



# Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



## Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of March 7, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Takako Wakita at 12:00 noon. The Chairperson asked the Secretary to call the roll. Members attending were: Takako Wakita, Chairperson; Wayne Hewitt, Vice Chairperson, Janet Baker, Recording Secretary; Jeanne Graffy, Alt, Dingle, Ireland; George Lilly, Kotor, Montenegro; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Phillipines; Miguel Avila, Alt. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Linda Gunther, Staff Representative. No representative from Patras, Greece was present. Guests: Gil and Marti Garcia, Chris Bell, TV Channel 18; and Michael Fitzgerald.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried the minutes of the January 4, 2012 were approved as corrected: Date of Weihai New Year's Party should be January 25, 2012 and date of SO CAL Conference should be February 25, 2012.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** George Lilly suggested converting the Mayor's outer office into a Sister Cities display Waiting Room. George distributed a suggested floor plan for consideration. He said the renovation would cost approx. \$10,000 and would not be funded by the City; the money would have to come from donations. Further discussion will be at the May meeting. Takako reported that Marian Freeman had resigned from the Dingle, Ireland committee and that Carey Rogers will be the Representative and Jeanne Graffy, Alternate. George Lilly also mentioned that Willie Quinn and his daughters are performing at the Cafe Shell on Fridays and Sundays. Willie's two daughters performed at the music festival in Kotor last summer and were a big hit. George suggested going to see them and give them our support.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:** The Calendar of Events for 2012 was reviewed for additions or corrections.

**PARTICIPATION IN CITY TV CHANNEL 18:** Chris Bell from Channel 18 was present to answer any questions. Takako reported that the Overview went very well and that the Toba group will be featured in April and Puerto Vallarta group in May. Janet Baker mentioned that she is unable to get Channel 18 now as she has an older TV. Chris said those with older TV's can get a box for three months free and then would have to pay a monthly fee. Linda Gunther said that it is possible to view it Online and she would arrange to show it at the May meeting.

**SANTA BARBARA SISTER CITIES PRESENCE AT SANTA BARBARA AIRPORT:** Takako reported that the Committee composed of herself, Gil Garcia, Linda Mathews, and Linda Gunther had met and Gil distributed a copy of the proposed display on the wall leading to Security at the Airport terminal. Takako also

suggested a display case and a video monitor elsewhere in the terminal. Gil said they are still open for suggestions for this display and Linda Gunther suggested the Committee have another meeting before the May Board meeting and that it be on the Agenda for further discussion.

**9-11 CONCERT:** Takako reported that September 9th falls on a Sunday this year and asked the Board if we want to have the Concert on Sunday or on Saturday the 8th. After due discussion on a motion duly made, seconded and carried it was moved that we have the Concert on Sunday the 9th at 3:00 p.m. if the Unitarian Church is available. She asked for ideas as to the entertainment, further discussion at the May meeting.

**AMENDMENT TO GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING A NEW SISTER CITY FOR SANTA BARBARA:** Several suggestions were discussed but decided to table a decision until May meeting.

**NETWORKING GET TOGETHER WITH BOARD MEMBERS FROM EACH SISTER CITY COMMITTEE:** Joe Cantrell said that he had suggested this get together to get acquainted with members of the other Sister Cities committees to exchange ideas, etc. and suggested it could be a picnic or a potluck. Takako said that we had done this in the past on Santa Barbara's Birthday which is in April but hadn't had one in a few years. Joe will continue to work on this project and have more to report at the May meeting.

**OPEN WORLD PROGRAM MARCH 16-24, 2012 IN SANTA BARBARA:** Gil Garcia gave a detailed report of the activities planned for the visitors starting with a Reception at his home on the evening of their arrival and invited the Board members to come and help welcome them. He also suggested that the Board come to the meeting at the Faulkner Gallery on Monday, March 19th at 3:00 p.m. to meet the delegates from the Ukraine and exchange ideas.

**SO CAL CONFERENCE REPORT:** Gil Garcia and George Lilly gave a brief report of workshops they attended at the Conference.

#### **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

**Weihai, China:** Joe Cantrell reported that their New Years Celebration was not as well attended as in the past. He said they still have a monthly Board meeting and will have their Annual meeting in May for membership. The group is going through a change of leadership due Dr. Peter Haslund's involvement in the Santa Barbara City College Board and other activities that take his time.

**Kotor, Montenegro:** George Lilly reported the annual fundraising dinner in January was well attended and successful in raising funds for their projects for the year. Also, the piano concert at SBCC by acclaimed pianist Ratimir Martinovic of Kotor was a success and they hope to have other classical concerts.

**Dingle, Ireland:** Jeanne Graffy reported that Air Lingus has decided to reschedule flights into Ireland. Ireland is going through a bad recession mode and the Dingle group can not afford to come here for a visit. Hopefully next year the Santa Barbara group will have a trip planned to Dingle. They are still working to get the membership built up and active again.

**Toba, Japan:** Linda Mathews reported they are looking for new Board members for their group. They are also working on the Student Exchange for August and a possible trip the last week of May to the Huntington Gardens in Pasadena. The New Year's Eve party on January 22 was well attended, with great food and a good program.

**San Juan, Philippines:** Jaime Sodusta reported they are still collecting childrens books to be sent to San Juan. They are also planning an Easter Barbecue on April 21st at Stow Park. The Philippine-American Friendship Day at the Elks Lodge will be on Saturday, June 16.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** Miguel Avila reported that the Group had ten new members this past month. Election of the new Board will be tonight, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at the monthly membership meeting, installation will be May 2nd at the Elks Club. He said the Puerto Vallarta Sister City group will have their annual Art competition on Saturday, April 28th. This competition is for ages 13-18.

**Patras, Greece:** No representative attended and No report made.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Janet Baker, Recording Secretary