



# DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER SANTA BARBARA/ PUERTO VALLARTA COMMITTEE



## President Sebastian Aldana's Message

I would like to start this article by giving two very big thanks. I/we need to thank long time member and Past President Blas Garza for his time and dedication for publishing us a monthly newsletter for many years. As they say, all good things come to an end and the baton is being passed. Thank you kindly, Blas, for all your time spent and thank you Margaret Saavedra for accepting the responsibility.

Also need to thank all that attended the 2nd Annual Cruise for the Cause fundraiser event and a big thank you to Emcee Drew Wakefield, a very special individual and friend. It was a great 2.5 hour cruise with DJ, dancing and appetizers. Looking forward to next year's 3rd annual. Our Dia de los Muertos dinner dance was a hit, we needed to add a DJ to our members' dinner meetings a little more often.

We have three events left for 2022.

- 1) Our visit to Puerto Vallarta on 11/29 – 12/8. It's my understanding 80 members will be attending; it should be a blast.
- 2) Milpas Christmas Parade, starts at 5:30pm on December 10. We will be marching down Milpas St. with our banner and singing Christmas songs in Spanish. We are inviting our members and family to join in. Please RSVP to Cheli Hidalgo [ladyachel@hotmail.com](mailto:ladyachel@hotmail.com) or call @ 805 965 1573.
- 3) Last but not least, our December 18, 2022 Posada event with Mariachi Fiesta Mexicana in attendance for two hours. We will be voting for new board members that have been nominated by the SB/PV sister city nominating committee. Nominations can be made from the floor and if seconded and they present their qualifications they can be placed on the list of candidates for membership vote. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

## Dues increase for 2023

Dear friends we find we need to increase the annual membership dues for the upcoming year to \$35.00. The dues have not been increased in 20 to 25 years.

We hope that you will find this acceptable and will continue your membership so you can join us in our important work in Puerto Vallarta.

## Important Upcoming Dates:

Nov. 29 – Dec. 8, 2022. – Annual Visit to PV

Dec. 10, 2022 – 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Milpas Street Parade  
Join us for a walk down Milpas Street. Sing along with us. Dress warmly with Holiday attire – more info inside.

**Dec. 18 , 2022. Posada Holiday Event**  
**Moose Lodge - 4:00 – 8:00 pm 110 W Victoria St.**  
**Doors open at 3:30p.m. Menu will be traditional meal of tamales and pozole. Mariachi Fiesta Mexicana will play from 6 – 8 p.m.**

**A 50/50 raffle will and an auction will be held.**

**Sant Barbara Rotary North will be joining us this evening. Cost is \$35 for members/ \$40.00 non members.**

**RSVP to Cheli Hidalgo at [ladyachel@hotmail.com](mailto:ladyachel@hotmail.com) leave message on landline 805-965-1573**

Dia de los Muertos General Meeting Nov. 2022

Our membership turned out in costume to celebrate the memory of their deceased loved ones. Everyone looked great and the winner of our costume contest was Maria Sanchez. A delicious meal was served by the cooks at the Moose Lodge. We danced to the tunes played by DnD Music deejays. The highlight was a medley of Halloween themed music, 'Thriller', Monster Mash, and other great tunes

It's always a great time when we are together with old friends and new friends, members and guests.

Sebastian, Irma Segura, Maria Sanchez, Norma and Maria Garcia



Gloria Jones and Alicia Sorkin

Linda and Cheli



Carmen,  
Anahi  
and  
Romie



## Upcoming Board Election

Nomination Committee Report presented to the SB/PV Sister City board on 11/8/2022.. Members of nominating committee: Board members Gil Garcia, Cheli Hidalgo and non-board members Margaret Saavedra, Marti Garcia ,

- A. Remaining on the board for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their term are: Sebastian Aldana, Gil Garcia. Alicia Sorkin will be completing her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of first term.
- B. The following have accepted nomination for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year term
  - 1. Tony De Paco, 2. Alma Vaja, 3. Cheli Hidalgo
- C. The following have accepted nomination for 1st year of a 2 year term:
  - 4. Scott Burns, 5. Maria Sanchez, 6. Dr Joseph Mulvihill, 7. Margaret Saavedra, 8. Bonnie Carroll

Note 1: the board has been increased to 11. Two of the new first time board members with the least votes will get a 1year term to even out the vacancies for next year (Those two would then be eligible for 2 additional 2 year terms). Next year 2023 there will be 5 vacancies to fill and following year 2024 there will be 6 vacancies to fill.

Note 2: with Sebastian serving last year of his second 2 year term and also serving as ex officio means that next year there could be 12 total board members as Sebastian`s termed out board member vacancy is filled with new board member but Sebastian would remain as ex officio as long as the president that replaced him is serving.

Note 3: Elections will be held at the General Membership, Las Posadas, dinner meeting at the Moose Lodge Dec 18, 2022. Transfer of board duties is turned over to the new board at the end of the current board members last board meeting in January 2023 after which the new board will select new board officers for the year.

Coming off the board are Mike Hernandez Craig Arcuri and Carlos Velasco /PV Sister City thanks the outgoing board members for their service.

Cheli Hidalgo- I have had the privilege of being on the SBPV Board in different capacities. My father, Richard Hidalgo, is one of the founding members and I joined SBPV after giving him rides to the dinner meetings. I'm a retired Human Resources professional having worked in manufacturing, technology and the public sector. I have taken the knowledge and skills I used and transferred that to my role as a Board member. As membership chair I've enjoyed meeting members. I'm learning new technology so our committee can better communicate with members. . I planned to go more often now that I retired but Covid hit. I'd like to remain on the Board to help continue the legacy of those that had the vision to create this great bond between SB and PV.



Scott Burns first joined Santa Barbara/ Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities in 1987 and visited Puerto Vallarta the week after he Joined Santa Barbara Sunrise Rotary, his next visit while he was President of the Goleta Chamber of Commerce in 1989. While his membership lapsed, he stayed active with other non-profits in the community. El Presidente of Old Spanish Days in 1999, and President of the Santa Barbara Sunrise Rotary Club in 2006. He has also been on the Santa Barbara County Children's Commission and a member of the Santa Barbara City Park and Rec commission



Bonnie Carroll, a new member that is very interested in our club and participates regularly in our board meetings as a guest.

2022 Assn. for Women in Communications National Clarion Award Recipient  
Author/Publisher/Editor/Journalist/Award-Winning Blogger GOT 2019  
34 Gold List of Best Boomer Travel Blogs to Follow 2022  
45 Ultimate List of Best Boomer Travel Blogs to Follow in 2018  
15 Most Inspirational Travel Blogs Award 2019  
Bonnie Carroll's Life Bites News,  
International monthly online travel/lifestyle magazine founded in 2005  
[www.lifebitesnews.com](http://www.lifebitesnews.com)  
Publicity Club of Southern California/Public Relations Society of America  
Association of Women in Communications SB (Member of the Year 2019)  
Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister Many other awards and accomplishments too numerous to list.



## Milpas Street Parade Dec 10, 2022

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Get into the Holiday mood, come out and join us walking in the Milpas Street Parade It begins at the 700 block, De la Guerra Street and ends on Mason Street, by Wells Fargo Bank. We'll be singing traditional Mexican Christmas songs, Feliz Navidad, Cascabel, Noche de Paz, etc. We'll have our SB/PV banner prominently displayed, we are proud of our organization and our good deeds in Puerto Vallarta. Come in holiday attire, wear a Christmas hat if you have one. Arrive early, a little before 5:30pm, carpool if you can. Join us at the end of the parade for an afterparty at Casa Rosales. If you are interested in marching let us know, contact Cheli Hidalgo, leave message on landline 805- 965-1573.

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Maria Sanchez, I have been a member for 6 years, it's been, and continues to be, an unforgettable rewarding experience making friends locally and in our sister city Puerto Vallarta. Traveling, working together as citizen diplomats is the goodwill mission of the sister cities program and is one of most gratifying experience I have ever encountered.

I was born in Durango and have been in Santa Barbara for 53 years. I owned a retail store for a while (the Calico Cat Mexican Imports on Haley Street). After selling the store I participated in events and festivals as a vendor for 27 years, making my own typical Mexican clothing designs.

My community service experience includes volunteering in several non-profit organizations that include health, children, family services and youth education. I like to spend time with my friends and we celebrate birthdays, we talk, we sing, we dance. I think that people need to enjoy each other's company and that's what I appreciate most about SB/PV Sister City. We forget about our problems, age does not matter, we enjoy and live for the happy moments of life, why not?

My contribution to the SB/PV Sister City Board of Directors will be dedicated and loving service to the membership.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cruise for the Cause

Oct. 22, 2022 members and friends of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Group boarded the "Condor Express" for a 2.5 hour cruise down the coast. This is a fundraising event for the Families of Children with Cancer in Puerto Vallarta. Funds raised go to providing supplemental food for the families on a monthly basis with an extra bonus at Christmas time. The Condor has a full bar and our members were treated to burritos, salsa and chips from Mayo's Taqueria and churros for a wrap up. DeeJays DandD Music provided a lively beat and our announcer was Drew Wakefield. A total profit of \$640.85 was realized with this event.



Katherine Weitzel and Rose O'Dea



Scott & Lisa Burns



Irma Segura belting out a song!!



Let the Good times, Roll - Mike Hernandez and his bros.

Margaret Saavedra, candidate

Board of Directors for retired from the Santa Barbara School District where she worked as the principal's assistant. I was president of local union employee's group for a number of years. She joined SB/PV in 2015 and has held various offices and served as President 2016 - 2018. I look forward to continuing to help the people. Puerto Vallarta.





## Posada Christmas Celebration, Sunday , Dec. 18

Doors open at 3:30 pm at the Moose Lodge, members price is \$35 and guests is \$40.00. Please bring a donation for Toys for Tots, we will have a collection bin set up! We will conduct an election for our new board members. Please take note of the photos and bios of candidates that are running for office. After the election, our meal will follow, we'll conduct our 50/50 raffle and Rotarians will hold a silent auction, **Mariachi Fiesta Mexicana** will play after all of our business is conducted, approximately 6 - 8 pm. We will conduct a Posada and march with lit candles in imitation of Joseph and Mary looking for a room at the inn.

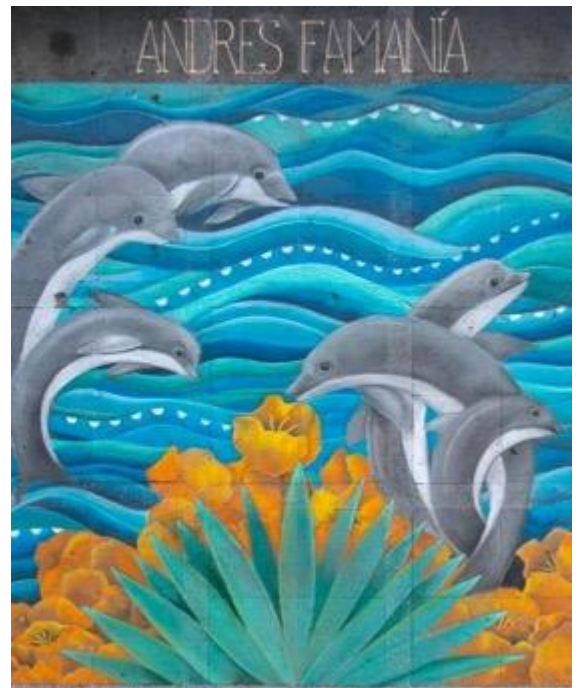
## I Madonnari in Puerto Vallarta

The I Madonnari was introduced to Puerto Vallarta as one of our cultural exchange and this year marked 15 years of collaboration.

Ann Hefferman and Kathy Koury, SB/PV members and a group of 7 other artists went for the festival held Nov. 11 – 13<sup>th</sup>. The winner is hosted in Santa Barbara for our I Madonnari Festival in May.



Pintura de Renatta Arias primer lugar



Ann Hefferman

Photos courtesy of Puerto Vallarta Sister City member Laurel Carrillo's Facebook page

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Dr. Joe Mulvihill

As a recent member my nomination to serve on the SB/PV Sister City Board of Directors has filled me with a strong sense of pride. I understand fully the responsibilities of this position and with the gratifying fun experiences thus far plus motivational observations of the good works. I look forward to working in a professional manner toward the mission and goals of the sister city program. I am excited to start planning and getting into the dynamics of the board operations and in order to do so I ask for your vote of confidence.



Bon Voyage to our happy  
travellers to Puerto Vallarta



## Board of Director's 2021-2022

1. Sebastian Aldana, President .....805-304-3637 [sbsebas@gmail.com](mailto:sbsebas@gmail.com)
2. Mike Hernandez, Vice President. ....805-450-0471 [mikehpaint1@gmail.com](mailto:mikehpaint1@gmail.com)
3. Tony De Paco, 2nd Vice President. ....805-451-1621 [tonydepaco@hotmail.com](mailto:tonydepaco@hotmail.com)
4. Araceli 'Cheli' Hidalgo, Dir., Membership ...805-965-1573 [ladylachel@hotmail.com](mailto:ladylachel@hotmail.com)
5. Gil Garcia, Treasurer .....805-680-2588 [gil@gilgarcia-aia.com](mailto:gil@gilgarcia-aia.com)
6. Craig Arcuri, Director ..... [craigarcuri@yahoo.com](mailto:craigarcuri@yahoo.com)
7. Alicia Sorkin, Recording Secretary .....805-280-1605 [sorkina@msn.com](mailto:sorkina@msn.com)
8. Alma Ruth Vaja, Director ..-. ....805- 284-4567 [almavaja@yahoo.com](mailto:almavaja@yahoo.com)
9. Carlos Velasco, President Ex. Officio. .... 805-405-4778 [smokeycat1@cox.net](mailto:smokeycat1@cox.net)



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Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
(805) 884-0964



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Santa Barbara, CA 93105



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Goleta, CA 93117  
(805) 964-7759

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Reprographic & Copy Services  
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Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
(805) 962-9155

### Tacos Pipeye Mexican Food Truck

TACOS PIPEYE  
217 N. Milpas St  
9:00am - 9:00pm  
Tuesday-Sunday

TACO TRUCK  
524 N. Milpas St.  
7:00pm-11:30pm  
Tuesday-Sunday

**Gilbert Garcia**  
122 East Arrellaga St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Phone: (805) 965-8561



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