

Presidio



A Monthly Publication of the Presidio Trust

Volume 4 Issue 3 March 2001



*Preserving the Presidio
as a Sustainable
National Park*

What's Inside

Energy Conservation Tips
Officers' Club Reemerges
San Francisco Film Society
Events At The Presidio
Lights, Camera, Presidio
Historian Randolph Delehanty

News Briefs

PTIP Update

Letters submitted by the public during the Presidio Trust Implementation Plan (PTIP) scoping period are now available in the Trust Library (34 Graham Street on the Main Post). A summary of comments will be available at www.presidiotrust.gov in April. In order to allow additional time to review public feedback and perform necessary analysis, the draft plan and environmental impact statement, originally scheduled for publication this month, will be available for review and comment in June. Thanks for your ongoing participation in this important process.

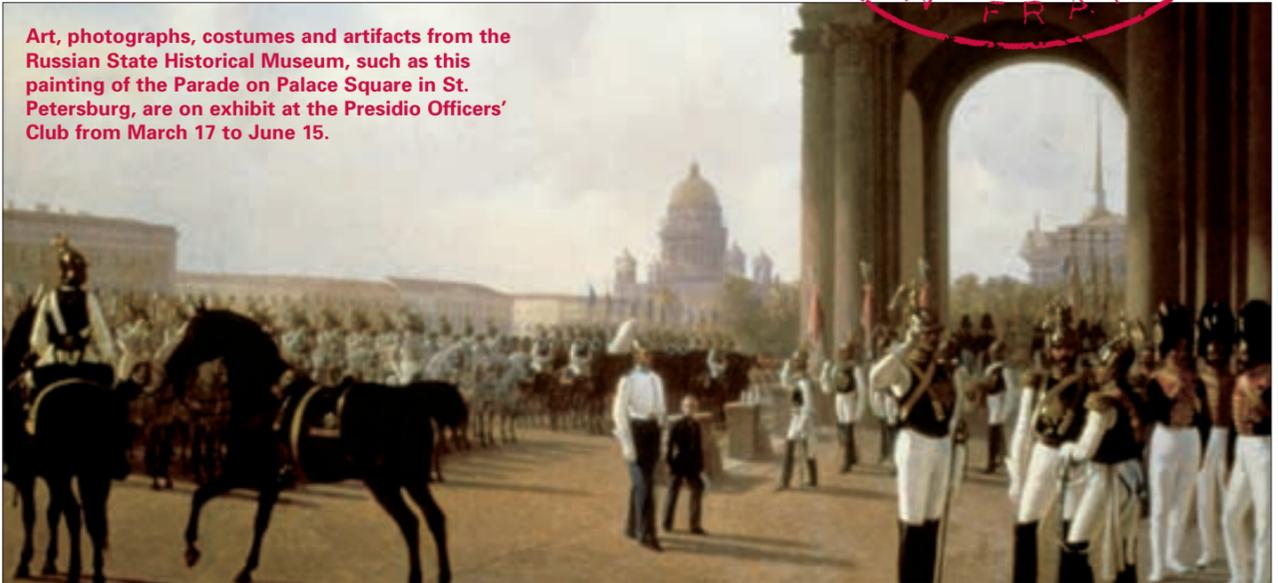
Building 35 Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the rehabilitation and long-term reuse of historic Main Post Building 35 as office space is now available for review. Rehabilitation of the 62,000 square foot former Enlisted Men's Barracks would be paid for by the tenant and completed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Historic Building Rehabilitation. The full text is posted at www.presidiotrust.gov. The review period ends on April 16, 2001. To request a copy by mail, call 415.561.5414 or email building35@presidiotrust.gov.

Presidio Post Survey

We want to know if the *Presidio Post* – the newsletter for friends and neighbors of the park – is meeting our readers' needs. Visit us online at www.presidiotrust.gov and let us know how you feel by completing a survey. Your responses will help us to create a better and more informative newsletter.

Art, photographs, costumes and artifacts from the Russian State Historical Museum, such as this painting of the Parade on Palace Square in St. Petersburg, are on exhibit at the Presidio Officers' Club from March 17 to June 15.



UNSEEN TREASURES REVEALED

IMPERIAL RUSSIA EXHIBIT OPENS AT THE NEWLY REFURBISHED OFFICERS' CLUB

The extraordinary *Unseen Treasures: Imperial Russia and the New World* exhibition, opening this month at the newly refurbished Presidio Officers' Club, takes the visitor on a surprising journey from the glittering imperial court at St. Petersburg, across vast Siberia and the North Pacific, to Alaska and Russian California. The route traces the eastward expansion of 18th and 19th century Russia, and then returns to Moscow for the coronation of Alexander II in 1856. The exhibit also showcases the Presidio as the backdrop for the intersection of the Spanish and Russian Empires at the dawn of a new century.

We've asked guest curator and Russian decorative arts expert Marilyn Swezey to take us on a select tour of some of the items you will see.



One of the first objects that visitors will encounter is a lustrous silver sculpture of Peter the Great on the deck of a stylized boat. "We see Peter looking very much like the visionary that we know he was," says Swezey. "It is as if he is looking out across Siberia to North America. We see him standing on an elaborate model of a simple wooden boat that was part of his childhood. He found that boat in a warehouse as a teenager

and learned to sail with it. It probably inspired him in his dream of founding the Russian Navy, which he eventually did."



Another exhibit highlight is a painting of Empress Alexandra Fedorovna, the German bride of Tsar Nicholas I. "This wonderful portrait shows her wearing an elaborate Russian-style gown which became standard court dress. Alexandra Fedorovna loved beautiful jewelry, and we see her here wearing several spectacular pieces. She is holding in her hand a little bouquet of fresh cornflowers that are the same color as her eyes."



The next portrait we visit bears the familiar name of Nikolai Rezanov, although this is the first time many visitors will have seen his face. He sailed to San Francisco in 1806 to trade for food supplies for the starving colonists in Russian America. It was probably not more than a few feet from where his portrait now hangs that he became engaged to Concepcion Arguello, the Presidio Commandant's daughter.

There is another side to his story, which Swezey explains. "Rezanov was a Court Chamberlain who had great visions of Russian America as an extension of the Russian Empire. He persuaded Emperor Paul to grant a 20-year monopoly to the Russian-American Company, and he came to inspect their colony. He was very discouraged by what he found and made an expedition to San Francisco looking for grain for the starving outpost at Sitka. He is one of the most important figures in the story of Russian America."

continued on Page 4...

SEE THE UNSEEN

***Unseen Treasures:
Imperial Russia and the New World***

Presidio Officers' Club

March 18 – June 15, 2001

Open Daily: 11a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesdays: Closed

Wednesdays: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Join us for the
Opening Night Reception on March 17!

For tickets, visit
www.atthepresidio.org
or call 800.965.4827.

AT THE PRESIDIO

Sustainability Spotlight

Saving Power for People

California's current energy crunch has conservation on everyone's mind. However, using energy wisely is not just a temporary solution, it's a permanent pillar of sustainable living. Here are some tips – recently shared with those who live and work at the Presidio – that can help lower energy use considerably.

Lighting

- Let the sun shine in! On sunny days, open curtains or blinds on south-facing windows. At night, close window coverings again to retain heat. If you have a large window area that does not receive direct sunlight, keep the curtains closed. Up to 16% of heat can escape through bare windows.
- Make sure your torchiere or standing lamp has the ENERGY STAR® label. Popular halogen torchiere lamps operate at temperatures of up to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit and can cause a safety threat. ENERGY STAR® lamps run at much lower temperatures – around 100 degrees Fahrenheit – and use as much as 80% less energy than halogen fixtures.
- Invest in energy efficient light bulbs. Now available at many hardware stores, compact fluorescent light bulbs will last up to ten times longer than incandescent bulbs, and use 75% less energy.

Appliances

- Did you know that washing a full load of dishes in the dishwasher actually uses less water and energy than washing them in the sink? If possible, refrain from using these major appliances during the peak hours of 4 to 7 p.m.
- Keep the coils of your refrigerator and freezer clean to ensure the machines are running at maximum efficiency.

At Work

- Turn off computers, printers and copiers when they are not in use. If you must keep your PC on, switch off the monitor when you are away from your desk.

Board Members

Donald Fisher	Mary Murphy
Jennifer L. Hernandez	William Reilly
Ira Michael Heyman	Toby Rosenblatt
Amy Meyer	

Presidio Officers' Club to Welcome Public Again

By Jim Meadows
Presidio Trust Executive Director



This month the historic Presidio Officers' Club – closed to the public for much of the last decade – will reemerge. Known affectionately as the "O" Club by military personnel and generations of Bay Area residents, the building was long the center for cultural and social interaction at the Presidio. It will be so once again as the venue for an exciting event. Unseen Treasures: Imperial Russia and the New World opens to the public on March 17.

Along with Mission Dolores, the Officers' Club is one of the

region's two oldest adobe buildings. Its architecture, which has evolved over decades, reflects the Presidio's 225 year history as a garrison under three flags. The site has housed Spanish and Mexican commanders, withstood earthquakes, and shined as the centerpiece of the Main Post – the "heart of the Presidio."

In preparation for Unseen Treasures, the Club's 5,000 square foot ballroom has been repaired and upgraded to include museum-quality air, lighting and security systems.

The site has also undergone a seismic upgrade, roof repairs,

and interior and exterior painting, among other improvements.

Steeped in history, the revered Club, which sits adjacent to the south wall of the original Spanish El Presidio, is a most appropriate setting to view an exhibit exploring the intersection of the Spanish and Russian empires at the Presidio at a pivotal moment in history. We hope that you find it a thoroughly enjoyable environment in which to experience this premiere cultural event.

We look forward to seeing you at Unseen Treasures.

PRESIDIO ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT



The Presidio-based offices of the San Francisco Film Society are humming with activity as the staff gears up for its 44th San Francisco International Film Festival, the oldest annual celebration of film in the Americas.

Beginning April 19, film fans will have the opportunity to view 200 filmed presentations – ranging from student-produced videos to short features, to feature films not currently in public distribution – presented in 110 programs that will run through May 3.

"Our goal is to celebrate the moving image in the widest possible sense of the term," said society executive director Roxanne Messina Captor. "In preparation for the festival, our programming staff views as much work as possible, and selects the very best of it for presentation. The films we screen are engaging and compelling, and demonstrate the incredible diversity of this medium. Most of what will be presented at the festival simply cannot be viewed at this time in any other venue."

The festival includes many special presentations

and interactive events. "Whenever possible, we invite the director of featured films to attend and answer questions following the screening," said Rachel Rosen, associate director of programming. "This gives viewers a much richer perspective of the film."

The San Francisco Film Society relocated to the Presidio last January. "Our former offices were in the heart of the city," recalls Rosen. "I admit I was dubious about relocating. But this has been a fabulous move for us."



"This is a think," add Society only has several of such a the atmospl

According also made i with its n "This space and educati fall, we spo film festiva attended, would not program at

The Societ programmi cooperative Opera, Bal Art. "The I experience "We hope public, our

March

Wednesdays To Sundays Through March 25

Antenna Theatre's EUPHOR!UM

Antenna artists have created a multi-sensory journey through Coleridge's subconscious inside a Crissy Field warehouse (Building 920 on Mason Street). EUPHOR!UM runs Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 10 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 7 p.m. to midnight, and Sundays 3 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 general and \$12 for students and seniors. Visit www.antenna-theater.org for details.



Saturday, March 31, 9 a.m. to Noon

Quail Habitat Restoration Program

Did you know that 26 California Quail are believed to make their home at the Presidio? Join volunteers from the Audubon Society for a hands-on program to enhance habitat for San Francisco's largest surviving covey of our state bird. Meet at 1539 Pershing Drive. For directions call 415.561.4449.



April

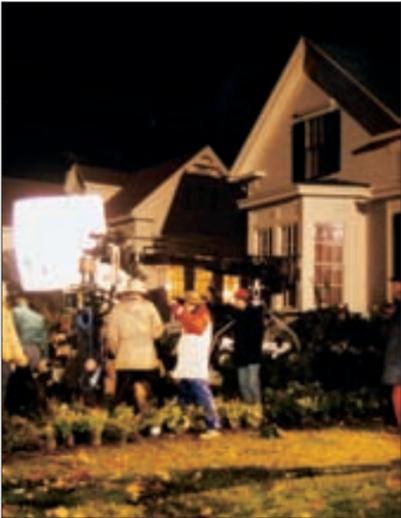
Sunday, April 1, 8:30 a.m.

The Rapid Rabbit: A Race Benefiting The YMCA

This 5K run/walk traces a winding trail and road course from the Main Post YMCA to the Letterman gym. The race features door prizes and drawings, and a shorter Kid's Race for the younger set (ages 3 to 14). Register at www.presidioymca.org.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, PRESIDIO

THE PRESIDIO STARS IN AN ARRAY OF FILM, COMMERCIAL AND TV PROJECTS



EIGHT MOVIES WERE FILMED IN SAN FRANCISCO LAST YEAR, AND ALL EIGHT HAD SOME CONNECTION WITH THE PRESIDIO. SOME FILM COMPANIES PARKED THEIR VEHICLES NEAR GORGAS AVENUE. OTHERS RENTED PRODUCTION OFFICES AT THE SAN FRANCISCO FILM CENTRE. THE CREW OF *THE WEDDING PLANNER* BUILT INTERIOR SETS – INCLUDING A HOSPITAL ROOM, THE INSIDE OF A WEDDING TENT, AND THE FRONT STEPS OF AN APARTMENT BUILDING – INSIDE A CRISSY FIELD WAREHOUSE. A PATH THROUGH THE ARGUELLO FOREST WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A HEAVENLY WALKWAY FOR AN ANGELIC ROBIN WILLIAMS. WITH ITS NATURAL SETTINGS, VERSATILE BUILDINGS AND EASY ACCESS, THE PRESIDIO IS AN IDEAL SHOOTING LOCATION FOR FILMMAKERS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.

“We try to present filmmakers with a complete package. We can offer facilities for editing or pre-production, we have ample parking, and we can provide amazing shooting locations,” explains Warren White, the Presidio Trust’s filming supervisor. “Initially, a producer may be after one day of shooting and one location. But often, once they get here and look around, they end up staying a lot longer.”

It isn’t just movie producers who love to use the area. Many television series, most frequently *Nash Bridges*, are also shot here. The park’s winding streets are seen so often in car commercials that they’ve become an icon for the ideal driving road. In fact, according to Warren, you probably see the Presidio on television every night of the week, though you might not recognize it.

Each filming project contributes to the Presidio’s bottom line by providing funds that can be used for park operation and enhancement. Daily rental fees for most productions range from \$100 an hour to \$10,000 per day, depending on the size of the crew. That fee does not include reimbursements for U.S. Park Police and Presidio Trust staff who are on hand to assure that each shoot goes well.

The contributions of filming companies often go beyond dollars and cents. For example, in addition to the fees charged to rent a building in the Letterman Complex, the *Nash Bridges* crew performed a Hazardous Waste Materials cleanup beforehand as part of the deal. A film crew from *The Wedding Planner* created a soundproof room using moveable, fireproof panels that could ultimately be reassembled in another location

to provide a studio to record Presidio oral histories.

In the adrenaline-fueled film world, Warren needs to move quickly. “It’s kind of like asking the question, ‘Will you marry me?’ If the answer is, ‘I’ll get back to you in seven weeks,’ it takes the luster off the request.” Several buildings are ready to be rented immediately, with previously established use requirements and specialized historic preservation permit language ready to sign.

One of the Trust’s mandates is to become self-sustaining, and to Warren, the film industry is an obvious ally in this goal. “The income we gain from this activity moves us toward self-sustainability. And this activity validates the historical importance and beauty of the Presidio. To me, it’s an obvious match.”

LIGHT

is a wonderful place to work, and to work,” added Messina Captor, who joined the society only two months ago. “This building has several film-related tenants, and being part of such a cultural community really charges the atmosphere.”

According to Messina Captor, relocating has made it possible for the society to interact with its membership throughout the year. This space is much more conducive to cultural and educational public events,” she said. “Last year we sponsored a free public seminar about film festivals. The program was very well attended, especially by film students. We could not have been able to host such a program at our previous location.”

“Society wants to expand its cultural programming still further, and is planning cooperative programs with the San Francisco Opera, Ballet, and the Museum of Modern Art. “The Presidio is such a wonderful place to experience the arts,” said Messina Captor. “We hope these programs will benefit the public, our Society, and the Presidio.”

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FILM SUPERVISOR

Warren White’s deep, gravelly voice brings to mind radio announcers and actors, but he credits his vocal tones as much to the decade he spent as a Yosemite ranger and naturalist as he does to the acting gigs he took while an American history major at UCLA. He also sounds very little like an accountant, but, in fact, he has an AA in accounting, along with more recent education in film production. These factors go a long way toward explaining his talent for taking movie and television contracts apart, and putting them back together in the most imaginative ways.

Warren is the Presidio’s film supervisor. He’s always talking to someone, whether on the phone that’s eternally ringing on his desk, the cellular phone that’s glued to his ear when he’s out of the office, or the radio strapped to his belt. “What do you have available?” producers and location scouts ask. “What’s it going to cost?” For Warren, this is usually just the beginning of the



conversation during which he’ll discuss parking facilities, editing space, sound proof rooms, cover sets, and production office space.

It’s a typical day for Warren. In the large building behind him, film character Nash Bridges is being held prisoner in a basement boiler room set. Warren looks surprisingly chipper for a man who’s been on the job since 6 a.m. when he was called to remove a forklift from a shooting site.

He spends the rest of the day coordinating competing and, often conflicting, requirements. For example, electricians working on some tenant

improvements down the hall from a shooting location need to yell to each other as they pull wire through conduit. With a little coordination, Warren arranges for them to yell only when the crew is not shooting.

By late afternoon, the various construction crews leave. Don Johnson, his bodyguard and driver buzz past in a golf cart. The stunt man who had tumbled down three flights of metal steps a couple times is sipping coffee at the snack table. Actors, directors, producers, and writers are chatting, rubbing their hands in the cold.

Warren sticks around until the last frame is shot and the crew has packed up all their gear, rolled up miles of cables, and left. He’ll be back the next morning to meet the cleaning crew and make sure everything is back to normal before starting the next round of shooting.

Ongoing

Saturday, April 7, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Vegetation Management Plan Pilot Projects – An Informational Walk

Learn about efforts to preserve and enhance forested areas and native plant communities on the Presidio’s western frontier. Meet in front of Building 1750 near the 25th Avenue Gate. Call the Planning Department at 415.561.5414 for details or directions.

Through April 13

In Reverence of the Ancestral Feminine

View works by Shane Eagleton, a wood carver, eco-artist and educator who uses wood salvaged from fallen trees to produce Polynesian carvings and wood-block prints. Public viewings are held weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Thoreau Center (1014 Torney Avenue). Call the Cultural Conservancy at 415.561.6594 for details.

Swing Into Spring – Presidio Golf Course

With spring on the horizon the days are warmer and the evenings brighter. Is now the time to dust off your swing? Schedule tee times in advance at www.presidiogolf.com. Complementing this challenging course are a turf driving range, a practice putting green, and a chipping area. Lessons are available from professionals certified by the Arnold Palmer Golf Academy. Call 415.561.GOLF.





34 Graham Street
P.O. Box 29052
San Francisco
California 94129-0052
Voice: 415.561.5300
Fax: 415.561.5315
presidio@presidiotruster.gov
www.presidiotruster.gov
Library Hours:
Weekdays
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
415.561.5343



Presidio Profiles

Randolph Delehanty

HISTORIAN SEES THE PRESIDIO IN ITS GLOBAL CONTEXT

In November, author and former museum director Randolph Delehanty, Ph.D., joined the Presidio Trust as a historian. One of his first tasks was to work with the Trust's Cultural Programs Department on *Unseen Treasures: Imperial Russia and the New World*.

The author of 11 books including *San Francisco: The Ultimate Guide*, Harvard-educated Delehanty sees himself as a translator. "My challenge is to help expand the frontiers of historical knowledge while simultaneously communicating with many different publics what I – and the diverse community of historians – learn. Publications, talks, parks, museums, and exhibits are the educational tools that interest me because they serve the most people most directly."

Delehanty has played an important role in translating *Unseen Treasures* for local audiences. "Our challenge with this project was to take a fascinating exhibit from the Russian State Historical Museum that has toured three American cities and

tailor it to Bay Area audiences," he said. "I went to Charlotte, North Carolina, to see the exhibit and worked with Marilyn Swezey, the American curator, on how to do that."

Delehanty wrote the panels that introduce each of the six sections of the exhibit.



Historian Randy Delehanty helped "translate" *Unseen Treasures* for Bay Area audiences.

In addition, he prepared a panel explaining the historical links between the Presidio and Fort Ross to the north. Another of his panels tells the story of Russian Court Chamberlain Nikolai Rezanov and Concepcion Arguello, daughter of the Presidio's Commandant at the time, who were betrothed here in 1806.

"The story of Russian expansion across Siberia, down Alaska, and as far south as the Farallon Islands outside the Golden Gate is not well known," Delehanty said. "Two empires touched here at the Presidio: the Spanish empire moving west from Madrid and the Russian empire expanding east from St. Petersburg. This exhibit shows how the Presidio was part of global interconnections, even in the early 1800s."

UNSEEN TREASURES REVEALED

...continued from Page 1

Finally, we pause in front of a set of fur clerical vestments. "This is probably the most unusual object in this exhibition," Swezey says. "The dark brown fur is summer caribou and underneath is a very soft doeskin cassock with embroidered patterns. Even the pendant cross hanging on a chain is made of deerskin."



"These vestments have never been exhibited, even in Russia, and they are a complete mystery. They arrived at the State Historical Museum from Moscow University in the 1920s without any documentation, and researchers have not been able to find out anything about them. The only thing we know is that they were probably made in Siberia for a missionary priest of the Orthodox Church," Swezey continues, "Although we don't know

who made them, where, why or even when they were made, they probably commemorate a special event – perhaps the anniversary of a beloved priest."

These four treasures are only a taste of the over 300 art objects including paintings, portraits, lavish costumes, native artifacts, decorative arts, documents, and photographs from the Russian State Historical Museum and the state archive of the Russian Federation. They tell the little-known story of Russian America. Come see the *Unseen* for yourself.