



2026 AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta

Sister City Committee



Published July 29, 2026

Santa Barbara, California



SANTA BARBARA PUERTO VALLARTA

SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

Saturday July 11, 2026



@TereJurado805



Sunday, August 9, 2026

**Pancake Breakfast with
American Legion Post 49**

112 W Cabrillo Blvd.

**Pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, orange
juice \$15.00 a person**

**Tickets available in advance from
SB/PV members.**

**Contreras Flamenco Company
and Mariachis**



**A big THANK YOU to Tere Jurado and
Rey Peñaloza for the beautiful pictures of
our events!! More photos on WhatsApp
– SISTER CITY friends**



Board of Director's Meeting, July 2, 2026

- Gil Garcia appointed to Board to fill vacancy left by Marisela Katsapis's resignation
- Letter cancelling PV Visitation for 2026 sent on June 1, 2026
- PV President responded he did not accept our decision on June 19th

After receipt of response and discussion, the following decision was made by our Board: *Resolution to suspend relationship with PV Sister City Board temporarily until internal issues are resolved; all activities until leadership is resolved. SB Sister City will continue to support projects and programs, during this temporary suspension. Our position:*

The Santa Barbara Committee remains committed to working with individuals and groups who embrace the values of peace respect, harmony and humble service above self and who seek to strengthen the bonds of friendship between our two communities. We sincerely hope that future efforts within the Puerto Vallarta committee can foster unity, inclusiveness, and an environment where all members feel respected and valued.

SB/PV Pres. Marti Correa de Garcia and Gil Garcia, Visit Puerto Vallarta in July 2026.

Sunday, July 19th.

We are happy to report that, following a presentation Marti and Gil made to the Boca de Tomatlán Ejido (Land Trust) Board of Directors, together with Jaime Velázquez and Lupita Bonilla of Puerto Vallarta, we were able to reach an agreement on a process to reopen the community clinic for its originally intended purpose—providing much-needed regional health care services to Boca de Tomatlán and the surrounding communities.

The first significant step in this process was the transfer of possession of the keys to the clinic building, which had not been entrusted to anyone by the ejido leadership for several years. While seemingly simple, this act represents much more than the handing over of keys. It is a symbol of trust, stewardship, and a renewed commitment to place the needs community above all else.

The next step will be to determine the appropriate entity to which the ejido will donate the land so that a qualified health care provider may present a proposal to restore the medical services that have been in suspension for years. We pray for wisdom and unity among all those entrusted with this responsibility, so that every decision may honor the clinic's original purpose—to save lives, alleviate suffering, and serve the common good.

We were deeply moved by the overwhelming community support demonstrated by the large attendance at the meeting and the heartfelt applause following the presentation. Their presence was a testimony that this clinic is far more than a building—it is a sign of hope for the families of this region



Monday, July 20, 2026, — Meeting with the Municipal President of Puerto Vallarta

We were blessed to meet with the Municipal President and Municipal Secretary of Puerto Vallarta, joined by Marti Correa, President of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee, Gil García, Board Member, and a delegation of PV Sister City friends and partners united in a spirit of service to our communities.

The meeting focused on three objectives:

- Providing updates on ongoing social impact initiatives in the Puerto Vallarta region; presenting two new projects—the Boca de Tomatlán Regional Community Health Project to expand healthcare access for underserved communities, and
- The Volcanes Community Sewing School to provide vocational training and create pathways to economic self-sufficiency through clothing manufacturing and entrepreneurship; and
- discussing Sister City governance best practices that promote transparency, collaboration, humility, and unity in service of the common good.



We were encouraged by the Municipal President's and Municipal Secretary's enthusiastic support for these initiatives and their commitment to the Municipality's participation as a public-private partner. They further indicated that appropriate municipal staff will be assigned to work collaboratively in advancing these projects for the benefit of the people of Puerto Vallarta and the surrounding communities.

We are deeply grateful for the spirit of friendship and cooperation that marked our time together. For over fifty years, although currently in suspension, the Santa Barbara and Puerto Vallarta Sister City relationship has been a living expression of service, bringing people together across borders to care for one another and to create opportunities for human flourishing.

January 2027

Travel to Oaxaca with Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities.

Trip is still in planning stages. You can let us know your interest.

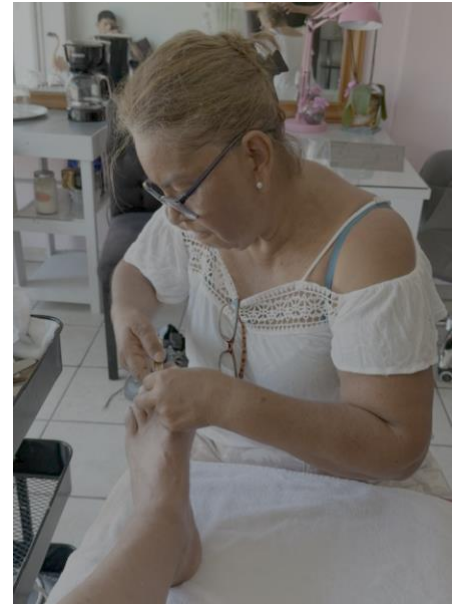
No hotels or airline reservations info yet!!

10:30 a.m., Thursday, July 23, 2026



Here is Marti Correa, President of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee, receiving a manicure from Martha Lilian, one of the graduates of the cosmetology course sponsored by SB/PV Sister City.

It is exciting and deeply gratifying to witness the fruits of this program. Martha Lilian is a mother of a child with cancer who has transformed newly acquired skills into an opportunity to help provide for her family's needs during difficult times.



This beauty studio location has been made possible through the generous support of Jindra, a Canadian expatriate, who donated the space and continues to pay the rent and utilities so that graduates may offer their services and earn supplemental income. What began as an educational opportunity is becoming a source of dignity, hope, and economic empowerment for these women and their families. Moments like this remind us that Sister City relationships are about much more than cultural exchange—they are about friendship in action, service to one another, and building communities where compassion creates lasting change.

Volcanes Sewing School Report A draft invitation for collaborative planning committee written by Angela Grams of Sewing Seeds non-profit that donated all the sewing machines to re-open the school. We plan to talk to DIF next time we are in Vallarta possibly in two months to explore municipal owned buildings that be use for sewing school. The plan includes:

- (1) emphasize empowerment and sustainability,
 - (2) make the planning committee's role clearer, and
 - (3) frame the partnership as a collaborative community effort.
- The draft identifies the purpose, potential partners, and commitment expected of participants.



Existing Sewing Sewing School Building

One Recommendation That Could Make This Project Stand Out, rather than calling it the **Volcanes Community Sewing School**, consider presenting it as: **Volcanes Community Skills & Entrepreneurship Center** with the Sewing School as its first flagship program.

This allows the center to grow in the future to include culinary arts, cosmetology, computer skills, English language from everything you've shared over the past several weeks, I believe this initiative has the potential to become one of the most significant Santa Barbara–Puerto Vallarta collaborative projects in many years. By combining the strengths of DIF, Rotary, Sister Cities, the International Friendship Center, Sewing Seeds Canada, private industry, and local community leaders, it can evolve into a sustainable public-private partnership that creates lasting economic opportunities for the Volcanes community while honoring Arthur Fumerton's legacy of service and empowerment.

June 13, 2026 - SB/PV had a Yard Sale.

Members Cheli Hidalgo, Claudia Alvarado, Christina V, Linda Lemus, Susie, Linda Ruuska in the background and others managed to raise \$100 to donate to SB/PV charities. Likely they bought a lot of goods from each other!! When I attend, I usually do!!



BIG NEWS

You can now submit RSVP and pre-pay for your dinner events. Zelle your rsvp and send pmt thru your bank to

sbpvsistercity805@gmail.com



Coming Events:

AUGUST 2026

Aug 5– 9, 2026 **VIVA LA FIESTA -**

Aug. 9 Veteran's Fiesta Breakfast 8 – noon
SB/PV Sister City & Amer. Legion Post 49

Aug. BOD Meeting TBD

Aug. 14, 15, 16 Greek Festival

SEPTEMBER 2026

9/2/26 General Meeting – TBD

Sept. BOD Meeting TBD

9/8-23/2026 Patras Sister City Trip to Greece

OCTOBER 2026

October 1, 2026. Sister Cities Int'l. Dinner
Carrillo Ballroom Downtown SB

Oct. Date TBD Fundraiser Kids w/Cancer

Nov. TBD

Dec. 20 Posada Holiday Celebration

Board of Directors 2026

Marti Correa de Garcia , Pres.

Cheli Hidalgo, 1st Vice Pres .

Alma Vaja 2nd. VP ,

Gary Petlow, Treasurer

Sebastian Aldana, Corres. Scty.

Directors: Danny Contreras,

Jacqueline Duran, Gil Garcia

Martha Chavez, Antonio Rodriguez

Carlos Velasco,

Margaret Saavedra, Recording Scty. ,

President Ex Oficio

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

