



**Santa Barbara Trust
for Historic Preservation**
El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

To preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2010

Additional photos available on request

PRESS CONTACT

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Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation continues “Sharing Our Common Ground” with Presidio Pastimes: The Santa Barbara Presidio’s Asian American Neighborhood

*Step back in time and celebrate Santa Barbara’s
Asian American heritage*

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – Join the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) for a fun-filled celebration of Santa Barbara’s Asian American heritage during “**Presidio Pastimes**” on **Saturday, September 11 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at **El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park**. This free family day offers visitors of all ages a chance to step back in time and celebrate the history and culture of the Chinese and Japanese communities that once occupied the area in and around the Santa Barbara Presidio.

Enjoy the opportunity to learn **origami**, the Japanese art of paper folding. Try your hand at creating a form of Japanese poetry, **haiku**, with Nina Egert, author of *Noguchi’s California: Poetic Visions of a 19th Century Dharma Bum*. See a demonstration of, and then practice, the **ancient art of calligraphy**. Hear **shakuhachi**, a traditional Japanese flute played by Bob Sedivy. **Craft stations for kids of all ages include making and decorating dragon masks, carp kites, fans, and paper lanterns.**

Schedule of Performances

10 a.m. – Traditional Mochi Pounding Ceremony by members of Bethany Congregational Church

Mochi is a Japanese rice cake made of rice pounded into paste and molded into shape. While eaten year-round, mochi is a traditional food for the Japanese New Year and is traditionally made in a ceremony called *mochituki*.



11 a.m. - Taiko Drumming performed by Togen Daiko of Oxnard

Originally used to intimidate battlefield enemies, taiko drums were gradually incorporated into religious and imperial ceremonies throughout Japan. Modern taiko was established in 1951 by [Daihachi Oguchi](#), a musician known for his jazz drum performances. He is credited with forming the first taiko ensemble referred to as kumi-daiko and starting the modern popularity of taiko performances.

Noon - Martial Arts Demonstration by Ken and Miye Ota's Cultural Arts School

Demonstration of Aikido with Ki, a refined, graceful and effective martial art that stresses the use of coordination of mind and body.



1 p.m. – Dragon Dance Team from the Santa Barbara Chinese School

The dragon dance is a highlight of Chinese New Year celebrations and an important part of festive occasions. Performing in a dragon dance team incorporates several elements and skills -- combining the training and mentality of a sports team with the stagecraft and flair of a performing arts troupe.



1:30 p.m. – Japanese Folk Dance, *Tanko Bushi*, directed by Roberta Cook

Learn the steps to a traditional Japanese folk dance, *Tanko Bushi* with community members and friends. Often referred to as the "Coal Miner's Dance," this dance is popular at the Obon festivals held during the summer months. Come join the fun!

Also opening on this same day: "**Nihonmachi Revisited: Santa Barbara's Japanese American Community in Transition, 1900-1950**," a new exhibit in the historic Canedo Adobe at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park.

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CALENDAR LISTING

“Presidio Pastimes: The Santa Barbara Presidio’s Asian American Neighborhood”

Saturday, September 11, 2010

10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m.

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA

FREE Admission

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

ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) – Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other community leaders, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) works *to preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, Santa Barbara’s 18th century birthplace, under a unique agreement with California State Parks. Recently purchased, the neighboring building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens provides an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian American community in the Presidio neighborhood. SBTHP also 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 near the town of Solvang as a future California State Park. These are a few of the projects SBTHP is presently pursuing—learn more at www.sbthp.org.

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