



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

PO Box 388
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0388
Tel (805) 965-0093 | Fax (805) 568-1999 | www.sbthp.org

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

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2008

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

PRESS CONTACT

Jared Brach

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

Tel: (805) 966-1279

Fax: (805) 966-9888

E-mail: jared@sbthp.org

Website: www.sbthp.org

Celebrate the City's 226th Birthday with "Santa Barbara's Founding Day" – Annual Community Celebration Features Historical Re-enactments, Living History Demonstrations, and a Special Appearance by Zorro



(Santa Barbara, CA) – Journey into the past and join the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation in celebrating **Santa Barbara's 226th birthday with "Founding Day" at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park** (123 East Canon Perdido Street) on **Saturday, April 19 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Watch the **Presidio come to life** with Early California music

and dance, pottery and adobe brick making, Chumash stories by storyteller Julie Tumamait, hands-on archaeology activities, and **Presidio birthday cake for all to enjoy**. **Don't miss a special appearance by legendary folk hero Zorro**. **Featuring a costume contest for the kids – dress up as Zorro and win prizes!**

This free community celebration begins at 11:00 am with Mass in the Presidio Chapel,



immediately followed by a **brief reenactment of the official founding of the Santa Barbara Presidio on April 21, 1782** presented by *Los Soldados de Cuera* (soldiers of the Royal Presidio), a tribute to Saint Barbara (the city's patron saint) portrayed by Thea Vandervoort of Reina del Mar Parlor No. 126, Native Daughters of the Golden West, and the singing of the "Alabado," the first hymn sung at the Presidio Chapel dedication.



Following the afternoon ceremony, join **Master Potter, Ruben Reyes, as he demonstrates the art of pottery making**, see blacksmithing demonstrations, meet the fort's uniformed soldiers (*Los Soldados de Cuera*), cook tortillas like Santa Barbara's early settlers and take a tour of the Presidio with costumed docents.

This project is funded in part by the COMMUNITY EVENTS & FESTIVALS Program using funds provided by the City of Santa Barbara in partnership with the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission. Additional funding provided by Williams-Corbett Foundation, Towbes Foundation, and Venoco Inc.

####

CALENDAR LISTING

Santa Barbara's Founding Day Celebration

Saturday, April 19, 2008

11:00 am to 2:00 pm

El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA

Refreshments Served

FREE Admission

For more information (805) 965-0093 or visit www.sbthp.org

####

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 new 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**

####