



2026 JANUARY NEWSLETTER Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee



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Santa Barbara, California

Visit to Guadalajara and Puerto Vallarta 12/1 – 11, 2025

By popular request, our annual visitation this year included a visit to Guadalajara before we visited Puerto Vallarta. We stayed in downtown Guadalajara, close to the Metropolitan Cathedral, Plaza Central, Degollado Theater, the Instituto de Cabanas Culturales, featuring the murals of José Clemente Orozco and David Álfaro Siqueiros. After we did all that, we had fun. We got to ride on a 'Carousel', we had dinner and danced to Mariachis at the Santo Coyote Restaurant. We shopped in Tlaquepaque and visited a candy store, went to the town of Tequila for tequila tasting, to Lake Chapala and we stopped off at Vicente Fernandez's ranch and took a boat ride in Ajijic. Whew it was a lot but it was fun!! We had a great group of friendly, happy people!!





What happens in Guadalajara, stays in Guadalajara! Not!! Sorry, not sorry..... To funny not to share



Grown people, acting like kids!! It's just great!!





We stopped for a visit with Vicente Fernandez at his ranch on the way to Tequila for genteel tequila tasting. Then there was tequila bottoms up, tequila chugging or what??? The tour guides **made us** drink and dance. It's the tour guides' fault we had a great fun time





Some people, never miss a chance for a 'sappy' pose. Aww cute!



Some may recognize Emmanuel Gonzalez, about 5 years ago he spent 6 months with the Garcia's. He met us in Ajijic with his wife who is expecting a little one in the new year. It was nice to see our young friend again.



Boat ride on Lake Chapala.



Welcome Breakfast at Santo Coyote in Vallarta. Many old friends and our favorite singers, Herenka and Curiel. It was a truly great event, excellent venue and delicious food. Many thanks to President Francisco Garcia and the Board of Directors of our Puerto Vallarta Sister Club.



Membership Renewal for 2026
Your annual membership ends on Dec. 31. The membership 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 sbpvsistercity805@gmail.com or Margaret Saavedra Lk4maggie@gmail.com



In honor of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12, many residents participate in the traditional Pilgrimage. On Monday evening, many of our group participated in the walk. It was a time to get together and meet old friends, see new sights.





Serious joint meeting of SB/PV Board and the PV/SB Board of directors at work in the City Offices.

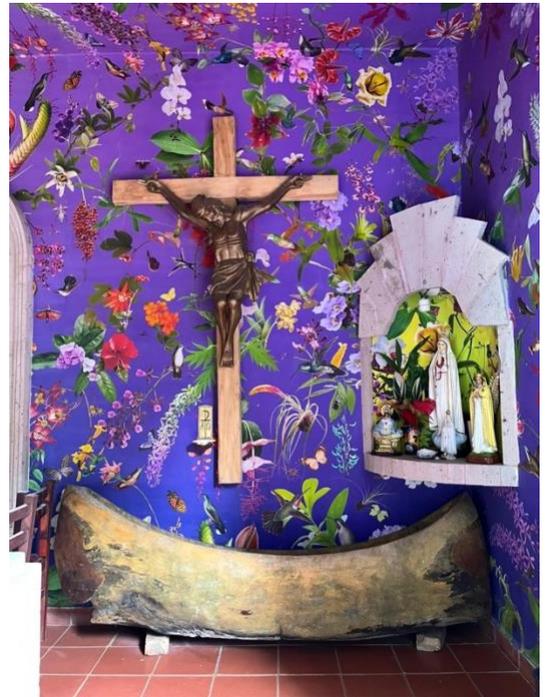
Board members at Play.



There were no winners/losers in this race, as you can see it was a photo finish!



A visit to the Puerto Vallarta Botanic Garden is always hit!



Each year the City of Puerto Vallarta and the Mayor holds a dinner for the members of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City during our visit. It was a grand affair with beautiful table settings, delicious food, music by Mariachi Fernando Fernandez and dancing with a lively deejay.

DIVAC is the association for disabled persons in Puerto Vallarta. The building space was made available to them by sponsor Ivan Applegate, himself a quadriplegic. It is located adjacent to the Santa Barbara Rehabilitation Clinic.



We visited with the Mothers of Children w/Cancer at DIVAC. The mothers wanted to show their appreciation for our support in their training classes. Bob and Becki Betancourt got to meet the family they sponsored as did Mary Frink and Aurora Hendrix.



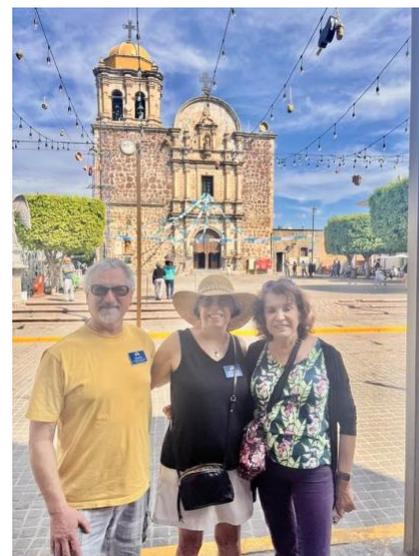
Our visit to DIF

DIF is a government program providing PT and OT to low-income residents of Vallarta. We asked them to let us know of their needs. Our board approved their request for a very expensive electrical stimulation therapy device. Marti is pictured with the husband whose wife is receiving treatment. The staff were thrilled to receive the device and use it extensively with very good results.



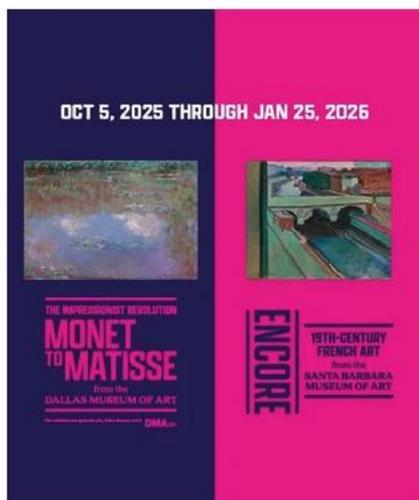


More misc.
photos:



A message from the editor: The Newsletter is late this month because our group just returned from our annual visit to PV, our Posada Celebration and of course I was busy with the Holidays. I generally do enjoy producing the Newsletter because it challenges me to learn new things. The 23rd or 25th is about when I start working on it but you will certainly have it in enough time to RSVP for our monthly dinner meetings. If you have photos or item to share, or want to know about certain things, please contact me. Margaret Saavedra lk4maggie@gmail.com

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta
Sister City Committee
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January 2026 Newsletter



A beautiful exhibition at our Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Exhibit runs through January 25, 2026.