



THE CAPITAL

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

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www.PearlChaseSociety.org

February 2012

SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF INTEREST

Pearl Chase Society

Board Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month:

February 2, 3:30 p.m.

MacVeagh House, 2559 Puesta del Sol

Preservation Committee Meetings are held the fourth Friday of the month:

February 24, 11:00 a.m.

Pico Adobe, 123 East Canon Perdido Street

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

City meetings are broadcast live on City TV Channel 18 and streamed live at www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/Video, where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

City Council Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. at Council Chambers, City Hall: February 7, 14 (no meeting on the 21st due to Presidents' Day holiday), 28.

Planning Commission Meetings are held on the first, second and third Thursdays of the month at 1:00 p.m. at Council Chambers, City Hall: February 2, 9, 16.

Historic Landmarks Commission Meetings are held every other Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: February 1, 15, 29.

Architectural Board of Review Meetings are held every other Monday at 3:00 p.m. at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street: February 2, 21 (on Tuesday due to Presidents' Day).

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

County Board of Supervisor Meetings and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on CSBTV20. They are also streamed at www.countyofsb.org/ceo/media02.aspx, where they are also archived and viewable on demand.

County Board of Supervisors Meetings are held on three Tuesdays of the month at 9:00 a.m. 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 held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway: February 7 (SB), 14 (SM), 21 (SB).

County Planning Commission Meetings are held three Wednesdays of the month at 9:00 a.m. The first and third meetings are held in Santa Barbara at 123 East Anapamu Street, Room 17, and the second meeting is held in Santa Maria at 511 East Lakeside Parkway: February 1 (SB), 8 (SM), 15 (SB).

County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission Meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at 123 East Anapamu, Room 17 (unless specified otherwise): February 13.

Society News and Notes *by Cheri Rae*

At the January Board Meeting, many members were greeted outside the historic MacVeagh House by a docent for the Museum of Natural History who had his forearm protected from the strong grip of a red-tailed hawk. It was a vivid reminder of the natural setting and important programs that characterize the museum—and the perfect introduction to the presentation offered later by Executive Director Dr. Karl Hutterer and architect Susette Naylor. The two detailed the museum's progress in developing its Master Plan, as required by the City of Santa Barbara.

Established in 1916, the institution looks forward to 2016 as it embraces 100 years of change. As Dr. Hutterer explained, those changes include the changes in the community, nature and its declining resources, and in the business of museums. All these changes require the museum to look forward to the next 100 years by considering its three guiding principles:

- 1) Inspiring an Awe for Nature and a Thirst for Discovery
- 2) Promoting Sustainability
- 3) Connecting Our Communities

He pointed out the need for physical renewal of the museum's facilities to comply with modern codes, commonly accepted museum standards, programmatic needs and city requirements, as well as the intention to improve visitor amenities. And he detailed the institution's philosophy and objectives that include fostering a sense of place that is integrated with nature; restoring natural environments, becoming a model of sustainability, embracing history, providing an intimate experience, and serving as a center of the community.

Susette Naylor provided environmental and historical context of the setting and the buildings, and discussed in detail the historic core buildings constructed in the "period of significance" of 1922-1930s.

With plans to "rectify the sins of the past," both Hutterer and Naylor emphasized the institution's intention to keep buildings integrated into the landscape and to value the past while looking toward the future. They requested the board to keep an open mind about proposed changes, and were warmly appreciated for their thorough and thoughtful presentation.

A brief discussion of new business followed, with the designation of Sunday, May 20th as the date for the Historic Home Tour in Bungalow Haven.



When Albert Einstein visited the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum in 1931, he noted, "I can see that this museum has been built by the work of love." That tradition will continue with its evolving master plan.

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Newsletter

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PRESERVATION WATCH

By Kellam de Forest

(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.)

The New Year brings new projects that need watching.

The Chromatic Gate This piece of modern sculpture across the street from Fess Parker's Doubletree hotel on the corner of Cabrillo Boulevard and Calle Puerto Vallarta is in a sad state of disrepair. The 21-foot high, 12.5-ton arch was designed by Bauhaus-trained designer Herbert Bayer (1900-1985), an Austrian who studied under Walter Gropius. After a career as an industrial and graphic designer, he retired to Santa Barbara in 1974. It was through the efforts of then-Santa Barbara Museum of Art Director Paul Mills (1924-2004) and the financing by the Arco Corporation (Atlantic Richfield) that Bayer's masterwork was placed on this site as a piece of public art. It is under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department, which has no money for its restoration—estimated at \$30,000. Maybe like the Courthouse fountain, the public will have to step in.

Miramar Beach Road At the end of the 19th century, bathing in the ocean became socially acceptable, and owners of Montecito estates needed places to change into swimming attire. So from Santa Barbara to Carpinteria beachfront property was subdivided into lots to accommodate beach cottages. Some were mansions, some cabanas, but many were simple board and batten cottages. A few still exist today in Montecito between the Miramar Hotel property and Eucalyptus Lane. It is these century-old cottages, most of them remodeled for year-round living, that are under threat from those who want to add a third story. An application for a third-story addition to a cottage at 1541-B Miramar Beach Drive is scheduled to be heard by the Montecito Board of Architectural Review January 30.

Hope Ranch Beach Cabanas Watch is pleased to report that the County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission, citing additional historic information, has re-nominated both the Irene Rich Cabana and the Peter Cooper Bryce Cabana and funicular for historic landmark status.

Library Plaza The status of the City's plans to redo the plaza in front of the Faulkner Gallery on Anapamu Street is in limbo due to the state court's ruling abolishing the redevelopment agencies throughout the state. The proposed plan called for the leveling and paving the area from the library to the art museum. The most controversial item is the proposed removal of the three eucalyptus trees on the west side of the library. As part of the rehabilitation due to the 1925 earthquake, eucalyptus trees were planted on three sides to provide verticality to the two-story structure. The three and those on the south side still remain. The trees on the Anacapa Street side were removed with the remodel of 1978.

517 Chapala Preservation Watch regrettably reports that the City Historic Landmarks Commission on a 4-to-3 vote reluctantly gave the project final approval based solely on the City Council's decision to approve the project concept way back in 2010. Staff made it clear that the City Council would not like to have this project returned to them for a third time.

Cold Springs Bridge Watch also regrets that Caltrans started building the barriers on the Cold Spring Bridge on January 9.

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Dr. Steve Windhager reports that half the \$80,000 to rebuild the Campbell Bridge has been raised. With help from Pearl Chase Society members and others, Dr. Windhager hopes construction can start by April. Architect Douglas Singletary presented conceptual plans for an administrative/laboratory/herbarium building that is to be constructed on the site of the Gane house. The plans call for a two-story structure, with the herbarium underground for fire protection. One-quarter of the permitted square footage has been eliminated. The proposed building design will have to be approved by the South County

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Up on the Roof: *The Pico Adobe gets a Helping Hand*

Story and photos by Michael H. Imwalle

The Buenaventura Pico adobe is a hidden gem within El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park. The Mexican-period adobe is unique in that it was designed with a relatively steep-pitched shingle roof rather than the typical low-pitched tile roof popular in the Spanish period adobes that preceded it. Despite the fact that for years you could see the sun shine through the plank sheathing from the inside, it had never leaked. Nevertheless, the 30-year-old cedar shingle roof had to be replaced, and in September 2010 SBTHP's Restoration Committee made a priority of seeking funds to make it happen. The adobe is a City of Santa Barbara Landmark and is frequently used for SBTHP Board meetings, staff meetings, receptions, and occasionally by other community organizations. Last July, one of those organizations, the Pearl Chase Society, generously got the fundraising ball rolling with a gift of \$5,000 toward the new roof.

Additional donations from David and Louise Borgatello, Mary Louise Days, Michael and Nancy Gifford, and Montecito Bank & Trust completed the fundraising effort. Casa Roofing was selected as the successful bidder, and after completing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review through State Parks, the project of replacing the cedar shingles began in November.

On November 15th the crew from Casa Roofing began carefully stripping the weathered shingles. The underlying paper was nearly disintegrated but the sheathing was in remarkably good condition. After doing some minor dry rot repair on a porch roof rafter and some fascia boards, the adobe was ready for the new roof. After a short weather delay and a minor permitting issue



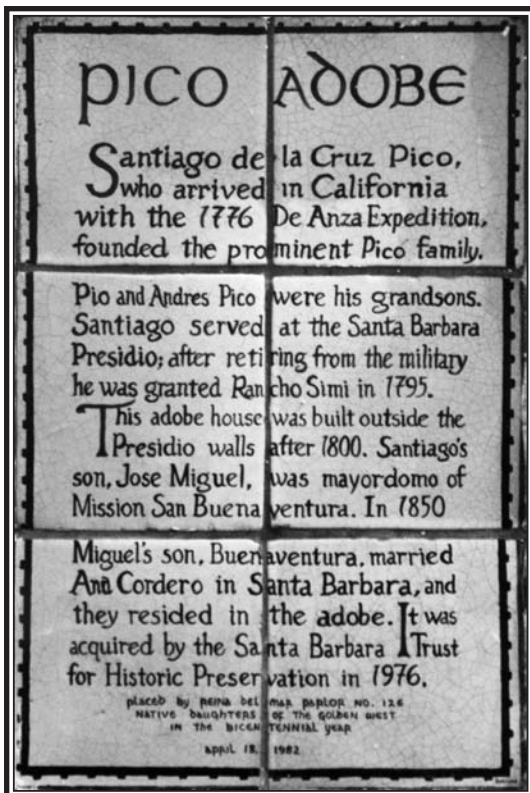
Nailing down the roof repairs.

half-inch plywood and covered it with a fiberglass cap.

New pressure-treated cedar shingles were finally delivered on December 14th and the crew began installing them the next day. A large debt of gratitude is owed to the donors that made this possible, to SBTHP Director Don Sharpe for his assistance with the permitting process, and to Richard Visueta and Lorraine Fuentes and the crew from Casa Roofing for making this possible. Hopefully this roof will provide shelter for the adobe for another 30 years and it will continue to serve the community as a meeting place for generations to come!

NOTE: Originally published in *Dispatches from the Presidio Neighborhood* by the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Reprinted with permission.

Michael Imwalle is the archaeologist at the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.



Tile plaque at the Pico Adobe.



Repaired to last another 30 years.



The Pearl Chase Society

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Preservation Watch

Continued from Page 2

Board of Architectural Review and
County Planning.

Montecito Hot Springs It is unofficially reported that the Santa Barbara Land Trust has reached its goal of \$8.5 million to purchase the Hot Springs Canyon acreage. The Trust's plan to immediately turn the property over to the U.S. Forest Service has hit a roadblock regarding water rights owned by the Montecito Water District. Forest Service regulations prevent it from acquiring land without having full control of the water.

Renewing Members

December 2011 Renewals

Hal Conklin
Helen Cornell

January 2012 Renewals

John and Peggy Cooley
Lisa Lunsford
Joan and Geoff Rutkowski

THE PEARL CHASE SOCIETY PRESENTS ITS THIRTEENTH ANNUAL

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR



Illustration: Gail Lucas

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