



THE CAPITAL

"Preserving Santa Barbara's historic sites of enduring community value"

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PEARL CHASE SOCIETY MARCH SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF INTEREST

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Board Meetings are typically held the first Thursday of the month at the MacVeagh House on the grounds of the Natural History Museum. Next meetings: March 3.

Preservation Committee Meetings are usually held the fourth Friday of the month at Wood Glen Hall, 3010 Foothill Road. Next meetings will be held March 25.

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

City meetings are broadcast live on City TV channel 18 and streamed live at www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/Video, where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

City Council Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 2 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Planning Commission Meetings are held on the first, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: March 3, 10, 17

Historic Landmarks Commission Meetings are held every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: March 9, 23

Architectural Board of Review Meetings are held Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. (Note: Consent calendar meetings are held every Monday at 1 pm.) Full Board meets on March 14, 28

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

County Board of Supervisor Meetings and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on CSBTV20. They are also streamed at www.countyofsb.org/ceo/media02.aspx, where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

County Board of Supervisors Meetings are held on three Tuesdays of the month at 9 am. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 105 East Anapamu St., 4th Floor. The second meeting is (typically) held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway. March 1 (SB); March 8 (SM); March 15 (SB)

County Planning Commission Meetings are held three Wednesdays of the month at 9 am. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara at 123 East Anapamu Street, Room 17, and the second meeting is (typically) held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway: March 2 and 30 (SB), March 9 (SM)

County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 10 am at 123 East Anapamu, Room 17 (unless specified otherwise): March 14

Society News and Notes *by Kelly Mahan*

At this month's Pearl Chase Society Board meeting, there was much discussion about Casa Dorinda's expansion plans, and the impact the expansion will have on the historic south bridge on the property, which is slated for demolition. Built in 1916-17, the bridge, which is currently used as an exit only, is slated for removal so a new ingress/egress bridge can be built to take its place. While the bridge is up to load bearing standards, there are flood control issues in the event of a 100-year flood. There are also fire access issues; Montecito Fire Department regulations require a bridge to be 20-feet wide. To mitigate the removal of the bridge, Casa Dorinda plans to use the stone from the bridge in building the replacement.

After hearing conflicting reports from historians, and after receiving a letter from the Pearl Chase Society board voicing concern with the loss of the historic bridge, Montecito Planning Commission asked that Casa Dorinda conduct a focused Environmental Impact Report on the bridge. Casa filed an appeal with the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, who ultimately upheld the appeal, concluding that the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the entirety of the project is adequate, and that the mitigation measures, which also include the retainment of the north bridge and stone line channel, and quarrying any new stone for the new bridge on the site.

The Pearl Chase Society board, while regretful about the loss of such an historic element, agrees with the peer review of the bridge removal and mitigation measures that other historic elements be preserved.

Also at the meeting, the board continued plans for the Historic Homes Tour coming up on May 15. The tour is from 11 am to 4 pm.

In this edition of *The Capital* as well as the next two editions, we'll have lots of details on the homes included on the tour. The board is still seeking volunteers; email board president Barbara Lowenthal at blowenthal@harrisondesign.com. For the latest info about the tour, be sure you "like" the Pearl Chase Society Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PearlChaseSociety.

2016 Historic Homes Tour Tickets

Now Available online,
through our new and improved website:
www.pearlchasesociety.org

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Newsletter

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PRESERVATION WATCH

By Kellam de Forest

(Initiated by popular request, Preservation Watch informs Pearl Chase Society members of community projects that may disturb historical structures and features, explains community preservation efforts, and/or lists opportunities for public input for those concerned with a particular issue.)

Casa Dorinda:

Casa Dorinda in Montecito won't have to undergo an environmental impact review, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors decided on Tuesday, February 16. The board voted 5-0 after an approximately one-hour meeting, to allow Casa Dorinda's renovation to move ahead without

the focused EIR review. The Montecito Planning Commission voted 3-2 in

December to make the project undergo the review, but Casa Dorinda appealed the decision. The Pearl Chase Society agreed that the historic 1918 bridge might contribute to flooding and its demolition would enhance public safety. It is hoped that other entrance alternatives might be considered when the project returns to the MPC in March.



(photo by Kelly Mahan)

Casa Dorinda's historic south bridge is slated for demolition as part of Casa's master plan update

Rocky Nook, Oliver Cottage: This currently stucco-clad cottage that is on the western edge of Rocky Nook Park adjacent to the Santa Barbara Women's Club predates the Club building by almost fifty years. The cottage was used as a residence for the park caretaker, and in the 1990s the cottage was remodeled as the headquarters of the County Parks Department. Recently due to a consolidation the Department moved its offices from the cottage in Rocky Nook Park to the County Administration Building on Anapamu Street. The cottage is no longer needed. PCS member Hattie Beresford's recently wrote an excellent article, "The Olivers and Rocky Nook, Part I," for the *Montecito Journal*. Thanks to Hattie (and Fran Galt for your excellent research, which Hattie will acknowledge in Part II.) Although the current office structure is relatively recent, it is worthy of preservation. Rocky Nook Park has played an important role as a recreation site. Watch is confident that an appropriate non-profit can be found to use the structure.

Heath Ranch Park and Adobe, 3122 Chaparral Drive, Carpinteria:

The Carpinteria Tree Advisory Commission met February 18. The three Commissioners present voted to postpone any decision to cut down the trees to March, until current arborists' reports can be reviewed. David Griggs, director of the Carpinteria Historical Museum, argued that due to the fact that the trees are a documented historic resource under CEQA, an EIR is required. He noted that none of the maintenance and pruning suggestions by the HLAC had been carried out.

Hammond Meadow: The Chumash Shalawa Meadow Monument is in need of repair. In 1958 most of the Hammond estate was sold to developers, and a condo complex was built in the 1960s. In 1989, 20 more condos and 12 private homes were built on the remaining land with three acres of the

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Moody Cottages in the Historic Homes Tour

by Kelly Mahan and Rose Thomas

This year's Pearl Chase Society Historic Homes Tour will showcase a variety of architectural styles that make up Santa Barbara's eclectic style. Four of the homes on the tour were built by Harriet and Mildred Moody, two of the four Moody Sisters, who designed an enclave of English-style cottages on a small cul-de-sac called Rosemary Lane.

The four Moody Sisters (Brenda and Wilma primarily dealt with the real estate and banking side of the transactions) were a development force in the 1930s and 40s, designing and decorating about three-dozen "pixie like" homes in Santa Barbara and Montecito. Six of those were on Rosemary Lane, and we are lucky to be able to see four of them during this year's Homes Tour.

Harriet Moody began her architectural career working with her father, a local builder. After the 1925 earthquake, she formed a business partnership with George Morrison, a City Engineer, and they built many neighborhoods in Goleta and Isla Vista. Harriet's designs started sprouting up in the 30s in Montecito: she built her sister Mildred an art studio on Coast Village Road, followed by six of her unique cottages on Periwinkle Lane. Mildred contributed to the cottages by way of interior design and decorating.

In the early 40s, when the rustic landscape of Barker Hill had cattle and horses grazing on it, Dion Wylie Kennedy bought acreage from George Owen Knapp. Mr. Kennedy was a nationally known composer and organist, who had both a professional relationship and personal friendship with Knapp. They decided that the priority of the time was to provide housing for returning veterans, doctors, nurses and single women, and commissioned Harriet Moody to design an enclave of her quaint cottages on this then rural cul-de-sac.

The wartime slogan, "Why build new, when salvage will do," informed Harriet Moody's designs for the cottages. Her plans revolved around using reclaimed parts of dismantled estates, like she did on Periwinkle Lane. Lumber, windows, doors, and paneling were adapted and reused in these storybook houses, inspired by the fairy tale books the sisters had enjoyed as children. According to English folklore, a bottle with nine pins, nine nails, and nine needles was embedded into the hearth of each cottage's fireplace, to ensure good luck and ward off the bad fairies. A ceramic pixie was also hidden somewhere in the house.

The cottages we'll see, Sweetbriar, Mulberry, Canary, and Meadow House, are bursting with charm and sweet details. Sweetbriar Cottage has a steeply pitched roof with clipped gables, lots of windows, and board and batten walls, lending great charm to the house and its surrounding gardens. In the living room, soaring high

ceilings with decorative braced tie beams, and large multi-paned windows keep the diminutive house from seeming cramped and small. A country brick fireplace with a raised hearth and carved walnut lintel is flanked by built-in bookcases on either side. The dining room and kitchen feature decorative shelving, plus both French and Dutch doors. A stairway leading to the upstairs bedrooms and bath has the hallmark scroll sawn railings that many of the Moody Cottages feature.

With a beautiful lap pool and newer front yard landscaping, Mulberry Cottage has undergone several changes over the years. Deeded to Mildred Wright, George O. Knapp's Nutritionist and companion, a 1957 fire damaged part of the house. Another owner remodeled the cottage with a large addition that includes a spacious family room and an upstairs master suite with bath. The living room and downstairs guest bedroom have changed little. The diamond pane windows in this cottage came from a dismantled mansion. Original elements in the living room include a high ribbed ceiling, wainscoting, bookcases and wide plank Douglas Fir floors. The large fixed bay window and a French door to the side garden are also part of the original Moody Plan.

Set amidst lovely gardens, behind a high hedge and wooden picket gate you'll find picturesque Canary Cottage. Never intended to be a residence, it was reportedly to have been a studio for Mr. Knapp's daughter. The current owners have painstakingly restored the knotty pine paneling and preserved the original "Rosemaling" by Mildred Moody. Canary Cottage offers a rare opportunity to glimpse one of the few remaining examples of Mildred's artwork. A narrow wooden spiral staircase off of the tiny kitchen leads to the loft above the living room. The garage was remodeled into a bedroom by the second owner and has a slanted ceiling with tongue and groove wall paneling.

Hand carved stone steps lead to a brick path that winds through a terraced garden to Meadow House. Built for Dion and Alice Kennedy in 1941, this beautiful home was originally the largest of the Lane's cottages. Kennedy was an organist and nationally known composer who worked for G. O. Knapp and All Saints-by-the-Sea. The house has a multitude of the reclaimed diamond pane windows, and the entry hall, living and dining rooms have rich oak paneling in the craftsman style, with original wrought iron hardware and hinge strapping in the built in dining room credenza. This residence has been kept to its original integrity, thanks to the current long time owners.

In the next two editions of *The Capital*, we'll tell you about the other homes on the 2016 Historic Homes Tour.



The Pearl Chase Society

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Preservation Watch

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meadow preserved for public use. Hammond's Estate is the only Chumash site in the coastal zone that is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1979 a Chumash elder began a movement to protect the sacred nature of the site, joined by surfers and some area residents. A marker monument was built near the southern (beach) approach to Shalawa Meadow with colorful inlaid ceramic tiles adorned with lizards, birds, flowers, and two bas-relief dolphins in turquoise ceramic along with this inscription:

*The Sacredness
of the land lies in
the minds of its people.
This land is dedicated
to the Spirit
and memory of
the ancestors and
their children.*

MEMBERSHIP NOTES *by Maureen Masson*

Pearl Chase Society Membership Renewals for January/February 2016

John and Michael Self
Judy Pochini and Eric Boehm
Joan Kreiss and Roger M. Perlmutter
Jill Dore Kent
Jane Honikman
Erin Graffy
Elaine Felhandler and
Sue Steeneken (New York)
Christina M. Allison

Tanny and Kent Hodgetts
David and Alyce Boyd
Nancy McAleer Golden
Mr. and Mrs. Chapin Nolen
NS Ceramics (Carl and Nola Stucky)
Neighborhood Defense League
(Judith Ishkanian and Sally Jordan)
Anonymous Donation

New Member:

Ms. Laura H. Rothman
(Referred by Mr. Jay R. Parker)

Note: Membership in the Pearl Chase Society provides the opportunity to be a part of an important organization dedicated to preserving sites of enduring value in and around Santa Barbara.