



# Newsletter Las Noticias

March 2008



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

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## Presidents Corner

Hola,  
Time is flying by. February's meeting is still fresh in my mind and yesterday was Valentines day. Good thing I didn't forget. Marcia and I have very much enjoyed seeing our friends at the dinner meetings, but we have missed some of you the last two months. This month we will have a surprise speaker / program and I am sure that the only way you will not enjoy the meeting is if you don't come. There are many things to tell you about so I thought I would just share part of my list. Cada cosa a su tiempo.

Elections are coming up in the month of May, which is very soon. Give some thought about serving on your board of directors. We will help you with information and support you if you want to give it a try. If you can't, please think of someone else who might and let them and us know.

May is also our traditional friendship month. It is when we reach out and bring our friends to the meeting. I know this is March, not May, but we are kicking off a **membership drive** NOW. Over time, our membership has shrunk and our members are getting older and

less able to participate. While we can't stop getting older, we can recruit new members. Remember your trips to PV, all the fun times you have enjoyed, and that sense of satisfaction felt from all the good things you have done. Why not reach out a little and share those feelings and times with others?

We need new members. I am not asking you to preach the gospel of Sister Cities, however you can ask your friends and people you meet what organizations they belong to and where they go on vacation. They will in turn ask you. Now is your chance to tell them and invite them to a meeting. We will have prizes for every member who brings a guest, and in addition, I am working on a nice raffle prize, with your chance to win based on bringing in a new member. Think about new members every day and opportunities will come your way. Quien busca encuentra.

I am sorry to report that the price of our dinners has increased to \$20.00 and it is my hope that we will be able to keep it that low. We did shop around extensively for an acceptable venue with lower prices. Like you I have been paying more for everything including gasoline. Attendance for the dinner meetings has been off the usual norm the last two months and since we have to guarantee a minimum, your participation is critical. Attendance does impact the price we pay. El dinero gobierna al mundo.

"A Reservation Made is a Reservation Paid".....Gil Garcia

On the plus side we have a great place to hold our meetings and the food is good. We have room for presentations and entertainment. In addition, we have the space to circulate and talk to our friends.

Your board has renewed its efforts to bring in more interesting speakers and entertainment for the meetings. So go out there and invite a friend, a neighbor, your banker, your hair stylist, anyone you see, and invite them to a meeting...

Mark your calendars with the information you will find in this issue. A busy time of the year for us starts now.

Membership drive each and every day. Prepare to host our PV members. Speak with other members and prospective members about hosting. Last year we almost came up short on accommodations, and some had to endure a motel. The dates for this year's visitation is July 25th to August 3rd, 2008. Now that you know the dates make it a priority. You will be glad you did.

We need a few volunteers to help with coordinating host families with our guests. Please give a board member a call if you can help. Most of the work is simply telephone calls. We need to start now.

Cinco de Mayo is coming up, if you volunteered last year I am sure you had a great time. Put it on your schedule. Can you believe it, several people asked me when Cinco de Mayo was!

The Strawberry Social is also around the corner, don't forget. I will get the date out next month.

I would like some feedback on holding an additional meeting or two at the beach or a park for lunch on a Saturday or Sunday. Just an opportunity to get together and socialize with our friends. A "pot luck" would be nice and the only fee would be the cost of the park. Maybe \$5.00 per person. If you like the idea, give me a call, let's talk.

Thank you for letting me serve,

**Craig Nielsen**

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

6:30 pm Tuesday, Mar 11 is our board meeting at the Re/Max Realty, 1900 block of State St. It was formerly the McDermott-Crocket Funeral Home.

## 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.

Get Well cards were sent to:

**Jenny Stetson**

**Glen Wade**

(Fractured vertebrae)

**Val Oquist**

(Shoulder surgery)

**Barbara Becker**

(auto accident)

**Josie Schreier**

(Broken Leg)

**DeeDee Lane**

(Broken shoulder)

And last, but not least, **Sammi**, Tim and Dee Dee's granddaughter, broke her wrists falling off a jungle jim! Ah....to be young again!!

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 your help!

## UPCOMING CALENDAR

Apr 24-27 – Mexico National Conf – Torreon, Coahuila

May 3-4 - Cinco de Mayo Festival.

May is New Member Month!! Bring a friend to the May dinner meeting

June - Strawberry Social. Date to be determined

July 25 – Aug 3 - Our PV guests are here!

July 26 – El Fandango – bring out your dancing shoes!!

Oct 8-12 - US/Mexico International Conference in Irapuato, Guanajuato. Stay tuned for more details!

Nov 29-Dec 9 – Going to PV! Mark the date!!

Get ready to join us for some fun!!

## BADGES

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

## DESSERTS

Remember....chocolate is GOOD for you. At least that's what Marcia Nielsen and Helen Cornell thought when they brought dessert!.... Please call Monica Falcon at 962-8406 and let her know if you're interested in sharing! Or....let us know when you make your reservation. We'll pass the information on to Monica.

## DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Social hour: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00

Menu: Roast top sirloin with mushroom sauce! Ummmmmm...

Place: Elks Lodge

Program: It's a Surprise!! You'll be pleasantly surprised.

## CALLING ALL COOKIE LOVERS !

It's that time of year

Our dinner presentation will bring opportunities to purchase **Girl Scout** cookies. We will learn more about this organization

**Call Joe or Alice Vazquez at 684-4724 for reservations by Sunday, March 2.** We prefer you make your reservations by e-mail to "[baja.lot@verizon.net](mailto:baja.lot@verizon.net)" if at all possible. PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL IN NO LATER THAN **SUNDAY.....OR AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER!!** Reservations are called in to the Elks on Monday afternoon. PLEASE CALL TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY! Remember, if you make a reservation and do not show, you will still be charged because the Elks will not deduct the cost of your meal.

## Renewals

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

Ricardo Castellanos  
Ann/David Hefferman  
Mary Louise Days  
Trini/Willie Quinn  
Art/Cecelia Felix  
Takako Wakita

## For Sale

We have Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta hats, sweatshirts, t-shirts, and shirts with collars that are for sale. You can use these colorful offerings for yourself, as gifts for fellow members or for your favorite Puerto Vallarta Friend. Our Brothers and Sisters will be visiting in late July so now is the time to buy that special gift. I have four boxes full of merchandise that I will not be lugging to every dinner meeting. If you are interested in buying something from our traveling store, please call me at 687-4412 and we can discuss what you are looking for and make arrangements. I will be happy to bring the stuff to the meetings if there is a request.

Your Lazy Ex President  
**Jan Olivas**

## Membership drive

Why have a Drive?

To keep our organization healthy & growing. The more people who attend our meetings the lower the price we can command, and the more fun we can have.

Did you know that when asked why new members had not joined up sooner, most replied, "because I was never asked"?

Let's make this fun.

Let's get some prizes donated for every member who recruits and invites a guest to a dinner meeting.

Examples of prizes:

A Starbucks Coffee coupon  
A SB/PV Shirt or, other article that we already have.

A special pin or bracelet, "made in Mexico" to show off

A Star for their Membership Badge

A raffle ticket to win a special prize like a donated lunches or dinners, to round trip air fare to PV.

## TRASH TALK

Hi Everyone. Trash Talk actually received an e-mail of support. Ann Hefferman wrote and shared that she was a member of the UCSB Library's Sustainability Committee or SANE Library. She shared that committee member Barbara Hirsch was writing a biweekly post called Ecofacts and she too had a recent entry on plastic bags. Barbara's latest post shared the many ways we can utilize vinegar for cleaning rather than chemicals that are not good for our health and that get into landfills. If you would like to receive these posts, please notify Barbara at [hirsch@library.ucsb.edu](mailto:hirsch@library.ucsb.edu).

I would like to request that people e-mail me ([jolivas63@cox.net](mailto:jolivas63@cox.net)) or write to our P.O. Box listed on this letter in care of trash talk and share ecological ways to deal with personal daily trash. Do we put it in the big white Costco bags to keep our trash neatly bundled? Do we use only paper grocery bags? What is the most environmentally friendly manner that is convenient enough for us to use in our busy

lives? We know how to recycle paper, cans, plastic and metal. But how do we handle our daily garbage in the most ecological manner?

Our Student Exchange will be heading to Puerto Vallarta to engage in a program that will have an environmental component. Hats off to coordinator Rosanne Crawford for her vision.

Next month we will be talking about e-waste. Check your newspapers for E-Waste Drop Off Days. We will be sharing what is happening in Puerto Vallarta regarding Recycling in a future column.

**Jan Olivas**



***Happy St. Patrick's Day  
March 17***

## Southern California Sister Cities Conference

(held on February 2, 2008 in Long Beach)



***USMSCA immediate past president, Gil Garcia, defines Mexico's emerging democracy***

Gil Garcia described, "Mexico is a new emerging democracy offering exciting opportunities for new and existing sister city relationships to create mutually beneficial ties in the areas of economic development and baby boomer retirement complexes throughout Mexico." He further suggested it would be wise for the U.S. government, for its own and Mexico's future well being, to recognize and assist Mexico as it struggles to nurture its new democratic reforms so a strong Economic North American union can develop to combat the emerging influence of the Chinese

and the leftist South American governments like Hugo Chavez of Venezuela. Were the U.S. to recognize the economic co-dependence of the U.S. and Mexico, instead of talking about building walls of isolation, we could be building bridges of good will and economic support. If the U.S. would invest a small fraction of the cost to build a border security wall on economic development in Mexico, employment opportunities would increase and immigration would decrease dramatically. Cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico would develop to secure the border and eliminate the need

to spend millions on a wall. A wall will not fulfill the desired results and would create ill will that could push Mexico into the waiting embrace of the Chinese economic engine and support from left wing governments. "The security of the U.S. is greatly enhanced by a

friendly cooperative relationship with Mexico. The US/Mexico Sister City relationships could continue to work toward the goal of peace, harmony and economic support between our two countries," he stated.

## Pictures from the February Dinner Meeting



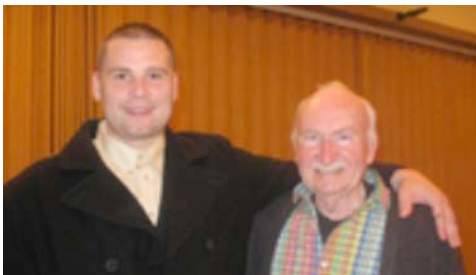
*Thank-you Bea for bringing your lovely Mom, Margarita Molina, to our February meeting.*



*Curtis Barnett and Virginia Gough enjoy the February dinner meeting.*



*Thanks to Kevin and Rose Odea for checking us in at the February dinner meeting.*



*It was great to see Dan Sturt and his trusty physical therapist Bart*



*Craig Nielsen and Undersheriff Ken Shemwell presenting Evie Treen with a certificate of recognition and appreciation for her work on the law enforcement exchange.*



*President Craig Nielsen acknowledges Lieutenant Phil willis and the service of Officers Eric Rossler, Vic Alvarez and Raul Vasquez in the law enforcement exchange with Puerto Vallarta.*

### PV STUDENT EXCHANGE '08 MARCH 26 THRU APRIL 5

The following students have been selected to participate and are preparing to travel with our student chaperone Rosemary Santillan. Congratulations to:

Pilar Cordova	Santa Barbara HS
Acacia Stowe	Santa Barbara HS
Sabina Roan	Dos Pueblos HS
Diego Salgado	San Marcos HS
Stephanie Gonzalez	Santa Barbara HS

Pofesora Rebeca Vargas is hard at work in PV selecting the student families that will host our students. We are excited as we await details of the itinerary to be

finalized. We are hoping that it includes a junta with the new Grupoecologico that is working towards promoting recycling in PV. Puerto Vallarta has a new law as of January 1. This is a State law requiring separation and reduction of garbage in the home, office and industry.

We would like to acknowledge the generous donation of the Amy Kent Memorial Scholarship, which allows students to participate in our exchange regardless of their financial ability.

**Rosanne Crawford, Director SBPV student exchange**