



# November 2020 Newsletter

(NOVEMBER 3—DIA DE LOS MUERTOS)



**Gil & Marti Garcia**

The sad news is the Pandemic has cancelled our monthly dinner meetings and the January visitation to Puerto Vallarta but the good news is Puerto Vallarta virtual visitations have come to us for those that have participated in the monthly General Membership meetings via ZOOM platform.

We've had some great powerpoint presentations direct from Puerto Vallarta and a super one with the International Firefighters Association. We learn a lot and members that have not traveled as much as others on PV visitations learn direct from project representatives. These ZOOM presentations are exciting results of SB/PV Sister City contributions. We have seen first hand what our donations to the "Los Volcanes Food Bank", feeding 3,000 people or 500 families during this pandemic economic crises. We have seen completion of the Rehab Clinic solar panel and air conditioning project that SB/PV

Sister City contributions made possible. We were updated on Boca de Tomatlán conditions and this motivated local expats to get involved in reenergizing the Boca Clinic medical services. The PV Botanic Garden presentation was amazing and we saw the tile bench artwork donated by the Berryman. These ZOOM meetings have made significant contributions to the Sister City relationship and there are many other fascinating presentations scheduled that will amaze our membership as to how successful our sister city relationship is and how we are getting stronger everyday.

Be sure to join us on the Nov 4 at 6 pm general membership Zoom mtg where there will be raffle prizes for attendees whose names are selected out of a hat, there will be results of board election and educational day of the dead program from Puerto Vallarta presenter.

Please join us on Wed. Nov. 4th, at 6pm to celebrate El Dia de Los Muertos! Our General Membership Meeting will feature members sharing their Day of the Dead altars and memories in honor of those loved ones who are no longer with us. Everyone in attendance will be entered, into a Free Raffle, to win a bottle of fine wine or a beautiful orchid plant generously donated by President Carlos. Winners need to be present during the drawing and arrangements will be made to get their prize to them. Also, the board will be presenting a slate of 6 new Board members to be voted on by the General Membership. Please don't miss this important and fun virtual meeting!

Jill Stassinis is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SB/PV Sister City General Membership Mtg.

Time: Wed. Nov 4, 2020 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/83240886012?mtgpi0qG9Yq5D7WeVoGRb0djtaleEqa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrrD8qEtyTsBiFRpwqAI-gc\\_zxiCFfipkUrbVBdWVAzRBOASNhrEIHV](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/83240886012?mtgpi0qG9Yq5D7WeVoGRb0djtaleEqa/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrrD8qEtyTsBiFRpwqAI-gc_zxiCFfipkUrbVBdWVAzRBOASNhrEIHV)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83240886012>

Meeting ID: 832 4088 6012

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## PUERTO VALLARTA RECEIVES NEW AMBULANCE

Because of SBPV's association with the International Fire Training Association (IFTA), that organization has donated an ambulance to Puerto Vallarta and it is now in El Paso where transfer documentation is being prepared.

Drivers from Puerto Vallarta will be heading to El Paso to bring the ambulance to its new home.



## Another Of Our Members Passes Away



Long time sister city member Rosie Scherf, and Gil Garcia's aunt, passed away Oct 4, 2020 at the care facility where she lived for 2 months. She had complications from Congestive heart failure. She was 93 and one month old. Due to corona virus, a celebration of life has not been planned. She was a world traveler and she shared her extensive photo

album of all her travels to care home residents. She is survived by her son Ray Saavedra, grand children and great grandchildren

## Beca Program Support

Santa Barbara Sister City, Rotary Club of Santa Barbara North, and Mary Alsip's Rotary Club Santa Cruz scholarship donated financial support for 2020/2021 Rotary Club Vallarta Sur Becas Program. Thank you all for the continuing very valuable contribution to a student's education that will allow realization of goals and dreams. Please note SB/PV Sister City has picked up the Scholarship for one Santa Cruz Rotary Club past donor. This one scholarship is for a university student that lives in Boca De Tomatlán and he will provide volunteer service to promote the Boca Med Center that SB/PV Sister City had a hand in its funding construction. SB/PV Sister City and Rotary Club Vallarta Sur appreciate the continues yearly scholarship donations especially during these difficult pandemic times for both donors and students.

## Update Of Boca de Tomatlán Med Center Activites

The doctor which City Council member, Laurel Carrillo had arranged for Boca Med Center did not work out. She is trying to get another doctor and will let us know if and when.

The good news is that Cynthia Leigh who lives and owns a hotel business in Boca, has taken responsibility for organizing medical and dental services for the Boca Clinic.

Nurse Martha currently works for free 6 days a week from 10 to 2. The fund being donated by the Berryman for Martha's salary has not yet made its way to Puerto Vallarta. As soon as the new Board is inducted, a bank account for the clinic has to be opened and the Barryman's money will be deposited there. In addition to her nurse duties Martha is helping Cynthia and International Friendship Club (IFC) to facilitate the opening of the dental office with a Student Dentist from Guadalajara University. Martha has a Facebook post and is already booking some dental appointments for this Saturday and will be there to receive the clients.

Cynthia is going to Vallarta today, to see if it is possible to get all the dental supplies in one purchase that dentist Victor needs to open the dental office, and he will help to facilitate this.

In the past, a donation of 150 pesos per adult and 70 pesos per child was requested. I think this is very fair and suggest they continue so that incurring expenses for supplies, cleaning, staff and utilities can be paid.

Former clinic doctor, Dr. Luis, is going to return a \$70,000 pesos piece of equipment that he is keeping in his house for safe keeping while clinic was closed.

Work is underway to convene a meeting of the Boca Med Center non-profit (AC) so that some necessary changes to the board of directors can be made and have a clearer direction to move forward. This is the condition of SB/PV Sister City so it can have confidence in good management and local fundraising efforts.

Thanks to Cynthia for taking on responsibility of coordinating Med center services and to IFC for arranging for a dentist and funding his needs. Also, thanks to Cynthia for making sure the interior of Med center is clean before Saturday.

*Report submitted by Gil Garcia, SBPV Treasurer*

## AMAZON SMILE

Dear Charity Administrator,

This email is to notify you that **Santa Barbara Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities Committee** (EIN: 23-7398069) has been issued a **\$18.49** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between April 1 and June 30, 2020.

The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account on or before Aug 20, 2020. It may take several days for the donation to appear in the account.

## THANK YOU CONNIE & DON

SB/PV Sister City thanks you so very much for the generous \$3,000.00 addition to the "Berryman's" offer towards nurse Martha's compensation at the Boca Health Clinic.

These donations will keep the doors of the Clinic open and provide nurse services to the community, while we wait for a doctor to be assigned to the medical center by both Municipal governments of Cabo Corrientes and Puerto Vallarta.

It's very gratifying to see how after a presentation at one of the Sister City Zoom meetings presented by expats Boca residents Cynthia Leigh and Nick DeLorenzo became motivated to help Rigo Montero take steps to reorganize the Boca Medical Center non-profit. The reorganized non-profit will receive your and the "Berryman" Guy De Mangeon funds to pay Martha, one of the conditions of continuing SB/PV Sister City support.

In the meantime the International Friendship Club (IFC) had arranged for a graduate dental student to provide dental service to the community and this motivated Martha to work at the clinic for free until the non-profit gets organized. But this organization is going to take some time and this will delay Martha getting paid but fortunately Art Fumerton has generously stepped up to receive the funds to pay Martha in his well-organized non-profit. This will allow us to start paying Martha beginning next month as soon as she finishes the list of services she will provide including helping with dental clinic services to the community. It's simply amazing how things are now coming together. By working together in collaboration with motivated people we can achieve all the desirable services at the Boca Medical Center. By the grace of the most high we are moving forward.

Gil Garcia – Treasurer

The following is slate of nominees for 6 open seats on the SB/PV Sister City Board of Directors.

Electronic and mail in votes from Santa Barbara County general members will be counted at

November 4, 2020 general membership ZOOM mtg. Official Ballot will be sent via email or snail mail to your home with instructions for submitting your ballot.

**Only dues paid members can vote**

SB/PV Sister City Ballot for Board of directors vote for six only

E-mail your vote to [gil@gilgarcia-aia.com](mailto:gil@gilgarcia-aia.com) or mail to

Gil Garcia-Nominating committee chair

2215 Santa Barbara Street,

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

SAMPLE



----- Yvonne Pedersen

----- Tony Depaco

----- Cheli Hidalgo

----- Mike Hernandez

----- Aileen Chambers

----- Alma Ruth Vaja

----- Write in if there is nomination from a qualified member but it will need bio and photo for qualification purpose.

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## Candidate's Statements



### Cheli Hidalgo

Cheli Hidalgo has been a member for over 12 years, serving on the Board several times. As a former Human Resources Representative, has experience working with different personalities and various work issues.

I want the organization to succeed and continue to be a model for other organizations & have fun doing it.

*Editor's comment: "Her father was the original planner for SBPV"*



## Yvonne Pettersen

As one of our Sister City Committee's newest members, Yvonne has brought her passion and energy to SB/PV Sister City for the past year. She was a vibrant and very engaged participant on our January 2020 Puerto Vallarta trip, and is most notably acknowledged for her plan and execution of "Operation Bust Out" this summer; her efforts raised \$2,000 for the Puerto Vallarta Food Bank by teaching baton twirling and dance lessons to children who were struggling with confinement due to COVID-19. Yvonne's involvement with Rotary is also a testament to her passion for community service, and along with her infectious enthusiasm she will bring to SB/PV Sister City Board of Directors creative ideas for fundraising and projects!



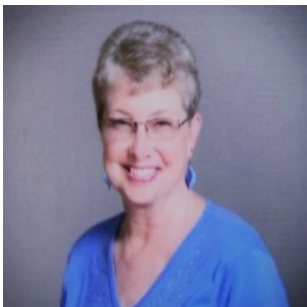
## Tony Depaco

Tony, was born in Mexico but has been a Santa Barbara resident most of his life. As one of SB/PV Sister City newer members, he was on the January Puerto Vallarta visitation where his experience with sister city projects and new found friendships infused great enthusiasm to participate more fully in the sister city program. Tony is retired. He has been involved in youth programs all his adult life including being a high school student sports coach. His interest in SB/PV Sister City Board service is to create a means to develop youth programs as well as helping in any way he can to promote the people to people citizen diplomacy mission of Sister City International which includes service above self in supporting the variety of socially and economically beneficial projects in Puerto Vallarta.



## Alma Ruth Vaja

Ruth, A long time members of SB/PV Sister City has traveled extensively with the group, not only to Puerto Vallarta but to other organized SB/PV Sister City trips to other parts of Mexico and to Sister City Patras, Greece. In addition to people-to-people citizens diplomacy these trips included educational workshops on alliances building with Rotary and Kiwanis International. Ruth is an active member of Santa Barbara Kiwanis Club since 1977 and as an SB/PV Sister City Board member she can see an opportunity for youth project cooperation with Kiwanis. Ruth's education includes a Masters of Arts degree in Psychology and Healthy Aging Concentration which is also an area of interest for possible exchange of ideas with Sister City Puerto Vallarta. Ruth extensive community involvement would be an asset to the SB/PV Sister City mission peace through service. Ruth diverse work experience and community involvement brings interesting new ideas for SB/PV Sister City projects and education.



## Eileen Chambers

Aileen Chambers has been a member of SB/PV Sister cities since 2011. In January she was appointed to be a board member position to fill a vacated seat. Aileen has been an active, involved SB/PV Sister City board since, helping to adjust to the situation caused by the Pandemic. The Board has been working hard to re-allocate funds to where it is most needed in Puerto Vallarta. We have supported the Volcanes Food bank, & helped to fund it through the end of the year with donations from individual members, Board members, SB/PV Sister City funds, Rotary, etc. We now meet on the Zoom Platform for our board meetings & our General membership meetings. Aileen wishes to continue as an active board member furthering the great work SB/PV Sister City has done, & will continue to do. Aileen has enjoyed, and continues to enjoy her membership in Sister Cities because of the friendliness, camaraderie, and the connections made here with the SB members, and with our counterparts from PV. He is proud to be a member of Santa Barbara Sister City Committee with its 40 plus years of promoting cultural/social exchange programs.



## Mike Hernandez

Mike has been a member for 7 years. He and his mom, Aurora, have traveled extensively with the group to many fundraising trips throughout Mexico and to sister city Patras Greece. He has served on the board twice participating and organizing many fundraising activities many in which he was the BBQ chef for the day. Mike is a true sister city citizen diplomat involved and supporting many of the projects and is blessed with good friends in Puerto Vallarta many of which have endured him with superior knowledge on the qualities of good tequila. Needless to say this is why Mike is such a fun guy.

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November 4th will be our next General Membership Meeting at 6 pm. We will be celebrating Day of the Dead by asking members, in attendance via zoom, to volunteer to share with us their home altars and those loved ones they are honoring. We will also be having a raffle drawing at the end of the meeting for all those in attendance. Everyone who is tuned-in to the meeting will automatically be entered, in the drawing to win an orchid or bottle of wine courtesy of President Carlos Velasco. Winners need to be connected during the drawing and arrangements will be made to get their prize to them.

## OUR CONTRIBUTION

We were pleasantly surprised this Sunday to see this plaque (see picture) when we took our granddaughter to McKenzie Park to play on the playground equipment. Many years ago the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee donated over \$10,000 for the renovation of the park and Dr. Michal Lemus Memorial featuring the Four-Pillars of a Sister Cities long lasting relationship which is located in the dog section of the park. *MARTI*



SEE THE NEW SB/PV SISTER CITY WEB PAGE: ["SBPV sistercity.org"](http://SBPV.sistercity.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS –2020-2021

MARGARET SAAVEDRA, EX-OFFICIO & Recording Sect. 708-0770 lk4Maggie@gmail.com

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GIL GARCIA, TREASURER 805-680-2163 gil@gilgarcia-aia.com

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PATRICIA JUIN, DIRECTOR 805-448-5022 patjuin@aol.com

CARMEN FLORES, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR 805-252-3693 yocarmelita9@hotmail.com

MARIA O. GARCIA, CORRES. SECT. 805-681-1905 mariaogarcia@verizon.net

SYLVIA BUTLER, DIRECTOR 805-455-2345 sylviaibutler@c21butler.net

AILEEN CHAMBERS, DIRECTOR (805) 452-6774 aileenchambers51@gmail.com


AIMEE NIELSEN, DIRECTOR 805-967-3146 aimeenielsen@live.com

JACQUELINE DURAN, DIRECTOR 805-284-2037 jacqueline\_duran1@gmail.com

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee

P. O. Box 3718 Santa Barbara, CA 93130

Newsletter Editor; Blas Maria Garza

A decorative rectangular border made of black floral and vine motifs, featuring stylized flowers and leaves.

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta

Sister City Committee

P. O. Box 3718

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