



THE CAPITAL

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

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AUG / SEP MEETINGS OF INTEREST

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Next Board of Directors meeting: September 7 at the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society, 316 Castillo Street, 3:30 p.m.

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

City Council Public Comment and Participating Online

City Council chambers are now open to the public for in-person meetings, or you have the option to participate electronically: 1) via telephone: Call (805) 564-5301 and leave your name, return phone number and the number of the item you wish to speak on. You will be called back during the meeting and will have the chance to make your statement then. 2) you may participate in the Zoom meeting that may be accessed [HERE](#).

City meetings are broadcast live on City TV channel 18 and streamed live [HERE](#), where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

City Council

Tuesdays at 2 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: August 1, 22, 29; September 12, 19, 26

Planning Commission

First, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: August 3, 10, 17; September 7, 14, 21

Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: August 2, 16; September 13, 27

Architectural Board of Review

Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Full Board meets August 7, 21; September 18

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

County Board of Supervisor Meetings and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on CSBTV20. They are also streamed live [HERE](#) where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

County Board of Supervisors

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. August 22 (SB), August 29 (SM); September 12 (SB), 19 (SM)

County Planning Commission

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. August 9 (SB), August 30 (SM); Sept. 6 (SB), Sept. 13 (SM), Sept. 27 (SM)

County Historic Landmarks

Advisory Commission

Second Monday of the month at 10 am at 123 East Anapamu, Room 17 (unless specified otherwise). August 14; September 11

News and Notes: Annual Meeting

By Cheri Rae

On Sunday, July 23, the Pearl Chase Society hosted its annual meeting at the Ranchero Room in Harry's Café. The collection of photos on the walls of the private room reminded members of the historic sweep of our community, a fitting setting for talk of our vital preservation work, ever-more crucial in the face of development threats from far beyond our sphere of influence.



We're just wild about Harry's.

Our guest speaker Mary Turley, spoke to the multiple issues of concern on the development front, most alarmingly the curtailment of local review processes and long-held community standards related to architecture, density, and zoning. Representing the grassroots movement known as Our Neighborhood Voices, she compared addressing state housing issues as Whack-a-Mole. "California Land Use policy is broken" she declared. "And there is a concerted effort to take it away from local communities."

Turley introduced the phrase "YIMBY," (Yes In My Backyard), and frequently invoked the name of State Senator Scott Weiner, who has been termed "The patron saint of the YIMBY movement" by the *Los Angeles Times*. (If this issue is of interest, check [YIMBY Action](#)) And she made the point that much of this movement is sponsored and funded by "deep pockets" of Silicon Valley.

She offered several alarming visual examples of outsized housing projects that have recently been approved in communities like Palo Alto, Santa Monica, and Marin City, as well as a 55-story project proposed in San Francisco. Turley also referred to the local "Builder's Remedy" project on Grand Avenue. As recently submitted, it consists of 30 units with just four to six designated affordable. Emphasizing that the organization is "not against affordable housing," she added that the group's aim is to "restore local land use policies."

Our Neighborhood Voices is working on an initiative to place a measure on the November 2024 ballot to amend the California Constitution to restore local control over land use policies. For more information [HERE](#).

Changes to the Board of Directors: After many years of service as Secretary on the board that have been much appreciated, Barbara Boyd stepped down and Dennis Whelan stepped up, leaving an opening as Vice President, which Christine Neuhauser took on. Both Dennis and Christine were unanimously elected, and Nate Cultice was also unanimously re-elected for another term as Treasurer. We are grateful for their distinguished service, and many thanks to Patti Ottoboni for her work in planning another successful and well-attended annual meeting.



Dream Team: Meeting organizer Patti Ottoboni and guest speaker Mary Turley.

Want to get involved, or have submissions for The Capital? Email us at PCS@pearlchasesociety.org.

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY**Board of Directors****President**

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Please direct inquiries
and comments to:

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NewsletterCheri Rae, *editor*Lisa DeSpain, *graphics*

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Viva La Fiesta! Fifty Years ago, Pearl Chase was the Grand Marshal of El Desfile Historico

By Cheri Rae

Without a doubt, Pearl's favorite time of the year was the first week of August, the time set aside for the Old Spanish Days Fiesta celebration. She kept her calendar clear of meetings and civic responsibilities. It was the time for her to relax and join with other members of the community, celebrating cool mornings, warm afternoons, and nights under starry skies, as Santa Barbara magically came to life, sharing food and folklore, music and dance, elegant choreography and elaborate costumes.

And always, El Desfile Historico, the historic parade featuring the grand spectacle of colorfully decorated coaches and floats carrying local dignitaries, and countless equestrians atop a variety of elegant horses, including locally

bred golden palominos. Pearl reveled in the annual observance of pageantry, horsemanship, historical events, pure entertainment and romanticized local mythology. She especially recognized the importance of the event to boosting the local economy and reinforcing the priceless image of romantic old Santa Barbara throughout the year.

Pearl often wrote to friends and family who lived out of town and invited them to enjoy the unique summer festivities with her. She wrote her cousins in Boston, "The Old Spanish Days Fiesta is August 8-12, and will, I hope, attract some of my good relatives. If you find the slightest interest in any one of your friends, let me know and I will send them a program and information about accommodations if they plan to be in town at this busy time."

Another year, she wrote a recap to a Boston banker: "Our Old Spanish Days Fiesta was a great success and tremendously enjoyed by the people. The program is arranged so



Pearl's father, Hezekiah Chase and friends celebrate Fiesta on the balcony above his real estate office at 1012 State Street.



Pearl's 1973 Grand Marshal ribbon. Photos this page courtesy Community Development and Conservation Collection. SBHC Mss 1. Department of Special Research Collections, UCSB Library, University of California.

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Grand Marshal Pearl, accompanied by Fr. Maynard Geiger, trusted friend and fellow preservationist, along the parade route in 1973. Photos this page courtesy Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Museum.

that there will be entertainment every day in great variety and without cost." She continued, detailing her involvement, "A pageant is the only affair sponsored by the Fiesta Committee. I ran, as usual, a number of Garden Tours, the Mexican Fruit and Flower Market and an exhibit of foreign posters in the public library."

Pearl enthusiastically embraced the flavor and folklore of Fiesta, and always dressed for the occasion with an assortment of ornate costumes. She accessorized them with lacy mantillas, elegant embroidered and fringed shawls, and an array of elaborate Spanish combs that she collected over the years.

In 1973, at the age of 84, Pearl was named Grand Marshall of Fiesta. She was honored by the designation and honored to invite Fr. Maynard Geiger, the noted Mission archivist, to accompany her. She accepted the invitation in a letter to the President of Old Spanish Days, with "deep appreciation," and noted, "Father Geiger is widely known, greatly admired, respected and loved." She added, "We have worked together on matters concerning the history of the state, the community and its people, and on the Advisory Committee of La Purisima Mission State Historic Park." She closed her letter, "Hoping that the directors and their many co-workers will enjoy Old Spanish Days and that the sun will shine upon you."

Pearl and the priest enjoyed their fifty-five-minute journey, in the open-air carriage borrowed from the

City of Pasadena and used to transport the Mayor of that city in the Tournament of Roses parade. The Fiesta parade chairman termed it "a triumphant drive up State Street." But at the end of the parade, there was some sort of snafu in transporting her to the reviewing stand. As Pearl good-naturedly described it, "They never found the driver and I had the distinct honor of riding in the smaller police car with a handsome patrolman."

She apologized to Fr. Geiger, who had to walk back to his car, and expressed her gratitude for his company along the parade route. "Thank you again for riding with me and greeting our fellow citizens—old and young—light and dark—big and little," she wrote.

For more information about this year's Fiesta, August 2-6, [HERE](#).

¡Viva La Fiesta!



Striking a pose: All dressed up in her Fiesta finery, Pearl celebrated Fiesta from the beginning in 1924 through the end of her days.

The Kellam de Forest Speaker Series Resumes in September

By Cheri Rae

Who: Lauren Weiss Bricker, Ph.D, Professor, Department of Architecture, California Polytechnic University Pomona, noted speaker and scholar

What: The life and times of David Gebhard

Where: A change in venue: Built in 1925, the renovated, historic Alhecama Theatre, (215 a E. Canon Perdido), is located on the Trust for Historic Preservation property. Formerly the home of the Ensemble Theatre Company, it is tucked in the back, behind the Trust's Research Center on Canon Perdido and La Playa Azul Restaurant on Santa Barbara Street.

When: September 8, six o'clock p.m.

Why: To learn another of the untold stories of Santa Barbara

How: Convenient parking is available at no charge at the lot behind Panino, and an easy walk-up across Canon Perdido and up the parking lot; from Santa Barbara Street, enter adjacent to La Playa Azul. Signage will be in place.

David Gebhard: His name is invoked in reverential tones; a proclamation in his honor hangs in the city's Public Meeting Room named for him. It reads in part, "He



Portion of the theatre's restored 1928 mural by Ross Dickinson, depicting a Mediterranean village scene.

worked diligently to establish, improve and implement the fair guidelines and ordinances that protect Santa Barbara and its unique quality of life and visual charm."

Dr. Bricker explains, "When he came to Santa Barbara in the 1960s, he quickly made Ms. Chase's acquaintance...they shared an ethos of preservation within the context of a social agenda." Learn more about the prolific architectural historian, preservationist, and educator from our special guest speaker. And stay afterward to enjoy social time in the courtyard of the theatre complex.

To reserve your spot, call 805-961-3938

A partial listing of his books [HERE](#)

Read about the Trust's restoration of the theatre and designation as a City historic landmark in 2018 [HERE](#)



The Provenance of a Portrait

By Cheri Rae

For many years, the portrait presented to Pearl Chase on her 90th birthday has been on display at the Recreation Center. Back in 2012, when the city embarked on a project to upgrade the popular center, the Pearl Chase Society took on the responsibility to restore and reframe the iconic portrait.

Despite its placement in a prominent spot in the Recreation Center, there has not been an explanation of its significance. Until now.

Board Secretary Dennis Whelan initiated the project to create a tasteful plaque that gives information and context for the portrait, created in 1978. On behalf of the Pearl Chase Society, he recently arranged for its installation, aside the portrait of the distinguished Chase. Complete with the Pearl Chase Society logo, the explanatory plaque is a welcome addition to the Recreation Center and a fitting tribute to the woman who spent so many years working in the historic building in the heart of the city.



Interpretive plaque presented to the Recreation Center by PCS Secretary Dennis Whelan.