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September/October 2016



CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

Церковь Всѣхъ Святыхъ въ Землѣ Россійской Просіавшихъ

MESSAGE FROM FATHER STEFAN

We know as Orthodox Christians that we are called upon to live according to the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Canons of the Orthodox Church, and above all, the Commandment, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself” Luke 10:27.

In addition, we are expected to be good, conscientious citizens of the country in which we live. This means we must abide by the Laws of the Land, pay our fair share of Taxes (“Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s” Mathew 22:21) and be willing to defend our Nation in times when it is threatened by the attack of enemies (“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” John 15:13). Furthermore, Apostle Paul writes: “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior...” 1 Timothy 2:1-3.

Amazingly, all these edicts were voiced or written during a time when pagan and Roman authorities were persecuting the Christian Faithful!

Today, as citizens of the United States, it is important for us to care enough about our country to examine the concerns and actions of our local, State and Federal governing bodies. Then, through the legal voting process, we need to make choices to uphold the ideals of Christian Life as revealed in the Old and New Testaments regarding the gift of life and compassion toward our fellow man.

While many Protestant ministers dictate exactly how to vote to their assemblies, current federal law prohibits churches from giving sermons or handing out leaflets supporting political candidates. Some of these laws are now under consideration to be changed in order to free churches to express themselves more forthrightly.

I urge all Orthodox Christians who are Citizens of the United States to look seriously at the impending election and make sober choices based on Orthodox Christian Morals. Your intelligent vote – or your non-participation - may affect the state of our country for many decades to come.

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” Mathew 10:16.

May God grant us the wisdom and common sense to make expedient choices that protect our freedoms and reflect our sacred Orthodox Christian Ideals.

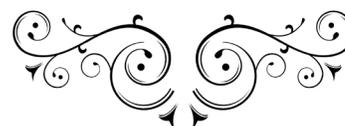


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METROPOLITAN
ANTONY**
(Khrapovitsky)

First Chief Hierarchy of the
Russian Orthodox Church Abroad



LIFE AFTER DEATH

BY SAINT JOHN OF SHANGHAI
AND SAN FRANCISCO

A DESCRIPTION OF THE FIRST 40 DAYS AFTER DEATH

Limitless and without consolation would have been our sorrow for close ones who are dying if the Lord had not given us eternal life. Our life would be pointless if it ended with death. What benefit would there then be from virtue and good deed? Then they would be correct who say: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

But man was created for immortality, and by His resurrection Christ opened the gates of the Heavenly Kingdom, of eternal blessedness for those who have believed in Him and have lived righteously. Our earthly life is a preparation for the future life, and this preparation ends with our death. "It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). Then a man leaves all his earthly cares; the body disintegrates in order to rise anew at the General Resurrection. Often this spiritual vision begins in the dying even before death, and while still seeing those around them and even speaking with them, they see what others do not see.

But when it leaves the body, the soul finds itself among other spirits, good and bad. Usually it inclines toward those which are more akin to it in spirit, and if while in the body it was under the influence of certain ones, it will remain in dependence upon them when it leaves the body, however unpleasant they may turn out to be upon encountering them.

For the course of two days, the soul enjoys relative freedom and can visit places on earth which were dear to it, but on the third day it moves into other spheres. At this time (the third day), it passes through legions of evil spirits which obstruct its path and accuse it of various sins, to which they themselves had tempted it.

According to various revelations, there are twenty such obstacles, the so-called "toll-houses," at each of which one or another form of sin is tested. After passing through one, the soul comes upon the next one, and only after successfully passing through all of them can the soul continue its path without being immediately cast

into Gehenna. How terrible these demons and their toll-houses are may be seen in the fact that the Mother of God Herself, when informed by the Archangel Gabriel of Her approaching death, answering her prayer, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself appeared from heaven to receive the soul of His Most Pure Mother and conduct it to heaven. Terrible indeed is the third day for the soul of the departed, and for this reason, it especially needs prayers then for itself.

Then, having successfully passed through the toll-houses and bowed down before God, the soul for the course of 37 more days visits the heavenly habitations and the abysses of hell, not knowing yet where it will remain, and only on the fortieth day is its place appointed until the resurrection of the dead. Some souls find themselves (after the forty days) in a condition of foretasting eternal joy and blessedness, and others in fear of the eternal torments which will come in full after the Last Judgment. Until then changes are possible in the condition of souls, especially through offering for them the Bloodless Sacrifice (commemoration at the Liturgy), and likewise by other prayers.

How important commemoration at the Liturgy is may be seen in the following occurrence: Before the uncovering of the relics of St. Theodosius of Chernigov, the priest-monk renowned Starets Alexis of Goloseyevsky Hermitage of the Kiev-Caves Lavra, (who died in 1916) was conducting the re-vesting of the relics. Becoming weary while sitting by the relics, he dozed off and saw before him the Saint, who told him: "I thank you for laboring with me. I beg you also, when you will serve the Liturgy, to commemorate my parents" -- and he gave their names (Priest

Because of the abnormally large number of devout parishioners who have departed this life in the past few months, I'm reprinting Vladika Saint John's treatise on Life after Death instead of writing my usual Theological Question column

- Archpriest Stefan



The camera captures columns of light descending from the dome onto the coffin of newly translated Irene Shegoleff. Photographer Sonya Shoorniloff believes the light comes from angels transporting Irene's soul to the next world.

Nikita and Maria). “How can you, O Saint, ask my prayers, when you yourself stand at the Heavenly Throne and grant to people God’s mercy?” the priest-monk asked. “Yes, that is true,” replied St. Theodosius, “but the offering at the Liturgy is more powerful than my prayer.”

Therefore, panikhidas (i.e., Trisagion Prayers for the Dead) and prayer at home for the dead are beneficial to them, as are good deeds done in their memory, such as alms or contributions to the church. But especially beneficial for them is commemoration at the Divine Liturgy. There have been many appearances of the dead and other occurrences which confirm how beneficial is the commemoration of the dead. Many who died in repentance, but who were unable to manifest this while they were alive, have been freed from tortures and have obtained repose. In the Church, prayers are ever offered for the repose of the dead, and on the day of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, in the kneeling prayers at vespers, there is even a special petition “for those in hell.”

Every one of us, who desires to manifest his love for the dead and give them real help, can do this best of all through prayer for them, and particularly by commemorating them at the Liturgy, when the particles which are cut out for the living and the dead are let fall into the Blood of the Lord with the words: “Wash away, O Lord, the sins of those here commemorated by Thy Precious Blood and by the prayers of Thy Saints.”

We can do nothing better or greater for the dead than to pray for them, offering commemoration for them at the Liturgy. Of this they are always in need, and especially during those forty days when the soul of the deceased is proceeding on its path to the eternal habitations. The body feels nothing then: it does not see its close ones who have assembled, does not smell the fragrance of the flowers, and does not hear the funeral orations. But the soul senses the prayers offered for it and is grateful to those who make them and is spiritually close to them.

O relatives and close ones of the dead! Do for them what is needful for them and within your power. Use your money not for outward adornment of the coffin and grave, but in order to help those in need, in memory of your close ones who have died, for churches, where prayers for them are offered. Show mercy to the dead, take care of their souls.

Before us all stands the same path, and how we shall then wish that we would be remembered in prayer! Let us therefore be ourselves merciful to the dead.

Let us take care of those who have departed into the other world before us, in order to do for them all that we can, remembering that “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”

COMMEMORATING THE REPOSED

*While the loved one is still conscious and cognizant, call a priest to give confession and communion and to begin the proper prayers.

*After the burial, commemoration prayers should be said on the 9th and the 40th days, then the half year anniversary and the annual anniversary (panikhidas).

*Arrange for Sorokoust at the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco, the Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, New York, or at a Monastery in the Holy Land. Prayers for the reposed are then said during 40 consecutive liturgies.

*Make donations to the monastery and our Burlingame Church in memory of the departed one.

*Purchase a Commemoration Booklet at the candlestand and add the name of the reposed loved one. Submit this booklet BEFORE the start of Divine Liturgy or on the previous night during Vigil. The most important Commemoration of the Dead services occur during Great Lent, on Radonitsa (the Tuesday of the second week after Pascha), and the Saturday before Pentecost (Troitsa).

*For detailed information on this subject, purchase the book “How Our Departed Ones Live” by Monk Mitrophan, which is available from the Holy Trinity Monastery Bookstore in Jordanville, New York.

LIVESTREAM SERVICES

For those who are homebound, hospitalized or unable to attend services at the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame, we have enabled live video streaming via the Internet. This is a new channel and replaces the previous livestream service. Live, as well as previously recorded Church Services starting from late February 2016, are now available at YouTube channel:

<http://bit.ly/burlingamechannel>

In addition, the link for the live Church Services is also available on the church website at:

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

For best viewing and sound, do not use AOL browser. Best browsers to use are (Google) Chrome and Firefox.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE 2016 STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

DIMITRY BOBROFF

- For security reasons, we have installed a fourteen camera video surveillance system that covers internal and external views of the church. Significant events captured on the video recordings include a large eucalyptus branch falling and damaging our fence during a windstorm (Oleg Bolshakoff fixed the fence); doors left wide open after everyone left the church; a woman caught stealing Sonya Shoomiloff's bag of gifts meant for her family and, worst of all, two boys placing thumbtacks on chairs in the hall downstairs. The parties involved in the last two acts have been appropriately dealt with.
- Beautification projects include painting the front fence, planting twelve Jasmine plants by the fence, and adding six metal benches in front and in back for the convenience of parishioners. Two of the benches were provided by our Sisterhood. The fence painting, drilling the concrete for the plants, and the actual planting were done by Pavel Loukianoff's Con-Quest Contractors, Inc with Alyosha Baranoff coordinating the project.
- Termites have been discovered in three areas of the church – the two eastern cupolas and above the classrooms on the southern side. A termite company treated the affected areas, reporting there was no further structural damage.

It is now time to get serious with our stained glass window project since people have already donated funds for six windows to be dedicated in memory of their loved ones. Five are still available from a total of eleven. If you wish to honor someone with a memorial window, please sign up at your earliest opportunity. A plaque will list their names – and yours.

All these projects have been made possible through your generous pledges to our Stewardship Fund. Currently, we



New benches and jasmine plantings enhance the beauty of the iron fence in front of the church.

have approximately 40 Stewards. Please consider becoming a Steward and making a financial pledge for 2016. Brochures explaining the program are available in Russian and English by the candlestand.

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CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS

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

Next Newsletter - NOVEMBER 2016

See the schedule of services on the Church website:

<http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

CHURCH SERVICES TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH

DIMITRY BOBROFF

Our Orthodox Church services, originally composed by the Early Church Fathers, are rich with spiritual meaning and historical references. But because the services are said in Slavonic, few parishioners can truly say they understand every word that is said. Converts, especially, have a difficult time following readings during the Saturday night Vigil service when the chanter reads many Psalms and passages from the Old Testament. What makes matters even more difficult is that no two services are ever the same.

Thanks to our modern technology, lacking knowledge of church services may soon change. Parishioners and clergy who are well versed in Slavonic and English have started translating weekly Vigil and Feast Day services in advance and emailing the translations to interested believers. Parishioners then copy the Word (doc) files onto their Kindle or iPad. Some even print out the entire service and bring the pages to church.

Truthfully, it is impossible to follow word for word what the priest, deacon and chanter are praying. Oftentimes, the translated version has many more readings than the priest includes in the service. Still, a person who is truly interested in knowing what saint or event is honored at that service will learn a great deal by following along. Concentrating on the words in the Kindle or the iPad allows a person to keep his or her mind on the service instead of allowing it to wander off.

Misha Veter of Oregon was the first to devote many years of his life translating the services from Slavonic into English and emailing them to his grateful online subscribers. Today, Archpriest David Straut of the Orthodox Church of Saint Elizabeth the New Martyr in New Jersey has started a Yahoo Group which posts English translations of upcoming services well ahead of time. Father Straut's parish belongs to the Diocese of Eastern America and New York (Russian Church Abroad).

To join Father Straut's Yahoo Group, go to <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/group/VigilServiceTexts/info> and subscribe by sending an email to him expressing your interest in joining. Membership to the group requires his approval.

Another weekly posting which has proven helpful in understanding the Sunday Gospel reading is written by Archpriest Serge Kotar of the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco. To receive his detailed and edifying explanation, ask Father

BAPTISED

APRIL 2016

Nicholas Belitskiy
Vasilisa Rybovalova

MAY 2016

Andrew Hsu
Anna Rudaf
Alexandra Slizhou

JUNE 2016

Alexandra Bodine
Mathew Bryshen
Anton Ilyin
Maria Stolyarov

JULY 2016

Savina Andruha
Daniel Antoniuk
Kassiana Baranoff
Andrew Luzyanin
Inessa
Stamirowski-Renal

MARRIED

APRIL 2016

None

MAY 2016

Ekaterina (Alina) Faershtein
& Eugene Kardash

JUNE 2016

Anastasia Semenenko
& Andrei Movsesyan

JULY 2016

Michaela Boyaddzhieva
& Christian Dokomijilar

Michael Eyvazoff
& Jam Malonzo

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

REPOSED IN THE LORD

APRIL 2016

None

MAY 2016

Svetlana Karpenko

JUNE 2016

Vera Efimoff	Anna Labusov
Nikolai Karpenko	Natalia Mishko
Victor Karpenko	Valentina Skatchkova

JULY 2016

Nadia Chopoff Hall
Irene Shegoleff

Serge to add you to his list by emailing him at frsergekotar@yahoo.com

Finally, our Choir Director, Andrei Roudenko, sends out a notice in English and Russian of the upcoming service which includes an excellent description of a Saint(s) who is commemorated at that service. To receive Andrei Roudenko's mailing, contact him at avrouden@gmail.com

A convert once said, "My brain may not understand what is being said but my soul understands." That may be true but still, growing in the Lord comes from understanding the service.

ANDREI AND MARINA ROUDENKO CELEBRATE 15 YEARS WITH THE BURLINGAME CHOIR

LUDMILA BOBROFF



Marina and Andrei Roudenko in the choir loft.

Few people decide in childhood which path to follow in life but that's exactly what Andrei and Marina Roudenko did at the young age of seven! As children, they were raised by parents who valued the Orthodox Faith above all else, especially its choral music. Although they grew up in different states and attended different churches, they both decided at this early age to develop their musical skills for the glory of God.

Andrei is the son of Vladimir Pavlovich and Evgenia Dmitrievna Roudenko. His father started directing church choirs at the end of World War II, first in Germany, then in Casablanca, Morocco. After the family immigrated to the United States, seven-year-old Andrei joined his father in singing at the Orthodox Church of the Resurrection in Worcester, Massachusetts. He enjoyed the experience so much that he minored in conducting at Northeastern University, served as student conductor of the University Chorale, and sang with the Boston Symphony Chorus for nearly twenty years where he was exposed to the techniques of some of the world's greatest conductors.

Meanwhile, Marina Golubova, daughter of Sergey Mihailovich and Evgenia Alexandrovna Golubov, and granddaughter of Mitred Protopriest Father Alexander Bogaczew, was growing up in New Jersey, singing from age seven in the parish choirs of the Saint Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Church in Lakewood and Saint Vladimir Orthodox Church in Jackson. More than just singing, she wanted to become a chanter and a reader (psalmist), learning the correct readings for each service and how to accentuate

words properly. She also studied piano, served as accompanist at her high school, and wrote orchestral musical arrangements.

In 1975, the couple met at rehearsals of the Russian Choral Society, a choir that brought together over 80 adults and teenagers from six East Coast states. Its first conductor was Andrei's father, Vladimir Pavlovich. Members of the Russian Choral Society were introduced to and taught to perform some of the most elaborate and famous music of the Russian Orthodox Church. As Marina and Andrei rehearsed, their friendship evolved into a life-long commitment to one another and to serving the Church as choir singers.

After their marriage in 1977, they formed the Russian Chamber Chorus of Boston. Andrei was its conductor and ultimately presented numerous premieres of Russian choral works, recorded Rachmaninoff's All-Night Vigil at Mosfilm in Moscow and conducted in Boston's Symphony Hall in a concert with baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky. During this time, they were parishioners and choir members of the Church of the Holy Epiphany in the Roslindale Section of Greater Boston, encouraging their own children, Pavel and Tatyana, to sing with them in the choir.

The couple was traveling in Australia when they learned from Father Deacon Vadim Gan that the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame was in need of a choir director. For two years, Andrei prayed fervently and searched diligently for a job in the Bay Area. Although he was an expert on nuclear power plants, few jobs were available on the Peninsula. Then Father Deacon Brendan Doss of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco (OCA) suggested Andrei apply at the company where Father Brendan worked. Because of his vast experience, Andrei was offered the job of CEO with a large pay raise and moving expenses from the East Coast. The family was thrilled.

However, two additional challenges awaited them - selling their home in Massachusetts and buying a house on the Peninsula. Andrei asked Father Stefan to say a Moleben to Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco on their behalf. Vladika Saint John's response was immediate. Vladika guided them to a large house in Burlingame, which had been on the market for many months as if waiting for them. Then Vladika appeared in a dream to Marina, and the couple decided to purchase the large house. Unbelievably, a buyer

continued...



Posing for a Roudenko family photo are (front row, left to right) granddaughter Alexandra, daughter Tanya, son-in-law Father Deacon Alexandre, grandchildren Anastasia and Ilya Sarandinaki. In the second row (left to right) are Andrei, Marina, son Pavel and daughter-in-law Anisia Roudenko.

made an offer 45 minutes after their Massachusetts house was listed for sale!

“We just let events happen without pushing,” recalls Marina. “My mother would always say to me, ‘Don’t drive the bus. Let God drive and go where it takes you.’”

As the years went by, they realized there was a reason for this purchase. Not only does the house accommodate Tanya, Pavel and their growing families when they come to visit but also monks and pilgrims from other states and countries, as well as priests attending pastoral conferences.

After becoming the new choir director, Andrei had to acclimate the choir to a new conductor. “There were a lot of dedicated, experienced singers when I started,” he says. “My job was to accentuate their pluses and gradually work on weaknesses. I combined a healthy mix of new and old repertoire, which we studied in weekly rehearsals. Some singers decided to drop out. Others enjoyed the challenge of learning the new musical pieces and continued singing.”

Today, there are approximately 30 choir members who participate weekly. On major Feast Days, the number grows to nearly 40 singers. Still, Andrei admits he is constantly recruiting new voices because teenage singers go off to college, women marry and move away, or have babies and their priorities understandably change. “Singing in the choir is good religious training,” he says. “New singers who participate in rehearsals and services regularly develop new skills and a greater understanding of our services; some even learn Slavonic. In two to three years, they are fully capable and very valuable choir members.”

Andrei was touched by a recent Facebook posting written by Olya Shafranek. Father Stefan’s daughter who now lives in New Jersey, wrote about her experiences singing in the choir. “During my last visit, I was able to sing again in my hometown church choir in Burlingame,” she wrote. “As I picked up the music books, it hit me that these music books are like a living thing. Almost like a person. They are so familiar when I stand in front of them. They know me. They’ve known me for what feels like forever. One of them still has hearts on the page, drawn years ago, for parts of the music that I love. I look at them and part of me longs for those simple good old days (the ones that didn’t always seem so simple at that time) when we sang in church and then had dinner as a big family, or sneaked a barbecue in Washington Park. I can’t believe those times happened over a decade ago.

“These books watched my dedication to church intensely grow when I first started singing at the insistence of my uncle. They caught all the inside jokes and funny faces shared across the choir loft. The stolen glances with a first love. The goosebumps and teary eyes during beautiful, moving harmonies. The fervent prayers said quietly in my head for sick family members or troubled friends. They knew some of my happiest times, and my darkest and saddest feelings. And though the books change and grow, just like others who have stayed, and just like me who left, they still seem to welcome me any time I am back in front of them again.”

At the Church’s Feast Day this July, Archbishop Kyrill acknowledged the Roudenkos’ many years of dedicated service with a Proclamation (Gramota).

Besides singing in the Burlingame Choir, the couple also join Vova Krassovsky’s choir at the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco when asked. They often participate in a Male Choir directed by Sergei Riabchenko (Marina has a deep voice), and occasionally sing with the Slavyanka Choir. Working with Father Stefan, Marina is a one-person chanter for weddings, funerals, baptisms, and bi-monthly services at Saint John Kronstadt Skilled Nursing Facility in Castro Valley. For exercise, Andrei plays ice hockey with the Polar Bears of the Pacific Hockey Association. Marina enjoys running and working out at a gym.

Their grown children are continuing the family’s musical tradition. Son Pavel married Anisia Temidis in 2015. Both are active in youth programs and the choir at the Synod Cathedral in New York City. Daughter Tanya is married to Father Deacon Alexandre Sarandinaki who serves at Saint John of Kronstadt Orthodox Church in San Diego. They have three children – Anastasia (6), Ilya (4) and Alexandra (2). As the children grow, the young parents plan to encourage them to sing. But already, the children stand proudly next to their grandfather, watching wide-eyed as he conducts our choir.

LARISSA KRASSOVSKY RECEIVES COMMUNITY LEADER AWARD

LUDMILLA BOBROFF



*Larissa Krassovsky speaks at the
Angel Island Immigration Station
Foundation Dinner.*

Long time parishioner, Larissa Krassovsky, was honored last April by the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation for decades of volunteer work for the Russian American community. At an elegant dinner held at the Grand Hyatt Union Square in San Francisco, she received the 2016 Immigrant Heritage Award in the category of Community Leader.

Attending the annual presentation were San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, Consul General of the Russian Federation Sergei Vladimirovich Petrov, consuls from China, Japan and India, as well as proud members of the Krassovsky family. Larissa received a beautiful glass trophy etched with “Immigrant Dreams - Hero Voices.”

Our dedicated volunteer was nominated for the award by Consul General Sergei Vladimirovich Petrov and Natasha Sabelnik, president of the Congress of Russian Americans. Larissa has been and continues to be involved in many organizations, including the Russian Women’s League, the Russian Scouts, the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco, Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Santa Rosa, and, of course, our Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame. For ten years during the 1990s, she sent religious books,

clothing, and staples to help the Russian people survive those difficult years.

In her thank you speech, the honoree said, “I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation for this honor you have bestowed upon me today. I am deeply touched.

“While my lineage, culture, background and faith are all Russian, ironically I, like so many other immigrants, have never lived in my Russian homeland. And so, my Russian Homeland lives in me. It is this love of country that has made so many Russian Americans such great contributors not only to our Russian community and our American community, but to humanity at large.

“Let us not forget the many Russian immigrants who donned uniforms of America’s Armed Forces and especially those who laid down their lives defending our American ideals. Consider the major contributions to science and technology, to literature, music, and the arts made by so many famous Russian immigrants. This extensive list of well-known Russians does not include the countless individuals who selflessly dedicated and continue to dedicate themselves to our church parishes, our historic and cultural organizations, our youth and religious groups, generously giving of their time and efforts – all contributing to the greater good of our society and our nation.

“If you, by honoring me today, believe that I have been in some small way a part of this, then I am truly honored and deeply humbled. I thank God for this and I thank you. Spasibo.”

Larissa is currently preparing files for the archives of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation on such famous Russian Americans as entrepreneur Alexander Matveevich Poniatoff, founder of Ampex which specialized in magnetic audio and video recording; Igor Sikorsky, aviation pioneer in helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft; Vladimir Zworykin, pioneer in the field of television technology; and Alexandra Lvovna Tolstoy, humanitarian and founder of the Tolstoy Foundation.

THANK YOU
TO
Mila Asur
FOR GRACIOUSLY SPONSORING THE COST
OF THIS ISSUE IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Galina Vasiliivna Destin.

CHOIR NEWS

ANDREI ROUDENKO

After completing the 6-month marathon that began with preparations for Великий пост (Great Lent) and culminated with our Престольный Праздник (Parish Feast), our choir is back at work studying the selections we will be singing in upcoming services. Some are works that we sang many years ago but not since then. Others are brand new to our choir. A group of these selections will be presented in our annual fall choral recital, which will be held on Sunday, November 13.

Among the composers whose works we will feature is San Francisco's own Mikhail Sergeyevich Konstantinov, whose 35th anniversary of his repose will occur in June of next year. Presentation of Konstantinov's arrangements in our November program will be a prelude to the yearlong commemoration that we can look forward to in 2017.

As in previous concerts, there will be several episodes of male choir singing. This time, however, we will also include a special rendition of «Богородице Дево, радуйся ...» (Ave Maria) which will be sung by the women of the chorus. (Most likely, parishioners have noticed we have been working to expand our antiphonal singing to mixed, male and female choir groups.)

It may seem that our choir is a static, unchanging group of singers, but in fact, we experience our share of turnover. Over the past few years, we have lost a number of very valuable members who have moved to other parts of the country. Fortunately, we have also welcomed new and returning members. Among those are Seraphim Upshinsky and Anna Derugina, who have returned after several years of absence, and new members Louis Busta, Anna Fodorova, and most recently Gordana Stojanovic-Mihajlovich and Lazo Mihajlovich, and Anna Lorenz. Welcome back and welcome aboard!

PARISH RUSSIAN SCHOOL BEGINS NEW YEAR

ALEXANDER MIROSHNICHENKO

School bells are ringing once again for the start of the 64th year of the Parish Russian School at the Church of All Russian Saints. Both the school and the church came into existence simultaneously in 1952. Enrollment for classes starts on Tuesday, September 13 at 4:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. Children between the ages of four and sixteen are welcome to attend. Following registration, classes will start that afternoon and be held every Tuesday from 4:30 to 7:20 p.m. School fees are \$90 per month for one child and \$135 for two children or more.

The Parish Russian School with 13 grades, including Kindergarten, Elementary School and High School, has approximately 40 students and ten teachers. While the majority of classes are taught exclusively in Russian, several are taught bilingually in both Russian and English for students who are not fluent in the Russian language. Special conversational classes also help these students learn vocabulary and proper pronunciation.

All students who complete 13 years of schooling 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 Parish Russian School is the only language school in the San Francisco Bay Area that teaches Russian Orthodoxy.

Because our school is geared toward Russian-speaking Orthodox children, we expect them to attend church services as often as possible. Classes begin and end with prayers. After registration on September 13, Father Stefan will serve a Moleben, praying for a productive school year. The school



Russian School Director Alexander Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko receives a Proclamation (Gramota) for his many years of service from Metropolitan Hilarion.

encourages students, parents and teachers to take confession and communion together for Nativity and Pascha.

As students' comfort level grows, boys often become altar servers, girls start singing in the choir, and parents start volunteering at school events as well as church luncheons and receptions. Becoming active is especially helpful to recent immigrants since it provides an introduction into the Russian-American Orthodox community. The Russian School even offers instructions to adults on the Russian language, literature, history and Russian Orthodoxy upon request. Besides weekly classroom instruction, the Russian School holds a Yolka Christmas party in celebration of the Nativity. In 2017, Yolka will be held on Sunday, January 8 after Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall.

“Akt” (graduation) will be held at the end of May, marking the completion of the school year and honoring students who have excelled.

In addition, school children from our Parish Russian School assist elderly visitors from nursing homes when they attend services during Bright Week after Pascha. Our children also perform in early May at the Russian Center during the Day of the Russian Child and collect donations for needy Russian children. In summer, many attend a two week camp sponsored by Saint George Pathfinders, a Russian Scouts organization.

We hope to welcome your child to our Parish Russian School this year. For more information, click on <http://www.dorogadomoj.com>.



Participating last May in end-of-year graduation ceremonies are (left to right) third grade students Veronika Saltanova, Anna Shmeleva (holding a Certificate of Achievement award), Sophia Entar, Daria Burnosova, and Dantia Egorova. Their class instructor is Irina Alexandrovna Irklienka. Father Stefan is on the far right.

MAY NAMESDAYS



Celebrating their namesdays are (left to right) Yura Misersky, Yuliya Voroninskaya, Nikolai Vasilevich Misersky, Tolya Shmelev, and guest.

JULY NAMESDAYS



July celebrants include (left to right) Vladimir Egorov, Olga Grishina, Olga Parr, Olga Medvetko and Vladimir Labusov



The Sisterhood prepared a favorite cake for Nikolai Vasilevich Misersky (second from left) in celebration of his namesday and 89th birthday. Surrounding him are his son, Yura, granddaughter Natasha, and daughter Marina. Nikolai Vasilevich has assisted many starostas since 1972 and received a Proclamation (Gramota) from Metropolitan Hilarion for his 44 years of service.

NEWS FROM THE SISTERHOOD

LUBA GAUSCHIEDT

Our Feast Day Trapeza held on July 3 was one of the most joyous and well attended celebrations of the year. We are grateful to the many Sisterhood volunteers who set up tables and chairs, baked delicious cakes, helped in the kitchen two days in a row, and cleaned up afterward. Special guests at the luncheon included Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New



Tatiana Woodward wins the 44-inch Boyarina doll, one of the lottery prizes.

York, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia; Archbishop Mark of Berlin and Germany; Archbishop Kyrill of San Francisco and Western America; Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal and Canada; Bishop Nikolai of Salavat and Kumertau (Russia), as well as priests and deacons from many Bay Area Orthodox Churches.

After the festive meal was completed, three girls – Melania Maximow, Anastasia Sarandinaki, and Natalia Zimin - drew the winning tickets for a lottery. The grand prize was a 44-inch doll dressed in a boyarina costume, designed and sewn by Zoya Litvinenko of Santa Rosa. It was won by Tatiana Woodward. Second prize was a porcelain tea set won by Vera Dondontsov. Father Peter Perekrestov won the third prize, a Silver Leaf. Nikolai Koretsky received two wooden bowls as the fourth prize. Elena Bederov was the lucky winner of a miniature Gzhel samovar set, while Igor Lasko received the sixth prize, a gift basket.

The Sisterhood thanks the many parishioners and friends of our Church for purchasing \$1,840 worth of lottery tickets.

And finally, the Sisterhood and the Parish Council warmly congratulate the following parishioners who received a Proclamation (Gramota) for their many years of dedicated service. Receiving Proclamations from Metropolitan Hilarion were Nikolai Vasilevich Misersky, Shura Ossipoff, Ivan Afanasiev, Marina and Andrei Roudenko, and Alexander Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

September 4, 11, and 18

Volunteers needed for Coffee Hours. Sign up on the blackboard in the Church Hall. Please note that September 11 commemorates the Beheading of St. John the Baptist – a strict fast day with no fish allowed. Instructions for hosting a Coffee Hour are in the far right top drawer in the kitchen.

September 25

Coffee Hour for all September Saints' Day celebrants: Adrian, Natalia, Alexander, Anna, Maximilian, Iya, Ludmila, Vera, Lyubov, Nadezhda, and Sofia. If you would like to contribute a dish to the Coffee Hour, please contact Ludmilla Bobroff at ludmillaa@aol.com

October 2

Sisterhood brunch followed by a lecture on Church Music presented by Bishop Theodosy.

October 9

Coffee Hour for all October Saints' Day celebrants: Irina, Oleg, Sergey, Roman, Alexei, Foma, Svyatoslav, Luke. If you would like to contribute a dish to the Coffee Hour, please contact Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko at tpavlenko@hotmail.com

October 16

Sisterhood Lunch

October 30

Volunteers needed for Coffee Hour. Sign up on the blackboard in the Church Hall. Instructions for hosting a Coffee Hour are in the far right top drawer in the kitchen.

PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS September 29 and October 27

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.

Bakers Needed

If you like to bake, please sign up to prepare desserts when requested by the Sisterhood. Contact Tania Ionoff at tionoff@aol.com to add your name to the list.

Special Request from the Sisterhood

Please do NOT drop off any donations of dishes, cookware, clothing, toys or books at the Church Hall. We are not planning any garage or rummage sales in the near future and unfortunately, do not have any storage space to keep these items. If you have anything that you feel the Sisterhood could use in the church kitchen, please check with Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko at tpavlenko@hotmail.com or 650-430-9806 before bringing it.

VISIT BY HAWAII'S MYRRH-STREAMING ICON



Father Stefan greets Subdeacon Nectarios who is the icon's guardian. Subdeacon Nectarios has traveled with the icon to over 1000 churches of all canonical jurisdictions in North America.



The Holy Theotokos of Iveron started streaming myrrh in 2007. When not traveling, her home is in Honolulu, Hawaii.



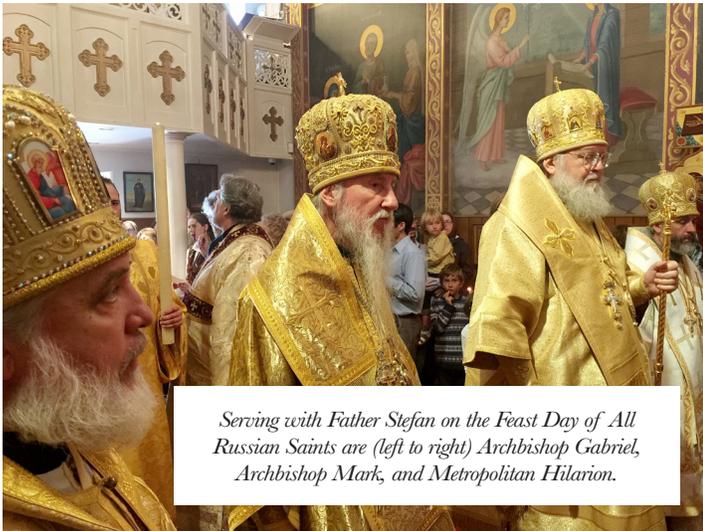
Father Octavian, (on the far left), priest of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Hayward, stands with Father Stefan, Subdeacon Nectarios and Father Dimitri before escorting the icon to his church.



Parishioners sadly watch the departure of the wonderworking icon. Those who stayed until the end of the service received fragrant myrrh-soaked balls of cotton.

CHURCH FEAST DAY

July 3, 2016



Serving with Father Stefan on the Feast Day of All Russian Saints are (left to right) Archbishop Gabriel, Archbishop Mark, and Metropolitan Hilarion.



Parishioners venerate the icon of All Russian Saints on the left and the New Russian Martyrs on the right.



Melania Maximow receives communion from Metropolitan Hilarion.



Father Stefan thanks the bishops, priests, clergy, parishioners and guests who attend this special day.



Many of the faithful participate in the procession around the Church.

JULY BAPTISMS

TWO PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS - ALEXEI BARANOFF AND DMITRI ANDRUHA - BECAME FATHERS OF BABY GIRLS IN JULY WITH BOTH BAPTISMS HELD IN THE BURLINGAME CHURCH



The godparents are Grisha Bogatsky and Liza Kotar.



Grandfather Archpriest Alexei Kotar conducts the churching of his newest grandchild the next day.

Kassiana Baranoff



Baby Kassiana is being baptized by her grandfather, Archpriest Alexei Kotar of Saint Nicholas Cathedral in Seattle.

Savina Andruha



The godparents for Baby Savina are George Lysenko and Natasha Zaharov. Savina is the second daughter for Dmitri and Katherine Andruha.



The entire Baranoff and Kotar families pose for a photo with the newly baptised Kassiana. Standing left to right are grandfather Vladimir Baranoff, grandmother Mila Baranoff-Colver, Gene Colver, aunt Sashkie Baranoff, godparents Grisha Bogatsky and Liza Kotar holding the baby, mother Anastasia Baranoff, and grandmother Natalia Kotar. Second row are grandfather Archpriest Alexei Kotar holding his grandson Nikita, father Alexei Baranoff, uncle Grisha Kotar, his wife Tania Kotar, and grand uncle Archpriest Serge Kotar.

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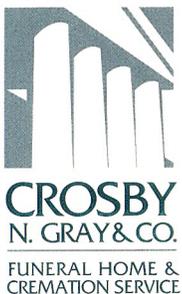
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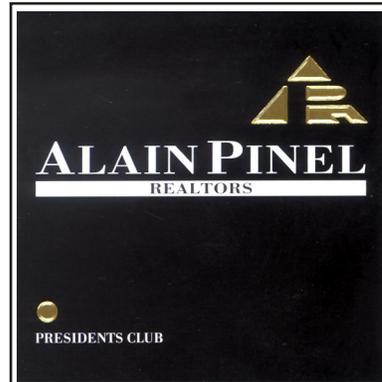
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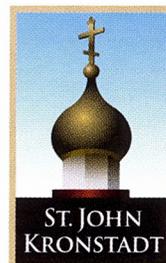
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