



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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Celebrate “Día de los Muertos” (Day of the Dead) at Casa de la Guerra

9th Annual Family Craft Workshop Honors the past through traditional arts and crafts



(Santa Barbara, CA) – Celebrate **Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)**, with a free craft workshop and exhibition on **Saturday, October 31 from Noon to 3:00 PM at Casa de la Guerra** in downtown Santa Barbara. Fun for the whole family—discover the fascinating history of this special holiday while making skeleton masks, decorating sugar skulls, creating tissue paper marigolds and festive holiday prints. View contemporary day of the dead art and enjoy traditional refreshments, including *pan de los*

muertos (bread of the dead), and Mexican hot chocolate.

Day of the Dead is an annual celebration to honor the spirits of the dead and is observed primarily in Mexico and other Latin American countries where it is a national holiday. With its rare mix of pre-Hispanic and Roman Catholic rituals, Day of the Dead is a wonderful example of the synthesis of cultures that has come to define Latin America, and in part, reflect the history of Santa Barbara. According to popular belief, on Day of the Dead the spirits of the dead return to commune with the living. Not only is it dedicated to remembering and honoring those that have passed before us, the celebration is also focused on the artistic expression of the living.

Families leave homemade offerings for these spirits, attend fiestas dressed in costumes and clean or decorate the graves of deceased family members.

***This event is made possible with support from Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, The Towbes Foundation, and Venoco, Inc.**

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CALENDAR LISTING

***Día de los Muertos* Craft Day**

Saturday, October 31, 2009

Noon to 3:00 PM

Casa de la Guerra

15 East De la Guerra Street, Santa Barbara, CA

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



Celebrate *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), with a free family craft workshop at Casa de la Guerra. Discover the fascinating history of this special holiday while making skeleton masks, decorating sugar skulls, designing traditional tissue paper marigolds and creating holiday prints.

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ABOUT 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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