



Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board



Annual Report

Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board

2011 - 2012

June 30, 2012

The Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board consists of seven sister cities: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Toba, Japan; Weihai, China; Dingle, Ireland; San Juan/Manila, Philippines; Kotor, Montenegro; and Patras, Greece. Below are the seven Sister Cities Reports.

The board was involved in the following activities:

September 11, 2011

This was a concert commemorating the anniversary of 9/11/2001, and is part of a series of free musical performances held in cities around the world on September 11th every year.

Since it was the 10th anniversary, the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board collaborated with the Choral Society of Santa Barbara on a concert titled, "A National Requiem of Remembrance," which was held at the First Presbyterian Church, 21 East Constance Avenue, Santa Barbara. Around 1,000 people participated.

September 30-October 1, 2011

Sister Cities International's (SCI) Pan Pacific Conference was held in Riverside, California. Takako Wakita, Chair of the board, Gil and Marti Garcia, and Pat Fallin from the Puerto Vallarta committee attended the conference.

October 20, 2011

The 20th Annual Sister Cities Celebration in honor of United Nations Day was held at the Cabrillo Pavilion. The honored guests included Catherine Dishion, Santa Barbara Chapter President, United Nations Association, and Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider.

The entertainment was the Kotor Theatre Group, which participated in the 19th Annual Children's Theatre Festival in Kotor in July, and a Filipino Dance Group, which performed a traditional bamboo dance. About 160 people attended from all seven sister city committees.

November 4, 2011

Linda Gunther, the liaison in the City Hall for sister cities, retired but is remaining as a volunteer.

December 3, 2011

The Board hosted the SCI Southern California (SoCal) Board Meeting at the Philippine Community Center, at 425 State Street.

Gil Garcia, Puerto Vallarta Committee, was elected as a new board member of SoCal.

January 4, 2012

The Board discussed having a Sister Cities presence at the Santa Barbara Airport; Karen Ramsdell, Airport Director attended the meeting. A subcommittee was appointed to work with the Airport Director and come up with an appropriate presence. At a subsequent meeting, it was decided to have a map of the world with the seven Sister Cities with their flags on the map and it would be placed in the Airport terminal at a place designated by the Airport Director. Each Sister City Committee would be asked to donate \$210 for this project.

February 25, 2012

The SCI SoCal Annual Conference was held at Chapman University in Orange County. The theme of the conference was, "Reach Out to the World, One Citizen at a Time" and SCI 's new CEO, Mary D. Kane, was the keynote speaker. The attendees were George Lily from the Kotor Sister City Committee, and Gil and Marti Garcia and Pat Fallin from the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee.

March 5, 2012

Sister Cities participation on City TV -- Channel 18 -- the City TV Channel 18 began interviewing Sister City Committee members which will be shown as segments on all the Sister Cities, beginning with an overview interview with the Chair, Takako Wakita.

The second one on Toba aired in May, which had a spot on Linda Mathews, president of the Toba committee.

March 16-23, 2012

The Sister Cities Board sponsored the "Open World Project" which Gil and Marti Garcia organized to bring six Ukrainian delegates to Santa Barbara to experience American Democracy, civil society, and community life.

The Sister City Day was held on March 19 at the Faulkner Gallery for an introduction and discussion of the Santa Barbara Sister City program with the delegation.

Respectfully submitted by,

Takako Wakita, Chair

Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board

**SANTA BARBARA/PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO
SISTER CITY COMMITTEE**

ACTIVITIES FROM JULY 2011 TO JUNE 2012

1. SPECIAL PROJECTS

- a. Law Enforcement Exchange
 - i. Inbound – three Puerto Vallarta Police officers train in Santa Barbara (July 2011)
 - ii. Outbound – three Santa Barbara County Sheriffs teach in Puerto Vallarta (November 2011)
- b. Clinica de Rehabilitacion Pto. Vallarta-Sta. Barbara. A.C.
 - i. Continue to support clinic
 - ii. Cash donation supporting needy families in need of services

2. YOUTH PROJECTS

- a. Facilitating with Santa Barbara High School's Multimedia Arts & Design Academy (MAD) and University of Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta campus – May 2011 scouting trip to Puerto Vallarta

3. CULTURAL EXCHANGES

- a. Six Santa Barbara artists participate in Puerto Vallarta's I Madonnari Festival (November 2011)
- b. Puerto Vallarta artist participates in Santa Barbara's 267th Annual I Madonnari Italian Street Painting Festival (May 2012)

4. SOCIAL EXCHANGES & FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

- a. Visitation of citizens from Puerto Vallarta to Santa Barbara (July/August 2011). Schedule of events, homes hosted over 35 Puerto Vallarta guests.
- b. Visitation of over 40 Santa Barbara citizens to Puerto Vallarta (November 2011)
- c. Conference attendance by sister city members:
 - i. SCI Pacific Rim Conference, Riverside, CA (January 2012)
 - ii. SoCal Sister Cities Organization Conference, Chapman College, Orange, CA (March 2012)
 - iii. US/Mexico Sister Cities Association Annual Conference, Culver City, CA (March 2012)

- d. Attended US/Mexico Sister Cities Association Annual BBQ (August 2011)
- e. Strawberry Social (June 2012)
- f. PCPA Theatre outing (September 2011)
- g. Held ten general membership dinner meetings, with two theme meetings:
 - i. Halloween costume dinner (October 2011)
 - ii. Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead (November 2011)
- h. 1st Annual las Posadas celebration – over 70 people attended.

5. JOINT COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- a. Sister Cities 9-11 Concert (September 2011)
- b. 20th Annual Sister Cities UN dinner (October 2011)
- c. Sister Cities hosting of SoCal Sister Cities Board of Directors meeting.
- d. City of Santa Barbara hosted Open World delegation (March 16-24, 2012), a SCI initiative.

6. SPECIAL MENTION

- a. March 24, 2012, Dias de Mexico, a Family Festival at Westmont College, Sponsored and participated.
- b. WEB-PAGE (www.sbpvsistercity.org) – revamping of web-page with new web-master, Jim Brock.

Prepared by Marti Garcia

**SANTA BARBARA/WEIHAI, CHINA
SISTER CITY COMMITTEE**

ACTIVITIES FROM JULY 2011 TO JUNE 2012

The Santa Barbara/Weihai Sister City Committee hosted 13 teenage exchange students from Weihai in August, 2011 for 17 days. They participated in English classes at Santa Barbara High School, toured the city, met the Mayor and watched a City Council meeting, toured UCSB, attended Fiesta opening ceremonies and the Fiesta Parade, took trips to Disneyland, Hollywood, and Universal Studios.

In January of this year we also had our Chinese New Year's Celebration at the China Pavilion on Chapala Street.

Prepared by Alex Sheldon

**SANTA BARBARA/KOTOR, MONTENEGRO
SISTER CITY COMMITTEE**

ACTIVITIES FROM JULY 2011 TO JUNE 2012

There were a number of meaningful exchanges between Santa Barbara and Kotor, Montenegro this past year to include: **July, 2011**, thirteen talented teenagers wrote the story, music and choreography for an original program that they performed at the 19th International Children's Festival in Kotor, Montenegro; **January 2011**, sixty friends of Kotor attended a fund raising dinner in Santa Barbara prepared by graduate students of our Kotor, Montenegro Culinary Academy; **February, 2012**, Kotor's Ratimir Martinovic, perhaps the finest young classical pianist in the world, performed for two hundred aficionados' in Santa Barbara; **March, 2012**, twelve students from the Institute for Children with Disabilities attended the fourth year of the Kotor Culinary Academy taught by Santa Barbara City College Culinary School's Charles Fredrick's; **June 2012**, Sixteen of Santa Barbara's most talented young Water Polo Players visited Kotor, Montenegro to train and compete with some of the most talented coaches and young players in Europe.

Prepared by George Lilly

**SANTA BARBARA/TOBA, JAPAN
SISTER CITY COMMITTEE**

ACTIVITIES FROM JULY 2011 TO JUNE 2012

The 20th annual Student Exchange with Toba occurred as usual in late July and early August this last year, and the two groups melded even better than usual due to the students having prepared by studying Japanese, and by exchanging mail before the trip with their new host brothers/sisters. This year's group seemed focused on more group or whole-family activities than in other years, enjoying quite a few outdoor potluck picnics and sports outings together.

This last year's 9/11 concert was held by the Choral Society, performing Mozart's Requiem. We sister city groups helped with logistics. This was a very popular event due to the quality of the performance, and truly emphasized the meaning of the 9/11 commemoration.

We helped to put on the annual UN Day dinner on October 20th, which this time had a really capacity crowd. The popularity was no doubt due to the original music and theatrical performances by the youth group affiliated with Santa Barbara-Kotor Sister City Committee, and the exciting UCSB Tinnicing Filipino Dance Group.

Our biggest event this last year was the 45th anniversary delegation trip to Japan. In November we traveled with 17 delegates and Mayor Schneider, to tour the central Japan area from Takayama, over the World Heritage Site, Shirakawago, to the Kenrokuen Garden in Kanagawa and Eiheiji zen temple, as well as a pottery village before spending three days in Kyoto. We then arrived for three wonderful days visiting our friends in Toba, celebrating our 45th year of Sisterhood at an elegant gala evening with exceptional Taiko and Japanese folk dance entertainment. We also enjoyed the unique Japanese tradition of the "Ama" or female pearl and shellfish free-divers, spending the day observing their lives, and enjoying a traditional fresh catch lunch on one of their home islands. The trip was also the culmination of the fundraising we did in April, 2011, raising \$40,000 to help Toba combat the effects of the Tsunami in March. We gave Toba Mayor Ken Kida a check for the final portion, and received a thorough briefing by harbor and fisheries officials, who discussed how the city had put our donation to good use repairing their damaged oyster and seaweed beds. Everyone we spoke with expressed not only their gratitude for this relatively small gift (they had experienced \$25 million in damage after all), but the emotional lift it had given to the citizens at a time when they most needed to feel the care and concern of others.

The annual New Year's Party, (Shinnenkai) was held in late January this year, at the Faulkner Gallery of the Central Library, and paired with an excursion next door to the Museum of Art, where there was an exhibition of Shinhanga wood block prints showing the unique early 20th century design style popular in the Osaka area. Museum docent and long-time Toba supporter Kyoko Sweeny gave a very educational talk about the history of Japanese woodblock prints. Our group was larger than usual given the wonderful collaboration with the Museum, and owing to the enthusiasm of the new members we gained from last Fall's extremely successful delegation trip to Japan.

Our Spring event was a docent-led tour of the new Japanese Teahouse Garden and Chinese Garden at the Huntington Library and Gardens in San Marino. We traveled by Airbus with 22 participants on a beautiful May morning, enjoying the smooth travel and camaraderie. The four hours we spent there were too few to take in all the Huntington has to offer, and the group all agreed we should repeat this trip again during the various seasons of the year.

Prepared by Linda Matthews

SANTA BARBARA/SAN JUAN, PHILIPPINES SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES FROM JULY 2011 TO JUNE 2012

October 20 2011 - UN Day Celebration - Presented the authentic Philippine Bamboo Dance "Tinikling."

October 22, 2011 - Country Night Celebration - (Gil and Marti of Puerto Vallarta joined in the Country Dance Show).

November 2011 - Donated children's books to Santa Barbara Integrated School, Province of Iloilo, Philippines.

December 3, 2011- Provided the venue for the Sister Cities of Southern California Conference, organized by Gil Garcia of Puerto Vallarta.

December 2011 - Midnight Mass held at the St. Raphael Church.

March 2012- Joined the Sister Cities in Welcoming the Ukraine Delegation.

April 12, 2012 - Easter BBQ Party at Tucker's Grove.

May 2, 2012 - Attended the Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities Inauguration Party.

June 2012 - Donated \$210 for the Sister Cities Mural at the Santa Barbara Airport.

Every Friday - Dancercise for all Members and Guests at the FCA building as service to the community, also regularly attended by Gil and Marti of the Puerto Vallarta.

Prepared by Jaime Sodusta

SANTA BARBARA/PATRAS, GREECE SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

ACTIVITIES FROM JULY 2011 TO JUNE 2012

Unfortunately we have not had a meeting due to a few issues that occurred this past year.

Our good friend and President Dr. Theony Condos passed away a few weeks ago due to cancer. She struggled with doctor appointments and chemotherapies this past year. As much as she wanted to continue as president it was difficult to set a meeting time. She did though discuss with me as I passed the information to all our members, to donate money for the plaque at the new Santa Barbara Airport just few days before she passed away.

The second and most critical issue is the complications Greece is going through this past year. National Elections will be held and we are anxiously waiting to hear the results as they come to us hopefully soon. All the news from Greece has caused the politicians and the people to concentrate within the Country therefore we have lost contact and the support with our representative in Greece.

We have scheduled for a meeting on June 27th and at that time we should be able to decide the future of the Santa Barbara-Patras Sister Cities group.

Prepared by: Georgia Gastouniotis/Treasurer

**SANTA BARBARA/DINGLE, IRELAND
SISTER CITY COMMITTEE**

ACTIVITIES FROM JULY 2011 TO JUNE 2012

This year the Dingle Sister City Committee has awakened from a long slumber. We are alive and well. Erin Graffy, Carey Rogers, and Michael Fitzgerald met with enthusiasm on June 14, 2012.

We discussed an outline for our revitalization plan and I am most excited to have been asked by Erin to act as President heading up this project. We are currently reaching out to known individuals that have the passion and enthusiasm to act as members of a new Dingle board. Once our new board meets we will decide on a date for a sort of Emerald Ball at Mulligan's this fall. I have updated our list of over 70 members on an excel spread sheet which we will use to re-connect with existing members and drum up excitement with plans for a general membership meeting. We'll reach out to our existing members and wave our Irish flags as a call to any and all Santa Barbarian's interested in becoming new members. Again, once our new board is in place we will commit to regular meetings and proudly report our activity, progress, plans, and developments at the bi-monthly board meetings.

This is how we ended our 2011-2012 year and we are all excited for this 2012-2013 year to be very special one for the Dingle-Santa Barbara Sister City relationship!!

Prepared by Michael Fitzgerald