Old Walls, No Barriers at Antonio Peralta House

by Ben Glickstein, Volunteer Programs & Outreach, Peralta Hacienda Historical Park

Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park is knocking down walls. Preservationists can rest easy, however. The only barriers being bulldozed are the invisible ones keeping locals and passers-by from coming into historic houses. Friends, thanks in large part to an Anza Trail Challenge Cost Share Grant, has raised funds necessary to return from the brink of closure, continuing with its innovative adult education programs which turn this historic site into one of Oakland’s most welcoming community spaces.

The Peralta House Museum’s beautiful interiors are full of gold-rush furniture, dramatized audio and historical maps of the Bay Area. A framed image of Antonio Peralta, Alameda County’s first non-native settler, sits alongside images of park neighbor Lee Armstrong, neighborhood activist Rita Torres, and community gardener Meui Chin Saelee. The museum’s vision statement: Every Human Being Makes History.

Community Tour Leaders and Peralta Hacienda staff are continuously seeking ways to bust the toughest barriers, reaching out to those least likely to visit a museum due to issues of language, poverty, and distrust. Community Tour Leaders like Victor Moreno believe that discussing history with visitors is a crucial service. “Peralta Hacienda opens its arms to you,” he says. “These people are hungry for their history.”

This year, Peralta Hacienda will run four tour leader trainings, including a youth training and a Spanish training. Community Tour Leaders illuminate the connection between the site’s rich past and the histories which residents along the Anza Trail create each day. By the time every tour is finished, visitors have gained insight into the Anza Trail and the Peralta family, but they also pick up a California Genealogical Society brochure, and share a few words of their own history: family members, journeys, memories of the neighborhood.

To sign up for the next training, contact Ben Glickstein at ben@peraltahacienda.org or call (510) 532-9142.

The museum is open to visitors Wednesday through Saturday afternoons from 2:30 to 5:30pm.

Above: Community Tour Leader Victor Moreno talks to visitors in the parlor at Peralta Hacienda
Elizabeth Stewart and Reba Wells Grandrud, Amigos de Anza Equestrian Drill Team

Anza Trail Foundation board members Elizabeth Stewart and Reba Wells Grandrud visited our nation’s capital in February 2011 as part of Trails Advocacy Week, organized by the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) and American Hiking Society (AHS). This annual event brings trail advocates from all over the nation for a weekend of meetings--PNTS Leadership Council and Board of Directors, issues briefings and advocacy training, followed by a full working week on Capitol Hill with federal agencies, and individual appointments with one’s U. S. Senators, Representatives, and their staffs. Stewart and Grandrud brought information about Anza National Historic Trail activities in Arizona and California to a good number of Senate and House Members through whose districts the Anza NHT runs. Stewart had prepared packets of information with the handsome, new Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail booklets and brochures for each congressional office.

It was a good experience to visit Capitol Hill. We enjoyed discussing the Anza Trail and its extraordinary place in western history with our elected officials, congressional staff, federal partners and fellow National Trails System advocates. Everyone we spoke with was impressed with the significant contribution volunteers make is supporting the 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails. In 2010, volunteers worked 1,115,559 hours with an estimated value of $23,258,407! This certainly underscores the importance of all of us reporting our hours to the Superintendent.
In 2009 and 2010, The Anza Trail Foundation created a working Board of Directors, and secured Tax Exempt Status. The Foundation is partnering with NPS and BLM and are carrying on the good work of the original Anza Trail National Advisory Council. Here’s a brief introduction to the board.

Jeannie Gillen: I was approached by George Cardinet in 1990 or 1991 and asked to serve on the Board of Amigos de Anza. About that same time Meredith Kaplan asked me Chair my county’s Committee for the Comprehensive Management Plan. I said “yes” to both requests. Since then, I have ridden the trail on horseback (from Hermosillo to San Francisco), served on many other advocacy committees, and now serve as President and Chair of The Anza Trail Foundation. These experiences have given me unbelievable and wonderful memories.

Dr. Reba Wells Grandrud: Researching and exploring Anza and other historic trails across Arizona has been a 30-year passion for me, with Yuma Crossing a focal point, as all early Arizona travelers forded the Colorado River there. Appointed to the Anza Advisory Commission, I have been an active member of Anza Trail Coalition of AZ, Anza Society, assisted with effective formation of ATF, serving first as board secretary, now vice-president. I serve on the Executive Committee for the Partnership for the National Trails System and work closely with other National Historic Trails. My goal: protection and preservation of the significant and unique American heritage that national trails represent.

Gregory Gandrud: I am a Southern California native, moved to Carpinteria in 1987, founded the Gandrud Financial Services Corporation and am an avid back-packer, slightly experienced cattle herder and a health/fitness advocate. I have served on the Carpinteria City Council and, in 2005, I was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the California Recreational Trails Committee. Happily I was “tapped” to serve as Treasurer for The Anza Trail Foundation, something which has proven to be a good fit since I practically live directly on the Anza Trail.

Beverly Lane: As a museum curator and California historian, I have a special interest in California history prior to the Gold Rush and in Anza’s 1776 exploration of San Francisco’s East Bay. This year I am President of the East Bay Regional Park District which is planning 13 Anza Trail wayside panels in the East Bay, in cooperation with the NPS.

Retired Attorney at Law, Elizabeth Stewart serves on the Board and represents the ATF at the Partnership for The National Trails System and Tina Clark of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area represents Foundation interest in the Yuma area.

Rich Rojas, retired California State Parks Administrator, Dr. Michael Weber Director of Estrada Weber Cultural Connections and Professor Lynne Anderson-Inman are our other Anza Trail Foundation Board Members.

To learn more about the foundation, please visit our website:

www.anzatrailfoundation.com
Anza National Historical Trail Cost Share Grants Awarded

Steve Ross, Anza Trail Outdoor Recreation Planner

Anza Trail staff has selected three applications for funding through the Anza NHT Cost Share Grant Program. This grant program was envisioned by Superintendent Torres to carry on the successful history of the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program, which was eliminated from the NPS budget in FY 2011. Similar to the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program, the Anza Cost Share program requires at least a 50% match of labor, materials, or dollars from partnering agencies to fund projects that would directly benefit the Anza Trail. In response to our request for proposals, we received a total of seven applications requesting a total of $54,478 from NPS, for projects with a total value of $162,877. The applications reflected the diversity and unique capabilities of our partners and spanned the length of the trail from southern Arizona to Central California to the San Francisco Bay Area. Each proposal responded differently to the many needs of the trail, and is unfortunate that we are not able to fund them all. The proposals that were selected for funding include:

Friends of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park - Oakland, CA
The Community Transforming History project, which also includes funding from the City of Oakland, will result in hiring a part time Spanish speaking recruiter/trainer for docents at the Peralta Hacienda, which is a certified Anza Trail interpretive site. The project also includes four trainings for 50 new youth and adult docents, and a four part speaker series about the Anza Trail.

City of Paso Robles - Paso Robles, CA
This recreational trail enhancement project will result in the design and installation of four wayside interpretive panels along a 3 mile segment of the Salinas River / Anza Trail. The City is a progressive leader in northern San Luis Obispo County, promoting the enhancement of the Salinas River for open space and recreation, including connecting the Anza Trail through the area.

Santa Fe Ranch - Nogales, AZ
This project is located at the Las Lagunas wetlands, the first Anza expedition a campsite in the U.S. The project will result in the installation of a Trailhead Ramada and Classroom Ramada with interpretive signage, plus 75 feet of boardwalk connecting the Anza Trail around the site. Santa Fe Ranch will use the new ramadas to support their growing educational programming at the site.
Engaging Youth Through Community Outreach
Cate Bradley, NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance, Tuscon

Q: “What event happened on July 4, 1776?”

A: “We don’t learn history from that perspective.”

Trips for Kids - Ha:San Students Ride the Anza Trail

On a field trip to learn about the Anza National Historic Trail, students from the Ha:San Charter High School were asked, “What event happened on July 4, 1776?” The tribal teacher, a member of the Tohono O’odham Tribe in southern Arizona said, “We don’t learn history from that perspective.”

This began a rich exchange of information, comments and ideas about historic use of lands in northern Mexico and southern Arizona, including the Spanish Colonial time of the Anza Expedition, and prior to that time when these vast lands were considered home to various O’odham groups.

A partnership has been formed with the Ha:San Charter High School, the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and Trips For Kids Southern Arizona (a national nonprofit that gets youth into natural settings on mountain bikes). The goal of the partnership is to introduce these youth to the Anza NHT, teach them mountain bike riding skills, and gather their thoughts about the Anza Trail as it relates to their Native American Heritage.

Best Wishes To Marcy Salunga

After just over a year of joining us as the Interpretive Specialist, Marcy Salunga has moved on from the Anza Trail. We wish Marcy all the best. The search is underway for a new Interpretive Specialist.
In Memory
Yginio Aguirre: 1910-2011

Yginio Aguirre passed away on March 26, 2011. He was 101 years old. Aguirre was among the first Anza re-enactors. Señor Aguirre was the patriarch of a Southern Arizona ranching family, known for his command presence, suave demeanor and love of history. He was descended from Don Joseph de Aguirre, born in 1687 in the Villa de Aranaz, kingdom of Navarra, Spain. Joseph, with his brother Lorenzo immigrated to New Spain in 1699. The Aguirre family ran one of the largest cattle ranches in Arizona south of Casa Grande and was involved in mining and politics. Yginio took on the role of Juan Bautista de Anza in the 1975 re-ride of the Anza Trail, a Bi-centennial Project of the Arizona Historical Society, and the National Institute of Anthropology and History in Mexico City. Aguirre led the expedition of eight charros, two priests and fellow historians including Sidney Brinckerhoff, Director of the Arizona Historical Society. Brinckerhoff recalled the strength of personality of Aguirre, who became Anza, and who "would have felt comfortable leading the real expedition of settlers to San Francisco."

Discovering Early California Afro-Latino Presence

This new booklet aims to increase awareness of the diversity of members on the Anza Expedition. Although not generally apparent from depictions of early California, many members of the pioneering Anza expedition and Spanish California’s most prominent families were of mixed heritage – Spanish, Indian and African. The 30 page booklet provides an overview of remarkable families, such as the Briones, Tapia, and Pico families and the impact they had on early California. It reveals an important dimension of the Anza expedition and enhances the relevance of the story today.

Retail cost: $5.00
To purchase individual copies visit: www.heydaybooks.com
To order in bulk for resale outlets, call Heyday Books at (510) 549-3564.
Arizona Anza Days in Santa Cruz, Pima, and Maricopa Counties:
October 9-30, 2010
 Steve Ross, NPS Outdoor Recreation Planner

During the month of October, the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona (ATCA) celebrated the 235th anniversary of the Anza Expedition’s trek through Arizona during the annual Anza Days activities held throughout the state. Activities occurred each weekend, starting in Nogales on October 9th at the Las Lagunas wetlands, the expedition’s first campsite in the U.S. Anza Trail Superintendent Naomi Torres spoke at the event and toured the new sections of trail that had been constructed through the site. On October 16, Tubac celebrated the 35th annual Anza Days which featured a variety of historic events throughout the entire village and Tubac Presidio State Historic Park. ATCA staffed a table near the main stage and also interpreted the expedition at the Presidio. At the Fall Harvest Festival in Marana on October 23rd, NPS Outdoor Recreation Planner Steven Ross dedicated eight miles of newly certified trail, ATCA staffed an information table, and reenactors from the Tuscon Presidio made their presence known by demonstrating their weaponry. Finally, On October 30, The Anza Trail Foundation, ATCA, and many other partners participated in a trail restoration project within Sonoran Desert National Monument east of Gila Bend.
Along the Trail

BLM 20th Anniversary Celebration of Anza Trail, Gila Bend, AZ: December 4, 2010
Elizabeth Stewart, Anza Trail Foundation Board of Directors

The Anza Trail Foundation (ATF) and the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona (ATCA) joined our partner, the Bureau of Land Management, for the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Sonoran Desert National Monument, the Landscape Conservation System, and the 20th Anniversary of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 and the Anza National Historic Trail. Over forty exhibitors in addition to the Foundation and Coalition had booths and several hundred people traveled from all over the state to attend. This event enabled us to meet and talk with more than 300 people about the Anza Trail. Highlights of the day-long event included an Anza Expedition procession featuring Paloma School 3rd/4th grade students in authentic period dress led by James Truman as Anza and a presentation on the Anza Trail by Steven Ross, Anza Trail Outdoor Recreation Planner. The young Paloma students impressed the audience with their polished performance and Steve’s presentation was enthusiastically received. A big thanks to BLM Archaeologist Cheryl Blanchard and Elizabeth Stewart of the ATF for organizing the Anza Trail participation and dressing the kids in costume.
Along the Trail

Elizabeth Stewart, Anza Trail Foundation Board of Directors

The Anza Trail Foundation represented the Anza Trail at the Arizona State Capitol’s Environmental Day. With our vibrant brown Anza Trail table skirt and poster display, the booth at Environmental Day was very striking. The event provided a great opportunity for us to discuss the Anza Trail with several legislators, members of the public, and other exhibitors. Everyone was pleased to receive a copy of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail booklet and brochure. Many people were interested in our restoration work on the Anza Trail corridor in the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

Anza Society Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico: March 10-13
Steve Ross, NPS Outdoor Recreation Planner

First you might ask “why was the conference in Albuquerque?” The Anza Society’s mission is to celebrate the life and times of Juan Bautista de Anza. Following his successful colonization expedition to Alta California, Anza served as governor of New Mexico for a decade. Pauline Anaya coordinated events locally and Conchita Lucero assisted in finding speakers. Pauline and the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Preservation League kicked off the event with a wonderful reception on Thursday evening at her home near Old Town. On Friday the conference featured a day of talks related to Anza and Spanish Colonization. Presenters included Phil Valdez, Jr., Dr. Peter Gough, Dr. Julianne Burton-Carvajal, Pauline Chavez Bent, Dolores Valdez de Pong, Rubén Sálaz M., Hal Jackson, Rick Hendricks, Joseph Myers, John Kessell. Saturday featured a bus trip to Pecos (where Anza signed a peace agreement with the Comanche Indians in 1786) and Santa Fe with stops at historic sites and museums. As always, the Anza Society featured good company, terrific receptions, and great food!
Along the Trail

Friday at the Fort, Tucson, Arizona: March 25
Steve Ross, NPS Outdoor Recreation Planner

The Presidio San Agustin Del Tucson hosted their first “Friday at the Fort” event on March 25. The all-day event was held for the fourth graders of Carrillo Elementary School and consisted of eight stations where children learned the daily living skills of this Spanish Colonial Fort. The event was supported by Tucson City Parks and Recreation and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and was funded in part by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council. The Tucson Barrio Beat blog enthusiastically reported on the event. The post includes some great photos and video: http://barriobeat.blogspot.com/2011/03/friday-at-fort.html
May

In Partnership with the Anza Trail, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation presents a community celebration and lecture Series this month at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. For more information, call (805) 965-0093 or visit www.sbthp.org

May 7  Presidio Pastimes: Following the Anza Trail through Santa Barbara
A free family friendly event, 12-3 PM

May 12  Lecture: Caste, Race and Class in Spanish California
7:30 PM, Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, Vladimir Guerrero discusses the Anza settlers and Alta California at the end of the 18th Century.

May 19  Lecture: Marching for the Empire: Children on the Second Anza Expedition
7:30 PM, Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, Vanessa Crispin-Peralta explores the integral role of children in the expansion of the Spanish Empire and establishment of a Californio culture.

May 28  A Walk with Juan Bautista de Anza: Presidio of San Francisco
1-2:30 PM, National Park Rangers Eddie Arias and Steve Ross lead an engaging hike along the Anza Trail in the Presidio of San Francisco. Reservations required call (415) 561-4323

June

June 2-5  Old Spanish Trail Association Conference: Pomona, CA
www.oldspanishtrail.org/conference

June 23-27  Pasados del Presidio: San Francisco, CA
Golden Gate Club, 135 Fisher Loop, Presidio of San Francisco
Thursday, June 23, 7-8 PM - Family campfire at Rob Hill with Anza himself
Friday, June 24, Noon to 3 PM - Kids activities and games of Early California
Friday, June 24, 7-9 PM - Evening Fandango: Songs and dances of Early California
Monday, June 27, 11 AM –Noon, Los Californianos San Francisco Birthday and commemoration
For more information visit: www.presidio.gov/calendar

June 25  Mission Dolores Annual Birthday Celebration: San Francisco, CA
Old Mission San Francisco de Asis, 3321 16th Street
2 PM Lecture: The Mystery of Laguna Dolores, Christopher Richard, Curator, Oakland Museum
5 PM Mass at the Old Mission Church

** Announce your event here! Contact us at www.nps.gov/juba **
**View from the Anza Trail**

**New International Traveling Exhibit**

Starting this April, two travelling exhibits will begin their journeys along the trail. A Spanish language exhibit will begin its tour of Sonora, Mexico in Nogales. At the same time, a similar English-Spanish exhibit will begin its tour of Arizona and California at the Santa Barbara Presidio. The travel calendar is filling up, but there are still spaces. If you represent a community site along the trail and would like to host the exhibit, contact Naomi Torres at naom_torres@nps.gov for more information.