



For Immediate Release

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93 Year Old Russian Orthodox Local Woman Gets Wish Fulfilled

Hospice of Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara City Fire Department, and Russian Orthodox Priests from Los Angeles Help Make Dream Come True

Santa Barbara, CA, June 14, 2007—Her family fled Russia during the Bolshevik Revolution and ended up in Santa Barbara but Galina Sakharoff-Mashek has stayed true to her Russian Orthodox Church background ever since.

Among the founders of Santa Barbara's Russian Orthodox churches, St. Vladimir and Holy Resurrection, Sakharoff-Mashek was in the choir and painted some of the many religious icons in the St. Vladimir chapel.

Today, in anticipation of the end of her life, Sakharoff-Mashek has asked to be consecrated and blessed in the church she spent much of her life in and to once more smell the incense and see the religious icons of her youth.

Unfortunately, both churches no longer maintain regular worship services with Russian Orthodox priests—so, with the help of Hospice of Santa Barbara and the local fire department, Sakharoff-Mashek's dream will become a reality.

Hospice of Santa Barbara is bringing in a Russian Orthodox Priest from Los Angeles who will be in priestly garb to lead the special blessing.

Because Holy Resurrection requires walking up seven steps, the Santa Barbara Fire Department will help raise Sakharoff-Mashek utilizing a special chair. Hospice of Santa Barbara also arranged for EasyLift Transportation to transport Sakharoff-Mashek to and from her Santa Barbara residence.

***Holy Resurrection (Russian) Orthodox Church is an historic structure tucked away in downtown Santa Barbara, at the corner of Castillo and Victoria streets. Its interior is richly decorated with icons. Its members see themselves as part of the Orthodox Church in exile, a movement that originated in 1923 in Serbia, with Russian émigrés fleeing from Bolshevism.

--MEDIA ADVISORY--

What: A wish fulfilled for Galina Sakharoff Mashek

Who: Sakharoff-Mashek, her daughter Marianna Mashek, Russian Orthodox Priest from Los Angeles, Hospice of Santa Barbara representatives, and the Santa Barbara City Fire Department

Where: 11:30 SHARP. St. Vladamirs, 1328 Castillo Sakharoff-Mashek visits chapel w/icons

12 Noon. Holy Resurrection Russian Orthodox Church, Castillo and Victoria Streets, where Sakharoff-Mashek receives blessing from Russian Orthodox Priests

When: Saturday, June 16, 11:30 am AND 12 noon