

# Церковь Всех Святых на Земле Российской Прославшихъ CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 4 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2015

*For it is the Jubilee; for it shall be holy unto you.*

*Leviticus 25:12*

*...proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto  
all the Inhabitants thereof, it shall be a Jubilee  
unto you...*

*Leviticus 25:10*



## MESSAGE ON SAINT VLADIMIR

The Jubilee year of Our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-eight (1988) marks one thousand years of Holy Grace for all the sons and daughters of the Russian Nation.

It was in 988 that the Holy Saint Equal to the Apostles Grand Prince Vladimir of Kiev, having himself recently been baptized, sanctified through holy baptism the people of his nation then and for all times. By this act, he joined a once-pagan land to the life giving and saving grace of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Prince Vladimir, at first severe and coarse in paganism, became transfigured by baptismal grace into a warm, soft and loving father of his nation. Prince Vladimir built churches, established schools, fed and clothed the needy. In his office as ruler, he repealed the death sentence and in every way brought the Gospel law of love into his land. By his example, he built a foundation on which a Christian nation was established, which gave the world a galaxy of saints to brighten the spiritual heavens and a history of people enriching the world with gifts of art, literature, music and science that is equal to the greatest in the world.

Here, by the mercy of God in the free world, or in the Homeland still suffering persecution of the faith by the Godless Soviet powers, all faithful Russian Orthodox Christians celebrate with great joy and thanksgiving this, the Millennium year of the Baptism of Holy Rus. Together

with the Holy New Martyrs and All the Saints of Russia they call out the words of prayer pronounced by the holy Saint Vladimir 1,000 years ago:

“O GOD, Who has created heaven and earth, look down, We Beseech Thee, on this Thy new people, and grant us, O Lord, to know Thee as the True God, just as other Christian Nations have known Thee. Confirm in us the true and unalterable Faith, and aid us, O Lord, against the hostile adversary, so that, hoping in Thee and in Thy might, we may overcome his malice.”

-Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko 1988

*This short piece was published in a Western American Diocese publication in celebration of 1000 years of Baptism of Holy Rus in 1988. Since then, communism in Russia has fallen and the Church is no longer persecuted. By God's mercy, it is even thriving. Nevertheless, the words pertaining to Saint Vladimir are appropriate for this year's celebration of 1000 years from the Day of Blessed Repose of Equal to the Apostles Grand Prince Saint Vladimir Enlightener of Holy Rus and ALL RUSSIA, July 28/15, 1015-2015.*

*Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko 2015*

# THEOLOGICAL QUESTION FOR FATHER STEFAN

## WHY SHOULD WE GET MARRIED IN CHURCH WHEN A CIVIL CEREMONY HAS ALREADY BEEN PERFORMED?

The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony (*таинство брака*) was instituted for the Orthodox Christian Church by the presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, which He attended with His Mother, the Holy Virgin Mary, and with His Disciples.

The earliest Christian Faithful abided by the rules and customs of the Hebrew Old Testament rites and practices. Therefore, when couples were married, they naturally participated in the ancient Hebrew rite of formal matrimony. This rite was then transfigured and fulfilled by the Grace of the Holy Spirit to the Orthodox Christian Sacrament with which we Orthodox Christians are familiar.

In the United States and in the State of California, all persons who can solemnize a marriage, including Orthodox Christian Clergy, can only do so if the bridal couple presents a valid marriage license. This marriage certificate is bonafide proof that a marriage occurred and is recognized by the United States Government.

However, regardless of how much credence this marriage certificate has before State Government authorities, it is still only a legal document. Without the Grace of the Orthodox Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, the lives of the husband and wife are not yet blessed by God. This special blessing only comes when a couple is properly married in the Church.

The Government's acceptance of so-called same sex marriages has no meaning or effect on the Orthodox Christian Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. The Sacrament is a union between a male and female, making the two one flesh and gifting them with the Grace needed to create a "home church". Through this Grace, the couple mutually works out their salvation and the salvation of their children if they are born to them.

## FIRST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES MONEY FOR STEWARDSHIP FUND

The First Annual Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Burlingame Church, raised \$2,450 for the Stewardship Fund. Held on June 20 at Tilden Golf Course, the tournament attracted 13 golfers who played a friendly yet competitive round of golf.

The champion team with the lowest score of 72 consisted of Dimitri Andruha, Chris Compton, Patrick Yam and Vladimir Kondrasheff. Individual winners were Nikolai Balitsky for hitting the Longest Drive and Amy Clemens for Closest to Pin.

Participants paid a \$100 registration fee to play on Tilden's beautiful course. Sponsors of the event included Father Stefan, the Gilchrist Family, Alexei Klestoff, Peter Klestoff, Victoria Belonogoff, Vladimir Baranoff, and other anonymous donors. The raised funds will go toward installing a new security system for the Church.

Members of the organizing committee wish to thank all participants and donors for supporting this event. They hope to make this an annual golf tournament, attracting golf enthusiasts from all over the diocese.



Competing in the golf tournament are (first row, left to right) Peter Loukianoff, Stephen Loukianoff, Dimitri Andruha, Patrick Yam, Alexei Baranoff, Amy Clemens, Sergei Andruha, Vladimir Kondrasheff and Chris Compton. Back row, left to right, are Alexei Bolshakoff, Nikolai Balitsky, Peter Balitsky, and Oleg Bolshakoff.

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

## NEW ICONS BEAUTIFY OUR CHURCH

In celebration of the 1000 year anniversary of the repose of Grand Prince Vladimir of Kiev, the large icon depicting the Holy Saint Equal to the Apostles has been restored and is now hanging high on the left wall facing the parishioners.

The icon was painted in Greece in the early 1960s, commissioned by Protopriest Nikolai Masich who preferred a realistic style rather than the Byzantine style of painting. Done in egg tempera on canvas, the icon was not sealed. Consequently, soot, dirt and grime were embedded in the canvas.

"When I started to wipe the icon down with a soft damp cloth, the paint began to come off," says Vladimir Krassovsky, iconographer and restorer of the icon. "I repainted the entire icon with acrylic paints and sealed it. The colors were restored to their original tones."

The 2 ½ foot by 5 foot icon has been reunited with the icon of Saint Olga, Prince Vladimir's grandmother, located directly opposite on the right wall facing the parishioners. The Saint Olga icon was restored several years ago. Protodeacon Peter Zadorozhnij was the iconographer.

Relatives of Protodeacon Peter Zadorozhnij provided funds for both restorations.



Ilona Melnyk gifts an icon of Saint Nina to Father Stefan in memory of her mother.

This icon was very meaningful to Father Stefan because the reposed Nina Nikolaevna was his substitute godmother at his Baptism in Braunau, Austria.



Father Stefan and Protodeacon Sergei welcome the return of the restored Saint Vladimir icon.

## BAPTISED

### APRIL 2015

Daria Didenco  
Vasilissa Mamaev  
Elina Piddachiy  
Lucas Peyzner Valik

### JUNE 2015

None

### MAY 2015

Emily Briggs  
Christina Chastnaya  
Maria Elman  
Roman Elman  
Elena Khazari  
Alexander Sibiryakov  
Anna Viarzhbitski

### JULY 2015

Maria Arbatova  
Mihail Nikolaenko

## MARRIED

### APRIL 2015

None

### MAY 2015

Nadia Heinrich & Cameron McEnroe

### JUNE 2015

Maria Berchinsky & Eric Low

### JULY 2015

Paul Eyvazov & Vanessa Nickel

## REPOSED IN THE LORD

### APRIL 2015

None

### MAY 2015

Felix Barrese

### JUNE 2015

Anna Glazotova

### JULY 2015

George Shegoleff

# UPDATE ON CHURCH STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

- *Dimitry Bobroff*

**W**ith the efforts of our volunteers and funding from our Stewardship Program, a number of projects are in various stages of completion.

1. Thanks to the foresight of our older parishioners, the church house next door has been mortgage-free and used as a rental to help out with church expenses. In 2014, this rental income stream accounted for approximately 20% of the total income to the church. (Donations, dues, collection plates, sales of prosfora and candles, etc. made up the rest).

After five years in the house, the five bachelor renters moved out in April. (We are now five months without rental income.) The vacancy, however, presented us with the opportunity to upgrade the upper floor. New floors have been installed, as well as new rugs, kitchen cabinets and appliances. The bathrooms have been redone and rooms have been painted. Hopefully with the remodeling, we will be able to command a higher rent.

Alyosha Baranoff was the Project Manager who planned the remodeling, solicited bids, chose the recommended contractor, and managed the project. Alik Klestoff volunteered to do various electrical work, while Alyosha Pavlenko volunteered his services for plumbing repairs. The total cost of the project is over \$40,000.

2. The wooden doors in the three upper classrooms are old and flimsy. We are in the process of choosing a contractor to replace them with strong metal doors and frames. The cost of the project is around \$8,000. Oleg Bolshakoff solicited bids and recommended a contractor. Dima Bobroff is managing the project.

3. The Parish Council has been discussing the need for a video surveillance system for both the exterior and interior of the church. A possible system with eight cameras has been selected, costing approximately \$2,000. The major expense, however, will be the electrical work needed to wire the hard-wired system to a video recorder and monitor. Hopefully a lot of this work can be done with volunteer labor.

If anyone in the parish is capable and interested in helping to install the system, please contact Dima Bobroff ([jbobroff@aol.com](mailto:jbobroff@aol.com)).

The Parish Council would like to get started on a number of other Stewardship projects. (For a list of projects, see the Stewardship thermometer chart on the church front door or on the wall downstairs in the Church Hall.) For example, we would like to replace the windows in the main cupola and side walls with stained glass windows. Individual families could sponsor a window as a memorial to a departed loved one. Is anyone interested in researching stained glass windows and their costs, then launching a sponsoring program? Contact Dima Bobroff to volunteer.

Unfortunately, the Stewardship thermometer chart shows pledges to be far below our goal of \$100,000 for 2015. Please consider pledging/donating to the Stewardship Program. You do not have to be a formal parishioner to participate in the Stewardship Program. Brochures in both Russian and English are available at the candle stand in the entryway. If you have questions, see Dima Bobroff.

The Parish Council wishes to thank Andrei Maximow for taking care of record keeping and banking for the last three years of the Stewardship Program. Since Andrei and Xenia have moved to Texas, Dima Bobroff has assumed those responsibilities.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Oleg Bolshakoff (415) 759-8582  
Alexsei Sikorsky (650) 235-5286

## RUSSIAN SCHOOL DIRECTOR BEGINS HIS 25TH YEAR

- Ludmilla Bobroff



Alexander Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko

With the start of the fall semester, Director Alexander Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko celebrates his 25th year teaching and directing the Burlingame Parish Russian School. This is in addition to 16 years teaching and directing the Russian School at Protection of the Holy Virgin Church in Palo Alto.

Amazingly, the electronics engineer from Silicon Valley never imagined he would be teaching the Russian language, culture, history and religion into his 80s. While technology was his specialty, fate led him in a different direction.

Alexander Nikolaevich was born in 1933 to Olga Dimitrievna and Nikolai Aleksandrovich Miroshnichenko in the town of Zrenianin, Serbia. His grandfather served as an officer in the Russian Imperial Army and later joined the Cadet School (Kadetsky Korpus). In 1920, the entire School evacuated with General Vrangel to Serbia,

where the grandfather was ordained a Russian Orthodox priest. When his son, Nikolai, grew up, he became a civil engineer in Serbia.

Young Sasha, as our Alexander Nikolaevich was nicknamed, received his childhood education in Serbia. He was especially interested in amateur radio. As a sixteen-year-old, Sasha was so proficient in Morse Code and radio theory that he conducted classes for other children his own age. In addition, he served as an altar boy in his grandfather's church, consecrated in the semi-basement of a former Turkish jail.

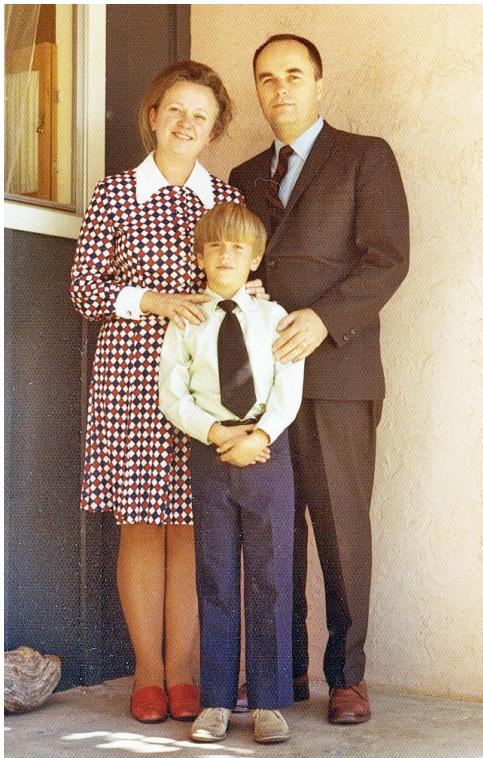
Life was pleasant until World War II started. Sasha remembers the Germans carting bodies of Serbs from the gallows down the main street to intimidate the townspeople. When the Soviet Army liberated the country, residents greeted with flowers the soldiers who marched into town, singing Russian songs. Josip Tito, appointed president of the Socialist Federation of Yugoslavia in 1943, was suspicious of White Russians and started expelling them from the country, branding them "undesirable". Most of them ended up in Western Europe, immigrating eventually to South America, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Sasha's grandfather, Archpriest Nikolai Aleksandrovich and his Matushka, were listed as "undesirable" and forced to leave Yugoslavia within 15 days. Fortunately, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad found an opening for him in a church outside of Paris.

With the grandparents in France, Sasha's parents decided to leave Yugoslavia. They spent several months in a refugee camp in Trieste, Italy before accepting an entry visa to Canada in 1952 with the provision that the family would complete one year of service doing specific jobs. Sister Galia, 19-years-old, was assigned to work in a Montreal hospital. Eighteen-year-old Sasha was required to work as a laborer in Toronto. Instead, he found work for himself in an electronics assembly plant in Montreal. The father was sent to British Columbia to be a land surveyor for a railroad being built for an aluminum plant.

CONTINUED...

Eventually, the family was reunited in Montreal with the mother arriving from France and finding a job in a factory. Now, Galia and Sasha, began studying in earnest at McGill University in Montreal. However, learning new languages, juggling class schedules, working at a job became too difficult. Sasha decided to continue his studies in the United States where there were greater opportunities.

After moving to the border town of Windsor and obtaining a job in the auto industry in Detroit, Sasha attended night classes at Wayne State University. In Windsor, he met a champion Hungarian tennis player named Elizabeth (Aggie) Simon. Not only was she beautiful, Aggie was also friendly and outgoing. She had been active as a nurse during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 but ran for her life when the insurrection was crushed. The couple fell in love and married in 1964. Aggie converted to Orthodoxy and



*Although Hungarian, Aggie Miroshnichenko was an active participant in the Palo Alto Russian School during her younger years. Here she poses with son, Alex, and A.N.*

the newlyweds moved to Detroit.

After graduating from Wayne State University with a

degree in Electrical Engineering, Sasha began searching for a job. Nothing panned out in Montreal or New York. Although he had a loving wife, he felt lonely without the close Russian community he left behind. Hearing about the large number of Russians living in the San Francisco area, Sasha sent resumes to over 20 companies but no one responded. After their son, Alexander Jr. was born in 1966, the young father traveled by train to San Francisco to personally search for a job. The Tomitch family, who were friends of friends, invited him to stay with them for a few weeks. On the last day of his job hunt, SCM Corporation in Oakland made him an offer. Elated, he traded his train ticket home for an airline ticket.

The young family quickly moved to the Peninsula, first renting, then eventually purchasing a home in Sunnyvale. Three years later, Alexander Nikolaevich switched jobs and began working for Fairchild Semiconductors in Mountain View.

“Since this was the beginning of the computer age, the first job was difficult for me,” says A.N. “My education was in power and electronics, not computers. Every night after work, I would study technical magazines and books and take classes to catch up. It took two years before I developed the skills needed for Computer Logic Design.

Meanwhile, little Sasha was growing up during the hippie era and Aggie and I needed emotional and spiritual support,” he continues. “Where do you go when you have a problem? Church, of course. To my delight, the Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church in Palo Alto had a Russian School. We enrolled Sasha immediately even though he was only three years old.”

The Palo Alto Russian School was led by Lydia Shevchenko. Mothers were the teachers who taught 72 students. Because of A.N.’s interest in the Russian School, he was quickly elected to the Parents Committee. When Lydia stepped down from her post, A.N. was asked to be the director of the school. He agreed.

“Since I had been away from a Russian community for seven years, my Russian language skills were not

good enough for school leadership,” he says. “I had to quickly relearn Russian all over again. The school filled a hole in my heart, and slowly I fell in love with it. I worked with the reposed Archimandrite Spiridon (Efimov) on improving the school’s structure and operation.”

A.N. was director for 16 years. After his son, Alex, received his diploma from the Russian School, A.N. stepped down from his post. He and Aggie began attending the Burlingame Church. Then in 1999, Aggie developed kidney disease and had to leave her job at Stanford Medical Center. In 2005, she departed this life.

“Aggie was a hard-working, old-fashioned homemaker and mother,” A.N. recalls. “Everybody loved her. She helped me often in both Russian Schools when nobody else was available. God bless her good and kind soul.”

In 1990, Father Stefan asked A.N. to solve a problem with the eighth graders in Burlingame. A.N. did so with pleasure and realized he missed Russian School. Soon, he began teaching religion classes. Besides being on the faculty, he also invited interested students and adult worshipers to stand with him in the Kliros (the side alcove by the altar) to follow the Liturgy by reading the texts of the service. In addition, he created a website called “Doroga Domoj” (A Road Home) which provides information on the Russian School and the Orthodox Church. <http://www.dorogadomoj.com/g14kal.html>

“While the clergy speak with authority on the Law of God, I believe children are impressed that an engineer from Silicon Valley, who once designed computer-like equipment, can also have a deep faith and knowledge about Orthodoxy.”

Russian Schools and their students have changed over the decades, says A.N. While students in the 60s, 70s and 80s spoke Russian at home, at least to their grandparents, only half of them do so today. Teachers must provide English translations in many classes. On the plus side, children who immigrated recently to the U.S. from Russia go to the old country often for visits, have excellent books and DVDs at their disposal, and have many more opportunities to take dance classes, perform



*Son Alex Miroshnichenko coaches his children Nikolas, 19, and Cristian, 8, in baseball and Makayla, 10, in soccer. Mom, Tamara, is the family cheerleader.*

on stage, and go to festivals than earlier generations.

While A.N. takes pride in the achievements of many students who graduated from Russian School, he is proudest of his son, Alex, married with three children and living in Southern California. Alex is Global Manager/Online Marketing for Ormco, a global company that manufactures and provides orthodontic goods, technologies and services. After not speaking Russian for decades, Alex was asked to be the translator/interpreter for their acquisitions team, meeting with a Russian dealer in Morocco and Paris. With Alex’s help, negotiations were successful and Ormco gained a presence in Russia.

“I built a very nice rapport and trust with the owner of the Russian company,” Alex writes in an email. “Even though the sale of the Russian company is now complete, we remain close.”

“The fact that Russian School helped Sasha professionally makes me very happy,” adds A.N. “I hope that knowledge of the Russian language, culture and religion benefits all our students during their lifetimes.”

# TRANSFORMATION OF AN ATHEIST TO A BELIEVER

- Anastasia Sky



In the 1990s, Nikolai Novikoff and his wife, Vera, restored an old cathedral in the town of Tarussa, Russia.

In May 1982, my husband and I went on a tour of the Soviet Union that included a train journey from Moscow to Irkutsk on the Trans-Siberian railway. Nine American tourists were in this group: four couples and a bachelor. The bachelor, Carl, found himself in the train compartment with a Russian companion who did not understand a word of English. Since Carl did not know Russian, I became their translator.

During the four-day three-night journey, we learned that the young man, named Nikolai, had just graduated from Moscow University and was on his way to his first job assignment. He was an architect, as was his wife, who was pregnant and had stayed behind in Moscow with her mother.

Nikolai was curious about life in America and plied us with questions. We were just as curious to hear about life in the Soviet Union and talked a great deal. At the end of the train trip, we exchanged addresses, although I did not expect to hear from him again.

To my surprise, four months after we returned home, I received a letter from Nikolai. I quickly replied and we established a fairly regular correspondence. In his letters, he invariably extolled the virtues of Communism, writing in detail about his happy childhood, the summer Pioneer Camps he attended, the great education he received – all free, provided by a benevolent government. He drew a plan of his lodgings, stating with pride that he, his wife and baby daughter had a room entirely to themselves. Sharing

a kitchen and a toilet with four other couples was perfectly satisfactory as far as he was concerned. “The stove has four burners, so each woman has her own burner to cook meals,” he added.

Some of his most interesting statements alluded to religion, churches, the priesthood and the belief in God. He mentioned several times that he did not believe in any gods, that he was an atheist, and he proceeded to prove eloquently the non-existence of any deity, past or present, that had ever been worshipped on this earth. I ignored his rantings on the subject, fearing our correspondence could possibly get him into trouble if I tried to enlighten him.

In 1988, we – Russian Orthodox Christians in exile – began planning to celebrate the 1,000-year anniversary of Orthodoxy in Russia. I asked Nikolai a question: “Are any preparations for such a celebration taking place in the Soviet Union?” Repercussions to this simple question were life-changing.

Wishing, no doubt, to please me with accurate information, Nikolai went to one of the churches in Yekaterinburg. He wrote that at first, he was amused at the sight of numerous icons, the candles and the “paraphernalia” that caught his eyes. He approached an old woman, dressed in black who appeared to be cleaning. Before he had time to open his mouth, she ordered him to remove his hat. He complied.

Then she proceeded to berate him. “What are you, a heathen? Cross yourself when you enter a church.”

He told her he didn’t know how. She showed him. Reluctantly he imitated her and crossed himself. Then she asked him his name. “Nikolai,” he replied. Hearing that, the old woman exploded: “God in Heaven! Today is your Namesday! Go kiss your Saint’s icon!”

He told her he had never been inside a church and had no idea which icon was his Saint. She pushed him towards an icon of Saint Nicholas and ordered him to kiss it. He kissed it. “You should be on your knees praying to our merciful Lord to open your eyes,” she chided. Then the old woman went back to her cleaning.

Numb, overwhelmed, not knowing what to do, and having failed to get information on the 1,000-year anniversary,

Nikolai stood in a stupor in front of the icon of St. Nicholas. As he stood there, a strange feeling overcame him. He felt not only awe and wonder, but an invisible presence by his side. He could not move for several minutes. Finally, he managed to walk out of the church in a daze. He wrote, "My body was trembling all over."

Reliving the visit in his mind, Nikolai decided to learn more about the Church. He found out that his mother and grandmother had taken him to church to be baptized when he was a baby. Since the time was not right to admit a belief in God, he was never taken to church again.

Deciding to embark on a pilgrimage, Nikolai took a leave of absence from his job and went off, on foot, in search of functioning churches and old monasteries throughout Russia. His quest took six months and no doubt caused a great deal of tension to his marriage. But upon his return home, he managed to persuade his wife to attend church services with him. Shortly afterwards, she and their three little daughters were baptized.

In 1989, we invited Nikolai to visit us in the United States. We showed him wonders he never knew existed. He was impressed by the enormous redwoods in Big Basin State Park, incredible Disneyland, and the magnificent coastline of the Pacific Ocean. Most of all, he loved Fort Ross. He stood for a long time in the small chapel, deeply engrossed in his own thoughts.

Upon his return to Tarussa, a small town just south of Moscow where he now lives, he obtained a permit from the government to restore an old cathedral that stood in the center of town. The cathedral had been used as a warehouse for over 60 years and was in total disrepair. I visited Nikolai and his family in Tarussa during the summer of 1992 and we attended church services in that cathedral. It was fully restored and functioning, adorned by beautiful ancient icons brought out of hiding by old women. When I complimented him upon the successful completion of such an enterprise, he turned to me and said: "It was your doing."

No, I cannot take credit for the miraculous transformation of an avid young atheist into a devout believer. Credit is due to an old woman dressed in black who forced an astonished and ignorant young man to take off his hat and cross himself upon entering a church.

**CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS  
A Parish of the Western American Diocese of the  
Russian Orthodox Church Abroad**

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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 - NOVEMBER 2015**

Schedule of services can be found on the

Church website:

<http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

**LIVESTREAM SERVICES**

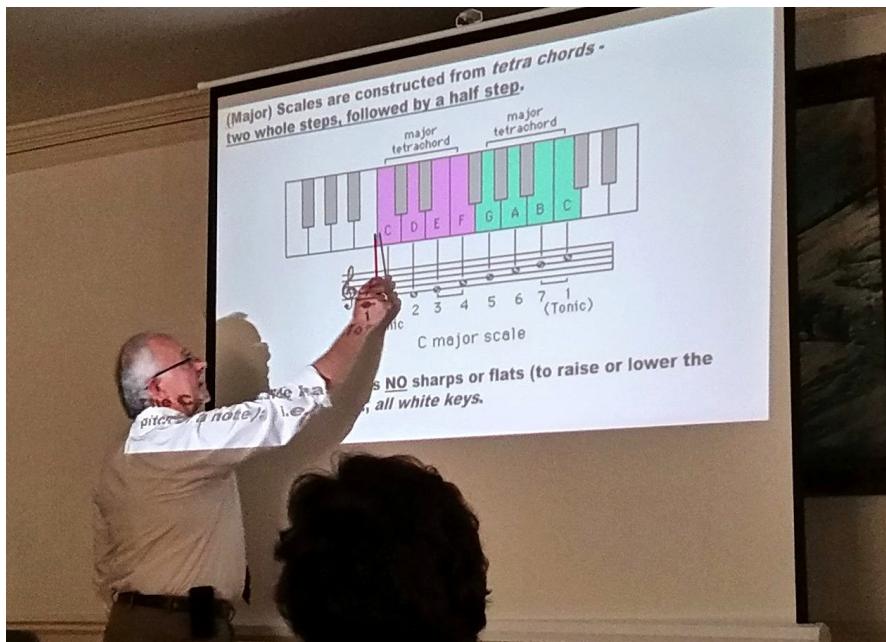
For those who are home bound or hospitalized and are not able to attend Services at the Church Of All Russian Saints (COARS), we have enabled live video streaming via the Internet. All live and previously recorded

Services can be viewed here:

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

## CHORAL PRESENTATION SERIES CONTINUES

- Andrei Roudenko



Choir Director Andrei Roudenko explains the Major Scale to workshop attendees.

Our parish Choral Presentation Series began a year ago with two choral recitals. Since then, the Series has expanded to encompass workshops and other activities. Following a presentation on music theory, Maestro Vladimir Krassovsky presented a very interesting and moving talk about Pyotr Fillipovich Raspopov. In July, a workshop on the structure of our church services was offered. These presentations have been well attended and by all accounts, enthusiastically received. More events are planned for later this year, 2016 and beyond. For those who missed the workshop on music theory, the entire presentation is available on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/qqRmydFz7vM>.

Our next event will be on Sunday, October 25 at 1 p.m., when our choir will present a special "anniversary" program of choral works. The unifying theme of the selections will be the anniversaries of the premieres of liturgical compositions, the repose of major composers and other notable milestones.

This year marks 190 years since the repose of Dmitri Bortniansky, founder of the modern era of Russian

Orthodox Church music composition. Though best known for elaborate compositions in the Italian Baroque style, many of his compositions are among the best known and most sung works to this day. For example, "*Под Твою милость ...*" and his "*Царская*" *Херувимская*, № 7 are included in the repertoire of many church choirs.

Other composers whose works will be featured include Boris Ledkovsky, Mihail Shorin, Mihail Ippolotov-Ivanov, Nikolai Danilin, deacon Sergey Trubachev and Vasiliy Zinovyev. Concertgoers will recognize many of these works since we occasionally use their compositions during the church year. Our program will include selections from Sergei Rachmaninoff's "All-night Vigil" (*Всенощное Бдение*), a magnificent composition which premiered 100 years ago! We will also feature a work by local composer Sergei Riabchenko, who is celebrating 20 years since his appointment as conductor at the Christ the Savior Church in San Francisco. As before, our concert will include a fundraising component, designed to support our parish Stewardship Program.

The San Francisco area in general, and our parish in particular, has a strong heritage of church choir singing. Our Choral Presentation Series seeks to keep this heritage alive through outreach and education so that this and future generations can benefit from the efforts of those who have toiled before us. We are grateful for the support of our Pastor, our Sisterhood, parishioners and area friends who have taken an active interest in our efforts. Save the date, October 25th. Tell your friends, and come hear our program!

## TWO RUSSIAN SCHOOL GRADUATES HONORED AT THE WHITE BALL

- *Ludmilla Bobroff*

On June 5, Galina Isayeva and Ksenia Vasilyev were honored at a lavish White Ball, celebrating their graduation from the Parish Russian School of the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame. The girls started Russian School as kindergartners and completed all twelve grades, earning Gold Medals for their outstanding educational achievements. The ball was hosted by their parents, Lada Denisova and Mikhail Isayev, and Svetlana Avdeeva and Alex Vasilyev. Approximately 115 invited guests attended the dinner dance held in the Small Hall at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross in Belmont.

The graduates, dressed in beautiful, white floor-length ballgowns, were escorted by Daniel Gilchrist and Vladislav Kardash. The two couples arrived in a limousine in time to greet teachers, friends, relatives, and parishioners before proceeding to the head table by the dance floor. Special guests included Mitred Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko, rector of the Church of All Russian Saints, and Bishop Theodosius of Seattle, Vicar Bishop of the Diocese of San Francisco and Western America.

Congratulating the graduates on their impressive achievements were Father Stefan, Bishop Theodosius, Russian School Director Alexander Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko, and teachers Irina Alexandrovna Irklienko and Anatol Vsevolodovich Shmelev. Svetlana Olegovna Avdeeva presented the girls with memoirs written by Russian emigre priests and writers, donated by Veronica Arens Pulavsky, owner of Globus Publishing House and Printers.

In turn, graduates Ksenia and Galina thanked all the teachers for their many years of service, and expressed deep gratitude for the many months of work done by parents, friends, and parishioners, organizing the event. These included I.D. Shmit, A.V. Avisov, I.A. Irklienko, and D. Magdysh. Persons responsible for beautifully decorating the hall were S.O. Avdeeva, E.S. Zadonski, Y.A. Ponomarev, Dasha Perkov, and Vlad and Misha Magdysh.

At the conclusion of the speeches, Ksenia and Galina, along with their handsome escorts, officially started

the Ball. Each couple performed an intricately choreographed waltz, taught by separate dance teachers. Galina and Daniel were taught by Danya Rubashevsky, a dance instructor with the Dance Vita Ballroom in San Mateo. Ksenia and Vladislav danced to a Strauss waltz, choreographed and taught by Maria Magdysh. Both couples danced beautifully and received many "Bravos" from the guests.

The girls also danced with their fathers before opening the dance floor to all guests. Russian School students from San Francisco, as well as young friends from all over the Bay Area, attended the White Ball. Once DJ Nick Ionoff started playing Russian music, many of the young people enthusiastically switched from modern dance moves to Russian folk dance steps.

The ball ended at midnight with the graduates, their parents and guests going home with lifelong memories.



Ksenia Vasilyev gives a speech, followed by Galina Isayeva

# RUSSIAN SCHOOL WHITE BALL

June 5, 2015



Photos by George Nikitin



Ksenia and Vladislav Kardash perform a Strauss waltz.



Galina and Daniel Gilchrist were coached by Danya Rubashevsky.



The Isayev family celebrate Galina's Gold Medal achievement. Standing, left to right, are brother Alexey, Galina, father Mikhail, mother Lada Denisova, and brother Sergey.



Svetlana Avdeeva (far left) and Alex Vasilyev take pride that both daughters, Ksenia, and Katya, won Gold Medals upon graduating from Russian School.

# CHURCH FEAST DAY

June 14, 2015



Father Leonid Kazakov (left) from the Moscow Patriarchate St. Nicholas Cathedral in San Francisco serves Divine Liturgy with Father Stefan and Bishop Theodosius during the Church's Feast Day.



Bishop Theodosius gives an inspiring sermon.



Final prayers are said before clergy and parishioners re-enter the Church.



Among the many guests attending the Trapeza are Bishop Theodosius, Vice Consul of the Russian Federation Alexei Ivanovich Kovalenko, and Archpriest Sergei Kotar of the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco.

# PARISH RUSSIAN SCHOOL BEGINS A NEW YEAR

- A. N. Miroshnichenko, Director

School bells are ringing once again for the start of the 63rd year of the Parish Russian School at the Church of All Russian Saints. Enrollment and classes start Tuesday, September 15 at 4:30 in the Church Hall. Children, ages four to sixteen, are welcome. The school has between 30 and 40 students and approximately ten teachers.

Students complete twelve classes from Kindergarten to the 8th Grade Gimnazia. They graduate with knowledge of the Russian language, literature, history and Orthodoxy. Except for Saints Cyril & Methodius High School at the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco, the Burlingame Russian School is the only language school in the San Francisco Bay Area that teaches Russian Orthodoxy.

Our school is geared toward Russian-speaking Russian Orthodox children, who are encouraged to attend church as often as possible. Classes begin and end with prayers. When a child is not fluent in Russian, classroom instructions are given in English to help him/her along. Under consideration are special conversational classes to teach such students vocabulary and pronunciation.

Classes are held every Tuesday from 4:30 to 7:20 p.m. with the first class beginning on Tuesday, September 15. After registration, Father Stefan will serve a moleben, praying for a productive school year. We encourage students, parents and teachers to have confession and communion together for Nativity and Pascha. The school provides maximum immersion into the Russian Orthodox culture and religion.

Besides classroom instruction, the school holds a Yolka Christmas party in celebration of the Nativity. It will be held on Sunday, January 10, 2016 after Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall. A second celebration, "Akt", is scheduled for May 22, 2016, ending the school year and honoring students who have excelled.

School fees are \$90 per month for one child and \$135 for two children. For more information, log onto <http://www.dorogadomoj.com/g15kal.html>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 31**  
FATHER STEFAN VISITS RUSSIA WITH THE  
KURSK ROOT ICON

**SEPTEMBER 13 – SISTERHOOD LUNCHEON**

**SEPTEMBER 20 – COFFEE HOUR CELEBRATING  
ALL SEPTEMBER SAINTS' DAYS  
(SEE INFORMATION BELOW)**

**OCTOBER 18 – COFFEE HOUR CELEBRATING  
ALL OCTOBER SAINTS' DAYS**

**OCTOBER 25 AT 1 P.M. – CHOIR CONCERT  
FOLLOWING A LIGHT LUNCH**

### SAINTS' DAY COFFEE HOUR

Celebrate your own or your loved one's Saint's Day by co-hosting our once-a-month Coffee Hour. Sign up in advance on the chalkboard in the Church Hall with your name, phone number and email address. You will be contacted with instructions on what to contribute and how to co-host the event. For more information, contact Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko at (650) 922-0250.

### PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS

**SEPTEMBER 17 AND OCTOBER 22**

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

**THANK YOU  
TO**

*Yura Misersky*

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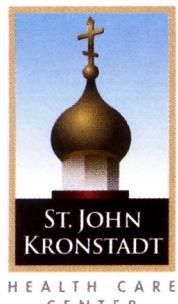
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