



# 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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## Celebrate Santa Barbara's holiday traditions *Una Noche de Las Posadas* and *La Pastorela* at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park



(Santa Barbara, CA)—Enjoy the holidays with Santa Barbara's oldest Christmas traditions as the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) presents the **twentieth annual *Una Noche de Las Posadas* on Friday, December 17 at 7:00 PM, and *La Pastorela* on Saturday, December 18 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, December 19 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. *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 holiday 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.

**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 produced and directed by Elvira 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. Keeping with tradition, **Los Pastores has recruited amateur actors from the community to take on the ten principle roles in the play.** Elvira Tafoya, an accomplished teacher and organizer in the Santa Barbara community notes: "We are excited to have Pastorela back at the Presidio. This project gives us the opportunity to keep a Mexican tradition alive and to share it with the entire community."

**Karen Schultz Anderson, Director of Education at SBTHP, says,** "La Pastorela and Una Noche de las Posadas are wonderful projects that enables SBTHP to carry out its mission **to 'bring alive the history of Santa Barbara for present and future generations.'** It supports our educational efforts to share Santa Barbara's diverse heritage with a broad audience, in a way that is both interesting and relevant in our lives today. We are delighted to continue this collaboration that contributes so much to the Santa Barbara community."

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## CALENDAR LISTING

### ***Una Noche de Las Posadas***

Friday, December 17 at 7:00 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](http://www.sbthp.org)

### ***La Pastorela***

Saturday, December 18 at 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 19 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](http://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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.sbthp.org).

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