



19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, CA 95450 ■ 707.847.3437 ■ [info@fortross.org](mailto:info@fortross.org) ■ [www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org)

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**Also please consider becoming a member of Fort Ross Conservancy** to ensure our work of promoting and protecting Fort Ross continues: <http://www.fortross.org/join.htm>.

This online repository, funded by Renova Fort Ross Foundation, is brought to you by Fort Ross Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) and California State Park cooperating association. FRC's mission is to connect people to the history and beauty of Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks.

# Fort Ross 2012 The Bicentennial Conference

April 24-26, 2012  
Santa Rosa, California



Eric Wilder 2012



Il'ia Gavrilovich Voznesenskii 1841

In this Bicentennial year, six organizations have come together to focus on the place now known as Fort Ross State Historic Park, one of the few historic parks in the California Park system. As we know, many parks now face closure, and this is a particular threat to historic state parks, since their closure threatens much more than simply the loss of the physical space. At issue as well is the history of the many peoples who came here and created a functioning intercultural community – a historical record which offers a precious lesson to the world in this new millennium.

The **Society of Living Traditions** is a public charitable foundation which honors the heritage of all peoples, perceives traditional expression as something which continues to evolve in the modern world, and creates ways for the methods of ancient tradition to be directly and actively experienced by modern communities at both ends of the bridge constructed by this communication.

The **Kashaya**, the first people known to have lived in the area that is now Fort Ross, still inhabit the region. The local native people consider their name to be “People From the Top of the Land”. The name Kashaya, which means “expert gamblers,” was given to them by a neighboring Pomo group. The Kashaya are one of seven groups speaking what linguists call the Pomoan languages.

**California Department of Parks and Recreation** manages more than 270 park units, which contain the finest and most diverse collection of natural, cultural, and recreational resources to be found in California.

The **Fort Ross Conservancy** (formerly Fort Ross Interpretive Association) is a non-profit organization which promotes for the benefit of the public the interpretive and educational activities of the Russian River Sector of California State Parks at Fort Ross State Historic Park and Salt Point State Park.

The **Renova Fort Ross Foundation** is a public charitable foundation formed in 2010 by the Renova Group of Companies, a leading Russian business group, to provide support to California’s Fort Ross State Park, an important milestone of friendship between the United States and Russia. The Foundation’s mission is to promote the preservation and to raise awareness of California’s Fort Ross State Park.

**Fort Ross 2012** commemorates the 200 years of natural, cultural, and human history of Fort Ross, and to increase public interest and preserve the rich and vital legacy for future generations through a series of special events featuring the diverse influence of many peoples.

We are grateful to the following for their sponsorship:

*Renova Fort Ross Foundation* (see above)

*Schulz Foundation*

Located in Santa Rosa, the Foundation operates the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, whose goal is to preserve, display, and interpret the art of Charles M. Schulz.

*Fort Ross Winery*

The Fort Ross Vineyard and Winery is the closest vineyard to the old Russian settlement of Fort Ross, and is located in an area which has just received approval of an Appellation of Origin of its own

*Hellenthal Vineyards*

Owned by the Hellenthal family, the vineyard lies at 1200 feet elevation five miles from the ocean.

*Timber Cove Inn*

A hotel in the Fort Ross neighborhood, perched on a cliff that overlooks the wild coast. It features a “peace obelisk” a totem pole sculpture by Bene Bufano.

*Sonoma County Tourism*

When you’re in Sonoma Wine Country, you’re more than a guest, you’re a new friend!

Fort Ross 2012, The Bicentennial Conference  
Santa Rosa, California, April 24-26, 2012

**NOTES ON PRESENTERS**

- Jocelyn AHLERS is Associate Professor of Linguistics in the Liberal Studies Department at California State University, San Marcos. A linguistic anthropologist, she works on the documentation and revitalization of Native California languages.
- James ALLAN is a historical archaeologist with a specialty in maritime archaeology. He is Lecturer in the Anthropology Department at Saint Mary's College in California and Vice-President and Principal of William Self Associates, Inc., an archaeological consulting firm.
- ARCHIMANDRITE IRENEI is the Dean and Director of Studies of the Institute for Orthodox Studies in San Francisco, an Archimandrite of the Russian Orthodox Church, and an established scholar of patristics and early Church history.
- Katherine L. ARNDT is on the staff of the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- Polina BARSKOVA is Assistant Professor of Russian literature at Hampshire College, and is widely recognized as one of the best Russian poets under the age of 40. She is the author of the poem which is part of the multimedia presentation "The Politics of Romance at the Birth of Russian California"
- Paul BELASKY is Professor of Geography at Ohlone College. He composed the original music which is part of the multimedia presentation "The Politics of Romance at the Birth of Russian California"
- Dawn L. BLACK is a former teacher, video/photo communications company owner, and hydrogen energy Alaska grant winner. She is the author of several published conference presentations and one major historical book.
- John CLOUD is a geographer, writer, and editor at the Central Library of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- Christopher COOK is editor and publisher of *Forks Forum*.
- Timothy L. DILLIPLANE, Colonel (Ret.) in the U.S. Army, is currently Officer-in-Charge of Army ROTC at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. He is the co-founder of the International Association of Specialists on Russian America.
- Katherine M. DOWDALL holds the position of Caltrans Archaeologist. She has worked in conjunction with the elders of the Kashaya Pomo for over twenty years.
- Rob EDWARDS is Instructor Emeritus in the Department of Anthropology at Cabrillo College. He began working at Fort Ross as a park aide in the 1960s, and brought many field classes to Fort Ross in the 1970s.
- A.N. ERMOLAEV is at the Institute of Human Ecology of Kemerovo State University in central Siberia (Russian Federation).

- Daniel MARKWYN is Professor Emeritus in the Department of History at Sonoma State University, where he taught classes on California history with emphasis on the Spanish and Californio periods.
- Antoinette MARTINEZ is Chair of the Department of Anthropology at California State University, Chico. Her research centers on interethnic households formed by unions of local native California women and native Alaskan men.
- W. Michael MATHES is Emeritus Professor at the University of San Francisco. He is a specialist in early California history who is particularly interested in the Hispanic side of the Russian occupation of Ross.
- Chuna MCINTYRE is a Yup'ik Eskimo. An artist and educator, he is interested in linguistic and costume elements in Heritage Revival.
- George MCKALE has twenty years of experience conducting prehistoric and historical cultural research studies throughout California. He currently holds the honorary position of official historian for the City of Sonoma.
- Dave MCMAHAN is Alaska State Archaeologist, and Deputy State Historic Preservation officer with the Office of History and Archaeology of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.
- Margarita MENIALENKO is Chief Archivist at the Museum of Russian Culture in the Russian Center of San Francisco, which is the largest independent archive supported by Russians outside Russia.
- John MIDDLETON is Research Adviser to the Fort Ross Interpretive Association. He is also an elected Foreign Member of the Centre for Research on Russian America and Russian-American Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences.
- Alex MIKOVIC is an independent scholar and artist based in Rochester, N.Y. He took the photographs which are part of the multimedia presentation "The Politics of Romance at the Birth of Russian California".
- Susan MORRIS has been involved in archaeology, geology, and paleontology projects in the Channel Islands for the past fifteen years. Her current project is an educational web resource to be hosted by Channel Islands National Park.
- Daniel F. MURLEY is currently Director of the Sonoma County Heritage Network, and previously Curator/Director of the Healdsburg Museum and District and field State Park Ranger for the district including Fort Ross.
- Breck PARKMAN is Senior State Archaeologist for the Diablo Valley District of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.
- Otis PARRISH is an Elder of the Kashaya Pomo. He is the son of Essie Parrish, the last healer of the Kashaya Pomo.
- Violet PARRISH CHAPPELL is an Elder of the Kashaya Pomo. She is the eldest surviving daughter of Essie Parrish, the last healer of the Kashaya Pomo.
- Vivian PARRISH WILDER is an Elder of the Kashaya Pomo. She is a teacher of the Pomo language, and the daughter of Essie Parrish, the last healer of the Kashaya Pomo.

# Conference Schedule

## Tuesday Morning

8:30 - Marion MacDonald (*Society of Living Traditions*)  
Kashaya Elders  
Breck Parkman (*California State Parks*)  
**Welcome and Introductions**

## Plenary Session

9:00 - Violet Parrish Chappell and Vivian Parrish Wilder (*Kashaya elders*)  
**Opening Ceremony**

9:10 - Eric Wilder (*Kashaya artist*) and Otis Parrish (*Kashaya Elder*)  
**Kashaya Pomo: Our Relationship with the Land**

9:35 - Kent Lightfoot (*University of California, Berkeley*)  
**History of Archaeological Research at Fort Ross**

10:00 - Alexander Petrov (*Russian Academy of Sciences*)  
**Fort Ross in the History of Russian America and California**

10:25 *Coffee break*

10:40 - Glenn Farris (*Fort Ross Conservancy*)  
**Californios and the Fort Ross Settlement**

11:05 - Daniel F. Murley (*Sonoma County Heritage Network*)  
**Native Alaskans in the Service of the Russian American Company**

11:30 - Sandra Hollimon (*Santa Rosa Junior College*)  
**Fort Ross: A Study in Cultural Identities**

## Wednesday Morning

### Contacts of Cultures I

9:00 - Katherine Arndt (*University of Alaska, Fairbanks*)  
**Transplanted to a Northern Clime: California Wives and Children in Russian Alaska**

9:25 - Susan Smith-Peter (*CUNY, Staten Island*)  
**Creoles in Fort Ross**

9:50 - John Johnson (*Chugash Alaska corporation*)  
**Nuchek-Alutiiq Builders at Fort Ross**

10:15 *Coffee break*

10:35 - A. N. Ermolaev (*Kemerovo State University*)  
**Siberians in Service at Fort Ross**

### **Multimedia performance**

11:00 Paul Belasky (*Ohlone College*)  
Inna Razumova (*San Francisco City College*)  
Polina Barskova (*Hampshire College*)  
Alex Miokovic (*Independent scholar and artist*)  
Katherine Pizarro-Grant (*University of California, Berkeley*)

**Politics of Romance at the Birth of Russian America: Poetry and  
Multimedia Interactions**

## Thursday Morning

### History I

8:45 - A.V. Grinev (*St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University*)  
Foreign Threats to Russian America: Myths and Reality

9:15 - I. A. Saveliev (*Northern Arctic Federal University*)  
Colonial Law in Russian America

9:40 - Tom Roth (*Chief of Staff for Senator Noreen Evans*)  
The Rich Environment of the Sonoma Coast

9:50 - John Cloud (*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*)  
The Mapping of the Californian Coast in the Nineteenth Century

10:15 - *Coffee break*

10:30 - Jeffrey H Solomon (*Kelley House Museum, Mendocino*)  
"The Appearance of a Foreign Intercourse": Representations of Empire in John Ledyard's Journal of Captain Cook's Last Voyage

10:55 - Timothy L. Dilliplane (*Massachusetts Maritime Academy*)  
Russian Cultural Change / Stability in Russian America: Examining Kolmakovsky Redoubt III

11:20 - Richard Sequest (*California Energy Management Institute*)  
Video presentation: The Loss of the Il'mena in Point Arena, 1820

### History II

9:00 - Glenn Farris (*Fort Ross Conservancy*)  
Finlanders at Fort Ross: Karl Schmidt to Gustav Waseurtz af Sandels

9:25 - Daniel F. Murley (*Sonoma County Heritage Network*)  
The Farallon Artel

9:50 - Daniel Markwyn (*Sonoma State University*)  
North American Fur Trade: A Glance from the North Bay in the 1830s

10:15 - *Coffee break*

10:30 - Ryan Jones (*Idaho State University*)  
Conservation of Fur-Bearing Animals in Russian America

10:55 - Mark Galperin (*Manager, Blagovest Bells*)  
Historic Russian Bells

11:20 - Jennifer Hudson (*University of Texas, Dallas*)  
Fort Ross in Historical and Cultural Memory



LYNN WOOLSEY  
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
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TELEPHONE: (202) 225-5161

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WEB PAGE AND E-MAIL:  
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April 24, 2012

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Fort Ross Bicentennial Conference, marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Russian American Settlement on the Sonoma Coast in the lands inhabited by the Kashaya and Coast Miwok.

And to our Alaskan and Russian friends - including distinguished guests from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Liquid Theater Company of Moscow - who have journeyed so far to join the conference, I want you to know that you have come to a very special place that is rich in history, culture, and natural beauty.

This bicentennial marks a truly significant period in California history. Russian explorers and fur traders established a presence along the North American coast from Alaska south to Sonoma County where Fort Ross thrived for almost 30 years. The Russians interacted with native tribes such as the Kashaya Pomo as well as the local Hispanic population and American settlers. The resulting cultural exchange enriched our region and continues to be celebrated today.

This conference, organized by the Society of Living Traditions, will provide insight and information on this transformative historic period. Again, welcome. I know you will enjoy the event and your time at Fort Ross.

Sincerely,



Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress