



2024 APRIL NEWSLETTER

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta

Sister City Committee



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Santa Barbara, California

March 15, 2024

Bonds of Sister City friendship were fortified with 25 new members at the induction ceremony of the incoming Puerto Vallarta/Santa Bárbara Sister City Committee and its new Board of Directors led by well connected and highly motivated incoming, President Francisco J Garcia.



Francisco Garcia and Francisco and Gil Garcia



General Meeting Dinner

April 3, 2024

Cody's Café

4898 Hollister @ Turnpike

Menu:

BBQ Tri Tip or BBQ chicken

garlic bread, baked beans,

macaroni and cheese,

Pasta Primavera – option

Meal includes: a salad, dessert, and

beverage of hot tea, coffee or iced tea

Beer and wine available - Cost for

members is \$40; non member \$45.00

RSVP to:

Sbpvsistercity805@gmail.com

Or leave message at 805-965-1573

If you must cancel your reservation, three day notice is required. Within three days notify ASAP, we may be able to fill your spot. If it is a same day cancellation, you will be charged for the cost of the meal.

Program: PV I Madonnari People's Choice.

Award Members Kathy Koury and Ann Hefferman will present a short program with highlights of the 2024 February Chalk Festival in PV. They will tell us what they see that makes a picture great. We will have photos of artwork on display and for a small fee you may choose your favorite piece. Let's see if you agree with the experts.



TOMA DE PROTESTA is the form that the swearing in of the new president for Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities takes in Puerto Vallarta.

By: Sofia Canales

Francisco Javier García Benítez assumes the presidency of the Santa Bárbara-Puerto Vallarta sister cities committee for the period 2024-2026, after an emotional event in the central courtyard of the city hall.

The ceremony was followed by a gala dinner for the cause in the Elite room, where members of the new committee, along with family and friends, gathered to celebrate this milestone.

The evening was marked by exquisite dishes, live music and a festive atmosphere that reflected the union and commitment of both cities. With this new leadership, strengthened ties of brotherhood and collaboration are expected, enriching the relationship between Santa Bárbara and Puerto Vallarta in the coming years.



New President
Francisco García



Past PV Pres. Ismael and Alicia Perez
w/ Marti and Gil



Jaime Velazquez Jr. and lady friend.
He is the son of Peppo and Jaime
Velasquez, long time PV/SB
members.

Lifetime Membership??

Did you notice that on this year's membership application form there is a category for Lifetime Membership? The cost is \$500 per person. You may wonder why someone would opt for this???

- 1.) The perk for a donation of \$500 will give the status of a "Lifetime Membership."
- 2.) You will receive a new larger size gold badge to denote this special status.
- 3.) There is the convenience of not having to remember to renew your membership each year.
- 4.) There is also the fact that if you opt for the \$500 donation it becomes tax deductible.
- 5.) If you have an IRA retirement account and are age qualified you may want to talk to your accountant regarding the tax saving benefits if you donate from your required annual distribution.
- 6.) Funds generated from the \$500 donation will go to the **SB/PV Endowment Fund**.
- 7.) What is the **Endowment Fund**, you ask? The endowment fund is a charitable gift that keeps on giving. It was established a few years ago to establish an account that can accept tax deductible donations, such as bequests. The fund principle is invested and the proceeds are used in a number of ways, such as continued funding of scholarships for students in PV, contribution to special major project in PV or a project requiring major funding to be used from a number of sources.

There are many positive things to consider. The tax information is from members who have opted for this lifetime membership.



5 CPR Training Kits go to Puerto Vallarta Red Cross

Bret Russell President of International Firemen Training Association (IFTA) donated the attached 5 CPR in School Training Kits to Puerto Vallarta Red Cross. They are in San Juan Capistrano and Angel Nieves of Huntington Park picked them up, and had them packaged for shipment to PV. The cost came in at \$320. The SB/PV Board approved the expenditure to cover the cost of the shipping at our last board meeting. In addition, PV Red Cross has asked for this and other mannequins and equipment for their first response paramedic training school. The official request will be made in a future email.

Angel Nieves a member of the Huntington Park Sister City and has volunteered his time and car to pick up the items in San Juan Capistrano and take them to a packaging company in LA. **Cheers for Angel Nieves!!**

An example of teamwork through various organizations, helping firefighters through training to help their citizens and maybe us as well.



2024 Visit from Puerto Vallarta Members tentatively set for Fiesta

Francisco Garcia and new members would like to make their first to Santa Barbara this year during Old Spanish Days Fiesta.

We need your help!!

We do not know yet how many guests we will receive. Perhaps it may be limited to the number of people we can accommodate. Please let us know if you are willing to take a couple or two at your home. Actual date of visit has not yet been determined, but will coincide with Fiesta.

We will need a committee to help plan around Fiesta events and what other events we will plan. We will need members willing to transport our guests to different activities.

Please contact any of the board members listed on our last page if you want to help us.

Our board members are getting stretched pretty thin.

Save the date for Upcoming Events:

April 3 – SB/PV General Meeting – Cody's Café.

April 18 – Judging of art works for Young Artist and Authors Showcase (YAAS)

April 23 – YAAS Reception at Santa Barbara County Education Office Auditorium
All members, students and families are invited.

April 24 – May Meeting

SB-/PV/Rotary Joint Dinner Meeting

Wellness Awareness Month begins May 1.

Focus of meeting on the needs in our community and the services available.

Dinner catered by Mayo! Look for 'eblast' for menu, more info and to RSVP.

June 9 - Summer General Meeting – Manning Park – Area 9

July 7 - Summer Patriotic Potluck – home of Scott and Lisa Burns

Aug. 4 - Fiesta Pancake Breakfast 8 – noon with American Legion Post 49 –

A trip to Tepic – May 6, 7, 8, and ?

A trip to the city of Tepic is being planned to coincide with IFTA Firefighter training. It is known as the “Logistica Simposium Nayarit” and Gil Garcia has been asked to present a talk on “global think and local thrive”. The event is takes place on May 6, 7, 8. This is a joint effort with IFTA (International Firefighters Assn), SB/PV and the State of Nayarit.

Activities for guests and visitors will be planned around this event. Expectation is that guests will arrive a few days before event,

visit other cities and attend the closing ceremonies, for a total of about 7 -8 days. The itinerary is still in the planning stages, but if you are interested in attending, let Marti or Margaret know your interest.



Peruvian Spring Festival



Santa Barbara-Miraflores Sister Cities

Apu Peru Santa Barbara



Join us in celebrating the 1st Anniversary of Miraflores and Santa Barbara Sister Cities. Enjoy a delicious BBQ and Peruvian food, drinks, music, raffles and games.

Sunday, April 7, 2024, 2-6 p.m.

Manning Park

449 San Ysidro Rd, Montecito

Cost: \$35 Members and \$40 Non-Members

RSVP by March 31: Send your name(s) and payment to Miguel Arana at (805) 895-7635 (Zelle, Venmo, Cash, Check or Credit Card).



RSVP and send check for the Spring Festival to: Miguel Arana, PO Box 30635.
Santa Barbara, CA 93130



March General Meeting at Cody's Café

We had a lot of Irish proudly wearing their green. It was a fun night, members shared photos of their younger selves. Sebastian Aldana was able to name the 17 members that brought in their photos. An *amazing feat!* He won tickets for our opportunity drawing.



Toni Navarro, a new member and a winner of our opportunity drawing with her prize!



A happy Cathy Romero with her winning prize.



THANK YOU ALMA VAJA!

Alma made and donated these 3 holiday baskets for our drawing. Champagne and chocolates. They were very popular with lucky winners.



Barbara Najera in her Irish best and what a smile!!

Get Well Wishes

Linda Ruuska recovering from knee surgery.
Hope you are back upright and walking about!!
We hope to see you at our April meeting.



Best Wishes to new member, Esperanza de los Rios.
She will be underwent a major surgery this week.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Gil & Marti de Correa Garcia
Gary & Debora Petlow

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Rebecca Naughton

RENEWING MEMBERS

Norma & Sebastian Aldana Jr.
Romelia Alvarado
Robert & Rebecca Betancourt
James L. Brock
Bonnie Carroll
Susan Cisneros
Daniel Contreras & Marcie Pettit
Guy de Mangeon & Patricia Juin
Maria Garcia
Georgia Gastouniotis
Connie Goertz
Maria Rene Gonzalez Rios
Jorge A. Guerrero
Linda Gunther

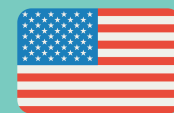
Luis Moreno & Lydia Swanson
Olive Moreno
Art & Barbara Najera
Rose O'Dea
Elvia Rivero
Martha & Antonio Rodriguez
Joe Ron & Mary L Ruiz
Linda Ruuska
Lynda Gomez Saunders
Angie Shaw
Barry S. Shulman
Lori A Sneddon
Alma R. Soto
Richard Tingstrom & Margarita Zaske

Board of Directors 2024

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Araceli 'Cheli' Hidalgo, 1 st V.P. Membership	ladylachel@hotmail.com	Newsletter Editor: Margaret Saavedra Since November 2022 Published Once per month About the 20 th
Tony De Paco, 2 nd V. P.	tonydepaco@hotmail.com	
Alicia Sorkin, Recording Scty	sorkina@msn.com	
Bonnie Carroll, Corres. Scty.	writebc@aol.com	
Marti Garcia de Correa, Treasurer	gil@gilgarcia-aia.com	
Alma Ruth Vaja	almavaja@yahoo.com	
Maria Sanchez	maria.sanchez0101@yahoo.com	
Danny Contreras	dcontreras@smardan.com	
W. Scott Burns, Director	Wscott@wsburns.com	
Zahida Carrera	zahida3@gmail.com	
Sebastian Aldana, Pres. ExOficio	sbsebas@gmail.com	



The Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board and
Children's Creative Project present



2024 Young Artists and Authors Showcase

CLIMATESCAPE: Resilient Cities for Tomorrow's Climate

Submission Categories

Writing / Poetry

Students may submit creative writing, essays, anecdotes, poetry, or other written works that follow the content guidelines. Submissions must be written in English and must not exceed 500 words.

Classic Art

Media accepted includes but is not limited to oil, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal, and colored pencils. Digital art is accepted in a separate category.

Digital Art / Photography

Digital mediums will be accepted in this category. Moving art pieces will not be accepted. Submissions must have a minimum of 1350x1080 pixels.

To submit your entry, please give finished artwork and a completed entry form to a teacher or drop them off at Children's Creative Project at 3970 La Colina Rd Suite 9, Santa Barbara, CA.

Deadline for submissions: April 12, 2024

What is YAAS?

The Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS) is an annual contest that encourages youth worldwide to express the mission of Sister Cities International through original artwork, literature, and photography.

How is it judged?

Submissions are centered around the theme of "Climatescapes" and judged based on creativity, composition, and theme interpretation.

Eligibility and Guidelines

Students are to check in with their member cities to ensure eligibility for this YAAS competition. After this coordination, the application can be filled out for submission. Students must be 13-18 years old to participate in the YAAS competition. One entry per student per category.

Are there prizes?

First and second place will be awarded in each category. First place prize is \$150, second place is \$100.

For more info, contact Kelly Mitchell at kmitchell@sbceo.org or 805.964.4710 x 4434

**The 2024 Young Artists and Authors Showcase Reception will be held on
April 23, 2024 at 4:00 PM in the SBCEO Auditorium located at
4400 Cathedral Oaks Rd, Santa Barbara, CA 93110**

Santa Barbara /Puerto Vallarta
Sister City Committee
P.O. Box 3718
Santa Barbara, CA. 93130