

# THE CAPITAL

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

Vol. 26, No. 5 • www.PearlChaseSociety.org • May 2023

## MAY MEETINGS OF INTEREST

### PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Next Board of Directors meeting: May 4 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: May 2, 9, 16, 23

#### Planning Commission

First, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: May 4, 11, 18

#### Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: May 10, 24

#### Architectural Board of Review

Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Full Board meets May 1, 15, 30

### 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. May 2 (SB), May 9 (SM), May 16 (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. May 3 (SB), May 10 (SM), May 31 (SB)

#### County Historic Landmarks

##### Advisory Commission

Second Monday of the month at 10 am at 123 East Anapamu, Room 17 (unless specified otherwise). May 8

## Society News and Notes

By Cheri Rae

On Thursday, April 6, the Board of Directors met at the office of the Genealogical Society for the monthly meeting. We received a note from the board of the Main-Begg Farmhouse expressing their appreciation for our recent donation designated to restore the front porch of the historic site.

Members Emma Brinkman and Christine Neuhauser reported that they attended the Street Tree Advisory Committee to express concerns about the condition of the Italian stone pines on Anapamu Street. A stand of 79 of the mature canopy trees from the 300 to 800 blocks was designated a city historic landmark in 1997. These trees have been seriously stressed due to age, numerous environmental factors, and of course, years of drought. The Society's purchase of "irrigade" watering storage systems has helped, but many trees have been lost. The winter rains added to the devastation of these trees, and it is hoped that the Society and the City can help develop a replacement plan that is sensitive to the historic and natural ambience of the area.

New business included the approval of a plaque to accompany the Pearl Chase portrait at the Recreation Center that was re-framed and restored by the Society in 2011. There was a brief, and welcome, preliminary discussion about the location for the next Historic Homes Tour—for 2024. And the Santa Barbara Conservancy is planning to work with various community organizations for the observance of the 2025 Centennial observation of the Santa Barbara Earthquake; all interested parties are invited to reply.

This board meeting took place in advance of the first of our new Kellam de Forest Speaker Series presentation; board members stepped up with donations of wine, time, and hosting duties to make the event a great success. Read more about the event on page 2.



PEARL CHASE SOCIETY CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO DISCOVER NEW PERSPECTIVES OF SANTA BARBARA HISTORY

*The Kellam de Forest Speaker Series welcomes local historian Cheri Rae to discuss the historical importance of the Carrillo Recreation Center, and the social work done there by Pearl Chase and Margaret Baylor.*

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023  
6 PM-7 PM

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

This event is free, but donations to help sustain the program are greatly appreciated. Seating is limited.

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



From left to right: Margaret Boyles; Carrillo Recreation Center; Pearl Chase

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

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.

## Preservation Watch: Kellam de Forest, the Man You May Not Know

By Christine Neuhauser

Photos by Monie Photography

On April 14, the early life of Kellam de Forest was the subject for the first of the newly created Kellam de Forest Speaker Series presented by the Pearl Chase Society. The series, to honor his life and work, is presented free to the public to learn the untold stories of Santa Barbara, held at the city's Recreation Center on Carrillo Street.

Local historian Richard Closson offered a personal view of Kellam's life. He described "our Kellam" with his "whip-smart intellect and impish grin."

He was a native of Santa Barbara who had much to do with preservation in his later life. From a distinguished family and after a career in Hollywood as a fact finder for movies and television, he returned home to Santa Barbara and fought continuously to keep Santa Barbara Santa Barbara. He was often in attendance at meetings of various commissions and boards regarding land use and building and zoning: Architectural Board of Review, Historic Landmarks Commission, Planning Commission, Single Family Design Review Board—and sometimes City Council.

Whether it was about the General Plan or a specific development, Kellam did his research and was determined to keep the city beautiful and to keep officials on their toes.

Anyone would be amazed by his will and determination to speak out against projects. He was never flustered, even while speaking

haltingly, and he did not back down from his position. While arguing his point, he sometimes had a twinkle in his eye and a slight smile as he recounted details. Watching him stand his ground while using a walker or seated in a wheelchair was impressive and spoke volumes of the man he was.



Rick Closson



Kellam de Forest

LIKE us on Facebook.   
[www.facebook.com/PearlChaseSociety](http://www.facebook.com/PearlChaseSociety)



In addition to attending public meetings, which he often traveled to and from by Easy Lift, he conducted monthly Preservation Watch meetings, where concerned citizens could bring their neighborhood issues to increase awareness and perhaps gain support from the PCS, and Kellam de Forest.

His tenacity is what brought me to his Preservation Meetings at Wood Glen Hall, as I brought the AUD program and inherent problems to his meeting. He held those meetings to the very end and never



seemed to stop caring.

But there is much more to know about his long life outside of Santa Barbara, as Rick Closson detailed in his fine presentation. He provided a brief history of Kellam, who was born at Cottage Hospital in 1927, a premie who weighed in at just over two pounds and survived against all odds. Educated locally at Roosevelt, Crane, and Thacher, where he graduated in 1944, he attended Yale University for a year before he enlisted in the Army and served at a supply depot in Washington state.

At war's end, he returned to Yale, where he proudly managed the polo team, and graduated in

1949 with a degree in history. He married his wife Peggy in 1952, moved to Los Angeles where they raised their family and he came up with a business idea that combined his interest in Hollywood with his research skills. He founded De Forest Research, a consulting firm located on the Paramount Studios lot, that provided fact-checking services, checked scripts for accuracy, and helped the studios avoid lawsuits with their careful research.

Rick revealed that it was Kellam who reviewed the pilot script for *All in the Family* and found that Wally Bunker—as the main character was originally named—was the name of a real-life resident in Queens. He suggested the character be named Archie.

In his decades of show business work, Kellam and his team of nine researchers consulted on some 250 television series and more than 500 feature-length films. De Forest Research was known as the largest Hollywood research firm, and to this day, the model he created of meticulous notes on a script is referred to as a De Forest Report, developed at the request of Gene Roddenberry of *Star Trek* fame, and still used throughout the industry.

Following the presentation, attendees enjoyed a brief reception in the lovely courtyard area, with the opportunity to meet with Closson for more insights about this very special man noting “The good that people do, lives after them.” That is certainly the case with Kellam de Forest.



## Progress In Preservation

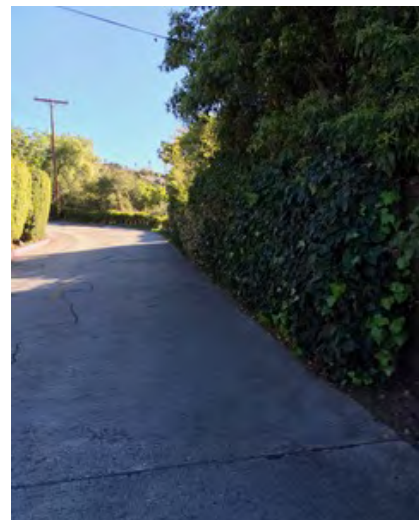
By Emma Brinkman

The attached photos show the restoration of the sandstone wall on the 1200 block of Ferrelo Road. Wendy Edmunds, who has served on the Historic Landmarks Commission, worked with the city’s urban historian Nicole Hernandez to restore and return this section of the pier and cap wall to the public view.

A small victory for preservation!

Currently, according to Edmunds, when a homeowner pulls a building permit and a sandstone wall is identified on the property, the homeowner is required to restore the wall and return it to the public view. The photos reflect how that restoration recently happened, allowing the sandstone to be viewed once more.

But there is still more work to do: On lower Ferrelo Road, a section of a sandstone wall has been privatized and a Ficus vine has been allowed to overtake the wall. Unfortunately, that homeowner is reluctant to voluntarily restore the wall and return it the public view.



Before the removal of the fence and ivy from the Pier and Cap Wall



After fence and ivy have been removed from Pier and Cap Wall

## Restoring a Community Gem: The Alameda Park Bandstand Repair Project

By Cheri Rae

The City of Santa Barbara has secured \$216,118 in funding from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and added another \$110,979 from the general fund to repair the classic Alameda Park Bandstand.

This City Landmark, built in 1888 (the same year Pearl Chase was born), has weathered many storms in its 135 years. The project will include needed structural repairs as well as seismic upgrades and waterproofing. The structure will also be repainted to reflect its Folk Victorian design and elegant architectural details.

