



# Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



## Annual Report Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board 2008 - 2009

June 30, 2009

The Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board is consist of five sister cities: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Toba, Japan; Weihai, China; Dingle, Ireland; and San Juan/Manilla, Philippines. Attached are the reports from each committee and the following is the activities which the board has involved in.

### **July 16-19, 2008**

Sister Cities International Conference in Kansas City.

Attended: Takako Wakita, Chair of the Board; Gil and Marti Garcia, Puerto Vallarta committee members; and two guests from Puerto Vallarta.

### **September 11, 2008**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual September 11<sup>th</sup> peace concert was held at SBCC West Campus, Gil Garcia as chair. Around 100 people participated.

### **October 23, 2008**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Sister Cities Celebration in honor of United Nations Day at the Cabrillo Pavilion. The honored guests included Catherine Dishion, Santa Barbara Chapter President, United Nations Association; and Santa Barbara Mayor Marty Blum.

The featured speaker was Dr. Andreea Serban, president Santa Barbara City College. About 110 persons attended.

### **January 1, 2009**

Gerald Corrigan's term expired as board member and chair.

Takako Wakita became chairperson and Wayne Hewitt, who was appointed by the city council as a new board member in December, became vice chair of the board. Janet Baker stayed as secretary.

### **February 20-23, 2009**

Delegation traveled to Kotor, Montenegro which is a hopeful new sister city

### **The month of March, 2009**

Items from each sister city were exhibited in a display case at the Central Library.

### **May 6, 2009**

Welcomed new board members. Representing Weihai, Joe Cantrell and Dingle, Marianne Freeman.

Respectfully submitted by,

Takako Wakita, Chair  
Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board

**Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**ACTIVITIES DURING PERIOD – JULY 1, 2008 ENDING JUNE 30, 2009**

**1. SPECIAL PROJECTS**

- a. Puerto Vallarta needy Kinder School – Fourth year of supporting same school. – Donated \$10,000.00, for new addition to school. (December 2008)
- b. Law Enforcement Exchange:
  - Outbound – Puerto Vallarta (December 2008)
  - Inbound – Santa Barbara (July-August 2008)
- c. Clinica de Rehabilitación Vallarta-Sta. Barbara, A.C. – donate for special project

**2. YOUTH PROJECTS**

- a. Student Exchange:
  - Inbound to Santa Barbara (July-August 2008)
  - Outbound to Puerto Vallarta (March 2009)
- b. Sister Cities Internacional Showcase of Young Artist (April 2009)

**3. CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

- a. Mexican Independence Concert showcasing Puerto Vallarta Mariachi Singer, Omar Arreola (September 2008)
- b. I. Madonnari – Street Painting – return to Puerto Vallarta for Third Annual Event (December 2008)
- c. Puerto Vallarta artist, Polvo participates in Santa Barbara's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual I. Madonnari Festival. (May 2009)
- d. Festival Sponsor of I. Madonnari (May 2009)
- e. Sponsor I. Madonnari square for Santa Barbara High School students. (May 2009)

**4. SOCIAL EXCHANGES & FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS**

- a. Visitation to Santa Barbara by Puerto Vallarta (July/Aug 2008)
- b. Visitation to Puerto Vallarta by Santa Barbara (Nov/Dec 2008)
- c. Conference attendance by members:
  - 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary – Sister Cities International – Kansas City, MO (July 200)
  - US/Mexico Sister Cities International– Irapuato, Guanajuato (Oct. 2008)
  - US/Mexico Sister Cities Association – Laredo, Texas (Jan. 2009)
  - SoCal Sister Cities, Long Beach, CA conference (Feb. 2009)
  - Mexico/US Cuidades Hermanas Assoc. – Mexico (April 2009)
- d. Attended US/Mexico Sister Cities Assoc. Annual BBQ (May 2009)
- e. Reception – Showcase of Young Artist (April 2009)

- f. Sister City Pizza booth at Cinco de Mayo Festival (May 2008)
- g. Strawberry Social (May 31, 2009)
- h. El Fandango Dinner/Dance (July 2008)

**5. JOINT COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

- a. Sister Cities – September 11<sup>th</sup> Concert (Sept. 11, 2008) – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual
- b. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Sister Cities Reunion in Honor of United Nations Day (Oct. 2008)
- c. In conjunction with the Santa Barbara Cinco de Mayo Festival, Inc. the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Cinco de Mayo Festival benefited the community and showcased the Mexican culture. Hundreds of Sister City volunteer hours went into making this a successful event, any excess money made will be used for Sister City projects.

**6. SPECIAL MENTION**

- a. Cash donation to community based organizations: Don Riders, Notes for Notes, and P.A.L.S.
- b. Donation of sports equipment to DIF sponsored orphanage.

**7. PROJECTS IN THE WORKS or TO CONTINUE NEXT YEAR**

- a. Diabetes Exchange
- b. SEE International – Surgical Eye Expedition to Puerto Vallarta.
- c. Santa Barbara Waste Management sharing recycling techniques.
- d. Disaster Preparedness & Fire Exchange.
- e. Introduction of “Vallarta Dancers” sculpture to Santa Barbara by artist Jim Demetro.

## **Santa Barbara-Toba Sister Cities Organization Yearly Report: July, 2008-June 2009**

The S.B.Toba group this year continued with its yearly programs and began to participate in new charitable activities, as well as introducing new group trips to events in Southern California. We also experienced some unfortunate set-backs this year, most notably the passing of our long-time colleague in Toba, Yukari Fujimoto, also the cancellation of our Fall trip to the Descanso Gardens due to stormy weather in LA, and Toba City's cancellation of the 2009 student exchange due to Swine Flu.

### **Summer, 2008**

In July/August 2008 we enjoyed a lively exchange of four Santa Barbara and four Toba students. This year our students were once again able to participate in the Fiesta Parade thanks to the generosity of Mr. Righetti of Righetti Ranch outside Santa Maria, who provided his mule team and a festive wagon upon which our students rode.

### **Fall, 2008**

We planned a lovely trip by Airbus, open to the public, to the Descanso Gardens for their November Japanese Festival. While we had a good number of reservations, we had to cancel, as the Garden's exhibitors backed out due to rainy weather.

We facilitated a local college student's study trip to Toba by helping arrange a visit with the Mayor, and a homestay with one of the Sister City group members in Toba.

### **Winter, 2008/9**

In December, several of our members participated in a memorial produced by Mme. Sokyo Kasai, Tea Master of the Urasenke Tea group in honor of Heartie Ann Look, namesake of the Shinkan Tea House in the S.B. Botanic Garden. Heartie Ann's former Ikebana students designed lovely flower arrangements for the memorial room and for a display in the courtyard of the Garden.

The enthusiastic turn-out for this event helped start an effort to promote fund-raising for the repair and maintenance of the Tea House and the improvement of the native California Tea Garden surrounding it. One of our members has laid down a \$10,000 matching grant challenge, in cooperation with the Garden's development office, to spur donations to the fund.

In January, we held our New Year's Shinnenkai featuring the artistry of the Japanese classical dancer and documentary filmmaker, Shizumi. Shizumi also showcased a clip of her film in development, "Seeds of Hope", documenting the lives of several Hiroshima survivors, children at the time, who developed a tie through their artwork and letters with a church in the U.S. Members and the public in attendance were moved to donate to Shizumi's work.

### **Spring, 2009**

Our member, Lark Batteau-Bailey held a series of Tea ceremony and Zen poetry workshops for 7<sup>th</sup> graders in the city schools. This is an introduction to Japanese culture that also alerts the children to our group's presence, and the availability of the summer student exchange program.

Our selection for summer 2009 exchange to Toba went well, and planning for the trip was well underway when the Swine Flu hit which, due to the nature of Japan's response to containing the disease, caused them to cancel our exchange for this year. We also developed for the first time this year, a scholarship fund to benefit worthy students who might not otherwise be able to participate. We continue to contribute a certain percentage of our profits from events, plus donations, to strengthen this new program.

On May 24/25, the public broadcast station, KQED, screened Shizumi's first film, titled "Geisha: An Artist's Journey."

### **Dingle Annual Report - July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009**

Dingle members were notified by email of local Irish events as they were sent to me for distribution.

These included readings and performances by Christina Allison, musical events, Irish History classes,

and the book sale by the Irish American Historical Society.

No other activity to report.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Freeman  
Dingle Representative

### **San Juan Sister City Committee:**

1. Project to send Medical supplies to Philippines via Direct Relief Intl- in progress.
2. Planned visit by Philippine Senator to SB is postponed due to change in schedule.
3. Get together Party by San Juan & Filipino Community Assn is planned (To increase membership. All welcome - date to be announced later.

**Weihai**— No report