

## Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of May 1, 2013

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Takako Wakita at 12:10 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takako Wakita, Chair; Barbara Ellis, Vice-Chair; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Michael Fitzgerald, Dingle, Ireland; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Gunther, City Staff Representative.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Linda Mathews, seconded by Barbara Ellis, and carried, the minutes of the meeting held March 6, 2013, were approved with the following correction: Item No. 9, Open World Program the word “Ukranium” should be Ukraine.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following announcements were made:
  - Annual Reports are due by Sunday, June 30, 2013, to Takako Wakita; it was suggested that the names of each Sister City Committee’s board members and at-large members as well as the amount of money collected for yearly dues be included in the annual report.
  - Takako Wakita received an email from Rieti, Italy, regarding interest in a Sister City relationship.
  - The Independent carried an article written by Michael Fitzgerald regarding the St. Patrick’s Day celebration and the Dingle, Ireland Sister City.
  - An article in the Santa Barbara News-Press was well written about the dedication by Mayor Schneider of the new map of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities placed in the Santa Barbara Airport Terminal.
  - An article in the Santa Barbara News-Press was written about the Toba, Japan, Sister City involvement with the Teahouse Group at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden – it is their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the opening of the Teahouse, ShinKanAn.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Krinten Salontay spoke regarding a new sister city relationship with San Sebastian, Spain; she was given a copy of the guidelines for becoming a sister city.
6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2013:** The calendar was reviewed and changes were made, the new calendar will be presented at the next meeting.
7. **AIRPORT TERMINAL PROJECT:** Mayor Helene Schneider dedicated the Sister Cities Map at the Airport Terminal. Also in attendance was Karen Ramsdell, Airport Director, as well as a reporter from the Santa Barbara News-Press and the Casa Magazine. Most of the Sister Cities Committees’ representatives were also in attendance – it was an event that was well attended and received media attention.

8. **GUIDELINES FOR THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA ADVISORY GROUPS:** Linda Gunther passed out the guidelines for the advisory groups as well as an acknowledgement of receipt of the guidelines. All members at the meeting signed the acknowledgement and took a copy for their alternate. An announcement was also made about the Annual Advisory Group Workshop to be held on May 8, 2013, from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm at the Faulkner Gallery at the Central Library; all members were encouraged to attend.
9. **SCI ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON JULY 12-13 AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS:** Please sign up online if you would like to attend.
10. **OPEN WORLD PROJECT:** On Wednesday, June 5, 2013, at 10:00 am there will be a Meet/Greet/Share sister city activities with the Yalta, Crimea, Ukraine, delegation visiting Santa Barbara. All Board members and alternates are encouraged to attend and share information on each of your sister city committees with the Yalta delegation. The Yalta group will also be introduced to the Santa Barbara City Council at their meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, at 2 pm.
11. **9-11 CONCERT:** The annual 9-11 concert will be held from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 11, 2013, at the Faulkner Gallery, Central Library. Takako Wakita asked for ideas for the performers; the Unitarian Society is performing and possibly the Irish pipers -- Michael Fitzgerald will be checking to see if they are available. All Board members were asked to think of others to perform as well.
12. **UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013:** Ideas for performers for this annual event was discussed; Jaime Sodusta will check with the San Juan, Philippines, sister city committee and Joe Cantrell will check with the Weihai, China sister city committee. This will be discussed at the next meeting, everyone was encouraged to think of more ideas – the time for the performers will be 25 minutes.
13. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – George Lilly:** No one from Channel 18 has called him; George will be contacting Tony Ruggieri to see when he can be interviewed.
14. **NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS FROM ALL COMMITTEE BOARDS:** Barbara Ellis and Linda Mathews have scheduled this event for Friday, May 24, 2013, at the Carrillo-Hill Adobe, 15 Carrillo Street, from 5 pm to 7 pm (set up to be from 4:30 pm to 5 pm). Linda Gunther will email board members to rsvp to Barbara Ellis or Linda Mathews; each of the members attending donated \$5 towards the purchase of the drinks and paper goods. Appetizers will be served and all Board members are asked to bring an appetizer as well as the members of their respective boards.
15. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

**Patras, Greece:** No representative attended; no report made.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** No representative attended; no report made.

**Weihai, China:** Joe Cantrell reported that the Weihai Sister City Committee now has a new set of officers. They are holding meetings of board members to develop new ideas. A new member's mixer will also be held.

**Toba, Japan:** Linda Mathews reported that the Sister City Committee had an event at the Pogoda House, on the corner of Grand and Valerio Streets, and it was very well attended. The Pogoda House was renovated and is now a charming facility. There will be a yard sale on Saturday, June 15, 2013, from 8 am to 1 pm, at 3822 Sunset Road to benefit the Student Exchange Program; the Toba Sister City Committee is looking for ways to help parents reduce the cost of the student exchanges since airline tickets are so expensive. It you plan to attend the 10th anniversary celebration of the opening of the Teahouse, ShinKanAn, on Saturday, May 4, 2013, at 1 pm, reservations must be made by Friday, May 3. The Toba students are arriving on Friday, July 26, 2013; a welcome pool party will be held on Sunday, July 28, 2013.

**Kotor, Montenegro:** George Lilly reported that 1500 auditions for 130 positions with two months of all expenses paid classes were held. Isak Haracic, cellist, was chosen; it is quite an honor. Three students from the Kotor Culinary School were gainfully employed after graduation. It is very good news as these are students with disabilities and they have trouble finding employment; twelve of these students were taught at SBCC.

**San Juan, Philippines:** Jaime Sodusta reported that the Mayor from San Juan will try to visit Santa Barbara. The Sister City Committee collected \$200 to help feed the poor children in San Juan and give them ideas on proper nutrition. Also boxes of medical equipment were sent. A retired fireman has a collection of clothes and equipment that he is planning to give to the San Juan fire department.

**Dingle, Ireland:** Michael Fitzgerald reported that the St. Patrick's Day walk down State Street on March 17, was very successful, there was a really good article in The Independent. He is now getting a new board in place. Michael also had a call from SBCC as a result of the article. He is also hoping to speak to Joe Cantrell about some Irish literature to be placed in the Central Library.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary