



# Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra  
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Additional photos available on 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](mailto:christa@sbthp.org) Website: [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org)

Blog: [sbthp.wordpress.com](http://sbthp.wordpress.com) Facebook: [facebook.com/SBTHP](https://www.facebook.com/SBTHP) Twitter: [twitter.com/SBTHP](https://twitter.com/SBTHP)

## Celebrate *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) at Casa de la Guerra

*14th annual celebration includes displays and crafts for the entire family*



an exhibition of *ofrendas* by Presidio descendant families.

(Santa Barbara, CA) – Celebrate ***Día de los Muertos*** (Day of the Dead), with a free craft day and exhibition on **Sunday, October 26 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at **Casa de la Guerra** in downtown Santa Barbara. Fun for the whole family—discover the fascinating history of this special holiday while decorating sugar skulls, making skeleton masks, tin artwork, block prints and more. Enjoy traditional food, such as *pan de muerto* (bread of the dead) and Mexican hot chocolate, while viewing

*Día de los Muertos*, an annual celebration to honor ancestors and remember deceased loved ones, is observed primarily in Mexico and other Latin American countries over two days: November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. As a blend of pre-Hispanic and Catholic rituals introduced by the Spaniards, Day of the Dead is a wonderful example of the synthesis of cultures that defines Latin America and, in part, reflects the history of Santa Barbara. Families celebrate *Día de los Muertos* as a time when the spirits of their deceased loved ones return

to commune with the living. Families decorate cemeteries and assemble *ofrendas* (which translates to “offerings”) on household altars, where favorite foods and items that the dead enjoyed in life, as well as flowers, candles and personal mementos are placed. A moving tradition, *Día de los Muertos* celebrates Life and our connection to the past.

## CALENDAR LISTING



***Día de los Muertos* Craft Day and Exhibit**

**Sunday, October 26, 2014**

**12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Casa de la Guerra, 15 East De la Guerra Street, Santa Barbara, CA**

**For more information [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org) or (805) 965-0093**

Celebrate *Día de los Muertos*, “Day of the Dead,” with a free family craft day and exhibit at Casa de la Guerra in downtown Santa Barbara. Discover the fascinating history of this special holiday while decorating sugar skulls, creating block prints, tin art and more. Exhibits will include a historical overview of the tradition and *ofrendas* (which translates to “offerings” on altars) created by Presidio descendant families. Traditional food such as *pan de muerto* (bread of the dead) and Mexican hot chocolate will be served.

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**ABOUT Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)**— For over 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 18<sup>th</sup> century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks. The State has 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 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. In 2011, SBTHP was awarded the 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 distinctive history.

Learn more at [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org).