



2026 MARCH NEWSLETTER

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee



Published Feb. 26, 2026

Santa Barbara, California



Swearing in the 2026 Board of Directors at Cody's Café

The new Board Members Oath of Office was presented by Tere Jurado. Board members present for the swearing in were, l to r, Marti Correa de Garcia, Cheli Hidalgo, Marisela Katsapis, Martha Chavez, Antonio Rodrigues, Tere Jurado Alma Vaja, Sebastian Aldana and Danny Contreras.

There was a good turnout and everyone dressed in colors of red and pink. It was a very pretty sight. Cody's, as usual, presented a great meal. This year we had tons of 'door' prizes, many, many new and unusual items were auctioned.

Everyone had a great time seeing their sister city friends and catching up after the holidays.

General Meeting Dinner
Wed. March 11, 2026
6:00 – 8:00 pm.

VENUE To Be Determined
Updated info will be sent by
Email blast

RSVP by Saturday March 7

Sbpvsistercity805@gmail.com

Or leave message at 805-965-1573

If you have to cancel your reservation, please advise as soon as possible. Three days notice is required if you need to cancel. If it is a same day cancellation, you will be charged for cost because the order has been placed.



Santa Barbara - Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee Wednesday, February 11, 2026

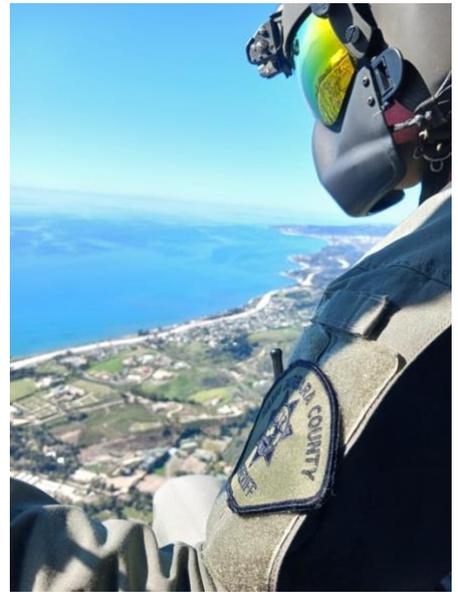


@TereJurado805



Sheriff's Department provides special training for PV Police Officers

The very popular and increasingly important exchange has been implemented again. There was a hiatus of several years due to staff shortages and needs of the department locally. Sheriff Bill Brown has been supportive of continuing this exchange. Carlos Velasco worked with Juan Camarena, of the Sheriff's office as a liaison for the police officers from Puerto Vallarta. The officers receive 5 full days of training in many different aspects of police work. The officers were warmly welcomed for an impromptu dinner on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the home of Marti and Gil Garcia. Board Members were invited and present were Carlos Velasco, Cheli Hidalgo, Sebastian Aldana and Margaret Saavedra. On the following night they were hosted to a pozole dinner at the home of Mayo Villalpando. Guy de Mangeon, the Berryman, generously hosted all of the officer at his home and provided other meals. Thank you, Guy for your generosity!!

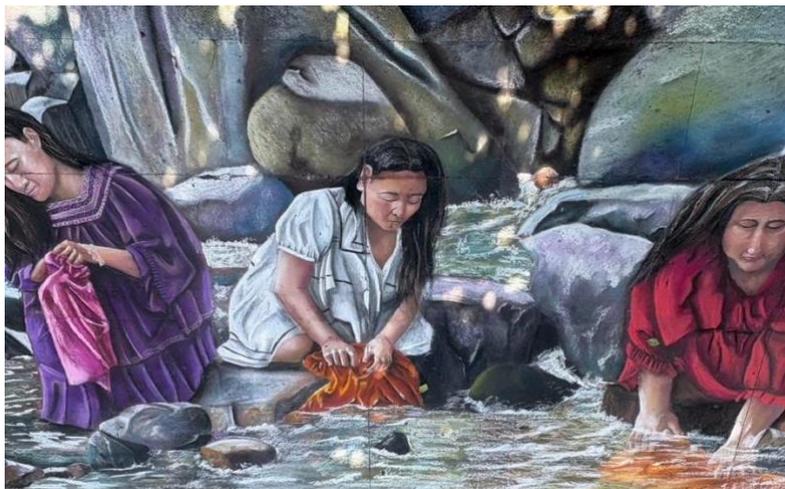




Puerto Vallarta I Madonnari Festival
Feb. 13, 14, 15, 2026
 Sponsored by Puerto Vallarta/ Santa Barbara Sister City. In the photo are PV/SB members, Council persons and artists. There were many, many beautiful drawings deserving of recognition.



First Place: Andrea Angeles –
 SPONSOR: Cafe de los Artistas
Second Place: Angel Eduardo Hernandez Espinoza
 Sponsors: Manuel Garcia – Firefighters
Third Place: María Guadalupe Hernandez Nuñez
 Sponsor: Aromas de Café



Aimee Nielsen RIP 1971- 12/25/25
 Aimee was a board member, and served as recording secretary in 2018-2019 under then President Carlos Velasco. Aimee relocated to Bakersfield, CA. She passed last year on Christmas Day. Aimee was the daughter of Craig and Marcia Nielsen, also very active longtime members of Santa Barbara Sister Cities.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

With gratitude and a strong sense of commitment, I would like to inform you that I was re-elected to serve once again as President of the Santa Bárbara – Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities Association (A.C.), for the 2026–2028 term.

I deeply appreciate the trust placed in me. I reaffirm my full commitment to continue working with responsibility, unity, and enthusiasm to strengthen the bonds of sisterhood and cooperation—cultural, social, and human—between our communities.

Sincerely,
Francisco Garcia, President
Puerto Vallarta/ SB Sister Cities Association



The Santa Barbara Six!! Marti, Mike Hernandez, Gil, Maria Garcia, Angela Cipriano and Alicia Baltadano. They went to get healthy and had a big adventure. How they got out is a story in itself. The connections made thru IFTA helped them to make it out safely and take flights home. Gil spoke with many of our friends in PV and they are all safe. We are so glad all are safe and on their way back home to Santa Barbara !!

Board of Directors 2026

Marti Garcia de Correa, President

Danny Contreras

Gary Petlow, Treasurer

Cheli Hidalgo

Alma Vaja

Sebastian Aldana

Jacqueline Duran

Carlos Velasco

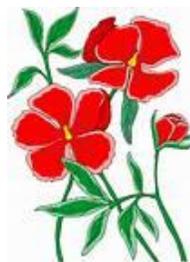
Marisela Katsapis

Martha Chavez

Antonio Chavez

Margaret Saavedra, Ex Oficio

Newsletter Editor Since November 2022





Don't forget to renew your membership for 2026.
You can renew at the March Dinner.



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