



2024 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee



Published August 24, 2024

Santa Barbara, California

Wednesday at Old Spanish Days Opening for 2024 – celebrating 100 years



This year's Puerto Vallarta Visitation was a great success. The new young energetic President of Puerto Vallarta Club, Francisco Garcia and his lovely wife Valeria Zamora Vargas were very impressed with Santa Barbara, just to the left and below the president. Special guests who also attended was the President-elect of Puerto Vallarta, Luis Munguia-Gonzales, the very young man with a neat beard. To the left are Marcia Bañuelos de Aguilar, newly elected council member and her spouse, Vicente Aguilar Sosa, who is Director of the Cruise Ship Terminal in Puerto Vallarta. On the right of Mr. Munguia, is the Ambassador to the Mexican Consulate, Consul Ricardo Santana Velazquez.

Thank you's are in order to the many, many members who helped make this year's visit a success!! Here is just a partial list:
Gil and Marti Garcia for hosting the welcome dinner and to all the members who brought potluck dishes.
Linda Ruuska – who was able to get great gift bags for our visitors,
Lynda's Sanders and Linda Ruuska for major set up, breakdown and clean up for the Welcome Dinner.
To Kim at the Fiesta for providing tickets to our special guests for the Fiesta Pequeña.

Mike & Sebastian putting up, taking down chairs at La Fiesta Pequeña, Las Noches de Ronda and the Fiesta Parade. It made a real difference!!!
Tony and Natalie for hosting a Greek party at their home for our guests.
Bob and Becky Betancourt for sponsoring a dolphin event at their home.
Fred Cota of American Legion Post 49 at the Veterans Memorial Bldg for allowing us to hold a special event there.
Danny Contreras for contacting the Maria Bermudez dancers to perform at the breakfast.
Bonnie Carroll for posting stories and photos of all of our happenings.



Welcome potluck on arrival night.
Elsa Famania, Vicente Sosa, Marcia Bañuelos, Margaret, SB Pres. Heriberta and Cuquis Caballero, Nena Sahaugun Peña, Valeria and Francisco and Andres Famania.



Meeting with Mayor Randy Rowse in City Hall Chambers.



Francisco, Vicente Sosa and Mayor elect Munguia



Misa del Presidente – at Mission Santa Barbara



Father Larry with guests after "Misa de los Presidentes"

Francisco and Valeria at Dolphin Fountain



Fiesta Parade watchers – Thank you thank you, Mike, Sebastian and Norma



Greek Fiesta – Opa Sheriff Bill Brown joined us to open dicussion on renewing one of our most effective programs – Law Enforcement Exchange with new PV President Francisco. Our get together was at the home of Tony and Natalie de Paco. The change of pace from Mexican food was a hit!!



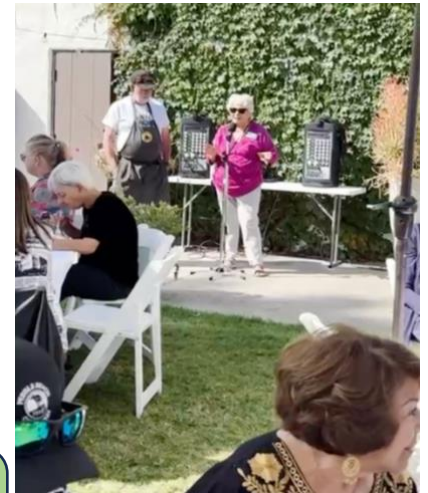


**VFW –
Post 49**

**Fiesta
Pancake
Breakfast**



It was a great morning made special by entertainment provided by Mariachi Fiesta Mexicana. They played for an hour to liven things up. Francisco joined in and he is a really good singer. Irma Segura also sang a couple of songs for us!!! Thank you Irma. Thanks to Patrick Murphy and Fred Cota of VFW Post 49.



We were honored to have flamenco dancers from Maria Bermudez's studio. It was wonderful to see the dedicated and talented young performers. Thank you very Mr. Danny Contreras for making the connections.



After leaving Santa Barbara the delegation continued to Port Hueneme. Here they are meeting at the Mexican Consulate with Consul Ricardo Santana Velazquez.



For more stories on the Puerto Vallarta Visitation see **Bonnie Carroll's** stories on online.

Please click on the following articles to see them:

[Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities Members Attend Annual Mass Together During Old Spanish Days Fiesta Centennial](https://www.edhat.com/news/santa-barbara-sister-cities-members-from-puerto-vallarta-enjoy-fiesta-centenario/)

<https://www.edhat.com/news/santa-barbara-sister-cities-members-from-puerto-vallarta-enjoy-fiesta-centenario/>

<https://voicesb.com/>

<https://www.edhat.com/news/la-fiesta-pequena-2024-a-centennial-dream-come-true/>

Follow up to our IFTA donation for training van

Brett Russell, president of International Firefighter Training Association (IFTA) acknowledges with deep appreciation the funds donated by SB/PV Sister City for the legalization of the attached donated Van for use in Mexico IFTA training symposiums throughout the states of Jalisco, Nayarit and Colima. It's anticipated that Puerto Vallarta will be a training symposium location in November of this year.



U.S. State Department Selects Sister Cities International SCI to Recruit Expo 2025 Osaka USA Pavilion Youth Ambassadors

SCI was chosen by the State Department for a \$2.2 million grant to recruit and train young leaders between 19-27 years old to live and work in Japan next year for 3-6 months during the 2025 Osaka World Expo. The applications open next week, but [here is a FAQ](https://sistercities.org/2025-osaka-youth-ambassador-program/) we just put on our website if you want to start sharing. <https://sistercities.org/2025-osaka-youth-ambassador-program/>

General meeting
Wednesday,
Sept. 4th, 2024
Cesar's Restaurant
6 – 8 p.m.
Standby for more info on
menu and entertainment

Save the date for Upcoming Events:

- September 4 Genl. Meeting at Cesar's Restaurant
- Sept 8 – 25 Patras Trip to Greece
- October 6 Cruise for the Cause
- Oct. 10 – Sister Cities International Potluck
• Dinner at Cabrillo Pavilion
- Nov. 6 - Gen'l mtg – Venue TBD
- Dec. 2 – 12 Visit to Puerto Vallarta
- Dec. 13 Posadas on State St with Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation
- Dec. 22 – December Genl. Meeting – Holiday Celebration – Moose Hall

New and renewing members:

Jacqueline Duran

Carlos Velasco

Jan Casserly-Olivas – 2024/5

Marcia and Craig Nielsen



Joe Vazquez 1938 – August 2024 was married to Alice Saragosa Vazquez. They were both long time members of Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities. Alice served as president for a few years and she was also in charge of organizing PV visitation trip for many years. Joe and Alice were frequent visitors to Puerto Vallarta and had many friends there.

Evalee I. Treen 1933 – August 2024. R.I. P.

Evie worked for the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office for over 30 years, both full-time and later as an extra-help employee. The Sheriff’s Office was her second family. The one thing she was most proud of was the Law Enforcement Exchange Program that she created through the Santa Barbara Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities Association, the City of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. As a result, there was an exchange of visits and training between the Sheriff’s Office and the Puerto Vallarta Municipal Police Department. This lasted over 15 years and expanded to include Provincial and Federal agencies. That training has been credited in saving the lives of a number of Mexican law enforcement officers. For her dedicated work in coordinating this program she was awarded the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office Distinguished Service Medal. She is greatly missed by her friends within Sister cities.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION – TIME SENSITIVE

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Ref: Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City

Annual Visitation – December 2, 2024 – December 11, 2024

Dear SB/PV Sister City Member:

Hope your summer is going well.

The annual trip to Puerto Vallarta is just around the corner and we have a great opportunity to take advantage of an Alaska Airlines group flight for the amazing amount of \$345.00 round trip. Only thing is that the entire airfare is due on September 2, 2024 (90 days prior to take-off). We need 10-30 people to sign-up for this offer. *Estimated total cost of the trip for hotel, Airbus, etc. is \$1,200.00, more details will follow.*

If you don't take advantage of this offer the airfare goes up after September 2, 2024 to \$434.00.

If you are interested in the offer, please contact one of the following people to make your reservation and pay the airfare:

Marti Correa de Garcia – 805-680-2163

Margaret Saavedra – 805-708-0770

Warm regards,

Visitation Committee

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta
Sister City Committee
P.O. Box 3718
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September Newsletter

Many thanks to our sponsor for the monthly Newsletters:

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