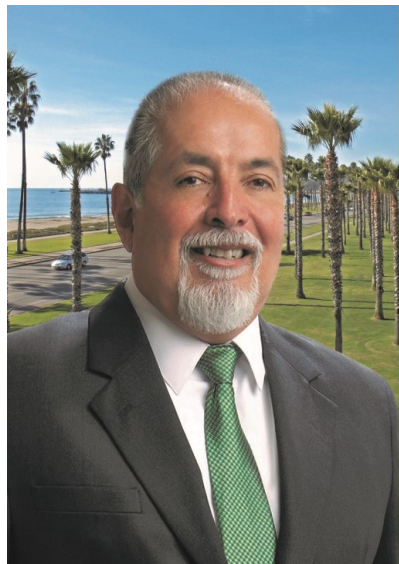




April 2021 NEWSLETTER



SANTA BARBARA/ PUERTO VALLARTA SISTER CITY COMMITTEE



SEBASTIAN ALDANA, PRESIDENT

Hola SB/PV Sister City Members,

Hope all is well and ready to spring forward. As mentioned last month COVID-19 or no COVID-19 we are moving forward with assisting with our existing projects in the Puerto Vallarta area. Your Board of Directors agreed to add two more projects to our list. The first new project is assisting the Aid to Families of Children with Cancer nonprofit. They are helping 22 children ages 3 through 20 years of age along with their families. Our first assistance is helping those families with food for two months (April and May) through the Volcanes Food Bank at a cost of \$704.00. Other funds are being collected to assist the cancer kids for nutritional meals and drinks. The second new project is the P.V Dog Rescue Project. We will be assisting in their Solar Panel Project at a cost of \$400.00. If you would like to make a donation or have an idea for fundraising to continue assisting these projects please reach out. See you at our next April Zoom General Membership Meeting on Wednesday April 7 2021

HAPPY SPRING "HAPPY HOUR"!!

That time is approaching... that time to celebrate the arrival of spring and join your fellow committee friends for 20 minutes of camaraderie and fun before our monthly meeting! ¡Felicitaciones! to TEAM #1 (Gil & Marti's team) for winning our St. Patty's Day ABC Challenge at our March pre-meeting "HORA FELIZ"! Tony De Paco, Alma Vaja, Marti Garcia, and Gil Garcia each won lottery tickets for winning, and we're waiting to hear if any of them won the big Lottery Jackpot! "Hora Feliz" begins PROMPTLY at 5:40pm on the first Wednesday of every month, so be sure to connect into Zoom (using the same link as the general meeting) between 5:35-5:40 so you don't miss out! Every month will bring something new. You may win prizes, you may make new friends... but no matter what, YOU WILL SMILE! General meeting follows at 6:00pm as usual. See you on Wednesday, April 7. PARTY ON, AMIGOS!! Yvonne Petersen

Happy Hour and General Meeting Zoom link:



General Meeting and Happy Hour Zoom link:

Yvonne Pedersen is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: SB/PV Sister City Committee Membership Meeting & Happy Hour

Time and day: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 5:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3658272060>

Meeting ID: 365 827 2060

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 365 827 2060

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3658272060>

Response From March Meeting Speaker

APRIL '21

Hi Aileen, Sr. Garcia, Mike Hernandez:

I would like to thank you all for the warm welcoming last night, special thanks for your time and for sharing some of your friends.

We appreciate your dedication to many services you provide to several projects in Puerto Vallarta, to improve the future and well-being of many families in need.

The families of Children with cancer have a long road ahead to their children's recuperation, some know that for the next 3 or 5 years they will continue getting some kind of treatment in Guadalajara. I don't think single moms can get a full-time job when they have to travel so often. Some moms clean a home or two during their time in P.V., but if they don't have a relative to take care of the sick child, it's very difficult and dangerous to leave a child unattended...

In the names of these families our volunteers and my family, we thank you all for your interest in helping our children in need. God bless you all and thanks for your concern of the well-being of children in need to improve their health and their environment.

Muchisimas gracias, so happy to have seen all those happy members at the meeting last night, great way to keep connected and you are a fun group to celebrate life with.

Aurora de la Torre

Spring is a magical time of the year.

It's a time when yards and countryside are filled with the brilliance of blooming flowers, the air is filled with melodic songs of birds and new life abounds. It's time for spring cleaning, out with the old and in with the new. It's time to clear our minds of old negative debris and clutter, it's time to forgive and forget. Forgiveness is the key to action and freedom. Forgiveness begins with self. We must learn to forgive ourselves for our mistakes, our total self involvement, our inherent dishonesty, our need to control, our judgment of others. Then we need to face our shame and forgive those who shame us. We become "new" again when we let go of long held grudges.

We should think about the freedom that comes from forgiveness. Look beyond faults and the faults of others. Take the high road and lift the human spirit with positive thoughts and ideas. Let's renew our commitment to the four pillars that sustain an enduring sister cities relationship. Respect, Friendship, Brother/Sisterhood and love; these basic core values can renew and energize our interpersonal relationships at all levels of our sister cities involvement.

Respect for life, cultural differences and opinions can create a deep binding friendship that unites us as brothers and sisters in one human family, resulting in an inner glow of happiness, peace and harmony, that can be described as love of life and integration with the oneness of the human spirit.

Armed with these core values and a unified human spirit we can fulfill the primary purpose of this association, which is to, "establish, encourage and strengthen the sister city movement among all nations, and particularly between the United States and Mexico; to promote friendship and greater understanding among the people of these two nations and throughout the world in the interest of world peace and the well-being of all people."

Gil Garcia, President 2006

ACTIVITIES FOR LAST 3 MONTHS

MARCH 03, 2021

January ZOOM meeting—Induction of new board of directors by Anthony Al Jaime, President of Southern California Sister Cities International (SoCal).
New President, Sebastian Aldana, Jr.

Program – Introduction of SoCal Youth Leadership Summit by Mr. Al Jaime.

February ZOOM meeting-Began Happy Hour prior to the General Membership meeting. Over 20 members attended, ending with a prize to a lucky member.

Report from our favorite hotel in Puerto Vallarta – Playa Los Arcos. Since the beginning of our annual trips in 1973 our group has stayed at this hotel. Plus a presentation from “A Dog’s New Life” Association in Bucerias, Nayarit, Mexico (a town very near to Puerto Vallarta). It is a shelter for dogs, rescuing injured, abused and abandoned dogs in the surrounding area.

March ZOOM meeting-Presentation from a Rotary Club member of Puerto Vallarta on children with cancer. Happy Hour to continue.

WORKING TOGETHER IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER LOCAL SANTA BARBARA ORGANIZATIONS

International Fighter fighters Training Association (IFTA) – donated an ambulance to the Puerto Vallarta Fire Department.

Received a grant from the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara North Charitable Foundation for a computer and printer to be used at the Boca Medical Clinic.

We continue to support the following with generous donations from club members and others:

Boca Medical Clinic – Paying monthly stipend to a nurse.

Boca Dental Clinic – paid for the teeth cleaning of over 25 children.

Volcanes Sewing School – donations

Volcanes School – donation for classroom computers

Volcanes Teacher’s Fund – donations for teacher salaries

Volcanes Food Bank – cash donations to purchase food staples

Student Scholarships distributed by the Rotary Club of Puerto Vallarta.

GARCIA WORKS OF ART ON DISPLAY AT OXNARD CONSULATE OFFICE

Following up on the conversations held, I am pleased to confirm the commitment of this Consular Representation to the proposal to exhibit in the Consulate the valuable works of the historical collection of works Mexican graphic that Arq. Gil García and his wife Marti Correa de García kindly offers us. Undoubtedly, the extraordinary collection will enhance the historical commemoration of the 200 years of the consummation of the Independence of Mexico, in addition to paying noble tribute to the centuries of historical memory of Mexico-Tenochtitlan that are also celebrated in this special chance.

As you know, the exhibition with this set of works would be mounted under his expert curatorship in the Aurora Room and other spaces of this Consulate and its exhibition would constitute the main event of the aforementioned commemorations that would take place next September 2021. As mentioned in our conversations, I allow myself to confirm the following points:

- The Consulate has security measures to protect the works, including security cameras and an alarm system.
- The Ministry of Foreign Relations has an insurance policy for patrimonial assets that covers the facilities and assets within the Mexican Country Offices abroad. In this sense, steps are being taken to provide you with more information about said coverage and your collaboration with an inventory of the work and its estimated value, in order to obtain the corresponding endorsement, will be appreciated.

The aforementioned exhibition will be included as the main event of our cultural promotion program for the year 2021. However, the Consulate has limited resources that are around \$ 1,000.00 USD (one thousand dollars of the United States of America 00/100), but I would try to raise more funds possibly with some local sponsorship for the successful development of this project.

Finally, you can also count on the collaboration of this Consulate to promote the wide range of cultural projects mentioned in our last meeting, including the possibility of a catalog, the development of a digital book, or the collaboration with the virtual exhibition with the Autonomous University Metropolitan (UAM). For this, please count on our broad disposition and it will be a pleasure to continue the conversations to bring these projects to fruition.

Official Letter No. OXN / 0269. Oxnard, California, February 25, 2021.

Without further ado for the moment, I thank you in advance for your kind attention and I remain attentive to your comments on this proposal.

Sincerely,
Euclides Del Moral Arbona
Consul of Mexico / JEAA

JANET BAKER IS IN RECOVERY

Our good friend and past president is now in recovery after suffering a stroke a couple of weeks ago. Robin Cederlof recently spoke to her and she seems to be in fairly good health. She is slated to be at Mission Terrace Care Center for a while as she regains strength. She has her phone and laptop computer with her. Friends can send her get-well cards to her home at 3724 Monterey Pines C-101, SB CA 93105 and a friend will deliver her mail.

We all wish her a speedy recovery.

Janet's cell phone 1.636.293.2947

Janet's email JBaker9164@GMail.com

I Madonnari Festival Goes Virtual

The *I Madonnari* Italian Street Painting Festival will celebrate its 34th anniversary on May 23, 24, and 25, 2020, through an online festival experience thanks to support of its generous sponsors. Previous festival artists will use chalk pastels to transform their pavement canvases into elaborate and vibrant compositions in their driveways. Online festival visitors can view the daily evolution of the street paintings on the festival website, [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#). Follow the hashtags #imadonnari, #iMadOnline2020, #ChildrensCreativeProject, and #ChalkOn2020.



Sharyn Chan, Featured Artist 2019

The new “Chalk for Kids” event invites children to create drawings on their driveways and share their colorful work on Instagram using #ChalkOn2020. Through the sponsorship of Village Properties, free chalk will be distributed on Saturday, May 23, between 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the drive-through parking lot at the corner of State and Micheltorena streets.

This year’s featured street painting will be a reproduction of a piece by Thomas Hart Benton. This 12’ x 50’ painting will be created by Sharyn Chan, Ann Hefferman, and Jay Schwartz, with the assistance of Emily Hefferman.

“*I Madonnari* is a treasured community event that celebrates art through this beautiful medium. We are thrilled to share this experience online and look forward to a time when we can gather together at the Old Mission,” said County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Salcido. “We thank the Children’s Creative Project for the important work it does to provide arts education to more than 50,000 students annually.”

Kathy Kouri, Executive Director

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

PANDEMIC HURTS TOURISM IN PUERTO VALLARTA

There is a light at the end of the tunnel now that people are getting vaccinated against Covid 19. But for us in Puerto Vallarta, the month of February was the worst month in fourteen years.

At this time last year, hotel occupancy was at 81%. This February was the worst month for Puerto Vallarta tourism since 2007, with an occupancy rate of only 40%. Our City Airport received only 161000 passengers, less than one third of passengers of February 2020.

The cancellation of flights from Canada to Mexico played a huge role in these dismal numbers, but it was not the only factor. Other countries also issued strict rules for people traveling outside of their countries which influenced and stopped would-be visitors from coming here in the numbers we are accustomed to.

Art Fumerton

Puerto Vallarta

Hola - PV Traveling Friends

Are you ready to start planning a trip to Puerto Vallarta this year?? I am, I just got my first vaccine shot . . . Many of our fellow travelers have already received both of their covid vaccines. Have you??? The news reports that there will be enough vaccine for everyone in the US to get their shots by the end of May. We have had reliable reports that immunizations in Puerto Vallarta have also begun. Very good news indeed!

Our Puerto Vallarta trip is important because it's our main fund raiser each year. Funds raised from this trip help us continue to support our many different projects there. However, things may be different for us this year. Many of our fellow Puerto Vallarta Sister City members have been hard hit financially, as has the whole area. We may need to consider doing many more activities on our own, possibly without financial support from the mirror club. However I am looking forward to seeing our friends there. We will work on ways that we can socialize without placing too much financial burden on them.


Now when should we go???? Going for the week long celebration for Dia de Los Muertos at the end of October/ beginning of November is a possibility. There are festivities city wide, with a parade and many costumed participants and performers. There are also "altars" set up in hotels and in public areas to the memory of loved ones who have passed. True this time of year may be a little warmer than later in the winter but it should be a new and interesting opportunity.

There is interest in going after Thanksgiving, in time for the pre-Christmas activities that we have done many times in the past. While the weather is generally better, it can be changeable. A questionnaire will follow in the next few weeks to determine how many are interested in planning a trip and also what time of year.

Margaret Saavedra

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

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta

Sister City Committee

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