



# Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

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

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2009

**ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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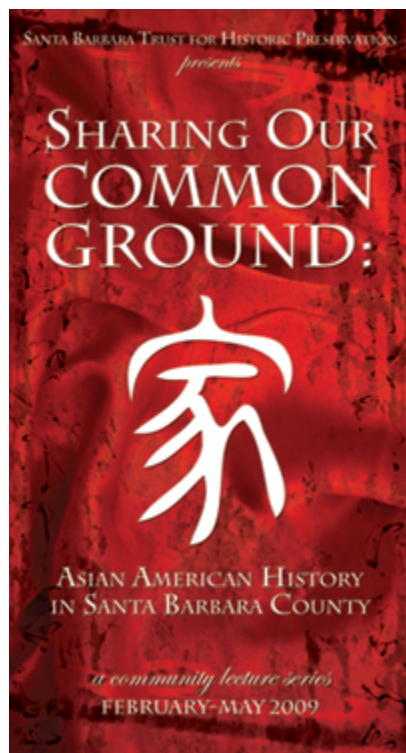
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### **“Sharing Our Common Ground: Asian American History in Santa Barbara County” – Three-part community lecture series shares the stories of Santa Barbara’s Asian American Community**



(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) is proud to present **“Sharing Our Common Ground: Asian American History in Santa Barbara County,”** a three-part community lecture series at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, Santa Barbara, Calif., **February through May 2009.** Drawing upon extensive oral history research, three prominent scholars will discuss Asian American history in the Presidio neighborhood and greater Santa Barbara area from 1860 to 1960. **Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at UC Santa Barbara, Xiaojian Zhao, Ph.D.,** opens the series with her presentation **“Chinese American Community in Santa Barbara, 1860-1950”** on Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 PM.

**During the late-nineteenth and twentieth-centuries the area in and around the Santa Barbara Presidio was occupied by communities of Chinese and Japanese, coexisting side by side in what was a unique and culturally rich neighborhood.**

SBTHP is currently conducting research and community outreach to develop an exhibit on Asian American history in Santa Barbara, with a special emphasis on the Presidio area neighborhood. **According to SBTHP's Associate Director for Historical Resources, Anne Petersen, "Exploring the experience of Asian Americans in Santa Barbara helps personalize the history of immigration, agricultural innovation, urbanization and World War II, all of which shaped the development of California. At the same time, the history of Chinese and Japanese Americans in our community, many of whom lived side by side in the culturally-rich Presidio neighborhood, has many characteristics that are unique to Santa Barbara. We look forward to sharing these stories with the public."**

**"Sharing Our Common Ground: Asian American History in Santa Barbara County"**  
presentations include:

**Chinese American Community in Santa Barbara, 1860-1950 by Xiaojian Zhao, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at UC Santa Barbara, Zhao is the author of *Remaking Chinese America: Immigration, Family and Community, 1940-1965*. Join Zhao as she presents an overview of the Chinese American experience in Santa Barbara from 1860 to 1950 through a blend of oral histories and archival sources.

**Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 7:00 PM**

**Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Barbara SHP**

**123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA**

**\$10 for adults | FREE for SBTHP members and 16 or under**

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**Mollusks and Hot Irons: Chinese entrepreneurship in Santa Barbara by Linda Bentz**

Freelance historical researcher Linda Bentz is a screenwriter for the documentary *Courage and Contributions: The Chinese in Ventura County* and author of the forthcoming book *Hidden Voices: One Hundred Years of Chinese History in Ventura County*. Bentz will discuss the history of Chinese businesses in Santa Barbara, focusing primarily on the fishing and laundry industries.

**Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 7:00 PM**

**Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Barbara SHP**

**123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA**

**\$10 for adults | FREE for SBTHP members and 16 or under**

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**Where East Meets West in California: Three Japanese American Communities in Santa Barbara County by Kent Haldan, Ph.D.**

A member of the Social Sciences Department at Diablo Valley College, Haldan will draw upon extensive oral history research from his doctoral dissertation *Our Japanese Citizens: A Study of Race, Class, and Ethnicity in Three Japanese American Communities in Santa Barbara County, 1900-1960*, to highlight the Japanese American experience in Santa Barbara County.

**Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 7:00 PM**

**Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Barbara SHP**

**123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA**

**\$10 for adults | FREE for SBTHP members and 16 or under**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Visit [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org) or call (805) 965-0093

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**ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)** – 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. SBTHP 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. SBTHP 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 American community in the Presidio neighborhood. SBTHP is currently renting the dining room and kitchen portion of the property to Grapevine, a gourmet deli, while retaining the bar portion. The property will eventually house a larger museum, the focus of which will be developed through an interpretive planning process set to begin in Spring 2009.** SBTHP is presently 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 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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