



UPPER EAST ASSOCIATION SANTA BARBARA

Upper East News

March 2026

<https://sbuppereast.org>

Annual Meeting of UEA

The Upper East Association held its required annual meeting on December 6, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church. Approximately 85 association members attended. Due to construction damage to the Church, we held the meeting in the Sanctuary so we were not able to serve refreshments. Next year we hope to return to the usual meeting room where refreshments may be served. President Steve Forsell outlined the board's activities for 2025 and Rod Hersberger gave a brief financial report. To bolster association finances, the board raised the dues to \$50 for 2026.

Councilmember Kristen Sneddon gave a talk on various City matters. She opened by sharing her background concerning the geology of the Santa Barbara area and offering walking tours. She then gave an update about the proposed projects at 505 East Los Olivos Street and 1609-1615 Grand Avenue and also addressed the issue of canceled or very expensive home insurance. For residents who would like free native tree plantings for both yards and parkways, she indicated there is a program at the City and the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens. During her remarks Councilmember Sneddon also announced her bid for mayor in the 2026 election.

UEA Board Elections

Here are the certified results for the Upper East Association Board election held in December. These four members will serve a two-year term (2026-27):

- Rod Hersberger**
- Ryan Newell**
- Michael O'Connell**
- Mike Pfau**

There were 65 respondents (36 was a quorum), and the election was certified by past board member Ross Foti.

Returning for the second year of their two-year term (2025-2026) are:

- Steve Forsell**
- Elizabeth Foxen**
- Pat Saley**
- Fred Sweeney**
- Deb Trauntvein**

Election of officers was carried out at our January board meeting. Steve Forsell will serve as 2026 UEA President, Fred Sweeney will serve as Secretary, and Rod Hersberger will serve as Treasurer.

The UEA board currently has nine elected members but allows for up to 13. If you have an interest in serving on the UEA board, please contact us at board@sbuppereast.org.

Save the Date!

**Upper East Association
3rd Annual Garden Party**

**Wednesday, July 3, 2026
(Time TBA)**

**On the lawn near the Rose Garden
in the**

Mission Historical Park
Refreshments and good conversation
will be provided.

505 E. Los Olivos Street & 1609-1615 Grand Avenue

The City of Santa Barbara is waiting to conduct Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) covering multiple issues on both projects. As of this writing the applicants have not paid the required city fees to start the process. The City is currently hiring a consultant to assist in this work. The UEA is coordinating with [SAGE-SB](#) (Smart Action for Growth and Equity) and other groups to monitor the status and offer input at the appropriate time. SAGE-SB is continuing to raise funds in anticipation of ongoing legal and consultant expenses in the coming months.

District 4 City Council Election

This November there will be an election to select a new City Councilmember to represent our District 4. Current Councilmember Kristen Sneddon will be termed out. She has announced her intention to run for Mayor in the November election. The UEA board is now working on scheduling a candidates forum later this summer or early fall. A save-the-date notice will be sent to our members once that is confirmed.

History Corner

Angry Stone Face

by Michael O'Connell

What might be the greatest mystery in the Upper East is the angry stone face on the chimney of the half-timbered house on the corner of Anacapa Street and Mission Street. Who carved it, who put it there, and above all, why is it there at all, staring banefully across Anacapa?

The current residents of the house, Lisa Reifel and her daughter, Meriwether Clarke, have heard a rumor that an early resident of the house had a grievance with the neighbor across Anacapa and wanted to signal unhappiness with the angry grimace on the stone face. But there's no record of what that grievance might have been and why so elaborate a gesture might have seemed appropriate.



It's possible that you may have walked by the stone cottage many times and not noticed the face. It's high on the chimney – binoculars are necessary to see its anger. But take a look and make a guess at its feuding grimace.

The house has been called an "Anne Hathaway cottage," after the house in Stratford, England, where Shakespeare's wife lived until age 26, when she married the 18-year-old future playwright. Their daughter Susanna was born six months after the wedding, which may have been less scandalous than one might think, as formally promised, if unchurched, marriages, were common.

In any case, no angry stone face graces the chimney in Stratford. Dr. Phillip Chancellor built the cottage on Mission and expanded it with the room and chimney facing Anacapa after his second marriage in 1920. No record exists of Dr. Chancellor's ill temper or his feud with a neighbor. So we're left to guess.

Upper East Association Mission Statement
To preserve and enhance the spirit and essence of this historic neighborhood and its quality of life.

UEA Sponsors Geology Talks at Rocky Nook Park in Early March

Santa Barbara Councilmember Kristen Sneddon, an SBCC geology professor, gave two geology talks to UEA members on March 1 and March 8. She used maps to illustrate the geology of Santa Barbara which contributes to the uniqueness of this area with

its transverse or east-west trending mountains and narrow coastal plain.



March 1 talk/tour

Participants walked to see Mission Creek and some went across Mission Canyon Road to see the uplifted area above the SB Natural History Museum. We all left the talks appreciating why our area is special and understanding the geology of this area better. Thank you, Councilmember Sneddon!



March 8 talk/tour (Councilmember Sneddon in light blue shirt)

UEA Membership

We have ended our 2026 membership campaign (no more renewal reminders for a while!). Our membership numbers remain fairly strong. Out of about 1000 homes in the Upper East, 192 have joined or renewed for 2026. Thank you! Our ability to draw the attention of City officials to our issues is only as strong as our membership roster.

If you still haven't renewed, this will be your last e-newsletter. You may still renew your membership here:

sbuppereast.org/membership



*A scene from Garden Street
Original watercolor by Fred Sweeney*

