



# FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

## Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee



Published January 23, 2026

Santa Barbara, California



General Meeting, Wed. Feb. 11, 2026

**Cody's Cafe 4898 Hollister Ave**

**Turnpike Shopping Center**

**Salmon or Pot Roast**

Cost is \$45.00 / \$50.00 non member

**RSVP by Feb. 4, 2026:** [Sbpvsistercity805@gmail.com](mailto:Sbpvsistercity805@gmail.com)

w/your meal choice, or leave a message at 805-965-1573. If you can't make it, you must call to cancel your rsvp asap. If you do not cancel in advance, you will be charged for your meal.

Celebrate Valentine's Day with us. Share with us how you met your 'loved one'.

*Wear red, white or pink!!*

Bring a photo of yourself at the age you were when you met your partner.

**Dinner Meetings: Your RSVP is important** Please RSVP in a timely manner for our general meetings. The event committee calculates costs on the total number of replies and the cost includes any music if needed, cost of venue, etc. If we have a number no-shows, we pay for the meals anyway. If a member notifies that he/she will not be attending as planned, we can contact others if we have a waiting list. If you don't notify us we can't fill your seat. If we can't fill the seat, you will be asked to pay for your meal.

## Sister City Memorial for Dr. Michael Lemus

### Clean tiles

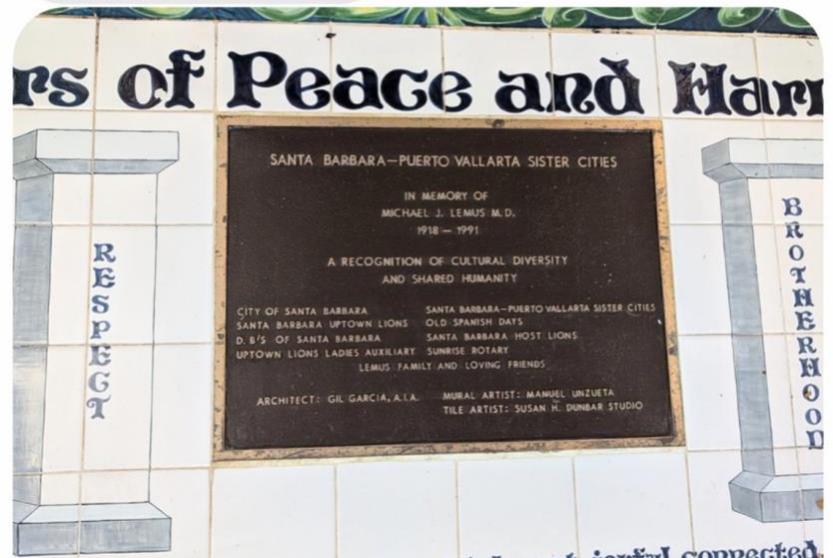
BIG THANK YOU TO CARLOS VELASCO



This beautiful Memorial was erected in honor of Dr. Michael Lemus's contributions to the Santa Barbara/ Puerto Vallarta Sister City Program. It depicts the guiding principles of a Sister City Relationship. A relationship that is based on the Pillars of Friendship, Respect, Brotherhood, and Love, as depicted in the mural. It is located at the very far end of McKenzie Park.

Sadly, this area was designated as a Dog Park. To view this Memorial the public now has to walk thru the gated dog area. Nor is, there a barrier to keep dogs from soiling the area around the Memorial. That it was soiled and ignored was brought to our attention by a citizen. Upon hearing of this, Carlos Velasco, a member and former President, took matters in hand and cleaned up the Memorial, as you see in the pictures here!!! Thank you, Thank you, Carlos!!

### Clean plaque





## SPARKLE - Dec. 21, 2025 Posada Holiday Celebration

Our Posada celebration was a hit and well attended. Members took our theme to heart “SPARKLE” and shimmered dressed in sequins and sparkles for the glittery look. Our traditional Posada reenactment was led by Tere Jurado. A special guest was a dynamic little singer Alina Rey. After the entertainment and our meal, music was played by DJ Joey Desales. Our members do enjoy dancing and they did until the music ended.

Many wonderful items were donated for the silent auction and we raised over \$500. Thanks to all of our members who made the donations, the Betancourt’s, Maria Elena (Nena) Hidalgo and Margaret Saavedra to name a few.

Thanks also go to members Maria Sanchez, Maria O. Garcia, Marti Correa and Lynda Gomez Saunders for decorating and serving. Many thanks to Cheli for being in charge of door and receiving dinner payments!!

### **Board of Directors News**

A joint meeting of the outgoing board and new incoming board was held Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026. After the joint meeting was adjourned the new Board, remained for a Board Retreat. Newly elected members and returning members take time to plan events for the year, get acquainted with our annual budget, and review events of the past year and what we want to do for 2026. It is a very basic introduction for new members on how SB/PV functions.

An election for Board of Directors was held at our Posada Celebration. The following were elected for a term of two years.

Cheli Hidalgo  
Danny Contreras  
Alma Vaja

Marti Correa de Garcia  
Sebastian Aldana

#### **SB/PV Sister City thanks the outgoing board members for their service:**

- 1. Claudia Alvarado – was appointed to fill a vacancy but resigned due to change of work schedule. Claudia continues to be active and is present to supports our other events.**
- 2. Zahida Carrera – Resigned due to conflict with her work and family schedule.**
- 3. Bonnie Carroll – Also termed out after serving two terms of two years each. Bonnie has been a very valuable member due to her innovative ideas and experience in public relations.**
- 4. Margaret Saavedra – Termed out -served two terms of two years, during her terms she served as President and recording secretary.**
- 5. Maria Sanchez – Termed out – served two terms of two years each. Maria actively solicited prizes for our raffles and auctions. She also brought in over 40 new members to our Sister City Committee. Wow!!**
- 6. Alicia Sorkin – Termed out after serving two terms of two years. During her term, Alicia served as the recording secretary.**
- 7. Alma Soto – Resigned due to personal family issues.**

If you are interested in finding out more or joining our board, please contact, Margaret Saavedra or Gil Garcia for more information. A board appointee must be in good standing (dues paid) and have been an SB/PV member for at least one year to be eligible for a board appointment.

# Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee

## New and Renewing Membership Form, 2026

*(Annual dues expire December 31<sup>st</sup>)*

\$35 (individual) \_\_\_\_\_ \$70 (couple) \_\_\_\_\_ Hard copy newsletter (optional) \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

**New Members – only:** name tag(s) \$10 each \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**(If you do not receive a confirmation email, please check your spam email.)**

### **PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

Check payable to: **SB/PV Sister City Committee** Ck # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card : (circle one) Visa Master Card Discover American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code # \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Total of Membership dues \$35 each.....	\$ _____
Member Name Tag(s) \$10 each- <b>New members only</b> .....	\$ _____
Credit Card Processing Fee, if applicable \$1.00 .....	\$ _____
Hard copy newsletter (optional) \$10.00.....	\$ _____
Additional Donation (project of your choice) .....	\$ _____
<b>Lifetime Membership (\$500.00) per person</b> .....	\$ _____
Total Payment.....	\$ _____

*“There is no prorating of dues; dues expire on Dec 31 each year.”*

Mail entire form and payment to

SB/PV Sister City Committee PO Box 3718 Santa Barbara, CA 93130

Questions, please contact Marti Correa de Garcia, President (805) 680-2163 or

Margaret Saavedra, 805-708-0770, President, Ex Officio, Thank you!!

**Website:** [sbpvsistercity.org](http://sbpvsistercity.org).

Not-Profit Federal Tax ID #237398069.

**Time to Renew** - The dues are only \$35.00. As a member you receive the monthly Newsletter that keeps you up-to-date on the local happenings and in Puerto Vallarta. You get a \$5.00 discount on your monthly dinner. You have access to trips to Puerto Vallarta at very reasonable rates and information on trips sponsored by our other Santa Barbara Sister Cities.

News from Santa Barbara's Other Sister Cities

**Miraflores, Peru:** The Miraflores, Peru group will hold their Holiday Celebration on Feb. 1, 2026 at the Moose Hall. Another trip to Peru is planned, dates are from April 14 –29, 2026. This year's trip will include a visit to the Galapagos Islands and the Amazon Rainforest. Contact: margagonz@hotmail.com

**Patras, Greece:** Plans in the works for a social for the membership, and also planning a wine tasting fundraiser.

**Weihai, China:** Feb. 20, 2026 – SB/Weihai will celebrate their 30 year Anniversary and Chinese New Year. Contact SB-Weihai at email: [sbweihai2020@gmail.com](mailto:sbweihai2020@gmail.com). Weihai also has a monthly 'Dim Sum Brunch' usually the first Sunday of the month at China Pavillion, rsvp to [bjgreen07@gmail.com](mailto:bjgreen07@gmail.com).

**Toba, Japan:** The Toba Sister City Group will hold a Shin Nen Kai Celebration for the Year of the Horse. The date is Feb. 29, 2026 at the Unitarian Church, at 1535 Santa Barbara, St. Contact is Rory Moore [acquitter@hotmail.com](mailto:acquitter@hotmail.com) to rsvp for this event.

**2026 Members, New and Renewals**

- Paul S. Blanke \*
- Tere Jurado \*
- Rey Penzaloza \*
- James Saavedra\*
- Christina Kahn
- Dan Kahn
- Amada Larin

\* new members



Correction: Last month's Newsletter incorrectly listed Aurora Hendricks as the sponsor of this mother and her family. The actual sponsor prefers to remain anonymous.

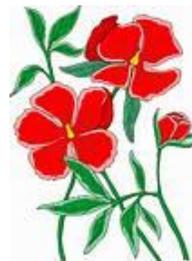
**Board of Directors 2026**

- Marti Garcia de Correa,
- Danny Contreras,
- Gary Petlow,
- Jacqueline Duran
- Cheli Hidalgo,
- Alma Vaja,
- Sebastian Aldana
- Appointed by Pres.
- Marisela Katsapis
- Carlos Velasco
- Martha Chavez
- Antonio Rodriguez
- Margaret Saavedra, Recording Scty. &
- President Ex Oficio
- Newsletter Editor Since November
- 2022

**LIFETIME MEMBERS**

- Barbara Ahlman
- John Ahlman
- Yvonne Chen
- Gil Garcia
- Marti Correa de Garcia
- Cheli Hidalgo
- Debora & Gary Petlow
- Josie Schreier
- Takako Wakita

**Best Wishes for your  
Good Health and  
Positive Outcome to:  
Bonnie Carroll**



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