



## 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

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Additional photos available upon request

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**Celebrate *Una Noche de Las Posadas*, one of Santa Barbara's oldest and most beautiful Christmas traditions, at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park.**

(Santa Barbara, CA)—Participate in one of Santa Barbara's oldest Christmas traditions as the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) presents the 26<sup>th</sup> annual *Una Noche de Las Posadas* on Friday, December 8 at 7:00 PM. This free, family-friendly event begins at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park and concludes at Casa de la Guerra. Join in this rich cultural tradition and experience firsthand the way in which Santa Barbara's earliest Spanish and Mexican residents gathered together and celebrated Christmas with music, food, and merriment.

*(Picture caption: Young Una Noche de Las Posadas volunteers lead the singing procession while portraying Mary, Joseph and an Angel- along with "Burrito," a 46-year-old donkey from Los Padres Outfitters. Picture by Dr. Paul Mori.)*

***Las Posadas* (The Inns) commemorates Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their nine-day search for shelter as it was once celebrated in Early California. *Una Noche de Las Posadas*, a one-night version of the celebration, begins with traditional Spanish 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, and Mary, along with their small burro as they stroll and sing their way to State Street and into De la Guerra Plaza. The procession ends at Casa de la Guerra as Joseph and Mary finally find shelter and attendees enjoy more singing, traditional refreshments, and the breaking of a holiday piñata. This cultural holiday tradition was brought to Santa Barbara by its early Spanish and Mexican settlers and is still observed throughout many Latin American communities.

SBTHP thanks The Towbes Foundation and The Outhwaite Foundation for sponsoring the 2017 Una Noche de Las Posadas. We also thank Rudy's *Presidio* Mexican Restaurant for generously providing the food for this event.

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## CALENDAR LISTING

### ***Una Noche de Las Posadas***



Friday, December 8, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Begins at the 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](http://www.sbthp.org)

*Las Posadas (The Inns)* is the time-honored reenactment of Joseph and Mary's search for shelter in Bethlehem as it was once celebrated in Early California and is still observed throughout Latin America. Join in this rich cultural tradition and experience firsthand the way in which Santa Barbara's earliest Spanish and Mexican residents celebrated Christmas with music, food, and merriment.

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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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.sbthp.org).**