



A Message from Board Co-presidents Rod Hersberger and Steve Forsell

We are pleased to report that this year the Upper East Association has started to return to pre-pandemic normalcy. We have resumed in-person activities while remaining cautious. There have been challenges and your Board has worked hard to overcome these and address the issues that face us. The Association's membership and finances remain strong. We hope all our neighbors and friends are safe and healthy. We are returning to our annual in-person meeting on November 12, 2022. See notification in this newsletter and you should have received a "Save the Date" postcard at this point. It will be good to see our members in-person again and enjoy each other's company.

As reported last year we had some changes to your Board. Ryan Newell, Pat Saley, Deb Trauntvein and Jim Morouse all joined the Board and have made significant contributions over the past year. The Board is strong, active, and always looking for new ways to engage and serve. We are fortunate to have our neighbors step up to participate on the Board. Regrettably, Barbara Harley had to step down. She was an inspired, enthusiastic Board member who brought vision and leadership. The association's by-laws set the number of Board members between nine and 13. There are currently eight serving members. There is room for additional neighbors to join the Board. If you are interested, send an email to board@sbuppereast.org to get more information.

The Board continues to monitor and deal with issues which affect the Upper East. Some of these issues include Average Unit Density and Accessory Dwelling Units; traffic and speeding on our streets; fractional ownership (e.g. Pacaso); the transformation of State

Street; the historical status of the State Street Parkway; the Community Wildfire Protection Plan; and emergency preparedness.

Thank you to all our Board members and staff for their work in these difficult times.

Current UEA Board and Staff
Rod Hersberger, Co-president & Treasurer
Steve Forsell, Co-president
Fred Sweeney, Secretary
Beth Perry, Annual Newsletter
Deb Trauntvein, Membership Communications
Pat Saley
Jim Morouse
Ryan Newell
Eric Torbet, Database/Website Consultant

Historical Designation for the State Street Landscape Parkway

The Historic Landmarks Commission has scheduled a hearing on October 26, 2022 to consider a recommendation to approve the historical designation of the important and distinctive landscaped parkway that defines the northwestern edge of the Upper East neighborhood. It is hoped that the Commission will approve a previous recommendation from its designation sub-committee. This will allow the protection and continued care of this special defining element of the neighborhood and the city.

The landscaped median, or parkway, on State Street from Mission Street to Constance Avenue defined the "end" of Santa Barbara as State Street ended at





*State Street landscaped parkway
photo credit: Nicole Hernandez*

Constance Avenue until State Street was extended in the 1960's. The establishment of parkways was during a time when many beautiful parks and gardens were being developed across the country as part of the City Beautiful and Garden Cities Movements that promoted greenbelts around cities and the beauty and grandeur of cities. Another California example from that era is Balboa Park in San Diego. Around the same time, famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead's sons were developing Golden Gate Park. Thanks to visionary citizens such as Bernard Hoffman, who had developed the El Paseo, Santa Barbara was able to hire the Olmstead brothers to develop a transportation master plan for the entire city of Santa Barbara, including a proposed link to the San Roque area that did not use State Street but rather Santa Barbara Street. The best-known result of that grand plan is the palm-lined Cabrillo boulevard along our shoreline.

Membership Walks & Tours

This summer the Membership Committee offered two great opportunities for members to enjoy the beauty and history within the Upper East and learn more about points of interest and bits of history in our neighborhood.

State Street Median Tour

Fred Sweeney led a walking tour June 14 for 22 members along State Street explaining the historic significance of the medians or parkways between Constance Avenue and Mission Street. See the related article on the State Street parkway in this news-

letter for an update on the status of the proposed historical designation of the medians.



Fred Sweeney leading a tour

Old Mission Tour

Old Mission docent and former Upper East board member Lisa Burns led 16 members September 24 on a visit covering the exterior and interior of the Mission. Lisa's informative and fact-filled tour described this familiar landmark in the context of regional, city, and neighborhood history.



Lisa Burns leading a tour

2023 Neighborhood Tours

In 2023 we are planning four additional walks/tours that will cover different areas of interest in our beautiful neighborhood. You will receive emails about the walks as they are scheduled.

History Corner



Tree City USA - 42 Consecutive Years!

One of the overlooked elements of the beauty in Santa Barbara is the canopy of trees that surround us:

- 35,000 street trees
- 9,000 trees in public parks
- 30,000 trees in city managed open spaces
- 74,000 trees cared for by our city's Urban Forestry Department
- 320,000 trees across city streets, parks, and private property

The urban forest we enjoy is the result of 100+ years of imagination and stewardship. Earning recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City USA" for 42 years highlights Santa Barbara's commitment to a thriving urban forest.

But it wasn't always this way. An editorial from Santa Barbara edhat (Jan 2020) shared:

In 1769 Santa Barbara's landscape was described as "dismal." The Presidio was built in 1782 on a largely "treeless plain." A visitor in 1793 said there were "a few dwarf trees and groveling shrubs."

In the early 1900's, Santa Barbara embraced the "City Beautiful" movement. This national trend was sparked at the 1893 World's Fair and encouraged growing cities to include horticulture (and civic culture) as an important part of the industrialization of American cities.

In the 1920's, **Pearl Chase** was an outspoken advocate for ensuring trees were a big part of the modernization of our town. She strongly supported the effort to create the city's Street Tree Program and was a founding member of **Santa Barbara Beautiful** (SBB).



Santa Barbara *Beautiful*

One hundred years later, SBB's program continues to partner with Santa Barbara's **Urban Forestry Program** to fund replacement of street trees lost each year to disease, age, weather, and accidents.



Jacaranda
Jacaranda mimosifolia
100 block of E. Islay

Yellow Cassia
Tecoma stans
Alice Keck Park



The Urban Forestry team is supported by the City Street Tree Advisory Committee, which meets monthly to review and recommend street trees for planting and to discuss issues raised by property owners. **Nathan Slack** serves as our Urban Forest Superintendent (a position formerly known as City Arborist). His team performs pruning, removing dead and hazardous trees, planting, watering, and carrying out emergency operations.



The Evergreen Pear
Prunus avium
February 2022 Tree of the Month

Coral Tree
Erythrina speciosa Andrews
Alice Keck Park



The department's mission is to *preserve, protect, and enhance our trees; promote the benefits of trees; and foster a healthy and diverse urban forest.*

The Urban Forest team has an annual goal of planting 200 trees throughout the city, focusing on areas with the most vacancies in the tree canopy. While a general plan exists for tree species by geographic location, many streets were planted in advance of the 1977 plan and may not adhere to the plan as listed.



Norfolk Island Pine
Araucaria heterophylla
Padre Street

Caribbean Royal Palm

Roystonea oleracea
200 block of E. Islay Street



Thanks to the foresight of Pearl Chase, the continuing advocacy by Santa Barbara Beautiful and the Urban Forest team and engaged neighbors, we all benefit from a 320,000-tree strong canopy that defines our lovely city.

How can Upper East Neighbors better engage with our Urban Forest?

1. LOOK UP – Appreciate the diversity and beauty of 100+ years of thoughtful planning and stewardship of these natural air filters, shade providers and beauty enhancers.
2. Visit the Urban Forestry website – Check out the 30+ year Urban Forest Management Plan and the Street Tree Designation list. What species of tree is most prominent on your street? <https://sbparksandrec.santabarbaraca.gov/programs-services/trees-and-urban-forestry>

3. Become a member of Santa Barbara Beautiful – Support planting trees and consider donating to have your loved ones memorialized on a commemorative plaque beneath a city tree. While you're on the site, check out the "Tree of the Month"! <https://sbbeautiful.org/get-involved/membership/>
4. Consider volunteering on Arbor Day (April) – The Urban Forestry team coordinates tree plantings at schools and around town each year and welcomes new volunteers.

Written by **Ellen Robinson**, History Corner volunteer

Photos by **Joel Ross**, History Corner volunteer

Become A Docent at the Old Mission

Attention Upper Eastsiders! If you like history and enjoy talking to people, consider joining the docent community at Old Mission Santa Barbara. It's a great way to become involved with this important part of California history right here in your neighborhood. If you're interested in learning about volunteering at the Mission, contact Jessica Shea:

tourmanager@sboldmission.org
(805) 682-4713 x173.

Please join us for the Upper East Association Annual Membership* Meeting

Saturday, November 12, 2022
3-5pm

First Presbyterian Church
Corner of State St & E Constance Ave

Featured speaker: Sheila Lodge
Former Santa Barbara Mayor
Current SB City Planning Commissioner

Light refreshments will be served

RSVP by October 31 to:

board@sbuppereast.org

** New members may join at the door for \$25*