This is the time we usually return from our summer vacations and settle into our normal schedules of work, school, church and family. Autumn is almost upon us and winter is a few months away.

But Spring and Summer of 2020 has been nowhere near normal during this very trying and unique year. The obvious reason for the turmoil in our lives is, of course, the Covid-19 Pandemic. Its impact on our lives has been tremendous whether we’re elderly, middle aged, young adults, children or toddlers. All of us have felt the pressures and complications of living in this Pandemic era.

Various people among our parish members, neighbors, friends and even our own family have strong and even conflicting opinions as to the dangers, veracity and official responses of the medical community and government representatives regarding our current state of affairs. Should we be bowled over, paralyzed, and swept away in torrents of despair and confusion over our cataclysmic state of affairs? Should masks, distancing, sanitizing, the closure of businesses, and especially, the curtailing of our Church Services, ceremonies, sacraments and rituals bring us to the brink of depression and dark despair?

What should we, Orthodox Christians, do in these deeply trying times? Certainly, not DESPAIR! The simple and obvious solution, but often ignored, is to live a true Orthodox Christian Life. If we seek God and His Truth FIRST, all else in our life will fall into place. Saint Seraphim of Sarov reveals to us a spiritual gem of wisdom regarding Orthodox Christian Spirituality. “Acquire the Spirit of Peace,” he says, “and a thousand souls around you will be saved.”

How does one “acquire the Spirit of Peace”? If we live by God’s Commandments, if we follow the Rule of the Church, if we treasure love for God and love for our fellow man, we have nothing to fear, nothing to dread. The Lord Jesus Christ said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Emboldened with this gift from Our Lord Jesus Christ, we can face any obstacle, any shortcoming, turmoil or trouble, pandemic, riot, revolution or natural disaster. Prophet Isaiah emboldens us with a Biblical surety, “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

“For we do not fear your terror, and we are not troubled, for God is with us.”

“Страха же вашего не убоимся, ниже смутимся: Яко с нами Бог.” GOD IS WITH US.
THEOLOGICAL QUESTION FOR ARCHPRIEST STEFAN

WHAT WILL STOP THE PANDEMIC?

By God’s Providence, we are all given the gift of living at a certain time, place, and era which is most beneficial for our salvation. For us who are alive today, this era is the World Wide Pandemic. We may argue about its veracity and origins, even debate strategies on dealing with it, but the fact is we are all in this together.

While we moan and groan over Sheltering-in-Place, those who came before us had much greater events and conditions to face and overcome than we do. Think of all the hardships people had to suffer during The Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, plagues, the 400-year Muslim Occupation, the 70-year Communist Rule of Russia, two World Wars, countless revolutions, and thousands of natural disasters of every stripe. It can be said that throughout history, every generation of mankind has suffered some form of hardship.

For atheists, these are all random flukes of nature, blind fate, and fickle quirks of happenchance. But for those living in faith who believe the Lord’s word – “even the very hairs of your head are all numbered” (Mathew 10:30) – they know in their hearts that everything occurs by Divine Will or Divine Allowance (по воле Божий или Божественному попущению).

Orthodox Christians should always respond to all circumstances in such a way that whatever does occur, we may learn a spiritual lesson and grow in our Christian understanding of life. It’s self-evident that in our own life, we should always thank God for all things and strive to live honorable lives, not only in the sight of our fellow neighbors but also to please our invisible Guardian Angel and (lest we forget) the Ubiquitous God Almighty. As a Nation, a tribe, and as a family, we must all repent, change our communal sinful ways, and reject every form of evil and depravity. Then, and only then, will God allow all our troubles to fade away and brighter seasons will return.

All this begins with our individual spiritual conversion to the true Orthodox Christian Godly Life which is lived according to God’s Commandments, the Rule of The Church, and the Law of Love for God and our fellow man. Without this, even in a perfect environment, we are individually and communally lost.
WHAT IS NEW IN OUR CHURCH?
Dimitry Bobroff

Despite the current pandemic and its lockdown, a number of projects on our 2020 Stewardship List did get accomplished, or are in the process of doing so. The next time you come to Church, notice the following:

1. The altar ceiling was painted a beautiful light blue color while the walls were painted off white. The painting extends well into the nave. Alyosha Baranoff was the Project Manager.

2. The iconostasis was painted a golden color. This was a personal project undertaken by Father Deacon Alexandre Sarandinaki during the initial weeks of the pandemic. The painting was extremely laborious for him because of its delicate nature. It also required using a small brush.

3. Two large exhaust fans have replaced our old fans to improve air circulation in the Church. Oleg Bolshakoff was the Project Manager.

4. Viewers who watch our Church Services online have noticed the vast improvement in the quality of our Livestream. Aleksey Kovalenko was the Project Manager. Read his accompanying article in this issue.

5. Starting in August, due to the new Covid-19 Pandemic State and County health regulations, we had to switch our by-invitation-only church services from indoors to outdoors. Thanks to several benefactors and a team of volunteers, three shade structures, outdoor speakers, a comprehensive audio system, and a large TV were installed in front of the Church. For each outdoor service, icon stands and candle stands are placed near the front door. We sincerely thank all who were involved in the transfer.

6. Fabrication of stained-glass windows #4 and #5 has slowed down due to the pandemic. The next two windows will depict the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood in St. Petersburg (window #4) and Saint Basil’s Cathedral in Red Square in Moscow (window #5). Both Svetlana Avdeeva and Olga Parr have spent countless hours designing the windows.

7. Bill Gilchrist continues managing the Bell Project to replace, or add to, our current church bells. He is working diligently with Andrei Roudenko and a bell company representative.

8. Our website continues to be our Church’s main communication tool since its launch in November 2019. Please continue to visit daily for any new messages. http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/

9. Despite hard economic times, our Stewardship pledges are 72% of our $60,000 target. If you are able, please pledge to our Stewardship Fund.

Published with the blessing of His Eminence Kyrill, Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America, Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.
Before the coronavirus pandemic started, most of us had the opportunity to attend Burlingame Church Services in person any time we wished. Nevertheless, Father Stefan was always thinking and praying for all the faithful who were housebound with serious health problems as well as those who lived in remote locations with no Church nearby.

Consequently, several years ago, our Burlingame Church established Livestream, which is video and audio broadcasting via YouTube, giving people the opportunity to participate in our Church Services remotely. We constantly heard from viewers all over the world, telling us how grateful they were for being able to watch the services and feeling a part of our parish. Electronically, we became part of their lives and they became part of our lives.

Our initial set-up included a very basic USB camera and a single voice-recording microphone. People who watched remotely were very patient and did not complain about the less-than-perfect livestream quality. However, once the pandemic started and no one except clergy and a few choir members were allowed inside the Church, we all noticed the poor quality of livestream transmission in comparison to the quality of transmission offered by other parishes around the world.

Exactly at that moment, God sent us a person (who wishes to remain anonymous), proposing to improve the broadcast quality and volunteering to cover all the required expenses to do so. While working jointly together, it took multiple attempts and many discussions before we were able to shape the livestream operations into what we have today. The procedural improvements were a challenge, especially the automated start/stop operations and the remote control for scene selection. Currently, we have a pretty stable and mature solution in place.

Our system includes a PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) camera with a 10x optic zoom lens and two directional microphones. One is under the dome and another is behind the Saint Nikolai Icon on the right. Both microphones are connected to the X-18 audio mixer. All these high-tech devices allow us to produce super quality which can be enjoyed when in-person attendance is not possible.

It’s easy to access Livestream from our parish website. By clicking on “Livestream,” you will be brought to our YouTube channel of “Church of All Russian Saints - Burlingame,” which contains recordings of our previous services. During live streaming, you will see the “LIVE” mark near or on the video. While watching the video, you can see comments posted by other viewers, or post one of your own.

When you are present inside the Church during a service, please remember that our new directional microphones are very sensitive and can catch your voice almost everywhere inside the main church hall, especially by the Altar.

Our Livestream support team consists of Aleksey Kovalenko, Vladimír Ryaboi and his son, Eugene. It is truly a team effort to make Livestream possible. We are open to any suggestions and complaints, so please don’t hesitate to step forward and share your thoughts with us.
On July 13, 2020, long-time parishioner and choir member, George K. Merdinian, reposed in the Lord at the age of 98. A kind, gentle and generous man, he was born in Russia and during his immigration was one of the orphans of Saint John’s Saint Tikhon’s Home in China. Later in the U.S., he had an illustrious 50-year career as a medical radiation engineer during which he invented many electronic and metallurgical tools. May his soul find peace in the Kingdom of Heaven.

For several years, our choir has worked to support the Orthodox School in Bethany in the Holy Land. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has managed to distract us from our campaign. The last fundraiser that our choir hosted was back on “Super Bowl Sunday” in February. We are pleased to announce that last month, we have resumed our efforts.

The pandemic has affected the Orthodox School no less than the rest of the world. Their already perilous condition has only intensified. Going forward, during each even-numbered month, we will have a special, separate plate available for cash or check donations for the School at our Church. Donations can also be given directly to Alexei Baranoff (treasurer) or Marina Roudenko (choir). Alternatively, we invite you to please send check donations by mail, addressed to the Church of All Russian Saints; 744 El Camino Real, Burlingame, CA 94010. Checks should be made out to Church of All Russian Saints. Please indicate “BETHANY SCHOOL” in the “memo” line of your check.

We ask all of our parishioners and friends to pray for our choir members and their families, to grant them physical health and spiritual strength. One of the works that we have been studying is Тебе Боже хвalthy (Te Deum), which is a hymn of thanksgiving. This is to enable us to give thanks in song for our ability to worship God in general, and for His protection, while we navigate towards the time when government restrictions on church activities are rescinded.
When priests are asked what is the best way to raise children, many say, “Make Church an important part of their lives.” Our newly ordained sub-deacon Alexei Baranoff and his wife, Anastasia, are the products of two families who did just that, raising them and their siblings to place the Orthodox Church above all else. Alexei Baranoff, known affectionately as Alyosha, is the son of Vladimir Baranoff and Ludmilla Baranoff Colver of Sacramento. They also have a daughter named Helena (Sashkie). Church attendance was instilled in both children at an early age by their parents and grandparents. Orthodoxy was brought into their home with daily prayers and celebrations of namesdays and feast days.

Alyosha was baptized at the Holy Ascension Church in downtown Sacramento. His family also attended the Church of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women in West Sacramento. He served as an altar boy from an early age until age 18 or 19.

“I have many fond memories of priests and clergy with whom I served over the years,” says Alyosha. “They include Archbishop Anthony (Medvedev) and Protodeacon Nikolai Porshnikoff of the Holy Virgin Cathedral. When they came to Sacramento on parish feast days, I was always thrilled to be assigned to hold the zhezl (the bishop’s staff) and to be in the middle of the processions, surrounded by all these giants of our Church.”

Outside of church, Alyosha attended summer Scouts’ camps organized by St. George Pathfinders. Then, as age 15, he went to his first youth conference in Bethesda, Maryland, followed by the All Diaspora Youth Conference in Chicago in 1999. As he grew older, he attended Balls and fundraisers in New York City and even flew to Saint Petersburg, Russia with a group of young ROCOR adults from America. Saint Petersburg is where he met his future wife, Anastasia Kotar!

Unlike Alyosha, Anastasia grew up in San Francisco and attended St. John’s Academy and Sts. Cyril and Methodius Russian School on Saturdays. Known as Tasia, she is the daughter of Archpriest Alexis and Matushka Natalie Kotar and is a descendant of generations of priests. Her father, Archpriest Alexis, was first a deacon serving at Holy Virgin Cathedral under Bishop Anthony (Medvedev). Then in 2001, he was ordained into the priesthood and assigned to be rector of Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Seattle, Washington.

“Attending church was a given on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings,” says Tasia. “Since I loved to sing, I joined two Cathedral choirs in San Francisco, one that sang at the early service and one that sang at the late service. I also joined the children’s choir. I loved attending St. John’s Academy because the school celebrated all major and minor feast days that occurred during weekdays.”

In 2001 at age 15, Tasia moved with her parents, sister Liza, and brother Gregory to Seattle where Tasia was able to share her church singing experience at their new parish. She enrolled in an accelerated high school program that enabled students to simultaneously finish their last two years of high school and first two years of college. She was accepted into the Art History
Department at Seattle University and graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree in that field.

“My faith in Orthodoxy grew through the years by watching my parents,” she says. “They both serve the Church humbly and with simple yet unwavering fervor. As holidays approached, they would talk about them and the various traditions that we uphold.”

As a young woman, Tasia attended many youth conferences and pilgrimages mostly on the East Coast. Her most memorable one was the youth pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2007, led by Archbishop Peter Loukianoff. But the trip that changed her life was the one to Saint Petersburg arranged by the Synod Youth Council in January 2010. Standing in front of Saint Isaac’s Cathedral in minus 30 degree weather, waiting for the Liturgy to begin, Tasia and Alyosha started chatting with one another.

“I felt very much at ease talking to Alyosha as if time didn’t exist,” remembers Tasia. “Every time we talked afterward, it felt as if there were just the two of us.”

Upon returning from the conference, Alyosha made several trips to Seattle, becoming more and more infatuated with Tasia with each visit. With time, Tasia began looking forward to his visits as well and they started dating in May 2010. In December, the couple became engaged and in July 2011, a joyous wedding was held at the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco. Many friends and family members from San Francisco, Sacramento, Seattle and the Bay Area attended.

The newlyweds rented a little house in the Sunset District of San Francisco. Although they attended services at the Cathedral, they were drawn to the warmth and vibrant parish life in the Burlingame Church. Tasia had no problem finding a job. Having been an event planner in Seattle at a non-profit which supported many arts organizations, she was quickly hired to be a Senior Account Manager for an online wine company called Vinfolio. She also began studying to be a sommelier.

Meanwhile, Alyosha continued to work as Project Manager for Con-Quest Contractors, a General Engineering Construction firm. He had started there in 2008. “Con-Quest has a highly skilled team that specializes in transportation and infrastructure projects in the heavy industrial sector,” he explains. “We have successfully completed many high profile jobs in the Bay Area.”

Alyosha’s dedicated work ethic does not stop on weekends. At the Church of All Russian Saints, Alyosha has been the Project Manager for the repair of the four small cupolas and the large cupola on the roof. He has supervised the renovation of the rental property next door. He has planted climbing jasmine vines at the front fence, and worked on many other projects as well. In 2015, he organized the annual Fill-a-Box Food Drive for Call Primrose. And last but not least, he has served as Church Treasurer since 2013.

During the Church’s 2019 Feast Day, His Eminence Kyrill, Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America, ordained Alyosha to be a Reader. Then this year on June 21, Archbishop Kyrill elevated him to be a sub-deacon with the blessing of Alyosha’s spiritual father, Archpriest Stefan. All immediate members of the Baranoff and Kotar families attended the ordination.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has also blessed the young couple with children. After buying a house in the East Bay, they welcomed their first child in 2016 and named her Kassiana Alexis. Their baby boy arrived two years later and was named Anthony Alexei. “We are raising the children the same way our parents raised us,” says Tasia. “We take them to Church every weekend and on major holidays. And we talk to the children about the Church and her traditions.

“I sing in the choir and keep the children by my side while Alyosha serves with Father Stefan and Father Deacon Alexandre Sarandinaki,” she continues. “We’re blessed to have an extremely understanding choir conductor who encourages young mothers to bring their children to the choir loft so that they can learn the church service and music from an early age. This is such a gift for our children. I pray that they learn to love church life as much as we do.”
Above Left: Starosta Ivan Afanasiev greets His Eminence Kyrill, Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America.

Above Right: Bishop Kyrill ordains Alexei to be a sub-deacon. Other clergy in the photograph are Hierodeacon Peter Karakozoff, Father Deacon Alexandre Sarandinaki, and Archpriest Alexis Kotan.

Right: Bishop Kyrill blesses the parishioners.
Right: Bishop Kyrill prays with Archpriest Stefan in front of the Feast Day Icon.

Left: Sub-deacon Alexei and Reader Gregory Kotar, brothers-in-law, read the Apostles in English and Slavonic.
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:

Alternatively, the link to the Church Services is also available on the church website at:
http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/

Thank you to Constantine Belonogoff for graciously sponsoring the printing cost of this issue in memory of his wife Natasha Belonogoff.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER + OCTOBER

PARISH RUSSIAN SCHOOL
A start date has not been scheduled due to the pandemic.

RUSSIAN SCHOOL WHITE BALL
No date has been announced.

SISTERHOOD LUNCHEONS
None have been scheduled.

PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS
None scheduled.

If the San Mateo County Health Department lifts restrictions on social gatherings, we will start classes and offer events for our students and parishioners. Please check our Church website often for the latest news.

http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/

CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS
A Parish of the Western American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia
744 El Camino Real, Burlingame, CA 94010
http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/
Rector: Mitred Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko
Cell: (650) 430-9805
See the schedule of services on the Church website:
http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/

PARISH NEWSLETTER STAFF
Editor - Ludmilla Bobroff
Art Designer - Xenia Maximow
Photographers - Dimitry Bobroff, Lena Gauschieldt, and Matushka Natalie Kotar
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 2020
Please support our advertisers. All proceeds from ad sales go to the Stewardship Fund. If you would like your business card to appear in the next issue of the Newsletter, please contact Dimitry Bobroff at jbobroff@aol.com. Cost is $25. Deadline for submitting cards and sending checks (made out to Church of All Russian Saints) is October 1st.

**SALES DIRECTORY**

**DENTIST**

Andrei Roschkowsky, D.D.S.
351 N. San Mateo Drive
San Mateo, CA 94401
(650) 344-7635

**ELECTRICIAN**

KLESTOFF ELECTRIC
Alex Klestoff
Electrical Contractor
Lic. No. 384406 C-10
2636 Isabel Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403
Cell: 650-483-6988
Home: 650-349-4925
klestoffam@msn.com

**FUNERAL HOME**

John F. Crosby
2 Park Road
Burlingame, California 94010
Tel: 650-342-6617 Fax: 650-342-0515
Mobile: 650-759-3322
wecare@crosby-ngray.com

**HOME FOR THE ELDERLY**

Russian Home of St. Vladimir, Inc.
Русский Дом Святого Владимира
376 - 20th Avenue
Office: (415) 221-4331
Fax: (415) 221-4332
San Francisco CA 94121-2245

**PAVING AND CONCRETE**

Alex Sarandinaki
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
23098 Connecticut Street
Hayward, CA 94545
O: 510-770-1150 x24
F: 510-770-1151
C: 510-789-3044
alex@blackdiamondpaving.com
License 717849
BLACKDIAMONDPAVING.COM

**REAL ESTATE**

Tatiana Kirasirova
REALTOR®
CalBRE # 01819256
180 El Camino Real
San Bruno, CA 94066
Direct: (650) 246-3516
Fax: (650)583-0738
Mobile: (415) 370-4836
Tatiana@RealEstatebyTatiana.com
www.RealEstateByTatiana.com
Mila Baranoff-Colver
REALTOR®
CalBRE # 00587727
2280 Del Paso Road, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834
MBaranoff@GoLyon.com
916.704.8347 Cell
916-574-8800 Office
916-889-7052 Fax
LYON
REAL ESTATE
Golyon.com

West & Praszker
Realtors, Inc.
1812 Noriega Street, San Francisco, CA 94122-4398
wprealtors.com
Tanya Bolshakoff
Ofc: (415) 661-5300
Fax: (415) 661-3176
Cell: (650) 291-7289
svetlichok38@gmail.com
BRE License #01468618

Open 7 days a Week
Monday - Saturday
6:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Sunday
6:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
245 California Drive
 Burlingame, CA 94010
(650) 347-9440
Basim Azar

healthy
feet store
“Doctor Recommended
Orthopedic, Therapeutic
& Diabetic Footwear”

Elaine Zolfarelli
Administrator
email: Admin@BrooksideNursing.com

BROOKSIDE
SKILLED NURSING
2620 Flores Street
San Mateo, California 94403
Telephone 650/349-2161 ext 16
Fax 650/349-4990
“A St. John’s Volunteers Facility”

Jana Gesinger
Administrator
Jana@StJohnKronstadt.com
4432 James Avenue
Castro Valley, California 94546
510-889-7000 EXT 2312
510-508-4987 (CELL)

AMOS TAX SERVICE
MELVIN AMOS JR
Tax Preparation • Personal & Small Business
32733 Regents Blvd • Union City, CA 94587
(510) 487-6208 Fax (510) 952-0003
mivnj@aol.com

990 Industrial Rd. Ste 106
San Carlos, CA 94070
650-489-4035
650-508-8518
miles.rebarts@gmail.com
www.rebarts.com
Miles Krause

HOME FOR THE ELDERLY