2026 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER
Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee

Published Oct. 31, 2026 Santa Barbara, Calif.



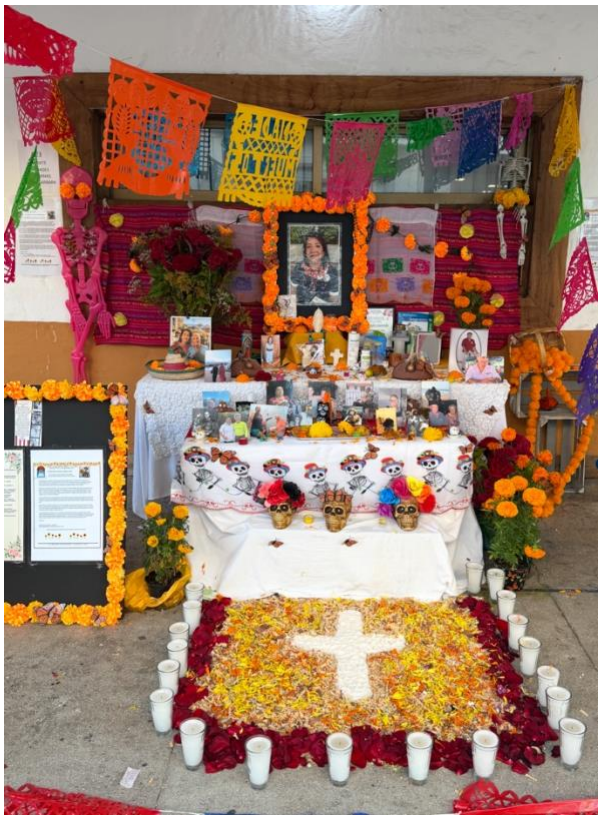
Refugia 'Cuquis' Caballero Ortiz
R I P. 1957 – 2026

Beloved mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and dear friend to many sister city members.

General Meeting
Nov, 4, 2026
Cesar's Place
712 Milpas St.
6 – 8:00 p.m.

The family of 'Cuquis' Caballero Ortiz, created an altar at the 'ayuntamiento' to remember their loved one for this year's celebration of the "Day of the Dead". Daughter Carla, niece Anahi, sister Heriberta and two young grandsons and family friends worked for 3 days to put this together.

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 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.

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Friends

Board of Director's Meeting in Oct. 7, 2026

- **RESOLVED**- In a collaboration with Rotary North, accept a $12,000 donation to be wired to Patras Rotary in Greece, to be returned with $3000 contribution as a pass through to become our international partner for a $100,000 Rotary International Global Grant application supporting 'sex-trafficking victims recovery. "
- **APPROVED** $300.00 for the design and cost of recognition plaques for attorneys Lic. Guillermo Manzano Quintero and Lic. Roberto Ascencio Castillo, whose work was integral in resolving the internal difference within PV Sister City Committee, plaques to be presented on Oct. 8.
- **DEFERRED –** Request of $1000 donation by PV Sister City as an honorarium for Lic.Manzano's efforts to secure the Boca Clinic to secure the clinic for its intended use as a non-profit.
- **Added to Agenda -Board approved** Sebastian submitted a request to fund the replacement of air filters in the Art classroom at Adams School. Cost not to exceed$250.00
- **Added to Agenda: Nominating Committee** needed to replace outgoing board members: Members of committee Sebastian, Jacqueline, Danny and Carlos, with Gil as Board Chair.
- **Next scheduled Board Meeting Nov.** 11, 2215 Santa Barbara St.

Interested?? There is still room

Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City
Visit to Oaxaca – Jan. 14 -23, 2027

ACCOMMODATIONS — 9 NIGHTS + breakfast buffet.
Cost is per person includes excursions, hotel and airfare.

Call Gil Garcia for costs for single or double occupancy.

Oaxaca — 10 Days / 9 Nights · Cultural Experience
Includes transfer to the hotel and a welcome dinner.
Visits to: Monte Albán, Alebrijes & Black Pottery
El Tule, Teotitlán, Mitla & Mezcal, City Tour of Oaxaca, Sierra Norte & Pueblos, Mancomunados, Ocotlán & Backstrap-Loom Textiles, Oaxacan Cooking Class & Guelaguetza Show, Farewell Dinner, 9 nights of accommodations, 2 dinners, 8 buffet breakfasts
Plus. 1 traditional mountain breakfast.

For more information contact
Gil@gilgarcia-aia.com, Marti@gilgarcia-aia.com or Cheli at sbpvsisterCity805@gmail.com

Nominations for 2026/2027 Board of Director Vacancies

Nominating committee report for 2027 SB/PV Sister City Board. Nominating Committee: Sebastian Aldana, Danny Contreras, Jacqueline Duran, Carlos Velasco, Chair Gil Garcia

The following board members will remain for 2026

- Marti Correa de Garcia
- Gary Petlow
- Sebastian Aldana
- Jacqueline Duran
- Cheli Hidalgo
- Alma Vaja

We have six vacancies for 2026/2027. Recent board members appointees may be running to fill vacancies. **If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a board member. Please contact Gil Garcia or any of the members on the nominating team, listed above by November 21.**

Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee

On Oct. 8, 2026 a new board and offers were sworn in at the Municipal Government Office in Puerto Vallarta.



New officers for 2026/2027 are:
Heriberta Caballero as President;
Andres Famania as Vice Pres. ;
Gabriela de Jesus Lara as Scty. ;
Ma. Guadalupe Bonilla as Treasurer; and Sub Scty.
Lic. Guillermo Manzano.
Also present were board members and general membership.

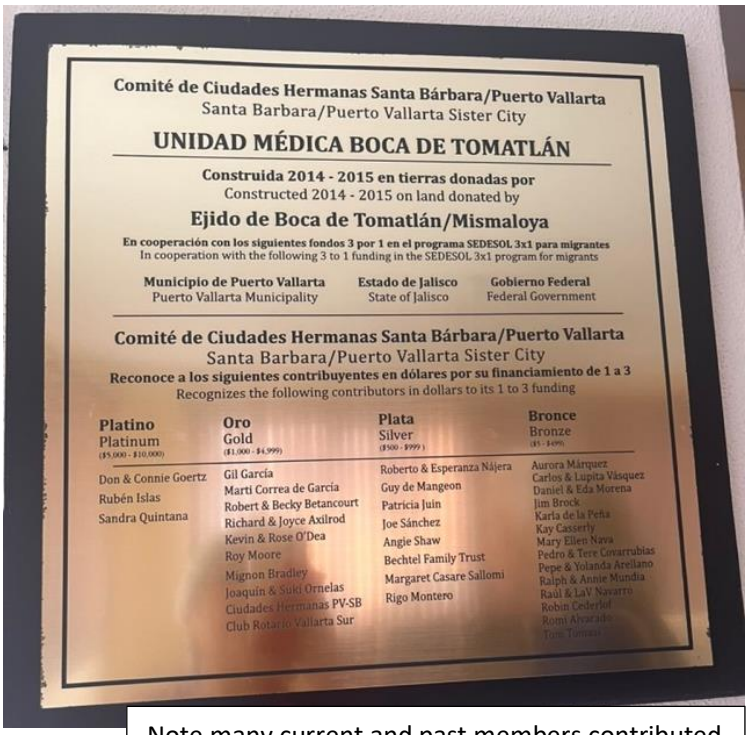


The Puerto Vallarta Sister City is anxious to begin working with us in our many projects in P.V. They are our partners in working with the Cruz Roja in Mexico, with the families of children with cancer, AFCC, and some new efforts in creating a collaboration with Westmont and a private music academy in Puerto Vallarta, beginning a new online ANIME progam, in collaboration with Santa Barbara Sister Cities and SoCal. They have also been working with the Canadian program 'Sewing Seeds' to re-establish the Sewing School in a new location offered by the City Administration and it's "DIF" Desarrollo Infantil Program.



BOCA DE TOMATLAN HEALTH CLINIC

The clinic was built through the 3x1 Migrant Program, with contributions from the federal, state, and municipal governments and the Santa Barbara–Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee as the migrant participant. The clinic is currently not operating due to a lack of financial support. The proposed donation is intended to provide the legal certainty needed to support its reopening and continued use for community health services.



Note many current and past members contributed to finance the construction of this clinic in 2014.

The clinic has been non-operational for over 4 years. Many unsuccessful efforts have been made over the years to find a doctor to staff the clinic. Recently, a situation arose where there was talk by the "Ejido" of selling the property. (Ejido is a commual land grant, meaning multiple owners.) The question was raised who in fact owned the land and research was conducted to make that determination. Santa Barbara and Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities were invited to present a proposal for at the July 19 assembly, the committee explained their interest in restoring health services at the clinic and requested a formal agreement establishing the association's rights to the property.

The arrangements discussed included a donation agreement, a loan-for-use agreement, an agreement reserving ownership, or a usufruct agreement (an agreement granting the right to use property without owning it). Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities were invited to come to see the presentation made by attorneys working on behalf of Puerto Vallarta Sister City to turn the land over to their committee. After months of discussion, with members of SB/PV, Marti and Gil Garcia and Margaret Saavedra, were invited be present on October 19th, when the final decision to turn the land and the keys over to Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee was made!!!



The ejido general assembly unanimously approved the donation and the agreement has been signed by both parties. The remaining commitment is to formalize the agreement through a public deed before a notary and complete the registration of the transfer to the PV/SB Sister City Committee A.C.

Now comes the part where we must uphold our part of the agreement. The building will need painting and a thorough cleaning. That is a task over the next couple of months. Efforts have already begun to find organizations to provide medical service to the communities of Boca de Tomatlan and Mismaloya.

VISIT TO PUERTO VALLARTA, October 17–27, 2026

Margaret Saavedra, Gilbert García, and Marti Correa de García

Our visit to Puerto Vallarta was a working vacation!! While Marti and I had the opportunity to get a massage, a facial, a mani-pedi, and some shopping we also scheduled meetings with various members of the Puerto Vallarta Committee. We made time to visit current projects and to create opportunities for new ones.

Saturday, October 17, 2026 3:03 p.m. – Arrival in PV

Sunday, October 18

- **9:00 a.m.** –Boca de Tomatlán to be present at final vote of the Ejido on status of Boca Clinic
- **5:00 p.m.** – Social gathering at home of Paty & Beto Barrazas, (barbecue/carne asada) w PV members

Monday, October 19

- **12:00 p.m**. – Meeting at the Red Cross; view two new ambulances and defibrillator, discussion re: paramedics for the Boca de Tomatlán clinic



Tuesday, October 20

- **8:30 a.m.** – Meeting with the Rotary Board of at Andale's
- **12:00 p.m.** – Meeting with Director Zaira Castillo at the DIF offices; topic: sewing workshop

Wednesday, October 21

- **9:00 a.m.** – Breakfast with Everardo and Juanito at Fredy's Tucán restaurant in Fluvial
- **6:00 p.m.** Restaurant Barcelona Tapas: Dinner with Miguel Mesa, Deputy Director of Tourism; personal discussion regarding his 12-year-old son, Diego, who is a pianist. Also present Heri Caballero, Lupita Bonilla, Mary Rodriguez Topic: Puerto Vallarta Ambassadors.

Thursday – October 22

- **9:00 am.** Rotary Meeting Breakfast at the Velas Resort **–** many PV members also attended
- **12:00 noon** Met with Director Zaira Castillo at site of proposed new sewing school
- **5:00 p.m.** Meeting with Architect Abel Villa (from the Puerto Vallarta Orchestra) at the offices across from the Buenaventura Hotel; topic: orchestral exchange with Westmont College.

Friday – October 23

- **4:00 p.m.** Met with Bety and families of children with cancer at the DIVAC facilities.
- **7:30 p.m.** Meeting with PV committee members to discuss upcoming I Madonnari 2027 in PV

Saturday – October 24

- **9:00 a.m.** Breakfast at Andales – Scholarship awards presented to students,
- PV members, Danny and Marcie Contrearas, Martha Chavez and Antonio Rodriguez joined us and met Jorge Zambrano, restaurant owner.
- **6:00 p.m.** Meeting with Nataly at the Arte Vallarta Museum.



Sunday – October 25 breakfast at "El Columpio" on the road to El Tuito

Monday – October 26. **7:30 p.m.** Meeting with Aldo Velazquez regarding "Anime"

Tuesday – October 27 Depart to LAX – 4:15 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2026

Nov. 4 - 8 IFTA Training in Morelos on schedule - Member visit cancelled
General Meeting 11/4/2026 – Cesar's Place
Nov.11 – Board Meeting – 6 – 8:00 pm 2215 Santa Barbara St.

DECEMBER 2026

Dec. 13 Posada Holiday Celebration. – Moose Lodge

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



