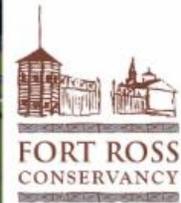


January 2018



Fort Ross & Salt Point News



Dear friends,

Welcome to 2018! The first month of the new year has come and gone far too quickly, and we are sneaking our monthly newsletter out just under the wire. If January is any indication, the new year is going to be busy!

I want to thank our supporters and members who donated to Fort Ross Conservancy at the close of 2017. We are funded primarily through grants, programming, and donations, and your generosity truly makes a difference to us, and to the students and visitors we serve every day. You are helping our wider community stay

connected to the history and beauty that is Fort Ross and Salt Point. Thank you!

Looking ahead, our event calendar is coming together and I suggest you check out our [Events page](#) for details on Fort Ross Festival, Alaska Native Day, Metini Day, Harvest Festival, and several interesting lectures and hands-on classes we've got planned. And our Volunteer Coordinator Melissa is overseeing a wide variety of [volunteer projects](#) that she's excited to share with you.

With the new year comes change, and our wonderful CFO Jan Phelps has decided to leave her staff position with Fort Ross Conservancy. Jan began volunteering in 2011, served as our CFO since 2014, and throughout that time she's been integral to our organization's growth. Equally as important, she created financial and organizational systems that we rely on each and every day. Jan's entrepreneurial spirit, laser focus, unbelievably quick turn-around, and most of all her heartfelt dedication to Fort Ross and Fort Ross Conservancy will be missed.

We have several new directors joining our board, and our staff continues to grow. For a list of the team behind the scene working to keep Fort Ross and Salt Point thriving, see our [About Us](#) webpage. These good people serve on our board, run the bookshop, provide bilingual tours and talks, bring students to our great outdoor classroom for both our Environmental Living and our Marine Ecology programs, and of course organize events big and small to inspire you to spend time in our parks.

Our public lands are a precious resource, and we Californians are blessed with a breath-taking coastline and many wonderful parks and beaches. I hope you are able to take advantage of these resources in abundance.

I welcome your emails and hope our paths soon cross at Fort Ross and Salt Point,

Sarah Sweedler
Fort Ross Conservancy CEO
sarahs@fortross.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 19th: Alaska Native Day

Celebrate the Alaska Native history at Fort Ross/Metini

May 26th: Relief Printing from Nature with Laurel Prieto

June 13th-20th: Snapshot Cal Coast

July 28th: Fort Ross Festival

Celebrate the diverse international flavors and cultures of Fort Ross — and of course, the Fort Ross Beer Garden

August 4th: Metini Day

SuNuNu Shinal Pomo Dance Group hosts the third annual Metini Day

October 13th: Harvest Festival

Apple picking at the historic orchard, harvest songs and dance at the fort compound

December 8th: Community Potluck

FRC annual holiday party



Photo by P C Miller

[Read More](#)

Dearest Volunteers,



Happy New Year from all of us at Fort Ross Conservancy!

As this year comes to an end I reflect on my first year with FRC and our outstanding community who contributes to making Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks truly unique places to visit for families near and far. From our orchard, windmill, Call House, and marine mammal volunteers who work year-round to deepen the appreciation of our cultural and natural history, to volunteers who come out for seasonal or even one-time projects, to everyone who lends a hand at our events--- thank you for making it all happen! It is refreshing

and humbling to see how much we can accomplish when people just want to help out because they truly care, want to do good, and have a good time. We are truly grateful and we wouldn't succeed without you!

I hope to see you in 2018! Have a healthy, joyous, and peaceful new year!

Sincerest regards,

Melissa McCarthy
FRC Volunteer Coordinator

[FRC's Volunteer Page](#)

Environmental Living Program Teacher Training

This month, Charon Vilnai and I led the fourth and final Environmental Living Program (ELP) Teacher Training for this school year. For months, FRC's team is in contact via email with the dedicated teachers who decide to take on an ELP as one of their annual field trips -- but for anyone who's been involved in an ELP, they know an ELP is SO MUCH MORE than a 'field trip'! Countless hours go into the preparation of

each session, from hand sewing costumes, to planning and prepping meals that will be cooked outdoors over an open fire, to handmade crafts for the trade store, and so much more. Holding these workshops and being able to meet the people behind the 'screen' is always such a treat for us. Each one of these teachers is incredibly innovative, creative and tireless! After each training, I walk away with new exciting ideas to incorporate into the program, that will make it even more magical. This year will conclude our second year managing the program, and we couldn't be happier to be working with all these wonderful teachers, parents and students! I hope to meet you all again next year!



Song Hunter
Director of Programs

[FRC's Programs Page](#)

Notes from a Field Trip to Mikhailovskoye



In Spring of 2017, Hank Birbaum traveled with a Fort Ross delegation to a conference in Pskov, Russia. While in the region Hank spent a few days in Pushkin's estate Mikhailovskoye, and Hank tells us why this history is closer to Fort Ross than first meets the eye.

[Read on for a beautiful slide show and more details.](#)

RUSSIAN FESTIVAL February 9,10 & 11

Join us to celebrate the traditions of old Russia at Russian Center of San Francisco. Free admittance to the festival if you volunteer 4 hours at the FRC table. Email info@fortross.org for details.

[Read More](#)

30th Annual Russian-American Celebration of Food, Dance, Music, & Art
--- 30TH ANNIVERSARY! ---
RUSSIAN II
2018 FESTIVAL
FEBRUARY 9, 10, & 11
ENJOY THE TRADITIONS OF OLD RUSSIA
Food, Dance, Music, Art, Crafts, Kid's Booth,
Museum, Vodka Tasting, Indoor Event
RUSSIAN CENTER OF SAN FRANCISCO
2460 Sutter St (at Divisadero) →→→
russiancenterSF.com 415.921.7631
Adults: \$12
Seniors (62+)/Students (25 & under): \$8
Children 12 & under: FREE
SPONSORED BY
SFMTA Municipal Transportation Agency
West & Prackner
Keller Pacific
Grants for the Arts of the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund
The Guzik Foundation

Visit our website at WWW.FORTROSS.ORG for details

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