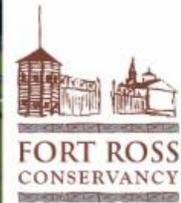


APRIL 2018



Fort Ross & Salt Point News

Dear friends of Fort Ross and Salt Point,

As the months accelerate it's difficult to believe we are nearly to May, 2018. To quote the brilliant David Byrne ... how did we get here?

The one upside is that we've got some great events scheduled for this Spring and Summer.

- On May 6th, the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary is organizing an expertly guided 4-mile [Whale and Wildflower Hike at Salt Point](#).
- On May 19th, Alaska Native Day brings the Alaska Native diaspora to Fort Ross to share their often under-represented stories of their people at Ross during the Russian era. It's a visually beautiful day with an iqyax (kayak) race in Sandy Cove, Alaska Native storytelling, dancing, and crafts.
- On May 27th, get your crafty groove on with a [Relief Printing](#) class at Fort Ross. We'll find our inspiration outside and then we will transfer these inspirational ideas to our printing matrix, carve them on linoleum, and print. Messy and fun.
- On June 30th, we thank our wonderful volunteers who contribute so much to Fort Ross and Salt Point. Please join us for a festive, casual, and nearly speech-free celebration of our wonderful community who steward the orchard, bring our events to life, survey for plants and animals, and so much more. All volunteers are welcome! Questions? Ready to RSVP? [Email Melissa](#).
- Our July 28th Fort Ross Festival is gearing up. We are always looking for competent, crafty and fun volunteers to help us pull this big event together. If you'd like to work the event (great way to meet people and avoid gate fees), [email Melissa](#).



All details on our [Events page](#)!

Lastly, it is with a heavy heart that we include two obituaries in this newsletter. Both Manoushan Azam and Edward van der Porten dedicated considerable energy and expertise to Fort Ross over many years, and we are saddened to lose two generous members of our community.

Wishing you all a lovely, peaceful, family-filled weekend,

--Sarah

Sarah Sweedler
Fort Ross Conservancy CEO
sarahs@fortross.org

FORT ROSS IS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!



Don't miss the wildflower show!

The Salt Point Visitor Center in Gerstle Cove will be open Saturdays and Sundays throughout May. Wildflowers are just beginning to pop...don't miss the show!

The first Campfire Program of the season will be happening on Saturday, 7-8pm in the Woodside Campground Hike & Bike Area. Family fun!

Email [Mary Pat](mailto:MaryPat@saltpoint.org) if you have questions.



Whale & Wildflower Walk

Sunday, May 6th

10am-2pm

Join Greater Farallones sanctuary naturalists and a California State Park Environmental Scientist for a 4 mile coastal wildflower and whale walk! We will explore Salt Point State Park while learning about bluff, coastal prairie, and near shore coastal ecology.

Discover how State Parks are protecting and restoring these unique habitats. Pack a picnic lunch to enjoy while we keep a lookout for migrating gray whales traveling north with their calves.

[Register here.](#)

ONGOING



FRC BLOG - Beach Watch Survey

Last Monday's Beach Watch Survey was an especially active one, with many new species and a few very unusual sightings.

[Read more](#)

May 12: Free Second SATURDAYS

Free Saturday at Redwood State Parks. Please make sure to print your parking pass in advance!

See our [Events page](#) for details.

Manoushan Zangeneh Azam (1937 - 2018)



Manoushan Azam, who often went by the nickname "Shan," was born in Iran of an Iranian father and a Russian mother. He grew up speaking both languages. He trained as an architect in Iran, but emigrated to the United States shortly after the 1979-80 Islamic Revolution in his home country.

Shan was employed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation as an architect. I got to know Shan because of his deep interest in historic buildings within the State Parks system.

Because of my involvement starting in 1981 at Fort Ross and my particular work on the Old Warehouse, I was thrilled to find a person like Shan with whom I could collaborate on reconstruction plans. Shan's fluency in Russian made him the ideal go-between for planning the construction of the

Old Warehouse, being able to work closely with a Russian architectural historian, Igor Medvedev. As a trial run for the warehouse project, Shan and I were able to enlist Igor's aid in coming up with design plans for the old windmill at Fort Ross since Igor had carefully recorded just such a mill in Russia. Another project that Shan was involved in was a trinational architectural study of the Rotchev House organized by Lyn Kalani. Shan really seemed to find his work with the architecture of Fort Ross particularly rewarding and his background made him the perfect person for it. Shan also served on the Fort Ross Interpretive Association Board (FRC) for several years.

Personally, I found Shan to be a soft-spoken, highly intelligent individual with many fascinating stories about his early days in Iran, including some wry comments on the seizing of the American Embassy (which took place across the street from where his office was located) and travels to neighboring Afghanistan at the invitation of the last king of that country. I especially remember an evening spent in front of a fire at Stillwater Cove Ranch talking about a myriad of subjects. The Fort Ross community would like to express its profound sorrow to Shan's wife and children for the loss of a truly remarkable man. He is survived by Eugenia Zangeneh-Azam, wife, Bahram (Bob) Zangeneh-Azam, son, Esfandiar (Alex) Zangeneh-Azam, son, and Marina Zangeneh-Lester, daughter.

-- Glenn Farris

Edward van der Porten (1933 - 2018)



Longtime friend of Fort Ross, Fort Ross Interpretive Association's first chairman and board member from 1975 to 1980, Edward van der Porten, of Santa Rosa, recently passed away.

Born and completed high school in New York City, then deferred by the Navy because of poor eyesight and McCarthyist prejudices against his parents' German nationality, Edward earned his BA and MA in history from San Francisco State University, where he also met Saryl Corrick whom he married in 1954 and they began a life-long journey together.

Edward taught for many years in Santa Rosa city schools, where he taught US History, American Government, English, Geography, and Journalism until 1985. Later teaching at Santa Rosa Junior College, in the 1960s Edward subsequently developed an introductory archaeology class and field school aimed at protecting Native American artifacts in what was to become the Point Reyes National Seashore. Many of his SRJC students went on to make major contributions to the field of California archaeology. Edward remained director of the SRJC archaeology program until 1982 and continued as a guest lecturer to 2004.

Bringing multiple disciplines together in the field of maritime history, van der Porten perhaps became best known for his six decades of work defending his premise that Sir Francis Drake's famous 1579 landing in California was at Drakes Bay in Point Reyes National Seashore. In 2012 the National Park Service deemed Drake's Bay a national historic landmark.

An expert model builder, scholar, and author of many articles, Edward served as a founding designer of the Sonoma County Museum, worked as director of the Treasure Island Museum from 1985 to 1992, assisted the museum on the World War II Liberty ship Jeremiah O'Brien, and assisted nearly 20 museums in their work, including Fort Ross. He continued to attend FRC meetings and kept in touch with our staff over the years, for which we are very grateful.

Edward is survived by his brother, Ronald of Las Vegas, NV, son Michael of Santa Rosa, two daughters-in-law, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

-- Excerpted and edited by Hank Birnbaum



Visit our website at WWW.FORTROSS.ORG for details