



2026 APRIL NEWSLETTER

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee



Published Mar. 26, 2026

Santa Barbara, California



Santa Barbara-Puerto Vallarta SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 11, 2026



@TereJurado805

March General Meeting

Our speaker was Carl Lovegren. He works in Puerto Vallarta with the AFCC Families of Children with Cancer. He encouraged the use of oxygenated water as therapy in specially purchased pool for them. He has seen the children improve and the kids have a great time splashing in the water.

Cesar's Place, as usual they did a wonderful job for us!! Plenty of food with Mexican Lenten specialties like "tortitas de camarón con nopal" y caldo de lentejas. Desserts like flan and 'capirotada'. All was delicious, more food than we could eat.

General Meeting Dinner
Wed. April 16
Mental Wellness Center
617 Garden St.
6:00 – 8:30 pm
Rsvp: sbpvsistercity805@gmail.com

Cost \$40 members / \$45 non members
Music by Darla Bea
Joint Fundraiser with
Santa Barbara Rotary Clubs
More info on page 5

Presented by
The Santa Barbara
Sister Cities Board
and
Children's
Creative Project

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
Students aged 12 to 18 can submit one entry per category, with a signed guardian entry form required for each submission.

Submissions due: Thursday, March 19, 2026

POETRY & SHORT ESSAY **HANDCRAFTED 2D ART** **DIGITAL ART & PHOTOGRAPHY**

HOW CAN I SUBMIT MY WORK?
To submit your entry, please provide the finished artwork or written work along with a completed entry form to a teacher, or you can drop them off at the Children's Creative Project located at 3970 La Colina Rd, Suite 9 in Santa Barbara by **March 19, 2026**.

ARE THERE PRIZES?
Winners in each category will receive a check: \$150 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$75 for third place. Students in Jr High can earn \$75 for winning in their category.

HOW WILL IT BE JUDGED?
Entries must focus on the theme "Voices of Today, Visions of Tomorrow" and will be assessed by a panel of judges based on creativity, composition, and interpretation of the theme.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

For questions or more info visit ccp.sbceo.org/yaas-info or contact kmitchellsbceo.org or (805) 324-7937

The 2026 YAAS Awards Reception will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 4:00 PM in the SBCEO Auditorium located at 4400 Cathedral Oaks Rd, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

**Young Artist and Author's
Showcase (YAAS)**
Thursday, April 9, 2026
All Santa Barbara's Sister Cities
Participate in this celebration of art
by young artists in our community.
You are invited to attend this
reception at the Santa Barbara
County Education Office
Thurs. April 9, 2026
4:00 p.m.

Board of Directors Update March 4, 2026

Board Officers selected for 2026 :

- President – Marti Correa de Garcia,
- 1st VP – Cheli Hidalgo ,
- 2nd VP – Marisela Katsapis ,
- Treasurer – Gary Petlow,
- Recording Scty. Margaret Saavedra (past President),
- Corresponding Scty. Sebastian Aldana

Other Actions Approved by the Board:

- The Board approved a \$90 donation to Santa Barbara Sister City Advisory Board to maintain membership in the South Coast Chamber of Commerce
- Approved the purchase of an 8/12ft I Madonnari Square for visiting PV artists
- Approved \$600 request by the Cruz Roja for urgently needed medical equipment
- Approved Resolution to honor Cuquis Caballero Ortiz for her efforts and support of Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities – see below
- Ongoing reports – looking into creating a Zelle account for SB/PV
- Puerto Vallarta delegation set to visit July 1 – 8, 2026



SANTA BARBARA-PUERTO VALLARTA

**SANTA BARBARA/PUERTO VALLARTA
SISTER CITY COMMITTEE, INC.**

In Memoriam of Cuquis Caballero Ortiz

To the Family of Cuquis Caballero Ortiz and the
Puerto Vallarta-Santa Barbara Sister City Committee



With gratitude and respect, Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City honors the life and legacy of Cuquis Caballero Ortiz, a cherished member of the Puerto Vallarta community and a devoted champion of international sister city friendship. For many years, Cuquis Caballero served with dedication as a member and Past President of the Puerto Vallarta-Santa Barbara Sister City Committee.

Through her leadership, generosity, and warm spirit, she helped strengthen the special bond between the people of Puerto Vallarta and the people of Santa Barbara. The sister-city relationship between our two cities is more than an official partnership. It is a living friendship—built through shared culture, mutual respect, and the welcoming hearts of individuals who believe in bringing communities together. Cuquis Caballero was one of those individuals.

She welcomed visitors to her beautiful city, participated in cultural exchanges, and inspired many others to support the mission of friendship between nations. Her kindness and commitment helped ensure that the connection between Puerto Vallarta and Santa Barbara would continue to grow stronger with each passing year.

Those who knew Cuquis remember not only her dedication, but also her warmth, her generosity, and her love for community. She represented the very best spirit of Puerto Vallarta: hospitality, pride in her culture, and a sincere desire to build bridges with the world. We all express our deepest appreciation for her years of service and for the legacy she leaves behind.

Her contributions will continue to be remembered through the friendships she helped create and the enduring partnership between our sister cities. May her memory remain a blessing to her family, her friends, and to all who had the privilege of working beside her. And may the bridge of friendship she helped build between Puerto Vallarta and Santa Barbara continue to stand strong for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Marti Correa de Garcia – President
Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Friends

Presents this Memoriam of behalf of all her friends in the Sister City Program



P.O. BOX 3718 SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA 93130



**SANTA BARBARA/PUERTO VALLARTA
SISTER CITY COMMITTEE, INC.**

En memoria de Cuquis Caballero Ortiz

A la familia de Cuquis Caballero Ortiz y al Comité de Ciudades Hermanas Puerto Vallarta-Santa Bárbara



Con gratitud y respeto, la Ciudad Hermana Santa Bárbara/Puerto Vallarta honra la vida y el legado de Cuquis Caballero Ortiz, una querida miembro de la comunidad de Puerto Vallarta y una devota defensora de la amistad internacional entre ciudades hermanas. Durante muchos años, Cuquis Caballero Ortiz sirvió con dedicación como miembro y expresidenta del Comité de Ciudades Hermanas Puerto Vallarta-Santa Bárbara.

Con su liderazgo, generosidad y espíritu cálido, contribuyó a fortalecer el vínculo especial entre los habitantes de Puerto Vallarta y Santa Bárbara. La relación de hermandad entre nuestras dos ciudades es más que una simple colaboración oficial. Es una amistad viva, construida a través de la cultura compartida, el respeto mutuo y el corazón acogedor de quienes creen en la unión de las comunidades. Cuquis Caballero Ortiz fue una de esas personas.

Recibió a los visitantes en su hermosa ciudad, participó en intercambios culturales e inspiró a muchos otros a apoyar la misión de la amistad entre las naciones. Su amabilidad y compromiso contribuyeron a que la conexión entre Puerto Vallarta y Santa Bárbara se fortaleciera año tras año.

Quienes conocieron a Cuquis recuerdan no solo su dedicación, sino también su calidez, generosidad y amor por la comunidad. Representó el mejor espíritu de Puerto Vallarta: hospitalidad, orgullo por su cultura y un sincero deseo de construir puentes con el mundo. Todos expresamos nuestro más profundo agradecimiento por sus años de servicio y por el legado que deja.

Sus contribuciones seguirán siendo recordadas a través de las amistades que ayudó a forjar y la duradera colaboración entre nuestras ciudades hermanas. Que su memoria siga siendo una bendición para su familia, sus amigos y todos los que tuvieron el privilegio de trabajar a su lado. Y que el puente de amistad que ayudó a construir entre Puerto Vallarta y Santa Bárbara se mantenga firme para las generaciones venideras.

Con Amor y Cariño,

Marti Correa de García – Presidente

Comité de Ciudades Hermanas de Santa Bárbara/Puerto Vallarta
Otorga este memorial en nombre de todos los amigos del Programa de Ciudades Hermanas



Puerto Vallarta Delegation to visit July 1, - 8, 2026. Do you a space or a room to bring Puerto Vallarta into your home? Can you help with transportation or day trips? Please contact the Visitation Committee. Gil, Marisela, and you can become a member of our committee. This visit will fall around the Independence Day Holiday, suggestions for activities are welcome. We want to hear from you.



An Evening for Mental Wellness
Thursday, April 16, 2026
5:30 PM Reception | 6:30 PM Dinner

Dinner: \$40 Members \$45 Non-members | **Wine Available for Small Donation** | **Silent Auction Fundraiser!** | **Outdoor Patio with Music**

What
 Hosted in partnership with **Santa Barbara–Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities** and **Rotary**, this special event gathers community members together around a shared commitment to advancing mental health and wellness for all.

Your Impact
 All funds raised will support **Mental Wellness Center**, a nonprofit dedicated to improving mental wellness through education and access to support programs and services that are free of charge to our community. All donations will be matched by **Alma Rosa Winery**, doubling the impact of your generosity.

About the Partners
Santa Barbara–Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities fosters global partnerships, sharing ideas and best practices—including in mental health, stigma reduction, and community resilience.

Rotary is committed to strengthening communities through service, including expanding access to mental health resources and awareness.

RSVP
 Email your RSVP by Sunday, April 12th to sbppsistercity805@gmail.com

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities joins with Rotary for Mental Wellness Month.

Santa Barbara North Rotary and the Roteract Club will join us. This is a fundraising event and monies raised as a result of this April meeting, will go directly to supporting members of our community.

Most importantly, our sponsorship today will be matched by Alma Rosa Winery’s proprietors, Bob and Barb Zorich, doubling the impact of Rotary Club and Sister Cities’ support! The funds raised by our groups will go directly towards:

1. expanding access to free mental health support for low-income individuals.
2. providing educational programs and peer support programs empowering individuals to manage their mental health and prevent crises
3. reducing reliance on emergency services and hospitalizations for acute mental health intervention

News from Other Sister Cities:

- **Miraflores, Peru** **2026 Trip to Peru & Galapagos:**

Registration for our 2026 trip is now closed. We look forward to 16 days of unforgettable adventures in Miraflores, Northern Peru, the Amazon Rainforest, and the Galapagos Islands—from April 15-30, 2026.

- **Patras, Greece-** **September 2026 Trip to Greece and cruise of Greek Isles.**

We will have a few openings, contact Marti, Gil or Margaret as soon as possible, there is a short window to purchase airline tickets and cruise passage before prices rise

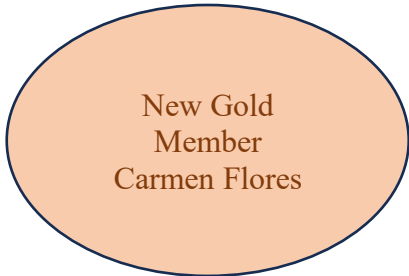
FEBRUARY New Members Patricia Solis

RENEWING MEMBERS

Elena Aguilera	Ann Hefferman	Rose O'Dea
Doris Nancy Alfaro R.	Aurora R. Hendricks	Gloria Leticia Ortiz
P. Miguel Arana	Maria Elena (Nena) Hidalgo	Leticia Parra
Josefina Campos	Rachel Iddings	Rachel Remacle
Herminia R Estrada	Gloria Jones	Cathy Romero
Gloria Franco	Lucrecia Mendez	Linda Ruuska
Mary Frink	Mary Lou Morales	Maria Sanchez
Mima Garcia	Elsy G. Nelson	Lynda Gomez Saunders
Bina (Balvina) Garcia	Joe Lanza & Alice Sykes	Carlos Velasco

Guy de Mangeon & Patricia Juin	Marisela Katsapis and Victor Gaytan Robles
Bertha & Rafael Luna	Art & Barbara Najera

Board of Directors 2026
 Marti Correa de Garcia , Pres.
 Cheli Hidalgo, 1st Vice Pres
 Marisela Katsapis 2nd Vice Pres.
 Gary Petlow, Treasurer
 Sebastian Aldana, Corres. Scty.
 Danny Contreras, Jacqueline Duran, Martha Chavez,
 Antonio Rodriguez
Alma Vaja , Carlos Velasco
 Margaret Saavedra, Recording Scty. , **President Ex Oficio**
 Newsletter Ed. Since 2022



MARCH – New Members

Ana Laura Barnhill	Angela Cipriano	Leticia Landeros
March Renewing Members		Sebastrana Lemere
Norma & Sebastian Aldana	Kathy Koury	Mary Lou Ornelas
Margarita Alvarado	Carl Lovegren	Elvia Rivero
Romelia Alvarado	Aurora Adela Marquez	Luz Rocha
Gloria Berumen	Olga Martel	Lenny Rodriguez
Bonnie Carroll	Mely Martel	Rosemary Santillan
Jacqueline Duran	Angelica Martel	Laura Smit
Gustavo A. Duran	Delia Medlin	Lori A Sneddon
Mike Hernandez	Adela Monroy	Alma R. Soto
Robert Hernandez	Patricia E. Montemayor	Alma Ruth Vaja
Maricela Juarez	Shirley Moore	
Robert & Rebecca Betancourt	Luis Moreno & Lydia Swanson	Margarita Zaske &
Danny & Marcie Contreras	Martha & Antonio Rodriguez	Richard Tingstrom



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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Rotary



Santa Barbara Sunrise

Join us! We meet for breakfast on the first and third Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m. at the beautiful historic Santa Barbara Club, located at 1105 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, California, USA.

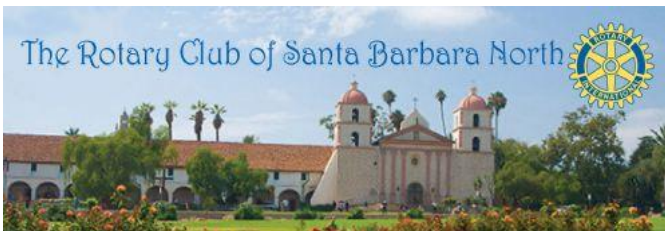


Jacqueline Duran

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



Santa Barbara /Puerto Vallarta
Sister City Committee
P.O. Box 3718
Santa Barbara, CA. 93130
April 2026 Newsletter