



# FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

## Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta

### Sister City Committee



Published Jan. 20, 2024

Santa Barbara, California

Typical Beautiful Puerto Vallarta Sunset



### It's Time to renew your Membership!!

Your membership expires every December 31! The dues are only \$35.00. Your membership gives you access to this Newsletter. You are kept up-to-date on all the happenings locally and in Puerto Vallarta. You can read about how your membership and support helps people in Puerto Vallarta. You are invited to our monthly dinner membership meetings and save \$5.00 on the cost of your meal. You have access to trips to Puerto Vallarta at very reasonable rates and information on trips sponsored by our other Santa Barbara Sister Cities.

### SAVE the DATE

**February 7, 2024.  
General Meeting**

**Venue: Cody's Café**

### RSVP to:

[Sbpvsistercity805@gmail.com](mailto:Sbpvsistercity805@gmail.com)

Or leave message at 805-965-1573  
*If you have to cancel your reservation, please advise as soon as possible. In some instances you will be charged for the cost of the meal if you do not show.*

## Follow up to our Annual La Posada Dinner Meeting Sunday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



Becki & Bob Betancourt – usually has a big smile!

Some of our members having fun!!



Sylvia Mendoza, Carmen Flores



Lori Hidalgo, Rosemary Santillan, Virginia,  
Lori's friend who had a blast

Omitted in the last Newsletter, Alicia Sorkin procured a \$50 gift certificate for Uncle Chen's restaurant in Carpinteria for our silent auction. Thank you, Alicia.



Rosemary Santillan, Alma Vaja,  
Connie Villagomez and Adela Monroy

## Board of Directors News

The SB/PV Board of Directors met on January 9, 2024 to finish up business from last year and begin the new year with new board members. An election of officers is always held at this first meeting and the board members selected their new officers for 2024.

Recording Secretary – Alicia Sorkin

Corresponding Secretary – Bonnie Carroll

Treasurer - Marti Garcia de Correa

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Tony De Paco

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Cheli Hidalgo

President – Margaret Saavedra

The Board has scheduled a Retreat for Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024. The board will go over accomplishments from 2023 and set new goals for 2024, among other things.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **For our February General Meeting:**

The menu and cost will follow in a separate email as soon as we have all the details .  
Please plan to wear red.

At this meeting our new Board Officers and new Directors will take the Oath of Office.



## New Policy on General Meeting Dinners

**Your RSVP is important** The event committee plans dinners for each month, the cost of the meal per person is calculated on expected total number of attendees, any music if needed, cost of venue, etc. If we have a number of rsvp's that are no-shows we have to pay for the meals anyway. On occasion we have had as many as 5 – 10 no-shows. We have lost money. We know that sometimes things happen!! If a member notifies he/she will not be attending as planned, we sometimes have others on a waiting list and we contact them. If you don't notify us we can't fill your seat. If we can't fill the seat, you will be asked to pay for your meal.

## **YAAS SCI Winner 2023**



**Cataclysm "Piece by Peace"**  
**Evarya Tucker –**  
**Lakeland Sister Cities**

**2023 YAAS SCI Winner**  
**Eating Without Worry:**  
**The World is Safe**  
**Yang Zhiyu**  
**Tacoma Fuzhou Sister Cities**



# Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee

## New and Renewing Membership Form, 2024

**(Annual dues expire December 31<sup>st</sup>)**

\$35 (individual) \_\_\_\_\_ \$70 (couple) \_\_\_\_\_ Hard copy newsletter (optional) \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

**New Members – only:** name tag(s) \$10 each \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(You will receive a confirmation email to this address; please check your spam mail)

### **PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

Check payable to: **SB/PV Sister City Committee**

Ck # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card : (circle one) Visa Master Card Discover American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code # \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Total of Membership dues \$35 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name Tag(s) \$10 each..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Processing Fee, if applicable \$1.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Hard copy newsletter (optional) \$10..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation (project of your choice) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Membership (\$500.00)..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**“There shall be no prorating of dues depending on date of enrollment and all membership dues must be paid by January 31<sup>st</sup>.”**

**Mail entire form and payment to:**

**SB/PV Sister City Committee PO Box 3718 Santa Barbara, CA 93130**

Questions, please contact Margaret Saavedra, President (805) 708-0770, Marti Correa de Garcia, Treasurer, (805) 680-2163, Cheli Hidalgo, Membership (805) 965-1573 voice message only). Funds received from the annual dues help to support the mission of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee, a 501c3 non-profit organization.  
Thank you!

**Sister Cities International (SCI) and Santa Sister Cities**  
Presents **Young Artist and Authors Showcase (YAAS)**

**CLIMATESCAPE: Resilient Cities for Tomorrow's Climate**

Each year all of Santa Barbara's Sister Cities jointly sponsor this opportunity for students 13 – 18 years old. We invite young artists and authors to delve into the pressing challenges of climate change and its profound impact on cities. The theme encourages students to unleash their creativity and showcases the transformative power of resilient cities that can adapt and flourish in the face of a changing climate.

Prizes \$150 and \$100 will be awarded in three different categories. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges with expertise in their fields. The awards will be presented in a ceremony at the Santa Barbara County Education Office.

More info will

be provided in a flyer for distribution to all students in public and private schools.

We will be looking for the support of our membership for this very worthwhile program.



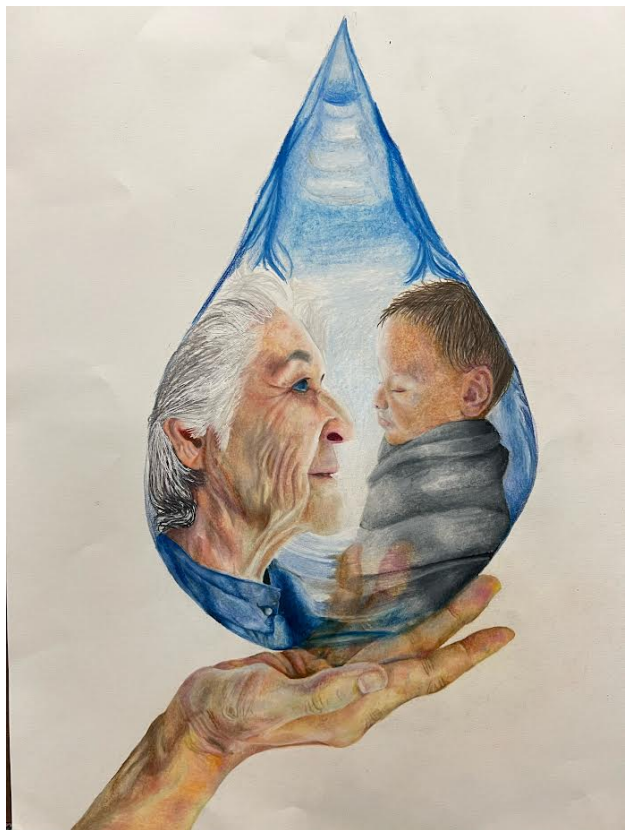
**YAAS 2023 SCI Winner**

"For the Future"

Diana Lopez, Scottsdale Sister Cities

**YAAS 2022 SCI Winner**

Victoria Liu - Water is the Magic of Life,  
Sister Cities Houston.



**I Madonnari in Puerto Vallarta**  
**February 9, 10, 11, 2024**

The first ever Chalk Art Festival in Mexico was introduced in Puerto Vallarta as a cultural exchange as a joint effort by Santa Barbara Sister Cities and the Santa Barbara Children's Creative Program. Many of the same artist still participate.

SB/PV Sister City raises each funds to support the local I Madonnari and the Puerto Vallarta I Madonnari. Several artists from Santa Barbara go to PV and our group pays airfare and hotel rooms for 4 to 5 artists each year.

The winner of the I Madonnari in Puerto Vallarta wins airfare and accommodations to participate in our local I Madonnaru in May.

Look for photographs of the artwork from the festival in Puerto Vallarta in our next Newsletter.

## News from Santa Barbara's Other Sister Cities

Peru, Japan, China, Montenegro, Greece, Mexico

Miraflores, Peru: Margarita Zaske of Miraflores, Peru has a trip planned to Peru in May 2024. Visits to Miraflores, Lima, Cuzco and Machu Picchu are planned. She still has some openings, contact Margarita at [margagonz@hotmail.com](mailto:margagonz@hotmail.com)

Patras, Greece: A trip is being planned for late September to mainland Greece and some of the islands. If you are interested in participating, you can contact Georgia at [Ginagaston1@gmail.com](mailto:Ginagaston1@gmail.com)

Weihai, China : Members of the Weihai group are planning a Chinese New Year Celebration at the China Pavillion for late January or early February. The contact is Jill at [Jstassin@aol.com](mailto:Jstassin@aol.com)  
Weihai also has a monthly 'Dim-Sum Brunch'; the contact is Betsy Green at [bjgreen07@gmail.com](mailto:bjgreen07@gmail.com). The cost is \$20 and an rsvp is required.

Toba, Japan:\_\_\_The Toba group is also planning a New Year's Celebration. Information will be forwarded as soon as it is available.

Kotor, Montenegro - For many years Kotor has conducted a major water polo exchange with San Marcos High and UCSB students. This year UCSB men's water polo has hired a new assistant coach from Montenegro! This is fabulous news for Santa Barbara and our Sister City Kotor, Montenegro. His name is Nikola Bjelica, new assistant coach, will be arriving February 5, 2024 (in a couple weeks!!). On April 18th, his son, Sasha (age 12) will join him. On June 1st, after the school year is over, his wife and second son (age 9) will join the family. Nikola will be in need to rent a condo / townhome or small house until a UCSB family housing spot opens up. Currently UCSB housing is full and it is unknown when housing will become available. Do you have availability to help with housing until a UCSB family housing spot opens up? Contact Denise Lilly at [sjldenise@cox.net](mailto:sjldenise@cox.net)

### Board of Directors 2024

Margaret Saavedra, President.	Lk4maggie@gmail.com	
Araceli 'Cheli' Hidalgo, 1 <sup>st</sup> V.P. Membership	<a href="mailto:ladylachel@hotmail.com">ladylachel@hotmail.com</a>	Newsletter Editor: Margaret Saavedra Since November 2022 Published Once per month about 20 <sup>th</sup>
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