



THE CAPITAL

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

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FEBRUARY MEETINGS OF INTEREST

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Next Board of Directors meeting: February 4 at Arnoldi's Restaurant, 600 Olive Street, before the February Fling gathering.

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: February 7, 14, 28

Planning Commission

First, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: February 2, 9, 16

Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: February 1, 15

Architectural Board of Review

Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Full Board meets February 6, 21

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. February 7 (SB), February 14 (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. February 1 (SB), February 8 (SM), February 22 (SB)

County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission

Second Monday of the month at 10 am at 123 East Anapamu, Room 17 (unless specified otherwise). February 13

Society News and Notes

The Board members of the Pearl Chase Society met in person on January 5 at the Genealogy Society on Castillo Street. Everyone was in high spirits, ready to share ideas and get started on new projects at the beginning of the New Year.

One of the new projects that has touched our hearts and sparked much thoughtful discussion is the initiation of a Pearl Chase Society-sponsored speakers' series in honor of one of our dear founding members, Kellam de Forest. Stay tuned for reports about the plans and progress for this ongoing community event that will focus on topics of interest presented by a range of community experts.

We're looking forward to our upcoming social gathering at Arnoldi's with members of the Pearl Chase Society the afternoon of February 4 and hope to see you there! See details below.

February Fling
Presented by
PEARL CHASE SOCIETY
Please join us
Saturday February 4, 2023
12 noon to 3 PM

Arnoldi's Cafe

Lunch & no host bar
\$25 per person

Please send checks to:
Patti Ottoboni
9 N. San Marcos Rd. Unit B, SB 93111
Ph: 805.961.3938 for questions

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

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY Board of Directors

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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*

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PRESERVATION WATCH

We're keeping an eye on pending developments from La Cumbre Plaza to lower State Street, the Westside to the Riviera, to UCSB and all around the town. Please feel free to add your input or express your concerns.

By Christine Neuhauser

The Jan 23 meeting of the Architectural Board of Review offered a glimpse of what is fast becoming commonplace, and so sad for what is happening to Santa Barbara. Every project received project design approval (PDA) and or final. All, except the car wash on La Cumbre Road, and the six units at 515 West Los Olivos were sub-par, at least for the standards Santa Barbara once implemented. Of course, everything has changed since the passage of SB330, that severely limits local control over housing developments.

The massive four-story, 82-unit project at 701 North Milpas received PDA, with conditions from the ABR. Jarrett Gorin of Vanguard Planning represented the development team of Alan Bleecker and Ed St. George. The ABR's responsibilities are so diminished, partly due to Sacramento's legislation and Santa Barbara city's project agreement with the owners, that the innocuous questions they valiantly still asked at this stage were about color, materials, solar and landscaping.

One of the members did request the corner(s) be softened by moving a balcony to the corner instead remaining in the middle, and he called it a missed opportunity when he was voted down by the board. The board has repeatedly requested the applicant to soften the corners to reduce massing has board. When checking the compatibility findings regarding mass, bulk, scale, and compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood, all had already been decided by City Council. Although the statement, "The public views and mountains have not been impacted," doesn't hold water if you are viewing it from Santa Barbara Junior High or the athletic field behind the project.

Still the attention and tweaking of the Milpas project made, at least on paper, for a better look than what was approved at 425 Garden Street. It's yet another four-story development; this one with 36 units and featuring rooftop amenities. It is big and blocky, with concrete from lot line to lot line and looks like a white boring shoebox. It appears more fitting for construction in Oxnard, and resembling a shopping mall, or medical facility, it hardly looks like housing or a place to call home. The project was 33 units on November 21, now it is 36. Said the presenter, "the archway was moved back to be compatible with the (one-story) building next door." Nothing is memorable nor inviting about this design, nor compatible with adjoining East Haley Street nor Garden Street.

Haley Street, with its one- and two-story buildings and neighborhood industrial feel is currently dotted with motor courts from the past. It will

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"Government officials are
only people;
people who need a lot
of citizens to support them
or at least a few vocal ones."

~ Pearl Chase

Don't forget to LIKE us on Facebook. 
www.facebook.com/PearlChaseSociety

Good News! Rocky Nook Park Officially Named a County Historic Landmark

By Paulina Conn
Photos by Cheri Rae

The long-discussed designation of Rocky Nook Park as a County Historic Landmark has finally happened. The vote, on January 24, by the County Board of Supervisors was 4 to 1. Third District Supervisor, Joan Hartmann, felt that no capital improvements by either Transportation or Parks

Department should be exempted from the required consultation with the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission. She, of course, is right. However, politics won out.

Although there are those who objected, asserting that landmarking Rocky Nook Park—or any park—is unnecessary, and further, that the landmarking was initiated to obstruct safety improvements on Mission Canyon Road.

But the Coalition to Preserve Mission Canyon has successfully worked with the Department of Transportation to install solar pedestrian-activated push button signals at crosswalks to the Museum of Natural History. It has also moved the “Slippery When Wet” for increased visibility, installed No Parking signs, and is arranging for the planting of native California plants along Rocky Nook Park to prevent vehicular parking on the pedestrian path.

And Rocky Nook Park is the missing authentic link to Mission Historical Park and is very important to the Chumash.

At the hearing several members of the Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians spoke in favor of making Rocky Nook Park a Historic Landmark. This was their original land and having it landmarked was necessary to keep the native landscape to share with everyone.

Letters to Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission in support of landmarking Rocky Nook Park were sent by the Chairs of the Barbareño Band and from the Coastal Band as well. They represented each entire Band



Mosaic artist Dan Chrynko created a couple of colorful lizards resting on the rocks above Mission Creek at the lower end of the park.



Happy trails allow for easy meandering.

not just individuals.

The County Supervisors received 97 Public Comment Letters in favor of making Rocky Nook Park a County Historic Landmark, with just four against it. Several of the letters, including one from a law firm, in favor of landmark status reminded the Supervisors that Rocky Nook Park has a Deed Restriction for Park use in perpetuity.

Designating Rocky Nook Park as a County Historic Landmark is a small way of honoring our local Chumash with a place that is still authentic oak woodland and riparian habitat and that was once their land. They literally walked here for thousands of years. Rocky Nook Park is intimately connected to the mapped place names of Axtayuxash (place of wild cherries) and

Xana'yan (rocky place), the name of the nearby village.

NOTE: The designation makes the exception that the County Transportation Department does not have to go first to CHLAC if “elements along Mission Canyon Road are impacted by maintenance, capital improvements or safety projects”. The Parks Department exemptions were already inserted in the Draft Resolution that received the unanimous Yes vote of the HLAC and the Draft Resolution that received a 4 to 4 tie vote with HLAC. There was discussion of park exemptions. We will wait to see if those already in the Resolution will be changed.



Bloom where you are planted.



Shadows and light, boulders and oaks.

Meet Our New Board Members

Emma Brinkman



“The best way to teach history is through preservation,” declared Emma Brinkman. She has lived in various locations in the Santa Barbara area since 1995. Her interests include local history, architecture, landscape design, and preservation of historical neighborhoods, which are a perfect fit with the mission of the Pearl Chase Society.

She has participated actively in commenting on projects under review at local design boards and has worked to the restoration of neighborhood altar rails, too many of which have been several privatized or have been allowed to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance and vegetative overgrowth. She has extensive botanical knowledge and interest in the Italian Stone Pines on Anapamu Street. Brinkman also is active in autism research and adaptive supports and programs for the developmentally disabled.

Claudia Schou



“I am honored to have been invited to serve as a board member for Pearl Chase Society, and to be part of a dynamic team whose sole mission is to preserve Santa Barbara’s historic architecture, landscapes and cultural heritage,” Claudia Schou said. “I look forward to working on initiatives that will advance and enlarge upon the founding vision of Pearl Chase.”

Schou previously lived in Long Beach, where she founded Friends of Bixby Park. As board president for a dozen years, she led a team of volunteers to raise funds for seasonal programming of the historic bandshell, improvements and landscaping, acquisition of park furnishings and historic light posts and community-funded public safety initiatives.

She and her family moved to Santa Barbara four years ago when she accepted a marketing and public relations position at The Fess Parker by DoubleTree. Her role was to rebrand the hotel to Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort.

Schou has since moved into the real estate market and is a realtor at Village Properties. Schou also serves as an administrator for Parkinson Association of Santa Barbara and as a steering committee member for Santa Barbara Museum of Art’s Museum Collectors Council. She also writes a food column for the *Montecito Journal*.

Stephanie Williams



“My interest in historic preservation, architecture, and design was finely honed by the decade I spent at *Architectural Digest* in advertising,” said Stephanie Williams. “I would like to help maintain Santa Barbara’s special character and I want to be part of an organization that shares this interest. The Pearl Chase Society mission is in line with this desire.”

Williams added, “I am excited to join the Pearl Chase Society Board of Directors and hope to honor our historic architecture, gardens, and neighborhoods with seasonal community educational events such as home tours and lectures. In addition to the Pearl Chase Society, I am a Vice President of the Santa Barbara Beautiful Board of Directors.”

PRESERVATION WATCH

—continued from page 2

soon go the way of Chapala Street, before it turned into a strip of high-rise, high-priced housing units.

But the outcome will be worse, because the thought, care and suggestions are no longer afforded the applicants from the review boards. The modern constraints where the number of units to make construction affordable, according to the developers, outweighs the livability of these housing units and takes the magic out of a beautiful and well-thought-out building that stands the test of time and enchants the passerby.

And sadly, a sweet cul-de-sac at 414 West Canon

Perdido Street will lose some of its charm when the modern two-unit AUD is plopped on the site, among the one-story Victorians situated there. Again, a box and a box with a triangle on top describes the project.

All this development rapidly changing the face of Santa Barbara with little public opposition expressed. Contrary to the past when the public was so involved, there were no members of the public who spoke out in person or online against any of these projects. Please speak up for the good of your neighborhood and let board members know that people in Santa Barbara still care about where they live.