



# FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER SANTA BARBARA/ PUERTO VALLARTA COMMITTEE



## President Margaret Saavedra

Hi everyone, as the new president of the recently elected new board of directors of the award-winning SB/PV Sister City program, let me say it is my pleasure to serve on the board and my thanks go once again to the directors for their confidence in electing me the president for this year. Together with the help of the members we will create a joyful sister city experience.

My years of service in the local and statewide sister city program has led to a leadership position as Chair on the Santa Barbara Sister City Advisory Board where all of Santa Barbara's Sister Cities meet to share our activities and to work toward several activities a year to create a presence for the Sister Cities in Santa Barbara. In addition, my continued association with the Southern California Sister Cities International (SoCal) Board of Directors has been a great learning experience with the sharing of best practices among the many sister cities in Southern California. In addition, I am also active in the Assistance League and Las Aletas, a philanthropic woman's organization.

All of this proves I am a 'joiner' and that I don't know how to say "No". Seriously as a retiree, I actually like to keep active and put to use my skills and abilities as a member of this organization and of our community. I would rather be busy than not! I will continue to work for this organization to the best of my ability to maintain our relationship with Puerto Vallarta and our Sister City brethren.

## It's time to renew your 2023 membership

Dear friends your membership expires every year on December 31. It is time to renew your membership for this year!

Please send your \$35.00 for 2023 asap. You will continue to receive this "swell" newsletter and be up-to-date on our monthly meetings and other fun happenings in our group.

If you would like a printed membership application in your mailbox, please click on this link: [ladylachel@hotmail.com](mailto:ladylachel@hotmail.com). Or leave a message on Cheli's homephone 805-965-1573, no texts at this number. Please send your dues so you can join us in supporting our important work in Puerto Vallarta.



## February General Meeting

Date: Feb. 1, 2023

When: 6:00 pm

Where: Cesar's Place

712 No Milpas St.

Menu: Something really good  
(we are working on the details)

Beverages: Bring your own bottle, \$5.00 corking fee  
Bottles of wine will be available for purchase at \$10

**A raffle will be held.**

**Cost is \$35 for members/ \$40.00 non-members. We look forward to seeing our member friends from Santa Barbara Rotary North again.**

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

## 2023 Board of Directors

At the first meeting of the new board on January 10, 2023, the first order of business was the election of officers. The Board selected the members to the following positions:

President	Margaret Saavedra
1st Vice President	Cheli Hidalgo
2nd Vice President	Tony De Paco
Treasurer	Gilbert Garcia
Recording Secretary	Alicia Sorkin
Corresponding Secretary	Bonnie Carroll

## New Board Members Retreat Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023

As new members join the board a half day retreat is held to acquaint them with our Santa Barbara /Puerto Vallarta Group and the Sister Cities International as a whole. We become reacquainted with our purpose and goals as a sister city group. We discuss ethics and our role as a citizen in the organization.

We review our current projects propose funding for the upcoming year for those and other projects we may wish to add.

We prepare a budget and decide who and how much we fund and designate a funding source. We review financial information and constraints by which we must adhere too. We review working guidelines and our by-laws. All of these help our new board integrate into our whole group and make for a more cohesive and coordinated organization with similar goals and objectives.



## Members we need your talent and skills

The board works together planning SB/PV Sister City activities, and we welcome members to join in and learn more by helping the board with the exciting and gratifying work associated with our Club. We form strong bonds while we work together to make our events interesting. Our committees meet on a regular basis to plan our fun events. Please think about helping with:

- -Monthly Dinner Meeting planning committee
- -Finance committee
- -Social media committee that monitors our Facebook and web page, we would like to have an Instagram presence.
- -Visitation, planning for our Puerto Vallarta members this summer

There are many “ad hoc” (meet as needed) committees for a variety of reasons. Some of these group only meet as needed which maybe 2 or 3 times in the year, but others may meet on a more regular monthly basis. Contact any of our board members listed on the back pages.

We are blessed in our service to help others.

“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and beheld; service was joy.” ... ..Literature Laureate Rabindranath Tagore dedicated his life to poetry, art and music, composing the Indian national anthem and the national anthem of Bangladesh. Nobel Prize winner 1913

## Santa Barbara's Other Sister Cities

Did you know Santa Barbara has sister cities in China, Japan, Greece, Montenegro, Philippines, Mexico and soon a sister city in Peru? The City of Santa Barbara also has a Sister City Advisory Board, similar to Boards for Parks and Rec, Harbor and others. This Advisory Board meets every other month at City Hall and share our groups activities with each, and Mayor Randy Rowse is part of our group. Many of our SB/PV members belong to the Weihai, group or the Patras/Santa Barbara group.



The **Patras/SB** group held their first meeting of the year at Casa Garcia because the Garcia's and a few other SB/PV faces are members too! Patras frequently starts with a meal before they begin with business meeting. Before we got down to business we were treated to a Ukranian meal. The meal was prepared by a lovely local Ukranian family. Individuals and the Patras group made a nice donation to support recent immigrants in Santa Barbara.

Marti, Rose O'Dea  
and Maria Garcia

Gil with Art and  
Barbara Najera,  
photos by Vika



Bill Poulis, Patras V.P. and George Papazacharioudakis,  
Patras President. And Rose O'Dea



Ukranian hostesses Anastacia and mom Natasha



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Javier & Maria Alvarez  
Gloria Berumen  
Gregory de Paco  
Bobby Martinez  
Stephanie Ramirez

## WELCOME RENEWING MEMBERS

Mary Alsip  
Joyce & Dick Axilrod  
Josefina Campos  
Bonnie Carroll  
Robin Cederlof  
Daniel & Marcie Contreras  
Gustavo A. Duran  
Melissa Duran  
Pat Fallin  
Gil & Marti Garcia  
Maria Garcia  
Georgia Gastouniotis  
Antonio & Gloria Gonzalez  
Maria Elena (Nena) Hidalgo  
Raveewan Livesley  
Olive Moreno  
Rose O'Dea  
Cathy Romero  
Margaret Saavedra  
Josie Schreier  
Alicia Sorkin  
Carlos Velasco  
Wanda Wheelan

## February General Meeting

### Agenda:

Welcome to new and renewing members!!  
Swearing-in of new Officers for 2023

Dinner

After dinner speaker: **Veronica Gallardo**

Raffle



**Veronica Gallardo** is the owner/independent contractor specialists for reading literacy. She has been a teacher and principle at a local elementary school. She is a Board of Trustees of the Santa Barbara Community College District for over 10 years. She is married to Juan Gallardo and mother of two. She will speak on specialty and see how it can integrate into a sister city youth program. On this photo she is seen being inducted into the Santa Barbra Rotary North Club by president of the club Marti Correa de Garcia.

## YOUNG ARTIST AND AUTHORS SHOWCASE

SCI – Sister Cities International each year sponsors a showcase for young people to display their artistic talent in art, media, photographic and musical areas. Consistent with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda, Sister Cities International will continue to embrace climate change as the overarching theme for its 2023 Young Artists and Authors Showcase. For this competition, SCI is proud to invite youth from member communities to submit innovative, thoughtful, and impactful creations that emphasize various aspects of food security, including the impact of climate change on food production and food consumption, in their own communities.

<https://sistercities.org/2023-yaas> The Theme this year is:

### PEACE BY PIECE: FOOD SECURITY IN MY COMMUNITY

The City of Santa Barbara City Advisory Council has also embraced this program for over many years. All of Santa Barbara's Sister Cities have participated in this program. The Committees support the program by having their members submit entries, financial support for the prizes and participating in the recognition and judging of the entries.

As a leading nonprofit, citizen diplomacy organization, Sister Cities International has been promoting peace through mutual understanding since its origins in 1956. Food has been one of the core pillars of sister cities' cultural understanding – food is a universal language that unites us.

As food unites us, the unrelenting struggle of food security, or a lack thereof is an issue that all communities face. The ongoing environmental changes continue to impact locals and their access to nutrition. This makes the importance of raising awareness more essential every day and youth leadership is a necessary tool to help tackle these circumstances felt around the globe.

- The showcase is now accepting submissions through April 15. Please read eligibility requirements below:
- Students must be between 13 and 18 years of age at the time of the May 1, 2023 deadline.
- The student must be affiliated with a dues-paying member of Sister Cities International or an international community partnered with a dues-paying member. (If you have any questions regarding your affiliation with a dues-paying member of Sister Cities International, please visit our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) page or contact [youth@sistercities.org](mailto:youth@sistercities.org).)
- No more than five (5) submissions per category will be accepted from each member community. International community partners are also eligible to submit no more than five (5) submissions per category. [Note for Sister City Contact Persons: Please provide a list of your (up to) five (5) participating students and their submissions organized by category to [youth@sistercities.org](mailto:youth@sistercities.org).] If you have any questions regarding submission limits, please visit our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) page or contact [youth@sistercities.org](mailto:youth@sistercities.org).
- Member communities are encouraged to form their own local competitions and submit the top five (5) in each category to Sister Cities International.
- No student may enter submissions into more than one category.
- All entries must meet the criteria listed below.
- All entries must conform to Sister Cities International's policy on plagiarism found [here](#).
- For any other questions, please contact [youth@sistercities.org](mailto:youth@sistercities.org)



Examples of 2022 winners:  
Theme- **Water is Life.** -  
[sistercities.org/2022-yaas/yaas-winners/](https://sistercities.org/2022-yaas/yaas-winners/)

First Place  
Veronica  
Liu - Water  
is the Magic  
of Life,  
Sister Cities  
Houston

3rd Pl.  
Zarlie Niez  
- Mother's  
Thirst,  
Norfolk  
Sister City  
Association  
- Cagayan  
de Oro



## Prizes, Prizes, Prizes for Silent Auctions and/or Raffles

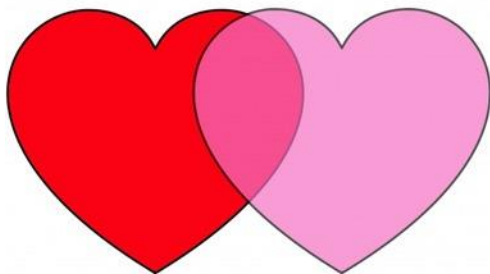
Dear members in spite of Covid, the flu, the rain and trips and falls we have had very good attendance at our two membership events since our return from Puerto Vallarta. You may have noticed at the Posada we had quite a sizeable number of new members. Members from Santa Barbara Rotary North joined our dinner and many of them became members. They also brought the items for the silent auction.



The auction and raffle are one of the highlights of our dinner meetings and we'd like to give more prizes and have nice gifts to auction. We really can't afford to buy a lot of prizes because our only profit is from the 50/50 raffle. This where you can help!!

- Do you have treasures in your closet that are new and unused?
- Do you have gift cards you will never use?? Gift cards for restaurants, department stores, etc?? Maybe they would be willing to give you a gift certificate.

Of course, spending time with our SB/PV family is a great gift in itself but looking forward to coming home with a beautiful plant, a bottle of wine or Tequila is the icing on the event.

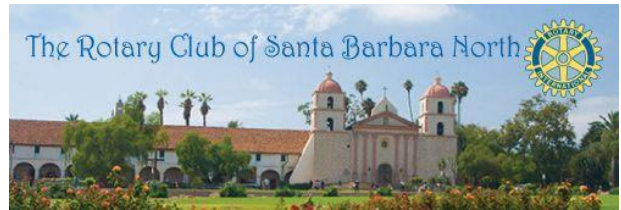


### Board of Directors 2023

Margaret Saavedra, President	805-708-0770	Lk4maggie@gmail.com	
Araceli 'Cheli' Hidalgo, 1 <sup>st</sup> V.P. Membership	805-965-1573	<a href="mailto:ladylachel@hotmail.com">ladylachel@hotmail.com</a>	Newsletter Editor: Margaret Saavedra Since November 2022 Published Once per month On the 20 <sup>th</sup>
Tony De Paco, 2 <sup>nd</sup> V. P.	805-451-1621	tonydepaco@hotmail.com	
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Bonnie Carroll, Corres. Scty.	805-452-3494	writebc@aol.com	
Gil Garcia, Treasurer	805-680-2588	gil@gilgarcia-aia.com	
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Joseph Mulvihill, Director	805- 758-8700	drjoehill@gmail.com	
W. Scott Burns, Director	805-448 8110	Wscott@wsburns.com	
Sebastian Aldana, Pres. Ex. Oficio	805-304-3637	sbsebas@gmail.com	



**The Berry Man, Inc.**  
Wholesale Produce  
205 W. Montecito Street  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93101



**Cesar's Place Restaurant**  
Seafood & Mexican Food  
712 N. Milpas Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
(805) 884-0964



**Mayo's Carniceria  
& Tacos**  
Delicious Mexican Food  
2704 De la Vina Street  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93105

**Coast Reprographics**  
Reprographic & Copy Services  
228 E. Cota Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
(805) 962-9155

**Tacos Pipeye**  
Mexican food Truck

217 N. Milpas St. 9 am - 9 pm	524 N. Milpas St. 7 pm - 11:30 pm
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Tuesday - Sunday

**Gilbert Garcia**  
122 E. Arrellaga Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 965-8561



15 W. Carrillo Street  
Suite 100  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 284-2037

**ANACAPA**

CONCRETE

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