



# Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

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To Bring Alive the History of Santa Barbara for Present and Future Generations

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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Photos Available Upon Request**

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### **New Board President Named along with Two New Board Members at the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – Chung Family, Consul General of Spain, and State Historic Preservation Officer also Honored with Community Awards**

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation is proud to announce that **Craig Makela was named new Board President** at the Trust's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Community Awards Presentation on January 12, 2008. In addition, the Trust unanimously elected community leaders **Rob Rossi and Jack Theimer to the Board of Directors** and reelected incumbents Timothy Aguilar, W. Elliot Brownlee, Suzanne Schomer, Anthony P. Spann, and Mike Stoker.



**1: Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation Board President Craig Makela.**

**Craig Makela** is president of the Santa Barbara Olive Co., a nationally distributed food company, and has served on the Trust Board since 2002. He is founder of the California Specialty Food Group, a non-profit trade association with a membership of more than 75 companies. Makela is currently a member of the National Federation of Independent Business, the Farm Bureau, California Organic Farmers and California Nurserymen's Association, and serves as a Board Member for the Bank of Santa Barbara. He has associate degrees from Santa Barbara City College and Ventura College and has attended Santa Barbara College of Law. Makela presently serves on the Trust's Development and Artifacts/Exhibits Committees, and Chairs the Trust's Endowment and

Audit Committees.

**Jack Theimer** received his B.A. in business administration from the University of Oklahoma and a J.D. from the University of Oklahoma Law School. Since 1974, he has acquired and developed numerous unique realty properties in the United States, including Las Entradas in Montecito and Storke Ranch in Goleta. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council and the Santa Barbara Housing Foundation. Co-chairman of the California State Preservation Conference in 1991, Theimer rejoins the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, having served previously from 1988-1992.



**2: New Trust Board Member Rob Rossi.**

**Rob Rossi** received his Bachelor of Architecture Professional Degree from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. He is one of the cofounders of Richmond, Rossi, Montgomery (RRM Design Group) an Architectural/Environmental/Planning firm. Of personal interest are historic renovations and reuse projects, which have included the Fremont Theater in San Luis Obispo and the **Granada Building in Santa Barbara** which Rossi currently owns. Rossi was honored in 2000 as Alumnus of the year for the College of Architecture and

Environmental Design, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. His community work includes serving on the Board of Directors for Special Olympics, fundraising for Hospice, and the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He is currently president of Rossi Enterprises, and responsible for a variety of business enterprises from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

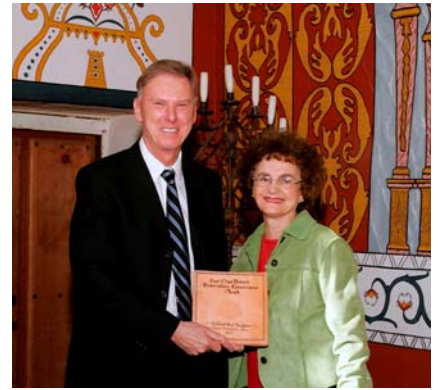


**3: The Chung Family receives the George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award. Pictured from left to right: Barbara Chung, Vivian Obern, Amy and William Chung, and Tommy and Julie Chung. Photo courtesy of Clint Weisman Studio.**

As part of the **Community Awards Presentation** the Trust for Historic Preservation also honored the **Chung Family with the George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award** for their family's more than fifty-year operation of Jimmy's Oriental Gardens Restaurant in El Pueblo Viejo. In 2007 the Chung Family sold the Jimmy's Oriental Gardens property to the Santa Barbara Trust for Preservation for incorporation into the development of El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park to help interpret the Asian history in the Presidio neighborhood. The family has since donated numerous artifacts and shared personal stories to aid in the eventual interpretation of the site as Santa Barbara's last Chinese family-owned

business in the area.

**California State Historic Preservation Officer Milford Wayne Donaldson** was honored with the **2007 Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award** for his lifetime of leadership in historic preservation and the adaptive reuse of existing structures in Santa Barbara and throughout the state of California. Donaldson's work in Santa Barbara includes the restoration of the Santa Barbara Railroad Station and the recently completed Santa Barbara Presidio Research Center, along with the reconstruction of the Santa Barbara Presidio Northwest Corner project (currently under construction).



**4: State Historic Preservation Officer Milford Wayne Donaldson receives the Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award from Trust Board Member Mary Louise Days. Photo courtesy of Clint Weisman Studio.**

**Consul General of Spain in Los Angeles Inocencio F. Arias** was designated a **Life Honorary Member** for his ongoing support of the Trust and his efforts to strengthen the ties between Spain and the city of Santa Barbara.

Former Trust board president and civic leader **James D. Scheinfeld** was honored posthumously as a **Life Honorary Trustee** for his significant contributions to the Trust over his twelve years of service on the Board of Directors.

*Los Soldados de Cuera* (Soldiers of the Royal Presidio of Santa Bárbara) began the afternoon ceremonies with a tribute to the Consul General of Spain. A special recognition award was presented to Trust Board Member **Mary Louise Days** for her 40 years of outstanding service to the Trust for Historic Preservation. Outgoing board president Barbara Lindemann eloquently delivered the president's report and received a special gift for her two-year service as board president. Acting **State Parks District Superintendent, Channel Coast District, Danita Rodriguez** reported on behalf of California State Parks. Volunteer appreciation awards were presented to **Cecily Johns, Lynn P. Kirst and Assembly Member Pedro Nava**.

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**ABOUT the Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award** - Each year the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation presents the Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award to a deserving community member or organization who has dedicated themselves to the values that Dr. Chase stood for in the fields of historic preservation and conservation. This annual lifetime achievement award serves as a tribute to the life and work of Pearl Chase, the famous leader of

community activism and preservation in Santa Barbara, and to the work that continues today as a result of the inspiration she provided.

**ABOUT the George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award** – This annual award from the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation recognizes an individual(s) or organization(s) that demonstrates outstanding preservation work in connection with a specific project in and around Santa Barbara County. This prestigious award was named in honor of George and Vivian Obern in 2006 for their lifelong preservation work, including their successful efforts to save the Thomas Hope House (built 1875, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978), condemned by the county of Santa Barbara but saved by the Oberns.

**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 is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization working to preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites within Santa Barbara County. The Trust is the primary force behind the reconstruction and preservation of El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park and the restoration of Casa de la Guerra in downtown Santa Barbara. The Trust is also preserving and restoring the Santa Inés Mission Mills—the site of a future California State Park—and recently purchased the building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian community in the Presidio neighborhood. The Trust is currently reconstructing the Northwest Corner of El Presidio de Santa Barbara, the eighteenth-century Spanish colonial fort that is Santa Barbara’s birthplace. Using over 50,000 adobe bricks made on site, these additions will eventually house the new Presidio visitors’ center, and with the help of the recently relocated Santa Barbara Presidio Research 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. **For more information visit [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org)**

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