



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

April 2, 2013

Additional photos available upon request

PRESS CONTACT

Christa Clark Jones

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA

Tel: (805) 966-1279 • Fax: (805) 966-9888

E-mail: christa@sbthp.org • Website: www.sbthp.org

Blog: sbthp.wordpress.com • Facebook: facebook.com/SBTHP • Twitter: twitter.com/SBTHP

Celebrate Santa Barbara's 231st Birthday with "Founding Day"

at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

Living History Event & Birthday Celebration



(SANTA BARBARA, CA)—**Celebrate Santa Barbara's 231st birthday "Founding Day" on Sunday, April 21 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara 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, blacksmithing, adobe brick making, archaeology, and more!****

This free birthday celebration for the community begins at noon with the Chumash Inter-tribal Singers, a reenactment of the founding of the Santa Barbara Presidio in 1782, presented by *Los Soldados de Cuera* (soldiers of the Royal Presidio), a special acknowledgement of the California Conservation Corps., followed by the presentation of Saint Barbara 2013 by Reina del Mar Parlor # 126 of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. Observe an Early California dance

performance by *Las Fiesteras*, led by Diana Replogle-Purinton.

Following the ceremony, enjoy onsite educational activities throughout the Presidio that focus on the history and culture of early California. Converse with costumed demonstrators and experience life in Santa Barbara during the late-1700s. Join potter Armando de la Rocha as he shares the art of pottery making and hear Chumash tales from Alan Salazar. Learn about native and introduced plants and discover how food was prepared in Early California.

Following living history activities enjoy a traditional Latin mass in the Presidio Chapel at 3:00 pm.

The service commemorates the original founding mass at the Presidio Chapel in 1782. The mass features a **performance by the Quire of Voyces.**

Throughout 2013, SBTHP is celebrating fifty years of work in the Santa Barbara community. Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other community leaders, SBTHP works **to preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County.** The vision of the organization's founders was to restore Santa Barbara's Spanish Presidio, reclaim Santa Barbara's birthplace and preserve Santa Barbara County history for future generations. With the help of continuing education activities and exhibits including Founding Day, SBTHP strives to encourage community involvement and foster an appreciation for Santa Barbara's distinct history.

The Santa Barbara community is invited to be a part of the 50th anniversary celebration. SBTHP's Memories Project requests photographs, stories, and drawings from the community to help interpret and document the stories held within the Presidio neighborhood. All of the material SBTHP gathers will be archived at the Presidio Research Center and shared with the public on SBTHP's new [Collections Online](#) website. The Memories Project is on display at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP throughout 2013. To learn more: www.sbthp.org/anniversary.

Santa Barbara's Founding Day 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.

CALENDAR LISTING

Santa Barbara's Founding Day

Sunday, April 21, 2013

Noon to 3:00 PM: Community Celebration

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 www.sbthp.org

Founding Day Mass

Sunday, April 21, 2013
3:00 PM: Latin Mass with Quire of Voyces
Presidio Chapel
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 www.sbthp.org

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Santa Barbara's Founding Day

Celebrate Santa Barbara's 231st birthday with "Founding Day" at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. Join us for the presentation of Saint Barbara and see the Presidio come to life with Early California dance, pottery, archaeology, native and introduced plants, blacksmithing, adobe brick making, and more!

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ABOUT Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)— For fifty years the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) has worked 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 18th 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. 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. SBTHP was awarded the 2011 Trustees' Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 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.