

ALL COSSACKS' UNION OF SAN FRANCISCO

GOSSACK GALA BALL

Friday,
October 17, 2025

100th
Anniversary
Celebration





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Дорогіе о Господѣ Казаки!

Призываю Всесильное Божіе Благословеніе на Правленіе и всѣхъ членовъ Обще-Казачьяго Союза въ градъ Санъ-Франциско по случаю славнаго 100-лѣтняго юбилея со дня основанія сей достохвальной организаціи.

За минушіе сто лѣтъ много добра сотворено было на пользу нашей русской православной общественности. Вѣрные завѣтамъ отцовъ и дѣдовъ, вы неустанно трудились на нивѣ служенія Богу, Царю и Отечеству.

Молитвенно желаю отъ всея души и отъ всего сердца Божіей помощи и успѣха во всѣхъ вашихъ благочестивыхъ начинаніяхъ, а также дальнѣйшаго процвѣтанія во славу Божію, на пользу нашего общества и грядущихъ поколѣній.

Да хранить васъ Господь Богъ на многая и благая лѣта!

Съ неизмѣнною любовію о Господѣ,

+ *Архієпископъ Кирилл*

4/17 октября 2025 г.

Священномуч. Героея, еп. Аѳинскаго



Приветствия Атамана Константина Ивановича Колобова

Дорогие друзья, гости, и казаки. Благодарю всех кто пришли за вашу поддержку Обще Казачьего Союза города Сан-Франциско, когда мы справляем 100-летие нашего существования. Я хочу поблагодарить всё правление Союза и в особенности всю молодёжь без чьей помощи и трудов наш бал бы не состоялся. Все вложили большие усилия чтобы всё было сделано вовремя и правильно.

Спасибо всем. Танцуйте, веселитесь, и наслаждайтесь!



Greeting from Ataman Constantin ivanovich Koloboff

Dear friends, guests, and Cossacks. I want to thank everyone who is here for supporting the All Cossacks Union of San Francisco as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our existence. I want to thank the entire Board of Directors of the All Cossacks union and especially the younger generation without whose support and efforts our Gala would not have been possible. Everyone worked very hard to make sure that everything was done on time and correctly.

Thanks to all. Have a great time, dance and enjoy yourselves!



ALL COSSACKS' UNION OF SAN FRANCISCO, INC.

6231 Geary Boulevard, 3rd Floor Cossacks' Room

San Francisco, California 94121

Mail: c/o Oleg Bolshakoff

110 Middlefield Drive

San Francisco, CA 94132

allcossacksunionssf@gmail.com



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Special thanks to the “Youth” volunteers on the organizing committee:

Alexei Krassovsky, Eugene Krassovsky, Svetlana Krassovsky-Melamed,
Susan Motoviloff, Victoria Sabelnik, Katherine Sabelnik-Snyder,
Alexandra Sabelnik-Whooley, Nicholai Suhonos, Alexander Vorobiov-Wilson

На чужбине, вдали от родимых станиц,
Несмотря на тоску и потери,
Сохранится немало чудесных страниц
О казачьей негнущейся вере!

стихи поэта М. И. Надеждина (1902-1961), писатель, поэт
(Демушкин), Терский Казак, многолетний член Казачьего Союза,

In a foreign land, far from the native villages,
Despite the longing and losses,
Many wonderful pages will remain
About the Cossack's unyielding faith!

By Tersk Cossack, long-time Cossack Union member,
M.J. Nadejdin (1902-1961), author, poet (Demushkin)

HISTORY of the Cossack Union – Who We Are

In 1925, the Union of Russian Cossacks at Shanghai was established in Shanghai, China by the first generation of the Cossacks who settled in Shanghai as they retreated from the Bolsheviks. At that time 700 Cossacks joined the Union and there were 10 different stanitsas (groups or hosts) with an Ataman at the head of each. At the meeting on November 29, 1925, a head Ataman (President of the Union) was elected).



COSSACK UNION
MEMBERS' MEETING,
SHANGHAI, 1931

In 1926, some gained entry to the United States, settling in San Francisco. At the end of World War II, more of these Cossacks who did not have family members, born in China, were allowed to immigrate to the United States arriving there as early as 1946. Cossacks with family members born in China were not allowed to enter the United States. The United States decided that there were too many Chinese in the United States already and no one born in China was allowed entry.

When the Chinese Communists approached Shanghai in 1948, the Cossacks and other Russians still remaining in Shanghai had to get out of China. They looked for refuge everywhere but the only country that would allow them entry was the Philippines. In January and February of 1949 between 5,000 and 6,000 "refugees" were transported by ship to a seven square mile island called Tubabao located off the south-eastern tip of Samar Island. There they cleared the jungle and built a tent camp. From Tubabao about 1,000 refugees, including the Shanghai Cossacks, dispersed to any country that would accept them; Australia, Argentina, Chile, Dominican Republic, and France. The rest had no place to go.

In the United States, there were Russians, including Cossacks, living in San Francisco since Fort Ross was established in 1812. The Russians were a part of the American community and the Cossacks were not a coherent group. This changed in 1923 when

Cossacks who were part of Admiral Stark's flotilla arrived in San Francisco from Manila, seeking asylum from the Bolshevik revolution. They were allowed to stay, their numbers later augmented by the arrival of the 1926 Shanghai Cossacks. In 1926, this enlarged old and new Cossack community incorporated The All-Russian Cossacks Unit. With the return of peace and calm, its membership became relatively inactive. World War II changed things.

As more Shanghai Cossacks came to United States after 1946, many joined The All-Russian Cossacks' Unit and reinvigorated it. The specific purpose became raising funds and generating public support to get Cossacks from the Philippines and from the rest of the world to San Francisco. To facilitate this purpose, in December 1949, the "All Cossacks' Union of San Francisco" was incorporated as a California nonprofit corporation. The activities of The All-Russian Cossacks Unit ceased and its membership merged into the new corporation.

The 5,000 "Shanghai refugees" remained on Tubabao, Philippines, until through the intercession of St. John of San Francisco, California, United States Senator William Knowland came to Tubabao in 1950 and realized that the Russian refugees were not Chinese. He authored a bill that allowed the Russian refugees to enter the United States. The refugees were allowed entry to the United States if they had a sponsor who would support them until they became self-sufficient. The Cossacks in San Francisco turned their efforts to get sponsors for the Tubabao Cossacks.



TUBABAO GROUPS' MEETING



900 ASHBURY ST.

By the time Cossacks from Tubabao started arriving in San Francisco (first ship arrived on November 30, 1950) the All Cossacks' Union of San Francisco had already raised enough funds to collect the down payment for the Cossacks' House, a large Edwardian mansion at 900 Ashbury Street. From this headquarters, the All Cossacks' Union of San Francisco sponsored hundreds of Cossacks to America. That work complete, the All Cossacks' Union of San Francisco is now part of the family of support organizations existing throughout the world.



ORENBURG COSSACKS' MEETING 1968

Russian American Women's League
congratulates

*the All-Cossacks' Union of San Francisco on the
100th Year Celebration!*

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поздравляет

Обще-Казачий Союз в Сан Франциско
со столетним юбилеем!



Russian American Women's League (RAWL) is a benevolent and cultural non-profit organization founded in 1930, Shanghai, China, and immigrated to San Francisco in 1950.

RAWL hosts lectures, art classes, and presentations on historical, educational, and literary topics. We support cultural outreach programs for non-profit organizations and the community.

For more information email:

RussianAmericanWomensLeague@gmail.com

463 26th Avenue, Suite 304, San Francisco, CA 94121



MUSEUM OF THE ALL COSSACKS' UNION OF SAN FRANCISCO



The All Cossacks' Union of San Francisco's Museum is home to a collection of Cossack treasure trove of portraits and paintings, by Nikita Knatz Popov, a long-time member of the Cossacks' Union of SF. Nikita Knatz was creator of the logo of the All Cossacks' Union of San Francisco.



The Cossacks' museum is located on the 3rd floor of the Scouts' Building at 6231 Geary Boulevard in San Francisco and is open by appointment.

Information about the museum and to schedule a visit, please email: allcossacksunionsf@gmail.com

This large portrait of Tsar Nicholas II was gifted to the Cossacks' Union in Shanghai by then-Consul General of Imperial Russia, Victor Fyodorovich Grosse. The portrait hung in the Russo-Asiatic Bank in Shanghai, until it was closed. The Cossacks' Union brought the portrait with them to San Francisco, where it hung at the Cossacks' Building at 900 Ashbury until the building was sold. As there was no room in the new Cossack home that was re-located to 6700 Fulton Street, nor the Cossacks' Museum's current location, the portrait is now housed at the main hall of the Holy Virgin Cathedral at 6210 Geary Boulevard, across the street from the All Cossack's Union of San Francisco's current location.





***Congratulations to All Cossacks' Union
of San Francisco, Inc.
on your 100th Anniversary***



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COSSACK MONUMENT AT SERBIAN CEMETERY



The Cossack Monument at the Serbian Cemetery in Colma, California was erected in 2003 by the hard working Cossacks under the leadership of then-president of the All Cossacks' Union of San Francisco, Ataman Victor Pavlovich Metlenko and generous donors as a Memorial to all those Cossacks, who were forced to leave their homeland and suffered under the Bolshevik Revolution, Civil War and subsequent persecution. For years, Cossacks have preserved their cultural and historical heritage as well as given support, financially, emotionally & spiritually to those in need.

Annually on Radonitsa (the first Sunday after Easter), a memorial service (panihida) is held at the monument by one of the local Russian Orthodox priests presiding, with prayers for the departed, followed by a remembrance food table (pominki) prepared by the Cossacks' Union directors, members and friends.

The special moral code of the Cossacks – brotherhood of people united by a special state of spirit and consciousness, morality and ethics – continues to this day!





CONGRESS OF RUSSIAN AMERICANS, INC.

2460 Sutter Street; San Francisco, CA 94115 * tel.1-415-928-5841

crahq.sf@gmail.com * www.russian-americans.org

Congress of Russian Americans (CRA) congratulates the All Cossacks' Union of San Francisco on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. We congratulate you on this milestone anniversary and your many achievements throughout the years and wish all of you a most successful and enjoyable Centennial Gala Banquet and health and prosperity for Many Years!

CRA, founded in 1973, is a national non-profit, non-political organization, headquartered in San Francisco, with chapters and members throughout the US and has been the recognized voice of Russian-Americans for over 50 years. The main objectives of CRA are to preserve the Russian language, culture and spiritual and historical heritage in the US for our Russian-American youth and to defend the interests of Russian-Americans, while combating Russo phobia. Our humanitarian programs aid orphaned, underprivileged and handicapped children, as well as provide support to victims of disaster. Congress of Russian Americans continues to sponsor, support and participate with other community organizations throughout the US in celebrating our rich Russian cultural and historical heritage.

For further information about CRA, our programs or to join our organization, visit our website, contact us on our email listed above or make an appointment to stop by our 3rd floor office of the Russian Center building.

All Cossacks' Union 100th Anniversary Gala Banquet
Friday, October 17th, 2025 at 7PM- 1AM
at the Russian Center of San Francisco

PROGRAM

- 7PM – 8PM Cocktail Hour w/traditional Russian appetizers & No Host Bar
- 8PM Opening ceremony – MC – Eugene Krassovsky
 Cossack flag entrance
 Prayer
 Welcome by Ataman Constantine I. Koloboff
- 8:30PM-9:30PM Buffet Dinner catered by Esposto's
 with Entertainment of Cossack songs & dances
- 9:30PM-12:30AM Dancing to DJ Willie

* Program is subject to change and times are estimated

Special thanks to our Flag Ceremony Flag Bearers:

Andrei Bogatsky, Alexei Bolshakoff, Matthew Cydzik, Andre Jordan,
Alexei Krassovsky, Roman Krassovsky, Pavel Kusubov, Oleg Melamed,
Eli Shikaloff, Alexei Sinkevich, Jakob Snider, Alexander Suhonos,
Nicholai Suhonos, Peter Suhonos, Rostislav Williams

and to our performers:

Dancers/musicians: Honor Artist of Russia, Vladimir Riazantseff (bayan)
and Andy Dickinson (balalaika)

Singers: Marina Simunek (St.Petersburg), Vasil Isachenko (Ukraine) &
Julia Militan (Crimea & Moscow) – now all from Seattle, WA

Please note: if you parked your car across the street in the garage,
please allow enough time to pay and exit the garage BEFORE 1:00AM

ALL COSSACKS' UNION OF SHANGHAI EMBLEM



The emblem of the Cossacks' Union in Shanghai was made of silver-plated bronze metal, size 21 x 28mm.

The emblem with a scarlet background was for the Siberian and Semirechensk Cossack troops.

The emblem with a yellow background was for the Yenisei, Irkutsk, Amur, Transbaikai and Ussuri Cossack troops.

The emblem with a blue background was for the Orenburg Cossack troops.

The Cossack Union in Shanghai was officially established on April 12, 1925, during a meeting of the founders, and was later approved by the general meeting of the Union members on November 29 of the same year. The organization was initiated by I.N. Shendrikov, a Cossack of the Semirechensky Cossack army, and A.E. Gryzov, the military foreman of the Siberian Cossack army. The Union aimed to unite Cossacks from various Cossack troops in Shanghai for mutual support, to preserve Cossack unity and traditions, and to prepare for the future construction of Russia. By 1929, the Cossack Union in Shanghai had already united 10 Cossack villages and had approximately 700 members. The emblem of the Cossacks' Union in Shanghai served as a tangible reminder of the unity and camaraderie among the Cossack community in Shanghai during a pivotal period in Russian history.

ALL COSSACKS' UNION OF SAN FRANCISCO, INC LOGO



The All Cossacks' Union of San Francisco incorporated the logo from the artwork of Nikita Knatz Popov (1940-2010), who was a prolific artist, actor, assistant director, producer, production designer, art and animation illustrator and long-time member of the Cossacks' Union.

**Happy
100 Year
Celebration
All Cossacks Union
Of San Francisco**





***Дорогие Соотечественники, Казаки и Казачки Обще-
Казачьего Союза в Сан-Франциско!***

*От имени Правления Русского Центра в Сан-Франциско и от
себя лично, сердечно поздравляю вас со знаменательным
юбилеем — 100-летием со дня основания вашей славной
организации!*

*На протяжении целого века Обще-Казачий Союз был не только
хранителем традиций, но и важной частью культурной и
общественной жизни русского сообщества в Сан-Франциско.
Ваш труд, преданность и энергия вдохновляют, укрепляют
связь поколений и сохраняют живую память о богатом
наследии казачества и о нашей любимой Родине.*

*Желаем вам Божьей помощи, дальнейшего процветания,
крепкого единства, новых свершений и неиссякаемой энергии в
служении общему делу. Пусть следующие столетия будут
столь же плодотворными, как и прошедшие. Помогите Вам Бог!!!*

С уважением и наилучшими пожеланиями,

***Евгений В. Красовский
Председатель Правления
Русского Центра, Сан-Франциско***

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The Peter Pavlovich Ershov Foundation

Фонд Петра Павловича Ершова сердечно поздравляет Казачий Союз Сан-Франциско со знаменательной датой — 100-летием со дня основания!

На протяжении века вы с честью и мужеством несёте знамя казачьего наследия, сохраняя традиции, честь и любовь к родине.

Пусть следующие сто лет будут озарены крепостью духа, единением поколений и верностью высоким идеалам предков.

С Юбилеем!

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† **Holy Virgin Cathedral**

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Владимір Красиовскій, регент, и все песнословцы Архиерейского хора.

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The All Cossacks' Union of San Francisco expresses sincere gratitude to the many supporters, donors, performers and guests, without whom our 100th Anniversary Celebration would not have been possible. Special thanks to our sponsors, organizing committee and volunteers!

Sponsors:

Platinum: St. John Kronstadt Health Care Center
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Gold: Russian American Women's League
Russian Home of St. Vladimir's

100th Anniversary Celebration Organizing Committee:

Set up & operations at venue	Alexandra Sabelnik-Whooley
Sound Tech	Jakob Snider
Graphic Design, flyers	Alexei Krassovsky, Alexander Vorobiov-Wilson
Program Brochure, banners	Victoria Sabelnik, Alexander Vorobiov-Wilson
Brochure's historical content	Constantin Koloboff, Natalie Sabelnik
Catering coordinator	Natalie Krassovsky
Flag ceremony coordinator	Palina Suhonos
Finance & accounting	Oleg Bolshakoff
Website	Paul Vuksich
Reservations	Tatiana Bolshakoff
Appetizers, desserts, decos	Nadine Buick
Entertainment coordinators	Natalie Sabelnik, Snezhana Wilson
Raffle coordinator	Palina Suhonos
Exhibit	Natalie Sabelnik
Photographer	George Nikitin

Following contributed photos, documents, material towards the Exhibit:

Museum and Archives of the All Cossacks' Union of San Francisco
Museum of Russian Culture San Francisco
National Archives of the Russian Federation
House of Russians Abroad A, Solzhenitsyn
Dr. Amir Khisamutdinov, historian, Far Eastern Branch Russian Academy of Sciences
Dr. Tatiana Tabolina, historian, Cossack book & archives
Vladimir Zhiganov book "Russian Shanghai"
Dr. Victoria Sharonova, historian, Russian Academy of Sciences
Congress of Russian Americans "Biographical dictionary of Russian-Americans"
Family Gregory K. Bologoff collections, letters & photos
Family Tretiakoff-Suhonos photo collections of Cossack Union
Motoviloff-Bolshakoff-Buick family photo collections
Shestakov-von Freiberg-Sabelnik photo collections of Cossack Union & Shanghai
Halaj-Chekene family photos and misc. news articles & internet portals



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