

Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Dreamers and Dream City

By JEANETTE CASILLAS / CASA

“FROM IMMIGRANTS TO BILLIONAIRES, unknowns to the world-famous...” Harry Brant Chandler, artist and author of *Dreamers and Dream City* introduced Santa Barbara Historical Museum members, patrons, and trustees to the history makers of Los Angeles. Chandler’s captivating lecture last week was part of the Collectors Series which was re-introduced by the museum after a one year break.

“Harry has taken his creative energy and combined it with his love of photography,” honorary chair Betsy Lewis, a board of trustees member of six years, began. “In his book he combines photography with his passion for history. The people in his book include 54 men and women that have made a difference in L.A.’s incredible history.”

Chandler, a media executive turned photographer and of the renowned Los Angeles Times family, provides compelling and evocative portraits and anecdotes of the history-makers of Los Angeles, from his unique perspective.



Harry Brant Chandler, Author and featured speaker; **Missy Chandler De Young;** and **David S. Bisol,** SB Historical Museum Executive Director

“I wanted to know what made southern California unique. What did it have that attracted people to it?,” shared Chandler. “Through my research I found that it was a landscape of opportunity... opportunity led to innovation and dreams...southern California was the epicenter of innovation.”



Jeanne Reynolds, Robin Schutte, Trustee; and **Betsy Lewis,** Chairperson

In his book Chandler presents

an eclectic collection of dreamers that embodied that spirit. Dreamers profiled in Chandler’s 150 page book are divided into eight categories: builders, inventors, artists, folk heroes, activists, entertainers, entrepreneurs, and discoverers.

Portraits of dreamers in the book are both historic and contemporary and are based on actual photos captured by Chandler or drawn from historic archives. Chandler manipulated the images in Photoshop to evoke a dreamlike effect and placed his subjects in the context of their dreams.

“I took many liberties with my portraits,” noted Chandler. “It was important to me that the portraits be in color and to see the people in the context of their achievements.”

The lecture coincided with the *Portraits In Paradise* exhibit currently on display at the museum, which highlights Santa Barbara’s own history-makers.

The Santa Barbara Historical Museum is located at 136 E. De La Guerra St. For more information visit www.santabarbaramuseum.com



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