

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER SANTA BARBARA/ PUERTO VALLARTA COMMITTEE



Published March 19, 2023

Santa Barbara, California



President Margaret Saavedra

Your board of directors and the committees do a lot of the planning work hard to insure we have enjoyable events throughout the year. We have a marketing group that has been working on ways to present the merchandise from the Volcanes Sewing School and thanks to Sebastian Aldana, have done so successfully.

We also have a finance committee and need an IT committee. We need help getting up to date with our social media presence!

The Event Committee plans our monthly dinner meetings. We also plan for special events like the Puerto Vallarta visit scheduled from July $6-12^{\text{th}}$. We will be asking members to get involved with the planning for this week of events, housing and transportation.

Concurrently with the Puerto Vallarta visit we will participate for the first time in a 'Dolphin Dive' fundraiser that our friends from Rotary Club sponsor. It is a really fun family event held on July 9th. All we have to do is sell tickets!

Our annual visit to Puerto Vallarta this year will be in late October for the 'Dia de los Muertos". We are working on getting pricing and travel details. As soon as we have full information it will be printed in our Newsletter. By the way, check your Passport, it must be at least 6 months before your expiration date to make your reservation!!!

Scam Alert

Recently some members have received email requests purportedly from a SB/PV board member asking for a favor! The message states they are in a meeting and unable to take phone calls. They ask for gift cards, or to send payment thru Zelle, PayPal, or cash apps.

We would never request money from a member for any reason.

These are scammers and fakes!!
You should never send funds to anyone
requesting them by email.

April General Meeting

Cody's Cafe Wednesday April 5, 2023 Time: 6:00 pm

Menu:

Choice of one entrée:

- Tri-tip, vegetables, baked potato
- · Grilled salmon, vegetables, rice pilaf
- Penne pasta (vegetarian)
 Penne pasta, mushrooms, broccolini, cream, butter

Includes one non-alcoholic beverage Bar will be open

Dessert

Be sure to indicate your choice of entrée when you make your reservation!

Cost is \$35 for members/ \$40.00 non-members and includes tax and tip. RSVP to Cheli Hidalgo at ladylachel@hotmail.com or leave message on landline 805-965-1573

What's happening with Children with Cancer (AFCC)

This is the monthly delivery of groceries to the Families of Children with cancer (AFCC) for which SB/PV Sister City has received full accounting with family signed note of appreciation, paid invoice showing utilization of SB/PV Sister City and its donors funds and photos. Families receive these groceries every month and in December they receive a bonus for Christmas.

Mexico looks carefully on any funds sent to their country, therefore, Ninos de Roma is our partner in Mexico since it is a recognized Mexican charity. Funds to Ninos de Roma are sent with directions on how and who the funds are to be distributed. Bettie, was an employee of AFCC and now is working as a teacher with Los Volcanes. She is doing a lot of the reporting and with Ninos de Roma is doing a good job of following up on how the funds are spent. Her second teacher stipend of \$1,500.00 for an another 7-1/2 months from April to November will go out this month to Ninos de Roma. This will come out of the Kids with Cancer restricted funds.

Approximately 24 families are provided with groceries each month.

Look carefully and you will see our member Mike Hernandez.





Santa Barbara's Other Sister Cities – Toba, Japan

On 2/4/23, they co-sponsored an event at the Faulkner Gallery to introduce a new opera production, where several survivors of the internment camps shared about their experiences and took questions from the public. Mayor Rowse was in attendance and gave opening remarks, approximately 200 people were in attendance.

On 2/18/23 Kenko Sone, Japanese Consul General from LA gave opening remarks at the opera. Japanese TV station NHK filmed both events and will provide footage (it can also be used on the SB Opera's website).

In March, a delegate from Toba will visit to participate in the rededication of the Cherry Trees in Alice Keck Park. All are invited to join.



Kenko Sono and Takako Wakita Photo courtesy of Bonnie Carroll's Life Bites News.

The group is working with OMNI, Parks & Recreation, and Wade Nomura in the restoration of the Torii Gate Garden on Shoreline Dr. 3/4/23 is a Volunteer Day to plant the remaining greenery at the park. They hope to have Mayor Rowse in attendance.

The student exchange is a go and they are currently seeking interested students for the exchange. The group hopes there is an appetite for visitors in August.

WEXIGAN FURNITURE & STRUCTURE & STRUCTURE

Handmade items from Volcanes Sewing School

We have a number of handmade items from the Volcanes School, in an effort to provide support to the mothers at the sewing school. Some of these items were recently shown at our last dinner meeting at Anchor Rose. Very nice large vinyl shopping bags, colorful placemats with matching runner, small vinyl bags and other assorted items. Some of

these items are now available for you to see and purchase at businesses in Santa Barbara. One place you can see these items is Alebrije Mexican Furniture and Homewares, 2915 De la Vina St., next to Los Agaves

Restaurant. Esperanza Vargas is the owner's name. Another location is in downtown in Paseo Nuevo, VIVA Santa Barbara. The owner's mother is a member of our Puerto Vallarta Sister City Group.



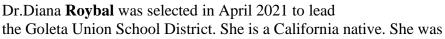
Meeting Agenda for April 5

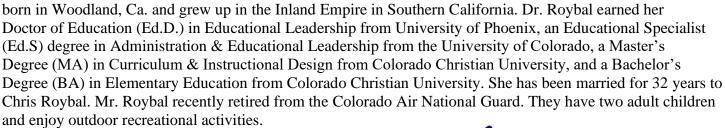
6:00 Welcome to all, new members and special guests

6:30 Dinner

7:15 Guest Speaker: Dr. Diana Roybal – she will talk about her childhood and her journey to become a Superintendent of Schools

7:45 Raffle







David Herrera

Gloria Jones

Linda Lemus

Luz Maria Matzen

RENEWING MEMBERS

Richard & Adela Andrade

Janet M. Baker

James L. Brock

Scott & Lisa Burns

Danny Contreras & Marcie Pettit

Ermalinda "Linda" Cuellar

Jacqueline Duran

Mary Frink

Blas & Mary Garza

Connie & Don Goertz

Joe Lanza and Alice Sykes

Mary Lou Morales

Art & Barbara Najera

Mary Lou Ornelas

Luz Maria Ortiz

Elvia Rivero

Joe Ron & Mary L Ruiz

Robert & MaryAnn Sanchez

Maria Sanchez

Irma M. Segura

Angie Shaw

E. Russell Smith

Alma Ruth Vaja

Takako Wakita



What is VOLCANES?

Volcanes is an impoverished in neighborhood in Puerto Vallarta. Many single mothers and their children live in this area. Many charitable organizations came in to help these families. Jorge Zambrano, the owner of "Andales Bar in the Zona Romantica of Puerto Vallarta along with Rigo provided food to these families once a week along with Canadian volunteers. Art Fumerton of the Volcanes Kids Program is Canadian and has become our very reliable partner in Volcanes. During the Covid epidemic they were our partners in providing food to these families once a month for two years.

The Volcanes Kids Education Program (VKEP) filled this need. The school has become a sanctuary and provides many opportunities for children. The following are excerpts from the **February VKEP Newsletter!!**



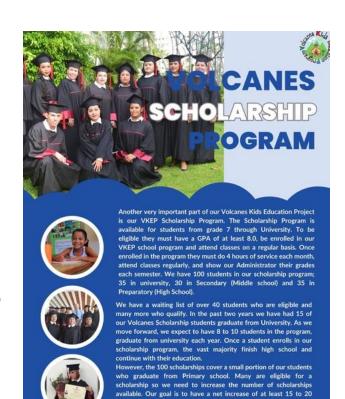
The two most urgent needs are to expand basic math classes and increase the Spanish reading skills of our students. The recent tests of students in reading and math throughout Canada and the U.S. were the lowest in decades and Mexico fared much worse than the others. English Conversation classes are also important and we are revising our English Program to include more English Conversation.



As a result, we have instituted a basic math class for students in grades 1 through 4. Our teacher Ruth is using a technique called 'CUISINARE' which is used extensively in both the U.S. and Canada. It uses wooden rods that are manipulated by the students to learn all basic math skills.(See attached photo). Ruth has had extensive training in this system and the results are instant and extraordinary.

After using this system next year, we will address the older primary students and their math needs.

VKEP also offers a music program for students waiting to discover their talent. Volcanes student MARCO ANTONIO REYES CERVANTES is a gifted pianist. Many students have sponsors and Marco Antonio is very fortunate that his sponsor provides \$300 a month and is giving him a one time scholarship of \$4,900 for his upcoming study aboard expenses. Marco Antonio has two performance available on youtube. https://youtu.be/JBHhwBvg1KI



enrolled in the program

We need IT help

We are not familiar with social media. I don't know how to use "Facegram" or "Instabook"????? What's the little bird about? This is mostly new to some of us on the board. We want to be able to communicate with our members in ways that are convenient for them. We would also like to make it easy for you to pay with Venmo or Zelle at our monthly dinners or for your membership fees.

Anyone out there willing to help us out?? Contact M Saavedra at lk4maggie@gmail.com

Patras/Santa Barbara Sister City Committee The Greek Independence Day Celebration

The Patras/Santa Barbara Sister City held its annual fundraiser at the St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in the foothills of Santa Barbara. Co-Presidents, George Papazacharioudakis and Bill Poulis and Vice President Georgia Gastouniotis did a masterful job of preparing a delicious Greek meal for over 100 people. A special guest was Ioannis Stametekos, the Greek Consul General from Los Angeles. The lively Greek music had people tapping their feet and dancing.

Funds from this event benefit Patras' **Karamandaneio Children's Hospital.**



Greek Consul General Ioannis Stamatekos, Georgia Gastouniotis and yours truly



SB/PV members having a great time Alicia Sorkin, Margaret, Bonnie Carrol, Cheli Hidalgos



Dancing with the Consul General

Board of Directors 2023

Margaret Saavedra, President	Lk4maggie@gmail.com
Araceli 'Cheli' Hidalgo, 1 st V.P. Membership	ladylachel@hotmail.com
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Sebastian Aldana, Pres. ExOficio	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. 524 N. Milpas St. 9 am - 9 pm 7 pm - 11:30 pm

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



Santa Barbara Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee P.O. Box 3178 Santa Barbara, Ca 93130