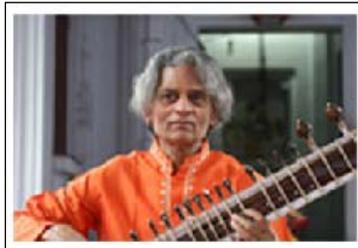


Classical North Indian Music Concert

**MEMBER
BENEFIT**

On **Thursday, June 25**, at the Wheeler Theater at Fort Worden, the Friends of Fort Worden is co-sponsoring a concert of North Indian classical music featuring master sitarists Shivnath Mishra and his son Deobrat Mishra from Benares, India. They will be joined by Pandit Kumar Lal Mishra on tabla and Port Townsend's David Michael on tamboura, swaramandel (zither) and Celtic harp.



Sitar - Pandit Shivnath Mishra began studying vocals at age five and studying sitar at age eight. He has been delighting audiences throughout Europe, Asia and the US since 1979.



Sitar & Vocal - Deobrat Mishra has been touring with his father since 1994. He performed his first concert at age six and in 1995 was chosen as the best young sitarist in India by the All-India Youth Festival.

The concert benefits the Academy of Classical Indian Music, founded by the Mishra family. With the pervasive influence of "Bollywood" songs, sacred and traditional music has become marginalized, and the Mishras are committed to keeping classical Indian music alive and growing.

The school offers western students intensive study programs, focusing on the entire culture that spawned the music. Students participate in yoga, meditation, Khatak dancing, drumming, and vocal instruction, as well as holiday celebrations, in a total cultural immersion.

Admission is free to card-showing members of Friends of Fort Worden. The Mishras have performed in Port Townsend over the past nine years and have played to sold out, standing room only crowds. Seats can be reserved by calling Dari Lewis at 301-9732. Make sure to indicate you are a member of the Friends.



Tabla - Pandit Kumar Lal Mishra has played with some of the finest musicians in the classical Indian music world; Pandit Ravi Shankar, Usted Vilayat Khan and Pandit Jasraj.

The Mishra School of Indian Classical Music is operated by the Mishra School of Indian Classical Music Society, a registered not for profit society in British Columbia, Canada. for more information see www.mishramusic.com

Friends' Gift Shop features local goods

The Guardhouse gift shop at the entrance of Fort Worden is operated by the Friends of Fort Worden and is the main revenue source for many of their projects. Gifts include items from local producers such as soaps and lotions from Townsend Bay Soap Company and greeting cards from Selley Designs.



*Guardhouse volunteer staff:
Deb and Tony Marshall (left)
and John and Lynn Cassidy.*

Volunteers are key to the success of the gift shop and they will be operating it throughout the summer, seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We greatly appreciate our volunteer staff. Next time you are out at the Fort stop in and say "hi" to them.



President's Column

"Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents, which, in prosperous circumstances, would have lain dormant."

Horace (65 BC - 8 BC)

In the winter, I value the quiet isolation afforded me when walking along the beach at Fort Worden. I often find myself thinking: "we live in a remarkable place!" I find myself lost in the natural beauty of the shoreline at times, admiring the stunning views of the Cascades and Mount Baker. During these walks, I am miles away from the tough issues and hard choices that characterize my job...and I welcome the respite!

No doubt as a member of the Friends, it is likely that you too have had similar moments in the park. The park may have served as your oasis, distant from the harsher realities of the day-to-day world. It would be marvelously reciprocal if our beautiful park were similarly insulated from the realities of state budgets and a challenging world economy. However, Washington State in general and State Parks specifically face a difficult financial future.

As you are aware, proposals for closures and deep cuts in services to State Parks have been made. Facing the possibility

of losing \$23 million over the next two years, the state's Parks and Recreation Commission drafted a plan that includes closing as many as 45 state parks, including Old Fort Townsend, Casey and Flagler.

A proposal is currently being considered by the Legislature to change the way a voluntary \$5 donation program that supports State Parks is implemented. At present, residents can check a box volunteering to pay the fee when renewing their license tabs. The proposal calls for charging the fee on vehicle tab renewals unless residents check a box allowing them to opt out.

The opt-in system, which allows drivers to add the \$5 donation to their tab renewals, began Jan. 1, 2008. Since then, it has brought in \$700,000. An opt-out system would bring in more money, and that likely would be used to keep parks running, paying for ongoing expenses.

This proposal has merit and warrants our support. When annually renewing our vehicle tabs we can choose to make a small financial commitment that will allow State Parks to continue their focus on providing a place that grants respite from everyday pressures rather than succumbing to those same outside forces.

If you agree, please let your legislators know: Representative Kessler (360) 786-7904; Representative Van de Wege (360) 786-7916; Senator Hargrove (360) 786-7646.

Parks Manager's Report

Kate Burke ~ Fort Worden Area Parks Manager

These past few months have been a series of challenges and opportunities – peaks and valleys. The State Parks' budget has been dramatically affected by the economic conditions within our state. The budget shortfall for the State of Washington in our upcoming biennial year is expected to be close to \$7 billion. All state agencies are in the process of making brutal cuts to their operational budgets. Fort Worden Area Parks are included in this exercise.

Fort Worden Area Parks consists of three parks – Fort Worden, Old Fort Townsend and Rothschild House. Old Fort Townsend has been selected by the Executive Staff in Olympia to be part of the thirteen parks to be closed in 09-11. In the Governor's budget, State Parks is being asked to take a minimum 10 percent cut. The Governor's support of State Parks is evident in this, as well as in her additional capital appropriations the past few years, with money to make improvements for the future. The reduction that State Parks is being asked to take totals about \$10 million.

The park closures represent \$3.5 million of the cut. The other \$6.5 million is from cuts to staff, programs and park improvements.

As we face our future, it is imperative for us to think more creatively about how to solve problems in less traditional ways. Our entire country is facing this unprecedented time by rethinking how to do business and succeed – we need to embrace that same attitude. There are a lot of very smart people in our community and in our Friends' groups, and their ideas will be entertained.

The Friends of Old Fort are in need of our support as we face a potential closure of the spectacular Old Fort Townsend State Park, a true gem in our area. Please contact them to find out what you can do to support their efforts – Nancy Steinberg, foft@broadstripe.net.

Thank you for your continued assistance at Fort Worden and let us reach out to our other Friends at Old Fort Townsend and help them too.

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Membership with the Friends of Fort Worden gives one the opportunity to receive discounts on merchandise at the Guardhouse gift shop, admission to selected park partner events, and notification of sponsored projects and activities such as the North Indian music concert.

Your membership supports special projects that add to the special quality of this park, such as Gayle Bard's 2008 painting **Chinese Gardens**, the lagoon at the west end of the park. Presented in partnership with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission it hangs in the foyer above the fireplace in the Commons and is lit by a skylight high above.



Our beginning of the year membership drive yielded the businesses at the bottom of this newsletter, along with new and returning members Eric & Christine Danielson (Sequim), Jane Levine (Seattle), John & Genevieve Goss (Virginia), Wendy & Joe Los (Port Hadlock), Rex & Ann Derr (Olympia), Paula & Steve Boyce (Stanwood), Skip Peltz (Bremerton), Anne Metcalfe, Ingegerd Hill, Pat & Peter Simpson, Gwen Lovett, Katie Fleming, Bonnie Hanson-Buckley, Patience Rogge, David & Renee Sepler, Lillian Tiller, Emily & Len Mandelbaum, Carl & Sue Sidle, Forest Shomer, and Curt & Britt Danielson, all of Port Townsend.

A very special

Thank You

to **Robert & Barbara Gray**, of Port Townsend, and **Carla Vanderven** of *Port Townsend Hospitality* for their generous contributions to the Friends.

Friends of Fort Worden State Park

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New Gift Shop Product



Four Seasons of Western Washington

A stunning look at the spectacular landscapes and wildlife of our region, set to music by local musician David Michael and his musical collaborator Randy Mead. This impressionistic sight and sound excursion plays daily at the Guardhouse Gift Shop

\$20 *Filmed in Widescreen & High Definition*



Meet the Board

Cheryl Goerger, at-large member of the Friends' board, is one busy lady. In addition to her business, Arrowleaf Web Design, Cheryl finds time to help out as a volunteer with ECHHO, coach rowing, and serve as an on-line teaching assistant. She is also in the process of revamping the Friends website, FWfriends.org.

Cheryl and her husband, Loren Seely, have lived in Port Townsend for nearly ten years. Originally from Tacoma, she graduated from Shoreline High School and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Puget Sound and a master's degree in Educational Technology from Nova Southeastern University.

Over the years, Cheryl has worked in the hospitality industry, taught elementary/middle school math/science and OPEPO, organized enrichment workshops at the Pacific Science Center, and spent time in Japan as a teacher. Declining enrollment in local schools and the lack of funding for educational technology prompted Cheryl to explore a career change. In 2004 she began building websites, and by 2006 had started her own business.

Cheryl says she values Fort Worden as a resource for the community and, as part of the community, she feels that she can contribute toward assuring its continued existence. "Don't take Fort Worden for granted--if you live in Port Townsend you should belong to the Friends," she declares.

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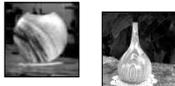
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