



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

*El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos available upon request

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Community Awards Presentation Highlights

47th Annual Meeting of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

(SANTA BARBARA, CA)—The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) celebrates forty-seven years as a nonprofit organization with its **Annual Meeting and Community Awards Presentation** on **Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 2:00 PM** in the **Alhecama Theatre** (215A East Canon Perdido Street) at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. Featuring a review of the 2009 Annual Report and the election of new Trustees, **community award honorees include Kellam de Forest and the Santa Barbara Contractors Association and Built Green Santa Barbara.**

This year SBTHP will present the prestigious Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award to Kellam de Forest for his tireless work advocating good planning and historic preservation in Santa Barbara. Son of prominent Santa Barbara landscape architect Lockwood de Forest Jr., Kellam worked in Hollywood as a researcher, most notably on the TV show “The Untouchables,” before returning to Santa Barbara permanently in the 1980s. De Forest is a board member of the Pearl Chase Society and chair of its Preservation Committee. He attends every meeting of the City's Historic Landmarks Commission and is a regular at County Historic Landmarks Advisory Committee, City of Santa Barbara Planning Commission, City Council, County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings, observing and commenting on pertinent agenda matters.

The 2010 George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award is being presented to the Santa Barbara Contractors Association and their Built Green Santa Barbara program for the successful green rehabilitation of two 1920s artist studios in Plaza de Alhecama. Originally part of the Santa Barbara School of the Arts (1927-1938), SBCA invested more than \$800,000 in a green and sustainable rehabilitation of the studios, including installation of new high performance spray foam insulation, low-flow plumbing fixtures for water conservation, energy efficient infrared radiant heat panels, rehabilitation of original windows and skylights, and the restoration of original hardwood floors. With a small array of solar photovoltaic panels adorning a section of the structures roof, the building is a zero fossil fuel usage facility and creates more energy than is used. The building's revitalization as SBCA's Built Green Resource Center has created an historic opportunity to showcase energy independence, sustainable building practices, and the value of recycling our legacy structures.

For the first time SBTHP is also presenting the Sue Higman Volunteer of the Year Award this year to architect Anthony P. "Tony" Spann, AIA and the staff of Harrison Design Associates. Named in honor of longtime SBTHP supporter and community activist Sue Higman, the award will be given annually to an individual or individuals who have made outstanding contributions of their time to SBTHP over the course of a year. Spann chairs SBTHP's Restoration Committee and in 2009 he and his staff volunteered their services to prepare as built drawings of the historic Cota-Knox building in downtown Santa Barbara, as well as drawings for the proposed relocation of the Bonilla House in El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. **"These deserving award recipients showcase the vitality and extraordinary character of Santa Barbara. It is a pleasure to know and work with all of our honorees,"** remarked Craig Makela, SBTHP Board President.

Sponsored in part by Montecito Bank & Trust, the afternoon will conclude with a **reception at Plaza de Alhecama** and feature guided tours of the newly opened Built Green Resource Center.

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CALENDAR LISTING

SBTHP 47th Annual Meeting & Community Awards Presentation

Saturday, January 16, 2009

2:00 PM

Alhecama Theatre at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP

215A East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Free event

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

ABOUT the Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award—Each year the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) seeks to present the Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award to a deserving community member or organization dedicated 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—The George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award recognizes individuals or organizations that demonstrate 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 (SBTHP) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) works to *protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park—Santa Barbara’s 18th century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks and recently purchased the neighboring building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian American community in the Presidio Neighborhood. SBTHP owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra and his family—the restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. Recently, SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills, located near the town of Solvang, as a future California State Park. With the help of continuing education programs and exhibits, SBTHP strives to encourage community involvement and foster an appreciation for Santa Barbara County’s distinct history. Learn more at www.sbthp.org.

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