

THE CAPITAL

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

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OCTOBER MEETINGS OF INTEREST

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Next Board Meeting is November 3 at the Main-Beggs farmhouse. Details TBA.

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: October 4, 11, 18, 25

Planning Commission

First, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall: October 6, 13, 20

Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: October 12, 26

Architectural Board of Review

Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Full Board meets October 3, 17, 31

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. October 4 (SB), October 11 (SM), October 18 (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. October 5 (SB), October 12 (SM), October 26 (SM)

County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission

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

Society News & Notes

By Cheri Rae

Spirits were high on the warm afternoon of September 8 as Board Members of the Pearl Chase Society met in person for the first time in two years. Founding member Rick Closson generously offered his gracious hospitality in his spacious and comfortable living room as a meeting place, since the longtime meeting place, the MacVeagh House on the grounds of the Natural History Museum is no longer available.

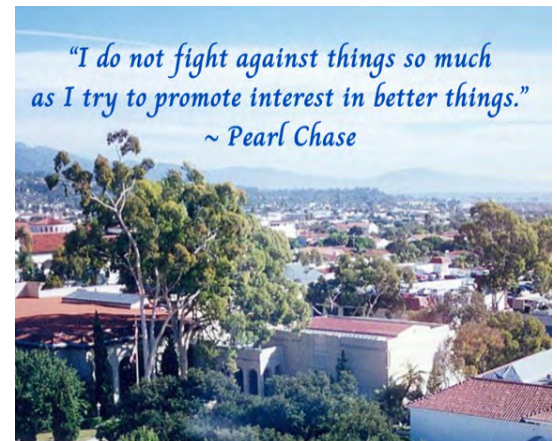
The first topic of discussion at the meeting was the election of members of the Board of Directors, in the context of terms and activities affected by the unexpected life and community altering consequences of the long Covid-shutdown. Special focus was on the position of President, since the by-laws specify that the President is limited to serving two consecutive terms.

President Steve Dowty has technically served two terms, but since the Society, like so many other organizations and entities, was forced to suspend so many activities for two years, the consensus was that his second term was cut short due to Covid. Since he indicated his willingness to serve another two years, the Board voted to extend his position as President. Barbara was elected to another term as Secretary and Nate Cultice as Treasurer.

Please note that this Board action will be reviewed, addressed accordingly and reported on to the membership when legal direction is received.

Many thanks and much gratitude for those Board Members willing to take on additional responsibilities to ensure the smooth running of the Pearl Chase Society.

In other news, there are many projects pending that will change the character and feel of Santa Barbara. Members are encouraged to express their personal thoughts and concerns about these projects in letters sent, as appropriate, to members of the following: [Planning Commission](#), the [Architectural Board of Review](#), the [Historic Landmarks Commission](#) and [City Council](#). Or consider writing a letter to the editor or an editorial to [Noozhawk](#), [The Independent](#), or the [News-Press](#).



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

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY
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and comments to:

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Newsletter

Cheri Rae, *editor*
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Visiting with Dez Alaniz: Director of the Presidio Research Center, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

By Cheri Rae

Please tell us a little about yourself, how you got interested in historic preservation, your education, and what exactly does an Archivist do?

My name is Dez! I use they / them pronouns, and I am a biracial, chicanx archivist, educator, and artist lucky to live here on Chumash ancestral lands in Santa Barbara! I grew up in Southern California and came to the Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) last October after working as an instruction librarian at UCSB Library for three years.

I've had a number of roles in archives, special research collections, academic libraries, and digitization work and bring all of that to my role as the Director of the Presidio Research Center, which means that I am responsible for managing our collections of books, unpublished archival materials, maps, architectural plans, and oral histories (to name just a few areas!).

I am a librarian and archivist by training but my interest in archives and research started long before that. My interest in research was sparked while I was studying political science and gender studies at UC Davis. I was working on an independent research project, about LGBTQ activism in California, and my advisor Elizabeth Freeman suggested that I visit the University Archives during my research. My first impressions were both a sense of not belonging (put your backpack here! Pencils only! No photos!) in the space, countered by the amazing sense of seeing aspects of my experience represented in the materials I was researching. Connecting to primary sources that resonate with my own experience was a huge impact on me and led to me later choosing to earn my degree in Library and Information Science at Simmons University in Boston, Massachusetts.

A lot of folks know what librarians do, vaguely at least, but not as many folks know what archivists do. While librarians organize and facilitate access to published materials like newspapers, magazines, and books, archives are focused on the long-term storage and preservation of one-of-a-kind materials, or materials that are very rare and unique. I love working with these materials and helping researchers to connect with the collections we have on site. There are so many aspects to archiving, and digitization work to explore and I feel fortunate that my work at the SBTHP allows me to explore and hone my different interests in this work!



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www.facebook.com/PearlChaseSociety

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Who uses the Research Center, and how did you get though Covid?

I joined the Research Center last year, and when I started, I was the first person to really be interacting with the collections in two years! I lucked out that my predecessor, Chris Ervin, moved over to be a colleague at the Santa Barbara Historical Museum down the street, and was able to get a sense of what was in progress in March 2020. I have found that navigating an on-going pandemic has required us as an organization to be constantly evaluating safety, which can mean limiting the number of researchers in the reading room for example, or prioritizing Zoom over on-site meetings for researchers.

The folks who come to the Research Center have an honestly dizzying arrange of interests. Many folks come in when they are doing genealogical research, since we have several collections that document different families in Santa Barbara.

In addition to your work with the Trust, what other work do you do?

I am also an adjunct professor at the University of Denver's MLIS program, where I teach "Introduction to Archives" and "Privilege and Equity in LIS" depending on the quarter. I love being able to teach and interact with folks who are at different stages in their careers and knowledge of libraries and archivy.

I also run a zine (pronounced ZEEN) distro here in Santa Barbara. Zines are independently made and distributed "magazines" that are made for joy and love and not for profit. I publish my own and other people's works through my distro, Honey Boy Press. I've been able to work with some great folks in SB and bring zines and creative empowerment through zine workshops to folks as well.

A lot of us worry that the idea of historic preservation has no appeal for young people, yet you give us hope, since you are very enthusiastic about research projects and what researchers are up to. Can you provide some reassurance that historic preservation will continue well into the future in the hands of the next generation?

I'm glad you asked this because I have a great recent example. On a recent trip to San Diego, I met a zinester who is studying architecture and preservation. And she self-published her own research about historic preservation efforts, and how historic preservation is a form of activism! She publishes <https://linktr.ee/squidnycomics> Although I have been reading and making zines for a while, I had never before encountered someone bringing that kind of knowledge into a zine space and making that knowledge accessible and available to a wider audience. I mention this because, the zines are awesome! Also, because I think it is exemplary of the kind of energy coming into this work that is bringing a justice-centered framework to how we

are moving forward and in how we are analyzing the histories of our professions. I think about this often in the teaching work I do and in instructional environments like workshops. Younger folks are entering the world with a lot more knowledge about ongoing struggles for justice and equity, and how our environments (natural and built) is changed by and changes that experience. More and more people are tapping into their own stories and understanding how our built environment is also part of shaping those stories

Please tell us about the new Oral History Project that you're working on, what you're looking for and how individuals can get involved.

I am so excited to be working on this project. The SBTHP has a precedent of collecting community oral histories, beginning with the trust's founding leadership and continuing with the acquisition of the Walter C. Douglas Oral History collection, and more recently through collaborations with Chinese and Japanese American community members who lived and worked in the Presidio Neighborhood. I am now working with a fantastic intern, Shannon Toribio, to collaborate with community members to document their stories and experiences living in Santa Barbara. While we are focusing on Filipino American community histories, we are also actively interested in talking with folks from other communities, and in talking with folks of all ages. If you are interested in talking about your experiences, reach out to me at dez@sbthp.org

What's your favorite part of your job?

All of it honestly, but I love working with researchers! I include my colleagues in this as well. It's very satisfying to me to be able to help someone get access to information they need, whether that is for a formal administrative issue or someone researching their family ancestry. Working with other people's research interests helps me to learn the collections here better, and more times than not also leads me to insights about ways to better facilitate access to those materials in the process. I learn so much daily from my colleagues, researchers, and our collaborator-donors in our oral history interviews that makes me a better steward for our collections and help me to understand the types of questions folks are interested in exploring.

My collaborations with our education and programs team are also a highlight of my work here. It's fantastic to bring our collections into programs and highlight the work we are doing around making these materials active and meaningful to folks in the present. Our next event will be the Asian American Neighborhood Festival on October 16, and the Research Center will be tabling with information about our collections, our oral history program, and a used book sale!

More information about the Presidio Research Center [HERE](#)

Living Landmarks: The Italian Stone Pines of Anapamu Street, Past, Present and Future

By Cheri Rae

Dr. Augustus Boyd Doremus was born in Louisiana on the Fourth of July 1842. He moved to Santa Barbara for his health, where he indulged his passion for horticulture, and lived to be 95 years old. Doremus is known as the “Father of Santa Barbara’s Parks.”

When Dr. Doremus and his wife purchased a huge lot in the 600 block of Anapamu Street in 1891, the property was described as “a barren half-block.” But he set about planting trees all over town, including on his own street.

In 1908, Dr. Doremus obtained seeds for Italian Stone Pines from his brother Edward who lived in Europe. He began planting a double row of Italian Stone Pine seedlings on either side of the narrow dirt Anapamu Street between Milpas and Canal (now Olive) streets. In the next several years, he extended the planting all the way to Garden Street.

The trees grew strong in the Mediterranean climate, eventually forming a beautiful, cooling canopy, a unique, shady urban forest. It was one of Pearl Chase’s favorite spots, as noted by one-time City Parks director Mike Pahos, whose care of the trees was scrutinized by Pearl. He described his most vivid memory of her:

We were trimming the Italian Stone Pine trees on Anapamu Street rather radically. My phone rang and the receptionist said, “Miss Chase is here to see you.”

Yikes! She was here in my office! She wanted to go look at the Italian Stone Pines being pruned. When we got there, she pointed to the trees and said, “Look at that butchery!”

Well, the trimming was radical because the Street Department had to lift the pavement and take two feet of sub soil out to repave the street, and they were going to do the same to the sidewalk. An enormous amount of tree root would be destroyed in the process because Italian Stone Pines are very shallow-rooted.

I told her that I had checked with several arborists in town, and they all said that the crowns of the trees must be reduced in proportion to the reduction in the root system. She was silent for a moment, and then she said, “I see.” She then drove me back to the office. Whew!



Over the decades, the Stone Pines have struggled, due to pavement encroaching on their roots, beetle infestations and

Our investment in the irricades gave the Stone Pines a continuous source of water, a great labor-saving device.

years of drought that have shortened their life spans. Some years ago, alarmed that five trees had died and been removed in just in one year, the Pearl Chase Society decided to take on the task of speaking for and protecting the historic trees—and found a way to help with their care during these stressful conditions.

Members and City staff did their research and discovered the slow-watering system known as “irricades,” made with hollow, plastic traffic barriers and filled with recycled water that slowly trickles into the soil through attached soaker hoses. The Society invested nearly \$15,000 in 56 of the water-storage devices and gifted them to the City to help make watering more efficient. They are still in use and can be seen on Anapamu.

At the time, Jill Zachary, then-Assistant Parks and Recreation Director for the City (and now Director) noted, “The Italian Stone Pines provide a majestic presence in Santa Barbara and represent a key foundation of the city’s urban forest. The Parks and Recreation Department applauds the leadership and generosity of the Pearl Chase Society. Trees are a significant environmental, social and economic resource that takes many years to develop.

City Arborist Nathan Slack recently expressed his appreciation for the purchase of the irricades, noting, “It is a testament to the Pearl Chase Society for making such a community investment in the natural world and has gone to great lengths to invest in these very important trees.”

The presence of the trees, as they hold on under difficult conditions, brings a feeling of intimacy that slows traffic, muffles sound, and reminds passersby of life in a forest—just a few short blocks from downtown Santa Barbara’s bustling business district.

Yet as the drought continues, it’s becoming obvious that, despite all best efforts, these historic trees are near the end of their lives. One can hope that our historic community, as well as the City can work closely together to honor the past, acknowledge the present conditions, and develop a thoughtful replacement plan for the future that continues to offer visual beauty and silent, sustainable shelter on this well-traveled street.



Before the irricades, watering the Stone Pines was a much more difficult and time-consuming task.