



APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER SANTA BARBARA/ PUERTO VALLARTA COMMITTEE



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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 – 12th. 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 'Día 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.

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.



Kenko Sone and Takako Wakita

Photo courtesy of Bonnie Carroll's Life Bites News.

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



Dr. Diana **Roybal** was selected in April 2021 to lead the Goleta Union School District. She is a California native. She was born in Woodland, Ca. and grew up in the Inland Empire in Southern California. Dr. Roybal earned her Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership from University of Phoenix, an Educational Specialist (Ed.S) degree in Administration & Educational Leadership from the University of Colorado, a Master's Degree (MA) in Curriculum & Instructional Design from Colorado Christian University, and a Bachelor's Degree (BA) in Elementary Education from Colorado Christian University. She has been married for 32 years to Chris Roybal. Mr. Roybal recently retired from the Colorado Air National Guard. They have two adult children and enjoy outdoor recreational activities.



NEW MEMBERS

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 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!!**

VKEP CURRICULUM UPDATE:

As we mentioned in the January newsletter, we have completed all of the building at the VKEP school and now need to revise the curriculum to meet the changing needs of our students.

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.


MATH CLASSES:



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/63xqcAInYac>
<https://youtu.be/JBHhwBvg1KI>






VOLCANES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Another very important part of our Volcanes Kids Education Project is our VKEP Scholarship Program. The Scholarship Program is available for students from grade 7 through University. To be eligible they must have a GPA of at least 8.0, be enrolled in our VKEP school program and attend classes on a regular basis. Once enrolled in the program they must do 4 hours of service each month, attend classes regularly, and show our Administrator their grades each semester. We have 100 students in our scholarship program: 35 in university, 30 in Secondary (Middle school) and 35 in Preparatory (High School).

We have a waiting list of over 40 students who are eligible and many more who qualify. In the past two years we have had 15 of our Volcanes Scholarship students graduate from University. As we move forward, we expect to have 8 to 10 students in the program, graduate from university each year. Once a student enrolls in our scholarship program, the vast majority finish high school and continue with their education.

However, the 100 scholarships cover a small portion of our students who graduate from Primary school. Many are eligible for a scholarship so we need to increase the number of scholarships available. Our goal is to have a net increase of at least 15 to 20 scholarships each year, eventually reaching around 200 students 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**.



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



Greek Consul General Ioannis Stametekos, Georgia Gastouniotis and yours truly

Board of Directors 2023

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W. Scott Burns, Director	Wscott@wsburns.com	
Sebastian Aldana, Pres. ExOficio	sbsebas@gmail.com	



Dancing with the Consul General



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



The Rotary Club of Santa Barbara North



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
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



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