

# THE NEXT GREAT PRESIDIO DESTINATIONS

## **Generous Gift from the Haas, Jr. Fund Invites People to Use the Park**



Walter J. Haas, Betsy Haas Eisenhardt, Speaker Pelosi, and Robert D. Haas announced a new gift for the Presidio at the "soon to be" Crissy Field Overlook.

As the clouds of a late spring rain gave way to a beautiful Presidio morning, people gathered to celebrate the latest gift of support from a family whose long-standing commitment to the Presidio has changed the face of the park.

In April, Speaker of the House
Nancy Pelosi announced that the
Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund
made a grant for the Presidio
totaling \$15 million dollars. This gift
will renovate and double the size of
the Presidio's Rob Hill Campground,
the only overnight campground in
San Francisco. With the planned
renovations and expanded services,
the campsite will offer a national

park camping experience in the city to community groups and families, including 15,000 low-income youth who will be served through the Camping at the Presidio (CAP) program over the next five years.

The gift will also create 24 miles of trails and six additional scenic vista points. Hikers will be able to traverse from the Lombard Gate to the Golden Gate Bridge, or from Mountain Lake to Crissy Field, on well-marked trails.

These great Presidio destinations will be open to all, bringing the outdoors to youth, families, and underserved communities, a priority of the Haas, Jr. Fund.

"

This gift will help the Presidio realize its potential as a park for all people - a shining jewel for our city.

"

~ Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi



66

As we did for Crissy Field, our intention with this gift is to help ensure the Presidio will be a place that is used and enjoyed by the entire community. Our national parks belong to all of us.

"

~ Robert Haas, a trustee of the Fund.

The family's connection to the Presidio spans more than two decades. In 1986, their first gift to the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy for the Presidio jump-started a new vision for Crissy Field. Over the next 15 years, the Haas, Jr. Fund generously supported the shoreline transformation. This new gift for the Presidio raises the Fund's giving to the Golden Gate National Parks to more than \$30 million, the largest cash gift in national park history.

The trails, campground, and overlook work will be completed in the next three to five years, and will complement the extensive trail and vista point improvements that have

already taken place in the Presidio, such as Immigrant Point overlooking the Pacific and Inspiration Point above Tennessee Hollow.

The gift includes a \$7 million challenge that the Parks
Conservancy and the Presidio Trust must raise in community support to trigger the \$10 million match for trails. If you would like to help, please contact Kathryn Morelli at (415) 561-3050 or at kmorelli@ParksConservancy.org.

All of us at the Presidio are grateful to the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund for their vision and their generosity to the parks. Their support enables greater community enjoyment of the Presidio for all. Thank you!



A new scenic overlook will soon be constructed along Lincoln Boulevard above Crissy Field.



## Nature Vacconstants reports from the field

#### What does summer in the Presidio mean to you?

...that I can depend on the late afternoon fog-driven wind to be roaring down Arguello as I push up the hill on my bike to go home. While the wind makes the ride harder, it also reminds me of our relationship to the Pacific Ocean, the Alaska currents, and the seasonal upwelling of the cold waters. ~ Al Rosen, Presidio Trust staff

It brings to mind layers. Jackets in the morning often give way to shorts as the fog burns off. By afternoon it can be the fog horn at the beach, a wind on the hilltops, or sun hot enough to drive us into the shady side of the street to play. ~ Lada Kokan, Presidio Resident

I look forward to seeing some of our rarer natives in bloom as the summer progresses - blue dune gilia, pink spineflower, yellow lessingia. ~ Sharon Tsiu, Habitat Restoration Volunteer

#### An Ode to Our Summer Fog

Earth's most impressive natural phenomena. To what other spectacle of nature can it be compared? Not to Niagara; it contains hundreds of Niagaras, all differing in size and shape. Not to the geysers of Yellowstone or the falls of Yosemite; its scale is far larger, its forms more varied. To the observant it is more than a spectacle...it is an experience of the spirit; it brings word of the elemental forces with which city dwellers too often lose touch--the turning of the Earth, the flowing of the ocean waters, the rising of giant winds.

From Harold Gilliam's The Natural World of San Francisco, 1968. Harold Gilliam's first home in San Francisco was in the Presidio as a patient at Letterman Hospital in 1946. For many years Mr. Gilliam wrote a naturalist column for the San Francisco Chronicle. Today, as a Presidio neighbor, the park remains one of his favorite places. For the whole story of our local weather, see Mr. Gilliam's recent book Weather of the San Francisco Bay Region.



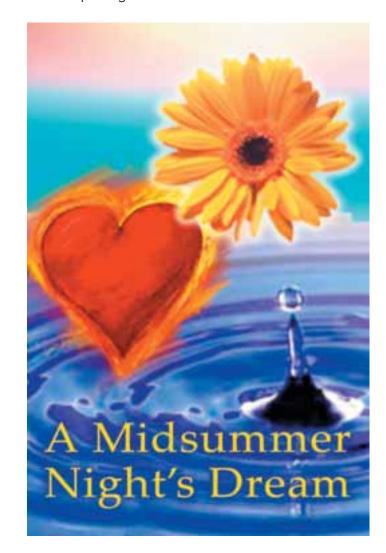
### FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

### **A Midsummer Night's Dream**

Bring your family, friends, a blanket, and a picnic to enjoy professional theatre by Free Shakespeare in the Park, now in its

Shakespeare's comic powers are at their pinnacle in the lovers' witty rhymed couplets, the lyrical poetry of the fairies, and the delightfully down-to-earth prose of Bottom, the amateur actor who acquires a donkey's head and an unusual love interest on one crazy midsummer night.

Fans should arrive about an hour early. Bring pillows, low-back folding chairs, and a picnic. Snacks and beverages will be available for sale. Free parking!





#### **EVENT INFO**

September 1 – 23 Saturdays at 7:30 pm Sundays & Labor Day at 2:30 pm

Outdoors on the Main Parade Ground. Presidio Main Post

> www.sfshakes.org 415/ 558 0888



The Presidio we know

today has its roots in

events that took place

more than 230 years ago.

and pioneering families

completed their long trip

from Mexico to the bay in

Alta California. Here they

settled and built El Presidio,

a fortified settlement. From

this modest beginning, the City of San Francisco was

Each year the park hosts

programs commemorating

"San Francisco's birthday"

performances, and events

are open to all. There's

something for everyone!

and the founding of the

Presidio. Pasados del

Presidio talks,

a series of public

In 1776, a group of soldiers

## PASADOS DEL PRESIDIO Week of Events Commemorates

### the Presidio's Founding

#### All events are free!

KIDS on Trails along the Anza Trail Saturday, June 23, 9:30 am-12:30 pm Mountain Lake Playground Experience the Anza Trail at Mountain Lake and get a free copy of the new KIDS on Trails self-guided tour (great for ages 5-10). Learn about early Californians in 1776, enjoy a cup of Yerba Buena tea, and hike around the lake.

Evening Talk: Chief Marin - Leader, Rebel & Legend Tuesday, June 26, 7-8 pm Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue

Anthropologist, archaeologist and author Betty Goerke explores the history of Marin County's namesake and his people, the Coast Miwok. Book signing will follow.

#### Los Californianos Ceremony

Wednesday, June 27, 11 am-Noon Main Post, Pershing Square Post Flagpole (Graham & Moraga)
Join descendents of early California for their annual celebration of San
Francisco's birthday and the founding of the Presidio.

#### **Evening Talk: Testimonios -**

Early California through the Eyes of Women 1815-1848 Thursday, June 28, 7–8 pm Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue ose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz present a slide talk and pook signing of their recent publication that includes testimonies from

hose unheard voices of pre-gold rush California women.

Family Fun! Passport Through Time Friday, June 29, 11 am–4 pm Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue

Kids! Try your hand at early California music and dance, uncover the Presidio's past with park archaeologists, and meet Ohlone and early California descendents. Experience California rancho life and get a taste f 18th century cooking. Food will also be available for purchase.

sidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue

Songs & Dances of Early California. Join us for a lively evening concert with the renowned Coro Hispano de San Francisco directed by Juan Pedro Gaffney R. with Cascada de Flores and dancers from Los Lupeños de San José. A free evening PresidiGo shuttle will run until 9 pm to connect visitors to MUNI 43 & 45. Food available for purchase.

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/5615500



#### **Summer Life in the Presidio**

#### Coast Buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium)

One of the many wildflowers that makes the spectacular coast of California so beautiful, especially at this time of year, is the Coast Buckwheat. Its pom-pom blossoms evoke the fantastic flora of a Dr. Seuss book. These tightly clustered globes of tiny inflorescences are a significant food source to a wide variety of pollinators. You yourself may have eaten a domesticated cousin of our local native buckwheat ir a pancake, crepe, or soba noodle. The flour used for these foods is largely comprised of flowers, not seeds.

#### West Coast Lady (Vanessa annabella)

Of the more than 20 species of butterflies that have been seen in the Presidio in recent years, there are four that belong to the genus Vanessa: Red Admirals, Painted Ladies, American Ladies, and West Coast Ladies. The West Coast Lady has an atypically elegant and feminine scientific name. Johan Christian Fabricius, a Danish entomologist and economist, named the genus Vanessa in 1807 ("Vanessa" is Greek for butterfly). In 1971, William Field of the Smithsonian Institute revised the species group, and Annabella is an homage to his daughter. As its common name suggests, if you are planning a trip anywhere on the west coast from Mexico to Canada this summer keep an eye open for this messenger from the insect world. (Thanks to Liam O'Brien for the taxonomic fun facts.)



Please share any wildlife encounters of interest (or photos) by emailing nature@presidiotrust.gov.

be seen in dune habitats und the park.

## PARK CALENDAR

#### ONGOING EVENTS

**Habitat Restoration** Wednesdays, Saturdays &

Sundays www.presidio.gov/ experiences/volunteer 415/5615333



#### **Restoration Advisory Board** (RAB) Public Meeting

Second Tuesdays, 7 pm Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue RAB is a citizen's group that works with the Trust's environmental cleanup

program. **415/ 561 4255** 

#### **Tours of Arion Press**

Thursdays, 3 pm See the historic typefoundry, pressroom and composing room, and bookbindery. Reservations required, \$7. Visit the gallery weekdays 9 am – 5 pm. www.arionpress.com 415/ 668 2548

**Sports Basement Fun Run** Fridays, 6 pm 610 Mason Street, Crissy Field All abilities welcome.

www.sportsbasement.com 415/ 437 0100

Presidio RX Running Group Mondays & Wednesdays 6:30 pm

www.woohoo.org/presidiorx



#### **Golf Clinic for Beginners**

Thursdays, 5-6 pm Saturdays, 11 am - Noon Presidio Golf Course (inside the Arguello Gate) www.presidiogolf.com 415/561 GOLF

Friday Summer Showcase at **Presidio Dance Theatre** 

June 22, 29 and July 13, 20, 27, 3-4 pm 1158 Gorgas (at Halleck Street) Presidio Dance Theatre Summer Camp students perform repertory pieces from Dancing Across Cultures. Free. www.PresidioDance.org 415/561 3958



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNEY**: **AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF**

ROBERT CAMERON

Open through August 26 Wednesdays - Sundays, 11 am – 5 pm FREE Presidio Officers' Club (see pages 8 & 9) www.presidio.gov/calendar 415/5615500

#### JUNE

#### **Presidio Trust Quarterly Public Meeting:** Thornburgh/West Letterman

Monday, June 4, 6:30 pm Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue Comment on conceptural designs to rehabilitate twelve historic buildings. The designs will form the basis for alternatives to be evaluated in the upcoming Environmental Assessment.

www.presidio.gov/calendar 415/561 5418

**ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNEY:** SPEAKER SERIES

An Inconvenient Truth -**Global Warming One Year** 

Wednesday, June 6, 7 pm Presidio Officers' Club Former Vice President Al Gore has trained a select group to follow up on his film. Meet "climate messenger" Diane Demee-Benoit, recently profiled in the SF Chronicle.

www.presidio.gov/calendar 415/ 561 5418

7 & 8

**Pacific Union Presents** CONCERTS AT THE PRESIDIO

Hancock Brothers Dual Piano Thursday, June 7 and Friday, June 8, 8 pm Golden Gate Club. 135 Fisher Loop www.presidio.gov/calendar 415/ 447 6274

16 A Capella Concert: **Flying Without Instruments** 

Saturday, June 16, 8 pm Presidio Interfaith Chapel, 130 Fisher Loop

An 8-voice ensemble sings a repertoire ranging from contemporary pieces and jazz standards. \$15. www.flyingwithoutinstruments.com

415/ 775 4635

**PASADOS DEL PRESIDIO WEEK OF FREE EVENTS** (see page 6)

www.presidio.gov/calendar 415/5615500

KIDS on Trails - Anza Trail Saturday, June 23

9:30 am-12:30 pm Mountain Lake Playground Experience the Anza Trail at Mountain Lake (great for ages 5-10).

**Evening Talk: Chief Marin** Tuesday, June 26, 7-8 pm Presidio Officers' Club,

50 Moraga Avenue Author Betty Goerke explores the history of Marin County's namesake.

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Family Fun! **Passport Through Time** 

Friday, June 29, 11 am-4 pm Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue Kids! Try your hand at early California music and dance, uncover the Presidio's past with park archaeologists, meet Ohlone and early California descendents. Experience California rancho life and get a taste of 18th century cooking. Food available for purchase.

**Evening Fandango** 

Friday, June 29, 7-9 pm Presidio Officers' Club. 50 Moraga Avenue Songs & dances of early California. Join us for a lively evening concert with the renowned Coro Hispano de San Francisco directed by Juan Pedro Gaffney R. with Cascada de Flores and dancers from Los Lupeños de San José. PresidiGo shuttle will run until 9 pm to connect visitors to MUNI 43 & 45. Food available for purchase.

JULY

**Presidio Open Space Update** 

Monday, July 2, 6:30 pm Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue Join us for an informal roundtable discussion about projects to enhance the Presidio's historic and natural landscapes.

www.presidio.gov/calendar 415/5615418

ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNEY SPEAKER SERIES

**Next Generation of Green Buildings - Public Utilities** Commission

Wednesday, July 11, 7 pm Presidio Officers' Club Join architect David Hobstetter for a fascinating hour showcasing the most energy-efficient urban buildings in the United States.

www.presidio.gov/calendar 415/5615418

**Physics of Toys** Saturday, July 21 11 am-3 pm

Exploratorium Pull apart magnetic devices, deconstruct motors, and build magnetic toys of your own. www.exploratorium.edu

415/561 0360

**ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNEY: SPEAKER SERIES** 2007 Goldman Environmental Prize Film

Wednesday, July 25, 7 pm Presidio Officers' Club, 50 Moraga Avenue A special screening of the 2007 Goldman Environmental Prize Winners, introduced by filmmakers Tom Dusenbery and John Antonelli, followed by Q&A.

www.presidio.gov/calendar 415/5615418

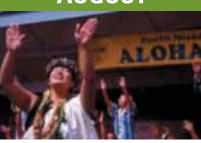
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Whale Watching Trip Saturday, July 28

The Presidio's Marine Sanctuary Association leads boat tours to encounter humpback whales and 36 other marine mammals.

www.farallones.org 415/ 561 6625, x300

**AUGUST** 



4 & 5 **Aloha Festival** 

Saturday, Aug. 4 & Sunday, Aug. 5, 10 am-5 pm Presidio Main Parade Ground The Pacific Islanders of the San Francisco Bay Area offer music and dance during this festival of arts. Free: parking \$5.

www.pica-org.org 415/ 281 0221

**ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNEY:** SPEAKER SERIES Keeping Oceans Wild -**Natural Resource Defense** Council (NRDC)

Wednesday, August 8, 7 pm Presidio Officers' Club Join Kate Wing of NRDC's ocean program and author of Keeping Oceans Wild. Free. www.presidio.gov/calendar 415/561 5418

9 & 10

**Pacific Union Presents CONCERTS AT THE PRESIDIO** Concert Pianists

Thursday, August 9 Friday, August 10 Golden Gate Club. 135 Fisher Loop www.presidio.gov/calendar 415/447 6274

25 **ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNEY:** FREE SHUTTLE TOUR The Sustainable Presidio Saturday, August 25 11 am-1 pm

> Noon-2 pm Presidio Officers' Club Hop on the PresidiGo Shuttle and learn about the park's "green" programs. Visit the transit center, water treatment plant, and native plant nursery for a behind-the-scenes look at sustainable practices. First come, first served.

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/5615418

PULL OUT



## SCENIC DRIVES IN THE PRESIDIO

By Randolph Delehanty, Ph.D., Presidio Trust Historian

66

[Maj. Gen. Irvin
McDowell] has built
new and first-class
roads through [the
Presidio] to Fort
Point....The drive from
Lone Mountain, along
Cemetery Avenue [now
Presidio Boulevard]
through the Presidio to
Fort Point, by the new
upper military road, is
the finest drive in the
country for first-class
marine views.

"

Thomas Magee's **Real Estate Circular,** September 6, 1880



For a map of scenic drives, call (415) 561 5418.

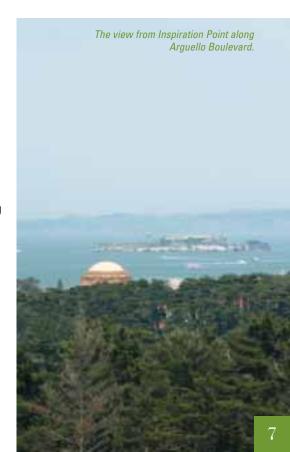
As the Presidio expands the park's network of trails, bikeways and scenic overlooks (see p. 2), it is timely to look back at the scenic drives that the Army built here in the late nineteenth century... routes that we still enjoy today. The post commanders and engineers took great pains in designing these roads. Because the Presidio was a large military reservation that eventually housed five separate commands the Presidio of San Francisco (Main Post), Fort Point, Letterman Hospital, Fort Winfield Scott, and Crissy Army Air Field - a system of roads was needed to link them. together.

The first major project was the building of the granite seawall and Marine Drive leading to Fort Point on the Golden Gate in the 1850s. By 1870, Lombard Street and Presidio Boulevard were the formal entrances to the post leading to Funston Avenue, the Alameda and the Civil War parade ground. By 1895, Presidio Boulevard and Arguello Boulevard (with Inspiration Point) made their graceful, sweeping descent down the hills to the Main Post (see photo).

By 1910, in conformance with Maj. Hart's 1907 master plan calling for contour streets, Infantry Terrace and serpentine Kobbe Avenue graced the post. Along the ocean bluffs, utilitarian roads gave access to the

batteries. By 1928, the western section of Lincoln Boulevard provided sweeping views of the ocean ending at the 25th Avenue Gate and connecting with El Camino del Mar. In 1938, the post's Lincoln Boulevard became part of San Francisco's 49-Mile Scenic Drive.

The most recent scenic drive is
Mason Street along Crissy Field with
its exhilarating view over the marsh
and grass airfield towards the bay,
Angel Island, the Golden Gate
Bridge, and Marin County. The
scenic drives are important features
of the park and will be enhanced
with overlooks that will increase the
public's enjoyment of the park's
sweeping vistas.



### **ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNEY**:

#### **New Exhibition Showcases the Aerial Photography of Robert Cameron**

Renowned aerial photographer Robert Cameron's 2005 Presidio exhibition was enjoyed by nearly 26,000 visitors. This summer he returns to the park with Environmental Journey, offering his artistic and philosophical perspective on people's interaction with the natural world, as seen from above.

"The kind of photography that I chose many, many years ago - aerial photography - demonstrates in a way that no other form of photography can what we are doing to the Earth, the oceans, and the atmosphere. What I do in my work is see the beautiful aspects of our environment, and also what we are doing to it," says Cameron.

Eight galleries showcase 55 magnificent large-format images selected from Cameron's work on California, Nevada, Washington State, Alaska, and Hawaii. The visual tour travels through the air; along the edge of the Pacific; across bays, estuaries, rivers and lakes; through forests; over mountains and deserts; past energy sources, above farms and ranches: and over cities and monuments.

Often what people think depends on their point of view.

Environmental Journey challenges visitors to understand humankind's complex relationship with the environment we both live in and shape.

in 1921 and is the author of 22 books. Still active at 96, his most recent book is Above Mexico City.

How lucky the hawks are that they can spread their wings and float up there and just look down at all this beauty!

~ Robert Cameron

Cameron began taking photographs



Free **May 18 - August 26** Wednesday - Sunday 11 am - 5 pm Presidio Officers' Club Exhibition Hall **50 Moraga Avenue** 

www.presidio.gov/ calendar 415/561 5500

#### **Environmental Journey Programs**

Free Speaker Series: Crises and Responses Wednesdays at 7 pm; Presidio Officers' Club

June 6 - An Inconvenient Truth – Global Warming One Year Later Former Vice President Al Gore has trained a select group of people to follow up on his film An Inconvenient Truth. The speaker series begins with his "climate messenger" Diane Demee-Benoit, recently profiled in the SF Chronicle.

July 11 - Next Generation of Green Buildings Join architect David Hobstetter for a fascinating hour showcasing his visionary project, the most energy-efficient urban building in the United States.

July 25 - 2007 Goldman Environmental Prize Film Join us for this special screening of the 2007 Goldman Environmental Prize Winners, introduced by filmmakers Tom Dusenbery and John Antonelli, followed by Q&A.

August 8 - Keeping Oceans Wild – Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) Join Kate Wing of the NRDC's ocean program and author of Keeping Oceans Wild

Environmental Programs in the Park Free weekend programs by the National Park Service. RSVP to 415/561 4323

Family Program: Come to your Senses Saturday, June 9, 10 am-Noon An easy one-mile walk along the marsh using all of your senses.

**SPECIAL PRESIDIO** 

**TOUR** 

Environmental Journey:

Free Shuttle Tour

The Sustainable Presidio

Saturday, August 25

11 am-1 pm

OR

Noon-2 pm

Meet at the Presidio

Officers' Club

Hop on the PresidiGo Shuttle and learn about

the park's "green"

programs. Visit the

transit center, water

treatment plant, and

native plant nursery for

a behind-the-scenes

look at sustainable

practices. First come.

first served.

Walking in the Biosphere Sunday, June 10, 10 am-2 pm Enjoy a 6-mile walk through the Presidio, Land's End, and Golden Gate Park.

Ecological Restoration of the Waterfront Sunday, June 17, Noon-1:30 pm Experience Crissy Field's living tidal salt marsh ecosystem on an easy 2-mile walk.

The Presidio Rocks Saturday, July 14, 10 am-Noon Learn the 160 million year story that underlies the Presidio on a 2-mile moderately strenuous walk.

Pedaling the Presidio Sunday, July 15, 10 am-Noon Explore Presidio history and scenery on a moderately strenuous six-mile bicycle ride. Tennessee Hollow Watershed Sunday, July 22, Noon-1:30 pm Explore this unique ecosystem where fresh water flows on a moderate one-mile walk.

Ecological Restoration of the Waterfront Sunday, August 5, Noon-1:30 pm (see June 17 description)

Family Program: Bugs & Beyond Saturday, August 11, 10 am-Noon Investigate the bugs, slugs, worms and insects of El Polin Spring on a one-mile stroller-friendly walk.

A Walk in the Presidio Forest Sunday, August 12, 10 am-Noon Join this 2-3 mile moderate walk to explore the mini-forest planed by the army in the 1800s.

Presidio Birdlife Saturday, August 18, 9:30-10:30 am Learn about Presidio birdlife on a moderate one-mile walk.

Mystery Hike Sunday, August 19, 10 am-Noon If you think you know the Presidio, you'll be captivated by this moderate 3-mile saunter through the park.

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/5615500







# CONTENT



Gift from the Haas, Jr. Fund Supports Trails and Rob Hill Campground



NATURE IN THE CITY 4 Summer in the Presidio



**Events and Activities** A Full Calendar of



Commemorates the Presidio's Pasados del Presidio Founding



EXPERIENCES 8



Exhibition: Aerial Photos by **Environmental Journey** Robert Cameron

## by the Presidio Trust. Your questions and AT THE PRESIDIO is published

comments are welcome. Please call 415/561 5418.

Rob Hill Campground, Campfire Zendarski Rendering Detail

Printed on Recycled Paper with Soybase Inks

# THE PRESIDIO TRUST

San Francisco, California 34 Graham Street P.O. Box 29052

94129-0052

San Francisco, CA Permit No. 925 PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID

> www.presidio.gov 415/5615418



# DID YOU KNOW?

Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail at Mountain A new KIDS on Trails Guide featuring the Juan Lake is now available at www.presidio.gov/kids.