



70th Anniversary of the Founding of our All Russian Saints Parish, Burlingame, CA



VOLUME 10 NUMBER 1

January/February 2022



CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

Церковь Всех Святых из Земль Российской Прощавшихъ



The world is entering the New 2022 Year and our Church of All Russian Saints parish is entering into its 70th year of existence.

Our parish was originally established as a Brotherhood to accommodate ROCOR's Second Hierarch, His Beatitude and Ever Memorable Metropolitan Anastasy (Gribanovsky), 1873-1965, during his regular visits to California from his headquarters in New York City. What the Metropolitan needed was a suitable residence and a House Church. Thanks to a dedicated group of parishioners, a building was purchased and reconfigured into a church and residence.

In celebration of the founding of the Church of All Russian Saints in 1952, we are currently doing a number of improvements and renovations, including the gold leafing and repainting of our Church Dome Cupolas. See the Stewardship News article in the Newsletter and the slide show on our website.

I encourage everyone to read the parish history which is available on our web site. Many people worked hard and sacrificed much to establish a place to gather and worship

in a proper manner. When it became economically feasible in 1963, they acquired a suitable building which was transformed by their personal efforts into the beautiful church we now cherish.

Through the years, families moved and original founders passed away, but faithful people continued to gather together and support the work of our predecessors, making this church their spiritual home and becoming members of a friendly and welcoming community.

I call on everyone - members, stewards and visitors to our All Russian Saints Parish - to make this a special year, redoubling their efforts to fast, pray, and attend church services on a more regular basis. In addition, we should do charitable works and give alms to those in need. Plus give our Parish full support so that it will grow and strengthen in future decades as a firm haven for those who wish to have a sacred place to gather for services, sacraments, and Christian Fellowship.

Save, O Christ God, and Grant Many Years to this Parish and its Faithful Members. ■

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



WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR THE WORLD?

When times are difficult, we're often told not to despair because everything is according to God's Plan. Exactly, what is God's Plan for the World? How should we understand it?

God reveals his Plan for the World in Romans 8:19-23

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”

In the simplest terms, I believe we must understand that God's Plan for the World is the following: “God our Savior ...wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

God created man to be in full communion with Him, but as we know, Adam and Eve failed to be obedient to God's simple law and thereby severed their relationship with Him and brought sin, destruction and death into the world.

With our human reasoning and sensibility, we first perceive plans, then make plans, based on our knowledge and best educated guess. Outcomes and possible alternatives are carefully considered before decisions are made. Nevertheless, because none of us are all-knowing, we often make miscalculations and grave errors. “Plans for our life” can unfortunately go awry and sadly, very, very wrong.

It's not so with God. Because He is Divinely Omniscient, He understands all things – the past, the present, and the future. As the source of all knowledge, God knows the final outcome of everything, and that includes each of our personal lives - before it begins, then from our birth to our last breath, and even beyond into Eternal Life! This omniscience reaches each and every human being, each and every creature and each and every molecule and atom of His Creation!

One factor that many people overlook is that we are all endowed with the gift of free will which makes our lives evolve around the personal choices that we make. It is therefore imperative that we never forget that our actions not only affect our own lives and our own future, but also impact in various ways, people and events around us. Some of our actions will benefit others positively, while different words and deeds may unfortunately be detrimental and even tragic.

We are surrounded by the consequences of our own positive and negative (holy and sinful) free will choices. To this day, all of mankind from Adam and Eve to every living being throughout history has been impacted. It continues to the end of the world since free will choices also impact future generations.

DUE TO THE FALL OF MANKIND, we have wars and rumors of wars, floods, fires, storms, tornados, droughts, plagues, epidemics, diseases, famines, earthquakes, tidal waves, criminals of every possible nature, slavery, the suffering of innocents and many, many other inexpressible horrors of our truly fallen world. Without faith in “GOD'S PLAN FOR THIS WORLD;” all these things and more, would be completely unbearable. Strangely, many “atheists” blame God for these terrible and troubling circumstances, accusing Him of bringing evil into the world. They completely ignore the fact that it is the free will actions of human beings that is causing all the tragedies.

God's plan includes His own incarnation into His created world, His life among us, and His example for us and His call to all of us to, “Deny ourselves, take up our cross, and to follow Him.” God's plan is not to program us to be perfect, but to seek perfection in “putting on Christ” as we hear in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

God's plan is for us to freely choose to Love Him and to Love our fellow man, to be in Communion with Him through the Holy Sacraments of His Church and to be partakers of His Body and His Blood in the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist, so that we (all Mankind) could become part of His Divinity and to be with Him into ETERNITY. This then prepares and protects us now against any depression or despair that we may be tempted to suffer seeing the evil consequences of fallen mankind. ■



SALUTING THE 2021 STEWARDS

Anonymous (Cash total \$508)

Ellen and Andy Alexeeff

Svetlana Avdeeva

Alla Avisov

Anastasia and Alexei Baranoff

Helena (Sashkie) Baranoff

Elena Bederova

Constantine Belonogoff

Mila and Dima Bobroff

Tanya and Oleg Bolshakoff

Natalie Bremer

Ronald Bulatoff

Natalie and Cleo Burigin

Louis Busta

Olga and Warren Cane

Vera Crossfield

Tatiana and Pavel Denisov

Anna Derugin

Ludmila Doktorov

Anna and Andrei Federov

Frances Frey

Larissa Friesen

Alexei Fomitchev

Marina Freeman

Luba and Helen Gauschildt

Anna and Anton Generalov

Bill Gilchrist

Larissa and Daniela Gilyana

Alla Green

Margarita Herzen

Tania and Nick Ionoff

Diana Kardash

Olga and Nicholas Karobkoff

Mara and Alik Klestoff

Olga Kolenko

Lana and Vova Kondrasheff

Nikita Korens

Aleksey Kovalenko

Sofija and Milovan Krnjajic

Merry Ann and Serge Loukianoff

Natasha and Pavel Loukianoff

Sonia and Peter Loukianoff

Yura Misersky

Irene Motoviloff

Natalia Nielsen

Roman Novikov

Lula and Shura Ossipoff

Olga and Boris Parr

Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko Family

Marina Plissak

Evghenia Regelman-Greiner

Marina and Andrei Roudenko

Sonja and Nick Shevelyov

Margarita and Alexander Shkolnik

Cyril (Cy) Sinelnikoff

Anastasia Sky

Maria Sky

Valentina Tolstoguzova

Yuliya Voroninskaya

David Wood

OTHER NOTABLE STEWARDS

Beauty Spa by Freeda

Con-Quest Contractors

Newsletter Advertisers and Sponsors

Parish Church Choir

Parish Council Members

Parish Russian School Teachers

Parish Sisterhood

Parish Volunteers

St. John Kronstadt Health Care Center



STEWARDSHIP NEWS - 2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND 2022 PLANS

Dimitry Bobroff

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

You are angels in our Burlingame Church. During the last four years, your Stewardship donations have not only met our Stewardship goals, but exceeded them. In November, a number of people have already donated toward our Cupola Renovation Project, and this resulted in greatly exceeding our goal of \$60,000. The total funds received for 2021 are close to \$105,000.

In January, I will be sending out tax-deductible receipts for your 2021 Stewardship donations, along with 2022 pledge forms and a list of planned projects for the coming year.

Our main projects in 2021 were the following:

1. The new Panomarka for Altar servers to be used for hot water, censers, and all items needed for church services has been completed.
2. A set of six tuned bells has been installed in the belfry and has been delighting our church goers with its refined sounds. In addition, a number of our young people have been trained in the art of church bell ringing.
3. Three new stained glass windows have been fabricated, and the fourth is almost done. All four will be installed at the same time as soon as the fourth window is completed. Should be soon.

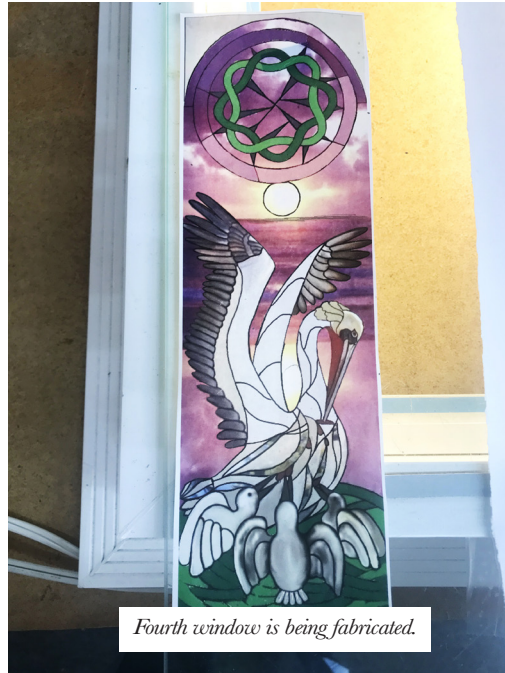
The allegorical significance of the four windows is:

- Sailing Boat: The Noah's Ark of the Old Testament is a pre-image of the Church; the Church is like a sailing ship, safely sailing through the rough seas of life with the Helmsman being Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Lighthouse: The Lighthouse (teachings of the Church) guides us

toward our destination and keeps us on the correct trajectory, our salvation, so that we are not dashed against dangerous rocks (sins and false teachings) which can cause us spiritual harm.

- Anchor: Ascetics, the spiritual giants of our Orthodox Faith, are said to be "Anchored in God"; when we cling to the Church and its teachings, we are ANCHORED IN GOD.
- Pelican: According to legend, the Pelican, when there is no food to nourish her chicks, will make a wound in its side and let them drink her blood - a symbol of Christ's Sacrifice and the Holy Eucharist.

4. In preparation for our 70th anniversary of the founding of our parish, the painting and gilding of our five cupolas were completed. This was an expensive project encompassing scaffolding, painting the four blue cupolas, the cost of the double-weight 24k gold leaf, and the laborious labor of applying 36,000 sheets of gold leaf to the cupolas and to the 132 stars on the blue cupolas. Total cost was close to \$160,000. By God's Providence, our balance in



Fourth window is being fabricated.



Three stained glass windows are completed.

the Stewardship Fund was exactly \$160,000 which allowed us to fund the project. Recently, with generous donations specifically for the cupolas, we have a good beginning toward funding some projects for 2022.

Planned projects for 2022:

A. Interior Improvement Projects

- Renovate the south side Riznitsa (Vestry)
- Brass railing on the soleas/ambo
- Reliquaries for a number of our Holy Relics
- Complete the fabrication/installation of the last two stained-glass windows
- Sisterhood project to renovate church hall
- Install bookshelves to declutter side rooms
- Update Narthex (entryway) with new floor and lighting
- Upgrade candle stand area in entryway
- Paint the inside of the church and hallways
- Renovate our two Bishop’s Thrones, including one that was used by Metropolitan Anastasy (Gribanovsky) in our church, the second First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia

B. Exterior Improvement Projects

- Repair damaged wet-rot wooden beams on roof
- Paint the outside of the church, including the fences
- Earthquake safety improvement – back fence

How much of these we will accomplish depends on the Stewardship pledges we receive in 2022, AND, finding volunteers to undertake some of these projects.

Our parish has been fortunate in having people step up with their talents and time to serve our church. Please consider volunteering to manage some of these projects by contacting Dimitry Bobroff by email, jbobroff@aol.com, or by phone (408) 257-6918.

Finally, please consider becoming a Steward. Pledge forms can be found on our website at <https://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/stewardship> ■

BAPTIZED

OCTOBER 2021
Dominic Alvarez-Semenskiy

NOVEMBER 2021
Elias Chengping Fei
Arian Kramer

MARRIED

OCTOBER 2021
None

NOVEMBER 2021
None

REPOSED IN THE LORD

OCTOBER 2021
None

NOVEMBER 2021
Vladislav Dobrohotoff
Vladimir Galkin
Nick Russell

Thank you to
Natasha and Ben Nielsen
for graciously sponsoring the printing
cost of this issue.

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Marina Roudenko
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VOLUNTEERS ON SCAFFOLDING



Project Manager Dimitry Bobroff enjoyed climbing the scaffolding and gluing the thin sheets of gold to the cupola.



Professional Gilder Julian Billotte, on the left, shows our Treasurer and Subdeacon Alyosha Baranoff the proper way to gild.



Timofei Loboda works on the bottom part of the gold dome.



Tasia Baranoff responded to a call for help from the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco to repaint murals in the dome, damaged by a leaky roof.



Sitting on scaffolding high in the air is our Reader Dimitry Tcherkoff, painting the damaged frame. Iconographer Vova Krassovskiy restored all the icons himself.

WEBSITE REVISITED

Dimitry Bobroff



Our website was launched two years ago and, I believe, has met its objective of being the main one-stop communication tool for our parish. During 2021, we averaged 75 visitors per day. Besides the U.S., our top visitors were from Russia, Canada, Australia, and China.

The website is updated as new information is available, be it a message from Archpriest Stefan, a new announcement from our parish or nearby Orthodox communities, or a general interest announcement. In addition, it is updated on a weekly basis with messages from our choir director, Andrei Roudenko, on upcoming weekend church services and with Lives of Saints. Archpriest Serge Kotar also contributes a weekly epistle on the upcoming Sunday Gospel reading.

Of course, the Schedule of Services is one of the most relevant tabs on the website, specifying the dates and times of church services, as well as the names of Saints for each day of the week.

At the bottom of the “Home” tab, you will find reference to the Scripture Readings for the day. Before coming to church, read, or print, the readings so that you will be familiar with what is being read during the church service.

The website is also a treasure trove of other information:

Under the “About Us” tab, you will find our parish history, Father Stefan’s bio, and everything one would like to know about Orthodoxy. Also there are forms and information for Parish Membership and for Stewardship.

Under the “Choir” tab, you will find material relating to the choir, as well as video recordings of ALL our Choir concerts.

Under the “Sisterhood” tab, you’ll find a schedule of upcoming luncheons as well as an invitation to help make pelmeni for sale.

Under the “Newsletter” tab, besides finding the current newsletter, there is an archive available of all nine years of its existence. If you’re looking for information on a particular individual, you’ll find an index of the biographies of all the people featured in the newsletters, as well as all the answers to Theological Questions by Father Stefan – a real treasure.

Other tabs are “Russian School,” “Livestream,” and “Donate”. Under the “Donate” tab, you will be able to contribute money to the General Fund, to the Stewardship Fund, as well as pay your Membership Dues by either PayPal or credit card.

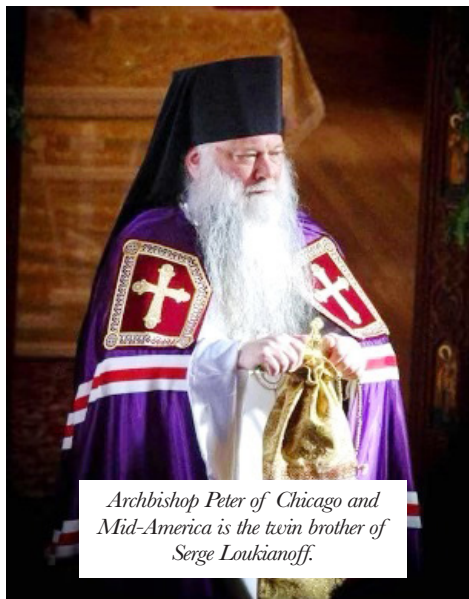
To fully take advantage of all its riches, visit our website <https://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org> often. ■

MEET SERGE AND MERRY ANN LOUKIANOFF

Ludmilla Bobroff

Few people have had as many twists and turns in their lives as parishioners Serge Loukianoff and his wife, Merry Ann. Serge is one of four sons born to Andrei Pavlovich and Elena Nikolaevna Loukianoff. The parents immigrated from Shanghai, China in 1947 with their oldest boys, Michael and Nicholas. The youngest two, fraternal twins Serge and Paul, were born in San Francisco.

Andrei Pavlovich and Elena Nikolaevna knew Vladika Ioann Maximovich personally from Shanghai and their friendship with the future saint continued after he was assigned to Brussels and to other parts of Europe. After becoming Bishop of San Francisco and Western America, Bishop John served at the Old Cathedral with Serge and Paul as his altar servers. The boys often traveled with him to other parishes. Paul was especially devoted to the Bishop and never missed serving Liturgy with him.



Upon the repose of Archbishop John in 1966, Paul announced that he was enrolling at Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, New York. The family was not surprised at this decision since, right from childhood, Paul showed deep affection for the Church, especially for her beautiful services. Today, Serge's twin, Paul, is known as

Archbishop Peter of Chicago and Mid-America and he, too, constantly visits all the churches in his diocese.

While the Loukianoff boys were growing up in San Francisco, a baby was being born to John and Elizabeth Limbeson in Cleveland, Ohio, and named Merry Ann with that delightful spelling. Both parents were of Romanian Orthodox heritage and followed the traditions of their grandparents who immigrated from the Old Country in the early 1900s. When Merry Ann was two years old, the young parents moved to Southern California with their son and little daughter and started attending Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles.

Merry Ann sang in the choir as a teenager even though she didn't speak the language. After her sophomore year, her parents sent her to Camp Vatra in Michigan located at the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate Headquarters. She credits the educational camp for helping her grow her faith. Back in California, she completed Fullerton Junior College, Cal State Long Beach, and LAC/USC Medical Center School of Nursing, earning a Nursing Diploma. Merry Ann has worked as an RN in numerous hospitals in Neonatal Intensive Care units for most of her 47-year-long career. Retirement awaits in January.

Meanwhile, Serge Loukianoff, after finishing George Washington High School in San Francisco, started attending College of San Mateo. Before being drafted into the U.S. Army, he worked with the Burlingame Police Department learning about law enforcement work. Upon completion of his military obligation, he worked with Southern Pacific Police Department investigating railroad crimes, the City of Mission Viejo, and the San Francisco Police Department, where he supervised three special police beats in Japantown, Pacific Heights, and Union Street.

By God's Providence, the young adults were finally brought together in 1974 at St. Luke's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Garden Grove, California. They had seen each other at Vespers and Liturgy and a mutual friend introduced them formally during coffee hour. A year later, they were married at St. Luke's Church. In attendance were Merry Ann's father and mother and Serge's mother, Elena Nikolaevna Loukianoff. When John Limbeson was in his 60s, he retired from his job and became a Romanian Orthodox priest.

continued...

Thirty-five years ago, the newlyweds moved to Burlingame and started attending the Burlingame Church. Serge also remembers earlier years when the property on El Camino Real was being reconstructed into a church. Although he served for two years on the Parish Council, the family did not attend the Burlingame Church regularly. Merry Ann still wanted to attend a church with the Liturgy in English, so the family switched to St. Herman's in Sunnyvale before moving on to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Belmont to meet the family's changing needs.

Three daughters were born to Serge and Merry Ann - Natalie (Natasha), Katherine (Kati) and Alexandra (Alisha). Now that he was a family man with more expenses, Serge left police and public safety work and started a mortuary removal and support service company that served sixteen mortuaries. After five years, he liquidated that company and started American Public Safety Inc., providing compliance and enforcement services to Homeowners' Associations and property management companies.



Family portrait of the Loukianoffs: left-to-right, sister-in-law Valia, brother Misha (Michael), Serge, daughter Kati (Katherine) Sarbu, her husband Victor Sarbu, grandchildren Christian and Lily-Ann, Merry Ann, daughter Alisha, and Serge's brother Nicholas.

In 2018, Serge became deathly ill with Influenza B which greatly affected his heart and kidneys. For four months, he was hospitalized, unable to sit in bed or walk. "The one person who visited me weekly was Father Stefan," says Serge. "Every week, Father Stefan arrived with the Holy Gifts which he gave to me. There is no doubt in my mind that receiving the Holy Gifts weekly was the God-given medicine that has kept me alive."

The family also rallied around him. Daughter Kati, a Registered Dietician, lives in Southern California with her Romanian husband, Victor Richard Sarbu, and children, Lily-Ana, age 11, and Christian, age 9. They constantly called on the phone and sent cards. Oldest daughter, Natasha, left Maryland to be with her father and help out with her sister, Alisha. Natasha recently started a job in San Francisco, working in her profession as an Architectural Historian.

Thirty-five year old Alisha also did her part. She attends a program for adults with development issues. Merry Ann calls her "my eternal child." Serge adds, "Alisha is the happiest, friendliest, and most loving person on earth. I love being with her."

Now that Serge is disabled, he calls his twin often. "We're still close as brothers and get together whenever we can."

Serge follows the streaming services of Holy Apostles Orthodox Church in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, having become online friends with Father Timothy Hojnicky. He also follows the services at Archbishop Peter's Cathedral in Des Plaines, Illinois, as well as the monastery in Ukraine that is near the birthplace and childhood home of Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco. And, of course, Serge views our streaming services in Burlingame. "I enjoy seeing how each parish does services even though all are the same everywhere."

As for Merry Ann, she faithfully attends the Church of All Russian Saints with Natasha and Alisha, with all three coming up to Holy Communion whenever possible. ■



Daughter Natasha enjoys the company of her youngest sister Alisha at the Gingerbread Faire.

Serge was invited to join Father Stefan and John Crosby of Crosby N. Gray Funeral Home for their twice-a-month lunches because Serge knew John Crosby's father from his mortuary removal company. The lunches continued for decades until the pandemic forced them to meet only monthly during non-fasting periods.

NEW BOOK ON TSAR NICHOLAS II

Mara Klestoff

“The Abdication of Tsar Nicholas II in Memoirs of Witnesses and Contemporaries” is a new publication of the Museum of Russian Culture in San Francisco, compiled by Galina V. Epifanova (Галина В. Епифанова), edited by Margarita K. Meniailenko (Маргарита К. МЕНЯЙЛЕНКО), and translated into English by Mara Klestoff (Мария С. Клестова).

The idea for this publication arose in May 2017 at a conference organized by the Museum of Russian Culture and the Russian Center of San Francisco to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the abdication of the throne by the last Tsar. Using the Museum’s vast collection entitled “In Memory of His Majesty Emperor Nicholas II,” the publication’s main goal was to show the Last Tsar through the eyes of his contemporaries, and to pay tribute to the efforts of the Russian diaspora in immortalizing the memory of Tsar Nicholas.

This book was not written by a single author. It consists of quotes taken from memoirs of people who were close to the Tsar: his family, his inner circle, officers of the Imperial Army and Navy, and foreign diplomats. Additionally, several professional émigré historians are quoted, as well as the official historiographer of the time of Nicholas II. Each chapter is accompanied by rich and varied illustrations related to its topic.

In Russia, there were many books published leading up to the 100th anniversary of the tragic events of 1917-1918. However, the Museum’s archives hold many memoirs and reminiscences published by Russian émigrés that still remain little known to the general public. Our publication presents an exceptionally broad overview of books and articles published by Russian emigrants in different countries around the globe.

Readers will be surprised to learn of the many forward-thinking reforms that were carried out during the 22-year reign of Nicholas II, including my favorite, “...nowhere in the world was women’s education at such a high level as in ‘backward’ Russia.” It is also interesting to learn that Tsar Nicholas II was the leader who initiated the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907.

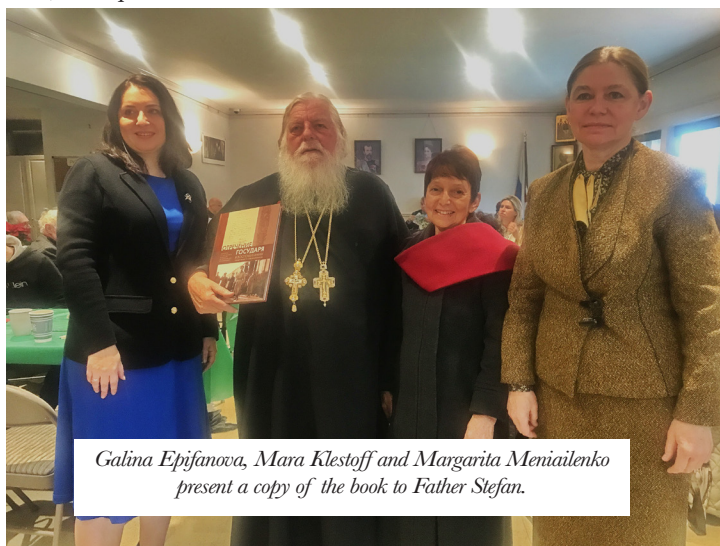
Readers will learn how the Tsar was deliberately and cunningly isolated from everyone in the days leading up to his abdication, and who were the people orchestrating his isolation. The Tsar’s orders were not transmitted and those troops loyal to him could not reach him. He was trapped. The mood of those fateful days is conveyed by the authors quoted, and can be deeply felt by the reader.

The compiler of this publication, G.V. Epifanova, has a PhD in philosophy. The project leader and academic editor, M. K. Meniailenko, has a PhD in history and is the Chief Archivist at the Museum of Russian Culture. She is the author of numerous historical publications based on the Museum’s archives, including “Russians in California, an Illustrated Guide.” Together, Epifanova and Meniailenko worked for four years to compile, edit and bring this book to publication.

This is the first opportunity I have had to translate a history book, and I am honored and grateful that Galina and Margarita entrusted this project to me. I worked on and off for more than two years on the translation, trying to convey in English not only the meaning but the mood of the Russian words and sentences.

It was particularly moving for me to translate, on the same page, words written by the Tsar himself and a quote from the book written by my grandfather Major-General I.F. Shilnikoff, in which they both reference the same event. In a letter to Empress Alexandra, the Tsar informs her that he is heading to Bobruisk to review the troops of the Zabaikalsky Cossack Division. In his book, “The First Zabaikalsky Cossack Division in the Great European War 1914-1918,” my grandfather describes in detail this special visit the Tsar made to his Cossack division, and mentions the photograph Nicholas II had taken with the leaders of the Cossack regiments. This photograph appears on the facing page of my grandfather’s descriptive quote. The photograph had been a family treasure for four generations and is now safely stored in the Museum’s Archives.

“The Abdication of Tsar Nicholas II in Memoirs of Witnesses and Contemporaries” can be purchased from Mara Klestoff (klestoffam@msn.com) or from Margarita Meniailenko at the Museum of Russian Culture (415-921-4082) or (contact@mrcsf.org). Cost is \$30, payable by check or PayPal at <http://www.mrcsf.org/home/>. ■



Galina Epifanova, Mara Klestoff and Margarita Meniailenko present a copy of the book to Father Stefan.

PRESENTATION OF THE TSAR NICHOLAS II BUST



Carrying the long awaited statue are, left to right, Andrei Fedorov, Alexei Fomitchev, Sasha Loboda, and Anton Generalov.



In God's Providence, the bust arrived the same day the lecture was given on Tsar Nicholas. In gratitude, Father Stefan presents his gift to the donors, Anton and Anna Generalov.



The entire Generalov family gather for a photo in front of the bust.



Gingerbread Faire



The Sisterhood provided ready-made gingerbread houses and appropriate candies and frosting to decorate the houses.



Jack Murphy carefully places the candies exactly where he wants them.



The children worked busily while the mothers supervised and chatted with one another.



Zoe and Savina Andruha show off their masterpiece to their grandmother, Sonya Andruha.



Choir Concert and Blessing of the Crosses



Our choir presented a concert after an absence of two years. Two dozen singers performed works from the Moscow School of church music composition.

At the end of the program, four gold crosses were carried out from the altar by Mikhail Khitrykh, Timofei Loboda, Andrei Fedorov, and Vladimir Labusov. As the choir sang, Father Stefan blessed the crosses with Holy Water.



All four crosses were gilded in gold leaf and will be anchored on top of the blue cupolas on the roof. Mikhail Khitrykh and Timofei Loboda are holding the crosses.

While the choir sang "Many Years," Father Stefan thanked gilder Julian Billotte for his beautiful work. Julian also did the gilding 23 years ago. The entire family, left to right, Charlotte, Anna, Julian, and Leo, stayed for the reception held afterward in the Church Hall.



CHOIR NEWS

Andrei Roudenko

On behalf of our parish choir members, and from me personally, I wish all of our parishioners and other readers of our Newsletter a happy civil New Year, and on January 14th, an even happier Old Calendar New Year! May the blessings of our Lord be upon you and your loved ones in 2022.

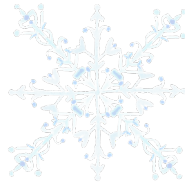
Leading up to the Nativity in 2020, our Psalmist and choir member, Marina Roudenko, proposed that our choir organize a holiday luncheon after our Nativity Liturgy in our parish hall. Marina's original intent was to provide an opportunity for those who lived far away from relatives to enjoy a family-style Christmas celebration immediately following our Nativity Liturgy. The idea became "viral" throughout our parish and in the end, over 100 people took part in the celebration. By all accounts, the event was a joyful success.

Inspired by this memorable luncheon, our choir will host our second "annual" **Nativity Pot-Luck Luncheon on January 7 after Liturgy**. All are invited to attend and participate. Participation is simple. Since this is a "Pot-Luck," all who attend are asked to please bring some food or drink to share at our celebration table. Everyone's contribution will be appreciated. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help with set-up before or clean-up after our celebration, please do so. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

A sign-up sheet will be posted at our candle-stand. All who wish to join our Nativity "trapeza" can identify themselves and indicate what they intend to bring to our "Pot-Luck" table. If they are available to assist with set-up and cleanup, they should also sign up.

The Nativity of our Lord is a uniquely special event, and its celebration has long been one that families treasure. As our parish is both a spiritual and social family, it seems fitting to follow our Liturgical celebration with a collective feast and fellowship.

Христос Раждается, Славите! Christ is Born, Glorify Him! Our choir members look forward to being with you at our Nativity Eve Vigil service (on January 6, starting at 6 p.m.), our Nativity Liturgy (on January 7 at 9 a.m.) and our Nativity trapeza after Liturgy. ■



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY + FEBRUARY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7
after the Nativity Liturgy

Pot-Luck Nativity Trapeza
See Andrei Roudenko's Choir News
article for details. Sign-up is at the
Candle Stand

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15
AT 11 A.M.

The Burlingame Church Russian
School is inviting everyone, young
and old, to our **Christmas Yolka**
featuring Ded Moroz giving presents
to all children, a buffet of delicious
goodies and entertainment.
Donations are \$10 per family.

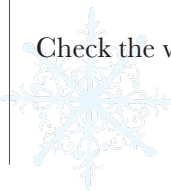
SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

Pirogi Lunch prepared by the
Sisterhood

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Brunch prepared by the Sisterhood

Check the website for additional events
and changes.



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

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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
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or telephone (408) 257-6918. Please write Parish News-
letter in the Subject Line. Deadline is one month prior
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Next Newsletter - March 2022

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