



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

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

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 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

Three community leaders join the board of directors for the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) proudly announces the addition of **three new community leaders to its board of directors:**

Michael Aberle, Terease Chin and Pekka Hamalainen.

Michael Aberle received his Master of Science in Plant Pathology from UC Riverside, specializing in the germination of California native grass and chaparral. Aberle has a specific interest in Spanish and Early California history. He plays guitar for the Early California singing and dance group, *Flor y Canto*, and is a member of *Soldados del Real Presidio de Santa Bárbara* (Soldiers of the Royal Presidio of Santa

Barbara), a living history group dedicated to portraying the presidial soldier of the Spanish Southwest between 1769 and 1821.



Terease Chin



Michael Aberle

Terease Chin is Vice Presidio and Senior Trust Officer at Montecito Bank & Trust. Chin received her Bachelors Degree in Sociology from St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana, and in 2001 earned her Juris Doctor from the Santa Barbara College of Law. Ms. Chin serves on the

board of Girls, Inc. Santa Barbara as the Finance Chair, and is a member of the Education and Personal Development Committee for the Santa Barbara Foundation. Ms. Chin is also an ESL instructor through the SBCC Adult Education program. She currently serves on SBTHP's Asian American Advisory Committee to help interpret the site of Jimmy's Oriental Gardens and the history of Santa Barbara's Asian community in the Presidio neighborhood.

Pekka Hamalainen, Ph.D., is a graduate of the University of Helsinki and is currently an Associate Professor at UC Santa Barbara. Hamalainen's research and teaching interests include: North American Borderlands and Native American History. His recent book, *The Imperial Comanches: How the Rise and Fall of an Indigenous Empire Shaped the Course of American History* has been awarded two distinguished prizes for History books. The Organization of American Historians gave it the 2009 Merle Curti Award for the best book in social and/or intellectual history, and the Texas State Historical Association chose it for the 2008 Kate Brooks Bates Award for the book representing the most significant historical research dealing with any phase of Texas history before 1900. Hamalainen currently serves on SBTHP's Research Center Committee and Editorial Advisory Board.



Pekka Hamalainen

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 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.

####