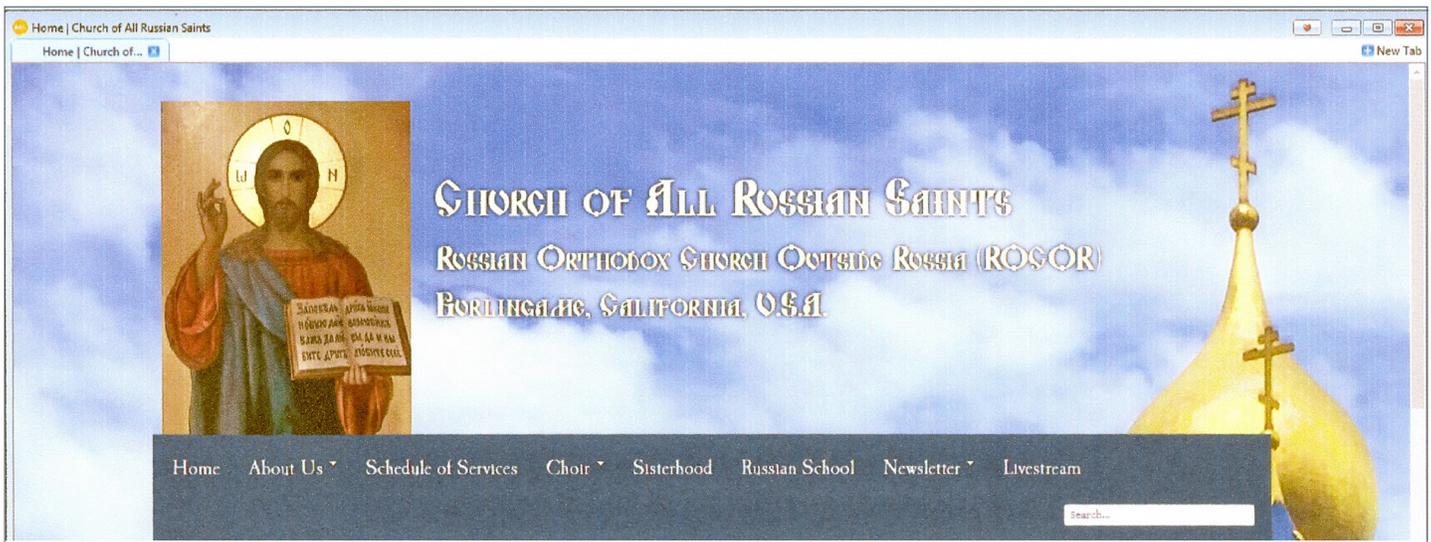
Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal and Canada led the hierarchal services.

We invite you to come to our concert for an introduction to works that you will hear in our upcoming services. As in previous concerts, admission is free; all donations will support our parish Stewardship Program. We're looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, November 17.

Earlier, on Sunday, October 13th, our Sisterhood hosted a luncheon (trapeza) for our choir members to commemorate our choral holiday (Хоровой Праздник). Archpriest Dmitry Bolgarsky, professor of liturgical arts at the Kiev Theological Academy, was a guest of honor. Our choir invited members of our Parish Council and leaders of our Parish School to our celebration. Our Sisterhood outdid themselves. The meal was delicious, but more importantly, the event underscored the close unity between our choir, our Parish Council and our Parish School. We are grateful to our Sisterhood for their efforts. ■

PREVIEW: OUR NEW WEBSITE IS COMING SOON

Dimitry Bobroff



Here's a look at the opening page.

Good news! A new website for the Church of All Russian Saints, which we have been discussing for over two years, will soon be a reality. We have contracted with Father John Parsells of Orthodox Web Solutions to provide a template and to design the website to our specifications. The Orthodox 360 Virtual Tour, which was introduced in the September/October 2019 Newsletter, will be prominently featured on our new website.

Here's what you can expect in the new website:

- * Russian text following most English articles.
- * Videos of all choir concerts, plus a Music Library featuring sheet music notes.
- * A Newsletter Section containing the current issue as well as Archives of all previous issues. If you want to read about a specific person or look up a specific theological question, an Index will be available.
- * On the Home Page in both English and Russian will be a daily Church Calendar with the names of Saints who are being commemorated plus Epistle and Gospel readings.
- * The Home Page will also feature Andrei Roudenko's weekly choir email, as well as Archpriest Serge Kotar's weekly spiritual discussion on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel Reading.
- * The About Us Section will have a lot of useful information, ranging from a biography of Father Stefan to detailed and comprehensive information about Orthodoxy.
- * Other Sections will include information on the Parish Russian School, the Sisterhood, and a monthly Calendar of Church services.
- * Livestream will be easily accessible from the Home Page.

For the time being, I am the de-facto webmaster for the entire website. However, Leo Grabowski, our choir member, has volunteered to be a webmaster for the Choir Section, working with me and Andrei Roudenko.

Hope you are as excited as we are about the future launch. We'll let you know when the website goes live! ■

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR 2019 ST. HERMAN'S YOUTH CONFERENCE

The 2019 St. Herman's West Conference for youths, ages 15 to 25, will be held in Los Angeles, California at the Holy Transfiguration Cathedral and the Hilton Garden Inn. Registration is \$299 (paid by check) or \$310 (paid by credit card online). Arrival is the afternoon of December 26 at either Burbank, Los Angeles International, or Long Beach Airports. The conference begins the evening of December 26. Departure is the morning of December 30.

The theme of the conference is: "Conforming the Will of Man to the Will of God." Speakers include Archpriest James Baglien and Priest Matthew Harrington. Besides lectures, panel discussions, and service activities, we'll also play beach volleyball and take in what Southern California has to offer.

For more information and the registration form, click on <https://wadyouth.wordpress.com>

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER + DECEMBER

NOVEMBER 17 AT 1:15 P.M
FALL CHOIR CONCERT

NOVEMBER 21
LAST DAY TO BRING FOOD BAGS AND BOXES TO BE DONATED
TO THE CALL PRIMROSE FOOD DRIVE

NOVEMBER 24
SISTERHOOD THANKSGIVING LUNCH

DECEMBER 8
CHILDREN'S GINGERBREAD FAIRE

DECEMBER 15
CHOIR'S COFFEE HOUR FUNDRAISER FOR BETHANY SCHOOL

PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS
NOVEMBER 14
DECEMBER 12

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

PLEASE DONATE FOOD TO CALL PRIMROSE:

Please join us and participate in our 5th Annual Fill-A-Box Thanksgiving Food Drive. Our local non-profit food bank, CALL Primrose, is once again collecting bags and boxes of food to help less fortunate families in our community. During the 2018 drive, our church donated a total of 123 bags of food. Let's see if we can surpass that total this year!

Since all Holiday Meal Boxes must have the same food items, please pack everything into one box with a lid or flaps and do not add any extra items to ensure that all families receive the same items. The cost will be approximately \$40 if purchased at Safeway.

Please fill up your bag or box with the following items and drop off in our Church Hall by **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21**.
Boxes will be delivered to CALL Primrose on Friday, November 22.

- | | |
|---|--|
| (2) 15oz Cans Canned Corn (low salt preferred) | (1) 24oz. Bottle Vegetable Cooking Oil |
| (2) 14oz Cans Canned Green Beans (low salt preferred) | (1) 16oz Dry Black Beans |
| (2) 14oz Cans Canned Fruit | (1) 2lb Bag White Rice |
| (1) 14oz Can Cranberry Sauce | (1) 16 oz Package Pasta Noodles |
| (1) 16oz box Stuffing Mix | (1) 20 oz. Can Pasta Sauce |
| (1) 1oz. Package Chicken or Turkey Gravy Mix | (2) 3oz Packages Chocolate Jello Pudding/Pie Mix |
| (1) 14oz. Box Instant Mashed Potatoes | (1) 14oz. Can Condensed Milk |
| (1) 8oz Box Corn Bread/Corn Muffin Mix | (1) 6oz No Bake Graham Cracker Pie Crust |

For questions, please contact Alexei Baranoff at coarstreasurer@gmail.com or 916-799-0898.

HONORED GUEST CLERGY SERVING WITH FATHER STEFAN



Protodeacon Sergei Shoofiloff, formerly affiliated with our church, now serves at Our Lady of Kazan Orthodox Church in Newark, New Jersey. He returned to Burlingame to serve in the burial services for his brother, Leo Shoofiloff.



On Transfiguration, Father Stefan blessed all the baskets of fruit brought by parishioners.



Above: Archimandrite Roman (Krassovsky), Chief of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission of the Russian Church Abroad in Jerusalem, returned to his boyhood church to serve with Father Stefan and visit with his mother Larissa Krassovsky.



Right: Archpriest Dmitry Bolgarsky, professor of Liturgical Arts at the Kiev Theological Academy, served Divine Liturgy with Father Stefan, then attended the Annual Choir Luncheon, hosted by the Sisterhood.

ANNUAL CHOIR LUNCHEON



Enjoying the luncheon are (clock-wise) Natasha Klestoff, Mara Klestoff, Louis Busta, and Readers Alex and Peter Klestoff.



Choir Director Andrei Roudenko welcomes all attendees and thanks the Sisterhood for preparing the delicious meal.



Above: Choir members raise a toast to the many choral successes of the Burlingame Church Choir, as well as the recent appointment of Olga Medvedko (lower left) to replace the retiring Nick Buick as Executive Director of the Russian American Community Services (RACS) in San Francisco.



Right: Dressed in identical aprons are members of the Sisterhood: left to right, Head Sister Matushka Tatiana Pawlenko, Vera Polski, Lena Gauschieldt, Nina Eyvazov, Luba Gauschieldt, and Nina Horvell. The Sisterhood hosts this thank you lunch annually for the choir.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO....?



Xenia and Andrei Maximovs, the daughter and son-in-law of Father Stefan and Matushka Tatiana, have moved to Ho Ho Kus, New Jersey where they bought an older house and plan to remodel it extensively. Both Melania and little Stefanchik are enjoying their new town and making new friends.



Standing in the doorway of their newly built home in Butler, New Jersey are Sonya and Father Sergei Shoomiloff. Almost two years ago, they left Redwood City and the Church of All Russian Saints, moving to the East Coast to be near their adult married children and grandchildren. Father Sergei is now a Protodeacon at Our Lady of Kazan Orthodox Church in Newark, New Jersey. Both he and Sonya are greatly loved by the priest and the parishioners.



Above: Xenia Maximow and her sister, Olya Schafrenek, are working together on marketing projects. One of their clients sells Classic White Sturgeon and Osetra Caviar which is now available at Costco. Here, Xenia and her husband, Andrei, treat guests to delicious caviar hors d'oeuvres.



Right: Sonya and Father Sergei Shoomiloff, surrounded by their family, still love to entertain, especially the Maximovs and Schafreneks.

Thank you to Natalia Shoomiloff for graciously sponsoring the printing cost of this issue in memory of her recently reposed husband Leo

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/>

CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS

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See the schedule of services on the Church website:
<http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

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

Next Newsletter - JANUARY 2020

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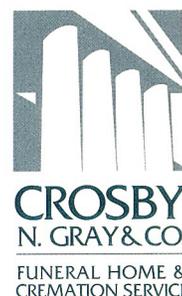
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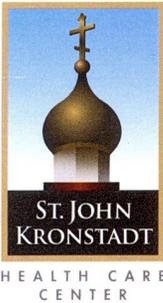
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