



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2009

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

PRESS CONTACT

Jared Brach

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)

Tel: (805) 966-1279

Fax: (805) 966-9888

E-mail: jared@sbthp.org

Website: www.sbthp.org

Celebrate Santa Barbara's 227th Birthday with "Founding Day" at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

Presidio Comes Alive with Annual Living History Experience

(SANTA BARBARA, CA)—Celebrate **Santa Barbara's 227th birthday with "Founding Day" on Saturday, April 18 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park** (123 East Canon Perdido Street). Step into the past and watch the Presidio come alive with **Early California music and dance, pottery and adobe brick making, Chumash storytelling, archaeological excavations, authentic foods and tortilla making, calligraphy, and Presidio birthday cake!**



This FREE celebration begins at 11:00 AM with mass in the Presidio Chapel, 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), and the singing of the "Alabado," the first hymn sung at the Presidio Chapel dedication.

Following the afternoon ceremony, visit with demonstrators and experience life in Santa Barbara during the 1800s. **Join master potter, Ruben Reyes, as he shares the art of pottery making**, meet the fort's uniformed soldiers, 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 support provided by Montecito Bank & Trust.

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CALENDAR LISTING

“Founding Day”

Saturday, April 18, 2009

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA

Refreshments Served

FREE Admission

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

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Celebrate Santa Barbara's 227th birthday with “Founding Day” at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. Bring the entire family and watch the Presidio come to life with Early California music and dance, food, pottery and adobe brick making, Chumash storytelling, archaeology, and Presidio birthday cake!

About the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)—Since 1963, the mission of SBTHP has been to encourage the preservation of historic buildings and sites in Santa Barbara County. We have rebuilt major portions of Santa Barbara's Royal Presidio, which we operate as El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic 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 has also
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restored and operates as an historic house museum Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra. We are currently preserving the Santa Inés Mission Mills, the site of a future California State Park. These are but a few of the many projects SBTHP is presently pursuing—learn more by visiting www.sbthp.org.

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