



Fort Ross & Salt Point News March 2012

Fort Ross Interpretive Association

A California State Park Cooperating Association

Fort Ross, Common Ground



We are honored to have statements from both His Excellency Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, and the Honorable Ambassador Michael McFaul, addressing the Fort Ross bicentennial.

Two hundred years ago Russian settlers came to this faraway land guided by their aspiration to serve the economic and political good of their motherland. Their presence had a significant impact on the history of California ... But what is more important, Russian settlers came in peace and were good neighbors to Kashaya, Pomo, Miwok, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Americans. Two hundred years ago they established what we call today good neighborly relations with the peoples of this land. Since that time Russia and the U.S. went through different periods in their bilateral relations. There were many ups and downs in our history. But Fort Ross will always be remembered as one of the most remarkable and successful stories of our relationship. Let me express sincere gratitude to all who help maintain and preserve Fort Ross, and wish you every success in this noble cause.

-- Sergey Kislyak, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States

"I am pleased to join the many Americans and Russians who will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the founding of Fort Ross this year... The history of what the Russian-American Company did at Fort Ross, and what succeeding generations of Russians and Americans have done to preserve it, will be discussed and celebrated -- and rightly so. I wish all of those participating in the Fort Ross Bicentennial much success during this year of celebration and commemoration."

-- Michael A. McFaul, US Ambassador to the Russian Federation

Membership News -- Please Vote!



We are in the process of changing our name to the Fort Ross Conservancy. This name change better covers the breadth of our mission, to care for and support the natural, cultural, and historic lands of Fort Ross and Salt Point Parks. We are very excited about the name and all that it promises, and look forward to rolling out our new vision over the coming months.

If you are a FRIA member in good standing, you have received a ballot with two resolutions: the name change to Fort Ross Conservancy, and a request for approval of our new bylaws. Some of the substantive bylaw changes are to: 1) reflect the new name of the organization; 2) define a quorum as 51% of votes returned, not 51% of overall membership; 3) expand our objectives; 3) better clarify roles of officers and staff. Please read the revised and amended bylaws, cast your vote, and return the ballot at your earliest convenience so we can tally your votes. And if didn't receive a ballot and you are a member in good standing, please call or [email](#) our office to discuss. We want to hear from you!

New FRIA Employee



FRIA welcomes Hank Birnbaum as our newest FRIA employee. As Programs Manager, Hank will be responsible for creating and implementing programs and events at Fort Ross and beyond. In addition to his Russian language skills, Hank comes to us with a wealth of experience, including several years as a Fort Ross ELP program host and seasonal docent, thirty years of Russian-American cultural exchange work, and community-based natural and cultural tourism and related work at Lake Baikal in Siberia. We welcome Hank to our team and look forward to a busy and successful 2012.

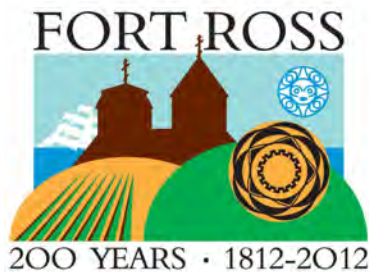
Society of Living Traditions Fort Ross Bicentennial Conference April 24 through 27, 2012 Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel, Santa Rosa, California



Please join [Society of Living Traditions](#) as they present the Fort Ross Bicentennial Conference. American and Russian experts will give three days of presentations on the establishment and growth of Fort Ross and its impact on the local area. Celebrate and commemorate 200 years of Fort Ross history with scholars, tradition bearers and performers from the United States and Russia. Tickets are available via [Brown Bag](#); [hotel accommodations at the Hyatt](#). The conference schedule:

- Monday April 23, pre-conference tour of the State Archaeological Collections in Sacramento
 - Tuesday April 24, first day of conference sessions, and exhibits at the Hyatt Vineyard Creek Hotel, Santa Rosa, showing historical, archaeological and anthropological perspectives
 - Wednesday April 25, second day of conference & ticketed lunch / performance
 - Thursday April 26, final day of conference sessions and exhibits, followed by a themed Historic Ball
 - Friday April 27, day excursion to Fort Ross, followed by a trip to Fort Ross Winery and a special site-themed performance by the acclaimed Liquid Theater Company of Moscow
 - Saturday April 28, performance of the award-winning "Antidot" by the Liquid Theater at Gualala Arts.
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Upcoming Events



Have you taken a peek at the [FRIA website](#) and [2012 Event Calendar](#) lately? The Fort Ross Bicentennial is in full swing, and we encourage you to visit the website often for the most current news. Here is a sampling of what's in store:

- March 7: Join fellow friends of Fort Ross for "Dinner at Six," a Russian-style dinner at the [Gualala Arts Center](#) to highlight the Russian presence on the Sonoma Coast.
 - March 8: [Gualala Art Center](#) will host Robin Joy, Park Interpretive Specialist at its monthly lecture series. Robin will discuss the events and programs of 2012 as well as present the history of Fort Ross and Russian American history of the Sonoma coast.
 - March 15: [Rancho Bodega Historical Society](#) presents Professor Serge Doroshov from the UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory. This presentation will highlight the science endeavors and accomplishments of the Russian American Company. Caviar will be served with drinks. Event starts at 4pm at the Bodega Marine Laboratory.
 - April 4th through April 9th: The tall ships Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain will visit Bodega Bay. Throughout the week the crew will offer day sails from Bodega Bay and visits aboard ship, as organized by the [Rancho Bodega Historical Society](#).
 - April 21: "[SpringFest](#)" at International House at UC Berkeley is an exuberant celebration of life and culture from around the globe. This year, SpringFest has chosen Russia as its country of focus, and FRIA is working with groups around the bay area to make this an eventful year.
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