



Newsletter

Las Noticias

October 2009



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

Editor: David G. Gorbet (805) 687-0057 davcaj@aol.com Website: sbpvsistercity.org



President's Corner

President's Message

Those of us that attended the 9/11 concert were treated to a moving, beautiful music experience. With a variety of solos by Carol Ann Manzi and Fernanda Douglas, poetry reading by Amber Rockwood, an instrumental, the spiritual flute of Bob Sedivy and ending with the joyous Guiding Light choir. All selections were both dignified, as befitted the occasion, and inspiring, ending with my favorite hymn "Let There be Peace on Earth". Reflecting on the lyrics of this song convinces me, even more profoundly, of the goal of our organization – peace, one person at a time, person to person. It makes me visualize the way to peace as concentric circles which when we master one, we can proceed to the following expanding circle. In order that we may achieve the outer circle, bringing peace to others, we need to start with the innermost peace within. When that is achieved, we can go to the next circle, peace within our immediate relations such as family, on to peace within our social groups, city and not until we have mastered all those circles can we hope to be agents for peace in another city. When

we work together to achieve goals within our organization, with understanding, tolerance and love, we can rest assured that we have mastered the immediate circles and are ready to expand our efforts onto another city.

Takako did a wonderful job of putting the concert together. Thank you Takako for your hard work. Jan, Dave, Janet and Frank were also there early and ready to work. Thank you guys!

Our next big day is the United Nations Dinner on October 22. Considering that our goals and the goals of the United Nations have the basic premise of Peace on Earth*, and that all over the world this day is being celebrated with meetings, discussions, exhibits, cultural performances and foods, it is fitting and exciting to be part of this world-wide celebration in our own Santa Barbara way. Our celebration allows us the opportunity to visit with members of the other Santa Barbara Sister Cities, to taste foods from the different countries and enjoy cultural entertainment as well. Our responsibilities for this event include setting up, decorating the tables and manning the wine sale. We need volunteers. Please see flyer for more information. Remember that the idea of this event is to try ethnic dishes so it is your chance to shine. Whip up your favorite Mexican dish and watch others enjoy your labors.

Our next General Meeting, October 7, will be a not to be missed meeting since our speaker will be Mary Segal, author and Holocaust survivor. Mary will share portions of her life with us and tell us about the exciting impact that this sharing has had on some of our most troubled youth. Thank you Jan for arranging this fine speaker.

*United Nations Purposes:
"The purposes of the United Nations, as

set forth in the Charter, are to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these ends." (United Nations today)

Barbara Ellis, President

DINNER MEETING

Date: Wed Oct 7th

Social hour: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Place: Mulligan's Cafe at the Municipal Golf Course

Menu: chicken enchiladas with green sause, with beans rice and salad, flan for desert

Program: The speaker for the meeting is Maria Segal, author of *Maria's Story: Childhood Memories of the Holocaust*. She has been involved in a special program where Hispanic at risk youth in Santa Barbara, interfaced with local holocaust survivors. There was a reception in June where the personal stories of the Hispanic youth were depicted through art, music, film and performances. Maria will tell her story and we hope to have two young people, involved in this program, share their experiences.

Call Joe Vazquez at 684-4724 for reservations by Sunday, October 4th. 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 OCTOBER 4TU**...OR AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER!! Reservations are called in on Monday afternoon. PLEASE CALL TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY!

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

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 13, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. - 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.

Get Well cards were sent to
Don Goertz
Ralph Hernandez
Joe Vazquez
and Hal & Val Oquist

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

Oct 7	Monthly Dinner Meeting
Oct 13	Board Meeting
Oct 22	UN Dinner. Always a fun event. More information on page 7 of this issue.
Nov 7	Orientation for PV Travelers at Joe & Alice's...more later
Nov 10	Board Meeting
Nov 28-Dec 8	Puerto Vallarta – here we come!!

Renewals

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

Mary/Jess Ortega
Dan/Lupe Hernandez
Mary Carrigan
Ruth/Robert Kallman
Roger Horton
Louis/Clare Diaz
Josie Schreier

Evie Treen
Gil/Marti Garcia
Dolly Vaughan
Roberto/Esperanza Najera
Angie Shaw
Helen/Isaac De la Rocha
Laura Welby
Hank August
Pat/Frank Luna
Elva Sanchez
Bob Welby
Armand Schmitter
Paul/Marianne Ruiz
Helen Caldwell

And our newest members

Marialuz "Lucha" Valenzuela
(Josie Schreier's sister!)
Kathy Speck

Golf Tournament

What? Our first Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Golf Tournament (and hopefully annual)
When? May 3, 2010.
Where? Glen Annie golf course
Cost? \$150. includes golf, dinner, & prizes.
Contact Frank Bischof if interested in joining in the fun or would like to help in some way.
(805) 967 7671 (home)
(805) 452-0677 (cell)
fbbischof@aol.com (email)

More information will be coming in future Las Noticias.

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND JULY 29 TO AUGUST 1, 2009

The 53rd Annual Sister Cities Conference convened in Belfast, Northern Ireland and was the first SCI conference held outside of the United States. Seven Santa Barbara and Puerto Vallarta sister city members had the pleasure of participating in the many workshops, receptions and events held by the local Sister City committee. Amazingly, the weather was great; the only confusing aspect was cars driving on the "wrong side of the road". The seven delegates were, Takako Wakita, Rose O'Dea, Kevin O'Dea, Marti Correa de Garcia, Gil Garcia, Alicia Perez and Ismael Perez.

Before the conference began an optional tour of the “Giant’s Causeway”, a World Heritage Site, was offered. Of course, the Santa Barbara group took this tour of Northern Ireland’s most famous visitor attraction. The extraordinary geometric columns were formed from crystallized lava that erupted 60 million years ago. It was quiet a site. Legend has it that giant Finn McCool built these stepping–stones to reach and defeat his adversary in Scotland. They really look like giant stepping–stones!

The welcome reception took place in the Belfast Parliament Buildings, where city officials welcomed SCI delegates from all over the world. The conference began the next day with an opening plenary session. Morning workshops included “Blurring Difference Interview Series: The Muslim Story in Europe and America”, “Offering Assistance vs. Empowering Communities”, and “Follow the Money: U.S. & European Grantmaking.” A network luncheon followed the morning workshops where SCI Executive Director, Patrick Madden, spoke about last year’s accomplishments and what is new in Sister Cities International. After networking with colleagues, we enjoyed visiting the exhibit tables and sharing sister city experiences with the exhibitors. That evening the Lord Mayor’s Reception took place at Belfast University Ulster Music Hall. The delegates enjoyed delicious Irish cuisine and were entertained by local Northern Ireland performances of music and dance.

The conference continued the next morning with a breakfast where the 2009 Annual Awards were bestowed to the “best of the best.” After breakfast, workshops continued We attended the “Perspectives on European Twinning”.. The panel consisted of the Africa Global Sister Cities Foundation, The Japan Local Government Center and U.S. Mexico Sister Cities Association represented by President Ismael Perez and assisted by Gil Garcia. After the morning workshops the delegates boarded 3 different buses and were taken to off–site workshops, which included “Economic Development Exchanges,” Innovating Cultural Diplomacy,” “The Art of Peacebuilding,” and “Sports and the Peace Movement.” After the workshops, the delegates returned to the hotel where they attended a reception hosted by the Albuquerque Sister Cities Association. Albuquerque, New Mexico is the site of the 2010 Sister Cities International Conference. The Albuquerque delegates gave us wonderful gifts, treated us with traditional New Mexico food and entertained us with cultural Indian music. It was a great night, so much so that most of us signed up for next year’s conference . . . at a discounted price.

The final day of the conference continued the next day with the Annual SCI Business meeting. New Board of Directors were elected, voting on Bylaw amendments took place and reports on last year’s activities were noted. That evening busses took the delegates to the Northern Ireland Reception and Gala Dinner at the Belfast Radisson hotel where good food and camaraderie were followed with more Irish music and dancing, a fitting good–bye to our new friends from around the world.

After the conference, we had a chance to tour Ireland and spent time in Galway and Dublin. Two great cities, full of lots of friendly Irish people. Since we were so close to England, we took a short flight to London, enjoying many sights of that lovely city. Our highlight was the “London Eye”, a very big ferris wheel that gives you the opportunity to see London from the top of the world. Our second most exciting experience was marching with the “Changing of the Guards,” what a kick to participate in all that colorful pomp and ceremony!



The “London Eye” ferris wheel on the Thames River



Marti Garcia (far left) Gil Garcia (center) Ismael Perez

We are looking forward to going to Albuquerque and going up on the big hot air balloons. Hope you can join us!
Gil, Marti, Takako, Rose, Kevin, Alicia & Ismael.

Interesting Facts about Mexico

(submitted by Gil Garcia)

1. Did you know that 65 million years ago the meteorite that struck earth and caused the extinction of the dinosaurs landed in what is now the Mexican pueblo of Chicxulub, located on the coast of the Yucatan peninsula? The impact formed a crater 180 Kilometers in diameter and is now buried 600 meters below the surface. This crater was discovered in 1981 when workers from the Mexican Pemex oil company exploring for oil detected a sudden change in density of the soil at this depth.
2. Did you know that in pre-Columbian native language the word Mexico signifies "In the belly button of the moon?" In the Nahuatl language "Metztl" is moon and "xictli" is belly button. In those days to inquire as to where someone was born it was customary to ask "Where is your belly button buried?" and the response would be "My belly button is buried in X part of Mexico, which would signify the place where the moon was born. In fact, the Aztec Indians would respond, "I am from the place where the moon was born, if you are Mexican you know your roots." The Aztecs would pronounce it "Meshico". The Spaniards would write it "Mejico" because the pronunciation of the letter "X" did not exist. The Mexican royal Academy of language permits both versions: Mexico and Mejico.
3. Do you know why the Central Plaza of Mexico City is called "Zocalo"? In 1842 Mexican president Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana ordered the construction (at that time it was referred to as the plaza of the constitution) a great column commemorating the independence of Mexico. Due to multiple problems only the base or zocalo was completed which remained for several years until it was removed. To this day the Central Plaza of Mexico City is called "Zocalo".

2009-2010 STUDENT EXCHANGE

Planning has begun for next year's program. We are delighted that the outbound dates for our Santa Barbara students this year will be the end of March thru early April, Semana Santa week that the Vallartans and our students will celebrate together. Because both students have their school breaks at the same time, it will be extra special this year. The Vallartan students will be received in Santa Barbara as they have been, right after school is out in early July. If you know of any students between the ages of 16-18 who would like to participate, please let us know as we are now recruiting. From Puerto Vallarta it has been requested thru Laurel Carrillo de Garcia that we provide five students for this year's program.

Please contact any board member, or myself if you have a desire to assist with the program or would like to recommend a student.

This year I will not be the director of the exchange however will be right along the sidelines with all the support I can give for this wonderful program.

At our last board meeting several directors expressed an interest in expanding the exchange.

I am confident that between them all is in good hands.

Rosanne Crawford
Second VP SBPV Sister Cities Board of Directors

2009 - 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



FAREWELL
MIGUEL ALMODOVAR FRANCO
September 29, 1944 to August 7, 2009

Miguel came to Santa Barbara with his parents in the early 1960s from Teuchitlan, Mexico. He married the love of his life, Gloria, and enjoyed sharing the next 43 years with her. He was a loyal employee of Browning-Ferris Industries for 36 years. He and his wonderful wife Gloria are an amazing example of attaining the American dream. By working hard, setting money aside, and investing wisely, they were able to see their three children complete college, and to have a beautiful home in a wonderful community, and to travel to many exciting places.

We have all lost a best of friends. Miguel can only be remembered in superlatives. He was supposed to die of cancer years ago but he only succumbed after he fought the toughest battle. He fought so hard because he was the greatest lover of life. He was the greatest husband and the best Dad. He was the hardest worker on fantastic annual barbecues for his church, the Holy Cross Catholic Church. He was 4 terms Governor of the Moose Lodge #605, and an active member of the Sister Cities of Santa Barbara - Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and Toba, Japan.

Miguel was a man of dedication. He was the friendliest, easy going, most peaceful and most composed person we have known. We will miss seeing his smiling face and listening to him tell his wonderful stories, but we will always carry the memory of him in our hearts.

More Pictures from El Fandango



PV VISITATION NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 8, 2009

Orientation is scheduled for November 7 at 1:30 p.m at Joe and Alice's home. Please mark your calendars. We try to make it early enough so you can get in, pick up your "stuff", socialize a little with your traveling companions and get back on the road.

And don't forget....**dues must be current!**

Eighteenth Anniversary
SANTA BARBARA SISTER CITIES CELEBRATION
In Honor of United Nations Day

Thursday, October 22, 2009 6:00 PM

CABRILLO ARTS PAVILION, 1118 E. CABRILLO BLVD.

program

- *Marty Blum, Santa Barbara Mayor**
- *Catherine Dishion, SB Chapter President, United Nations Association**
- *Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Dance Group**
- *Japanese Folk Dance**

Potluck dinner: Food of our sister cities

- * Each person or couple is requested to bring a dish to serve 10 (preferably from the country of one's sister city) and provide serving utensil.
- * If you choose not to bring a dish then a donation of **\$15 per person** will be collected.
- * Due to the facility, all hot dishes **MUST** be fully cooked
- * Table service will be provided
- * No Host Bar and Raffle to benefit Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board

RSVP by OCT.18. Call your Sister City Potluck Coordinator for Reservation and to Plan your Food Contribution

Dingle, Ireland:	Marianne Freeman	895-0414
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:	Alice Vazquez	684-4724 gram.mie@verizon.net
Toba, Japan:	Susan Sully	9571905
Weihai, China:	Joe Cantrell	962-4937
San Juan, Philippines	Jaime Sodusta	568-2528
Kotor, Montenegro	George Lily	969-9278

Any questions, please call Takako Wakita 964-7559

All are encouraged to wear traditional clothing from your sister city.

“Come join us or fun and great food”