

THE CAPITAL

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

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JANUARY MEETINGS OF INTEREST

PEARL CHASE SOCIETY

Next Board of Directors meeting: January 11 at the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society, 316 Castillo Street, 3:30 p.m.

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

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: January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Planning Commission

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

Historic Landmarks Commission

Every other Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: January 17, 31

Architectural Board of Review

Mondays at 3 pm at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street. Full Board meets January 8, 22

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. January 23, Santa Barbara (only meeting scheduled)

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. January 10, 31 (both meetings in Santa Barbara)

County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission

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

As We Begin Again

By Cheri Rae

At the dawn of this New Year, we dream of the opportunities, adventures, and accomplishments that each day will bring. This year we have an extra 24 hours, a quadrennial February 29 Leap Day, to pursue our goals.

Let us look to our namesake, Pearl Chase, not for resolutions, but for inspiration to make meaning of the promise of the year ahead. While still in her teens, she declared her determination to make Santa Barbara a more beautiful place to live. To accomplish this lofty goal, she recognized the importance of individual commitment and group action.

As she declared, "Many new things in this fast-moving age make it difficult to keep pace with an ever-changing world. Let us communicate, cooperate, and coordinate our efforts for good freely."

Government, she insisted, was not the answer; she believed in citizen action. As she stated, the purpose of her work was to "Get the message across and make politicians feel they must pay attention to the people."

She later expanded on that belief in an interview in *Sunset Magazine* in 1975. At the age of 87 she said, "Government officials are temporary—they come and go—and this constant turnover means that many citizen organizations have far greater continuity and relative importance in community affairs. Don't assume leadership will come from the professions; you often won't find it there. If you're to succeed, you must be led by citizens and citizen groups, with the interest and support of key public agencies."

Before her passing in 1979, she witnessed great changes in Santa Barbara, and knew the future would bring many more. But she expected the members of this community to work together, using the power of grassroots organization and common sense, to determine the direction of the built environment, the protection of the natural environment, and the quality of life for all who live here.

With the example set forth by the Plans and Planting Committee, founded in 1922—and led by Pearl for decades—opportunities for citizen action continue more than a century later. For example, Citizens Planning Association of Santa Barbara County, founded in 1960, serves as a watchdog organization focused on land use issues; the Pearl Chase Society, founded in 1995, continues to focus on issues of historic preservation. Both volunteer, non-profit organizations have long been dedicated to protecting the heritage of this unique place and depend on community members to continue to keep Santa Barbara Santa Barbara through education, outreach, and citizen action.

We have a brand-new year ahead of us to honor the legacy of Santa Barbara along with insights about how to work together to determine its future.

Happy New Year!

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

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Newsletter

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1924: Notable Santa Barbara Events a Century Ago

By Cheri Rae



Margaret Baylor

The death of Margaret Baylor, social worker and founder of the Recreation Center

The much-beloved social worker, who started working in Santa Barbara in 1910, was just 44 years old at the time of her passing. Her funeral was a city-wide event, attended by mourners from all walks of life from the many lives she touched with her good work. As *The Morning Press* reported, "The love and kindness she dispensed during her long, active career, is reflected a thousand-fold in the expressions of praise that are heard on all sides."

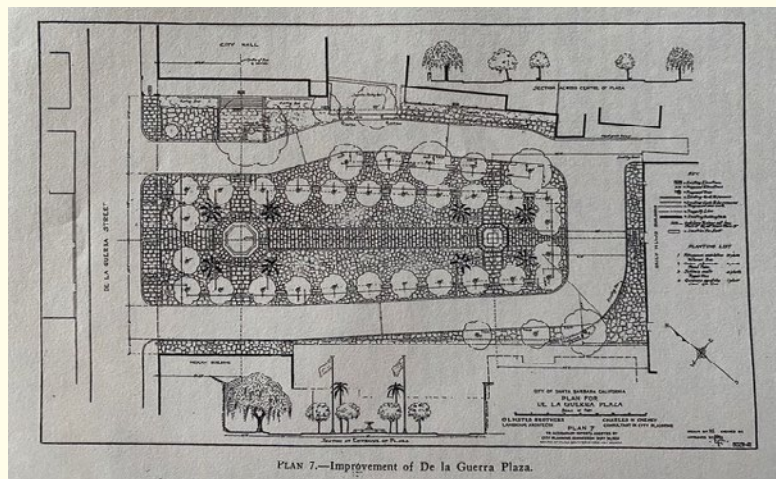
Founding of the East Beach Association

Alarmed by the prospect of out-of-town real estate developers who intended to establish a commercial district along East Beach, a well-heeled group of Santa Barbara and Montecito residents moved into

action. With Dwight Murphy serving as president and Pearl Chase serving as secretary, the group established a trust "to secure everything they could buy for City park purposes—from the Bird Refuge to State Street." The waterfront was held by the organization, saved from development, until the City of Santa Barbara was financially able to purchase the land some years later.

Creation of the Major Traffic Street Plan and Boulevard and Park System

The Plans and Planting Committee and the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce teamed to hire civic planner Charles Cheney and noted landscape architects, the Olmsted Brothers. Together they worked to develop a document that was accepted by the planning commission and the park commissioners, but not by City Council.



De la Guerra Plaza design, 1924

The New Lobero Theatre opened

Commissioned by the Community Arts Association and redesigned in Spanish Colonial style by George Washington Smith and Lutah Maria Riggs. The beautifully restored facility was a state-of-the art performance venue. Its first

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performance, in August, was "The Beggar on Horseback," with opening night coinciding with Old Spanish Days.

Old Spanish Days began

Under the light of the full moon, the colorful homage to Santa Barbara's history was an instant success. The Fiesta celebrates, romanticizes, and mythologizes its heritage in an unabashed attempt to lure summertime tourists. It was hardly the first time the city had attempted an event of its kind, but it was the most successful, and long-lasting, as it continues to this day.



Fiesta Flower Market. Photo courtesy UCSB Special Collections

Santa Barbara High School and Peabody Stadium completed

The Class of 1924, although it did not attend classes at the new campus situated on Anapamu Street, was allowed to graduate on the site.

Frederick Forrest Peabody, who was the chairman of the Board of Education, donated \$100,000 to build the new football stadium, it was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day and named for him. The 1924 baseball team was described as "one of the fastest baseball clubs ever had in the SBHS."



Santa Barbara Dons baseball team, 1924

Pearl Chase traveled to Europe with her friend Alice Bentz Cooper. The two women traveled through several countries, and even took a flight across the English Channel. Pearl was struck by the number of former

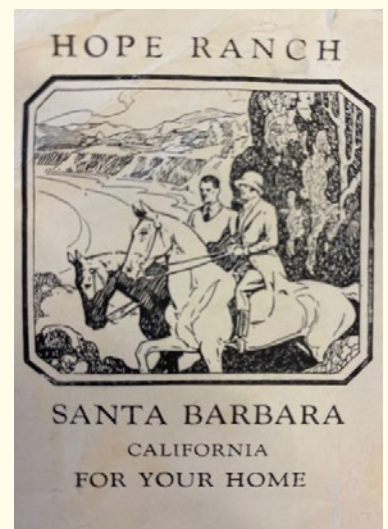


Pearl on deck, en route to Europe. Photo courtesy UCSB Special Collections

soldiers she saw on the streets following World War I. As she wrote to her father, "The Navy League has crated little wooden platforms about 4' X 5' at important corners where wounded soldiers or sailors sell papers. You see a lot of men with one or both amputated legs. In the diary of the trip Alice kept, she described Pearl as "a natural historian." She added, "Pearl has a remarkable pigeonhole memory ~ anything she wants she puts her finger on at once." And they got along well. "My but she's a nice girl ~ I am fortunate indeed." She continued, "There is no lack of happy conversation between us. We generally laugh ourselves to sleep." After their return, Alice wrote, "Didn't we have a lovely time, Pearl? It's like a dream. I feel as if I'd come from the clouds."

Hope Ranch News

As reported in *The Morning Press* in April, 1924: "A right-of-way through the Hope Ranch, connecting the Cliff Drive with Modoc Road, one of the most beautiful drives in Southern California, has been offered to the county by Harold S. Chase, president of Santa Barbara Estates, Incorporated, which expects to close its option on 825 acres of Hope Ranch within 60 days. In preparation for the opening of this road, Supervisor Sam Stanwood, a stockholder in the Estates Company, has completed a macadam pavement on Cliff Drive from the end of the paving on the Mesa to the Hope Ranch gates, which have been toll gates for 20 years."



Santa Barbara and the Birth of the Environmental Movement

By Cheri Rae

It was fifty-five years ago this month that environmental disaster hit Santa Barbara. The oil spill that shocked the world spread its black tide along the sandy shores of local beaches, fouling land and sea and the creatures that inhabited them. The horrifying incident mobilized environmental activists across the country and around the world, with Santa Barbara at the center of it all. It was the catalyst for the environmental movement and the founding of Earth Day.



Black tide on the breakwater.

Moved by an environmental disaster in the Santa Barbara Channel to think and set in national and world terms, we submit these charges:

We have littered the land with refuse.

We have encroached upon our heritage of open space and wildland.

We have stripped the forests and the grasses and reduced the soil to fruitless dust.

We have contaminated the air we breathe for life.

We have befouled the lakes and rivers and oceans along with their shorelines.

We have released deadly poisons into earth, air, and water, imperiling all life.

We have exterminated entire species of birds and animals and brought others close to annihilation.

We are permitting our own species to increase beyond earth's potential for support.

We have made much of the physical world ugly and loud, depriving man of the beauty and quiet that feeds its spirit.

Recognizing that the ultimate remedy for these fundamental problems is found in man's mind, not his machines, we call on societies and their governments to recognize and implement the following principles:

We need an ecological consciousness that recognizes man as member, not master, of the community of living things sharing his environment.

We must extend ethics beyond social relations to govern man's contact with all life forms and with the environment itself.

We need a renewed idea of community which will shape urban environments that serve the full range of human needs.

We must find the courage to take upon ourselves as individuals responsible for the welfare of the whole environment, treating our own back yards as if they were the world and the world as if it were our back yard.

We must develop the vision to see that in regard to the natural world private and corporate ownership should be so limited as to preserve the interest of society and the integrity of the environment.

We need greater awareness of our enormous powers, the fragility of the earth, and the consequent responsibility of men and governments for its preservation.

We must redefine "progress" toward and emphasis on long-term quality rather than immediate quantity.

We therefore resolve to act. We proposed a revolution in conduct toward and environment which is rising in revolt against us. Granted that ideas and institutions long established are not easily changed: yet today is the first day



*Pearl Chase and other founding members of Get Oil Out.
Photo and logo courtesy UCSB Special Collections.*



Just one year later, UC Santa Barbara professor Roderick

Nash announced the formation of a new Center for Environmental Studies at the seaside campus. As he noted, "Man has discovered the moon. When are we going to discover the earth?" Along with his announcement, he delivered the "Santa Barbara Declaration of Environmental Rights." The proclamation was delivered in January 1970, one year after the massive oil spill, a statement that asserted rights and responsibilities through the lens of environmental values. In his call to action, he wrote:

All Men have the right to an environment capable of sustaining life and promoting happiness. If the accumulated actions of the past become destructive of this right, men now living have the further right to repudiate the past for the benefit of the future. And it is manifest that centuries of careless neglect of the environment have brought mankind to a final crossroads. The quality of our lives is eroded, and our very existence threatened by our abuse of the natural world.



Then President Nixon surveyed the damage in March. He stated, "The Santa Barbara incident has frankly touched the conscience of the American People."