



# THE CAPITAL

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

Vol. 25, No. 3 • [www.PearlChaseSociety.org](http://www.PearlChaseSociety.org) • March 2022

## MARCH MEETINGS OF INTEREST

### PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

In-person **Board Meetings** at the MacVeagh House on the grounds of the Natural History Museum been suspended due to Covid protocols. The Board continues to meet via Zoom; meetings are typically held the first Thursday of the month at 3:30. Next meeting: March 3.

The Preservation Committee is being re-organized and regular dates for Zoom meetings will be determined.

### CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

#### City Council Public Comment and Participating Online

In order to promote social distancing, City Council chambers will not be open to the general public. Public participation can be done in two ways: 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: March 1, 8, 15

#### Planning Commission

First, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: March 3, 10, 17

#### Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: March 2, 16, 30

#### Architectural Board of Review

Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Full Board meets March 7, 14, 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. March 1 (SB), March 8, (SM) March 15 (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. March 2 (SB), March 9, March 23 (SM)

#### County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission

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

## Society News & Notes

By Cheri Rae

### What's in a Name?

It's a question often asked, and it was raised and thoughtfully discussed at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pearl Chase Society on February 3. Although members and friends of the Society might be well-aware of the accomplishments and meaning of the long and accomplished life of our namesake, Pearl Chase, others may not.

The point was brought up at the meeting that quite often Board Members who identify themselves working on behalf of the Pearl Chase Society are asked, directly, "What is that?" Or "Who is that?"

Members, what do you think? What has your experience been? Is it time to modify the name that continues to honor Pearl Chase *and* provides more explanation about our work?

It has been more than forty years since Miss Chase passed (in 1979, at the age of nearly 91), and there may not be the kind of awareness of her significance we might expect would be common knowledge among the population of Santa Barbara.

You likely know that the Society was registered as a nonprofit corporation on December 26, 1997, to address concerns about the loss of historic resources. Prior to our formal organization, we were active as "Santa Barbarans for Architectural Heritage" in response to the proposal to demolish two distinctive pre-earthquake storefronts on State Street.

Our public campaign and presentation to the Santa Barbara Planning Commission resulted in modifications in the planned enlargement of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. The distinctive 1920s columns and street face of one shop were retained and create the present-day gift shop entrance of the Museum.

In the years since, the Pearl Chase Society has been in the forefront of historic preservation efforts in Santa Barbara County. Our membership has kept a close eye on issues and generously funded countless preservation and restoration projects.

And we will remain committed to that work. Nothing about our operation, focus, or activities will change if the name of the organization is modified. This may simply be time to remind the community of our work, beginning with a small change to the name, so they know immediately who we are and what we do. What do you think?

Let us use the prescient words of Pearl Chase to guide us, as she acknowledged, "Many new things in this fast-moving age make it difficult to keep pace with an ever-changing world." And she advised, "Let us Communicate, Cooperate and Coordinate our efforts for good freely."

This is your opportunity to offer your thoughts on a possible name change to help inform the Board's future discussions on this important matter.

The Board will seriously consider your input and will continue to report back to Members as discussions move forward and options are considered.

**Please submit your comments by March 25 by email at [PCS@pearlchasesociety.org](mailto:PCS@pearlchasesociety.org).**

**The next Board Meeting is Thursday, March 3, via Zoom.**

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

Tina Foss  
Maureen Masson  
Christine Neuhauser  
Kitty Peri  
Dennis Whelan

### 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 is  
copyrighted by The Pearl Chase Society  
and may be reproduced only with the  
written permission of the editor.

# PRESERVATION WATCH

*(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.)*

**M**onday, Feb. 21, marked the renewal of the Preservation Committee, with a Zoom meeting hosted by President Steve Dowty, and attended by Mary Louise Days, Susan Chamberlin and Claire Peters and me. Claire, a Santa Barbara native and graduate of San Marcos High School, joined the meeting from New York, since she continues her interest in preserving and protecting her hometown.

This initial meeting served as a review of several issues that have come to members' attention, some of which have been addressed recently in local press. They include:

**De la Guerra Plaza:** Concern was expressed about the City's plans and the need for the Society to take a stand on the proposed changes of this historic spot in the heart of the city. As Ms. Days mentioned, "It is a civic plaza, not a playground." The Committee recommended that the Board draft a position paper of the Society to address multiple issues that include the arcade, ADA access, inclusion of grass, loss of 60 parking spaces, the impacts of the "splashpad," and questioning the very basic notion of the benefit of making significant changes to this historic gathering place, officially established in 1924 and little changed since then.

**Bungalow Haven Historic District (proposed):** The process is continuing, with the City requiring approval of 50 percent plus one of the property owners in the proposed district.

**Historic airport hangars:** Concern about the "benign neglect" of these historic structures that are currently unsafe but could be restored as an air museum.

**St. Paul AME Church repairs:** We continue to be in talks about how best to provide assistance with restoration and repairs of this City Landmark.

**Other items of interest:** The City's closure of historic Plaza de Vera Cruz and the City's plans to reduce gardening space at 48-year-old Yanonali Gardens, where the plot holders have been denied due process to formally object; tall buildings and development in El Pueblo Viejo by the unanimous vote by City Council to study how the density incentive program can be enhanced; need to monitor agendas of HLC and ABR—and edhat has begun a weekly post of upcoming agendas of City boards and commissions. There is concern about the Botanic Garden's proposed changes in the Historic Landmark section that will be discussed at the next meeting. (See p. 3 for more information) Preservation-minded residents are encouraged to apply for positions on Boards and Commissions. ~ report by Cheri Rae

Don't forget to LIKE us on Facebook. 

[www.facebook.com/PearlChaseSociety](http://www.facebook.com/PearlChaseSociety)

## Botanic Garden Plans Changes for the Canyon Trail Area

By Paulina Conn

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden plans changes to the Tunnel Road side of the Mission Creek area directly west of the Campbell Bridge and southward to the main boulder crossing across the creek and up to the lower Tunnel Road entry. This area is now referred to as “The Backcountry.” It will become an area with extra trails for children to explore unsupervised; extra benches for parents and others to sit; extra group areas for gathering and teaching with boulder seating, or more formal bench seating including elevated stone contour seating opposite the Campbell Bridge. Two donor recognition spots are included with stone benches.

Meanwhile, it seems that this westside area is to become a permanent children’s area complete with a “base camp” with tent and other informal group areas. Previously removed vegetation along the Canyon Trail for the installation of temporary “Casitas” for children to play in has continued to be barren. It may become part of the new permanent Backcountry configuration.

The Pritchett Trail and Easton Aqueduct Trails will remain as they currently are. The Canyon Trail will be narrowed somewhat with abandoned areas revegetated appropriately. The path will be stabilized to lessen erosion but is planned to feel and look like dirt by using a mixture of native soil, soil-colored gravel, and a plant-based stabilizer.

This is the first time an area has been geared to children while attempting to retain the historic design concept and materials of the historic garden. The idea is that this Backcountry will beckon more people to explore this hidden gem.

A novel experiment will be the installation of a health- and planning department-approved foam flush composting toilet placed along the north side of the “dirt road” that was the lower Tunnel Road entry to the Garden.

All plans can be studied at the County Planning Department website [HERE](#)

The County Historic Landmarks Commission (CHLAC) heard the proposal on February 14, 2022, and the decision was continued. Next meeting is March 14.



Schematics of the Backcountry courtesy of The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden website [HERE](#)

## Light and Air: An Exhibition of Paintings by Lockwood de Forest, "Lighting the Way" at the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, through May 8, 2022

By Cheri Rae



Photograph of Lockwood de Forest, Sr., courtesy Santa Barbara Historical Museum

*Man's art is his attempt to express in some degree the harmony and beauty of God's Art. It is in every work will done. Anything exceptionally well done becomes a work of fine art. To fully understand this examine carefully any work of God. How everything has been perfectly constructed to fulfill in the highest degree the purpose for which it was made. The more we study, the more we wonder at the perfection. ~ Lockwood de Forest, definition of terms, 1919*

wife, Elizabeth Kellam de Forest, a garden designer, collaborated as publishers of *The Santa Barbara Gardener*, for many years. And of course, and his grandson, our beloved Kellam, was tireless in his efforts to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources.

The exhibition is made complete by incorporating a slide show of black-and-white images provided by Kellam's daughter, Ann. Most of the paintings in this exhibition, which includes views of Mission Canyon, the Santa Barbara Mission, coastal views, and spectacular landscapes, are from the collection donated by Kathleen and Oswald Da Ros.

Notes: A lecture about Lockwood de Forest will be presented by art historian Jeremy Tessmer on April 6 in the courtyard of the museum. Reservations are required [HERE](#)

To learn more about the de Forest family, check this 2014

How much we miss our friend and founding member, Kellam de Forest. How lucky we are to be able to view the extraordinary paintings created by his grandfather, Lockwood de Forest. The multitasking extraordinary plein air artist and world traveler began painting classic scenes of Santa Barbara at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and settled his family here in Santa Barbara in 1915.

The de Forest family has had impact on the depiction, understanding and appreciation of Santa Barbara's natural settings like no other. Lockwood de Forest's depiction of our canyons, foothills, mountains and coastline brings a sense of nature's power and delicacy, along with a luminous quality of light.

He passed along that reverence for nature in his son, Lockwood, Jr., a landscape architect. He and his



edition of *Eden Magazine*, featuring articles by our own member Susan Chamberlin and recollections of his parents by Kellam de Forest, [HERE](#)



A very youthful Kellam de Forest camping with his father, Lockwood, Jr.

While you're at the museum, take the time to view another exhibit, "Huguette Marcelle Clark: A Portrait of the Artist." You have likely heard about her and the Belloguardo estate; see some of her paintings and belongings on display. Additionally, Bill Dedman, author of *Empty Mansions*, the biography of Clark, will be presented on March 16. Reservations are required [HERE](#)