



# THE CAPITAL

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

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## DECEMBER MEETINGS OF INTEREST

### PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Next Board of Directors meeting: December 8 at the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society, 316 Castillo Street, 3:30

### 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: December 6, 13

#### Planning Commission

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

#### Historic Landmarks Commission

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

#### Architectural Board of Review

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

### 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. December 6 (SB), December 13 (SB)

#### 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. December 7 (SB), December 14 (SM)

#### County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission

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

## Society News & Notes

By Cheri Rae

On Thursday, November 3, the Board of Directors of the Pearl Chase Society was treated to a tour of the Main-Begg Farmhouse, a County Historic Landmark.

Our hosts, Fermina Murray and Robin Cederlof, arranged for the monthly meeting in the spacious and attractive living room and offered a fine presentation about the history and successful efforts to preserve this fine example of Craftsman-style farmhouse with hardwood floors, expansive windows and fine wainscoting and other woodworking details only found in homes of the period (see more on [P. 2](#)).

Also on the agenda were discussion items about reorganizing the Preservation Committee for regular reports in the New Year; a possible lecture series in honor of the legacy of Kellam de Forest; and the ongoing conversation about the city's process for designating future historic districts under consideration, such as the Bungalow Haven Neighborhood.

We were pleased to vote for new Board Member Claudia Schou, who has an extensive background in nonprofits and historic preservation, and to welcome Emma Brinkman, who was attending her first meeting as an official Board

Member. More on these two fine new additions in our next issue.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays, filled with warmth, love and all the blessings of the season.



Santa saved! Thanks to the efforts of longtime Pearl Chase member, Robert Maxim, Santa was relocated in 2003 from his chimney perch at Santa Claus Lane to a homier setting, along with some friends, in Oxnard, still a roadside attraction. On December 11, it will be the site of the 15th annual Santa to the Sea footraces and holiday celebration [HERE](#)



**Want to get involved, or have submissions for  
The Capital? Email us at [PCS@pearlchasesociety.org](mailto:PCS@pearlchasesociety.org).**

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Please direct inquiries  
and comments to:

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**Newsletter**

Cheri Rae, *editor*

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# The Main-Begg Farmhouse: An Homage to History in Goleta Valley

*Photos and story by Cheri Rae*

You've likely driven past it hundreds of times, but never noticed this fine remnant of Goleta's agricultural past, a large, white Craftsman-style farmhouse located on busy Hollister Avenue. Thanks to the efforts of several committed locals—including a family dedicated to preserving the community's heritage—it remains today and—thanks to



Wecome from Fermina



Back of Begg Farmhouse

the designation in 2020 as a County Historic Landmark—it is now protected into the future.

During the Board's recent tour of the Main-Begg Farmhouse, we learned about Robert Main, who had the home built in 1911 on 25 acres of land. He was a foreman of local ranches and had his own dry farm and field crops of walnuts, lemons, and avocados. His daughter Carrie and her husband David Begg occupied the home and raised their family there; the Begg family lived in the spacious home until 2019.

Plans for the site, now in the hands of the non-profit Main-Begg Farmhouse organization include restoration and

preservation of the buildings and property, monthly tours, educational programs, and community use.

For more information, see the organization's new website [HERE](#).

And be sure to read Tom Modugno's recent



Closet door detail report [HERE](#).



Second floor tour



Begg still life

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# Preservation in Action: Mission Canyon Bridge Repair Done Right

*Photos and story by Paulina Conn*

**W**e in Santa Barbara can be so proud and appreciative of our 131-year-old Mission Canyon Bridge. It was designed to be sturdy, everlasting, and artistic by Roland Gibson Hazard, and was built in 1891 by master stonemasons, Joseph Dover and Joseph Woods. In 1930, under the watchful eye of Roland's daughter, Carolyn Hazard, master sandstone workmanship was conducted with the widening and flattening of the bridge's roadbed and parapets designed by County engineer and surveyor Owen Hugh O'Neill.

The bridge was damaged by an inattentive driver in May of 2022, leaving a swath of sky-blue paint and multiple broken historic stones in their wake. After an initial patchwork repair that was less than appropriate for the historic structure—and brought to the attention of the City by a historic-minded citizen's complaint—the bridge was properly repaired. Thanks to the collaborative effort between the City's Transportation Department in consultation with the City Historian and the Historic Landmarks Commission, this new repair,

done in November 2022, fits in with the high-quality work of the past.

Let us hope that artisans continue to learn the time-honored craft of fine stonework. It is an art that should not be lost, one that has added so much lasting aesthetic appeal in our community.

Today's bridges are built to last only 50 to 75 years. These old stone arch bridges were built to last an eternity and will if properly maintained. Our climate is such that there is little weathering. What little repair is needed can be done easily and for little money especially compared to replacement and even maintenance of today's bridges.



Initial inappropriate repair, June 2022



Damage due to automobile accident, May 2022



Professional repair that reflects the skill of the master stonemason, whose sensitivity reflects the historic style of the stonework, the historic color of the sandstone and mortar, as well as the historic width of the mortar, November 2022.



Finished effect that accurately reflects the historic and beautiful entrance into Mission Canyon.



## Miss Chase and Holiday Greetings

By Cheri Rae

Annual community Christmas celebrations were very important to Pearl. She knew that for many, the holidays could be a lonely time—whether it was servicemen stationed far from home, the elderly or children who had little hope of feeling special at that time of year.



In 1920, Pearl was the head of the community's celebration committee, and she oversaw every aspect of the job. She strolled around Santa Barbara's old Greek Revival-style courthouse and pointed to the largest evergreen tree on the grounds. That was the one she wanted decorated for the community Christmas lighting ceremony. She reassured those who

expressed concerns that the tree was about to be sacrificed. "The big evergreen is not to be cut down, nor harmed in any way," she declared.

After that, another tree was chosen to be the annual Community Christmas Tree. The Norfolk Island Star Pine, located at the corner of Chapala and Carrillo streets was famously planted as a seedling by Dr. Winchester, in honor of the birth of his niece in 1878. Today, it soars some ninety feet into the sky. It has continued to serve as the community Christmas tree, decorated with white lights, and is known as the Tree of Light, designated a City Landmark in 1977.

The Open House at the Recreation Center on Christmas Day became a community tradition, a welcoming place for those who might not have another place to celebrate the holiday. The invitation was issued throughout town

for "those who are away from home and lonesome to join us Christmas afternoon." It was the warmly welcoming site of holiday entertainment; dinner and refreshments were served, along with cakes and cookies donated by local bakeries. Pearl once observed that she hadn't spent a Christmas with her family in more than two decades; instead she found her celebration and joyful holiday spirit by sharing with those in need.

*Note: Located deep within the Pearl Chase Society's archives, discovered recently by PCS Historian Patti Ottoboni, is a collection of Christmas cards and holiday greetings sent to her in 1978.*

*The holiday art in this issue is taken from that collection.*

