



THE CAPITAL

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

Vol. 26, No. 6 • www.PearlChaseSociety.org • June 2023

JUNE MEETINGS OF INTEREST

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Next Board of Directors meeting: June 1 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: June 6, 13, 27

Planning Commission

First, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: June 1, 8, 15

Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: June 7, 21

Architectural Board of Review

Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Full Board meets June 12, 26

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

County Board of Supervisor Meetings and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on CSBTIV20. 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. June 6 (SB), June 22 and 23 Budget Hearings (SB), 27 (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. June 7 (SB), June 14 (SM), June 28 (SB)

County Historic Landmarks

Advisory Commission

Second Monday of the month at 10 am at 123 East Anapamu, Room 17 (unless specified otherwise). June 12

Society News and Notes

By Cheri Rae

The Board continues to have lively discussions at our monthly meetings. In May, there was alarm expressed over state housing mandates that are bypassing long-held local land-use policies and review processes. Read an opinion piece on this issue on page 4.

We are also focused on planning meaningful events for the

community, including the next installments of the Kellam de Forest Speaker Series and the ideas about resumption of the Historic Homes Tours. Several sites are under consideration for tours in our post-Covid-19 world. Please feel free to offer your insights and opinions about what has long been our successful annual fund-raiser.

On June 9 at 6 p.m., author Douglas Woods will be our next scheduled speaker, presenting his views on Spanish Colonial Revival-style architecture.



PEARL CHASE SOCIETY CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO DISCOVER THE CASA CALIFORNIA

Featuring Rizzoli International Publications editor Douglas Woods will discuss Spanish Colonial Revival style and its influence on Southern California residential architecture. He will share his perspective about how this resilient architecture – composed of adobe, stucco, stone and clay – also connected the thread to Santa Barbara's Spanish heritage and romanticized past.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023
6 PM-7 PM

CARRILLO RECREATION CENTER
100 E. CARRILLO ST.
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

Suggested donation is \$5.
Seating is limited.

Please call 805-403-7053 to reserve a seat.



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

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY Board of Directors

President

Steve Dowty

Vice President

Dennis Whelan

Secretary

Barbara Boyd

Treasurer

Nate Cultice

Historian

Patti Ottoboni

Board Members

Emma Brinkman

Tina Foss

Maureen Masson

Christine Neuhauser

Kitty Peri

Cheri Rae

Claudia Schou

Stephanie Williams

Members Emeriti

Sue Adams

Bob Baum

Roger Horton

Barbara Lowenthal

Please direct inquiries
and comments to:

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY
P.O. Box 92121
Santa Barbara, CA 93190-2121
For information, call
(805) 961-3938

Newsletter

Cheri Rae, *editor*

Lisa DeSpain, *graphics*

Materials published in The Capital are copyrighted by The Pearl Chase Society and may be reproduced only with the written permission of the editor.

Pearl Chase, Social Worker

Review by Richard Closson

It was a warm Santa Barbara evening, the kind that brings out locals and tourists, alike. Almost a hundred chose to spend it learning more about a woman credited with encouraging and saving much about our city's built environment that is so attractive.

The second monthly lecture in the Pearl Chase Society's "Kellam de Forest Speaker Series" featured Board member and Pearl Chase biographer, Cheri Rae, who filled gaps in our knowledge when we all thought, "Yes, I know Pearl Chase."

The presentation title "Pearl Chase, Social Worker," immediately alerted those who "knew" her that this would not be the Miss Chase as elder stateswoman for earthquake rebuilding, historic preservation, or social activism. This would be the young Pearl, Boston-born, transplanted to Santa Barbara at 12, graduate of Santa Barbara High School and University of California Berkeley, and in-person veteran of the San Francisco 1906 earthquake. Cheri provided an early glimpse of her presentation by summarily describing the Pearl we knew, "Before she was old, she was young."

The audience was treated to the notable high and low points in the history of the Society's namesake. These included family tragedies, romantic ups and downs, academic excellence, physical injuries, limited career roles for women of the era, campaign successes, and her intersection with other acclaimed women.



Elderly Pearl Chase, who accomplished so many of them.



Youthful Pearl Chase, with many ideas to improve Santa Barbara in mind...

Cheri's introduction for us to the early Pearl Chase, described many events, circumstances, and environment that shaped her worldview and explained her lifelong selfless public activism. She suggested that activism was best captured in Miss Chase's arguably most famous quote from 1907,

"I remember alighting from a train at the old Victoria Street Station, coming home for the holiday, how ashamed I was at Santa Barbara's shabby buildings, dusty streets, and lack of landscaping. Then and there I resolved to making Santa Barbara a more beautiful place to live in."

LIKE us on Facebook. 

www.facebook.com/PearlChaseSociety

Cheri offered insights to Pearl Chase that less rigorous historians didn't know. As she explained in her opening remarks, she's been writing the definitive biography of Miss Chase for the last four years (due out this summer). But her research has stretched much farther back. Cheri published the small, hundred-page handbook, *Pearl Chase: First Lady of Santa Barbara*, in 2013, filled with details and quotes hard to find anywhere else. Her thorough knowledge was important to the audience when questions were posed about this or that. Cheri was able to back up and provide context material before answering the question. Everyone was a beneficiary.



*At your service: Jim Brinkman and Stephanie Williams.
Photo by Rick Closson*

Neither of our first two presentations in the Kellam de Forest Speaker Series have been dry, but attendees all appreciated the refreshments finale in the landmark Recreation Center courtyard. It was an opportunity to continue discussing Pearl over wine and waters, cheeses, crackers, fruit, and nuts. Not to mention renewal of friendships

between historians and Society members that had abated during the pandemic. Many thanks are due to Society Board members who handled organization and setup of the venue—Claudia Schou, Dennis Whelan, and Steve Dowty—plus those with spouses who arranged the refreshments, including Stephanie Williams, Christine Neuhauser, Emma and Jim Brinkman, and Barbara Boyd.

Editor's Note: *Special thanks also to the author, for his techno-expertise in deftly making all the computer connections.*

Addendum

Here is a special note to readers of *The Capital* (not included in the May 12th presentation): There is no

direct connection between Miss Pearl Chase, the force of nature whose imprint on Santa Barbara we enjoy today, and the eponymous Pearl Chase Society. Our fledgling group in 1998 called itself "Santa Barbarans for Architectural Heritage" when we opposed demolition of two adjacent pre-earthquake storefronts to allow enlargement of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. (One storefront was spared and is the street-face of the museum's current gift shop.) At that time, we seemed to be a lone voice, which suggested the need for an action-oriented, public historic preservation advocacy group.

Unfortunately, another group had a similar name, so we borrowed cachet from the locally iconic Pearl Chase, who had died two decades earlier. We became the Pearl Chase Society. In 1998, there remained some of "Pearl's Girls," young women who had previously volunteered with Miss Chase to extend her reach and activities. A few Pearl's Girls were eager members of our group once we adopted her name and pursued many of her objectives. Our similar interests and Pearl's Girls are the only connection between Pearl Chase the person, and Pearl Chase the Society.



*Helpful hosts: Christine Neuhauser and Emma Brinkman.
Photo by Rick Closson*



Presenter Cheri Rae with Penny Davies, who worked with Pearl Chase to defeat the two, nine-story condo project, now the site of Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden. Photo by John McKinney

The Name Game: In 1993, the City of Santa Barbara designated the Recreation Center, built and named in 1913, as a City Landmark. The structure was extensively restored in 2011, and it appears at that time, the city's signage, and name "Carrillo Recreation Center" came into use. For directional purposes, we refer to it as the Carrillo Recreation Center, and when referring to it in a historical context, will continue to use its proper historic name.

An Opinion: On Housing Issues and Community Character

By Christine Neuhauser

Increasingly in Santa Barbara, we're at the intersection of preservation and "progress" with an alarming increase in development that threatens the look, feel and historical ambience of this place we call home. It hardly seems possible that state mandates can take over local control of zoning and development issues—justified by the need for affordable housing—and it's happening throughout California and here in Santa Barbara.

In response to recent and numerous housing bills coming out of Sacramento since 2016, an organization, Our Neighborhood Voices, has created a housing initiative planned for the November 2024 ballot. The initiative restores local authority over land use back to local communities. This initiative is being endorsed by cities, community leaders, elected officials and citizens who are standing up to Sacramento's top down, one-size-fits-all housing bills over a "housing crisis".

The State bills do not provide solutions for affordable housing as much as they reward developers and real-estate investors. This initiative will be a Constitutional Amendment which allows local communities to choose if they are going to follow the State law or follow local land use policies, good news for preservation of our cities and towns.

Recent housing legislature has resulted in a one-size-fits-all-formula that leaves the developers in charge, under the cry for affordable housing, yet most of the housing built is at market rate. Some, such as SB9, allow up to four units on a single parcel. This causes property values to increase, making the trickle-down economic theory even more impossible. Of significant concern, the developers, same as our AUD projects, are not responsible for impact fees, which pay for public safety, schools, public infrastructure of roads, water use, among other impacts.

At a recent Our Neighborhood Voices update presentation, it was announced that just a few days



Rendering of the 30-unit complex proposed for Grand Avenue.
Credit: Courtesy Industrial Partners Group

before the city of Santa Monica adopted its housing element, they were notified of proposals for 4000 units within just a dozen projects. A project proposed in San Francisco is a 55-story complex, completely out of scale with the 2-story surroundings. Other projects proposed include a 6-story with 85-units in Mountain View, in a single-family neighborhood, and in Los Altos Hills, a 20-unit "Builder's Remedy" project on a 2-acre parcel in a single-family neighborhood.

This "Builder's Remedy" is part of the State's Housing Accountability Act (HAA). It states that if a county or city is not in compliance with California's housing development goals, developers are authorized to bypass zoning laws so long as the new housing development contains at least 20 percent low-income housing or 100 percent middle-income housing. The City of Santa Barbara is low on affordable housing and is considered noncompliant with the state's housing element. This "Builder's Remedy" is the justification given by a Los Angeles-based developer for the recently introduced plan for a 30-unit apartment complex on a small vacant lot on Grand Avenue. The property is adjacent to the 115-unit housing project built on the site of the former St. Francis Hospital by Cottage Hospital on the lower Riviera. Just six of those units will be low income.

For more information on this issue: Our Neighborhood Voices has already organized nearly 50,000 Californians to join their coalition to restore local democracy when it comes to community planning. For more information: OurNeighborhoodVoices.com.

Errata: *The Capital* regrets an error in the review of our first Kellam de Forest Speaker Series presentation. Kellam established the format for detailed "De Forest Reports" in the early 1950s. They were not developed at the 1966 request of *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry. The typical report format moved through the script—page by page—noting all errors in order of occurrence, suggesting corrections, and offering advice to improve that aspect of the script. The Roddenberry memo presented to the audience was a gentle request from the producer for Kellam to organize the De Forest Reports for *Star Trek* episodes according to who on the *Star Trek* staff would deal with the issues, be that clerical staff for legal, copyright, and insurance issues, or story editors for scientific accuracy, logic, or common-sense issues.