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Additional photos available upon request

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Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation Announces
Community Award Winners

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) is pleased to announce this year’s community award winners recognized for their outstanding dedication to historic preservation. At the 54th Annual Meeting and Community Awards Presentation held on January 21, members and friends of SBTHP gathered in the Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. The meeting featured a review of the 2016 Annual Report and the election of new Trustees, followed by the presentation of community awards.

The 2017 George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award was presented to the Santa Barbara Conservancy. The George and Vivian Obern Preservation Stewardship Award recognizes individuals or organizations that demonstrate outstanding preservation work in connection with a specific project in and around Santa Barbara County. This prestigious award was named in honor of George and Vivian Obern in 2006 for their lifelong preservation work, including their successful efforts to save the Thomas Hope House (built in 1875, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978), condemned by the county of Santa Barbara but saved by the Oberns. SBTHP presented the Obern Award to the Santa Barbara Conservancy.

Additional photos available upon request.
Conservancy in recognition of their publication of the second edition of *Santa Barbara ~ A Guide to El Pueblo Viejo*.

The Conservancy was formed in 1998 and advocates for the recognition, preservation, and revitalization of historic, architectural, and cultural resources in Santa Barbara County. The first edition of *Santa Barbara ~ A Guide to El Pueblo Viejo*, published by the city in 1986 and long out of print, is a sought-after favorite which explores the city’s extraordinary modern history by way of surveying its alluring Spanish-inspired architecture. The new edition, which is beautifully printed, includes updated maps, research, and new color photographs. SBTHP congratulates the board members of the Santa Barbara Conservancy on the hard work necessary to bring a project of this scale to fruition.

**SBTHP proclaimed Dr. Richard E. Oglesby a Life Honorary Director.** This designation is awarded to board members of SBTHP who have provided exceptional service to the organization. Richard joined the board in January 1976, while he was a professor of the history of California and the West at UCSB. He served on the board from 1976 through 1982, and again from 1991 through 2016. He served as president of the board from 1979 through 1980 and again from 1998 through 2001. In addition to his diligent service on many SBTHP committees over the years, in his role as a historian he has contributed significantly to SBTHP’s docent training, education programs, civic events, and exhibits.

**SBTHP presented the Sue Higman Volunteer of the Year Award this year to Suzi Calderon Bellman.** Named in honor of longtime SBTHP supporter and community activist Sue Higman, the award is given annually to an individual or individuals who have made outstanding contributions of their time to SBTHP over the course of a year. SBTHP was honored to present this award to Santa Barbara Presidio descendant Suzi Calderon Bellman for her dedicated participation in living history and school programs, and for helping SBTHP connect with and honor Presidio descendants.

SBTHP also presented **Certificates of Appreciation to Los Agaves Restaurant and Zaytoon** for their ongoing in-kind support of SBTHP’s events and programs.
2017 Awardees

- George and Vivian Obern Preservation
  Stewardship Award: Santa Barbara Conservancy
- Life Honorary Director: Dr. Richard E. Oglesby
- Sue Higman Volunteer Award: Suzi Calderon Bellman
- Certificates of Appreciation
  - Los Agaves Restaurant
  - Zaytoon

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.

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