



# 2024 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

## Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee



Published November 21, 2024

Santa Barbara, California



### Happenings in Puerto Vallarta

This year's "Catrina" put together by members of our sister club. Dia de Los Muertos is always a very gay affair, with it's serious side. I have fond memories of walking down the Malecon seeing all of the different soft sculptures set up for the event. Everyone is in costume and facepaint. The town is really decked out.

In photo: Cuquis Caballero, Heriberta Cabllero and Nena Sahagun.

### Newly elected Officers for 2025

At our November dinner meeting at Cesar's Restaurant on Nov. 6 the following officers were elected to the Board of Directors:

**Gary Petlow, Luz Maria Ortiz, Alma Soto, and Jacqueline Duran.** They will take office during our January Board of Directors' Meeting.

Many thanks for your service to our outgoing officers:

**Cheli Hidalgo, Alma Vaja, Tony dePaco and Scott Burns.**

Posada Holiday Gathering  
3 – 7 pm Sunday Dec. 22, 2024

Menu:

Tamales, Enchiladas,  
Salad, beans, dessert  
Music by D J Joey Desales  
Silent Auction

Cost is \$40.00 / \$45.00 non member

RSVP: [sbpvsistercity805@gmail.com](mailto: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.*



### **Medical Supplies Donated to Red Cross in PV**

Four boxes of medical supplies were donated by Maryann Sanchez, a Bakersfield member and delivered to Santa Barbara by Joe Ruiz, another Bakersfield Member. The packages were shipped to the PV Red Cross via bulk package. They were compressed into a single giant box. The cost for transportation and shipping was \$500. This expenditure was approved at our November board meeting. Joe Ruiz also donated a wheelchair and a transport chair and these will be delivered during our annual visit next week.

### **News from Sister Cities International, Carlos Capua, Chair of SCI Board of Directors**

TO: SCI Board Members and Leadership:

**Staff Update.** First, it's my pleasure to announce that the Board of Directors has **unanimously named Dr. Ricki Garrett the permanent President & CEO of Sister Cities International.** She had been serving in an interim role for the past year and done a remarkable job. From winning the \$2.2M Osaka World Expo grant to increasing membership by 30% in a little over a year, she has made a huge impact on our organization in her short time at the helm.

**Strategic Plan Update.** We had an outstanding strategic planning session in Long Beach that took the data from our member survey to focus on goals around the following **five priority areas.**

- Membership Value and Benefits
- Improved Communication
- Awareness of our Brand
- Building Partnerships
- Financial Sustainability/Stability

**Opportunities to Represent the USA.** The U.S. Speaker Program is an incredible way for U.S. citizens to represent our country abroad – click [HERE](#) and also see the attached fact sheet. **Meridian International** is recruiting cultural performers, speakers, chefs, and artists for the Osaka World Expo – click [HERE](#) for more information.

Finally, we're working on getting registration set for our 2025 U.S.-Japan Sister Cities Summit set for September 16-19, 2025 in Izumisano City, which is very close to the Osaka World Expo (and we'll spend a full day there as part of the Summit.) Stay tuned for more.

Best, Carlo Capua, [Carlo@SisterCities.org](mailto:Carlo@SisterCities.org)

#### **News from other Sister Cities:**

Weihai, China is conducting a "Sister City photo exchange contest". Weihai is seeking images of Santa Barbara beaches, the contest is called "Here and There". You may submit a maximum of 10 recent photos you have taken of Santa Barbara beaches. Selected photos of both beaches will be posted on the Weihai website. Winning photos (5 from Weihai; 5 from Santa Barbara) will be on display at our Chinese New Year dinner next year and shared with our Weihai Sister City folks.

Submission deadline for photos is December 31. Please email your photos as attachments to:

[sbweihai2020@gmail.com](mailto:sbweihai2020@gmail.com) Attn: Betsy J. Green



**A visit to Direct Relief Warehouse in Santa Barbara.**

In keeping with ongoing collaboration with other non-profit organizations, Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities invited the incoming Rotary District Governor; Enrique Garcia and Mary Lou Garcia, his wife to visit the Direct Relief Offices in Santa Barbara. The purpose of the visit was to learn how Rotary Clubs in US and Mexico can support the Direct Relief mission in Mexico. Ms. Olivia Rennacker provided a tour and spoke of the worldwide operation conducted out of Santa Barbara. Flags in the photo represent the many countries that Direct Relief has provided lifesaving supplies and support to during and through emergencies. The warehouse and the work that Direct Relief accomplishes is incredibly amazing and awesome. There is a Direct Relief Office in Mexico City and we had the opportunity to conduct a zoom meeting with the director there.

Incoming Mexico Rotary District Governor : Enrique Garcia and his wife, Mary Lou Garcia, Gil and Marti Garcia and Margaret Saavedra



November 9, 2024 I was privileged to see my Uncle Joe Ruiz receive a humanitarian award from the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He was recognized for his years of service to the Eagles, and for beginning a support group for Veterans. His service also extends to donating and transporting wheel chairs and medical supplies to Santa Barbara for shipment to Puerto Vallarta.

Maryann and Robert Sanchez are also active in the Eagles in Bakersfield, Robert was selected most valuable member for 2024 and Maryann is a past president of the Women’s Auxiliary. Maryann and Robert have participated in many fundraising trips to Puerto Vallarta.

**SANTA BARBARA/PUERTO VALLATA SISTER CITY ANNUAL VISIT  
ITINERARY - DECEMBER 02 – DECEMBER 11, 2024**

	<b>Monday - 12/02/24</b>	
5:40 AM	Santa Barbara Airbus (departs at 5:50 AM @ La Cumbre Shopping Center )	
11:48 AM	LAX – Alaska Airlines 680 - Departs for Puerto Vallarta	
4:43 PM	Arrives Puerto Vallarta Airport, Transport to hotel by Puerto Vallarta friends –Check-in at Hotel Playa los Arcos	
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b><i>Welcome dinner at Hotel Playa Los Arcos Restaurant</i></b>	No cost
	<b>Tuesday – 12/03/24</b>	
9:00 AM	Welcome breakfast short walk to River Café Restaurant -	<b><u>hosted</u></b>
12:30 PM	Visit to the “Ayuntamiento” to greet the Mayor/Presidente	
3:30 PM	<b><u>Ritmos de la Noche – sign up optional.</u></b>	\$130 pp
	<b>Wednesday – 12/04/24</b>	
<u>10:00</u>	Visit to DIF , example of small clinic for rehab and a visit to the Cruz Roja – optional car pool transportation	
6 – 10 pm	Dinner at Casa de Familia Arellano - you may take a small gift	<b><u>hosted</u></b>
	<b>Thursday – 12/05/24</b>	
9:00	Rotary Breakfast Marriott Hotel - sign up on What’s app - optional	<b><u>\$15.00</u></b>
2:00 PM	Lunch at Club de Pesca (Hamburgo 195 Col. Versailles).- hosts will Provide transportation – meal and music	<b><u>???</u></b>
	<b>Friday – 12/06/24</b>	
	<b>Trip to Maripisario</b> — includes lunch 4 – 6 hours – sign up asap – need to reserve transportation	\$70.00 p.p. (optiona)
	<b>Saturday – 12/07/24</b>	
	<b>Trip to Aguas Thermales</b> – day trip leave about 8 return about 5 pm. Two hour drive, meal not included	\$30.00 pp optional
<b><u>5 – 7 pm</u></b>	Arte Vallarte –Exhibition & Reception for University artwork	n/c
	<b>Sunday – 12/08/24</b>	
9:00 AM	Breakfast at El Nogal at Eco Park	Hosted???
5:00 PM	Pilgrimage Fiesta Guadalupana – walk starts at Woolworth to the Church. – wear white	

	<b><u>Monday – 12/09/24</u></b>	
9 – 1 pm	<b>Botanic Garden.</b> Lunch not included 9- 1:00pm – sign up	
1:30	Meeting between both SB & PV Boards. (Bd members only). Location TBD	
6:00 PM	Dinner – courtesy of the H. Ayuntamiento, Patio de Presidente	No cost
	<b>Tuesday – 12/10/24</b>	
7 or 8 am	<b>Visit to Tehua/Mixtle 7 or 8 am</b> – stop at pueblito w/artisanal baker for bread w/a cup of chocolate, to El Tuito for Breakfast and then to Tehua/Mixtle for lunch. Return approximately 5:00 p.m. Meals not included	Cost for bus is \$30.00 p.p. <i>optional</i>
5:00 – 7:00 pm	Reception at the Arte Vallarta Gallery (Calle Pilitas 213, Col. E.Zapata). Houses large collection of works by Javier Niño.	

	<b>Wednesday–12/11/24</b>	
10:30 am	<b>Breakfast at Andales</b>	
12:15 PM	Leave for Puerto Vallarta Airport	
3:12 PM	PV – Departs Alaska Airlines Flight #AS0680	
4:30 PM	Arrives Los Angeles Airport	
5:30 or 7:30 PM	Pick-up by Santa Barbara Airbus	
10:30 PM	Arrives @ La Cumbre Plaza -upper lot	

## NEWS FROM PUERTO VALLARTA SISTER CLUB

The president Francisco Garcia has started a cleanup campaign in Puerto Vallarta. He has a logo and had shirts created for the members. Many are sister city members but he also has broad support from the community!!



## Reception for Artist Javier Niño

Tuesday Nov. 19, PV members and members of the community were invited to an Open House at the home of Marti and Gil Garcia. Javier Niño arrived with his wife Natalia and pup for a quick visit before heading to Port Hueneme and La Quinta. Members were treated to some of the works of Javier Niño. He had several of his fanciful and colorful works on display. There was a steady stream of visitors who were awed by his work. We are scheduled to visit 'Arte Vallarta' when we are in Puerto Vallarta, where he has the bulk of his work on display.



Standing Gil, Luz Maria and Javier Niño  
Seated, Ann Hefferman, Natalia and pup and  
Kathy Koury, holding a friendly Mermaid.



Gil Garcia, Javier Niño and Luz Maria Ortiz  
Holding the fanciful and colorful 'Possum  
family'.



Cheli Hidalgo sharing with Javier a black  
and white drawing that he gifted to her  
parents, many, many, years ago in 1985!!

## Membership Renewal

Don't forget your membership ends on Dec. 31 each year.  
No price increase this year, the cost remains at \$35.00 per person.  
Please be sure to notify of any change in your contact information.

If you would like a membership application, please contact

Cheli Hidalgo [ladylachel@hotmail.com](mailto:ladylachel@hotmail.com)

or Margaret Saavedra [Lk4maggie@gmail.com](mailto:Lk4maggie@gmail.com)

Marti Correa de Garcia [marti@gilgarcia-aia.com](mailto:marti@gilgarcia-aia.com)

### 2025

#### **New members, returning members and renewals:**

Angelica Martel - new  
Lisa Thomas – new  
Miguel Arana – renewal  
Elsy G. Nelson - renewal  
Rory Moore and  
Mignon “Mimi” Bradley,  
Returning members

#### **Get well cards were sent to members**

Lucrezia Mendez, Teresa Dorado and  
Elvia Rivera



Renewal:  
Josie Schreier  
Thank you, for  
becoming a  
Lifetime Member

### Board of Directors 2024

Margaret Saavedra, President.	<a href="mailto:Lk4maggie@gmail.com">Lk4maggie@gmail.com</a>	
Araceli 'Cheli' Hidalgo, 1 <sup>st</sup> V.P.	<a href="mailto:ladylachel@hotmail.com">ladylachel@hotmail.com</a>	Newsletter Editor: Margaret Saavedra Since November 2022 Published Once per month About the 20 <sup>th</sup>
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Bonnie Carroll, Director	<a href="mailto:writebc@aol.com">writebc@aol.com</a>	
Marti Garcia de Correa, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:marti@gilgarcia-aia.com">marti@gilgarcia-aia.com</a>	
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Zahida Carrera	<a href="mailto:zahida3@gmail.com">zahida3@gmail.com</a>	
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**Scam warning** – if you receive an email request from someone in Sister Cities asking for gift cards or to send money thru Zelle –**do not send money**. It is a SCAM. Sister Cities will never ask for money or gift cards in an email.

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta  
Sister City Committee  
P.O. Box 3718  
Santa Barbara, Ca. 93130  
**December 2024 Newsletter**