



NOVEMBER 2018



## **Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee Newsletter**

### **President's Column**



**Margaret Saavedra**

Our first annual raffle was a success!!! At our October General Membership meeting we drew the names of the winners, story is inside. We made enough money to cover our expenses, pay our prizes and end with a decent amount to benefit our many charities in Puerto Vallarta, such as the Law Enforcement Exchange and taking growing towers to PV.

Our November General Meeting is coming up, it will be at the Pilgrim Terrace. **Pilgrim Terrace is not a restaurant, please be sure to RSVP.**

Our December General Meeting is our annual **POSADA** event and will also take place at the Pilgrim Terrace .

Our annual Puerto Vallarta visit is

### **NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday**, November 7th 2018

6:00 p.m.



### **PILGRIM TERRACE**

649 Pilgrim Terrace Dr.  
(off Mococ Rd near La Cumbre Jr. Hi.)

**PROGRAM: Migrant Clubs: Gil Garcia**

***Election of SIX BOARD MEMBERS But you must be present in order to vote.***

Reservation by email: "sbsebas@gmail.com." —  
phone: 805-304-3737) **RSVP NOW, 'CAUSE  
THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER REMINDER**

**Price: \$27.00**

#### **Appetizers**

Green chile and chicken empanada  
Ahi Tuna one bite tostada with  
avocado crema

#### **Dinner**

Grilled sword fish with mole sauce,  
mango pico de gallo, cilantro aioli  
Black beans with chipotle and queso  
fresco

Calabacita w/corn and oregano

#### **Dessert**

**Churros**

coming up, if you are interested there is still space. The advertised price is no longer available but contact me or Marti to find out what your cost would be.

*Margaret*



## SISTER CITY TIES ANNOUNCED BETWEEN PUERTO VALLARTA AND SAN FRANCISCO

Puerto Vallarta and San Francisco are now sister cities. The sisterhood, formalized under the auspices of the U.S. Mexico Sister Cities Association, was announced on September 29, 2018, by Puerto Vallarta city officials in a ceremony celebrating the strategic partnership between the two Pacific Coast ports.

Puerto Vallarta's Interim Mayor, Rodolfo Domínguez Monroy, led the Sept. 28 twinning ceremony, accompanied by the General Consul of Mexico in San Francisco, Geme Jose Gonzalez Lopez; the president of the Tourism Commission, Martha Susana Rodriguez Mejia; and the city's Tourism Director, Ramon Gonzalez Lomeli.

The partnership is expected to promote cultural and commercial ties between the cities, which have shared a historical legacy since the 1960s. The two conurbations are also both home to large LGBT communities, a thriving demographic sector that contributes to the Puerto Vallarta's greatness, Rodriguez Mejia noted at the twinning ceremony.

She added that San Francisco, with the highest per-capita purchasing power in the U.S., is close to Silicon Valley, home to small and large technology corporations from around the world, which could be replicated and developed as a second major industry — in addition to tourism — in Puerto Vallarta.

Oliva Izaguirre, Mexico's National President of the US Mexico Sister Cities Association, pointed out that Puerto Vallarta serves as an important example of a city with optimistic, enthusiastic and intelligent inhabitants being united with other important cities to strengthen bonds of friendship, to share experiences and to collaborate in different areas such as culture.

In addition to celebrating the new sister city status, Mayor Dominguez Monroy also introduced a team of local business owners who will make up the local committee to oversee the work done under the alliance, which will also work to foster tourism. Alaska Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Aeromexico, and United Airlines all offer direct flights between Puerto Vallarta and San Francisco.

***The sisterhood between Puerto Vallarta and San Francisco is not affiliated with Sister Cities International. The US Mexico Sister Cities Association ([www.usmsca.com](http://www.usmsca.com)) is based in La Jolla, California.***

## Becky Betancourt...a heart-warming story

By Nicole Young

Spring of 2017 felt busy for **Becky Betancourt**, but in a good way. She and her husband, Bob, finalized their June plans for a joyous 50th anniversary party followed by a celebratory trip to Greece. When May arrived however, Becky's routine mammogram changed the couple's summer schedule.

Surgical oncologist **Dr. Rosa Choi** diagnosed the 71 year-old with breast cancer and recommended a lumpectomy. *"It was caught in time so I feel really blessed,"* Becky describes with a breath of relief. *"I am so grateful. How fast things can change from one day to the next. You hear this so often that you don't really pay attention to its meaning."* She refused to cancel her anniversary soiree but reluctantly traded her overseas vacation for four chemotherapy sessions and began radiation in the fall of 2017. Acting on guidance from her medical team including medical oncologist **Dr. Gregg Newman**, Becky began chemotherapy treatments followed by seven weeks of radiation, which initially seemed overwhelming and surreal. *"Your mind starts working overtime. Sometimes you're waiting for them to start and you think, I can't believe I am here,"* she explains. Luckily, Becky "clicked" right away with radiation therapist **Nicole Schmidt** during her daily pilgrimage to the Radiation Oncology Department. *"It makes a world of difference to be greeted with a smile by someone who is genuinely happy to see you,"* says Becky. She heaps praise on Nicole, her radiation oncologist **Dr. Shane Cotter** and all of his department colleagues.

*"They put you at ease and take very good care of you, doing whatever it takes to make you comfortable. They are very supportive and it's not the least bit phony."* Apparently, the feelings were mutual. *"The entire staff looked forward to seeing her every day,"* shares Nicole. *"Her smile and positivity was contagious."* In January of 2018, Becky neared the end of her radiation therapy. *"The support from family and friends was truly amazing,"* she recounts. *"And Bob was such a wonderful caretaker."* She decided however to skip the celebratory gathering where patients ring the famous brass bell to signify the conclusion of treatment. At the time, ash from the Thomas fire still hung in the sky and the residents of Montecito still grappled with the effects of devastating mudslides. *"There was a cloud over Santa Barbara."*

*"I've never felt it like that,"* relays Becky. *"Everybody was affected."* Her final week as she sat in the waiting room, she noticed a woman who frequently wheeled in her elderly mother for appointments. When Becky learned the woman's son served as a local firefighter, she changed her mind about the bell. *"I thought, my situation is nothing in comparison. I'm going to do it. Why not?"* she exclaimed. When Becky's turn came, she rang the bell with verve alongside her husband and close girlfriend. While her diagnosis would remain unchanged, she clung to her ability to stay strong mentally, boosted by encouragement from her medical team. *"Going through treatment isn't a walk in the park,"* she admits. *"The caring and compassion of my team helped relieve my anxiety and helped me stay positive."*



Becky



# TENTATIVE PUERTO VALLARTA SCHEDULE



## Tuesday-Nov. 27 -

- 4:00 am - Santa Barbara Airbus Charter. Leave from Elks Lodge, Goleta
- 9:20 am - Depart LAX Alaska Airlines Flight #1210
- 2:29 pm - Arrive Puerto Vallarta
- 4:00 pm - Check-in Hotel Playa los Arcos
- 7:30 pm - Buffet dinner and show at Hotel Playa los Arcos

## Wednesday-Nov. 28 -

- 9:00 am - Welcome breakfast at River Walk Café, complimentary by PV/SB Cuidadas Hermanas-

## Thursday-Nov. 29 -

- 9:00 am - (Optional) Rotary breakfast meeting (\$10) at Hotel Marriott
- 5:00 pm - (Optional) Rhythm of the Night Dinner/Show (\$140)

## Friday-Nov. 30 - free morning

- 7:30 - 10:00 pm-Dinner/Dance in honor of Law Enforcement Exchange. Donation

## Saturday-Dec. 01 - Free day

- 11:00 - Andale Restuarant brunch- hosted by SB/PV Sister City

## Sunday-Dec. 02 -

- 10:00 am - Buffet brunch at Canopy Adventure Park
- 5:00 pm - Peregrinación - Pilgrimage to Virgin of Guadalupe Church (wear whites)

## Monday-Dec. 03 -

- 11:00 am - SB Rehab Clinic Visit
- 1:00 pm - Volcanes Sewing School visit
- 3:00 pm - Magisterio Visit to hostel under construction and "feed the children" program
- 7:00 pm - Cocktail party at President Margarita's hotel suite at Playa los Arcos

## Tuesday-Dec. 04 -

- 10:00 am - leave hotel for Boca de Tomatlán clinic visit
- 1 2:00 noon - (Optional) leave for Yelapa to visit library  
(Optional) leave for visit to PV Botanic Garden
- 4:00 pm - Return to Hotel

## Wednesday-Dec. 05 -

- 7:30 pm - Good-Bye dinner at Pepe & Yolanda Arellano's Casa

## Thursday-Dec. 06 -

- 12:00 pm - Leave for airport
- 3:30 pm - Depart P.V. Alaska Airlines flight #1253
- 4:44 pm - Arrive LAX
- Pick-up Santa Bárbara Airbus Charter
- 9:00 pm - Arrive Santa Barbara Elks Lodge

Our PV orientation meeting has been set for Sunday, Nov. 18 at 3:00 pm. It will be at the home of Marti and Gil Garcia. Our best bet for activities is this tentative schedule which we intend to follow although there might be informational documents later.



## SUCCESSFUL RAFFLE EVENT

At the beginning of this year, thanks to Board Member Carlos Velasco's idea, the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City held a raffle where the grand prize would be an all expense trip to Puerto Vallarta. With approval of the California Department that authorizes state raffles, the raffle committee worked on posters and tickets and started advertising. Carlos spoke on several Santa Barbara radio stations promoting Sister Cities and the raffle. With the committees hard work the sale of many \$100 tickets was accomplished.

At the October general meeting the third place winner of \$500 was Maureen Evans. Second place winner of \$1,000 was Raul Gil. After a drum roll and shouting from the members, the grand prize of a vacation to Puerto Vallarta went to Mr. Abraham Friend from Santa Paula. He is employed by the Barry Man in the Ventura Office.

A big hand to Carlos Velasco and his committee. The Board is considering other raffles in the future.



*...and the winner is Abraham Friend of St. Paula*

## It's Election Time!

Those in attendance at the November General Membership Meeting will have the opportunity to select six board members. Your nominating committee has been working hard to find members who are willing to serve on the board for a 2 year term. Thus far here are the members who have willingly placed their names in nomination. Norma Aldana, Sylvia Butler, Maria Garcia, Patricia Juin, Aimee Nielson and Jill Stassinis. Nominations will be accepted from the floor also. *Will any men step forward?*

The voting will be by hard copy ballot and will be tabulated right there at the meeting. Come to the General Meeting to make your voice heard.

**NOTE:** Because it's "Dia de los Muertos" celebration, wear something appropriate!

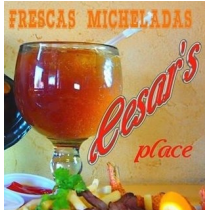
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2. 2. Make your purchase
3. 3. SB/PV will receive .5% of the cost of your purchase. It's that simple!

## Sister City Conference Held in Jalisco

SB/PV sister city members Marti Correa de Garcia, Maria Garcia, Romi Alvarado and Gil Garcia attended a one day US/Mexico Sister Cities International work shop in the City of Arandas, Mexico with Mexico's regional Mayors and their Sister city committees in attendance. The Workshop Theme was: "Think Globally, Thrive Locally with International services network alliances."

Speakers on the subject included Gil Garcia speaking for SOCAL, Ismael Perez in behalf of Puerto Vallarta Sur Rotary and Nancy Huppert from Sister Cities International.

The three participating city mayors from San Julian, San Miguel del Alta, and Yahualica hosted the visitors over three days where very productive follow up meetings were held with their Sister City Committees. Included in the visitations was the gracious traditional Mexican hospitality.

**We're on our way To Puerto Vallarta!**


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Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee

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Newsletter Editor; Blas Maria Garza

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Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta

Sister City Committee

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