



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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Additional photos available upon request

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Enjoy two of Santa Barbara's enduring holiday traditions with *Una Noche de Las Posadas* and *La Pastorela* at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park



(Santa Barbara, CA)—Celebrate the holidays with Santa Barbara's oldest Christmas traditions as the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) presents the **nineteenth annual *Una Noche de Las Posadas* on Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 PM, and *La Pastorela* on Saturday, December 20 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, December 21 at 2:00 and 7:00 PM. Both events take place at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park.** Share in the festivities that date back to the city's earliest residents, celebrating the season with song, story, and merriment.

Las Posadas (The Inns) commemorates Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their nine-day search for shelter. **Now in its nineteenth year, *Una Noche de Las Posadas*, a one-night version of the celebration, begins with traditional holiday songs performed in the candlelit Presidio Chapel by El Coro del**

Real Presidio de Santa Bárbara. Guests are invited to join the choir in a procession led by children portraying an angel, Joseph, Mary and their small burro as they stroll and sing their way to State Street, through Paseo Nuevo shopping mall and into De la Guerra Plaza, in search of lodging. **The procession ends at Casa de la**

Guerra as Joseph and Mary finally find shelter and attendees enjoy more singing, traditional refreshments and a piñata for children. This colorful tradition was brought to Santa Barbara by its Spanish and Mexican settlers and is still observed throughout the American Southwest as a religious and social celebration. ***Las Posadas* is made possible through grants from The Towbes Foundation and Santa Barbara Bank & Trust.**



SBTHP and Los Pastores de Santa Barbara present the return of *La Pastorela*. One of Santa Barbara's original Christmas celebrations, *La Pastorela* is the tale of the *pastores* (shepherds) journey to Bethlehem to witness the birth of Christ. A story of good and evil, their journey is fraught with temptations, distractions and peril as the devil tries to prevent the shepherds from reaching their special destination. While hundreds of unique versions of the play exist, **this *pastorela* was transcribed and saved in the mid-nineteenth century by Pablo de la Guerra,**

then-patriarch of the local De la Guerra family. Based on performances he witnessed in Santa Barbara, De la Guerra's version is housed at the Santa Barbara Mission Archive Library among the De la Guerra family papers. The performance is conducted entirely in Spanish and incorporates Early California song and dance.

***La Pastorela* is directed by Elvira Gomez Tafoya of Los Pastores de Santa Barbara.** Tafoya has been involved in *La Pastorela* performances in Santa Barbara since 1975 and has successfully collaborated several times with SBTHP to conduct performances in the Presidio Chapel. **"We are excited to have *Pastorela* back at the Presidio and performed in the Chapel's intimate setting. These performances give us the opportunity to keep a Mexican tradition alive and to share it with the entire community" said Mrs. Tafoya. Keeping with tradition, Los Pastores has recruited actors from the community to take on the ten principle roles in the nativity play.**

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CALENDAR LISTING

Una Noche de Las Posadas

Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 PM

Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara

Free admission

For more information www.sbthp.org

La Pastorela

Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara

\$10 for Adults

\$5 for Children 12 & Under & SBTHP Members

For more information www.sbthp.org

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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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