



## SANTA BARBARA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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*To Encourage the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Sites in the County of Santa Barbara*

# NEWS RELEASE

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Photos available upon request

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## COMMUNITY AWARDS PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS THE SANTA BARBARA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION'S ANNUAL MEETING Goleta Valley Historical Society and others honored at 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

(SANTA BARBARA, CA, JANUARY 5, 2007) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (Trust) is celebrating 44 years as a non-profit organization with its **Annual Meeting and Community Awards Presentation** on **Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.** in the **Historic Presidio Chapel** at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park. This year's **featured speaker is Elizabeth Goldstein, President, California State Parks Foundation**, whose presentation, "State Parks: Legacy in the Balance," will focus on park advocacy and the severe impact that budget cuts are having on our state parks.

The Annual Meeting and Community Awards Ceremony is a **free and public event** beginning at 2:00 p.m. with the business meeting, followed by the community awards presentation. This year the Trust is honored to present the **George and Vie Obern Preservation Stewardship Award** to the **Goleta Valley Historical Society (GVHS)** for their continued efforts toward historic preservation in Santa Barbara County, including nearing the successful completion of a restoration Campaign for Rancho La Patera began in 2004. Also receiving this award is Santa Barbara native, **Derek Westen**, for his efforts to restore and rehabilitate the 1920s Westen Building on the corner of State and De la Guerra streets in downtown Santa Barbara.

**Richard A. Rojas**, District Superintendent for California State Park's Channel Coast District, will be designated a **Life Honorary Member** for his longstanding working relationship with the Trust, which operates El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, and for his dedicated service as a steward of state park resources in Santa Barbara County. **The afternoon will conclude with a reception at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park.**

**ABOUT Elizabeth Goldstein** – Elizabeth joined the California State Parks Foundation as President in June of 2004. The California State Parks Foundation has 75,000 members and is the only statewide organization dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and protection of California's magnificent state park system. A life-long advocate for parks, Elizabeth has 20-plus years experience working specifically in support of parks and historic preservation.

**ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation** – Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation works to protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites within Santa Barbara County. The Trust is the primary force in the reconstruction and preservation of El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park and the restoration of La Casa de la Guerra in downtown Santa Barbara.

Recently, the Trust has begun reconstruction on the Northwest Corner of El Presidio de Santa Barbara, the eighteenth-century Spanish colonial fort that is Santa Barbara's birthplace. These additions will eventually house the new Presidio visitor's center, and with the help of the new Resource Center, serve to interpret the city's Hispanic heritage, and the larger multi-cultural heritage of the surrounding Presidio neighborhood from the eighteenth century to the present.

**[www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org)**

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