



# Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



**Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of September 7, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Takako Wakita at noon. The following members attended: Takako Wakita, Chairperson; Wayne Hewitt, Vice Chairperson; Janet Baker, Recording Secretary; David Gorbet, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Carey Rogers, Dingle, Ireland; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; and Linda Gunther, Staff Representative. Absent: Representative from San Juan, Philippines; Kotor, Montenegro; and Patras, Greece. Guests: Jan Olivas, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Pastor Wallace Shepherd, Second Baptist Church; Pastor Brian Cox, Christ the King Episcopal Church; Bonnie Carroll; Miguel Avila, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; and Grant House, City Council Member.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the minutes of the September 7, 2011 were approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Linda Gunther, Administrator's Office Supervisor, announced that she will be retiring from the City of Santa Barbara on November 4th after 28 1/2 years of service.

Jan Olivas announced that she is serving as Interim President of the Puerto Vallarta, Mexico Sister City until May 2012 due to the resignation of President, Gil Garcia.

Takako announced that she had finished the Annual Report and thanked those who submitted reports.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Bonnie Carroll asked the Board to consider re-activating the Palma de Majorca Sister City which dropped out a few months after being approved. Takako said they would have to re-apply to be considered as a Sister City and gave Ms. Carroll the paperwork necessary to be completed and submitted to the Board for approval. Pastor Brian Cox, Christ the King Episcopal Church, and Pastor Shepherd, Second Baptist Church asked the Board to explore the possibilities of Beitshemesh, Israel to be a Sister City. Takako gave them the necessary paperwork to submit for consideration and explained the process.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2011:** Dates for the Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, visitation on November 8-17th were added.

**9-11 CONCERT:** Takako said she had sent E-Mails to all the Sister Cities Representatives regarding the Concert, she didn't get responses from San Juan or Kotor. She asked Jan Olivas to announce it at their meeting tonight and Joe Cantrell said he would post a flyer at the Central Library. The concert will be held at the First Presbyterian Church instead of the Granada Theater as previously announced. Toba and Puerto Vallarta said they will

have membership tables there in the lobby. Takako said she had received \$50.00 donations from four of the Sister Cities. She asked for two volunteers to pass out flyers about the concert at the Sunken Gardens where the Police and Fire Departments will be holding a 9-11 Memorial Service that morning at 11:00 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION, OCTOBER 20, 2011: Takako distributed a draft of the schedule of duties for the event and as they will not have another meeting before the event, she will contact representatives by E-Mail to confirm. Each Sister City is to designate someone to take reservations for their group and see that their members are informed of the Event.

SCI PAN PACIFIC CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 1: Takako asked that anyone interested in going to contact her for more information.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC TELEVISION (Channel 18): Takako announced that since nothing had really been done on this project for about two years she decided to take it over. She contacted Channel 18 and they have agreed to give us a three minute spot every other month, starting in November. The first will be an overview of the Sister Cities Program and she asked that each group provide her with ten pictures or a video, along with two paragraphs telling about their Sister City and she needs this information by October 1st. In January, the Toba Sister City will feature their Sister City.

OPEN WORLD HELD ON PROGRAM MARCH 16-24, 2012: As Gil Garcia was not present Takako called on Councilmember Grant House to explain what it is that Gil is asking the Sister Cities to help with. Grant said it was mainly to act as hosts for the event and give our support. After due discussion and on a motion duly made, seconded and carried it was moved to support this event.

#### REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

Weihai, China: Joe Cantrell reported they had ten middle school students from Weihai in August during Fiesta. He said they attended classes at San Marcos High School, toured the City and went to Disneyland. There was good coverage in the Santa Barbara News Press of their visit.

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: David Gorbet reported that the delegation from Puerto Vallarta were here the week before Fiesta. The new Mayor of Puerto Vallarta and his wife attended as well as Mayor Schneider.

Dingle, Ireland: Carey Rogers said she had no report as the group is still in the process of reorganization.

**Toba, Japan:** Linda Mathews circulated a flyer about the upcoming trip to Toba in November and explained what those going would be seeing and doing on the trip. She reported they had a good visit with the students from Toba that were here in August.

**Kotor, Montenegro:** No report given.

**San Juan, Philippines:** No report given.

**Patras, Greece:** No report given.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Baker, Recording Secretary