



Library Hours:
 Weekdays
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Presidio Profiles

Adnan Touma

Born with a speech disability, Adnan Touma was told he wouldn't make it in life. But the Baghdad native proved everyone wrong.

A full-time computer drafting technician for the Presidio Trust, Adnan's labor of love is directing WEE POETS, an award winning educational children's cable television program. Since 1984, 11,000 kids between the ages of 7 and 13 have recited their poetry on the show, and hundreds more have completed training as television technicians.

Adnan's skill in instilling a love of poetry in young people comes despite the fact that he arrived in America at age 25 with only a seventh grade education.

"I learned how to read, write and speak English," he said. "At first, I couldn't even sign my name."

After enduring three major cleft palate surgeries to improve his speech, Adnan earned his high school diploma, and then a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Industrial Design from San Francisco State University.



"Adnan is an extraordinary role model," said Sally Joan Baker, founder of WEE POETS.

His involvement with WEE POETS began in the 1980's when, as a volunteer, he taught himself how to work all of the equipment used at a television station. Today, he is a skilled technical editor and videographer, and passes his knowledge along to young people.

"I teach them how to work as a team," he said. "I try to make them more aware of what's going on in this world.

I teach them how to work the audio, cameras, and lighting, and even how to put the tape in the machine."

Adnan has received the JC Penney Golden Rule Award, the WEE POETS Achievement Award and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian of the Year Award. He was also nominated to serve as a board member on the Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons.

When asked how he overcame obstacles, Adnan said, "I put my faith in me and in God. I wanted to achieve my goals and give back to our community."



UPDATING THE PRESIDIO PLAN

Thank you to all who have sent in comments or participated in scoping workshops to shape the updated vision for the Presidio's future – the Presidio Trust Implementation Plan (PTIP).

As the next important step in this process, this month everyone on our mailing list will receive a workbook outlining a set of draft conceptual alternatives for the Presidio and what it can become. The workbook also contains preliminary financial analysis of those alternatives.

We seek your comments and input on the proposed vision statements and planning principles that will form the foundation of the Presidio Trust Implementation Plan, and on the range of alternatives and types of actions to be studied in the environmental impact statement.

For your convenience, the workbook includes a response form that can be completed and mailed back to the Presidio Trust. You can also email, fax, or submit written comments to:

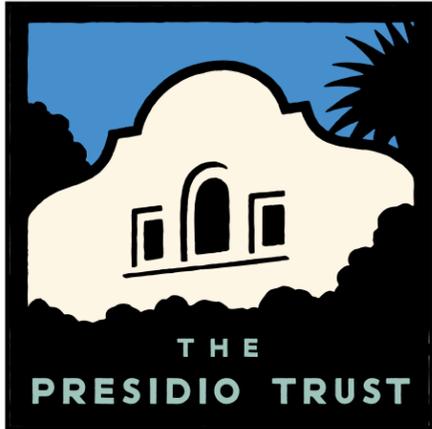
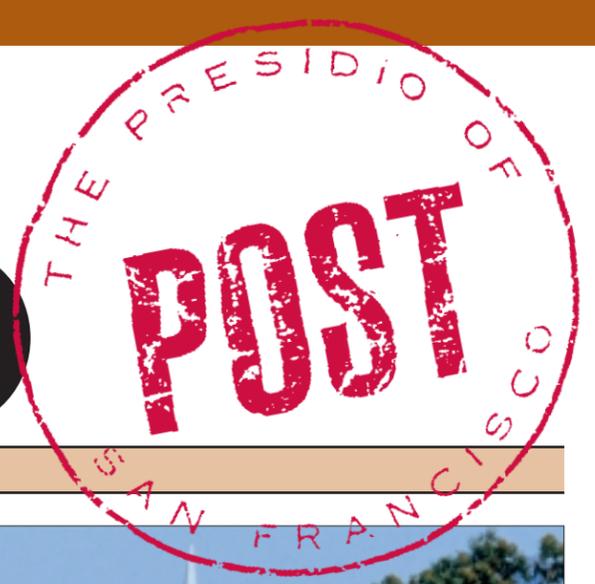
**PTIP – c/o John Pelka, NEPA Compliance Coordinator
 Presidio Trust • 34 Graham Street • P.O. Box 29052
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To ensure that you have enough time to consider this important information, we have extended the comment deadline to January 15, 2001. Please let us hear from you!

Presidio

A Monthly Publication of the Presidio Trust

Volume 3 Issue 11 November 2000



Among the major events of 2000, three philanthropic foundations funded a study considering the possibility of establishing a preeminent center for research, discussion and policy planning at Fort Scott.

*Preserving the Presidio
as a Sustainable
National Park*

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On The Trail

Thank you to everyone who has participated in workshops and sent in written comments to help shape the Presidio Trails and Bikeways Master Plan. The Presidio Trust and the National Park Service are now studying a range of alternatives to enhance safety, connectivity, accessibility and resource protection on the park's network of recreational and transportation routes. Please plan on joining us this winter for a public meeting at which plan alternatives and an environmental assessment will be presented for review.

Theatre Project Update

The San Francisco Film Centre and the Presidio Trust have temporarily put environmental analysis of a proposed film arts center at the historic Presidio Theatre on hold until the update of the Presidio's General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA) is complete. The Trust – with active participation from the community – is currently taking a fresh look at the GMPA so that it reflects changed circumstances and new opportunities that have arisen since it was adopted in 1994 (see *Updating The Presidio Plan*, p. 4.). Study of the Theatre site is expected to resume following completion of the Presidio Trust Implementation Plan next year.

THE YEAR 2000 AT THE PRESIDIO

What has the year 2000 meant for the Presidio and its community of supporters? That was the question of the hour as Chairman Toby Rosenblatt called to order the October 26 public meeting of the Presidio Trust Board of Directors.

In the wake of the September 30 end of the Presidio Trust's fiscal year, Executive Director Jim Meadows and staff reported to the community on the preceding 12 months' programs and projects. The Trust was joined by several collaborating organizations – the National Park Service, the Golden Gate National Parks Association, Swords to Plowshares, Friends of Mountain Lake Park, the San Francisco Conservation Corps, and the Restoration Advisory Board – who are jointly working to preserve and enhance the Presidio.

The following is a brief summary of significant year 2000 achievements. A full transcript of the Board Meeting is available at www.presidiotrust.gov. The Presidio Trust's annual report will be published in January.

PROTECTING RESOURCES

- The Trust and the National Park Service launched three pilot projects to preserve the Presidio forest and restore habitat for sensitive and endangered plant species. One-hundred-twenty coast live oaks were planted, and native plant restoration projects began at Fort Scott and the Coastal Bluffs.
- Four historic buildings were rehabilitated and now house more than two dozen organizations. Twenty-five historic and 186 non-historic residences were repaired and put back into use.
- A new Presidio Reuse, Recycling and Education Center was launched and began saving 12

tons of bottles, cans and paper each month while also serving as a popular field trip destination.

- Twenty truck loads of organic debris were composted, \$100,000 of materials were salvaged and 115,700 kilowatt hours of energy were saved through Sustainability Programs.
- A plan to improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat and increase public access at Mountain Lake was developed, with work to begin next year.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY

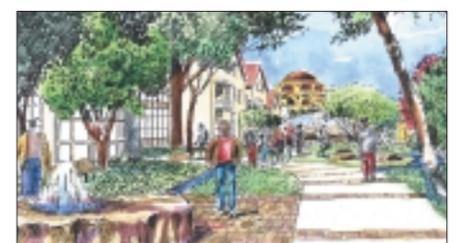
- The Presidio is home to more than 100 organizations and 800 households. More than 120 San Francisco State University students found relief at the park from a campus housing crunch. The Presidio became a voting precinct for the first time in its history.
- In August, the new Swords to Plowshares Presidio Veterans Academy began offering job training, health care, counseling and support services to 100 formerly homeless veterans.

A PEOPLE-FRIENDLY PARK

- More than 30,000 people visited the park to participate in the Earth Festival, the Bridge to Bridge Run, the Aloha Festival, and dozens of other events.
- The Trust and the National Park Service hosted several community meetings as well as a major symposium with invited national experts to gather ideas for enhancing the visitor experience.
- A cultural planning team from the Smithsonian Institution conducted a four-month study that will result in new travelling exhibits and cultural events coming to the Presidio next year.



Board meeting participants learned about the year's activities by exploring panels and displays, and by speaking to representatives of organizations partnered with the Trust to ensure the long-term protection of the Presidio as a national park.



With extensive community participation, the Presidio Trust completed the Letterman project environmental review, selecting a center focused on digital arts and innovation. A proposed digital arts center design that increases open space and improves public access was submitted for review.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

- Twenty-four million dollars earned primarily through leasing programs supported park operations, activities and enhancements. Nearly \$600,000 in grant funding was raised to support alternative transportation and other programs.
- Twenty percent of the Presidio's infrastructure was modernized. By completing work in-house, savings of up to 30% were achieved.
- In July, the Trust launched a community-oriented effort to update the Presidio's framework management plan. Public input was welcomed at two scoping workshops attended by nearly 300 people.

Sustainability Spotlight

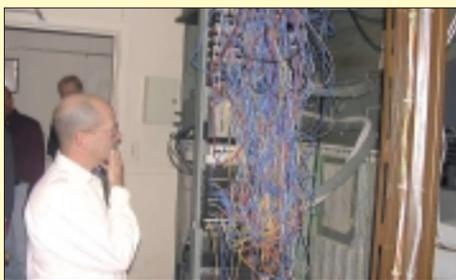
Presidio Energy Challenge

Though dubbed a "challenge," on October 12, eight Presidio businesses and one household participated in a contest where there were no losers and the environment was the big winner.

The first-ever Presidio Energy Challenge brought independent experts in energy, lighting and historic preservation together with park organizations to reduce energy use at the Presidio. The Challenge was hosted by Rebuild Presidio, a Department of Energy-sponsored partnership between the Presidio Alliance and the Presidio Trust, with support from PG&E.



Efficiency experts examined the lighting, heating and electrical systems of Presidio buildings, and made recommendations for curbing energy use.



The Energy Challenge was designed to give organizations based here the knowledge and tools needed to make their buildings more efficient and comfortable. Participants discussed the unique challenges presented by historic buildings and then fanned out to assess current electricity usage and make recommendations for improvement at several park sites. The Presidio's Interfaith Center, Alexa Internet, the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association and the Presidio Bowling Center were among those participating.

As a result of the Energy Challenge, at least two tenants are retrofitting their buildings. Other organizations discovered they could make simple behavioral changes, such as installing Energy Star computer monitors. Participants were also connected with organizations that could help defray the costs of implementing efficiency improvements.

To learn more about Rebuild Presidio, contact Leanne Hoadley at 415.561.3993 or Maric Munn at 415.561.4195.

Board Members

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

November

Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Everything You Wanted To Know About Composting (But Were Afraid To Ask)

Join Friends of the Urban Forest for an informative presentation led by SLUG and the San Francisco Recycling Program. Meet at Presidio Building 1007 in the Thoreau Center. To RSVP or get directions, call 415.561.6890 x108.

By Jim Meadows
Presidio Trust Executive Director

Did You Know...?

WHAT ARE THE PRESIDIO TRUST'S GOALS FOR 2001?

In our cover story, we told you about some of the people, programs and projects that made fiscal year 2000 a productive and successful one for the Presidio. While we and the Presidio's friends, collaborating organizations, tenants, residents and supporters have been hard at work preserving and enhancing today's park, we are also making plans for tomorrow.

I'd like to share with you a sampling of the Presidio Trust's goals for 2001. While this is not a complete list, I hope it provides a sense of what our community can look forward to at their park next year.

- "Unseen Treasures," an exhibit featuring 19th century artifacts from the Russian State Historical Museum, will debut as the first Presidio Trust-sponsored travelling cultural exhibit. We will continue discussion with the Smithsonian Institution to explore how together we might enhance the cultural experience by bringing



Dozens of historic buildings, including the Officers' Club, Stilwell Hall and 76 historic homes, will be rehabilitated in 2001.

Smithsonian exhibits to the park.

- The project to create a digital arts center at the Letterman Complex will move forward with design review, lease signing, deconstruction of the former hospital and initial construction work on the new facility.
- The Trust and National Park Service will launch pilot projects at Inspiration Point, the Coastal Bluffs and other sites to revitalize the Presidio forest and enhance native plant communities.
- An active public planning process

will culminate in the publication of the Presidio Trust Implementation Plan, an updated vision for the Presidio's future. The Environmental Impact Statement will also be completed.

- An additional 20% of the Presidio's infrastructure, including utility, transportation, and telecommunications systems, will be modernized.
- The water quality and visitor access improvements outlined in the Mountain Lake Enhancement Plan will be carried out by the Trust, the Parks Association and the National Park Service.
- A plan for improving and expanding the Presidio's network of hiking and bicycling trails will be published by the Trust and the National Park Service.

It promises to be another productive year. Look forward to updates on these and other projects in coming months.



PRESIDIO ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT



nccj The National Conference for Community and Justice

The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), originally founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, is a non-profit human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism.

Its Northern California Regional Office is located in the Presidio's Thoreau Center. It and 64 other affiliates in 35 states promote understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

In the Bay Area, NCCJ sponsors a range of programs and activities serving youth and teachers. Its "Student Action for Leadership and Diversity" (SALAD) program trains teens to enhance their self-awareness and appreciation for multicultural inclusion. Through its "Annual High School Press Awards Contest," sponsored by KPMG LLP, students win grants for outstanding essays on the topic of multicultural inclusion and justice. Kindergarten



Mary Ellene Gaylord, Sister Chandru, Jan and Paul Chaffee of the Presidio's Interfaith Center, Anna-Marie Booth and Meg Madden posed at the NCCJ Human Relations Leadership Award dinner held earlier this year.

through 3rd grade teachers and administrators receive training in how to teach effectively in a multicultural school system through a program entitled "Different and the Same," supported by a grant from the Marin Community Foundation.

NCCJ also achieves its mission by partnering with government and religious institutions. Through its "Hate Crimes Response Team,"

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Wednesday, November 15, 6 to 9 p.m.

Updating the Presidio Plan – Presentation of Conceptual Alternatives

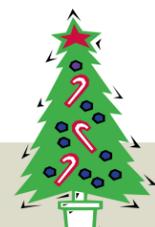
At this scoping workshop, previously scheduled for October 11, we will consider the draft conceptual alternatives that may be studied in an environmental impact statement as the Presidio Trust Implementation Plan moves forward. Meet at the Log Cabin (1299 Storey Avenue at Fort Scott) from 6 to 9 p.m. Call 415.561.5418 for details or directions.

December

Friday, December 1, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Lights

Share the spirit of the season at the annual Presidio tree lighting ceremony. Bring your singing voice! Meet at the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Funston Avenue on the Main Post. Light refreshments will follow at the historic Fire Station. Call 415.561.5444 for details.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE PRESIDIO

A LOT CAN HAPPEN FROM DAWN TO DUSK

THE PRESIDIO IS AN URBAN REFUGE, AND THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING GOING ON HERE. THIS IS A DIARY OF HOW A FEW PEOPLE USED THE PARK FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8. MISSING FROM THESE SNAPSHOTS BUT EVER-PRESENT ARE THE ANIMALS WHO CALL THIS PLACE HOME: THE HAWKS, MOTHS, SPIDERS, AND THOSE ON THE NIGHT SHIFT – THE OWLS, SKUNKS, AND BATS. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS PAGE FROM OUR FAMILY ALBUM, AND NEXT TIME WILL SEE YOURSELF IN IT.



6:15 A.M.
GOLF COURSE

Mike Horton warms up on the driving range before he and Melissa Nguyen start the day's first round. "I can only guess where the ball's gone by how it felt when I hit it," says Mike.



6:58 A.M.
CRISSY FIELD

Santiago Nirio and sons Willie, 10, and Junior, 15, from Daly City are midway through their walk on the Promenade. The boys are bundled up in sweatshirts. "I like to show these guys the right way: no drugs, gangs or alcohol and you live longer. It's beautiful here."



7:45 A.M.
ROB HILL CAMPGROUND

Half a dozen members of the Military Vehicle Collectors' Group emerge from their khaki pup tents to swat mosquitoes, slug coffee and admire each other's meticulously restored jeeps and trucks. In an hour, they will form a tidy convoy for the drive down Lincoln Boulevard to the Marina Green where they will spend the day displaying their vehicles and watching the Blue Angels.



10:35 A.M.
GOLF COURSE CAFÉ

Waiters serve apple pancakes and scrambled eggs as The Kings Hat Trio plays a laid back jazz version of "You Don't Know What Love Is."

11:15 A.M.
MAIN POST

Dozens of kids and groups of lycra-clad adults whiz around the streets on bicycles, and one young novice cyclist totters through the parking lot. Tennis players swat balls, tourists photograph each other, and a white-haired couple strolls on the sidewalk holding hands. At the Visitor Center, Tom Daley is behind the counter

pouring over a map in answer to a typical question, "What is there to do at the Presidio?"

11:20 A.M.
BOWLING ALLEY

Matt Barnes, looking surprisingly chipper after working two shifts the previous day, hands out endless pairs of bowling shoes to customers whose heads don't reach the counter. Non-stop noise from scattering pins, video games, and country music rattles the walls. A football fan jumps up and down in front of the television set. In the center of a table in the adjoining room, a chocolate birthday cake is intact while a dozen five-year-olds devour cheese pizza and red fruit punch.

11:37 A.M.
CRISSY FIELD

Ranger Aline Robes stops two people for jet skiing amid the wind surfers and sailboats. She "counseled them on their illegal activity" and sent them on their way.



11:55 A.M.
MAIN POST

Eighty-three Harley Davidson motorcycles form two lines down the center of the parking lot in front of the San Francisco Film Centre. Their black leathered riders, members of the Harley Owners Group, swarm around a Jimi Hendrix-inspired guitar player, and feast on chicken, beef, beans, fruit salad and macaroni and cheese. Forty-seven more Harleys pull into the parking lot after winding up Lincoln Boulevard past cyclists, runners, and cars.



12:03 P.M.
LINCOLN BLVD. OVERLOOK

Martin Schmaltz shows off the Golden Gate Bridge to his mother, Sigrid, visiting from Germany. "She loves the national parks," he says, "and this is one of my favorite places."

12:20 P.M.
YMCA GYM

Arlene rushes to the parking lot, her hair still damp from a shower. "I've gotta go watch the Raiders, the Blue Angels, and the Giants."



1:10 P.M.
CRISSY FIELD OVERLOOK

Allen Schmidt and Felix Sy settle into lawn chairs, unwrap chicken sandwiches and open cans of soda. "I bicycle here quite a lot and realized that the view here would be just perfect for watching the Blue Angels," explains Felix. His friend Allen agrees. "It's too crowded down on Crissy or at the Marina, and it's wonderful to have this bit of greenery here in the city." By 3 p.m. when the show begins, throngs will be packed around them.



2:30 P.M.
CHAPEL

Alexis Jordan and John Coulter follow a piper down the center aisle and emerge into a haze of soap bubbles blown by the wedding guests. Rice isn't good for the birds, park officials decided. Thus, a new tradition is born.

4:50 P.M.
MAIN POST

A small white bus rolls to a stop, opens its door and waits to drive members of Temple Emanu-El to evening services.

5:15 P.M.
FORT POINT/CRISSY FIELD

On Torpedo Wharf, two fishermen pack up their gear. A wind surfer zips his suit to his chin and tucks a board under his arm. A great egret and a smaller snowy egret stand motionless near the footbridge across the tidal marsh, ready to spear dinner.

HT

San Francisco Police Department and other organizations have united to respond to issues motivated by bias and bigotry.

Northern California Executive Director La-Marie Booth, who also serves on the Golden Gate National Recreation Advisory Commission. Her father, the late L. Venchael Booth, was honored by the park in the 1970's for his leadership in forging positive interfaith relations. "My support of harmonious human relations gave me the foundation for my own and active support of multiculturalism," says Booth. She and Program Manager Zoe Segal-Reichlin, the Regional Director, chaired by Camilla Miner and a team of volunteers and donors for NCCJ's local success.

For more about NCCJ, visit their website at www.nccj.org or call them at the Presidio at 415.561.2289.

Wednesday, December 6, 10 a.m. to Noon

Ecological Restoration of the Waterfront

A lagoon has reappeared at Crissy Field after being missing for almost a century. Come learn why this tidal marsh, once thought useless, is now a beautiful necessity. Meet at the Crissy Field East Beach Parking Lot. Call 415.561.4323.

Wednesday, December 13, 7 p.m.

Illumination – Exploratorium Wednesday Art Series

What can artists create when they experiment with the gossamer qualities of light? Bay Area artists light the Exploratorium's cavernous interior with transparent flights of fancy, a perfect antidote to the darkening days of winter. Visit www.exploratorium.edu for details.

Ongoing

Sunday Jazz Brunch Presidio Golf Course Café

As seen in "A Day In The Life Of The Presidio," this is one of the park's most entertaining new traditions! Brunch is served every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 415.561.4600 for reservations.

