



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

Alyssa Kichula

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA

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

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

Blog: sbthp.wordpress.com Facebook: facebook.com/SBTHP Twitter: twitter.com/SBTHP

Grasshopper for Grandpa:

Screening and Panel Discussion tells story of Jimmy's Oriental Gardens



(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) is pleased to present a public screening of ***Grasshopper for Grandpa***, a short documentary by local director/producer Casey McGarry, on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Alhecama Theatre (914 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara). A panel discussion and Q & A with filmmaker Casey McGarry, members of the Chung family, and Jimmy's patrons will follow the screening.

Grasshopper for Grandpa is the story of Jimmy's Oriental Gardens, a celebrated restaurant and bar in Santa Barbara for more than 60 years before closing its doors in 2006 with the retirement of owner Tommy Chung. Opened in

1947 by Tommy's father, Jimmy Yee Chung, it's now the last visible remnant of Santa Barbara's Chinatown. During the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries the area in and around the Santa Barbara Presidio included communities of Chinese and Japanese, residing in what was a unique and culturally rich neighborhood.

The film, which premiered at the 2015 Santa Barbara International Film Festival, explores why Jimmy's Oriental Gardens was so special to so many people, and why the special few who made Jimmy's possible, like owner Tommy Chung and 30-year bartender Willy Gilbert, had that effect on so many patrons and passersby.



In September of 2013, the bar reopened after being beautifully restored to its 1947 form by longtime happy hour regular and patron, Bob Lovejoy, and his son, Clay.

The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation supports programs that explore themes common to the experience of Santa Barbara's Chinese and Japanese communities in the effort to connect a modern audience with the history of the Asian American experience in Santa Barbara. In March of 2007, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation purchased Jimmy's Oriental Gardens from the Chung family.

An opening reception will be held in front of the Alhecama Theatre from 6:30 - 7:00 PM. Admission is free for SBTHP members; there is a \$5 suggested donation for non-members. For more information, call (805) 965-0093 or visit www.sbthp.org.

CALENDAR LISTING

Grasshopper for Grandpa: Screening and Panel Discussion

Date: Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Location: Alhecama Theatre

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park

914 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara

Admission: free for SBTHP members; \$5 suggested donation for non-members

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.**