



January 2020

## Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee



President Carlos Velasco

Hello SB/PV Sister City members ! As we come to the end of another year, I would like

to extend my gratitude to the board and the membership for allowing me to represent this wonderful organization. Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City is comprised of some of the most friendliest , fun loving, charitable people I have ever met ! It is truly an honor to be part of this group ! May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love , laughter and goodwill, and may the year ahead be full of happiness and joy!

Have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year !

*Carlos Velasco*

### **Posada Christmas Party      December 22nd**

***(This is the December General Meeting!)***

***Location: Mulligan's Cafe... 3500 McCaw Ave.***

***(city golf club)***

***Time: 5:30p.m.***

***Meal Choice: Authentic Mexican Dinner***

***BUT NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL, just the local bar.***

***Program: Mariachi Music, merry-making honoring our Posada Traditions***

***Cost: \$35.00 if your reservation is made by WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18TH.. Members with no reservations and non-member guests pay \$40.00.***

***Reservations to JILL STASSINOS AT:  
"jstassinos@aol.com" or phone: (805) 895-2580***

### **JANUARY GENERAL MEETING**

January 8th, 2020 SB/PV Dinner Meeting at Mulligan's Restaurant, 3500 McCaw Ave., Santa Barbara, Happy Hour 5-6 pm, Dinner meeting starts at 6pm

Presentation: Betsy J. Green, local author and Santa Barbara Historian will present the newest installment of her latest book, "Way Back When: Santa Barbara in 1919."

Betsy J. Green has been writing and speaking about local history for more than 25 years. Santa Barbara - one year at a time."

MEALS: Grilled Salmon, Rosemary Chicken, or Top Sirloin Steak. Dinner will be served to us and costs \$30 including tax and tip per person for all who RSVP by Sunday January, 5th 2020. \$35 for guests and non-reservations.

RSVP: Jill Stassinis 1-805-895-2580

# First Annual Meeting of Jalisco Migrant Day

On Saturday, December 14th, twelve SB/PV Sister City Committee members piled into 2 SUVs [at 6:00 AM](#) in the morning and drove down to Santa Ana to participate in the 1st Annual Jalisco Migrant Day organized by the Asociación de Clubes Jaliscienses de California.

Roberto Najera was a speaker, his talk was about the importance of Rotary Clubs in communities, encouraging migrant club members to join and/or to work with a Rotary Club on Mexico projects of mutual interest and eventually help their Mexican towns through Rotary involvement. Gil Garcia spoke about the significance of Sister Cities in migrant clubs and of the economic benefits for joint projects alliances with Migrant, Sister City and Rotary Clubs. Gil presented a power point with examples of alliance benefits.

Other speakers included Bret Russell, the retired firefighter who recently did a three-day intensive training program in Puerto Vallarta along with other US fire fighters. Bret spoke to many migrant club members about going to their villages and doing regional training in fire-fighting skills, even if the municipalities don't have a big fire department.

We were impressed with the Mexican officials that attended: Mexican Mayors, City Council people and one Congress woman, taking an interest in migrant clubs.

The event ended with a dinner and entertainment from a group of mariachis.

We can see that this first-time event has the potential to grow with significant attendance in the future.

*Gil Garcia*





## YOUR CLUB'S FINANCES

This is just an up-date on the Board's finances. In 2018 we made a decision to put funds into a diversified fund, Blackrock Funds. The original amount was \$20,000; it has grown to over \$21,220. As we explained in the February 2018 newsletter, the Board of Directors serve as the fiduciary trustees of the club's finances making sure sufficient operating and reserve funds exist. At that time it was explained why we did not spend the money now, the answer was to grow a small reserve for emergency purposes and earn interest while held in reserve. This is a goal most non-profit organizations try to achieve.

You as members have the right to review any of the club's finances; periodically we publish the monthly financial statement for your examination. Next month we will publish the 2019 year-end financial statement in this newsletter. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact a Board Member.

*Marti Correa de Garcia*

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To: All Santa Barbara - Puerto Vallarta Sister City Members,

As we wrap up 2019 with our Dec. 22nd Posada Dinner Celebration at Mulligan's Restaurant, your Board of Directors would appreciate your sharing your reflections, on the past year, to assist us in planning for future SB/PV Sister City dinner meetings.

Please complete the anonymous survey by going to the following website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PV>

Thank you!

Jill Stassinis





# SANTA BARBARA / PUERTO VALLARTA SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE



## 2nd Annual Raffle Enter to Win!



**1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE**

**All expenses paid 7-day Puerto Vallarta Vacation for two**  
**Includes: Round-trip airfare (LAX to PV), lodging & dinners**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE**

**\$1,000**

**3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE**

**\$500**

**\$100/ticket**

Tax Deductible. Please Make Checks Payable to: Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities Committee

**Proceeds to benefit medical projects in Puerto Vallarta**  
**Drawing will be the night of 1/8/20**

Winner need not be present to win  
Only 500 tickets will be sold

**For more info: (805) 450-4778**  
**[sbpvsistercity.org](http://sbpvsistercity.org)**



Non-Profit Tax ID#  
23-7398069



## Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee

### New and Renewing Membership Form, 2020 (Annual dues expire December 31st)

\$25 (individual) \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 (couple)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number(s) Hm \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address(s) \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT OPTIONS: Check payable to: SB/PV Sister City Committee , Ck # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card (circle one) Visa    Master Card    Discover    American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code # \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Membership dues ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New Member Name Tag(s) \$10.00 ea. .... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

C credit Card Processing Fee, if applicable \$1.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation (project of your choice) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Hard copy of newsletter (\$10.00) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Payment..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

By-Laws state, "there shall be no prorating of dues depending on date of enrollment and all membership dues must be paid by January 31st." Mail entire form and payment to: SB/PV Sister City Committee PO Box 3718 Santa Barbara, CA 93130 Questions, please contact: Carlos Velasco, President (805) 450-4778, Marti Garcia, Treasurer, (805) 680-2163 Robin Cederlof, Membership (805) 455-5257 Funds received from the annual dues help to support the mission of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee, a 501c3 non-profit organization.

# Don't Delay..Act Now

Thank you!

## Christmas Posadas a Traditional Celebration in Mexico

By Suzanne Barbezat

Posadas is an important Mexican Christmas tradition and features prominently in holiday festivities. These community celebrations take place on each of the nine nights leading up to Christmas, from December 16 to 24th.

The word “*posada*” means “inn” or “shelter” in Spanish. In this tradition, the Bible story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay is re-enacted. The tradition also involves a special song, as well as a variety of Mexican Christmas carols, breaking piñatas, and celebration.

Posadas are held in neighborhoods across Mexico and are also becoming popular in the United States. The celebration begins with a procession in which the participants hold candles and sing Christmas carols. Sometimes there will be individuals, usually children, who play the parts of Mary and Joseph who lead the way. The procession will make its way to a particular home (a different one each night), where a special song (*La Cancion Para Pedir Posada*) is sung.

### Asking for Shelter

There are two parts to the traditional posada song. Those outside the house sing the role of Joseph asking for shelter and the family inside responds, singing the part of the innkeeper saying that there is no room. The song switches back and forth a few times until finally, the innkeeper agrees to let them in. The hosts open the door, and everyone goes inside.

### Celebration

Once inside the house, there is a celebration which can vary from a big fancy party to a small get-together among friends. Often the festivities begin with a short religious service which includes a Bible reading and prayer.

On each of the nine nights, a different quality will be meditated upon: humility, strength, detachment, charity, trust, justice, purity, joy, and generosity. After the religious service, the hosts distribute food to their guests, often tamales and a hot drink such as *ponche* or *atole*. Then the guests break piñatas, and the children are given candy.

The nine nights of posadas leading up to Christmas are said to represent the nine months that Jesus spent in Mary's womb, or alternatively, to represent nine days journey that it took Mary and Joseph to get from Nazareth (where they lived) to Bethlehem (where Jesus was born).

### The Garcia Family Tradition by Maria Garcia

*In the Garcia family our dad taught us to recreate this celebration by acting it out. I do not recall that we had knowledge of the Las Posadas song. Each one of us kids were assigned a part, the donkey, Mary and Joseph and the inn keepers. Mary (the coveted assignment) would precariously scoot along with the donkey (not so coveted) as the donkey moved on their hands and knees. It was definitely a balancing act. We had three doors available to us to knock on. The inn-keeper would stearnly turn them away until the nice innkeeper allowed them to stay in a stable. I did not realize then what a valuable lesson it was for us. It was not until I became older that I tied our reenactment to the Las Posadas celebration.*

SEE THE NEW SB/PV SISTER CITY WEB PAGE: "SBPV [sistercity.org](http://sistercity.org)".... Missed the newsletter or want to see an old one? You'll find them in the webpage!

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*If you are an AmazonSmile customer, you can now support Santa Barbara Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities Committee in the Amazon shopping app on your Android device! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.*

1. *If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, open the App on your Android device.*
  2. *View Settings and select AmazonSmile.*
  3. *Follow the in-App instructions to complete the process.*
- If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, update your App. Click [here](#) for instructions.*

AmazonSmile is not currently available for iOS users. We will notify AmazonSmile charities when it becomes available.

To see the impact of your marketing, visit the AmazonSmile Metrics Dashboard for Santa Barbara Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities Committee. Simply log in at [org.amazon.com](http://org.amazon.com) and click the "View metrics" button.

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