



2024 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee



Published October 21, 2024

Santa Barbara, California

Thursday, October 10, 2024 - Sister Cities International Dinner



Pictured with 2024 Spirits:

Georgey Taupin and Aleenah Soriano;
From Left, presidents of Santa Barbara Sister Cities: George Papazacharioudakis, Patras; Jill Stassinis, Weihai; Margarita Gonzalez Zaske, Mirflores; Randy Rowse, Mayor; Margaret Saavedra, Puerto Vallarta; Linda Maxwell, Toba
Absent: George Lilly, Kotor Montenegro

Our dinner at the Cabrillo Pavillion was a smashing success. Sister City members brought dishes from their member countries and there was food to spare. There were over 140 attendees plus our guests the Spirits and their mothers, the Mayor and our flute player, Emiliano Campobello.

General meeting Wednesday,
6 – 8 p.m. Nov. 6, 2024

Cesar's Place 712 Milpas Street.

Menu: Chile Relleno, Cheese Enchiladas

Bring your own bottle of wine!!

(\$5.00 corking fee)

Cost is \$35.00 / \$40.00 non member

Speaker is from Santa Barbara County D.A.'s Office on "How to avoid Scams and Frauds."

RSVP: sbpvsistercity805@gmail.com

Or leave message at 805-965-1573

If you must cancel your. Notify us 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.

Nominations for Board Positions

Every year we elect new directors from our membership as they complete their years of service. We seek members that are interested in getting to know more about the leadership of our organization and getting involved to help us support our projects, here and in Puerto Vallarta. Members are elected for a two year period, after which they may run for a second two year period.

A. The following are potential candidates for 4 Board vacancies:

1. **Vacant - Luz Maria Ortiz** (1st year of 1st 2-year term)
2. **Vacant - Alma Soto** (1st year of 1st 2-year term)
3. **Vacant - Jacqueline Duran** (1st year of 1st 2-year term)
4. **Vacant Gary Petlow** – (1st year of 1st 2-year term)

B. The following will continue on the Board for their 2nd year of their first 2-year term:

1. **Marti Correa de Garcia** (completes first year of two-year term)
2. **Danny Contreras** (completes first year of two-year term)
3. **Zahida Carrera** (completes first year of two-year term)

C. The following will continue on the Board for their 2nd year of their second 2-year term:

1. **Maria Sanchez** (completes second two-year term)
2. **Margaret Saavedra** (completes second two-year term)
3. **M. Bonnie Carroll** (completes second two-year term)
4. **Alicia Sorkin** (completes 2nd year, final 2-year term)

D. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, please contact Sebastian Aldana, Nominating Committee Chair.

E. SB/PV Sister City thanks the outgoing board members for their service:

Tony de Paco; Sebastian Aldana (Ex Officio), Alma Vaja, Cheli Hidalgo, and Scott Burns (declined further board service)



Alma Soto

I have been a member of Santa Barbara Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities for 3 years. I have been in Santa Barbara for 45. I have actively participated in visits to Puerto Vallarta and with our Puerto Vallarta friends when they come to Santa Barbara. I like helping out and working with other people when we have events. I would like to know more about our programs. I like being a part of Sister Cities because I feel this makes me a part of all of Santa Barbara's Sister Cities.

Reminder – Your annual Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Membership expires every December 31. You can renew at our Posada Dinner event on Dec.22 or by mail. For renewing members it is \$35.00 for the year. We will send out a separate flyer soon. If there are changes to your member information, please use the flyers to make your changes. Mail your payment to SB/PV ; P.O. Box 3718, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93130



Luz Maria Ortiz

I was born and raised in Celaya, Mexico. Graduated from Ohio State University and worked as a counselor for several years before becoming a partner in the insurance family business. I am the CFO at Smith & Ortiz Insurance Services, a company I own with my husband E. Russell Smith. I enjoy my volunteer work as a member of Rotary and the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities. As a Rotarian, I have held several positions at the club and district level: club president, district governor, and district foundation chair, among many others.

I have led/assisted in developing projects in more than 10 countries. With my husband, we fundraised and sent more than 15,000 wheelchairs worldwide. Most recently, I worked with the Wheelchair Foundation to send 500 wheelchairs to Puerto Vallarta.

My husband and I own a condo in Puerto Vallarta and spend four to six months a year there. As a member of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities, I have been able to assist in communicating with members of the RC of Puerto Vallarta Sur and the Puerto Vallarta/Santa Barbara groups as well as with the coordinators of the cancer and scholarship projects.

I love my volunteer work because it is a way to give back to the community, it gives me immense satisfaction to serve people either doing hands-on activities, writing grants, fundraising, organizing, or presenting to groups.

Gary Petlow

Gary is married to Debbie Petlow, and they have three sons. Gary is a Canadian ex-patriot who became a naturalized American and is a naval veteran. After coming to Santa Barbara in 2009, Gary joined Santa Barbara Elks Lodge and became its President in 2012. Gary has served on various finance/budget committees. Gary and his family have travelled to Puerto Vallarta since the 1980s along with his father who was a past president of Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City. Gary and Debbie, participated in the 50th SBPV anniversary and look forward to their stays in that paradise we call Puerto Vallarta. **Gary and Debbie are both “Golden Members” of SB/PV.** Golden Members donate \$500 and they no longer pay annual memberships.



Jacqueline Duran

has experience in the practice of Financial Advisory. She is the President and Founder of Duran Capital Management. She was previously a Wealth Manager and Portfolio Manager at Morgan Stanley.

Jacqueline is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara and the College of Financial Planning. Jacqueline has also acted as a leader and board member of various local nonprofit organizations. She is currently a Board member of the Montecito Association, and current Board Member of the Friendship Center. Jacqueline is a former President of the Santa Barbara Rotary North Club and past board member of Santa Barbara Sister Cities Committee. Jacqueline enjoys spending time with her husband Alex, and children Bradly and Henry. For fun, she enjoys dancing, running and skiing



**Scenes from our International Dinner
Our bartenders had a fun time !**

President of Toba, Japan Club
Linda Maxwell and
Jill Stassinis, Co-President of
Weihai, China Club



Many, many thanks to members that volunteered to make this Dinner a success!! Margarita, Lynda, Cheli, Alicia, Bonnie, Linda, Scott, Rory, Mimi Teresa, and so many others!!



Cruise for the Cause

For a number of years, Sebastian Aldana, our past president, his wife Norma and Mike Hernandez have been organizing a fundraising cruise for children with cancer in Puerto Vallarta. A big thank you to Claudia Alvarado for helping out on the cruise. Thank you, Bonnie Carroll for donating a gift basket for our fundraiser.

The cruise is a lively event, with dancing on the lower and upper decks to music by D.J. Joey Desales. Drew Wakefield, our Master of Ceremonies, was on hand to award prizes and add to the lively atmosphere. Sebastian and Norma outdid themselves with tasty burritos, and other snacks. This year there were over 70 attendees, and when we left the sun was out but many brought coats and sweats, just in case it got chilly. This year we also spotted a pod of dolphins!! The event netted about \$1500.00. The children in Puerto Vallarta have only the basics. Our funds go to provide supplemental healthy vitamin enriched beverages, and transportation to Guadalajara for chemotherapy treatments. Even though the Cruise is over, if you would like to contribute to this fund, contact Sebastian Aldana at sbsebas@gmail.com.

A happy bunch of "Cruisers"



Cheli and Laurie



Our September 2024 Dinner at Cesar's Place
Members having a good time and
Dancing to the song stylings of
Ms. Adriana Reyna.



Photos from the trip to Patras, Greece. You may recognize some members from the Puerto Vallarta Group.



Business with Asst Governor of this section of Greece.



Funny Business



Good times! It was a great trip! We saw and did a lot of great things together and we bonded. We made many new friends.



There were too many great pictures to put in the Newsletter. More photos on:
<https://www.facebook.com/RallisTravelAgency/photos>



It's not too late to join us!!



**SANTA BARBARA/PUERTO VALLARTA SISTER CITY COMMITTEE
PUERTO VALLARTA ANNUAL VISITATION
DECEMBER 2 - 11, 2024**

**TRIP PACKAGE PRICE: \$1,285.00/per person, double occupancy
\$1,703. 00 single occupancy**

THIS PRICE INCLUDES:

- Ground Transportation to/from LAX (regular SB Airbus service)
- Round Trip Airfare from LAX to/from Puerto Vallarta (economy)*
- 9 nights at the Hotel Playa Los Arcos
- For additional information you can contact the Visitation Committee:
 - Marti Correa de Garcia (805) 680-2163 (marti@gilgarcia-aia.com) or
 - Margaret Saavedra (805) 708-0770 (ik4maggie@gmail.com).

Correction: The American Legion Post 49 was our host for the Fiesta Pancake Breakfast-

Thank you again Patrick and Fred!

Save the date for Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday Nov. 6 Cesar's Place
- Dec. 2 – 12 Visit to Puerto Vallarta
- Dec. 22 – December Genl. Meeting – Holiday Celebration – Moose Hall

Board of Directors 2024

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Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta
Sister City Committee
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November Newsletter



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