



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 meeting: March 1

Preservation Committee Meetings are now held at 4 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month at Wood Glen Hall, 3010 Foothill Road. Next meeting: March 22

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 6, 13, 20, 27

Planning Commission Meetings are held on the first, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: March 1, 8, 15

Historic Landmarks Commission Meetings are held every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: March 7, 21

Architectural Board of Review Meetings are held Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Full Board meets on March 5, 12, 19, 26

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 20 (SB); March 13 (SM)

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 7, 28 (SB), March 14 (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 12

Society News and Notes *by Kelly Mahan Herrick*

Plans are in full swing for the Pearl Chase Society's Historic Homes Tour, scheduled for May 20, 2018. The tour will take place in Montecito's Historic Hedgerow District, and will feature five homes on San Leandro Park Road, San Leandro Lane, and Arroqui. HHT chair Marcie Simmons reported that the homeowners are still willing to participate despite the 1/9 debris flow that occurred in Montecito. At the Board meeting in February, the Board voted to donate a portion of the proceeds of the event to Montecito mudslide recovery. We'll have much more on the tour as it approaches.

PCS President Steve Dowty reported on the rejection of the appeal of the project at 800 Santa Barbara Street on Tuesday, January 23, when the PCS joined forces with the Santa Barbara Conservancy to challenge a building project in the heart of El Pueblo Viejo, Santa Barbara's historic district. At the City Council hearing, President Dowty made an presentation using images of the site and surrounding neighbors, emphasizing the high concentration of historic properties the 23-unit apartment project would adversely impact. The appeal of the project was based on its height, its close proximity to Anacapa School, parking issues and street side congestion, and other issues.

The appeal was ultimately rejected, with a 3-3 vote. With a tied vote, the contentious 4-3 decision of the Historic Landmarks Committee stood and the approved project will be built. Moving forward, Kellam de Forest said he will draft letter to the State Historic Parks Preservation Office, alerting them of this project approval by the SB City Council, as the property is within an historic district of Santa Barbara.

As mentioned in last month's edition, the PCS board plans on transitioning this "snail mail" newsletter to a digital version very soon. Please see a report about the transition by Rick Closson on page 3. It is imperative that the Board has the email addresses of its members.

**The next board meeting will be held
on Thursday, March 1.**

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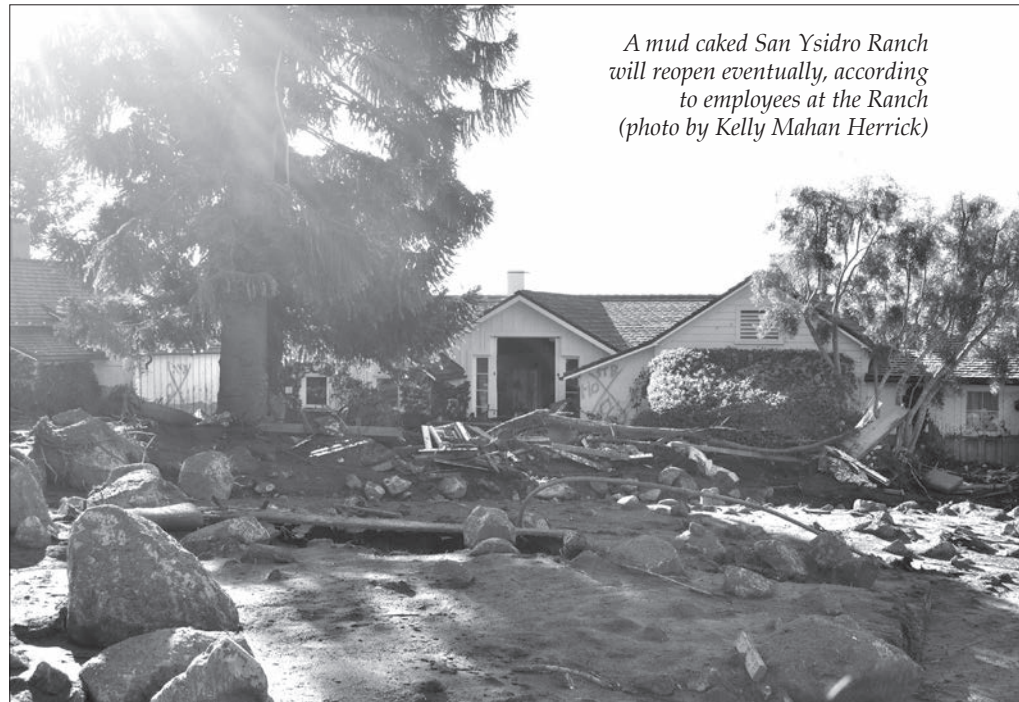
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PRESERVATION WATCH

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.)

Santa Barbara has a long history of flood events. Between 1862 and 2010, Santa Barbara has experienced 15 significant floods. This year adds another. The flood of 1914 took out all the bridges over Mission Creek except for the stone bridge. Montecito Creek overflowed. Mud and rocks demolished the William P. Gould mansion on Olive Mill Road. That flood explains the lonely stone gateposts. Floods in 1944 impacted Val Verde on Sycamore Canyon Road, filling the lower pool with mud and destroying the pavilion that displayed a Roman statue of Hermes.



A mud caked San Ysidro Ranch will reopen eventually, according to employees at the Ranch (photo by Kelly Mahan Herrick)

At least three cottages at the **San Ysidro Ranch** were destroyed, and mud and boulders covered a majority of the property. Approximately a quarter of it went relatively undamaged. The resort's historic buildings, including the Kennedy Cottage, where John and Jackie Kennedy stayed during their honeymoon, the old 1820 adobe and the stone house, originally, a lemon-packing house now the restaurant, were spared.

Casa de Herrero weathered the storm. Its director Jessica Tade reported that after the mudslides, walking in the Casa gardens was surreal. "Flowers burst with color in the Cutting Garden, roses bloomed in the Rose Garden, and the orchards were full of ripe citrus fruit. Birds chirped in the distance," she said.

At **Riven Rock**, the former Stanley McCormick estate, much of the grounds including at least one stone bridge are reportedly destroyed

—continued on next page

Taking the Leap to Digital

by Rick Closson

Good News, Members!

The Pearl Chase Society Board voted to convert our current distribution of *The Capital* from a postal mailing to an email. You'll get the same great content and information; nothing will change about that. *The Capital* will come to you via an emailing system.

What are the advantages?

First, it brings us into the 21st century with almost all other nonprofit organizations. All of you currently receive communications on your computer that can extend far beyond the word printed on a page. You'll be able to click on links within articles that will take you immediately to primary references, images, and other materials that complement stories in *The Capital*.

Second, the issue we send you will be in full

color. So many of the stories in *The Capital* are about historic people and places that just look better in color. Even ancient sepia toned images look better than the sheer black and white of our printed newsletter. Not all the images included in stories will be in color because, well, that's history. But whenever we've got a color image, we'll use it.

Third, more of your annual dues and donations will go to what you want most: historic preservation. Sending you an emailed copy of *The Capital* each month saves the Society printing and postage costs. Those are dollars that will now be spent supporting local preservation projects, which is a big reason you support the Pearl Chase Society anyway. Right?

When will this all happen?

—continued on page 4

or least inundated with mud. Riven Rock's great main house was razed after the 1925 earthquake. Stanley died from pneumonia in 1947. The estate was subdivided into 34 parcels with many of its outbuildings converted into residences. The oak tree growing out of a cracked boulder that gave the estate its name died a number of years ago.

There is an opportunity to again appeal the Santa Barbara City Council's spilt decision to uphold the proposed **AUD apartment house project on the corner of Santa Barbara and De La Guerra Streets**. Before the applicant can proceed, detailed plans for the project have to be given Final Approval by The Historic Landmarks Commission. When Final Approval is granted, that decision could be appealed on the grounds that no Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was made. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that an (EIR) be prepared for projects proposed to be built in

designated Historic Districts.

The Santa Barbara City Council voted on February 13 to permit the demolition of **Franceschi House**. The City proposes to build an interpretive pavilion, at the cost of \$2 million to \$3 million, that recognizes the contributions of botanist Francesco Franceschi and philanthropist Alden Freeman in its place. I would have preferred the option to preserve the shell of the structure as a picturesque ruin, but the Parks and Recreation Department felt that for safety and seismic reasons removal of the iconic structure was preferable.

The Pearl Chase Society has been at the forefront in efforts to preserve Franceschi House for twenty years. It is sad that their efforts were not successful. I hope that an attractive structure can be designed that illustrate Dr. Franceschi's horticultural contributions and display Mr. Freeman's fascinating medallions.



The Pearl Chase Society

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Taking the Leap to Digital —continued from page 3

We will begin as soon as we are sure we have your correct email address. We have some addresses but our list is not complete. We need yours! As we receive email addresses we will email *The Capital* to those addresses. We hope this conversion will be painless but we need to do it. We will nag you for your information. Our final printed edition will be in April. Our May edition of *The Capital* will be entirely via email to you.

What you need to do.

Email us the following information to: info@pearlchasesociety.org

- Full Name of the Member(s)
- Postal Address (yes, we still need that for our records, even though we'll be sending *The Capital* via email)
- Email Address to which the monthly *The Capital* should be sent

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Maureen Masson

January 2018 PCS Renewals

Luann Beach
Bill & Claire Bogaard
Carolyn N. Cogan
Nora Duncan
Louise Tighe
Woody & Grace Wilde
Anne-Marie & Grant Castleberg
Pete Dal Bello (re-instated)

February 2018 PCS Renewals

Nancy Tuomey (rejoining)

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.