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On the Town



BRETT LEIGH DICKS/NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

At the conclusion of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation's Annual Meeting and Community Awards Presentation in the Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, attendees assembled in front of the chapel for a photograph.



The California Department of Parks and Recreation was represented by Aaron Robertson, chief deputy director, left, and Richard Rozzelle, superintendent of its Channel Coast District, who respectively praised volunteers and staff alike.

A gathering of historic proportions

The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation has had a lot to celebrate over the past five decades. And with 2013 marking the organization's 50th anniversary, that is exactly what it did over the past 12 months.

The group recently held its Annual Meeting and Community Awards Presentation in the Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park. Along with being an opportunity to review the 2013 Annual Report, announce the election of new trustees and present the yearly community awards, the event gave board president **John S. Poucher**, who officiated the proceedings, the chance to share some of the highlights of the organization's golden anniversary year.

A gala dinner at El Paseo Restaurant, a reception for the Crown Prince Felipe of Spain at The Biltmore and the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Father Junipero Serra were just a few of the special events.

After remarks by Santa Barbara City Councilman **Dale Francisco**, the podium was turned over to **Terease Chin**, SBTHP treasurer, who went over the annual financial report. Next up was **Aaron Robertson**, chief deputy director for the California Department of Parks and Recreation, who praised the statewide volunteers who collectively donated more than 1.3 million hours in service to state parks.

"We couldn't operate our state parks without our volunteer partners and folks like you," Mr. Robertson told the crowd, following his remarks by a heartfelt "thank you."

Richard Rozzelle, superintendent of the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Channel Coast District, who took to the dais next, made a point of thanking the SBTHP staff prior to **Garvan F. Kuskey**, chairman of the SBTHP nominating committee who was

attending his 44th annual meeting, rounding out the meeting portion by announcing the nominees for board of directors.

Board president Mr. Poucher was then joined by **Suzanne Schomer**, board secretary, to commence the award ceremony. They presented Los Soldados del Real Presidio de Santa Barbara, a living history interpretation group that portrays the soldiers of the Royal Presidio, with a certificate of recognition for their contributions. **Anne Petersen**,

associate director for historic resources, then presented **Mika Thornburg** with the Jim and Sue Higman Internship.

Archaeologist **Michael Imwalle** presented the Sue Higman Volunteer Award to **Jeannie Davis**; Ms. Schomer returned to present **Bill Mahan** of the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation with the George

and Vivian Oborn Preservation Stewardship Award. **Mary Louise Days**, first vice president, bestowed the Pearl Chase Historic Preservation and Conservation Award upon **Timothy Aguilar**.

Attendees, speakers and guests gathered in front of the Presidio Chapel for a photograph afterward.

Among those in attendance were several SBTHP staff, including Executive Director **Jarrell C. Jackman**; **Karen Schultz Anderson**, director of education; **Sally Fuhse**, associate director of business affairs; and **Christa Clark Jones**, development assistant. Attending trustees included **W. Elliot Brownlee**, **Douglas Campbell**, **Katie Hay**, **Keith J. Mautino**, **Richard E. Oglesby**, **Richard Rojas** and **Rob Rossi**.

In celebration of the neighborhood's rich cultural legacy, guests adjourned to the courtyard for a social mixer that featured a selection of Asian and Mexican finger foods against the fitting backdrop of the El Presidio de Santa Barbara and a fiery western sunset.



Brett Leigh Dicks



John S. Poucher, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation board president, left, and Jarrell C. Jackman, executive director, gathered with attendees in front of the Presidio Chapel.



Anne Petersen, associate director for historic resources, left, presented Mika Thornburg, center, with the Jim and Sue Higman Internship. Ms. Thornburg attended the event with Jarrett Gorlick, right.