



Newsletter

Las Noticias

March 2010



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

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President's Corner

This is a time for preparing, and preparing we have been doing. Maria Elena has been very actively recruiting students for the Student Exchange. She has visited schools, met with teachers and principals, interviewed students and met with parents. Thank you Maria Elena for your dedication and hard work! We are sure to be well represented with so much care and enthusiasm placed in the selection. Our students will be in Puerto Vallarta from the 27th of March to the 3rd of April.

At the same time, many secondary school art students are in the process of creating works of art that will be entered in our annual Student Art Showcase. Helen has been busy calling and visiting schools to distribute information concerning the theme for this year "Your World". Students are asked to think about "what makes you, you" and to consider the way that cultural exchanges and international travel have impacted who they are. As you can see, this is a very abstract theme so I can hardly wait to see what our talented students will produce. Although

contact has been made with all our public schools and with San Roque, a private school. Up to now, we have received committed participation from Santa Barbara High and San Roque. Participation is not limited to students in art classes. If you know an artist between the ages of 16 and 18 who would like to enter, please contact Helen or me and we will be happy to meet with the student and explain what is required. You will have an opportunity to see the selected entries and meet the artists during our reception and exhibit at Business First Bank on Figueroa and State Streets on April the 12th at 6:00 P.M.

All who participated in our January general meeting were treated to a very informed and interesting presentation concerning our environmental needs. Eric Lohela kept everyone well entertained while providing extremely useful information. At the conclusion of his presentation he answered excellent questions asked by attendees. We, again, were honored by the U.S./Mexico Sister Cities Association with the Excellence Award presented by Marti during our meeting. This award was presented to her during the US/Mexico Sister Cities Association conference. We can thank Marti, our historian, for year after year anecdoting out accomplishments and, thereby, making us eligible for this award. During this and future Las Noticias, parts of her report will be published so that you too can feel the awe of the accomplishments and Marti's expertise at recording them. The meeting became a special occasion also due to the attendance of some members who are not always able to make it. It was great fun having, all the way from Bakersfield, Fred and Juanita Payne present. A contagious fun mood was created when Fred danced his way to collecting the raffle prize that he had won. Fred and

Juanita, however, were not the longest traveling attendees since Marti and Gil brought their two beautiful house guests who were visiting all the way from Union de San Antonio, Mexico. We were very happy to see Hal and Val Oquist back and Joyce Hulsebos accompanying her dad Bob Welby. I want to express a big hurrah and thank you to Beatriz Caballero for bringing a new member to our group. We want to encourage more of you to search out prospective members who would guarantee the longevity of our organization and continue to build upon what has so brilliantly been created by our founders. Back, by popular demand, The Young Mariachis. This group of talented musicians will delight us at the next General Meeting. Make sure to make your reservations early. You certainly don't want to miss them!

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Barbara Ellis, President

DINNER MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Social hour: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$21

Place: Moby Dick's (on Stearns Wharf)

Menu: choice of sirloin, linguini with chicken or grilled salmon. (vegetarian upon request)

Program: Youth Mariachi!

Call Joe Vazquez at 684-4724 for reservations by Sunday, February 28. We prefer you make your reservations by e-mail to "baja.lot@verizon.net" if at all possible. PLEASE REMEMBER

TO CALL IN NO LATER THAN **SUNDAY**.....OR AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTE|
Reservations are called in on Monday afternoon. PLEASE CALL TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!

AND REMEMBER.....A RESERVATION MADE.....IS A RESERVATION PAID!

White Elephant Sale at the April General Meeting

We are going to spend time enjoying a White Elephant Sale at the April General Meeting as the votes are being calculated. All proceeds will benefit Santa Barbara Youth Programs. I am sorting through mountains of cherished relics in my storage closet and choosing some artifacts to donate to the fun. Why don't you do likewise. We would be exceedingly grateful if you would decide upon a fair price and mark your donation. Be creative. Bring some fun stuff (but of course, always tasteful.....or not). We will set up tables displaying your treasures. If you are a bargain hunter, you will have come to the right meeting. See you there!

J. Olivas

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. - at former Re/Max Realty, 1903 State St. All members are welcome to attend.

WELLNESS

Our members seem to be suffering from all sorts of ailments but our trusty Wellness Lady, Dee Dee Lane, takes care of sending our best wishes to all of them.

A sympathy card was sent to: The Family of Prima Martinez

If you know of anyone who is ill, PLEASE let either a board member or DEE DEE LANE know! No cards can be sent unless you let us know how our members are doing. The phone numbers for your board members are included in every newsletter. Dee Dee may be reached at 967-7596. Thanks for our help!

BADGES

New members - Let me know when you are coming to the dinner meeting so I can be sure to have your badge. Please either call me at 684-4724 to make arrangements to pick up your badges or come to our dinner meeting and see what a great time we have! This is what Sister City's all about. People to people.

Alice Vazquez

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Mar 3	Dinner Meeting
Mar 9	Board Meeting
March 27- April 3	PV Exchange Students here
Apr 7	Dinner Meeting Elections!

Apr 12	Student Artist Showcase Business First Bank
Apr 13	Board Meeting
May 3	1st Annual SB/PV Golf Tournament –
May 5	Friendship Dinner – Installation of New Board
May 11	Board Meeting
May 14-21	Copper Canyon Trip
May 27-30	Mexico National Conference Puerto Vallarta
May 28-31	I Madonnari – Guest artist from PV in attendance

Renewals

The following members have renewed and are continuing to have fun being part of this organization!

**Mary Louise Days
 Art/Cecilia Felix
 Maria Elena Record
 Hal/Val Oquist
 Romie Alvarado
 Willie/Trini Quinn
 Margaret Pettit
 Takako Wakita
 Fred/Juanita Payne**

And our newest member...

Maria E. Walter-Bible

Interesting Facts about Mexico

(submitted by Gil Garcia)

Did you know that Mexico is the country that has the most Taxi cabs registered, 60,000 not counting the plethora of non-registered?

Did you know that the name of the zone in Mexico known as the Yucatan Peninsula is due to a misunderstanding? A conquistador asked a Maya Indian what was this part of Mexico called. The native responded "yuk ak katan". What the conquistador did not know is that the native translation was "I do not understand you".

U.S./Mexico Sister Cities National Conference



Gloria Gonzalez, Evelyn & Edward Gonzalez, Alice Vazquez, Marti & Gil Garcia, and Tony Gonzalez

Last month the following members attended the annual US/Mexico Sister Cities National Conference in Palm Desert, California: Alice & Joe Vazquez, Gil & Marti Garcia, Edward & Evelyn Gonzalez and Tony & Gloria Gonzalez. It was a pleasure to meet new attendees and to reconnect with some old friends. Tony Gonzalez was so enthusiastic about the sister city program that he was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Board and was immediately appointed to the position of Treasurer.

The highlight of the conference was receiving the "Excellence Award" for our Santa Barbara and Puerto Vallarta Sister City activities. Below you will see the projects and activities we have been involved in:

ACTIVITIES DURING 2009 YEAR

1. SPECIAL PROJECTS

- a. Puerto Vallarta needy Kinder School – Fifth year of supporting same school.
- b. Law Enforcement Exchange:
Outbound – Puerto Vallarta
Inbound – Santa Barbara
- c. Clinica de Rehabilitación Vallarta–Sta. Barbara, A.C. – scholarships for 8 needy patients.

2. YOUTH PROJECTS

- a. Student Exchange:
Inbound to Santa Barbara
Outbound to Puerto Vallarta
- b. Sister Cities International (SCI) Showcase of Young Artist

3. CULTURAL EXCHANGES

- a. I Madonnari – Street Painting – in Puerto Vallarta
- b. Puerto Vallarta artist participates in Santa Barbara's 23rd Annual I Madonnari Festival.

4. SOCIAL EXCHANGES & FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

- a. Visitation to Santa Barbara by Puerto Vallarta (July/Aug)
- b. Visitation to Puerto Vallarta by Santa Barbara (Nov/Dec)
- c. Conference attendance by members:
US/Mexico Sister Cities Association – Laredo, Texas (Jan. 2009)
SoCal Sister Cities, Long Beach, CA conference (Feb. 2009)
Mexico/US Cuidades Hermanas Assoc. – Saltillo, Coahuila (June 2009)
53rd Anniversary – Sister Cities International – Belfast, Northern Ireland (July 2009)
US/Mexico Sister Cities International– Austin, Texas (Aug. 2009)
- d. Attended US/Mexico Sister Cities Assoc. Annual BBQ – South Gate (April 2009)
- e. Reception – Showcase of Young Artist (April 2009)

- f. Sister City Pizza booth at Cinco de Mayo Festival (May 2009)
- g. Strawberry Social (May 2009)
- h. El Fandango Dinner/Dance (July 2009)
- 5. **JOINT COMMUNITY PROJECTS**
 - a. Sister Cities – September 11th Concert (Sept. 11, 2009) – 4th Annual
 - b. 18th Annual Sister Cities Reunion in Honor of United Nations Day (Oct. 2009)
 - c. Cinco de Mayo Festival – Volunteering
- 6. **SPECIAL MENTION**
 - a. Cash donation to community based organizations: Santa Barbara High School Don Riders and Youth Mariachi Group,
 - b. Donation of sports equipment & tee shirts to DIF sponsored orphanage.
 - c. Donation of food to Santa Barbara Jesusita Fire Fighters.
 - d. Donation of money to Old Spanish Days in memory of Richard Hidalgo – founding member of the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee
- 7. **PROJECTS IN THE WORKS or TO CONTINUE NEXT YEAR**
 - a. Diabetes Exchange
 - b. Santa Barbara Waste Management sharing recycling techniques.
 - c. Disaster Preparedness & Fire Exchange.
 - d. Introduction of “Vallarta Dancers” sculpture to Santa Barbara by artist Jim Demetro.



*Prima Martinez with her beloved k9 companion
“Sparky”*

My mother, Prima Martinez passed away 1/16/10 after a short illness. All her children were at her bedside. She was 89.

She and I and several family members are members of SB/Puerto Vallarta sister cities.

She loved being a member and going on the visitations to Puerto Vallarta and attending the Fandango when she could.

Cynthia Dahlgren

2010 Board of Directors

Barbara Ellis, President.....898-0245
 John Ahlman, 1st Vice Pres.....896-2166
 Rosanne Crawford, 2nd V P.....569-0985
 Marti Garcia, Treasurer.....965-8561
 Helen Caldwell, Corres. Secy... 569-3395
 Jan Olivas, Director.....687-4412
 Alice Vazquez, Recording Secy...684-4724

Frank Bischof, Director.....967-7671
 Romie Alvarado, Director.....963-7549
 Angie Shaw, Director.....569-9984
 Marcia Nielsen, Director. .. 967-3146
 Miguel Avila.....896-0581

Craig Nielsen, Ex-Officio.....967-3146

SANTA BARBARA/PUERTO VALLARTA SISTER CITY FUN TRIP MEXICO COPPER CANYON

May 14 - May 22, 2010

8 days - 7 nights

1st Day - May 14, 2010

Leave Santa Barbara for LAX, fly to Chihuahua

Airport

Overnight at Palacio del Sol Hotel

2nd Day - May 15, 2010

Breakfast at Hotel

Tour of Chihuahua City, home of Pancho Villa

Museum and other attractions

Overnight at Palacio del Sol Hotel

3rd Day - May 16, 2010

Transfer to train station (train leaves at 6:00 am)

Breakfast on board the train

Train arrives at 1:30 pm Barrancas

Overnight at Mirador Hotel (lunch & dinner included)

4th Day - May 17, 2010

Breakfast at Hotel

Tour of Creel, Lake Arareko, Mushroom Valley,

Tarahumara Indian Caves, etc.

Overnight at Mirador Hotel (lunch & dinner included)

5th Day - May 18, 2010

Breakfast at Hotel

Tour of Copper Canyon

Transfer from hotel to train station (train leaves at 1:30 pm)

Train arrives at 3:30 pm - Cerocahui

Overnight at Misi3n Hotel (lunch & dinner included)

6th Day - May 19, 2010

Breakfast at hotel

Tour of Gallegos Lookout Point

Transfer from hotel to train station (train leaves at 3:30 pm)

Train arrives at 7:30 pm El Fuerte

Overnight at Posada del Hidalgo Hotel (dinner included)

7th Day - May 20, 2010

Breakfast at hotel

River tour & afternoon show of El Zorro at hotel

Overnight at Posada del Hidalgo Hotel

8th Day - May 21, 2010

Breakfast at hotel

Transfer to Los Mochis Airport

Arrive at LAX - return to Santa Barbara

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Round trip airfare from Los Angeles - Chihuahua/Los Mochis Airports
- Ground transportation round trip - Santa Barbara/Los Angeles
- Train tickets
- Hotel accommodations
- Various meals (as outlined in itinerary)
- Various tours (as outlined in itinerary)
- Does not include tips or gratuities

SINGLE OCCUPANCY

\$2,124.

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

\$1,940.

TRIPLE OCCUPANCY

\$1,600.

Deposit of \$300 due by March 02, 2010, full payment due 30 days before departure.

Due to airfare fluctuation, airfare of \$690 is only good for 25 days. If you desire travel insurance, please check with your own carrier.

We accept MasterCard or VISA only, Check (payable to SB/PV Sister City) or Cash.

Marti Correa de Garcia
122 E. Arrellaga Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101-1904

(805) 965-8561 - office
(805) 680-2163 - cell
(805) 966-2727 - fax
marti@gilgarcia-aia.com

Pictures from Previous Copper Canyon Fun Trip on following page



Hotel Mirador Bar



Lookout Point



Hotel Mirador



Gardens at Hotel La Misión



Mushroom Valley



Train



On Board



Posada del Hidalgo



Indian Boy



"Zorro"

**SANTA BARBARA/PUERTO VALLARTA
SISTER CITY COMMITTEE**

COPPER CANYON ADVENTURE

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The **Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee** (*Committee*) acts only in the capacity of an agent for contractors in Mexico and the United States. Such contractors shall be responsible for providing the services outlined on the express condition that the *Committee* shall not become liable for any injury, loss, accident or negligence of any contractors, such as hotels or transportation companies, or if any person rendering the services of accommodations as outlined herein cannot be provided due to delays or other causes beyond the control of the *Committee* such as weather, strikes, or quarantine. Each participant shall become liable for any additional expenses resulting from such unforeseen delays and/or other causes.

The *Committee* is promoting this trip **as a package** and the price being paid is for the entire package. Each participant will be responsible for his own medical devices/equipment required on this trip. If any special requirements are expected from the hotel, each participant will notify the *Committee* at the time of the initial deposit for this trip.

May 14, 2010 – May 22, 2010

Round trip airfare from Los Angeles to Mexico
Ground transportation round trip - Santa Barbara/Los Angeles
Train tickets
Hotel accommodations
Various Meals (as outlined in itinerary)
Tours (as outlined in itinerary)
Not included are tips & gratuity

I have read and understand the terms and conditions above.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____ Birthdate: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____ Birthdate: _____

In case of an emergency notify: _____

Phone # _____

PLEASE SIGN & PRINT YOUR NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT