



# THE CAPITAL

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

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## MARCH MEETINGS OF INTEREST

### PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Next Board of Directors meeting: March 2 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: March 7, 14, 21

#### Planning Commission

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

#### Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: March 1, 15, 29

#### Architectural Board of Review

Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Full Board meets March 6, 20

### COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

County Board of Supervisor Meetings and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on CSBT20. 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 7 (SB), March 14 (SM), March 21 (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 1 (SB), March 8 (SM), March 29 (SB)

#### County Historic Landmarks

##### Advisory Commission

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

## Society News and Notes

By Cheri Rae

On Saturday, February 4, the Board of Directors met at Arnoldi's Café, just before our annual members' luncheon. Observations were shared about the new state regulations that limit the ability of local boards and commission to address aspects of new development projects, such as parking.

One member observed, "It's going to be an uncomfortable transition," while another was more emphatic, referring to it as purgatory. Nevertheless, Santa Barbara grew up as a series of walkable neighborhoods, which could be celebrated in a series of brochures or information shared with the community. We will continue to discuss this as a possible project.

Also addressed was the ongoing effort to establish Bungalow Haven as a historic district, which has implications for other neighborhoods as well. It should be noted that

it is—and always has been—a very walkable neighborhood, established when few local residents even owned cars. The City's Historian Nicole Hernandez brings considerable expertise to this project which may lead the way to a streamlined process for designation.

We received updates on the repairs needed at the Main-Begg farmhouse and the acquisition of partial funding for the Goleta Train Depot Project ([HERE](#)).

*Photos Courtesy Monie Photography*



Right to Left: Martha Osborne first PCS president, her daughter Jennifer Osborne and Board Member/PCS Historian Patti Ottoboni. Fun Fact: Martha, Patti and Board Member Maureen Masson have been friends since high school.



Right to Left: Members Stephanie Williams and Patricia Chidlaw celebrated Patricia's artistic accomplishment as her painting of the Arlington Theater was selected as the poster for the 2023 Santa Barbara International Film Festival.



As always, the food at Arnoldi's was delicious and plentiful.

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

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### Board Members

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Claudia Schou

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### Members Emeriti

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Roger Horton

Barbara Lowenthal

Please direct inquiries  
and comments to:

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### Newsletter

Cheri Rae, *editor*

Lisa DeSpain, *graphics*

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## In Her Nature: Pearl Chase and the California Conservation Council

By Cheri Rae

Some of Pearl's earliest childhood memories were of idyllic hours spent in nature with her father. As the two of them hiked along the shores of the Charles River in Boston, he taught her about the variety of birds in the sky, the fish in the water, and the plants in the marshes. They often collected water lilies and took them home.

In letters he wrote her, he hoped her life would be "pure and bright like the water lily," and connected his nature lessons to community service, adding, "You know our minds are store-houses and we should seek to fill them with treasure that will serve us and help us to do good to others."

It should be no surprise that Pearl became an environmentalist. "We see how God takes care of the bird and flowers and makes them grow, and by that we may be sure he will take care of us," he reassured his daughter.

Although better-known for her interest in promoting architectural beauty in Santa Barbara, Pearl Chase was deeply committed to protecting the natural world. She maintained enduring friendships with university friends Horace Albright and Newton Drury—both of whom served as directors of the National Park Service—and was a lifelong member of the Save the Redwoods League.

In 1932, Pearl reevaluated her life's path as she recuperated from an automobile accident. The enormity of her civic work kept her very busy, but she wanted to explore horizons far beyond Santa Barbara. She came up with a plan for a new organization focused on the conservation of natural resources in her beloved adopted state of California. Within a year the East Coast transplant founded the California Conservation Council, dedicated to the preservation and protection of the natural resources of the Golden State.

And she established March 7 to 14 as the annual California Conservation Week. Its purpose was to challenge all Californians "to understand the



"Arbor Day should be a day of dedication of service to school, community and State, and of tribute to those who have shown us the way," Pearl wrote in one of her numerous CCC brochures. At far right, she presides over an Arbor Day tree on historic De la Guerra Plaza, circa 1950.

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A nature study group at Rocky Nook Park, part of the CCC's educational services to the community.

need for conservation and to realize our individual responsibility if we are to keep California fertile, fire free and beautiful."

She chose the week-long observance to coincide with the state's official designation of Arbor Day, celebrated on March 7, the birthday of horticulturist Luther Burbank.

She explained her belief in the importance of planting and protecting trees: "A campaign to plant and preserve trees can and should be

more effectively organized, as is the campaign to prevent fires." The protection of trees was always one of Pearl's high priorities, which extended to the CCC. Among her arboreal concerns over the years were the sugar pines in Yosemite, the redwoods, the Moreton Bay Fig tree and the Italian Stone Pines along Anapamu Street (which are being lost now at an alarming rate).

Utilizing her organizational skills, her extensive network of accomplished contacts, her ability to write and to persuade others to join her, Pearl determinedly set about gathering and distributing information she felt was needed for Californians to become good citizens in the outdoors.

She developed an array of informational brochures addressing various parts of the natural world, explaining how to implement "Outdoor Good Manners." Topics included birds, wildflowers, national parks, state emblems, and soil conservation.

With the platform of the CCC, Pearl became an in-demand expert about stewardship in natural places; she was regularly asked to speak or write on a variety of conservation topics.

In 1938, she addressed The National Conference on State Parks in Norris, Tennessee, speaking on the subject of "New Attitudes in Conservation Education."

In 1939, Pearl was a featured speaker at the National Park Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her topic

was, "Preservation of Natural Beauties and Recreational Values in National Parks."

In 1940, she hosted a symposium in San Rafael to discuss recreational opportunities in San Francisco and the Bay Area.

A former classroom teacher, Pearl firmly believed in educating the next generation of conservationists—as well as their parents and educators. She worked closely with educators at the state level and provided brochures and conservation curriculum for public school districts throughout California.

Pearl's leadership for the protection of natural resources was lauded by numerous conservation organizations: She was named an honorary California state parks ranger; she was recognized for her conservation work by the National Audubon Society; and the Izaak Walton League presented her with an award "In appreciation of long and continued service to the cause of soil, woods, water and wildlife."

When Pearl was inducted into the California Conservation Hall of Fame in 1974, she was recognized as the "founder and president of the oldest statewide conservation organization in California, the California Conservation

Council.

She worried about the future of the organization she started, and the difficulties keeping it going. "I am deeply concerned to see the California Conservation Council properly supported," she wrote. "I have been able to keep it running and out of debt without any paid staff and without Foundation, corporation or organization support."

Unfortunately, the conservation organization so important to her, could not continue without her leadership or the financial support she recognized was essential.

It was dissolved in the early 1970s, with at least one board member voicing misgivings. She wrote to Pearl, "CCC is needed more now than ever to compile and disseminate conservation information for the "upstarts", schools, old-time conservationists, business and industry as well as to coordinate the conservation education activities. Or am I too radical in my views?"

As Pearl observed, "Many conservation problems affect the prosperity, health and happiness of people all over the nation." It's a message that rings true and more urgently now than ever.

Photos: Community Development and Conservation Collection. SBHC Mss 1. Department of Special Research Collections, UCSB Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Brochures from the collection at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.



## Coming Soon: The Kellam de Forest Speaker Series

The Pearl Chase Society announces the Kellam de Forest Speaker Series in honor of the legacy of our illustrious founding member who did so much to further the cause of historic preservation and community action in Santa Barbara.



After his passing, the Society received many generous donations in his name. After careful consideration, the Board decided the creation of an ongoing series would provide the community with great educational and inspirational benefit—something Kellam would have embraced with his characteristic enthusiasm.

## ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

By Cheri Rae

Introducing an occasional new feature to alert you to interesting articles, meetings, events, and all sorts of information that might be interesting or enlightening. Let us know what you think.

\*In Newsmakers with Jerry Roberts, an exchange of opinion pieces about housing between former Mayor and current Planning Commissioner Sheila Lodge ([HERE](#)) and County Supervisor Das Williams ([HERE](#)). Randy Alcorn also weighed in ([HERE](#)).

\*At the February 11 meeting of the Historic Landmarks Committee, a fascinating discussion about the paseo at 9 West Figueroa Street and the paseo system in general. View on [YouTube](#), beginning at 25:08.

\*Nick Welsh reported in the Independent on the years-long effort to redesign de la Guerra Plaza.



The free series is scheduled for the second Friday of each month at the Recreation Center, 100 East Carrillo Street, 6 to 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Kicking off the series on April 14 will be Rick Closson with a presentation about the life and times of Kellam de Forest, whose accomplishments in the film industry in Hollywood are largely unknown in his own hometown.

On May 12, Cheri Rae will present a view of the historical importance of the Recreation Center, and the social work done there by Pearl Chase, Margaret Baylor, and other women of the community.

On June 9, Douglas Woods, author of *California Casa*, a beautifully photographed volume on Spanish Colonial Revival-style, will discuss his new book centered in Santa Barbara.

Future speakers for this ongoing series will be announced. We will present speakers who will address topics close to Kellam's heart, causes he would have supported, the history of Santa Barbara, and the individuals who established Santa Barbara as a uniquely beautiful and culturally rich community.

And the expenditure of another \$920,000 (\$865,088 to RRM Design Group for continued architectural and design services and \$65,599 for lighting design to Ann Kale Associates).

[HERE](#)

Josh Molina reported in Noozhawk ([HERE](#)) on the state-imposed limitations placed on the Architectural Board of Review when evaluating a project, specifically a proposed 19-unit apartment building at 425 Santa Barbara Street.

Upcoming: Once again the fate of de la Guerra Plaza will be debated; the HLC is scheduled to review current plans on March 1.

