



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Additional photos available upon request

PRESS CONTACT

Christa Clark Jones

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA

Tel: (805) 966-1279 Fax: (805) 966-9888

E-mail: christa@sbthp.org Website: www.sbthp.org

Blog: sbthp.wordpress.com Facebook: [facebook.com/SBTHP](https://www.facebook.com/SBTHP) Twitter: twitter.com/SBTHP

Celebrate Santa Barbara's oldest and most beautiful holiday traditions:

Una Noche de Las Posadas and La Pastorela

at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park



Una Noche de Las Posadas

(Santa Barbara, CA)—Participate in Santa Barbara's oldest Christmas traditions as the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) presents the 25th annual *Una Noche de Las Posadas* on Friday, December 11 at 7:00 PM, and *La Pastorela* on Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Both events begin at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. Share in the festivities that date back to the city's earliest residents, celebrating the season with song, story, and merriment.

***Las Posadas* (The Inns) commemorates Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their nine-day search for shelter. *Una Noche de Las Posadas*, a one-night version of the celebration, begins with traditional holiday songs performed in the candlelit Presidio Chapel by *El Coro del Real Presidio de Santa Bárbara*. Guests are invited to join the choir in a procession led by children portraying an**

angel, Joseph, Mary, and their small burro as they stroll and sing their way to State Street and into De la

Guerra Plaza, in search of lodging. The procession ends at Casa de la Guerra as Joseph and Mary finally find shelter and attendees enjoy more singing, traditional refreshments and a piñata for children. This holiday tradition was brought to Santa Barbara by its Spanish and Mexican settlers and is still observed throughout the American Southwest as a religious and social celebration.

SBTHP and *Los Pastores de Santa Barbara* present the return of *La Pastorela*, one of Santa Barbara's original Christmas celebrations. *La Pastorela* is the tale of the *pastores*' (shepherds) journey to Bethlehem to witness the birth of Christ. The shepherds' journey is fraught with temptations, distractions, and peril as the devil tries to prevent them from reaching their special destination. While hundreds of unique versions of the play exist, this *pastorela* was transcribed and saved in the mid-nineteenth century



La Pastorela

by Pablo de la Guerra, the then-patriarch of the local de la Guerra family. Based on performances he witnessed in Santa Barbara, the de la Guerra version is housed at the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library among the de la Guerra family papers. The performance is conducted entirely in Spanish and incorporates Early California song and dance.

La Pastorela is produced and directed by Elvira Tafoya of *Los Pastores de Santa Barbara*. Tafoya has been involved in *La Pastorela* performances in Santa Barbara since 1975 and has successfully collaborated several times with SBTHP to conduct performances in the Presidio Chapel. Keeping with tradition, *Los Pastores* has recruited amateur actors from the community to take on the ten principal roles in the play. Elvira Tafoya, an accomplished teacher and organizer in the Santa Barbara community notes: "We are excited to have *Pastorela* back at the Presidio. This project gives us the opportunity to keep a Mexican tradition alive and to share it with the entire community."

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CALENDAR LISTING

Una Noche de Las Posadas

Friday, December 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara

Concludes at: Casa de la Guerra, 15 East De la Guerra Street, Santa Barbara

Free event

For more information: (805): 965-0093 or www.sbthp.org

La Pastorela

Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara

\$6 - SBTHP Members & Children 12 & Under

\$12 - Adults

For more information: (805): 965-0093 or www.sbthp.org

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ABOUT Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)— For over fifty years the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) has worked to *protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park—Santa Barbara’s 18th century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks. The State has purchased the building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian American community in the Presidio Neighborhood. SBTHP owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio *Comandante* José de la Guerra and his family—the restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. In 2009, SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills, located near the town of Solvang, as a future California State Park. In 2011, SBTHP was awarded the Trustees’ Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. With the help of continuing education programs and exhibits, SBTHP strives to encourage community involvement and foster an appreciation for Santa Barbara County’s distinctive history. **Learn more at www.sbthp.org.**