



# 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

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

**Additional photos available upon request**

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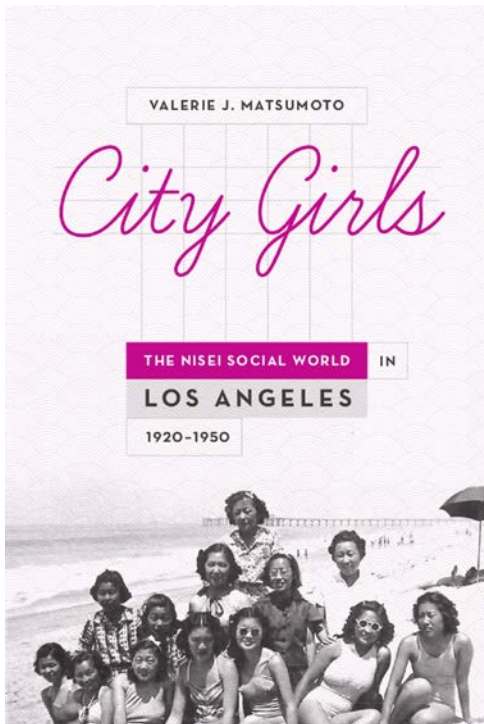
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## ***City Girls: The Nisei Social World in Los Angeles, 1920-1950***

**Lecture by Valerie J. Matsumoto, Ph.D.**



(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) and UCSB History Associates are pleased to present *City Girls: The Nisei Social World in Los Angeles, 1920-1950*, a lecture by Valerie J. Matsumoto, Ph.D. on Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alhecama Theatre (914 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara).

Even before wartime incarceration, Japanese Americans largely lived in separate cultural communities from their West Coast neighbors. Although the Nisei children, the American-born second generation, were U.S. citizens and were integrated in public schools, they were socially isolated in many ways from their peers. These young women found rapport in ethnocultural youth organizations, a forgotten world of female friendship and camaraderie that Valerie J. Matsumoto recovers in this book.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Nisei girls' organizations flourished in Los Angeles, then home to the largest Japanese American population. As cultural mediators and ethnic representatives, these urban teenagers bridged the cultures of the Japanese American community and mainstream society, whether introducing new foods, holidays, and rituals into the home or dancing in kimono at civic events.

Come hear Valerie J. Matsumoto, Ph.D., author of *City Girls: The Nisei Social World in Los Angeles, 1920-1950*, highlight the ways in which urban Nisei daughters claimed modern femininity, an American identity, and public space from the Jazz Age through the postwar era. A book signing and reception will immediately follow the lecture.

During the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries the area in and around the Santa Barbara Presidio included communities of Chinese and Japanese, residing in what was a unique and culturally rich neighborhood. The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation supports programs that explore themes common to the experience of these communities in the effort to connect a modern audience with the history of the Asian American experience in Santa Barbara.



**Valerie J. Matsumoto, Ph.D.** is Professor of History and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the author of *Farming the Home Place: A Japanese American Community in California, 1919-1982* and a co-editor of *Over the Edge: Remapping the American West*.

## CALENDAR LISTINGS

### ***City Girls: The Nisei Social World in Los Angeles, 1920-1950***

**Lecture by Valerie J. Matsumoto, Ph.D.**

Date: Thursday, September 29, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Alhecama Theatre, 914 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara

Admission: Free for SBTHP members, UCSB History Associates members, and students (with valid i.d.); non-members \$5 suggested donation

Co-Sponsored by Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation and UCSB History Associates

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

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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. In 2009, 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).**

**ABOUT UCSB History Associates**—The UCSB History Associates was created in 1987 with the dual purpose of bringing members of the community interested in history together with UCSB faculty through an annual program of lunches and lectures, and raising money to support graduate training in History at UCSB.