

LARISSA KRASSOVSKY: MATRIARCH OF THE FAMILY

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As a child, Larissa was an acolyte at the Cathedral in Shanghai where Vladyka Ioann served.

both from Tomsk. Larissa's father was very artistic and created backdrops and décor for theaters in Shanghai. The marriage did not last long, however, and the parents divorced. The little girl was then raised by her grandparents.

Larissa attended the League of Russian Women's Girls' School and attended church at the Cathedral of the Icon of the Mother of God, Surety of Sinners, where Vladyka Ioann (Maximovich) served. Larissa was an acolyte to Vladyka in the church school and got to know him very well. When the Communists overwhelmed the city, Vladyka gathered his flock of 6000 Russians and, with the permission of the Philippine government, facilitated their transport to the newly established refugee camp on the island of Tubabao.

Although the immigrants lived in tents, they were able to establish a Cathedral church in a barrack and four tent churches in different sections of the island in order to accommodate all the Orthodox faithful. As an adult, now, at age 19, Larissa caught the eye of 36-year-old Vadim Vladimirovich Krassovsky who, within a short time, proposed marriage. The couple was wed in the "Cathedral" church on the island, but the newlyweds couldn't stay for the reception because Vadim had just landed a job with Matson Shipping Lines and was needed immediately in Bangkok, Thailand.

When their first son, Vladimir, was born, they wrote to Vladyka Ioann, asking him how to baptize their newborn since no Orthodox priest was available in Bangkok. Vladyka Ioann sent back a detailed letter on how it should be done, even writing the liturgical texts in a different color ink. Baby Vladimir was baptized by his father on

The Krassovsky family has been involved in the founding, organizing and supporting Russian organizations since the 1950's. Not only did they become members of the first house church on Carmelita Avenue in Burlingame, but they were also involved in the building of the Church of All Russian Saints and organizing the Russian Scouts Program in Burlingame.

Matriarch of the family is 95-year-old Larissa Krassovsky. On October 28, 2023, her sons and their families gathered at her house in Burlingame for lunch, bringing one of her favorite foods – Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Larissa was born on October 28, 1928, to Konstantine Pokrovsky and Rufina nee Kitnovsky,

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Larissa and Vadim bought a home in Burlingame in 1967 and moved in with their four sons.

Pascha in 1951. Their second son, Eugene, was born 2 years later. Soon after that, Vadim was transferred to Hong Kong, where Alexander was born. Vladimir was chrismated and Eugene and Alexander were baptized by Father Elias Wen who later served in the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco, California where he reposed at the age of 110.

The Krassovsky family finally immigrated to the United States in 1956 with three boys in tow. The family lived in San Francisco, Long Beach, New Orleans, and Burlingame. They bought their first house in Belmont, where they lived for 10 years. In 1959, Michael was born in San Mateo, California. In 1967 they moved to Burlingame where Larissa resides today. A homecare provider named Nina Mislevaya takes care of her needs.

As the boys were growing up, the parents were loving but strict with them. The brothers were required to say evening prayers together and each one was assigned to do specific chores around the

house two days a week. They attended Church services and served as altar boys. All four graduated from Burlingame High School and our Parish Russian School. Aside from being involved in the Scouts Organization (NORS), the three younger boys competed in high school sports.

During these years, the family kept in close contact with Vladyka Ioann whether he was serving in Europe or in San Francisco. When little Alexander contracted mononucleosis, the pediatrician told him not to go to school for 6 months. Vadim contacted Vladyka Ioann, who was in New York at the time, and asked for his prayers. Three days later, little Alexander was back in school.

Similarly, many years later, Vladimir's future wife, young Natalia, had a serious asthma attack at a friend's house. The parents were ready to take her to the hospital. Vladyka Ioann happened to be there at that time. He patted her on the head, and told her not to worry. A short time later, the attack subsided.

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Vadim started the Russian Scouts program in Burlingame (NORS) and all four sons participated.



Larissa attended the baptism of Baby Dionina, along with the rest of the family.

In 1988, Vadim, at the age of 74, contracted colon cancer which metastasized into the liver. Although an operation was performed, serious heart problems were discovered. After being released from the hospital, due to his weakness, Vadim fell down and fractured his neck. He passed away on November 1, 1988. The family looked upon his repose as a blessing for him not to undergo great pain.

Larissa always felt the need to serve the Russian Community and continued to do so after Vadim's death. She was involved in 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. Her decades of extensive volunteer work so impressed the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation that they awarded her the 2016 Immigrant Heritage Award in the category of Community Leader. She also received Diocesan and Synodal commendation certificates ("gramotas").

As for the Krassovsky sons today, Vladimir is an iconographer and Choir Director of the Holy Virgin Cathedral Choir in San Francisco. Eugene, now Monk Efrem, resides in Greece. Archpriest Alexander is Rector of Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Santa Rosa. And Michael, now Archimandrite Roman, is Head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission of the Russian Church Abroad in Jerusalem.

In addition, Larissa has been blessed not only with "many years" but she has lived long enough to behold her "children's children, like a newly-planted olive orchard, around the table". The seven grandchildren are Eugene, Svetlana, Roman, and Larissa from son, Vladimir and his wife, Natalie, while Father Alexander and his wife, Anna, are the parents of Alexandra, Alexei and Katherine. But that's not all. The next generation have made their appearance and have been joyously welcomed by the family. They are great-grandchildren Kiprian, Pavel and Dionina. ■